



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(716) 875-5485

*A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service*

# *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*

**MARCH 2018**

PASTOR: Rev. Ben Eder

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 AM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



*For God so loved  
the world that he  
gave his one and  
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

## *From the Pastor*

The Season of Lent continues through the month of March.

As you know, Lent began with Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>; and Easter will be celebrated on April Fool's Day, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is a certain symmetry of those two holy days being observed on Valentine's Day and April Fool's Day.

In Church history, St. Valentine is known as the priest who disobeyed an order by the Roman emperor not to marry soldiers, but he did so anyway. As a result, Valentine was put to death.

In linking Valentine's Day with Ash Wednesday, Jesus showed His love for the world by giving up His life on the cross in payment for our sins. Even while we were still sinners, the Bible tells us, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

In addition, Jesus also says that "Greater love has no one than this, that He give His life for His friends." - *John 15:13* Jesus, of course, is referring to Himself.

What can be said about Easter Sunday, the Day of Christ's Resurrection, being on April Fool's Day, April 1<sup>st</sup>?

It is said, jokingly, that April Fool's Day is also "Atheist's Day," because Psalm 14 declares:

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good. - v. 1

It is foolish not to believe in God when one considers: the creation of the world; the existence of man; the orderliness of creation; the complexity of the universe and the human body; the existence of the conscience in humans; and much more.

When Jesus rose again from the dead on the Day of His Resurrection, He made a fool out of our antagonist Satan and the seeds of death and destruction that he had sown.

Or, as one person put it, "I can't be an atheist because it takes too much faith not to believe in God."

Some thoughts to consider as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection from the dead this Easter Sunday!

Your Servant in Christ,

+ Pastor Ben Eder



## SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE

### MARCH 2018

DATE ➡	Mar. 4	Mar. 11	Mar. 18	Mar. 25
READER	Wes Wiers	Carolyn Alessi	Abigail Size	Mary Werth
USHERS	Jim O'Brien * George Alessi	Eric Fellner * Gary Smith	Tegwanda Alford * Peggy Clark	Tyrone Bryant * Jim Miller
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jack Hambridge	Jim O'Brien	Gary Smith	Eric Fellner
NURSERY	Ruth & Gabby O'Brien	Peggy Clark	Carol Obot	Amber Trimmer
ACOLYTE	Lily Hinterberger	Gabby O'Brien	One of the ushers	Philip Hinterberger



### Hell's lament

Today Hades tearfully sighs: "Would that I had not received him who was born of Mary, for he came to me and destroyed my power; he broke my bronze gates and, being God, delivered the souls I had been holding captive."

Today Hades groans: "My power has vanished. I received one who died as mortals die, but I could not hold him: with him and through him, I lost those over which I had ruled. I had held control over the dead since the world began, and lo, he raises them all up with him!" O Lord, glory to your cross and to your holy resurrection!

—from a Holy Saturday liturgy in *Byzantine Daily Worship*



<b>Madison Porter</b>	<b>Mar. 1</b>
<b>Karen Smith</b>	<b>Mar. 5</b>
<b>Philip Hinterberger</b>	<b>Mar. 13</b>
<b>Wes Wiers</b>	<b>Mar. 20</b>
<b>Molly Donnelly</b>	<b>Mar. 22</b>
<b>Linda Eder</b>	<b>Mar. 23</b>
<b>Rhonda Mohr</b>	<b>Mar. 23</b>
<b>Naomi George</b>	<b>Mar. 26</b>
<b>Jeff Rodgers</b>	<b>Mar. 27</b>
<b>Tim McGuan</b>	<b>Mar. 30</b>

**\*\*\* IF YOUR BIRTHDAY AND/OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT LISTED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN ADD YOU TO MY LIST. THANK YOU – MARY WERTH \*\*\***

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### **Rewoven**

After Jen Hatmaker’s dog shredded an heirloom baby blanket, she piled up the dirty yarn and asked her mother-in-law to somehow reassemble the original. In *Of Mess and Moxie* (Nelson Books), Hatmaker explains how this is a picture of God’s sovereign work.

When our lives are tattered by sin and suffering, God doesn’t start from scratch or create a replica. Instead, he uses the original threads to reweave a stronger version and to restore beauty. (Interestingly, when Joseph tells his brothers in Genesis 50:20 [ESV], “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good,” the word *meant* is Hebrew for *wove*.)

“Nothing bears a better witness than watching God resurrect someone’s life,” writes Hatmaker. “That is a God who folks want to know, a God worth his glory.”



## ESTHER CIRCLE

Our first “Pot Faith” of this year was a huge success. Thank you to all who made a “freewill” offering and a special thanks to the PALs group for their generous donation. The organization that we are collecting for this year is “Hearts for the Homeless”. Karen Smith also thanks the ladies of the Esther Circle for their delicious food and all their hard work in preparation for this event.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. All women are welcome to join us!



Our next Community Dinner is Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu is spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread and butter and assorted desserts and beverages. These dinners are sponsored by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



The P.A.L.s will meet on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. at the Olympic Restaurant at Military Road and Sheridan Drive. All men are welcome to join us!



From a church bulletin in Canton, Ohio:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Portions of this liturgy adapted from  
the Lutheran Cook of Worship.)

INVOCATION

Do you suppose they have a chef instead of a pastor?

## The King

Sometimes we speak or shout the truth without realizing just how right we are. That happened during Holy Week, first when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The palm-waving crowd hailed Jesus as their king — though he wasn't the earthly king they wanted.

Days later, during Jesus' trial, Pilate taunted the Pharisees, saying, "Here is your king." Furious, they protested, "We have no king but Caesar." Pilate turned Jesus over to them. But still wanting to needle the insistent persecutors, he wrote a sign reading "The King of the Jews" and had it fastened above Jesus' cross (John 19:19).

Was Jesus a king? Witnesses of the Resurrection thought so. The first Christians were accused of "saying there is another king, Jesus" (Acts 17:7). The writer of Revelation envisions the day when the whole world will understand that the risen Christ isn't only Lord and Savior but also "Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14).

## Said three ways

In Scripture, the number three is thought to symbolize completeness — above all, in the Holy Trinity. Dating back centuries, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week are, in some Christian practices, called *Triduum*, or The Three Days.

How appropriate, then, to allow three Christ-followers from different time periods to remind us of the wonder God enacted during those three days:

"God put the wrong on [Christ] who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God."

—St. Paul, 2 Corinthians 5:21, The Message

"Through this blessed exchange, in which Christ changes places with us (something the heart can grasp only in faith), and through nothing else, are we freed from sin and death and given his righteousness and life as our own."

—Martin Luther

"Nails didn't hold God to a cross. Love did. The sinless one took on the face of a sinner so that we sinners could take on the face of a saint!"

—Max Lucado

## The greatest news

Death carries with it a certain dread. It has always been the enemy, the great, mysterious monster that makes people quake with fear. Death stalks the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated. Death is no respecter of race, color or creed. Its shadow haunts us day and night. We never know when the moment of death will come for us. Is there any hope? ....

The greatest news that mortal ear has ever heard is the news that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, as he had promised. ... Because Christ lives, we also shall live. The greatest truth that you can ever hear is that Jesus Christ died but rose again, and that you, too, will die but can rise again into newness of life.

—Billy Graham



## Outreach Resources from Lutheran Hour Ministries

God has called all laypeople to be powerful witnesses for Christ to their families and communities. In addition to proclaiming Christ via mass media, Lutheran Hour Ministries has a long and respected track record for partnering with congregations to enact outreach activities that work in concert with their Gospel proclamation mission. This foundation serves as a catalyst as we equip and embolden laypeople to be missionaries in their communities by developing resources that lay members can use to address situations in people's lives or answer questions about Christianity and faith.

- **[Project Connect](#)**

Bring hope within your congregation and to your community through Project Connect—an indispensable ministry that provides hope and comfort from God's Word on topical heart-felt issues through booklets, PDFs and audio files. Booklets are also accessible through a FREE app! Some titles are also available in Spanish.

**[Click here to learn more >>](#)**

- **[Devotions](#)**

Daily Devotions written by Rev. Ken Klaus are based on everyday topics and will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, download them to your MP3 player or access them on your mobile device through the FREE app. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

**[Click here to learn more >>](#)**

- [Video-Based Bible Studies & Resources](#)

More than 30 video-based Bible studies tackle relevant issues from a biblical perspective and are perfect for large or small group study. Each multi-session study is supported with a discussion guide and additional resource links. Some titles are also available with Spanish subtitles.

[Click here to learn more >>](#)

- [Men's NetWork](#)

Men are increasingly absent from the church and the number of empty seats is growing. LHM's Men's NetWork is a unique resource designed to help new or existing men's ministry groups in any size church! The programmatic hub of the Men's NetWork is a website loaded with solid Christian content, relevant video-based Bible studies, How-To documents on a wide variety of topics and much more, but off-site connection is encouraged as well through local groups, opportunities and ideas for outreach within the community.

[Click here to learn more >>](#)

- [GodConnects](#)

GodConnects is a video-based adult confirmation course that covers Christian doctrine from the perspective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Each of the 12 topics contains a short video and downloadable discussion guide for in-depth study.

[Click here to learn more >>](#)

- [Online Mission Trips](#)

Children's opportunities for hands-on service in the field tend to be limited - but through Lutheran Hour Ministries' International Online Mission Trips (OMT), students can experience much of the learning and thrill of a mission trip - and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries around the world.

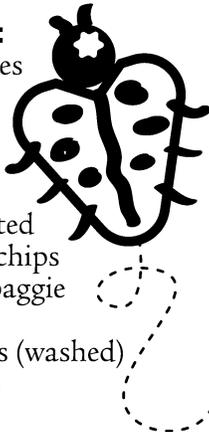
[Click here to learn more >>](#)

# FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

## What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



## What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and “spots” on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry “head” by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



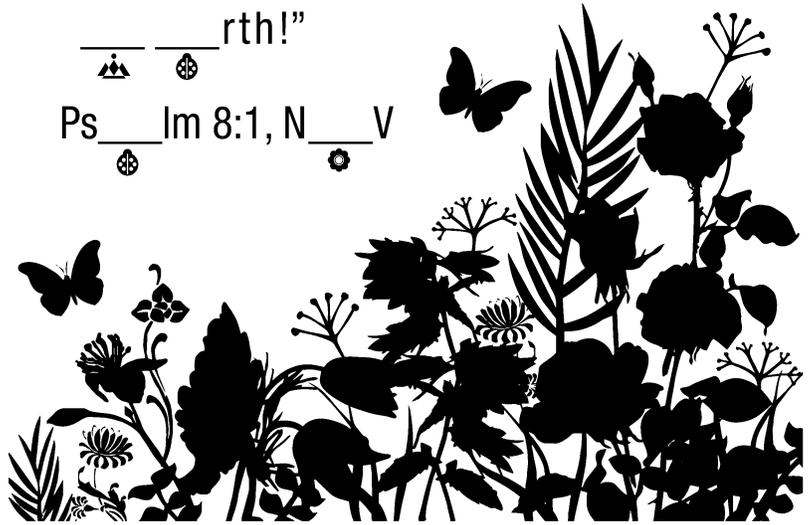
# Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

*Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.*

A = E = I = O = U =

“L\_\_RD, \_\_ \_\_ r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
 m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c \_\_s y\_\_ \_\_r  
 n\_\_m\_\_ \_\_n \_\_ll th\_\_  
 \_\_ \_\_rth!”  
 Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”  
 Psalm 8:1, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>.**