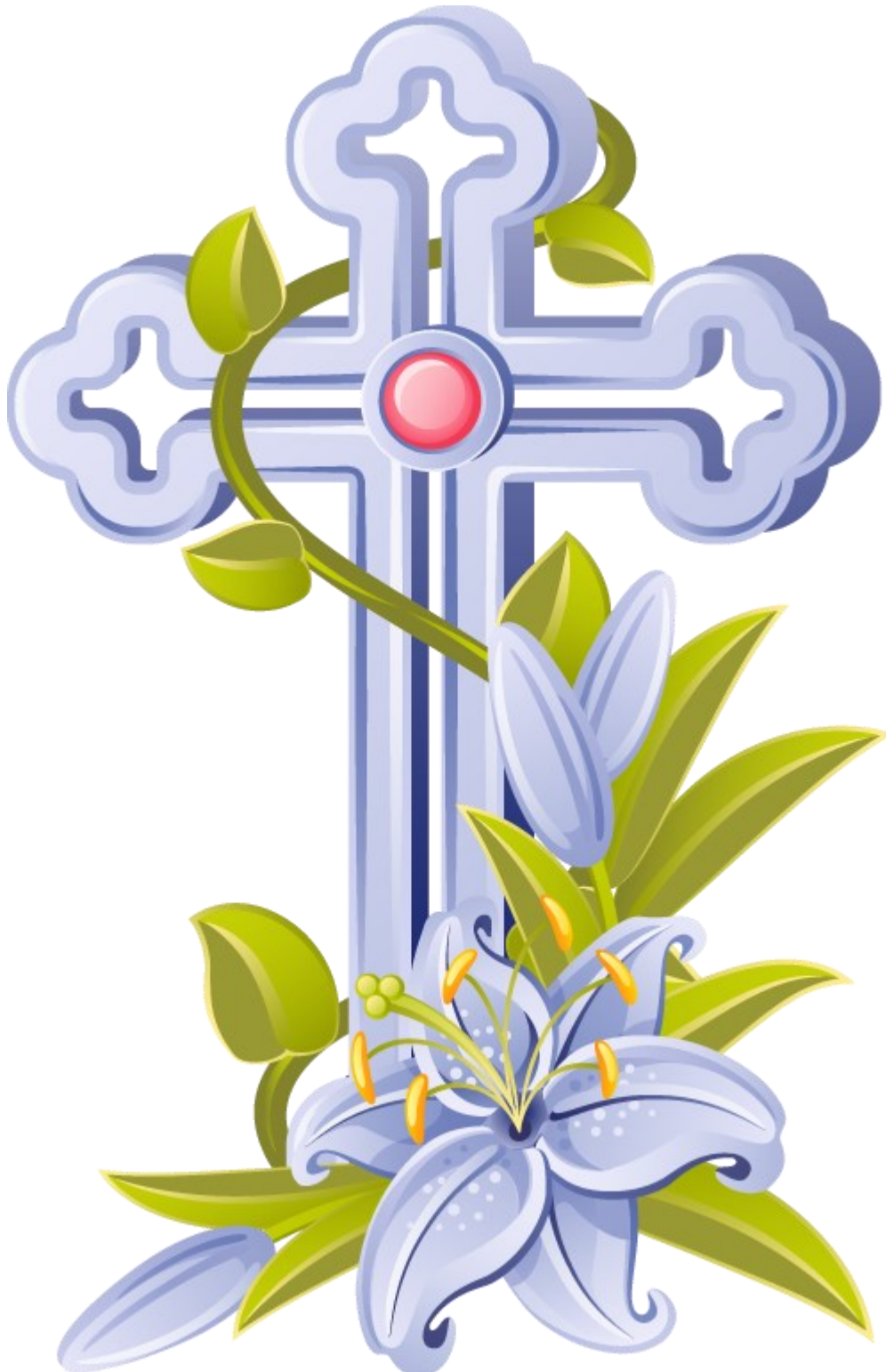


# The Adventurer

## April 2025



### **STAFF**

#### **Pastors**

Jason Peterson  
Andrea Windsor-Peterson

#### **Director of Music/Organist**

Joel Haywood

#### **Financial Secretaries**

Steve & Debbie Merzlak

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#### **Church Council President**

Joan Kruscavage

#### **Vice President**

Lynn Reed

#### **Secretary**

Phil Hanes

#### **Treasurer**

Carolyn Teffeteller

#### **At Large Members**

Gina Hammock  
Stephen Martin

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#### **Ministry Chairpersons**

#### **Christian Education**

Heather Herrmann

#### **Evangelism**

#### **Fellowship**

Joan Kruscavage

#### **Property**

Mike Gamlen (PM)

#### **Service**

Gina Hammock

#### **Stewardship**

#### **Worship**

Pastors

#### **Youth**

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## *Words from Our Pastors*

*“This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”—Psalm 118:23-24*

As we are wrapping up the season of Lent at Advent and beginning preparations for Holy Week we want to pause, reflect and thank everyone who has made our Lenten journey together so special.

We give God thanks for such a special Lenten theme this year as we remember Jesus as Savior, Servant and Friend. We truly have grown in our faith and witness as followers of Jesus. The Lenten devotion has centered us each day this Lenten season. It has been inspiring to walk alongside you all as we have gathered for Lenten Bible Studies, Lenten Dinner Worship and Sunday Worship. It has been enriching to hear how Jesus is our Forgiver, Healer, Listener, Encourager, Protector and Comforter. We have found out what that means for us in our daily walk with Jesus. We pray this time has been one of growth in your faith as well. We look forward to concluding this series in the remaining Lenten days leading us to Holy Week and ultimately Easter Sunday. We will focus on Jesus as King, Servant, Savior, and Redeemer.

We want to thank all who have come and shared both meals and stories to make our Wednesday Lenten Dinner Worships so blessed. Thank you to all who prepared soup and sandwiches for the dinners. These weekly dinner worship times have helped us to stay connected as a community of believers gathered to break bread and hear God's Word. These worship and fellowship times have truly added so much as we journey to the cross throughout these forty days of Lent. There is still time to join us in April for this time of worship and fellowship.

We give thanks to God for these wonderful moments to celebrate in the life and ministry of Advent. This Lenten season began by welcoming twelve new members to Advent. We are truly blessed to call you brothers and sisters in Christ. We look forward to walking together in faith. This year we have eight children attending the First Communion classes. We look forward to coming together on Maundy Thursday as we remember the night our Lord instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion and witnessing these young people receive their first communion. We continue to give thanks for the partnership with UMCOR, the United Methodist Disaster Relief team. Joan works tirelessly hosting groups that come to work providing relief and aid to the ongoing disaster work in the CSRA. The people of God at Advent have been generous in their contributions to the relief efforts with monetary gifts, food and shelter. We give thanks for the faithful group of prayer warriors who gather each week in prayer for Advent, the CSRA and the World. We have truly felt the Holy Spirit at work in this place.

We would like to thank the Altar Guild for all their hard work in making sure each service in Lent and Holy Week goes as planned. Your hard work and dedication each week make our jobs as your pastors so much easier in planning and leading worship at Advent.

## *Words from Our Pastors (continued)*

We also would like to thank all of you who serve each Sunday. This includes the lectors, ushers, greeters, acolytes, crucifers, counters, Assisting Ministers, nursery attendant, safety team and more. Your faithfulness in serving God in this way goes far beyond just the Lenten Season. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with all who Worship our Lord each week.

Thank you to our Music Director, Joel and the choirs. Your Anthems and music have helped all of us to praise God more fully through song. Joel, you inspire us personally with your musical gifts and we rejoice at the gift of serving Jesus in this place as colleagues. We feel tremendously blessed to serve with you in leading worship at Advent. With Joel and the choirs, you all use your musical gifts to enhance our worship and praise so that together we lift our voices and sing. The Lenten preludes, offertories and special music have been outstanding and we look forward to hearing the Holy Spirit continue to flow through you all.

Thank you to Advent's Church Council and leadership teams. Your faithfulness in leading God's people in this place does not go unnoticed. We thank Stephen for his work on communication and this Newsletter and lifting up the beautiful picture of the life and ministry at Advent. Thank you, Kath, for your work with the Food Pantry, Ministry Mornings and Table Talk. Thank you, Jim, for your faithfulness in Advent's Community Garden. Thank you, Steve and Debbie, for your endless hours of work keeping the financial records at Advent. Thank you to Mike, Phil, and all those who serve on the property ministry caring for the house of the Lord inside and out. What a joy to walk into the church and see the care, love, sweat and time that is consistently given to our Lord through all your hard work. Thank you to our new Safety Team members led by Will, Kevin and Larry. We are truly blessed with such gifted leaders at Advent.

Easter is the cornerstone of our faith because in it is life. For forty days we look in the mirror and are reminded that because of sin, we deserve death. Easter is the promise for all of us that we have a God who loves us so much he has chosen for us not death, but life! The life everlasting that we are given comes only because someone first gave their life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus is our Savior, Servant and Friend. Let us celebrate together this Easter Christ's resurrection from the Dead and the promise that one day we too will have a resurrection like his. For that proclaim with all our being Christ Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!!!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea



ALLELUIA.  
CHRIST IS RISEN.



We give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people:



*Diane Griswold; Carolyn, Bryson, Larry, and Austin Weeks;  
Krista and RJ Gentry; Helen Durham; Michael Picolo; Alan Reems; and  
Andres Amundson*

They are now one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation, Advent Lutheran Church.



### TABLE TALK, COFFEE & CRAFTS

The next meeting is **Tuesday, April 8th at 10 a.m.** Looking for a social outing? Want to spend time with Christian women? Join us in the church fellowship hall. Coffee is provided.



Feel free to bring a craft you are working on If you want to keep your hands busy. You are welcome to bring a friend or neighbor.

# First Communion Class

First Communion classes began on Sunday, March 16th, following worship (10:45) in the library. Pastor Andrea was delighted to begin this journey again with families of young people who have not yet had instruction and tasted the gift of Holy Communion. With the use of the resource “Fed and Forgiven”,



individual sessions focus on the Bible Story and Big Idea, explore the many meanings of Holy Communion, and coordinate with individual learner resources for PreK-K, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, and older youth. The classes last 4 weeks, plus an additional fifth class to gather in the

kitchen and make communion bread together with Pastor Andrea. The bread they all make together will be used during worship at **6:30pm** on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, the day of their First Communion.



# April Worship Schedule

*Sunday, April 6th*

## **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Ministry Morning 10:45am & 1st Communion Class 11am

*Sunday, April 13th*

## **Palm Sunday**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Sunday School 10:45am & 1st Communion Class 11am

*Thursday, April 17th*

## **Maundy Thursday**

Worship and Holy Communion 6:30pm

*Friday, April 18th*

## **Good Friday**

Tenebrae Service 7:00pm

*Sunday, April 20th*

## **Easter Sunday**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Easter Feaster 10:45am ; Egg Hunt 11:30am

*Sunday, April 27th*

## **Second Sunday of Easter**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Sunday School 10:45am

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Will be scheduled in May, date To Be Announced



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

It's never too early to start getting those  
ANNUAL REPORTS ready.

Please have your reports ready by:

**April 28, 2025**

So that we can get them to the congregation before  
the meeting in May. Thank you in advance!



Christians  
confronting emptiness  
choosing compassion  
creating community

Collection for April is  
Boxes of Cereal



# Happenings at GAP

The beginning of the year has been quite busy for GAP. In January and February, the various ministries handed out and served lots of individuals. 1,872 individual received food, 474 were provided prescription assistance and the period project, adult incontinence, and diapers were going strong. In fact the millionth diaper was dispensed. That's right 1,000,000 diapers have been handed out to needy families! That is a lot of diapers. Of great importance are the 164 birth certificates received. This is the first step to a valid ID for those who have had their ID lost or stolen. Shelters will not accept you without ID. So this is a critical service provided.

A survey of visits to GAP in 2024 revealed that the following distribution of clients served. In the food pantry, 2,092 households (4,334 individuals) were served. The largest age group served was under the age of 18 (35%). Of those served 53% were male and 47% female. Thirty-six of the clients had no home. Of high importance was that 76% of these clients were served only 1-5 times in the year. Therefore the overwhelming majority of those seeking help from GAP are doing so very infrequently suggesting a need for help when only when a month is short. Thus, the majority are not relying on GAP to consistently place food on the table. Indeed only 2% were seen at GAP more than 30 times in the year. This trend also was seen with those seeking prescription drug assistance where 78% of clients were served only 2-5 times a year.

In addition to the ministries, GAP is providing a location for those being served by agencies to have a mailbox location. Government agencies and other nonprofit services require a mailing address for their clients. Individuals can apply to the various agencies in town to receive access through the agency to a mailing address. The Homeless Task Force paid for the mailboxes and will work with individuals for access to them.



The support provided by Advent is very much appreciated. Those wishing to volunteer their time will find opportunities on Wednesday mornings packaging diapers and adult incontinence products and Thursdays when the food bank is open. Feel free to talk to Gina Hammock if you want more information.



## The Little Free Pantry Ministry is Alive and Well.

Praise God! Thank you to so many of you who are involved in the Little Free Pantry ministry here at Advent. Whether you bring in supplies, donate funds, or help to keep the pantry stocked, YOU make this ministry amazing! The pantry is stocked more often now that many of you have accepted the invitation to help with refilling the pantry. Your time and efforts are appreciated. I know God wants us to work together, to invite people to join in with service, and to enjoy the fellowship gained from spreading his love through works of kindness and generosity.

Information for our newest members: You are invited! Feel free to stock the pantry when you notice it needs more items. It doesn't need to be full. In fact, it may be that more visitors are served with more frequent stocking and fewer items. We should not concern ourselves with how much a person takes, or how frequently they visit the pantry. The supplies are a gift freely given from God's people. Please don't approach anyone visiting the pantry unless it is to say hello or welcome. It's easy for us to make judgments based on the car they drive, their clothes, etc but truth is none of us know the circumstances that brings someone to our door. Please place all donated items on the table in the fellowship hallway. (Gifts for GAP typically are left in the narthex in provided bins.) Please do not fill the cupboards as I try to make sure items are rotated.

Lastly, for those of you who may ask, we are grateful for **bottled water**, food and personal care items such as soap, shampoo, and dental hygiene items. Please continue to pray for those facing food insecurity and all the concerns that arise from this issue. I am happy to answer any questions and open to any suggestions anyone may want to offer. Peace, Kath



### Upcoming Activities:

Selling Easter Lilies - Sundays until April 13th before/after worship

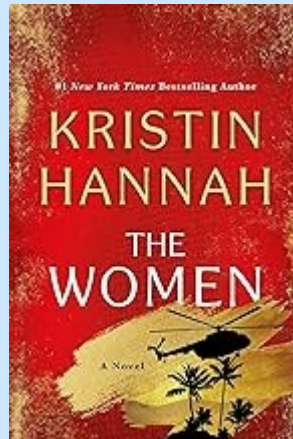
Easter Feaster - Sunday, April 20th after the worship service

Egg Hunt - Sunday, April 20th after the Easter Feaster

Youth in the Community Garden - Saturday, April 26th 11 - 1pm

## ADVENT BOOK CLUB 2025

*Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 11am unless otherwise noted.*

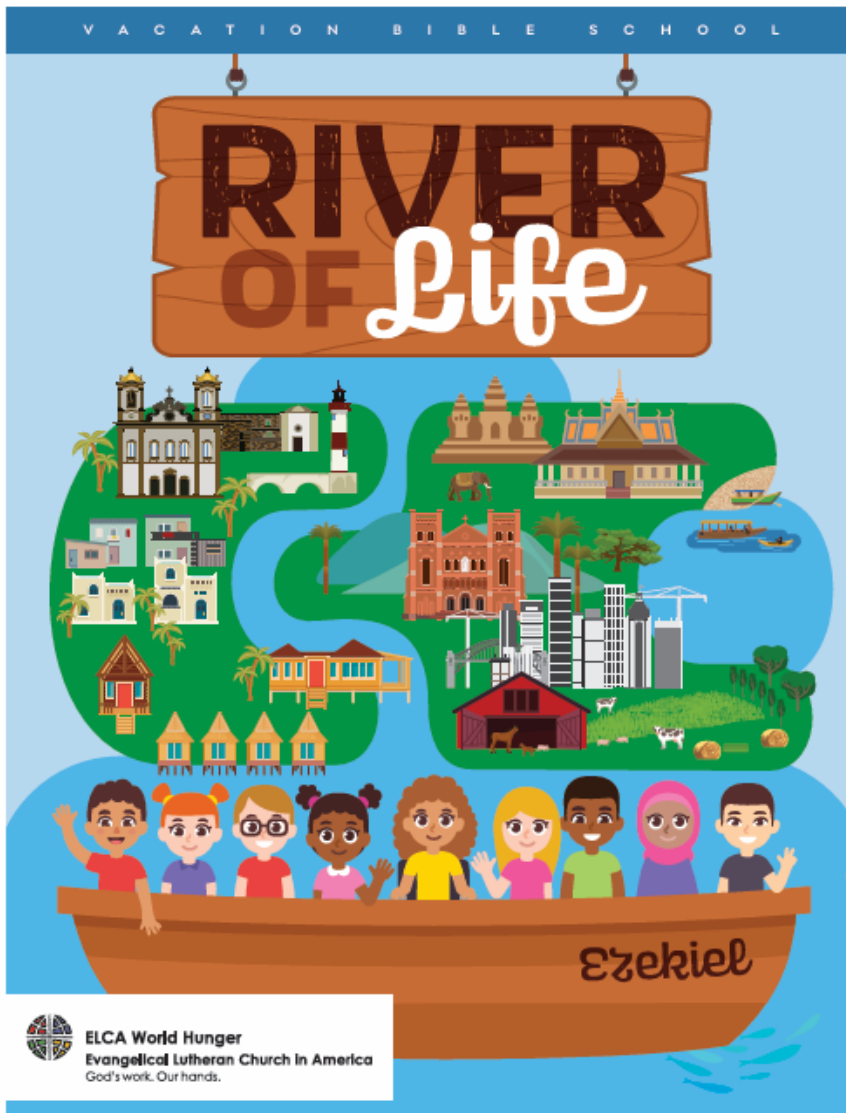


Join us on Monday, April 28 at 11am  
in the Adult Sunday School Room as we meet to  
discuss the book, "The Women"  
by Kristin Hannah.  
All are welcome!

**Need wrapped candy to fill eggs  
by April 13th!**



Individually wrapped candy, small stickers or small toys are still needed to fill the plastic Easter eggs that we already have. It needs to be small enough to fit in the eggs and the kind that won't melt on a hot day! Please bring them to the basket in the Narthex by Palm Sunday, April 13th.



**-> VBS <-**  
**at 9:00 AM**  
**Monday,**  
**June 2nd;**  
**Tuesday,**  
**June 3rd;**  
**Wednesday,**  
**June 4th;**

This year, in **VBS**, we are journeying down the river to learn about God's gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain farms and gardens, water is life. All of creation relies on water to live. But water is much more than a resource. For people of faith, water is a powerful symbol, with significance as deep as the natural stores that cover the globe. In "River of Life," participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important "ports" during the week to hear Bible stories about water. They will also hear about communities working to restore watersheds, to protect rights to water and to ensure safe water for everyone. And they'll have some fun! The games and other activities will help to celebrate water and remind us of our important calling to be good stewards of creation.

## News from Our Missionary to Uganda, Dr. Pam

By Dr. Pam Tipler Ward

With our current political climate, I was particularly happy for this trip to Uganda. I've been here for almost a week, and my cup runneth over. Y'all don't understand just HOW PRIVILEGED we are. My heart has been super heavy lately with everything going on. (I am NOT making this a political post). I have been very sad with how this world has changed, the way we treat one another, the hate, the violence, the rich lifting themselves up higher, and so much more. But this world...this world that God created is beautiful!!! The people, the land, the hearts... People often ask me "how did you get into this field? Why Uganda?" The only answer I have is that God called me here. From the traffic jams with horses and buggies in north central PA to Uganda....i can only say that God brought me here. I have met the most amazing people here and made the best of friends.



I have needed this trip. My tank was running low. Sad with the world. But the JOY the Ugandan people have with the simplest of things...it amazes me. I watch children making "toys" out of a stick and some wheels or a tire and stick. There is no obsession with their phones/social media/etc. I sit in the van with the medical team and we just sing and dance with so much happiness.

Thank you, Lord, for this blessing. Thank you for the beautiful gifts you have given us all to do Your work with our hands and feet. I pray for our world...I pray for peace, for love. You taught us to love God and love our neighbor. I pray we refocus and start to live the way You taught us.

# Helene Disaster Response at Advent



Recently Wrapped Shower Trailer



One of the three showers



This is the dump truck that has been recently acquired for use by our visiting disaster recovery workers. It might be parked behind Advent from time to time.

These folks are guests from the Disaster Assistance and Recovery chapter at the Roswell (GA) United Methodist Church.

We are so thankful that Joan Kruscavage manages the "Advent Disaster Recovery Bed and Breakfast" with the assistance of many other members of Advent.

100% of the contributions to Advent's Hurricane Helene Fund, will be used to house and feed relief workers at Advent. If you wish to contribute, you can scan this QR code and then select the Advent Hurricane Helene Fund.





Please help us beautify the Lord's House for our  
Wonderful Easter worship service!

Your gift benefits the  
**Advent Lutheran Church Youth Group.**

Our young people appreciate your support!

Cost is \$20.00/Lily.

There will be a sign up table each Sunday in March in the Narthex. A youth will be there to take your order and you can order one in memory/honor of a loved one. You can also email the church office ([advluch@adventaugusta.org](mailto:advluch@adventaugusta.org)) if you would like to order a Lily, but cannot be there in person.



Mardi Gras  
2025  
1 of 2





Mardi Gras  
2025  
2 of 2







Caulking leaks and pulling up sticky shrubs



Spreading mulch

# Advent's Spring Spruce Up



Painting the Cross



Cleaning the showers



Painting sign posts

# Advent's Lenten Worship Dinners



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>2</b> AA 8am-9am Bible Study 11:00am Lenten Dinner Worship 6:30pm	<b>3</b> AA 8am-9am Sanctuary Choir 7pm	<b>4</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Ministry Morning & 1st Communion class 10:45am Bell Choir 6pm	<b>7</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>8</b> AA 8am-9am Table Talk 10am	<b>9</b> AA 8am-9am Bible Study 11:00am Council 5pm Lenten Dinner Worship 6:30pm	<b>10</b> AA 8am-9am Toastmasters 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	<b>11</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>12</b> Property Mtg. 8am
<b>13</b> Palm Sunday Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School & 1st Communion Class 10:45am	<b>14</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>15</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>16</b> AA 8am-9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	<b>17</b> AA 8am-9am <b>Maunday Thursday</b> 6:30 pm	<b>18</b> AA 8am-9am <b>Good Friday</b> 7pm	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Easter Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Easter Feaster 10:45am Egg Hunt 11:30am	<b>21</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>22</b> AA 8am-9am <u>Deadline</u> for May newsletter articles	<b>23</b> AA 8am-9am Bell Choir TBA Sanctuary Choir TBA	<b>24</b> AA 8am-9am Toastmasters 6:30pm	<b>25</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>26</b> AA Celebration 8-9am Youth Community Gardening 11 - 1pm
<b>27</b> Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Youth Hike	<b>28</b> AA 8am-9am Book Group 11am Pastors' Vacation	<b>29</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>30</b> AA 8am-9am Bell Choir TBA Sanctuary Choir TBA			

# Master's Week

# Happy April Birthday!

4/2 Noreen Gaynor  
4/4 Jessica Aiello  
4/8 Philip Hanes  
4/8 Ruth Johnson  
4/9 Stephanie Wasson  
4/13 Roberta Howell  
4/13 Holly Sadenwasser  
4/15 Meredith Ellie  
4/21 Gail Pendergrast  
4/22 Maddie Lever  
4/24 Tim Peterson  
4/26 Jaime Jimenez  
4/27 Jordyn Krog  
4/29 Lynn Reed  
4/29 Jessica Cook  
4/30 Jason Richardson

# Happy April Anniversary!

4/2 Phil & Carole Hanes  
4/16 Fritz & Elaine Mertins  
4/29 Jim & Amy Smith  
4/29 Greg & Sarah Van Bladel  
4/30 Sam & Marcy Jimenez  
4/30 Curtis & Hope Lingenfelter

*Handmade*  
www.madeintheusa.com



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**DATED MATERIAL**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Deadline For May Newsletter  
Entries*

**Tuesday, April 22nd**