

The Messenger of Arndt's Church

March/April, 2011

You may access our newsletter on our Website: www.arndtslutheran.org

MARCH

As we anticipate the Season of Lent, we gather on Tuesday, March 8th, at 7:00 p.m. for a brief **Shrove Tuesday** service with the burning of palms. On **Ash Wednesday**, March 9th, at 7:00 p.m., we celebrate Holy Communion with Imposition of ashes.

On each Wednesday throughout Lent, we will gather with our brothers and sisters from St. Andrew's, Christ, St. Paul's Southside and St. Paul's Third for our annual Midweek Lenten Services. A simple supper of soup, bread and dessert is held at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to participate in these services as we take time to consider our Lord's humanity and the human body in which he wrought our salvation in a program entitled "The Body of Christ".

March 16 – St. Andrew's
March 23 – Arndt's
March 30 – Christ
April 6 – St. Paul's Southside
April 13 – St. Paul's Third

APRIL

Holy Week Services (April 17 thru April 24)

On April 17th, we celebrate **Palm Sunday** with the procession of palms leading us into Holy Week and the celebration of the mystery of our salvation. We enter the week by listening to the story of Jesus' passion – his suffering and death. This gospel narrative will be read by members of the congregation at the 6:00 pm Saturday service and the 10:30 am Sunday service.

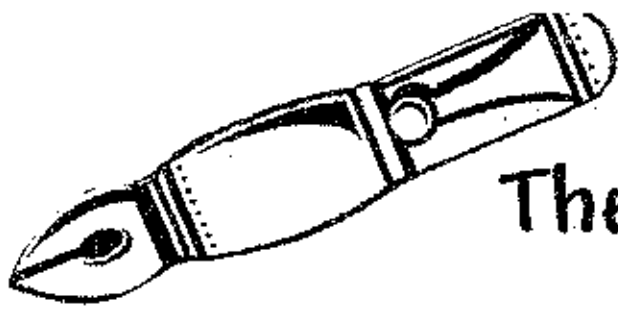
On Monday of Holy Week, April 18th, an **Anointing Service** will be held at 7:00 pm. The service will offer dialog, readings, a short homily, prayers, laying on of hands, and anointing. During Lent, we are called to turn from our old ways to a way of repentance and renewal. The Service of Healing is an excellent way to refresh ourselves as we begin our journey through Holy Week.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 21st, we celebrate Holy Communion as we gather together to partake of this special meal as the family of believers and to remember his death until he comes. In the bread and wine served here, Jesus gives his very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Our Maundy Thursday service begins at 7:00 p.m. where we will celebrate the First Holy Communion of three young members. The service concludes as the altar is stripped in preparation for the death of Jesus on Good Friday.

Good Friday, April 22nd, the church gathers to remember the death of Jesus. We focus not only upon the agony of the cross but especially upon God's victory through our crucified Lord. Even more, we "lift high the cross" as the sign of God's triumph over sin, death, and evil. A Tenebrae service begins at 7:00 pm with diminishing lights that signify the death of Jesus. The service concludes in silence and almost total darkness.

The **Easter Vigil** is the ancient and powerful celebration of the new creation that springs from Jesus' open tomb. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m., April 23rd, as we gather to hear the whole story, from creation through exodus and the prophets. The striking of the Easter fire; the lighting of the paschal candle; the singing of the ancient proclamation; the baptismal washing that buries us with Christ and raises us to life – all these powerful actions draw us into the wonder of Resurrection.

April 24, 2011 - **Easter Day** begins with sunrise service at 6:30 am and a regular worship service at 10:30 am. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services. The Lord is risen indeed! The open tomb of Jesus is the door to a new way of being in the world. Sing Alleluia, Praise the Lord!



The Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As some of you know I was sick last week. After a test done in my doctor's office, I was diagnosed with the flu and was told I had to stay away from people for at least 5 days. The next few hours after leaving my doctor's office, were spent in canceling and postponing and rescheduling meetings, activities, and appointments.

I write all this because when people received my e-mails they wrote back and asked "But what are you **really** going to do?" They were surprised when I said I really was going to stay "put" as the doctor so strongly suggested. I thought then how hard it is for us to give up being in charge. How hard it is for us to have to stay put. How hard it is for us to let God be God.

With the onset of Lent coming next week, I think this is hard for many of us. Lots of people, myself included, have given things up for Lent in the past. Thinking that depriving ourselves of something we enjoy is what God is asking us to do during these 40 days. Too often we give up something only to replace it with something else. Like we might give up chocolate only to overindulge in potato chips. Or we might give up going to the movies only to spend night after night watching movies on television. You get the idea.

I believe what God is really asking us to do is to not give up anything one particular thing, but just to give up. What I mean is stop worrying about having all the right answers, making all the right decisions, living all the right ways. Give up! In so doing, we let God make the choices for us and we can then follow God's way and not ours.

During the forty days of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, I invite you to try "giving up" and let God be God in your lives.

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Jean

MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Each day you are asked to say a prayer for the member listed on that day. All of the members of our church family will be prayed for many times throughout the year. Members are listed alphabetically. If someone is missed, please contact the secretary in the church office.

- March 1 - Heather and Joe Faust
- March 2 - Herb Fehnel
- March 3 - Kurt and Bernice Flad, Katie and Jack
- March 4 - Kyle Flad
- March 5 - Randy and Kathy Fogel, Brandi and Krysta
- March 6 - Roland and Marjorie Frace
- March 7 - Amanda Freeman and Jack McCleish
- March 8 - Forrest and Peg Freeman
- March 9 - Rebecca Freeman
- March 10 - Heather and Andrew Frey, Andrew and Amber
- March 11 - James and Elizabeth Frey, and Annabella
- March 12 - Decca Frey
- March 13 - Larry and Mary-Elizabeth Fritchman and Eddie
- March 14 - Tabatha Gartner
- March 15 - Donald and Debbie Gebhardt
- March 16 - Donald and Dorothy Gebhardt
- March 17 - Marianne Gehris
- March 18 - Ruth Gehris
- March 19 - Duane and Mitzi Graner
- March 20 - Duane S. Graner
- March 21 - Helen Greenleaf
- March 22 - Hope Greffe
- March 23 - Robert, Janet and Scott Gruninger
- March 24 - Becky and Mike Haffner, Aiden, Cathleen and Abby
- March 25 - Sandy and Bill Horn
- March 26 - Janet Heller
- March 27 - Logie Heller
- March 28 - Holly and Robert Hernandez, Melissa and Mallory
- March 29 - Don and Janet Herr
- March 30 - Geoff and Maureen Hillary
- March 31 - Jim Hockman

APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

Each day you are asked to say a prayer for the member listed on that day. All of the members of our church family will be prayed for many times throughout the year. Members are listed alphabetically. If someone is missed, please contact the secretary in the church office.

- April 1 - Ralph and Joanne Horton
- April 2 - Michael and Nick Horton
- April 3 - Tammy, Jon and Abigail Hrichak
- April 4 - Pastor Jean and Doug Huber
- April 5 - Josh and Stef Huber, Jacob and Landon
- April 6- Sally, Jim and Kyle Hutnik
- April 7 - Arlene Jacoby
- April 8 - Keith and Chris Johnsen
- April 9 - Tammy and Donovan Joseph
- April 10 - James and Crystal Keats
- April 11- Margaret Kelly
- April 12- Gail and Liam Kleckner
- April 13- Ed and Linda Kleppinger
- April 14- Anne Kline
- April 15- Karen and Allan Klug
- April 16- Donald and Donna Koch, Andrew and Kaitlyn
- April 17- Joan and Kevin Kocher, Austin, Dalton and Logan
- April 18- Stacy and Catherine Kocher, Charlene and Karl
- April 19- Virginia Kocher
- April 20- Charles and Jane Kohler
- April 21- Carol and Ryan Konetsky
- April 22- Brooks and Becky Kranich
- April 23- Jim, Maria and Brittney Krome
- April 24- Robert and Vera Krome
- April 25- Victory Kryworuchko, Barbara Shannon and Luke Daub
- April 26- Barbara Kutz
- April 27- Kirsten and John Kutza, AJ and Jordan
- April 28- Barbara and Brandon Labar
- April 29- Scott, Robin and Zechariah Labar
- April 30- Sharon and Terry Labar

2011 Congregational Council Representatives

Karen Beverly, 2011 - President
Charlie Miller, 2011 - Vice President
Yvonne Osmun, 2011 - Secretary
Tom Walters, 2012
Scott Lewis, 2012
Alecia Coates, 2012
Steve Bueker, 2013
Kathy Fogel, 2013
Bruce Sandt, 2013
Jessica Leuschner, Youth Representative

Interesting Items from Council

- New council members were elected. Karen Beverly, President; Charlie Miller, Vice President; and Yvonne Osmun, Secretary. Members of council were also assigned committees to which they will act as liaisons for church council.
- Council requested that members of the property committee help in simplifying the list of repairs / items from the Dream Team, so that church council can understand the importance and cost of each item.
- Church council will work together at our March meeting to create and set up a calendar for the church year. This calendar will allow us to see upcoming events and help us to manage them in a timely manner.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13th. Turn your clocks ahead one hour.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 23rd, at 2:00 p.m. (This is the day before Easter).

We are asking for donations of small, wrapped candies to put inside the plastic Easter eggs. Your donations may be brought to the church beginning April 1st and put in the box marked "Easter Candy".

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Children fourth grade and older who have not had their First Holy Communion instruction may join this year's class being held on Saturday, April 2nd from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Please let Pastor know if you will be participating.

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OPEN ARMS BASKET RAFFLE

Open Arms is raffling a themed basket during the month of March as a fundraiser. It is a themed basket of items to use in the garden. It will be on display throughout the month of March and the winning ticket will be pulled on Thursday, March 31st, at Open Arms. Tickets cost \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets. You may purchase tickets during Open Arms, on Sunday mornings before and after church and from Sue during church office hours.

Community Outreach ministry

MEALS FOR RESIDENTS OF SAFE HARBOR.

Thanks to Arndt's members for donating food for the January and February meals. Our monthly format has changed somewhat in that we are posting a sheet with a pre-planned entrée menu. **The March meal will be on Thursday, March 24th, and the entrée will be bar-b-que sandwiches; the April meal will be on Thursday, April 28th and the entrée will be chili.** The salad, bread and dessert items will remain the same other than there is room for several people to sign up for each item rather than one person do it all. Please consider participating in this community ministry. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

FOOD PANTRY DONATION REQUESTS MARCH and APRIL

peanut butter
jelly (12 oz. jars)
canned potatoes

Non-Food Item: diapers needed

Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. Since many clients live in rooms and only have access to a microwave oven in the lobby of the building, they are limited as to what they can make. Easy, individual meals are helpful for these people.

Diapers and hygiene items are always needed and are appreciated. Also, large brown paper bags (like from the grocery store) are needed to pack the groceries for each client.

All items may be placed in the shopping cart in the coat room area.

Thank you to everyone who supports this ongoing community project.

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY - Arndt's Lutheran Church in Forks Township is partnering with the ProJeCt of Easton Interfaith Food Pantry to become a local drop off location for area residents who wish to donate to the food pantry. Members from Arndt's will transport donated items weekly to the downtown food pantry and hope to be able to increase substantially the amount of food that is donated from suburban families, particularly from Forks Township. Non-perishable food can be taken to Arndt's during office hours which are generally 9:30 am - Noon weekdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am - 3 pm and during services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

ProJeCt's Interfaith Food Pantry is the largest food pantry in Northampton County, providing two-to-three day supplies of food to more than 2,500 households each year. It is located at St. John's Lutheran Church on Ferry Street in downtown Easton. Last year, the food pantry distributed two-to-three day supplies of food to more than 4,300 individuals in nearly 3,000 households.

Families who would like to make donations of non-perishable food to the Food Bank drop off center at Arndt's Lutheran Church can do so at the church. Food must be delivered when the church is open, and should not be dropped off outside of the church.

MEALS ON WHEELS- Meals are delivered to the homes of Easton Seniors every second Wednesday of the month. We are always looking for new volunteers to help deliver on our assigned day. Call the church office if you would like to help out with this rewarding ministry.

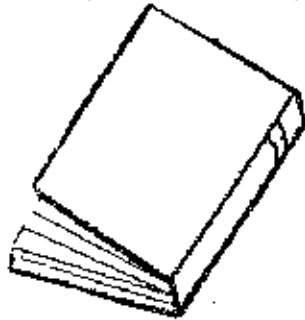


Women Of the Word

[Second Monday of the Month]

W.O.W. will meet on Monday, March 14, 2011, and Monday, April 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the church. All women are welcome to participate.

All women are invited to join with us for discussion topics and to participate in church projects and events.



BOOK

CLUB

March/April

March – Far Above Rubies

The book club selection for March is “Far Above Rubies” by Cynthia Polansky. A reviewer for the book said the following:

When Sofie married Jan she took on the care of his six young daughters. When Hitler invaded the Netherlands, the Jewish family are in danger and it is not long before the girls are summoned to ‘work camps’. Sofie chooses to go with her adopted daughters and tries to protect them through the horrors of the trains, the labor camps and finally the death camps. The family face persecution, abuse and various forms of torture, but Sofie is determined not to give up even as she watches her girls slowly succumbing to the Nazi horrors. This book is based on a true story, it is an incredibly powerful piece of writing and I wept over it several times.”

Please join us for discussion of this book on Monday, March 28 at 7:00 pm

April – Books by Beverly Lewis

In April, the book club decided to do something different. Please read any book written by Beverly Lewis and come to book club on Monday, April 25 to share your thoughts with the group. Please google Beverly Lewis for a complete list of her 90 books.

Please join us in the lounge on Monday, April 25, 2011, at 7:00 as we discuss this book.

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2011 Flower and Bulletin Charts

New Altar Flower and Worship Bulletin charts for 2011 are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Sign your name on the chart on the week/weeks you would like to be a sponsor and complete a dedication form. Payment for flowers must be received two weeks in advance. Order forms are self-explanatory.

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Newsletter Schedule

- January/February - deadline 12/15
- March/April - deadline 2/15
- May/June - deadline 4/15
- July/August - deadline 6/15
- September/October - deadline 8/15
- November/December - deadline 10/15

Any person or group who wishes to include information in the newsletter should submit their article to the church office (emailed articles are preferred but handwritten/typed will be accepted, too).

**Eccumenical Presentation of *His Last Days* on
April 16th at 7:00 pm.**

Over 35 participants will bring to life *His Last Days* at Wesley United Methodist Church at 35 Miller Street, Phillipsburg, NJ on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 7 pm. The free family oriented presentation is a mission for performers from a wide area ranging from Wilkes Barre to Nazareth.

Founded by JoAnn Havrilko and Father Edward McElduff in Walnutport 26 years ago, Herald Biblical Theatre draws actors, singers and dancers from ten varying faith communities. The free admission enables all to attend and to be reminded about the significance of the last days of Jesus. Several participants have been with the Herald company since the inception of the show. There are some father-son duos as well as other family members. People of all abilities can be part of the show, ranging from performers to set designers, to costumers, to props, to lighting, to music and make up. Teens through 60 somethings comprise the ensemble.

Havrilko received the call to lead this ministry 25 years ago when she was on a retreat. The base for the show is *His Last Days* by Dallas Holm, with additional songs composed by Havrilko.

Join us for the inspirational one and a half hour free presentation. Coffee and desserts will be available after the performance.

For more information, contact Janet Herr at snookers2@frontiernet.net or 610 588 6618 or Pastor Bill Spangler at wesleypburg@verizon.net.

**LYME DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP FORMING IN
EASTON AREA**

New Group Plans to Meet in Forks Township

A committee has been formed to organize the Easton Area Lyme Disease Support Group due to the large number of people in the area who have been infected by the disease and could benefit from support and information to aid in their recovery and to prevent future infections.

Northampton County has a particularly high incidence of Lyme disease, but the nearest support groups are in the Philadelphia and York areas, making it difficult for people suffering from the disease to participate. The new group is in the formative stage, and has located a meeting place, which will be at Arndt's Lutheran Church, 1851 Arndt Road, in Forks Township with the first meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection which is commonly contracted from a tick bite that may initially cause a flu-like illness. If untreated or inadequately treated, the disease may become persistent or long-term and affect many systems of the body. Ticks carry other disease besides Lyme Disease, and one tick bite might transmit more than one disease. Lyme Disease test results are often inaccurate and a test may be negative even though a person may actually have the disease. Lyme disease symptoms are numerous and it is often misdiagnosed as another illness such as ADHD, Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Lupus and other neurological and difficult-to-diagnose conditions.

The Easton Area Lyme Support Group intends to be "an all volunteer organization which seeks to improve the lives of people suffering from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases by providing information and support and to prevent new cases through education and partnering with other organizations with common goals."

Arndt's Announcements

Please submit any special information you may want to share with the rest of the membership to the "Arndt's Announcements" page of *The Messenger*.

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Funerals

Thomas Czerwinsky
Raised to Eternal Life – January 15, 2011
Service – January 20, 2011

Jean Fehnel
Raised to Eternal Life – January 27, 2011
Service – January 31, 2011

Births

Kylie Ann Kovacs
February 3, 2011
daughter of Marla Shoemaker and Joe Kovacs

Congratulations

Sandy Hayden and Bill Horn
Married February 14, 2011
in Oceanside, California

Nancy Walters
Named Volunteer of the Week
by the Express Times

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Thank you to . . .

All members and friends who provided food for the luncheon after Dan Brettell's ordination and those who assisted with setup, cleanup and throughout the day.

What a joyous occasion for Dan and for Arndt's!

Chris Johnsen for chairing our fastnacht sale.

Ellen Selmasska for handling the daffodil sale.

Thank you from . . .

Lutheran Congregational Services. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Congregational Services, Inc. and those persons whom we serve, I want to thank Arndt's for its gift of \$400. Together we are continuing a Legacy of Caring and Service that has stood the test of time. Thank you for your partnership in these endeavors.

The Rev. Dr. Dennis S. Ritter, Executive Director

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 8 Shrove Tuesday Service
7:00 p.m.
- March 9 Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 p.m.
- March 23 Midweek Lenten Supper
at Arndt's – 6:00 p.m.
Midweek Lenten Service
at Arndt's – 7:00 p.m.
- April 1 - Easter Candy Making
9:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Helpers welcome
- April 2 - Easter Candy Making
9:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- April 2 - Carraba's Luncheon to
Benefit Arndt's
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
See Ruthann Siegfried for tickets.
- April 10 - Youth Group to Villages at
Sullivan Trail – 1:30 p.m.
- April 11 - Health Screenings
9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- April 13 - Health Screenings
9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.
- April 23 - Easter Egg Hunt
2:00 p.m.
- May 7 - Ladies' Tea
- May 8 - Special Mother's Day
Bulletin-watch bulletin
announcements
- May 14 - Volleyball Tournament
- July 18-22 - Vacation Bible School

WORSHIP AT ARNDTS

Sunday, March 6, 2011 – Transfiguration of Our Lord - Holy Communion

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On the mount of transfiguration Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

Sunday, March 13, 2011 - First Sunday in Lent - Service of the Word

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Sunday, March 20, 2011 – Second Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Sunday, March 27, 2011 – Third Sunday in Lent – Service of the Word

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Sunday, April 3, 2011 – Fourth Sunday in Lent - Holy Communion

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, but now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Sunday, April 10, 2011 - Fifth Sunday in Lent – Service of the Word

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises.

Sunday, 17, 2011 – Palm Sunday – Holy Communion

In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

Thursday, April 21, 2011 – Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Friday, April 22, 2011 – Good Friday – Holy Communion

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day – the triumph of the cross – reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.

Saturday, April 23, 2011 – Vigil of Easter – Holy Communion

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome new sisters and brothers at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

Sunday, April 24, 2011 – Resurrection of Our Lord -Easter Day – Holy Communion

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

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