

Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church



St. Athanasius Lutheran Church

703.455.4003

www.saint-athanasius.org

Meeting at:

114 Kingsley Road SW
Vienna, VA 22180

Mailing Address:

3057 Nutley Street Suite 822
Fairfax, VA 22031

www.saintathanasiuslutheran.blogspot.com

www.hopeandhelp-foryou.blogspot.com

www.thesoberpeasant.blogspot.com



Easter Newsletter
(April/May 2023)

Rev. James A. Douthwaite

Cell: 703.861.4359
revjdoc@gmail.com



From the Pastor . . .

Great Patience

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ~ 2 Timothy 4:2-4

Those are Paul's words to Timothy, but were meant for all the people who would hear that letter, and for us as well. We certainly live in a time where there are many myths and false teachings; where there are many people with "itching ears," who listen to those who tell them what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear. And, if we're being truthful, we can fall into that trap, too. And sometimes false teaching can sound good and deceive Christians.

So how important is good and faithful preaching and teaching! And to hear it and receive it regularly. We may not like to be shown how sinful we are, but we need it. We may not like many of the truths of God's Word that go against what our current culture says and where it wants to go, but we need the truth. We need to repent, we need forgiveness, and we need a God who we can rely on for everything and at all times.

In the verses above from St. Paul, he tells Timothy to *reprove, rebuke, and exhort* - we like to do that! Correct others, tell them they're wrong. Just look at all the rebuking that is on social media everyday! But then he also adds: *with complete patience and teaching*. Some translations say *careful* teaching. That is, don't just fire away, carefully teach. And don't expect the results to be quick - be patient. Sometimes good teaching, mind formation, and heart transformation take time.

(more on next page)

Patience, though, seems to be in short supply in our world today. We want what we want and we want it now! But God takes the long view of things. He's in it for the long haul. So we need to be, too. Don't give up on someone because they haven't come to church the first, second, or even third time you asked. Don't give up when what you say seems to fall on deaf ears. Don't give up when the Word doesn't seem to be working. It is. God promised that it would. Sometimes those seeds take a long time to grow. Sometimes they grow in unexpected places. But God is working. Keep going.

And as for the patience we need? God will provide that, too. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5: love, joy, peace, **patience** . . . So pray for patience. Ask the Spirit to work that in you. And pray for those with itching ears. Pray for those who have wandered off into myths and do not listen to the truth. And pray that the Lord may give you opportunities to speak the truth - in patience and love! - to others, and for the Lord to work through that Word. He will. Be patient! And be prepared to be surprised.

His servant and yours,

Pastor Douthwaite

Clark Family Visit

The Clark family will be in our area the week after Easter for a brief visit. Unfortunately, their schedule would not allow them to be here on a Sunday and be with us in church, but to give you a chance to see

them again and catch up with them, they'll be at **Malek's Pizza Palace for dinner on Thursday, April 13th, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm**. Plan to come by that day to eat and visit with our friends and members of Saint Athanasius deployed in Panama. Let's give them a warm Athanasian welcome home!





Holy Week Service Schedule

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday
Divine Service, 10:15 am

Monday, April 3: Holy Monday Vespers, 7:30 pm
[Livestream only]

Tuesday, April 4: Holy Tuesday Vespers, 7:30 pm
[Livestream only]

Wednesday, April 5: Holy Wednesday Vespers, 7:30 pm
[Livestream only]

Thursday, April 6: Holy Maundy Thursday
Divine Service, 7:30 pm
(with the stripping of the altar)

Friday, April 7: Holy and Good Friday
Tenebrae Service of Darkness, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 8: Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 9: Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord,
Divine Service, 10:15 am

* **NOTE:** All services not marked "Livestream only" will be at the church building. Make plans to join us for all these special opportunities to hear the Word of God, focus on His love and forgiveness, and come to the great joy of Easter.



Announcing our *Sixteenth* Good Shepherd Seminar

- When?** Saturday, May 6th, 10:00 am until 3:30 pm
(Doors open at 10 am; Matins begins at 10:15 am)
- Where?** Courtyard Hotel
6710 Commerce Street, Springfield
(near the Springfield Mixing Bowl)
- Cost?** **Free for members of Saint Athanasius**
Suggested donation for others: \$10
(All proceeds to go to the Seminary's student aid fund.)
- Topic?** **The Holy Spirit in the Life of a Christian**
Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz, presenter
Pastor and Evangelist, Trinity Lutheran Church, Denver, CO
Former Professor, Concordia Theological Seminary,
Ft. Wayne, IN
- Lunch?** Catered by Malek's Pizza Palace

Our congregation sponsors this annual seminar - *and we're back to our regular date this year*, the first Saturday in May! Please plan to take advantage of this special opportunity! And please pass the word to any of your friends and neighbors you think might want to attend. **It is open to all.** Space is limited, so please RSVP to Pastor Douthwaite if you will be attending, so we make sure we save a place for you! **Thanks!**

2023 WALK|RUN|RIDE

2023 Walk-Run-Ride for Life and ***The Congregation Challenge!***

The Walk-Run-Ride for Life is one of Assist Pregnancy Center's biggest fundraisers of the year. Last year you did great and stepped up to the "Pastor Challenge" raising more money from our congregation than ever before AND receiving a matching grant from the Synod. Because of your support, Assist was able to expand their facilities this year and serve more mothers, fathers, babies, and families than ever. **THANKS!**

So what to do this year?

How about a **Congregation Challenge**? Let's see if we can have more of you sign-up and participate! If we can get lots of you participating and spreading the word, we can get more sponsors and do better than ever.

Go to **runsignup.com/wrrforlife** to go to this event's official fundraising page, where you can sign-up and join the **Lutherans for Life team**, or sponsor the team or anyone on the team. But whether you join our team or not, help us spread the word! Tell friends, family, co-workers, neighbors - anyone! - and ask them to support this important work.

We need YOU!
Will you step up to the challenge?
Do it now!



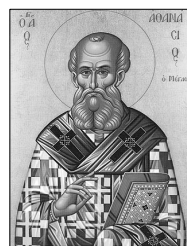
From Luther . . .

[Luther speaks of Christ's victory over the devil, the world, and our sinful nature and the new and eternal day we live in as Christians.]

Where is your raging now, oh Satan? Where is your malice, oh World? Where is your strife, oh Flesh? Here is the victory. "This is the day that the Lord hath made. Rejoice and be glad." Oh how blessed is the soul that truly believes this! For when the world has been overcome, what can it do in return? What can the world's lord and master, in other words, the Devil do? If the world is nothing, then its lord and master is nothing. The Devil may well torment our bodies, rob us of our honour and possessions but, in return, he will have to be our subservient, unwilling servant and will have to work for our own benefit and for our true and eternal life.

[from: *Luther's Breviary: A Meditation for Each Day of the Year* (April 4th)
© 2007 Wartburg Verlag, p. 111]

From St. Athanasius . . .



[St. Athanasius speaks of the joy of Easter in our lives and in our prayers.]

Now some have related the wonderful signs performed by our Savior . . . saying, 'Christ our Passover is sacrificed;' so that we . . . and all the churches in the world may remember, as it is written, 'That Christ rose from the dead, of the seed of David, according to the Gospel.' And let us not forget that which Paul delivered, declaring it to the Corinthians; I mean His resurrection, whereby 'He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;' and raised us up together with Him, having loosed the bands of death, and vouchsafed a blessing instead of a curse, joy instead of grief, a feast instead of mourning, in this holy joy of Easter, which being continually in our hearts, we always rejoice, as Paul commanded; 'We pray without ceasing; in everything we give thanks.'

[from: *The Festal Letters of Athanasius, Letter II* (AD 330) §7
in *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Vol. 4*, p. 512]



On the Catechism . . .

During the Easter season our Catechism focus is on the Lord's Prayer, for having been buried with Christ through Baptism into death, and then raised to new life with Him, we now call upon "Our Father" for all that we need, "as dear children ask their dear father."

The Second Petition: Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

From this you see that we do not pray here for a crust of bread or a temporal, perishable good. Instead, we pray for an eternal inestimable treasure and everything that God Himself possesses. This is far too great for any human heart to think about desiring, if God had not Himself commanded us to pray for the same. But because He is God, He also claims the honor of giving much more and more abundantly than anyone can understand [Ephesians 3:20]. He is like an eternal, unfailing fountain. The more it pours forth and overflows, the more it continues to give. God desires nothing more seriously from us than that we ask Him for much and great things. . . . Then, indeed, we shall have everything else in abundance, as Christ teaches, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" [Matthew 6:33]. For how could He allow us to suffer lack and to be desperate for temporal things when He promises to give us what is eternal and never perishes [1 Peter 1:4]?

[from *The Large Catechism, Part III. The Lord's Prayer in Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (first ed.)*, © 2005 CPH, p. 440-41]

Preparing for the Divine Service

To give you the opportunity to look ahead and prepare for our Divine Service each Sunday, the Office Hymn, Holy Gospel, and Theme of each week for April and May are listed below.

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion (April 2):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:1-27:66 (The Passion acc. to St. Matthew.)
Office Hymn: LSB #438 "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

The Resurrection of Our Lord (April 9):

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10 (Jesus is risen from the dead!)
Office Hymn: LSB #458 "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

Easter 2 (April 16):

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31 (Jesus appears to His disciples.)
Office Hymn: LSB #471 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

Easter 3 (April 23):

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 (Jesus appear to two sad disciples.)
Office Hymn: LSB #476 "Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow"

Easter 4 / Good Shepherd Sunday (April 30):

Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10 (Jesus is the door for the sheep.)
Office Hymn: LSB #709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Easter 5 (May 7):

Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14 (Jesus is preparing a place for us.)
Office Hymn: LSB #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Easter 6 (May 14):

Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21 (Jesus promises a Helper.)
Office Hymn: LSB #556 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

Easter 7 (May 21):

Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11 (Jesus prays for the Church.)
Office Hymn: LSB #483 "With High Delight Let Us Unite"

Feast of Pentecost (May 28):

Holy Gospel: John 7:37-39 (Jesus promises living water.)
Office Hymn: LSB #497 "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

Note: The Liturgy for Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion is **Divine Service 3** (p. 184ff). The Liturgy for all services in the Easter season and the Feast of Pentecost is **Divine Service 1** (p. 151ff).