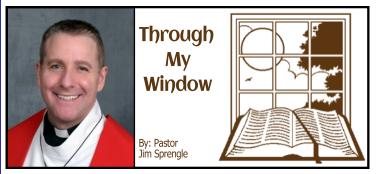
# The Acts of Ascension



Grace and peace to you,

"<sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5, ESV)

What a world we live in! Science and technology are changing at a rapid pace, and the medical field develops regular breakthroughs in new drugs and procedures. The modern conveniences we enjoy are too numerous to count. However, amidst the rapid advancements for good, we also witness the troubles that sin brings into our world. Science and technology, while beneficial, are sometimes exploited by criminals to steal billions of dollars annually. Medical procedures and miracle drugs, despite their advancements, possess limitations and occasionally bring more harm than good. In addition, our reliance on modern conveniences like phones, computers, and delivery services often hinders our physical activity, mental stimulation, and social interactions. It seems that any good arising from progress and change is often accompanied by equal trouble in other ways.

One of the greatest blessings of our life in Christ is the promise He offers in the Gospel of John: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 ESV). This victory, achieved by Jesus and celebrated especially by Christians on Easter Sunday, is bestowed upon us through our faith. John's first letter serves as a reminder that those who believe in Jesus Christ overcome the world (1 John 5:5). What kind of peace does this bring to our troubled hearts? Despite the tribulations and sins of the world, which often seem to overpower us and those we love, as well as the things we cherish and the progress we make, we emerge victorious. Jesus has triumphed, and through faith, He grants us the same victory.

With this profound victory in our lives, doesn't it seem good to share with others about our Rock in the storms of life? The world may continually disappoint, but Jesus continually prevails. We possess a gift to offer to the lost and brokenhearted—a gift that conquers the world. Enjoy the progress the world is making for our benefit, but remember when these things let us down, we have the victory in Christ!

Blessings, Pr. Jim

Gracia y paz para ti,

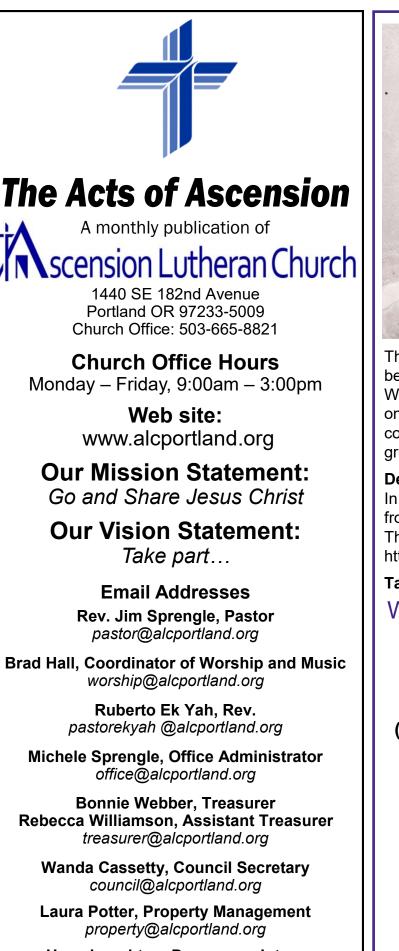
<sup>"4</sup> Porque todo el que ha nacido de Dios vence al mundo. Ésta es la victoria que vence al mundo: nuestra fe. <sup>5</sup> ¿Quién es el que vence al mundo sino el que cree que Jesús es el Hijo de Dios?" (1 Juan 5:4, NVI)

¡En qué mundo vivimos! La ciencia y la tecnología están cambiando a un ritmo acelerado, y el campo de la medicina desarrolla avances regulares en nuevos medicamentos y procedimientos. Las comodidades modernas de las que disfrutamos son demasiado numerosas para contarlas. Sin embargo, en medio de los rápidos avances para el bien, también somos testigos de los problemas que el pecado trae a nuestro mundo. La ciencia y la tecnología, aunque beneficiosas, a veces son explotadas por los delincuentes para robar miles de millones de dólares al año. Los procedimientos médicos y los medicamentos milagrosos, a pesar de sus avances, poseen limitaciones y ocasionalmente traen más daño que bien. Además, nuestra dependencia de las comodidades modernas como teléfonos, computadoras y servicios de entrega a menudo dificulta nuestra actividad física, estimulación mental e interacciones sociales. Parece que cualquier bien que surja del progreso y del cambio suele ir acompañado de problemas iguales en otros aspectos.

Una de las bendiciones más grandes de nuestra vida en Cristo es la promesa que Él ofrece en el Evangelio de Juan: "En este mundo afrontarán aflicciones, pero janímense! Yo he vencido al mundo," (Juan 16:33 NVI). Esta victoria, alcanzada por Jesús y celebrada especialmente por los cristianos el Domingo de Pascua, nos es otorgada a través de nuestra fe. La primera carta de Juan sirve como un recordatorio de que aquellos que creen en Jesucristo vencen al mundo (1 Juan 5:5). ¿Qué clase de paz trae esto a nuestros corazones atribulados? A pesar de las tribulaciones y los pecados del mundo, que a menudo parecen dominarnos a nosotros y a los que amamos, así como las cosas que apreciamos y el progreso que hacemos, salimos victoriosos. Jesús ha triunfado y, a través de la fe, nos concede la misma victoria.

Con esta profunda victoria en nuestras vidas, ¿no nos parece bueno compartir con otros acerca de nuestra Roca en las tormentas de la vida? El mundo puede decepcionar continuamente, pero Jesús prevalece indefectiblemente. Poseemos un regalo para ofrecer a los perdidos y con el corazón roto, un regalo que conquista el mundo. Disfruta del progreso que el mundo está haciendo para nuestro beneficio, pero recuerda que cuando estas cosas nos decepcionan, ¡tenemos la victoria en Cristo!

Bendiciones, Pr. Jim



Hana Laughton, Deaconess Intern deaconess @alcportland.org



The Lenten season is very early this year beginning on February 14 with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday on March 31. There are many ways you can connect with your church home and with our great God during this season.

## **Devotionals:**

In the Narthex you will find daily devotionals from The Lutheran Hour printed for your use. They are also available online here: https://www.lhm.org/subscribe/

## Take a look at the schedule for Ascension

## Wednesday Midweek Worship

Mar. 6, 13, and 20 at 3:30pm and 7:00pm

Midweek Dinners Mar. 6, and Mar. 20 at 6:00pm (TAKE NOTE!! Only 2 Dinners Left)

Palm Sunday March 24 at 8:30am and 11:00am

> Maundy Thursday March 28 at 7:00pm

Good Friday March 29 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday March 31 at 8:30am and 11:00am Breakfast 9:30am to 10:45am

# **PASTOR'S JANUARY REPORT**

#### Deaths / Funerals / Memorials -

None to report

#### Marriages -

None to report

### Transfers, New Members, etc. -

Dave Stabenow, transfer from River of Life Lutheran

Cal Stabenow, transfer from River of Life Lutheran

### Baptisms -

None to report

## Circuit Visitor / Northwest District News -

Christ the Vine, Damascus - voted on February 25 to change their call process from calling a candidate from the field to calling a seminarian candidate. They will find out on Call Day 2024 if they will receive a seminarian.

Northwest District President Paul Linnemann resigned from his duties. First Vice President, Rev. Michael Von Behren has accepted the call to become the President of the Northwest District. An installation for Pr Von Berhen will be on May 26, location and schedule to be announced.

## Miscellaneous -

## **Outreach Board**

Bible reading group at Courtyard Fountain has started, but still getting established with the residents.

Planning an Easter egg hunt in Vance Park on Saturday, March 30.

### **Stewardship Board**

Held the planning meeting, "A Look at Today and a Plan for Tomorrow" on February 10, 2024. Approximately 35 people came to hear about statistics from our own congregation, information about the surrounding community, and to complete a survey on the current state of our church. The group had great conversations and insights, and the Stewardship Board is working through the survey results and forming a plan to strengthen areas that need improvement.

#### Human Care Board

Souperbowl Sunday - February 11, we received a large donation to SnowCap - thank you!

Helping to plan the Easter breakfast, but need many helpers to assist. Ask Pastor or Karon Keup for ways to help.

### **Property Management**

Purchased padlocks and chains to lock driveway gates. Brass padlocks are keyed to the church master key.

#### Dates to remember:

#### 2024

March 6, 13, 20, Wednesdays – Lent Midweek (3:30, 7pm) March 24, Sunday – Palm Sunday March 28, Thursday – Maundy Thursday (7pm) March 29, Friday – Good Friday (7pm) March 31, Sunday – Easter Sunday May 9, Thursday – Ascension Day (7pm) May 12, Sunday – Mother's Day May 19, Sunday – Pentecost Day May 26, Sunday – Trinity Sunday May 27, Monday – Memorial Day





## **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy — Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii (nephew of Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright, Osan Air Base, South Korea – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)



## PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

Bob Rekdahl, The family of Kevin McInaney, Karla Deal, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Carol Hoefer, Gina Kreps, Cindy Linnemann, Mike Fogarty, Alma Bangs, Randy Bryant's brother, Eileen Hatley, Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia),

\*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Mike Hatley, \*Lorraine Haggard, \*Carolyn Barendse, \*Home Bound.

\* If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821



If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: *office@alcportland.org* or call: 503-665-8821

## AN EASTER MORNING PRAYER

As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that you conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the candy is all eaten and on with life we go let us not forget.

The celebration of your resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring, beyond the lily, beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.

Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear; man's greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young our old our unborn. Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.

This alone, the most touching and profound of your signs that fear is dead and belief in you brings, not just hope but life.

What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. Even in the garden, You took on our fear if for only moments, it was as real as our fears can be real and You knew then that this single enemy must be destroyed.

And, You sacrificed your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear.

I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me.

Peace and thanksgiving lifted unto you. Amen.



Margo Bachhuber	March 1
Eileen Hatley	March 4
Ayde Alvarado	March 6
Ellie Graham	March 10
John Hazen	March 11
Linda Tatum	March 11
Jenny Schuldheisz	March 12
J.E. Knox	March 13
Debbie Zeller	March 14
Wilma Mukul	March 17
Margaret Hubbard	March 19
Karon Keup	March 20
Corey Ritchie	March 21
Ruby Sylvia	March 22
Pam Eilers	March 23
Madison Fogarty	March 25
Carolyn Shore	March 28
Janice Hart	March 29
Steven Schaefer	March 29



Celia Kreps	Mar. 1
Caleb Zeebuyth	Mar 13
Mike Potter	Mar. 21
Corey Ritchie	Mar. 21
Jenny Schuldheisz	Mar. 21
Karen Zahursky	Mar. 23
Tracy Schaffer	Mar. 25
Luke Teyema	Mar. 30



Paul and Debbie Walter

Mar 29, 1975

God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating special days in March! Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next

## Easter Breakfast Fundraiser



Easter Sunday, March 31 the Human Care Board is hosting an Easter Breakfast Fundraiser from 9:30am to 10:45am. The fundraiser will support the Benevolence Fund.

Tickets will be sold in advance to estimate the number who will attend; however no advance purchase is necessary!

The Cost is \$5 and under 12 years old is free! Free will offerings are appreciated!

Your ticket will be used to enter you in the drawing for door prizes too!

Check out the white board in the Narthex for opportunities to provide food for the event! You may purchase your tickets between services!



## Lifting Children to Life

## MANY WAYS TO HELP THE GUATEMALA MISSION

There are many ways to continue participating in the mission to Guatemala, begun by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hood River. The mission organization is named "Child Beyond International." (305 9<sup>th</sup> St., Hood River, OR 97031, Telephone: 541-645-0451, website: info@childbeyond.org)

## **FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE HOGAR**

CBI (Child Beyond International) is currently renting a large compound for the Children's home and the mission team home. They have purchased a permanent large property where they will build a Children's home, Mission team home, learning center, gym, medical and professional offices, and a

professional kitchen. They have started on the first phase of the property, the perimeter wall. The God's Grace Children's Home "Hogar de Ninos" current home is a large residence accommodating up to twenty children, plus staff. The Guatemalan government sends them children ages 0-5 whom they have rescued from an unsafe and /or neglectful environment.

In the CBI hogar, the children receive all of their much-needed physical, emotional, and spiritual care. CBI's goal is to restore children to their families, provided they are safe and will be able to thrive. If this is not possible, they work with agencies that will help them find a new forever home for each child. Through their Family Transformation Ministry, each child is checked on regularly either in their new home or via facetime to ensure they are still being cared for properly once they leave the hogar.

Some children are assigned for adoption with a loving family



The cost of supporting one child for a month is \$40.

#### The cost of supporting one staff member (nannies, cooks, gardeners, etc. is \$60 a month.

CBI also uses local churches and visiting mission teams to connect with restored children back in their communities, to help prevent relapse into abuse and neglect.

## **MISSION TRIP TO THE HOGAR**

CBI has a Mission Team home, food service, and a van to host mission teams who want to join in caring for the hogar children. Teams can choose to do a mission project at their Children's home including art projects, games, lessons, and puppet theater, outdoor projects with the children.



## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

CBI is also involved in community projects to help the families in need: Building efficiency wood stoves (\$250), providing home water filters (\$55), assisting a medical team (using CBI's medical 4M bus), and building a 2-bedroom home (\$4000). Mission team members can participate in these projects.

## **VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP**

Can't go in person? Contact CBI and sign up for a virtual mission trip. See what is going on and learn the culture, geography, and history of Guatemala. Go to their website for more information: <u>ChildBeyond.org</u>



## **ALC TREASURER'S REPORT** \$200,000.00 \$150,000.00 \$100,000.00 \$50,000.00 Ś-July Oct August Sept Nov Dec Jan YTD \$25,141. \$29,893. \$24,025. \$30,923. \$30,129. \$29,195. \$38,318. \$207,624 ALC 2023-2024 Giving ALC 2023-2024 Expenses \$17,476.0\$31,249.0\$24,528.0\$30,961.0\$19,223.0\$41,057.0\$32,274.0\$196,768.

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**





Last week we decorated stones and wrote verses or Ascension Lutheran Church on them. We then took them to the park, putting them in places that were easily found. It was a fun class and a great reminder that the church is built on the Rock of Jesus and that we can share this good news with those around us!



The Acts of Ascension

Lots of great interaction



# A LOOK AT TODAY AND A PLAN FOR TOMORROW MEETING





Free Sponsor Inscriptions You can personalize your bell with three lines of type limited to

30 characters per line. Contact Brad Hall for details email: worship@alcportland.org Phone: 503-201-2129

See the poster in the Narthex for prices and to sponsor your bell!

# **ALC Women's Retreat**





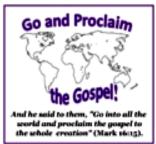
We had an amazing time at our Companioning Others During Difficult Times retreat in February. The beautiful house was the perfect place for growing our faith and learning more about being the hands and feet of Jesus. After the weather making us cancel the initial date of the retreat, it was a bonus to have great weather. The sunshine was certainly a smile from above!

Newsletter DEADLINE Barly submissions welcome!

## ALC's ~ LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) Meeting ~ Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in our Community Room Serving pragerfully, with love and joy, in Jesus' name

All Ladies of the Congregation and their Guests are Welcome. We have a lot of information to share since our last get together in December. Our meetings here generally include an Opening Devotion, a 'Get-To-Know-You' time, maybe some light refreshments, Officer/Mites Reports, and review of Callendar Events/Opportunities.

<u>2024 – SAVE THE DATE ~~~ LWML Calendar Items</u>: Saturday, April 13, 2024, LWML Mt. Hood Zone Rally: 9:30am – 1:00pm: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 8705 E Burnside St, Portland, 97216 (Maybe we can get a carpool together ~~ Contact Mae Smith if you are interested.)



June 21 & 22, 2024 ~ OREGON DISTRICT LWML 34<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION, at Living Savior Lutheran Church; 8740 SW Sagert Street, Tualatin, OR 97062. Our Theme is based on Mark 16:15: *Go and Proclaim the Gospel!* More information will be provided as it is received.

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Take home an empty Mite Box (available in the Narthex) and place it somewhere to remind you to fill it with spare change

(dollars and checks are good too), to help support local, district, and national

Mission Grants. Drop off contributions in the large Mite Box in the Narthex or in Mae's church mailbox #155. More Info: District = www.lwmlor.org & National = <u>www.lwml.org</u>

## ENHANCED CRAFT~~WEDNESDAY NEWS

## Calling all Crafters and Future or Current Artists – We have a new opportunity!

Beginning March 6<sup>th</sup>, join us for Watercolor Art Classes on Wednesdays in March and April from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Community Room here at Ascension. Watercolor is going to be taught, but any medium is welcome.

If you have ever wanted to be a watercolor artist but have no experience, then this is the opportunity to get started in your 'Artist Journey." Bring any artist brushes you might have and at least two water containers (old margarine containers work great) with you and we will supply the rest. We'll provide you with a supply list if you want to add to your own collection; this information will save you money.

A \$2 donation from each of us is suggested for our teacher each week. Patti and Carolyn may rotate leading us.

Of course, you may still work on your own crafting projects in the same room.

				r		
SUNDAY MO	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	<b>THURSDAY</b>	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Youth Group	2 1:00pm Confirmation
4		5	6 Lent 3 Midweek	7	œ	6
8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship 2:15pm Chime Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship Posted 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	Human Care Board Meeting Altar Guild Meeting	6:00pm Elder Meeting	2:00pm Cratting 3:30pm 3rd Midweek in Lent 6:00pm Dinner-Mexican Potluck 7:00pm 3rd Midweek in Lent	6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Youth Group	1:00pm Confirmation
11		12	13 Lent 4 Midweek	14	15	16
Worship Education Hour Worship w/ Comm. Chime Practice Spanish Worship w/ Comm. Online Worship Posted		6:00pm Council Meeting	2:00pm Cratting 3:30pm 4th Midweek in Lent 6:00pm NO DINNER 7:00pm 4th Midweek in Lent	6.00pm Praise Team 7.00pm Choir	6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Youth Group	1:00pm Confirmation
œ \$		19	20 Lent 5 Midweek	21	22	23
Worship w/Comm. Education Hour Worship Chime Practice Spanish Worship Online Worship Posted		6:00pm 3:10 Group	2:00pm Cratting 3:30pm 5th Midweek in Lent 6:00pm Dinner-Italian Potluck 7:00pm 5th Midweek in Lent	6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	6:30pm—8:00pm Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm Youth Group	1:00pm Confirmation
M SUNDAY 25 Worship Education Hour Worship w/ Comm. Chime Practice Spanish Worship w/ Comm. Online Worship Posted		26 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<b>27</b> 2:00pm Crafting 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	29 6:30pm 8:00pm NO Noche Familiar (Family Night) 7:00pm NO Youth Group 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	30 10:30am Community Easter Egg Hunt 1:00pm Confirmation
<b>31 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Worship 9:00 – 10:45am Easter Breakfast 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Spanish Worship Posted 6:00pm Online Worship Posted						

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Altar: Debbie Rekdahl (6) Flowers: Counters: Bob and Elaina Ritchie (28/3) Sunday School: Carrie and Michele	<b>Greeters:</b> 8:30 Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado 11:00 Wendy Hazen <b>Reader:</b> 8:30 Randy Schroeder 11:00 J. E. Knox	AV: 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 Michele Sprengle and Johnnie Driessner Power Point: 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 John Hazen	8:30 Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis NEEDED 11:00 Marcus Young NEEDED	Elder: 8:30 Randy Schroeder 11:00 Dan Parshall Acolyte: 8:30 11:00	3 Communion Early	larch
Altar: Wendy Hazen (13) Flowers: Wendy Hazen Counters: Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson (6/10) Sunday School: Hana and Gina	<b>Greeters:</b> 8:30 Sue Lewis Heather Gulde 11:00 Riki Neagle <b>Reader:</b> 8:30 Sheryl Maier 11:00 Julie Williamson	A/V: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Laura Potter <b>Power Point:</b> 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 Rebecca Williamson	8:30 Stan Chapulis NEEDED 11:00 Matthias McInaney Marcus Young Bob Freeman James Freeman	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Bruce Blubaum Acolyte: 8:30 11:00	10 Communion Late	<b>Ser</b>
Altar: Margo Bachhuber (20) Flowers: Wendy Hazen Counters: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier (13/17) Sunday School: Carrie and Michele	<b>Greeters:</b> 8:30 Norma Dillon Jean Dillon 11:00 Margaret Hubbard Esperanza Gutierrez 8:30 Peggy Hall 11:00 Johnnie Driessner	A/V: 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 J. E. Knox Power Point: 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 Rosemary Knox	8:30 Stan Chapulis Randy Schroeder NEEDED NEEDED 11:00 Marcus Young Johnnie Driessner	Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 John Hazen Acolyte: 8:30 11:00	17 Communion Early	vant
Altar: Karen Zahursky Flowers: Gertrud Bublies Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald (20/24) Sunday School: Michele and Carrie	<b>Greeters:</b> 8:30 Margo Bachhuber 11:00 Celia Kreps <b>Reader:</b> 8:30 Jim Eckart 11:00 Karon Keup	A/V: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Laura Potter Power Point: 8:30 Debbie Rekdahl 11:00 Rebecca Williamson	8:30 Jim Eckart NEEDED 11:00 Matthias McInaney Evan Kreps Marcus Young Eric Kreps	Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 Bruce Blubaum Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	24 Palm Sunday NO Communion	Sche
Altar: All Altar Guild Flowers: Altar Guild Counters: Bob and Elaina Ritchie Sunday School: NO SS	<b>Greeters:</b> 8:30 Sheryl Maier 11:00 Carrie Graham <b>Reader:</b> 8:30 Sheryl Maier 11:00 Carlyn Staudt	AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 NEEDED Power Point: 8:30 Wanda Cassetty 11:00 Rebecca Williamson	8:30 Stan Chapulis NEEDED 11:00 Marcus Young Paul Walter	Elder: 8:30 Herb Hoefer 11:00 Bob Ritchie Acolyte: 8:30 ?? And ?? 11:00 Lily Hodges/ Alex Hodges	31 Easter No Communion	