



NuHu Weekly

The New Humanity
Blog & News

March 28, 2024

BLOG: LIFE CHANGING MOMENTS

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Can liturgy change your life? Without a shadow of a doubt, I can say yes. Yes, liturgy is life changing. The music, the silence, the prayer, the repetition, and even the newness. Praying the Lord's Prayer or reciting a favorite Creed taps into those things that root themselves into our minds and souls. For some, the smell of beeswax or incense brings a sense of wonder and wholeness. For others, liturgy can awaken a dragon buried deep down that reminds them of harm done by the church. Yet, in its deepest form liturgy is not just to praise God. It is something meant for healing. For contemplation. For coming home to an all-embracing love of God.

The liturgy of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday is not an exercise in exhaustion or a well-staged play. It is a story and commentary on the human condition. It is the story of the final week of Emanuel ... of God being fully with us in the flesh, in Jesus. I promise you this, if you immerse yourself into Holy Week, really get lost in the liturgy and prayer, you will experience a life changing moment.

There is so much to offer that has yet to scratch the surface of life here at St. Luke. Our Holy Week services, our regular services of Holy Communion, Compline, and our occasional services of the Word. Mentioning Compline, did you know that there are more pieces to that service? It is just one part of what we call the Daily Office. Morning Prayer, Noontime Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer (Compline). Many believe that these originate from ancient monastic traditions, but they actually go further into our historical Judaic roots. Probably even further. In any case, these too offer an opportunity for us to find a space of comfort, healing, and life.

As part of our effort to help our congregation experience these wonderful and holy moments, St. Luke will continue to dabble in ways to offer a variety of liturgical opportunities. Our first such experiment will happen the Sunday after Easter when the church will offer morning prayer at 10:00 am. This will be an opportunity for folks to ponder the Easter message and to rest after the full excitement of Holy Week and the celebration of the resurrection on March 31st. I look forward to your thoughts after the service and for additional ideas on how we can continue to learn, grow, and experience Christ in and around us.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

All except Saturday zoomed at the [usual Sunday service link](#).

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday

7:00 pm

Saturday, March 30 – Easter Vigil

8:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church

St. John's is the big white church at the corner of Cayuga and Buffalo Streets. *This service will not be available on zoom, find it [HERE](#) instead.*

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

8:30 am Easter Breakfast

10:00 am Holy Communion and Easter Celebration

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JOANN EKDAHL

Monday, April 1

10:00 calling hours in the narthex to greet the family

10:30 service

Following the service, a light lunch will be served in the fellowship hall

The service will be live-streamed at the [usual links](#).

EASTER SEASON BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BAIR

Pastor Bair (“PB”, pastor of St. Luke from 1988-2019, for anyone who is new!) will lead five sessions on John 3 on **Wednesdays at 6pm** in April (and May 1). These will be in person at church with a zoom option found [HERE](#).

PB requests that those interested listen to a podcast prior to the sessions, these are posted [HERE](#) on the website. This will enable us to have maximum time for conversation.

The themes for the five sessions are:

April 3 - The name 'Nicodemus' and its implications

April 10 - Two lenses provided by Luther for seeing and understanding this text

April 17 - The Way the author of the Fourth Gospel Communicates: style, words, themes

April 24 - A deep dive into the story and text of John 3

May 1 - The continuing implications of John's 'light' and 'dark' images for our daily lives and discipleship.



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR: Earl, Brad, Carl, Keith, Marjorie, Kathy, Kirstin, and Baltimore City.

SERVERS: Thanks to those serving this week:

Maundy Thursday: assisting minister Everett Nelson, reader Susan Hoskins, ushers Don Tennant and Emma Dodici

Good Friday: assisting minister Janelle Alvstad-Mattson, reader Neil Mattson, usher Suzanne Snedeker

Vigil of Easter: cantor Jeff Snedeker, readers Liz Peck and Brad Wendel

Easter Sunday assisting minister Everett Nelson, readers Reid Kline and Bev Dodici, ushers Laura Gathagan and Alex Sheets, communion minister Janelle Alvstad-Mattson.

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**Sunday 10:00 am
Service of Holy Communion**

St. Luke is a [Reconciling in Christ Congregation](#) of the [ELCA](#). As a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church are called by God to be a community of Christians, a part of the body of Christ. Because we believe we are one in God's eyes, we welcome the mix of ages, races, gender identities, physical and mental capabilities, and sexual orientations with which God's children are blessed. Everyone is invited to share in God's grace. We rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus--not our wealth, nor our poverty, nor our nationality, nor our political convictions, nor whom we love, nor anything else in all creation. We are called to follow God's mission of reconciliation and justice with all humanity, and we celebrate our journey of discipleship with a special appreciation for the privileged responsibility of our campus related ministry.

St. Luke Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry; ELCA | 109 Oak Ave., Ithaca, NY
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