



THE Messenger

Vol. 21, No. 2

A Newsletter of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Antioch, Illinois

April 2021



OUR GOD IS ALMIGHTY!



How strong are you?

If you want to be impressed with incredible physical strength, watch “The World’s Strongest Man” competition some time. To win, competitors complete such demanding feats as lift 300-pound, round stones onto a pedestal, flip huge tires over and over, and individually pull a large bus - in the least amount of time.

Such strength pales in comparison to the almighty power of the one true God. God’s power isn’t limited to a competition, and he doesn’t use it to win prizes for himself. God uses his power for our benefit.

The greatest proof of God’s almighty power was when he raised Jesus to life after being crucified.

Jesus had the weight of the world

on his back in the form of every sin committed by every single person of all time. We rejoice because he was willing to lift that heavy weight of sin off of us while at the same time enduring the excruciating pain of dying on the cross in our place.

Jesus was humbled, but only temporarily. Three days later, God showed his almighty power when Jesus became the only person to ever overcome sin, death, and hell.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also” (1 Corinthians 6:14).

Jesus won the victory of eternal life. He gives the hope of heaven to all people. Now that is a feat of strength!

God is not done revealing his almighty power. On the Last Day, Jesus will return to earth to also raise our bodies back to life and reunite them with our souls. He will do that for every person who has ever lived. Those who have been led during their lives to believe in Jesus and his power to save will be glorified with new bodies that will never die again.

We may be weak, especially compared to the “Word’s Strongest Man” or our brother Jesus. But God always uses his strength for us. Trust in the power of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Relying only on his strength you will have everything you need to survive this life and rise from death to live forever with God.

Worship with us during this Holy Week and Easter season. We have been through a year that made us all realize just how weak our human answers are against the ravages of this broken world. Together we can acknowledge our weakness and search for hope and salvation in Christ. Together we can rejoice in God’s almighty, eternal power!

FAITH...



EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
24300 W. Grass Lake Road
(at HWY 59) Antioch
847-293-6101

&

LUTHERAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(Pre-K through Grade 8)
1275 Main Street, Antioch
847-395-1660

Worship Services Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 & 10:45 AM

Sunday School virtual “by family” due to COVID

Adult Studies Sundays 9:20 AM & Mondays 6:30 PM

Visit us online...
www.faithantioch.org
facebook.com/faithantioch

or on the radio!
WFEL 99.9 FM
Antioch

Reservations Required to Attend Worship

Who would have ever thought such a headline would be necessary during the busiest weeks of the Christian church year? But the recommendations and mandates still in place regarding large public gatherings demonstrate that we are not yet past the point with this pandemic to “ease up.” Devastating local outbreaks could still challenge the health and take the lives of a number of people.

Following those protocols and recommendations all Faith worship services during the next two weeks will have limitations on the number of participants and will also require everyone entering worship to wear a mask. An extra worship service has been added to the Easter Sunday schedule to accommodate as many worshippers as we can but everyone will need to make a reservation to secure a seat in any service. Reservations are made by household so you can determine who might all sit together in the space you have reserved. Please also recognize that you may not be able to choose your own seat when arriv-

ing at worship. Since reservations reveal how many worshippers will be sitting together in a single household, seating areas large enough for those households may be marked specifically for that reservation before seating for a service begins. We appreciate your patience and understanding when arriving at worship with those working to assist everyone in finding their seats. If you arrive at a service without a reservation please note that you may have to wait to be seated until everyone with a reservation at that service has been accommodated.

Reservations may be made by finding the reservation portal on our website (faithantioch.org) or by responding to reservation reminder emails that are being sent to members and those who are regularly making reservations for worship. You may also call the main office (847-395-1660) to make a reservation if you do not have the ability to use technology to make your reservation. Our office staff will be happy to assist you. See you in worship!

Many Unique & Special Worship Services This Week

The annual journey of Holy Week begins this coming Sunday, Palm Sunday March 28. Many holy days and services during the Christian observance of Holy Week and Easter truly have some odd sounding names. Many names tie today's activities to the history of the Christian church in special ways. Of course, Palm Sunday takes its name from the procession that welcomed Jesus' arrival at Jerusalem.

The crowds shouted "hosanna" (Hebrew for: "Save us!") and waved palm branches. Others laid palm branches they cut and even their cloaks upon the road to pave the way for the donkey Jesus humbly rode into Jerusalem. Clearly the people of the day expected big things from Jesus as he arrived in such a way.

Maundy Thursday likely comes next on the radar of "odd" names of Holy Week elements. Thursday of Holy Week focuses on Jesus' observance of the Hebrew festival of Passover. He took great care in preparing for this celebration in an upper room in Jerusalem that would accommodate all of his disciples. During the meal Jesus took elements of the ancient feast, a loaf of bread and then a cup of wine, and instituted the "Lord's Supper."

But it is not from the Lord's Supper that the term "Maundy" comes into our usage. Rather it is the episode earlier in the evening when Jesus took the servant's role of washing his disciples' feet that prompts the term. The ancient Latin word for commandment is "*mandatum*." In Jesus' explanation of his foot washing he laid out a "new commandment": "love one another as I have loved you... [the world] will know that you are my disciples by the way you love one another." This commandment to love gives Maundy Thursday (*that sure sounds better now than "Commandment Thursday," doesn't it?*) its name.

It would seem odd to call the day that follows Maundy Thursday "good" Friday since it is the annual remembrance of a brutal death on an ugly ancient cross. But Christians have long labeled the day "good" Friday because they understand and believe that Jesus' death on the cross is God's answer to the world's sin. Historically the Christian church has defined very specific services for different times of the day on Good Friday.

Most Good Friday observances have very little "incidental" music. Often the only music is hymns, psalms and songs that present the Scripture texts themselves or the truths they are conveying. Silence in preparation and in dismissal is another unusual facet of Good Friday worship. The "Service of the Cross" customarily takes place between noon and three on Good Friday. Focusing specifically on the words Jesus spoke from the cross,

this service conveys the agony Jesus physically and spiritually experienced, truly the punishment of hell, before giving up his life for the world's sin.

Historically, darkness also becomes a featured element of a Good Friday evening service, along with silence. "Tenebrae" is an ancient Latin word for *darkness*. For hundreds of years Christians have observed orders of Tenebrae which reflect the dark vigil of the believers at the foot of the cross as death and darkness descended upon the Savior, and the world, that first Good Friday. A Tenebrae service is most commonly a service of repentance acknowledging the darkness of our sins and the role they play in Jesus' death. Slowly darkening the worship setting until the 'Christ light' is the only light remaining proves a very moving element to this service. After the dramatic slamming of the tomb, a prayer and a closing verse sung without accompaniment Tenebrae worship ends in darkness and silence.

Easter morn begins in similar darkness. But the Easter vigil that begins Sunrise worship soon blossoms into vibrant and brilliant musical and visual praises worthy of the risen Lord. Sunrise worship is set apart early and uniquely in the day from the other festival worship services. Festival services begin with a procession and feature many grand hymns by congregation and ensemble.

Along with colorful, spring floral decor Easter worship offers a musical banquet of praise led by vocalists (a men's choir at Sunrise) and instrumentalists intended to create a transcendence that offers worshippers a foretaste of the perfect and eternal praise of heaven.

HOLY WEEK AT FAITH

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1

Worship at 3:30 & 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2

Service of the Cross at 3:30 pm

Evening Tenebrae (Darkness) Observance 7:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4

Sunrise Worship at 6:00 am

*Easter Festival Worship Services
at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am*

Considering Fall 2021 Enrollment at Faith Lutheran School or Pre-K?

Looking for a nationally accredited, state recognized Christian elementary school or Pre-Kindergarten program for your child? A place where learning humanity's accumulated knowledge and a knowledge of man's Creator hold equal priority? Did you know Faith Lutheran School is fully accredited and is also an *Illinois Invest In Kids* qualified school which means any qualifying child may obtain a grant which can add up to full tuition for a school year?

The re-enrollment process for our current students is just ending. We have room in some classrooms for the coming school year. The new student enrollment period just began on Saturday March 20. Applications are received through our website.

How can our staff be of help? An appointment to pursue more information? A tour of our school campus? Meeting the teacher of your child's class level for next year? A layout of available resources for tuition assistance? More info on the many different schedule choices for PreK students? Please give our office a call at 847-395-1660. We'd be happy to be of help in your search for answers!

SPRING Has Begun!

SPRING AIC - ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS - THAT IS

Faith has an annual sequence of AIC classes beginning at different times of the year and offered on different days of the week. Monday evening classes begin the first Monday of Spring each year and run through mid-summer. Each September new Fall AIC Wednesday sessions begin that run through the following February.

AIC sessions are one way we offer our friends, neighbors, workmates and relatives of Faith members, an opportunity to learn more about us. We study basic Christian teaching using the Bible as our chief "text book." Pastor Ungemach prefers to teach this class NOT as indoctrination to Lutheranism, but rather an exploration of the Scriptures.

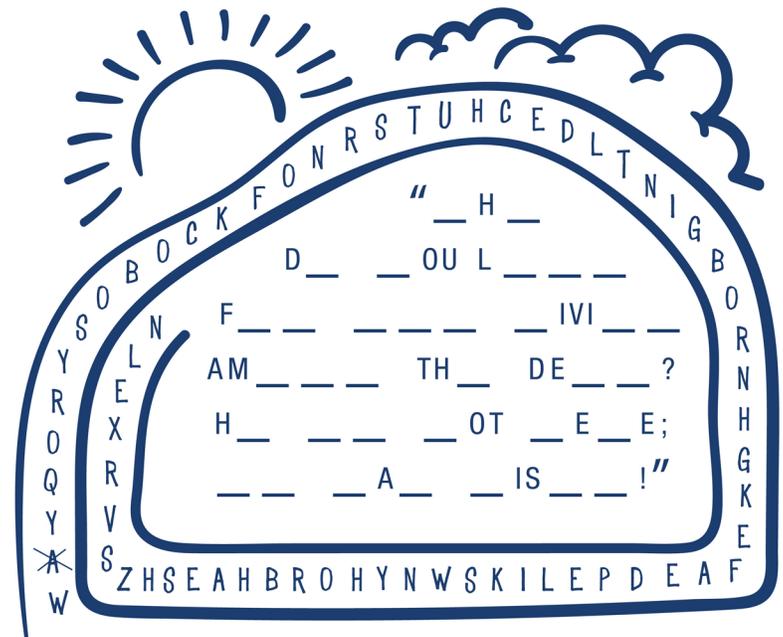
Our goal is to introduce participants to the basic truths of Scripture and the blessings of a personal faith in Jesus Christ. When an AIC is finished we invite everyone completing it to join Faith, which simply is just that, *an invitation*.



EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Jesus Set You Free!

In John 8:34 Jesus said, ***"Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."*** Whenever something other than God is in control of our lives, we are slaves. Jesus went on to say, ***"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"*** (John 8:36). Through Jesus' scars, we escape the devil's plantation and reach the promised land of heaven. Take a moment to ponder the life of someone enslaved to sin. Then worship as you remember that Jesus set you free.

Pastor Mike Novotny
of *Time of Grace*

Listen to "Time of Grace"

Monday at 9 am - Tuesday at 9 pm
Thursday at 9 am - Saturday at 9 pm



THE VOICE OF FAITH FOR THE ANTIOCH AREA

The Messenger

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
1275 Main Street
Antioch Illinois 60002

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24300 West Grass Lake Road
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Lutheran Elementary School
(Pre-k through Grade 8)
1275 Main Street
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Find out more about us at...

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&
WFEL 99.9 FM Antioch
broadcasting locally 24 hours a day

This is a non-profit publication serving the members of Faith and residents of the surrounding communities with information on activities of the church, school and the community.



Our Mission:

The mission of every Christian and of Faith congregation is to help make more and stronger disciples by sharing with everyone the good news of Jesus Christ.

Highlighting Coming Events at FAITH of Antioch

*Please note at which facility the activity will take place... our **Church Campus** on Grass Lake Road or our **Lutheran Elementary School Campus** on Main Street...*

- ◆ March 24 **Lenten Wednesday** Worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM (*church*)
- ◆ March 28 **Palm Sunday** worship at 8:00 & 10:45 AM (*church*)
- ◆ April 1 **Maundy Thursday** worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM (*church*)
- ◆ April 2 **Good Friday** worship at 3:30 & 7:00 PM (*church*)
- ◆ April 4 **Easter Sunday** Sunrise worship at 6 AM (*church*)
- ◆ April 4 **Easter Festival** worship at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM (*church*)
- ◆ April 25 **Youth Confirmation Sunday** at 10:45 AM (*church*)

We invite you to be with us for any of these occasions.

For questions look to our website www.faithantioch.org for more information