



Olive Tree Newsletter

April 2023

Lent and Easter Schedule 2023

Wednesday, March 15, 22,29	Mid Week Lenten Service 7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer
Sunday, March 19, 26	Worship Service 9:30 AM 11:00 AM Christian Ed
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Passion Play in Parts 11:00 AM Christian Ed
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday Service With Foot Washing 7:30 PM
Friday, April 7	Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM
Saturday, April 8	Easter Vigil Service 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM

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Remembering Pastor Don Blume

Pastor Don Blume passed away peacefully the morning of March 25 at Hospice House. The Funeral will be held Saturday April 15 at 10am at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Please hold the family and all that mourn in prayer.

We pray: God of Promise, today we give thanks for Don and the life and ministry that he shared with all of us. As you enfold him in your promise, we ask that you surround his children and family with your love, reminding them and all of us that in you we are gifted the fullness of life, beyond death. Give courage and faith to all who mourn to meet the days ahead with hope in the joyful expectation of eternal life in your presence, with those we love. Amen.



Remembering Marsha Journey



Marsha A. Journey
November 10, 1951 — March 6, 2023
Manchester, NH

Marsha A. Journey, 71, of Manchester, died March 6, 2023 at her home after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born in Manchester on November 10, 1951 to Warren and Ruth (Crane) Journey. She lived in Manchester for most of her life.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Plymouth State College and a master's degree in education from Notre Dame College.

Marsha was a history teacher for over 30 years and taught at Central High School and Trinity High School, both in Manchester.

She volunteered at CASA and was an active member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Manchester. She loved to read and also enjoyed many sports, especially golfing with her husband, Ron.

Marsha is survived by her husband of 11 years, Ronald J. Jones of Manchester; a daughter, Ruthie Withers and her husband, Stephen, of Attleboro, MA; a step-daughter, Stephanie Cleary and her husband, Michael, of York, ME; two grandchildren, Zachary Withers and Elliot Withers; two step-grandchildren, Reed Cleary and Lucas Cleary; two siblings, Warren Journey Jr. and his wife, Karen, of Hooksett and Carol Cole of Bow; one nephew and two nieces.

SERVICES: A Celebration of Life service will take place on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 65 Sagamore St., Manchester. Two burials of cremated remains will be on Friday, June 9, 2023. The first burial will be at 2:00 p.m. at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Highway, Boscawen, followed immediately by a second burial at Webster Place Cemetery, 99 Holy Cross Road, Franklin, about 3 miles from the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to CASA and sent to P.O. Box 1327, Manchester, NH 03105, or at www.casanh.org

Lambert Funeral Home & Crematory, Manchester is assisting the family with arrangements.

Big Hunger Challenge, Bold Generous Response

Submitted by Thomas Fedorka



During the Easter Season (April 9 – May 28) we are supporting the NESynod World Hunger Team’s “Big Hunger Challenge, Bold Generous Response”. All gifts designated to ELCA World Hunger will be matched up to \$100,000 to help fight hunger. Please help support as you are able.



Holy Week schedule

Sunday, April 2 @ 9:30am Passion Play in parts.

Thursday, April 6 @ 7:30pm Maundy Thursday – washing of feet.

Friday, April 7 @ 7:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 8 @ 7:30pm Easter Vigil celebration

Sunday, April 9 @ 9:30 am Easter Sunday celebration

Minister's Musings



Thomas Fedorka, LLM



Spoiler Alert!

Stop! Do not read this column until after Good Friday!

Feel free to read the rest of the Olive Tree and come back here later. Go ahead, we'll wait.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! – **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

The Easter Season is full of life and light. White and Gold are the colors of the season. White light is made up of all the colors of the rainbow (like our LGBTQ+ Flag) together. White light can represent wholeness, unity, and diversity (like our LGBTQ+ Flag). If we take away one color, the light is no longer white.

Gold represents royalty and the preciousness of our risen Christ. Gold can be represented as yellow. Both yellow and gold represent sunlight, warmth, and spirit. Yellow looks most striking next to its complementary color purple. In this way, the gold of Easter following the purple of Lent complement each season. While the two seasons (and colors) are strikingly different, they seem to complete each other nicely.

During the Easter Season our first reading will be from Acts instead of the normal Old Testament reading we get at other times. In the northern hemisphere now, Spring brings the rebirth of nature that echoes the birth of the new church in the Acts readings. It's all about growth and abundant new life in Christ.

Where Christ fills all things, we see beauty. Sometimes it's hard to see the beauty of the sacred in ordinary or difficult situations. But Christ is there. Think of ways you might see or represent Christ in difficult times as well as joyous times.

We are growing and regrowing into the body of Christ throughout the Easter Season. Think of ways we represent this growth in the greater Manchester community as well as within our Gethsemane community. Think of ways to be God's hands in God's world.

Ladies Retreat

Submitted by Carol Burgess

ATTENTION LADIES
THE SPRING RETREAT
AT CALUMET
MAY 19 TO MAY 21, 2023

Spring is almost here so it is time to make plans to go to our annual spring retreat at Calumet. It will be from the evening check in on May 19th to right after the noon meal on the 21st. The cost this year will be \$172 per person. We always stay in the conference center and each room has its own bathroom. This year you can choose to have the room to yourself or have a roommate. The cost is the same either way. Be sure to let me know what you wish for a room.

This is open to all women of the congregation, daughters, friends, sisters, etc. The more the merrier, we are looking forward to another really good time.

The theme for this year is Mary and Martha of Bethany. Check your Bibles and read up on these interesting women.

The final date for signing up is April 19th since Calumet needs time to prepare for whatever size group signs up to attend.

We usually go to Jake's for dinner as a group on Friday evening since Calumet doesn't serve dinner that evening. Or you can go to the restaurant of your choice.

More information will be given to everyone who signs up before the retreat.



Lent in Brief, Cont.

Submitted by Hank Charie

The Vigil of Easter

The Vigil of Easter begins in complete darkness as if in death and despair, and ends in the brilliant light of the Resurrection. It is a repetition of actions and gestures initiated long ages before. In the celebration of this Vigil, space is transcended: the act of remembering takes place at a grave, but the grave is anywhere the event is recalled. The church building and with it the congregation moves from darkness to light, and in the font the baptized move from death to resurrection, boldly challenging the threatening powers of darkness and death. Time is transcended.

As noted earlier, the Easter Vigil was originally a preparation for and time for baptism and the center of the rite of the Easter Vigil remains the celebration of Holy Baptism, or if no candidates, for the renewal of baptismal promises. The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus (ca. 215) describes the ceremony which almost certainly was developed still earlier, probably even in New Testament times:

On Friday and Saturday the catechumens and others with them fasted;
Saturday night was a vigil of prayer and instruction;
Sunday morning, at cockcrow was the rite of Baptism, followed by the Eucharist.

In keeping the Easter Vigil the church follows Christ through his suffering and death to his resurrection and new life. The Vigil of Easter consists of four parts:

Service of Light
Service of Readings
Service of Baptism
Service of Holy Communion

At the end of the Easter Vigil, culminating in the Holy Communion, the Resurrection of the Lord is at hand. Lent is over. Easter is here! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed:

Alleluia!!





The Romero Prayer

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Oscar Romero was an Archbishop of San Salvador known for advocating for the poor and for social justice. Archbishop Romero became a martyr when he was assassinated on March 24, 1980.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Free Community Meal

Third Sunday of Every Month

**Next Meal Sunday,
April 16
3-5 PM**

60 Pennacook Street
Manchester, NH
(603) 623-3451



Big Hunger Challenges, Bold Generous Response



"WE ARE FACING HUNGER ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE, FOOD PRICES HAVE NEVER BEEN HIGHER, AND MILLIONS OF LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS ARE HANGING IN THE BALANCE. BUT... WE HAVE THE DATA AND KNOW-HOW TO CHANGE THE COURSE." ANTONIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 2022

Who: All Congregations in the New England Synod led by the NE Synod World Hunger Team!

What: "Big Hunger Challenges, Bold Generous Response": A knowledge-raising and fund-raising initiative for ELCA World Hunger. The goal is to raise \$100,000 collectively as a Synod to be matched by an incredible challenge gift of \$100,000!

When: The Lenten and Easter Seasons (February 22, 2023, through May 28, 2023)

Where: Your New England Synod congregation!

Why: As members of the ELCA, our faith calls us to respond to the more than 820 million people in our world who are hungry. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger allow for incredible work to continue both nationally and internationally. From microloans to community meals, water wells and support for farmers, gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that both directly address hunger and get at the root causes of poverty.

Currently, we are seeing global hunger at unprecedented levels, the largest in modern history. The lack of grain coming from Ukraine combined with the largest drought in Africa in 40 years and the economic consequences of COVID-19 means the time is now to pray, participate, and provide.

Details: Throughout the Lenten and Easter Seasons (Ash Wednesday through Pentecost), congregations throughout the New England Synod are encouraged to share the work and witness of ELCA World Hunger. The NE Hunger Team is inviting all congregations to participate however they would like, but we will provide resources such as a Lenten Study Guide, World Hunger resources, fundraising ideas, etc.

We also invite all congregations to participate in New England Synod Hunger Sunday on April 23. We will provide sermon starters, worship ideas, ELCA World Hunger resources, music suggestions, and more. More information to come.

All gifts sent to the Synod with the designation ELCA World Hunger will be matched up to \$100,000! That's a possible \$200,000 that our New England Synod can raise to help combat hunger and support the ministry of ELCA World Hunger! Please note: we are asking all congregations to send their funds through the Synod rather than directly to ELCA World Hunger so that we can have an accurate account of the money raised.

If you have any questions or are in need of more information, please contact Doreen and Pastor David Rinas, co-chairs of the New England Synod World Hunger Team, at doreen.rinas@gmail.com and david.rinas9201@gmail.com. To learn more about ELCA World Hunger, visit www.elca.org/hunger

Easter Offerings

- * **Carol Burgess** in memory of Albert P. Burgess
- * **Hank and Judie Chary**
- * **Janine Danzi** in memory of her mother Kathleen and brother Robert Kretchko
- * **Thomas and Suzanne Fedorka** in memory of Amanda Rosalind Fedorka
- * **Diane Fortier** in memory of her parents Don and Donna Tangney
- * **Kristin Haroian** in memory of Eunice, Edward and Karen Hansen
- * **Ruth Higgins** in memory of my Husband, Parents, Brother and Sister
- * **Ron Jones** in memory of Marsha Journey
- * **Chris and Cindy Kaufmann** in memory of their parents and loved ones
- * **Landis and Kathy Magnuson** in thanksgiving for blessings
- * **Jeanne Manseau** in memory of Leonard and Janice Koch
- * **Bonnie Ramsey**
- * **Jane Scarlett** in thanksgiving for God's many blessings

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30am CHOIR 11:00am CHRISTIAN ED	27 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	28 7:00pm AA WB2B	29 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE 7:30pm MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICE	30	31 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	1 10:00am AA No Name
2 9:30am PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30am CHOIR 11:00am CHRISTIAN ED	3 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS	4 7:00pm AA WB2B	5 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	6 7:30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	7 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE 7:30pm GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	8 10:00am AA No Name 7:30pm EASTER VIGIL SERVICE
9 9:30am EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30am CHOIR 11:00am CHRISTIAN ED	10 12:00pm MARY MARTHA 5:00pm AA HHE 6:00pm OUTREACH 7:00pm AA MNWS	11 7:00pm AA WB2B 7:00pm FINANCE	12 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	13	14 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	15 10:00am AA No Name 10:00am FUNERAL SERVICE FOR PASTOR BLUME
16 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30am CHOIR 11:00am CHRISTIAN ED 3:00pm COMMUNITY MEAL	17 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	18 7:00pm AA WB2B	19 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	20 7:00pm COUNCIL	21 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	22 10:00am AA No Name
23 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE Guest Minister Rev. Tim Krick 10:30am CHOIR 11:00am CHRISTIAN ED	24 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	25 7:00pm AA WB2B	26 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	27	28 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	29 10:00am AA No Name
30 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE with Baptism 10:30am CHOIR 11:00am CHRISTIAN ED	1 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS	2 7:00pm AA WB2B	3 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	4	5 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	6 10:00am AA No Name

The Olive Tree

is published by
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