

## Christ is risen! For What?

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia. How we proclaimed this on Easter Sunday with glorious singing, brass, the Word proclaimed and Sacrament shared, the beautiful décor of Easter lilies and azaleas, gold colored paraments and more! Christ is risen, but for what?

Easter is an invitation to head through the opening of a new door, the door of the empty tomb. The stone has been rolled back so we can see in, and in that sight before us, new possibilities, new vision, fresh starts, new beginnings, and yes, walk in and through.

From what might we need to be risen? Christ is surely risen, but that is only the first part. The second part of all this is that we are called to rise as well, into new life. Does Easter Sunday make a difference? Does it change how we live our lives each day?

The women went to the tomb and heard the Good News – it was unbelievable – no longer did death

have the final word, nor the many little deaths and losses we encounter. What incredible love from our God for each of us. What incredible grace from our God for this world.

Let us step through the door of that empty tomb each day, over and over, abounding in new life.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

+Pastor Miller



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Families with young children attended Saint Luke's annual Easter Egg Hunt where the children sang songs, heard the Easter story of Jesus' resurrection, hunted for Easter eggs, and made some Easter crafts.



See pages 3 & 7 for more pictures

## MUSIC MINISTRY



This year's Maundy Thursday service featured a rather poignant reminder of our sin, and asking God to indeed wash us throughly. Yes, you read that correctly, throughly not thoroughly. A translation, if you would, of the old setting one "Create in me a clean heart, O God" from the Lutheran Book of Worship.

In my last article, I focused on the reason why we sing. I'm happy to report that our Schola Cantorum has been diligently looking at the text of each choral piece we have been singing, and how best to express the music so that the text is deeply meaningful. Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) was the eldest child of Samuel Wesley's second family, and grandson of Charles Wesley. Like his father, he was also a Mason. Among his many accomplishments, he was Organist at Hereford Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral, and Gloucester Cathedral, and was a Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music. His writings were specifically written for the Church of England. Some may be more familiar with works such as his "Lead Me Lord" and "Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace." Wesley was largely responsible for the acquisition of the Father Willis organ at Winchester Cathedral, and with Father Willis, designed the first concave and radiating pedalboard which is still used today – a feature of our very own organ, though adapted to industry standards which would follow many years later.

For any music ministry, Holy Week and Easter is not by any means easy. The planning of extra services, reflection on scripture and interpretation, score study, normal rehearsals and extra rehearsals, finding musicians, score study, major works, making sure everyone is where they need to be at the right time...

I give thanks for this Music Ministry, the leadership and staff of this church, all the volunteers and professional musicians we are blessed with. Our Schola Cantorum has devoted extra time to learning "Les Sept Paroles du Christ" by Théodore Dubois. To call this work challenging would be an understatement. I don't think any work really gets to the core of the Passion Narrative as abruptly and as real as Dubois has written. There is a constant painting of the text that is both refreshing and yet challenging to get through spiritually – and for me personally, without tears. Special attention has been taken with this major work to be mindful of anti-Semitism, inclusive language where possible, and interpretation of both text and music – some of which can be rather conflicting at times. I simply do not have the words to properly thank our Leadership and Staff, Schola, Section Leaders, Instrumentalists, and our church for going on this journey with me! I hope it has been as meaningful to you as it has been for me.

Adam Scott Graham  
Interim Director of Music





# 50 Years ELCA World Hunger

Did you know that as many as 828 million people worldwide live in hunger? Did you know that in the United States 1 in 6 people are not sure where their next meal will come from. The root causes of hunger are complex, and include rising costs, global conflict, climate change and the lingering impact of COVID-19.

This year, 2024, the ELCA commemorates 50 years of working to alleviate world hunger. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in 64 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to specific challenges. With your help, our church, the ELCA, can grow its support for our most vulnerable neighbors in a changing world.

It may be agriculture and nutrition, areas of water and sanitation, or healthcare and disease prevention, education and training. ELCA Hunger is there assisting all around the world.

Saint Luke has been a regular contributor to ELCA World Hunger. Thank you so much for your gifts toward this vital global ministry.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY

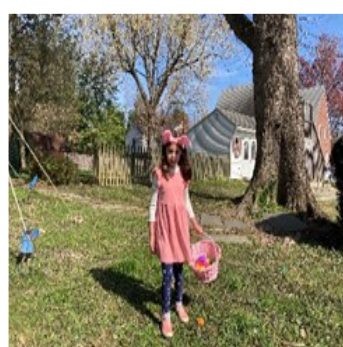
### Food Ministry Update

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Easter Lilly “food card” fund in honor or remembrance of loved ones. Know that your gifts are deeply appreciated. So many are referred to our food card ministry each month, and cards are distributed on the third Friday. Cards are also mailed out to those who have an acute need for food and don’t have transportation to Saint Luke. Many of those referrals come from teachers and social workers in local schools and Holy Cross Clinics. In March, we served 174 families consisting of 754 individuals. How many dollars are needed for this ministry? About \$7,000/month.

In addition, thanks to SLSHY youth who shopped for groceries, and the Sunday School teachers and students who packed 50 bags with that food. These bags are given to those who might come to the door at Saint Luke—experiencing a need for emergency food. Again, thank you for remembering those who experience hunger—Saint Luke is there for them.



### More Easter Egg Hunt pictures

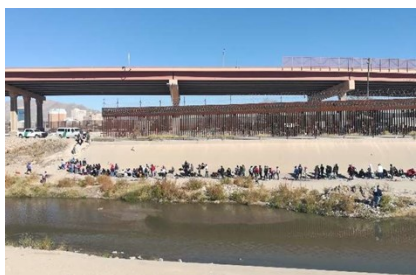


# Understanding the “Why”

January 2024

Greetings in Christ as we move through our weekly celebrations of the Epiphany season.

In this missionary update, I’m going to address a question that I suspect has occurred to many of you while following media coverage of migration in the Americas, especially images of the record number of migrants arriving at different points along the U.S. southern border with Mexico.



*Photo 1: View from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua in Mexico as asylum applicants queue up on the U.S. side of the border to turn themselves in to Customs & Border Protection agents.*

Images of children and teenagers traveling alone, mothers with young children, entire families, even the elderly & disabled.

## **Why are so many people embarking on the long, dangerous migrant journey?**

Or put another way: What are the principal factors that are driving so many people to abandon their home countries in hopes of finding a better life somewhere else?

Understanding and addressing the root causes of migration in the Americas is one of the principal commitments of AMMPARO – the ELCA’s whole-church strategy to accompany migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in our hemisphere.

In August 2016, when the AMMPARO strategy was adopted at the ELCA’s churchwide assembly, most migrants arriving at the U.S. border were from Mexico and three Central America countries – El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Lutheran churches and ecumenical partners in those countries were instrumental in helping ELCA understand the principal drivers of emigration at that moment in time:

-Extreme poverty and the lack of educational and employment opportunities, especially for youth

and women

*Photo 2: Group of Honduran youth in a vocational training center for returned migrants in eastern Honduras.*



-Social violence, especially gang-related violence in Central America

-Displacement of vulnerable families by cyclones, drought, and other extreme climate events.

An already bleak situation was compounded by governments too indifferent, too weak, or too corrupt to address the basic needs of their people.

During the COVID pandemic, the economic situation got worse. Businesses closed and forced the layoffs of those workers who were fortunate enough to have had formal employment. Covid-related lockdowns made the situation even more precarious for the families of workers in the informal sector of the economy.

In addition to those economic shocks, extreme climate events displaced thousands more. Prior to the pandemic, extended periods of drought had already created famine conditions in the “dry corridor” of Central America.



*Photo 3: Marginal community on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula, Honduras that was destroyed by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020 (photo by Sean Hawkey).*

Then, in November 2020, back-to-back category 5 hurricanes left a path of destruction in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. Governments were woefully inadequate in assisting the thousands of families left destitute and homeless by these climate-induced disasters.



Their handling of the pandemic itself was just as bad. Historic deficiencies in national health care systems left most of the population without access to both the COVID vaccine and to life-saving treatments.

Something else happened during the pandemic years. A **dramatic shift occurred in the geographic origin of migrants arriving at the**

**U.S. border.**



*Photo 4: Flags of the countries of origin of migrants who have been hosted by the staff and volunteers of a migrant shelter in Nogales, Mexico.*

Most notably in the migration of Venezuelans who constitute the single largest migrant diaspora in the Americas today. More than 7 million Venezuelans have abandoned their country because of the precarious living conditions that have existed there since 2015.

Then, there's Nicaragua where successive waves of Nicaraguan migrants are heading north because of the economic fallout from the protracted political crisis which began in 2018.

And Cuba, where out-migration has been rising dramatically since the end of 2021, driven by the country's worsening economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the continued U.S. trade embargo, galloping inflation, etc.

A fourth example is the diaspora of Haitians scattered throughout Latin America, estimated to be as high as ½ million people. After the 2010 earthquakes (Jan. 12 was the 14th anniversary of those earthquakes), large numbers of Haitians emigrated initially to places like Brazil and Chile.

*Photo 5: Haitian migrant family recovering from the perilous journey through the Darien Gap in Panama.*

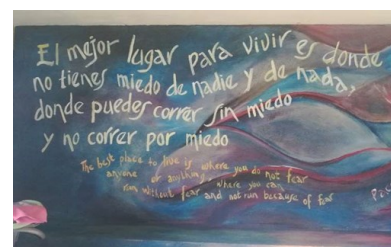


More recently, many Haitians have been forced to reverse course and make the migrant journey all over again, largely because of new anti-immigrant policies adopted by the same countries which initially received them.

Beyond the Americas, migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Asia are making transoceanic journeys to reach the Americas, driven by life-threatening political and economic conditions back home.

These are the principal migration drivers which help explain why millions of people, from all over the world, find themselves in situations of human mobility today.

Without dramatic improvements in the living conditions in their home countries, those who have fled can't go back. And, as long as violence and turmoil persist in so many countries in Latin America and beyond, the number of families who decide to make the migrant journey will continue to increase.



*Photo 6: Mural on the wall of a migrant shelter in Nogales, Mexico which reads: "The best place to live is where you don't fear anyone or anything, where you can run without fear and not run because of fear."*

For thousands upon thousands of families, migration is not a choice but rather their only option for finding a place where they can live without fear and enjoy the dignified life that God intends for all of God's children.

With peace,

Stephen Deal

ELCA Regional Representative AMMPARO in the Americas San José, Costa Rica

## FACILITIES

### If only the walls could talk!

The Great Hall has served the congregation well as one of its main meeting spaces since its construction in 1978. It has been the place to hold congregation meetings and dinners, service projects, youth sleepovers, wedding and funeral receptions, AA meetings, plays, a place to feed the hungry, a play area for our Christian Day School when the weather is bad, and so much more. Truly the ministry that has happened in this room has touched an uncountable number of people. If only the walls could talk!!

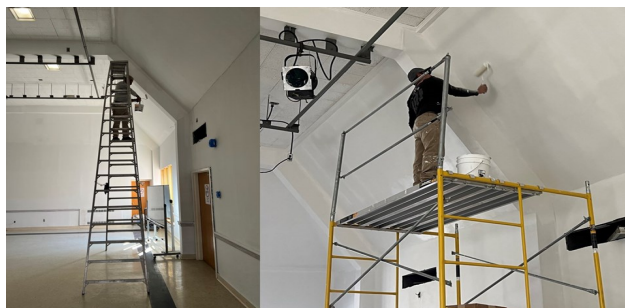
After 46 years of serving Saint Luke, the brown cloth sound absorbing wall covering in the Great Hall was beginning to peel off. It was torn in places and pocked with the marks of all the ministry that took place in this sacred space. What a witness the stains

told of the love we shared in Jesus Christ.

In the dead of winter, when there was far less work to do on grounds upkeep, our maintenance team of Arturo Villarroel and Carlos Esquivel, hung from scaffolds and ladders as they stripped the old sound proofing off the walls. They applied a special acoustic paint with ceramic microspheres and sound absorbing fillers, to deflect and deaden the echo effects in this large cavernous room. The newly painted Great Hall looks amazing!

Later this summer, we will begin the final phase of the project, as we mount a projector from the ceiling and upgrade the sound system.

What stories will these newly painted walls have to say about our love and ministry in Jesus Christ in another 46 years? Come and be a part of this incredible unfolding story.



## SLSHY

### Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:37

The high school and young adults have been learning about how we are to care for our neighbor, through studying the Good Samaritan parable. They have learned how Jesus, by using a Samaritan in the parable, extends our understanding of neighbor to people from other countries, to those who are culturally different, to people we do not know, to people we disagree with, and to people who have different beliefs than ours. To this definition, Jesus calls us to “Go and do likewise” in love and care for our neighbor.

On March 10, the high school students and young adults put their new understanding of love and care for their neighbor into action, by shopping for food that would be handed out to the hungry.

Part of the funds collected in the Souper Bowl of Caring were used in this shopping spree. A big thank you to the congregation for the donations during the Super Bowl weekend. These gifts not only help to feed the hungry, but also provide a tangible experience for our youth and young adults, allowing them to learn and put their faith into action.





## SAN LUCAS

### San Lucas – Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday)

Beginning in front of Saint Luke, the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem was reenacted in song and liturgy with a large crowd for the 5:00 p.m. San Lucas Misa. After processing into the nave, the Passion Reading



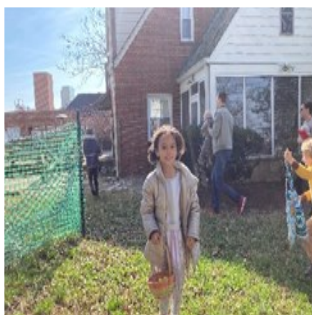
was shared in a dramatic reading of the Gospel, followed by Holy Communion.

On Palm Sunday and Easter, we were pleased to combine worship with the members of the Augustana and Saint Luke Latino congregations.

Pastor Manuel Caceres is the primary leader of the San Lucas Misa on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. After each worship service, a meal and fellowship are shared, hosted by Suleyma Alfaro. All are welcome to this vibrant community.



More Easter Egg Hunt pictures



## CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

# On a Path of New Beginnings

Attention: Saint Luke Family! We are excited to announce that enrollment for the upcoming school year is now open at our phenomenal Christian Day School! We believe that every child deserves a quality education that instills values and prepares them for a bright future. Help us reach more families who are seeking a nurturing and inspiring educational envi-

ronment by sharing the news about our school with your friends, family, and colleagues. Together, let's make a difference in the lives of our children and build a strong Saint Luke Christian Day School community dedicated to learning, growth, and faith.

To learn more and apply on-line, visit [www.saintlukekids.org](http://www.saintlukekids.org). Students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Call to schedule a tour today, 301-588-3866.



## Meet Mrs. Kingcade

Join us for our first official Coffee & Conversate, Meet & Greet with the new School Director, Tracy-Ann Kingcade, on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 9:15 a.m. The event will be held in the Fireside Room.



## ELCA Schools and Early Learning Centers

Did you know:

More than 1,400 ELCA congregations sponsor weekday schools and/or early childhood education programs

Over 14,000 children nationally are served by 1400 schools and centers

Saint Luke's Christian Day School was begun in 1957

Learning through play guides the Saint Luke Christian Day curriculum

CDS serves children age 2 through pre-K



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Imagine these schools all sharing faith and such learning from Alaska to Puerto Rico. What an amazing ministry!

Thank you for your continued prayers for all these schools and early childhood centers in our Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your support of our Saint Luke Christian Day School.



## Easter Crosses from Pastor Z

During the children's sermon on Easter Sunday at both morning services, and during the evening service, children were overjoyed to receive a very special gift. Our own Pastor Zawistoski had made Easter Crosses for them.

In order to do this it took about 30 hours of his time and he shared that he used Baltic birch wood, some cherry and some oak.

On Easter Sunday children learned the "magic words" *Christ is risen!* and received a beautiful wooden hand made cross, reminding them of Jesus' love.



The 4 styles of crosses

Crosses drying in Pr. Z's music room



Cutting the crosses



Toys Pr. Z has made for the La Sagrada children





## CHILDREN'S AND AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM MINISTRIES

### Faith in Action

The Sunday School and Affirmation of Baptism classes heard the Bible stories about Jesus' last days in preparation for Holy Week. One of the lessons they learned was about Jesus washing his disciples' feet as an example of service and care. Taking that lesson and putting their faith into action, the children and teens put together over 60 bags of food for Saint Luke's food pantry clients. A big thanks to SLSHY for buying the needed food using the money collect-

ed from the Souper Bowl of Caring and to our parish nurse, Mrs. Manchester, for talking to the kids about the food pantry before the bagging project began.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is June 24-28 from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The theme is Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God and children will participate in story time, recreation/games, science, mission (service), and more. Online registration for PreK (children turned 4 years by 9/1/2023) through current 5<sup>th</sup> graders is now open! Register children as campers now at [www.slvbs.us](http://www.slvbs.us).

Thank you for your support of all our young people!



Children and teens creating food bags for the food pantry.

COMING JUNE 24-28 Vacation Bible School!





---

## MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Two important congregation meetings have been set by the Congregation Council:

**Sunday, April 21**

**10:00 a.m.**

Special Congregation Meeting for the purpose of voting on the lay voting members who will represent Saint Luke at the Metro DC Synod Assembly June 1

The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m., the motion of proposed 9 voting members put forward, and then voting will be open for a few days.

**Sunday, June 2**

**11:15 a.m.**

Saint Luke Annual Meeting

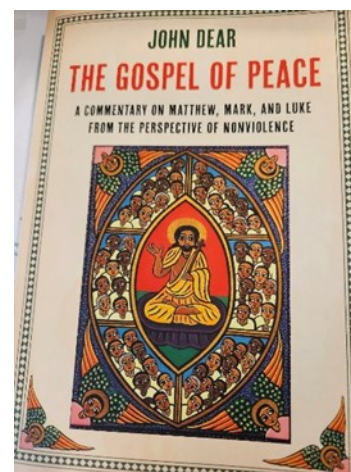
(This is also the Sunday the summer worship schedule begins – one morning service at 10:00 a.m.)

---

## UP FOR DISCUSSION

### How Jesus' Teachings about Peace Still Inspire

Beginning in April, Up for Discussion, a Sunday morning adult Faith Formation group, has selected *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence*. Author John Dear examines the teachings of Jesus and includes discussions of how those are similar to (and inspired) the teachings of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. The group plans to read the section on the gospel of Matthew. If you are interested in participating or would like more information about Up for Discussion, please contact Ralph Watkins at [ralph.watkins1@verizon.net](mailto:ralph.watkins1@verizon.net).



# ***Sharing***

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-1694



## **The Word**

### **Sunday April 7 Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1—2:2  
John 20:19-31

### **Sunday April 14 Third Sunday of Easter**

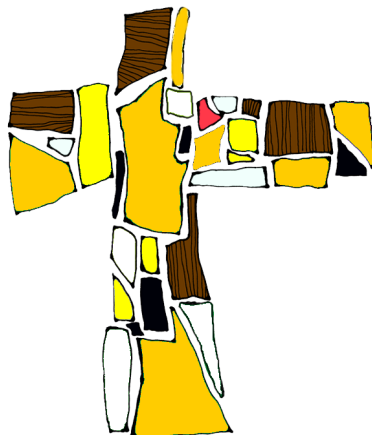
Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

### **Sunday April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

### **Sunday April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8



## **Prayer for the Easter Season**

God of life, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to journey now in that amazing grace and tell your good news to the world. In the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.

**Christ is risen!  
He is risen, indeed!  
Alleluia!**