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We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

## APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



### *Our Core Values*



*faith  
acceptance  
compassion  
gratitude  
love*





Happy, happy Easter!

So much has happened and continues to happen in our world today-both good and bad. At times we can feel lost, and it can all be a bit overwhelming; but the gift of Easter reminds us of the fact that God is in the mix. We walk this journey of life not alone, but with the resurrected Christ! The one who promises us that life is ever new and assures us that God has not left God's creation to fend for itself alone, no matter the circumstances of this world. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, God's plan to redeem all of creation has begun, and you and I are part of that plan. God journeys with us when we experience both the joys and delights of life, and when we are knocked down by the chaos and suffering around us. Easter blooms in our lives in ways we least expect it, and in places we least expect. As we enter spring, I invite you to notice the blooming of life all around you, and the spectacular beauty of each blossoming plant and creature in God's world. Yes, Easter is here, and you and I, along with all God's creation will be resurrected once again into new life.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Pamela



## Joy and Healing

### Easter Joy for Everyday Life

(From Creighton University)



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More than just a day, the Church gives us a seven-week Easter season to celebrate. Yet sometimes our everyday lives feel so heavy that celebration is not a part of them. Critical illness in the family, loss of a job, disappointment in a relationship and the burdens of everyday life can make it a challenge to feel particularly joyful – even in the Easter season. But the joy we are being invited into this season is beyond what we see in our everyday lives. It's true that Jesus says "Come to me and bring me your burdens" but we usually can't believe it. Maybe we don't want to believe it. If I really allow Jesus to come into my heart the way he wants to, will he ask me to change my life in ways that are too hard? How do I share the chaos of my life with Jesus? If I keep him at arm's length, my life might be difficult, but at least my problems are familiar. What would it cost me to let go and change my life?

We know our own faults and failings so well. Too well. We begin to believe that Jesus loves the way we love – with all of our human limits. How could Jesus love us and accept us the way we are right now? Maybe when we fix a few things about our lives, love our spouse a little better, stop being so critical of family members, stop drinking, stop nagging, love a little more... when we are perfect, then Jesus will love us.

If we can overcome our fears, the real power of letting Jesus into our hearts is how free our hearts will become. Suddenly, we are not afraid, not burdened and simply ready to serve with Jesus.

Jesus loves us - right now. At this moment, Jesus holds each one of us in his warm and loving gaze and loves us so freely at a depth that our human minds can't take in. Whether we comprehend this or not, Jesus loves us endlessly and waits for us with his arms open, ready to hold and support us.

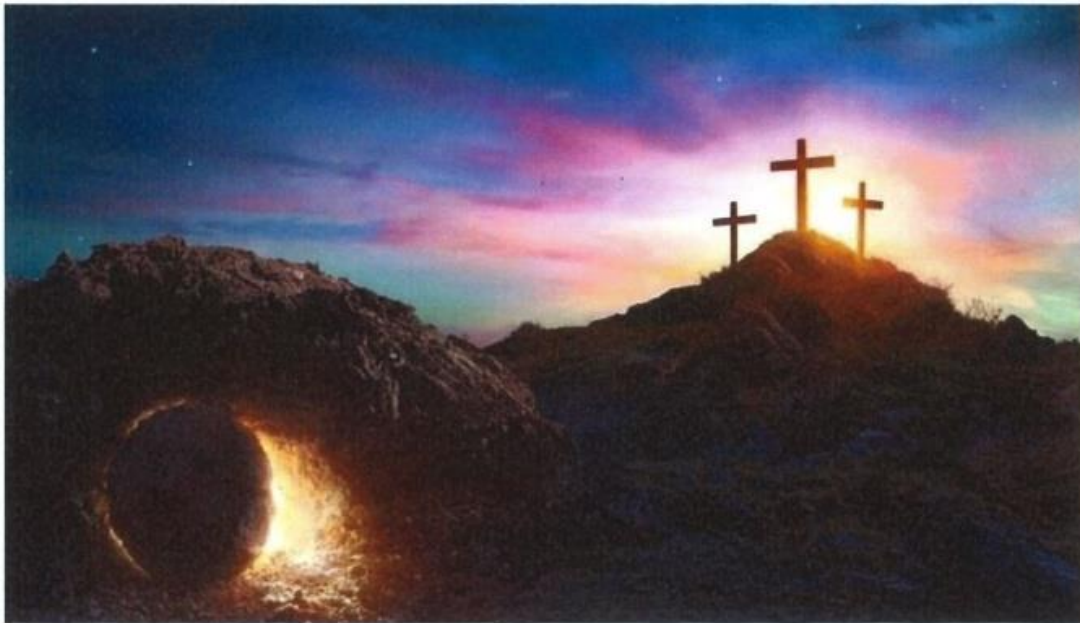
As we receive his embrace and feel the peace and joy of Easter wash over us, we can look over his shoulder, and see beyond to those in need who now wait for us. That's when we realize that the real joy in our lives is putting aside our own faults, challenges and difficulties for a while and entering into the lives of others.

Pope Francis said at Easter, we leave ourselves behind and encounter others by "being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast."

We are being missioned as Easter People. We find peace in Jesus' love for us and now we share it with others. We find ourselves standing side by side with Jesus, looking together at those we are being sent to love.

That is where the real joy of Easter waits for us.





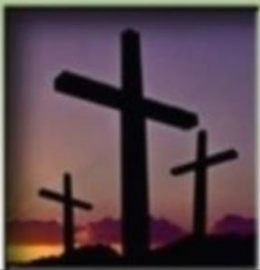
Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter; it always starts on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter.

Here are the dates for Holy Week in 2023: Sunday, April 2nd - Saturday, April 8th.

Easter is on Sunday, April 9th.

Important Dates of Lent	Brief Overview of Significance	2023 Dates
Palm Sunday	Celebrates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem	April 2, 2023
Holy Week	The week leading up to Easter	April 2 - April 8, 2023
Maundy Thursday	Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.	April 6, 2023
Good Friday	Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.	April 7, 2023
Holy Saturday	Commemorates Jesus' body resting in the tomb.	April 8, 2023
Easter Sunday	Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his victory over death.	April 9, 2023

# Holy Week Schedule



## All Services will be In-Person & Online

April 2<sup>nd</sup> ~



Service at 10 AM

April 6<sup>th</sup> ~



Service at 7 PM

April 7<sup>th</sup> ~



Service at 7 PM

April 9<sup>th</sup> ~



Service at 10 AM



## We Are Front Page News!

Our "Hearts for the Hungry" food collection campaign during the month of February made the front page of the local "Advertiser" newspaper! We collected about 50 bags of food, and they were split equally between the two food pantries we support: Doors of Hope (West Sand Lake) and CoNSERNS-U (Rensselaer). Both food pantries were very appreciative of our efforts.



## John Batsios Memorial Nursing Scholarship



This scholarship was created in 2023 by family and friends in memory of John Batsios. John attended HVCC while serving in the New York National Guard. He graduated from Hudson Valley in 2016 with an associate's degree in Nursing. He saved lives working as a traveling registered nurse in many different states.

John enjoyed taking every advantage life offered. He made lasting friendships with humans and animals alike, wherever his adventures took him. He embraced everyone and everything with a passion and an excitement that was contagious. The family feels blessed to have had such a loving, caring, funny son and brother in their lives and decided to establish this scholarship to help others with military experience begin a career in nursing.

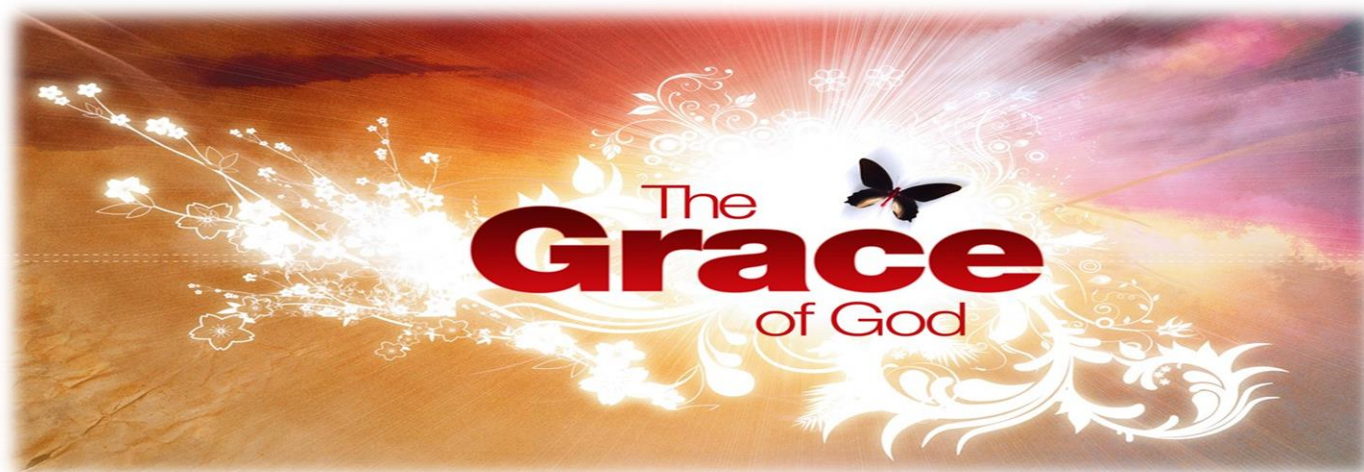
1. Go to **HVCC.EDU**
2. Find the **GIVING** button on the top of the page on a computer & under the three-lined menu on a phone
3. On the giving page, scroll down to **MAKE A GIFT TODAY**
4. Under the **ONLINE** part of the page, click in the box next to **DESIGNATION (CLICK HERE)**
5. Find the **JOHN BATSIOS MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP** (about 5 choices down.)
6. Scroll down to pick a dollar amount, or type in the amount in the OTHER box
7. Fill in all the info and click **SECURE PAYMENT** - Decide how to pay – Credit Card, Venmo or PayPal

8.

You can also mail a check or money order **payable** to Hudson Valley Community College Foundation

**Write** JOHN BATSIOS MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP in the comment section to:

Hudson Valley Community College Foundation  
80 Vandenburg Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180



### Emotional Intelligence (EI)

It is generally accepted that success in life is better predicted by EI than IQ.

It is generally accepted that emotionally-aware congregations are usually better able to process the stresses that confront them than those congregations that are not. It could be useful for us, individually, to think our own thoughts about each of these emotions, and if any is so inclined, to share one's thoughts with another. In the last newsletter, I offered the emotion 'detestable' under the core emotion of 'Disgust' and asked you to ponder your own thoughts.

These are my thoughts:

detestable (offensive to the mind) (arousing or deserving intense dislike, abominable) (abominable: deserving or causing loathing or hatred) We all have preferences. We all have things which cause us pain or discomfort. People with leprosy lose limbs because they have lost their sense of touch, their ability to sense danger. Discomfort calls us to discern. Do we need to toughen up and develop callouses like the hands of a laborer? Do we need to increase our endurance like an athlete? Do we need to put on some protection, like a potholder or a bulletproof vest?

In the discomforts of our lives, where do we need to toughen up and where do we need to protect ourselves? And, when must we leave, because it is not safe to be there?

Next month, please consider your thoughts on 'confident' under the core emotion of 'Happy'.

In His Grace, WDM



## Turkey Earthquake Help

The Turkish earthquake donation center is no longer accepting any items due to freight issues. However, if you still want to help, go to Lutheran World Relief [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) and scroll down to Earthquakes in Turkey (learn more). Through the church, you can be sure that all donations will go directly to aid the victims through trusted agencies on the ground.



EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

### Earthquakes in Turkey

Our Humanitarian Action team is working to respond to critical needs

[LEARN MORE](#)



## What does the ELCA Justice for Women program do?

The Justice for Women program is shaped by the unique voices and experiences of a multitude of people across race, ethnicity, ability, class, sexuality and age. It is within this rich foundation that we work to:

- tap into Lutheran theological roots to address sexism
- connect this theology with specific issues in the world
- encourage people of all genders to work together

These priorities nourish the work and service of this church and society.

Within the Jewish and Christian traditions, justice is linked to God's love, God's fervor for life lived out of grace for others. Lutherans affirm that because we are redeemed by God through Jesus Christ — because we are justified — we turn to others to find out what they need.

Justice infuses Scripture, from the Hebrew prophets to Jesus' parables and life. Broadly speaking, biblical justice concerns the integrity of the entire creation. The ELCA recognizes that the integrity of women and girls is constantly violated and/or compromised, physically, intellectually, economically, spiritually and emotionally. Gender justice, including justice for women, matters because through God's grace we are called to tend to women, girls, and people whose gender identity and expression fall outside of familiar categories as our neighbors. The ELCA also recognizes that tending to our neighbors includes not only immediate needs, such as food, shelter and safety, but also changes in social and religious ideas and structures.

**ELCA JUSTICE FOR WOMEN RESOURCE PAGE**

<https://elca.org/Resources/Justice-for-Women>





### Easter Food Baskets

Palm Sunday will be the last day to bring in food for the Easter food baskets. We are preparing 15 baskets (actually, a couple of shopping bags) full of food and goodies for a festive Easter dinner. They will go to families who have graduated from the St. Paul's Center, a homeless shelter for women with children.

There will be a variety of canned and boxed food, eggs and an Easter egg coloring kit, and some Easter candy and a stuffed animal for the little ones. Each family will also receive a \$50 Price Chopper gift card, bought with Hope LC funds. If you'd like to contribute toward these cards, please put your check/cash in the offering plate and note that the funds are to go to the holiday food baskets.

We will be packing the baskets on Monday morning, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30 AM. If you can take an hour to help, please let Pam Dodson ([pamd@fastmail.com](mailto:pamd@fastmail.com)) know that you'll be there.

Thanks for your generosity! You will be helping some families in need to enjoy their Easter celebration.



## WOMEN of the ELCA

Hudson Mohawk & Foothills Conferences  
Invite you to join your Sisters in Christ for

## SHARING GOD'S HOSPITALITY



**SATURDAY, MAY 6TH: 11:00-2:00**  
**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**103 S Reynolds St, Scotia, NY 12302**



### TEA PARTY

with savory and sweet nibbles

11:00 Registration - \$8

11:30 Ice Breaker

12:00 Food and discussion

12:45 Bible Study

1:45 Closing devotion

Wear a fancy hat or apron for fun!

Bring a pretty tea cup or borrow one from our collection!

There will be an offering for local food banks!

Take up a NOISY offering of coins in your congregation for the food bank!

**RSVP—Marilyn Dyer (HM) [dyermm48@gmail.com](mailto:dyermm48@gmail.com) or**

**Gail Markert (FH) [gby910@yahoo.com](mailto:gby910@yahoo.com)**



**HOSPITALITY is about acting with the Grace of God**





# ELCA World Hunger

## Bee Generous

### Plant Seeds of Justice



*Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream."  
Amos 5:26*

The Upstate NY Synod Hunger Justice Team invites you and your congregation to participate in the 2023 synod-wide appeal. Each congregation is challenged to raise \$440 or more to cover the cost of two bee colonies (\$20 each) and two community gardens (\$200 each). These ministries make God's creation more sustainable and support families in need.

A garden will help a family to be self-supporting; and the honeybees are not only providing honey to eat, but to make beeswax soap and candles which allow a family to start a small business.\*

Collect donations in advance and bring them along with a completed tally sheet to the hunger table at the Synod Assembly in Syracuse June 2-3. Make checks payable to Upstate NY Synod and add "Bee Generous" on the memo line.

Thank YOU for BEE-ing generous!!

\* As seen in the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Catalog



<https://www.lutherans-silverbay.org>

**July 15-21, 2023**

the Lutheran Summer Gathering

**2023 Theme:**

**"The Wonder of the Sabbath"**

<https://www.lutherans-silverbay.org>

If you want to have a summer to remember, plan ahead! Mark July 15-21, 2023 on your calendar for the Lutheran Summer Gathering. This is your week to unplug, step away from the workplace, and simply BE. What's your favorite part of the Summer Gathering? Is it the beach, the swimming, or the worship? Is it the board games, the sailing, the crafts, or the singing? Is it the meals, the archery, the learning, the hiking? Is it the ice cream store, or just the chance to stop looking at your watch?

Your planning committee began its work right after the last Lutheran Summer Gathering. Our 2023 theme is Rediscover the Sabbath. We want this week to be awesome, so we studied your feedback. We've got exciting teachers coming and we're making an effort for you to build new friendships and memories. The YMCA is strengthening its programming for 2023 as well.

For some of us, not having to cook is enough of a reason to attend. Others insist on teachers who challenge or inspire them. Others look forward to the rocking chairs on the front porch with a book, gazing upon the lake. Others look forward to the camp fire songs, the talent show, or the youth group activities. Others look forward to the rare opportunity to work with a truly skilled artisan to help you weave cloth, make silver jewelry or stained glass or paint in watercolor.

This incredible gathering offers it all— time to rest and recharge, to pray, to find a new passion or hang out with family and new found friends in the Adirondacks. It might just be the week you didn't know you needed. See you there!

Pastor Arden Strasser, Dean

PS Don't forget that Silver Bay is wheelchair accessible.

**Pr. Arden C. Strasser**

+1 917 886 9274



# Worship Volunteer Duties for April 2023

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	2-Apr	6-Apr	7-Apr	9-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr
	Palm Sun. 10:00am	Maundy Thursday 7:00pm	Good Friday 7:00pm	Easter 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Bonny M	Maureen H	Marilyn D	Debbie F	Bonny M	Marilyn D	Charlie H
Greeter	Lois B	Dickie D	Pam D	Marion D	Ja'net M	Marion D	Marlies P
Usher	Mike D	Pam D	xxx	Marion D	Donna L	Mike D	Susan R
Assisting Minister	Sandra G	Pam D	Marilyn D	Mike D	Chris N	Luis C	Sandra G
Communion Assistant	Lois B	Chris N	xxx	Mike D	Pam D	Luis C	Bonny M
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Marlies P	xxx	xxx	Donna L	Donna L	Susan C	Maureen H
Offering Counters	Pam D & Marilyn D	xxx	xxx	Marion D & Donna L	Pam D & Donna L	Marion D & Donna L	Susan R & Maureen H
Readers	xxx	xxx	Pam D & Sandra G	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx



# News & Upcoming Events for April of 2023

We will have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We will also continue to live-stream our services on our Facebook page and through Zoom. The Zoom link for Worship Services will continue to be posted in the bulletins.

*Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all*

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Regional Food Bank  
Packing  
10:30 AM – Noon  
Meet at RFB

**2<sup>nd</sup>**



Service at 10 AM

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

Hope's Prayer Team  
in small classroom  
~15-minutes after  
worship service

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

Pack Easter Food  
Baskets for St. Paul's  
Center at 10:30 AM  
in the large classroom

**6<sup>th</sup>**

Hope's Kitchen Free  
Community Dinner at  
Cornerstone Church  
in Lansingburgh  
\* Serving from 3 – 5:30 PM  
\* (for those who RSVP'd)

**6<sup>th</sup>**



Service at 7 PM

**7<sup>th</sup>**



Service at 7 PM

**9<sup>th</sup>**



Service at 10 AM

**12<sup>th</sup>**

Council Meeting  
@ 6:30 PM  
in the large classroom  
& via Zoom

**14<sup>th</sup>**

Dine-Out Dinner Group  
@ 6 PM  
(Lakeview Restaurant)

**18<sup>th</sup>**

Hope's Hands Meeting  
@ 10 AM  
in the small classroom

**30<sup>th</sup>**

Hope's Annual  
Congregational Meeting  
at 11:15 AM

**Children's Sunday  
School**

\*\*\*\*\*

Sundays @ 9 AM  
in the large classroom

Wednesday Bible Study  
at Noon will meet on:  
April 12, 19 & 26  
(in the large classroom  
& via Zoom)

Choir Rehearsal  
will be held on  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
following worship service;  
in the sanctuary

Instrumental Music  
Rehearsal with Wayne  
Mizerak will be held:  
April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
&  
April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 PM

