

# The Messenger



2024



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD, ESSEX MD 21221

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

April 13th Palm Sunday Service at 10 AM

April 17th Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM

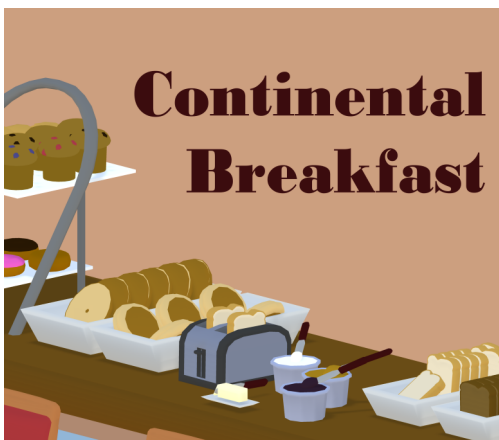
April 18th Good Friday Service at 7 PM

April 19th Easter Vigil Service Online only via Facebook & YouTube at 7 PM

April 20th Easter Sunday Services *at* 8 AM Traditional Service

& 10 AM Contemporary Family Service

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Please join us for a **Continental Breakfast** between the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services on Easter Sunday. We will be enjoying good food and fellowship in the Narthex on blessed Easter morning.



## The Paschal Candle

Fire has long been a sign of God's presence. The Old Testament is full of examples: the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the pillar of fire in the desert, the tabernacle lamps, and the sacrificial fires on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians rather naturally viewed the kindling of new fire as a symbol of the presence of their resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire.

In Jerusalem, the earliest Christians blessed and lighted candles every Saturday night. By at least the fifth or sixth century, the custom had become associated with celebrations of the Resurrection, and paschal candles had found their way into the liturgy of the Western church.

In the medieval church, allegorical meaning was ascribed to every aspect of the paschal candle. Unlighted, it represented Christ's death and burial; lighted, it represented the splendor and glory of Christ's resurrection. The wick represented Christ's humanity, and the halo of flame represented his divinity. Other candles lighted from the paschal candle symbolized Christ giving the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

For us, the symbolism of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death is preeminent. This symbolism is most apparent when the paschal candle is introduced each year to the congregation in the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve. When the Vigil begins, the church is dark, symbolic of the darkness of the sepulcher that held the crucified Christ. A new fire is kindled, and the paschal candle is lighted, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the world.

Symbolically, this is the fire from which all light is ignited. Traditionally, before lighting the candle from the new fire, the candle is inscribed with a cross, an alpha and omega, and the current year. This reinforces the point that Christ is present among us now and throughout eternity.

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the paschal candle traditionally stands near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection. It is lighted for each liturgy during the great fifty days of Easter. (Easter is not over until Pentecost, the fiftieth day!) After the Day of Pentecost, the paschal candle is placed on its stand near the baptismal font as a visual reminder that in our baptism, we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. The candle is lighted at each celebration of Baptism, at which time small baptismal candles are lighted from it for presentation to the baptized or sponsor. This act is a visual reminder of the integral connection between Baptism and Easter. For funerals, the paschal candle is lighted and placed in its stand at the head of the casket during the funeral rite. In a visual way, the paschal candle visually proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5 (used at the beginning of the burial liturgy): "In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ."

The paschal candle, sometimes called the Easter candle, should be of substantial size, even huge, if its important symbolism is to speak clearly. Even the stand in which it rests should be of great size. The Easter proclamation sings the glories of the candle, for it is a visible reminder of whom we are celebrating – Jesus, the risen Christ, the light of the world no darkness can overcome.



Excerpts from [www.elca.org/dcm/worship/faq/worship\\_space/paschal\\_candle.html](http://www.elca.org/dcm/worship/faq/worship_space/paschal_candle.html)

~ Pastor Meheret



**Join us on Sundays in the Sanctuary at  
10:00 am. for worship.**

We are currently offering one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sundays. We are alternating between our Traditional and Family Worship Service format each Sunday, with a children's message and Children's Church/KBZone. Please join us for in-person Worship Service and Holy Communion in our sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 AM

**Mission Statement**

**We are here to celebrate our faith, grow in faith and in God's Word, and reach out in service to our community.**

**Go in peace to celebrate, grow and serve”!**

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday reminded us all to turn our hearts to God and trust in His mercy. May this season of Lent draw us all close to Christ.



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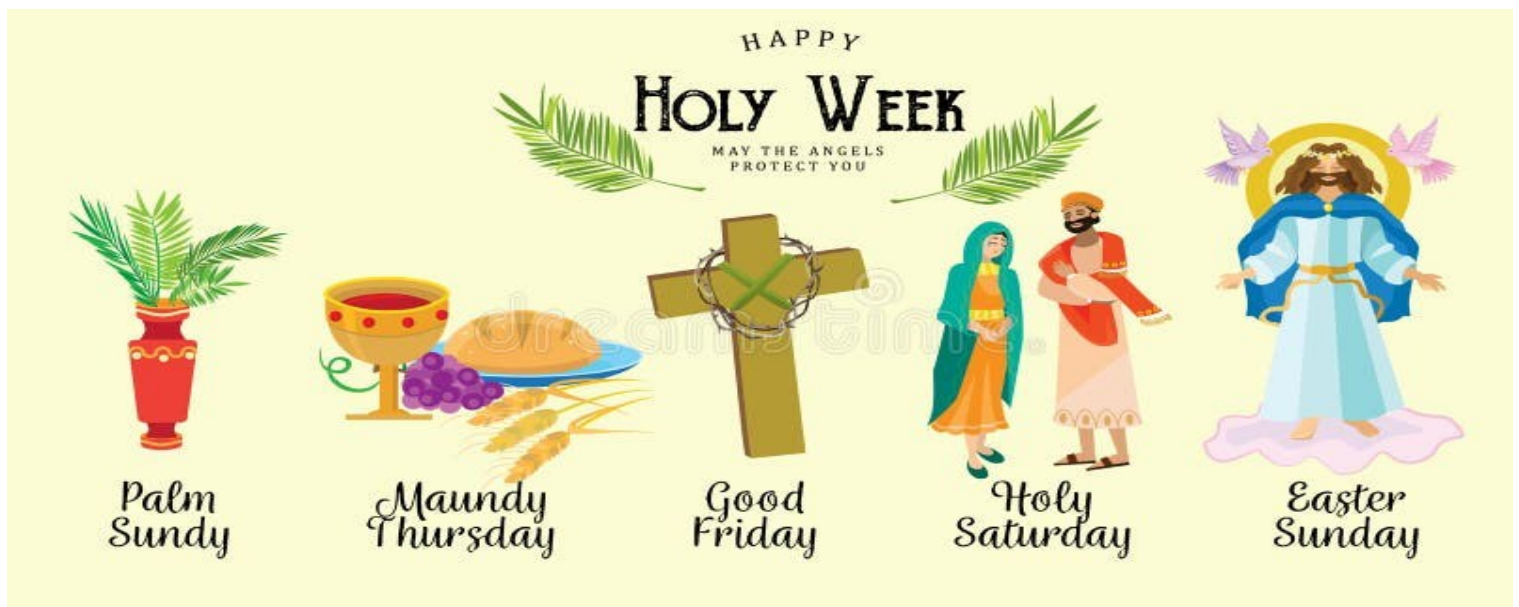


Our Lenten Midweek Services theme for this year is “Everything [in] Between, Meeting God in the midst of extremes.” This year, we’re letting the Gospel of Luke guide us through Lent.

The theme invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, this season, we are invited to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we’re trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.





April 13th **Palm Sunday** Service at 10:00 AM  
 April 17th **Maundy Thursday** Service at 7:00 PM  
 April 18th **Good Friday** Service at 7:00 PM  
 April 19th **Easter Vigil** Service *Online only* at 7:00  
 April 20th **Easter Sunday** Services *at* 8:00 AM Traditional  
 Service & 10:00 AM Contemporary Family

**Please join us!**

\*\*\*\*\*



Please join us for a **Continental  
 Breakfast between the 8:00 AM and  
 10:00 AM services on Easter Sunday.**  
 We will be enjoying good food and  
 fellowship in the Narthex on blessed  
 Easter morning.



Yonas Amenu	Derrick Fowler	Mary-Kathryn	Peggy Talbott
Bob Baker	Sam Freels	Ruth Massaroni	Teresa
Connie Baker	Mike Gerald	John Micklos	Sharon Thompson
Susan Baucom	Fred Getz	Marsha Millender	Dale Timmons
Barbara Becker	Russ Getz	Matilda Miller	Andrea Ulrich
Gail Berry	Pierre Gibbons	Michelle Moore	Frank Walls
Jessica Berry	Joyce Glover	Terry Novak	Trish White
Pat Berry	Cassidy Gore	Ryan O'Donnell	Jeff Wiley
Kathy Binas	Trudy Grauer	Charmaine Ordak	Fred Wilkes
John Boblitz	Cowyn Gustave	Beth Patterson	Family of Paul Wiley
Ken Brazerol	Nicole Hardin	Kathleen Patterson	Elvelta Williams
Debbie Bryant	Family of	Judy Crockett	Karen Williams
Anbdres Buitrago	Dennis Harris	Peddicord	Gail Wilson
Wilford Buitrago	Juliana Hasson	Krista Pellegrimi	Cass Wohlleben
Tony Bunk	J & K	Evelyn Porter	
Ethel Burke	Lillian Jones	Dorothy Prevost	
Eric Carl	Kay	Cass Rayman	
David Clagget	Joan Kincaid	Dave Raynor	
Chris Coffey	Michelle Kincaid	Yvonne Ryan	
Mary Jane Conrad	Family of	Sarah Schnept	
Helen Cogle	Dick Kestner	Geraldine Scott	
Chuck DeWitt	Matt Kretschmar	Nancy Scott	
Jami Edgar	Christina Lacko	Micket Shafer	
David Eicher	Lynne Lake	Trina Sharfe	
Belinda Emge	Vicki Lesko	Barbara Shelly	
Susan Enclade	Patty Baldwin-	Mike Short, Sr.	
Jay Ferrell	Linsolata	Lonny Smith	
Darlene Fisher	Margaret Linz	Margaret Smith	
Tim Flaherty	Karen Loudon	John Steiner	
Amy Folk	Phil Malpas	Phyllis Sult	



# **Bible Study and Small Groups**

At Hope Church we take seriously the Great Commission of the Risen Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations... teaching them..." We offer a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to deepen their faith through small group Bible study.

To register, call 410-686-7587 or email [hopelsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hopelsecretary@outlook.com).

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study:**

Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, except during Lent. We will begin a new theme from Augsburg Adult Bible Study Series. Please Join Us!

## **Saturday Morning Breakfast Bible Study:**

Meets via Zoom 9:00 AM-10:00 AM every Saturday. We will not be meeting during Lent. On the third Saturday of the month we will meet at the Two Guys Restaurant. We will begin a new theme same as the Wednesday Bible Study Group from Augsburg Adult Bible Studies. Please join us!

*\*\*\*If you would like information about these Bible Studies and Zoom, please let Pastor Meheret know and she will forward you the links!*



# **Bible Study Opportunities**



# Spring Congregation Meeting Announcement

***It's that time of year! Our Spring Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025 after the 10:00am Worship Service & Fellowship. This is an important meeting as we will be discussing and voting on:***

***Approve minutes from December 2024 Congregation Meeting***

***HELC Treasurer Report***

***ASLC Treasurer Report***

***We need to have as many members as possible to attend the meeting, so we meet our quorum requirements. Please mark your calendars and make it a priority to attend the meeting.***

***God's Blessings,  
Bob Schweitzer,  
Council President***



***Congregational Meeting***





## PRAISE & WORSHIP

Every Sunday beginning at 9:30-9:40 AM there will be an opportunity to shout, pray, sing, and give testimony & honor to God. Please join us in the sanctuary.

*Colin Eversley, Music Minister*

\*\*\*\*\*



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Happy Spring! We want to start a Children's Choir at Hope Church! For more information and to sign-up see Colin Eversley, Music Minister. We would also need a director to lead and help organize children.

No experience needed.



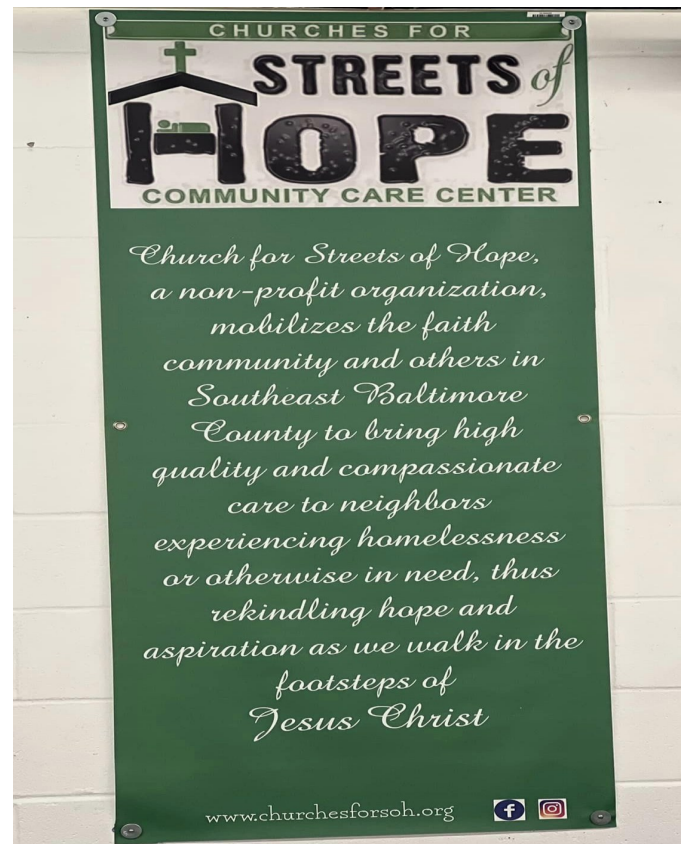
Some of **Hope Quilting Ministry Team** working diligently to create beautiful handmade quilts crafted with love, prayer, and care to bless our neighbors in need with tangible expressions of love and support. "The amount of good luck coming your way depends on your willingness to act."  
The quilters meet every Monday at 10 AM in the Choir Room.



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The Streets of Hope Men's Shelter is now open til the end of April for cold weather. Our church will be providing dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> of every month and our next time to serve will be Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would be interested in providing food, please contact Sandy Cincinnati at 443-324- 8355 for further details.







GriefShare is a 13-week support group that focuses on topics associated with the loss of a loved one. Weekly videos feature grief experts and real-life stories from people. After the video there is small group discussion. Your loss maybe recent or not. You will find encouragement, comfort, and support in dealing with your grief. This is an opportunity to be around people that truly understand. GriefShare will be held at Hope Lutheran Church weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm. To register go to [GriefShare.org/findagroup](http://GriefShare.org/findagroup) and search for Hope Lutheran Church. There is no cost to register. However, there is a \$25 charge for the book that accompanies the session. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 410-686-7587 or [HopeSecretary1901@outlook.com](mailto:HopeSecretary1901@outlook.com).





## FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Thanks to all who continue to faithfully provide donations for our Food for Thought weekend backpack/monthly gift card program.

Caitlin Edwards, MES school counselor, wants you to know that parents of selected students are very appreciative of this nutritional support for their children. Thank you for making it possible!!

A new fundraiser is coming at the end of April. Please watch for more details coming soon!

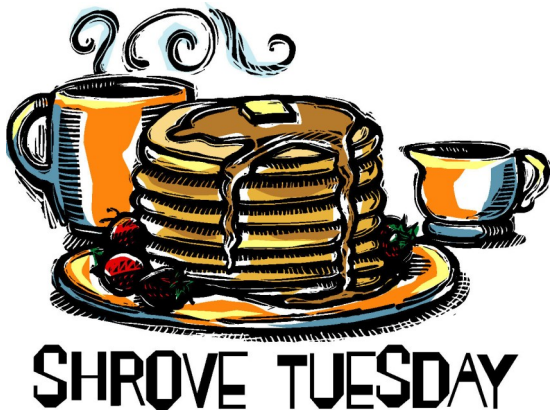
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## “Pastor Meheret Around the Community”

I returned home from vacation to a church family and feasts. Prayer Breakfast in Linthicum and Dinner with Hope Ladies





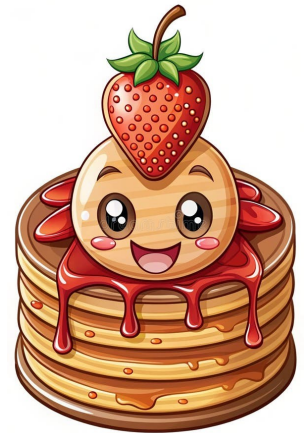


**Shrove Tuesday Pancakes** were a Great Success! Our Youth Group and their team once again filled our stomachs and our hearts with wonderful food and fellowship at our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We enjoyed feasting together on our last day before Lent.

Thank you all for your hard work!  
Thank you to all who were able to join us!









# Paint Sunday Youth Fundraiser, March 23rd

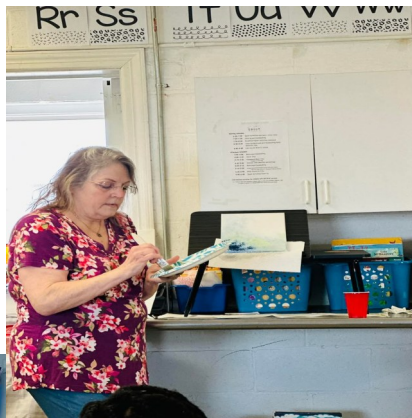
Many thanks to all those who participated in our Paint Sunday Fundraiser for the Youth Retreat in Ocean City this summer. Thanks to our youth volunteers, family and especially to Lynne for leading the event. We had great fellowship and raised some funds which will go towards our youth trip goal! Thank you all for your support!

Our next event is Mothers/Daughters/Loved Ones Tyea Party on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Stay tuned for more information.





# Paint Party







## Mothers/Daughters/Loved Ones Tea Party

Tea party time on **May 4th from 12:00 Pm to 2 pm.** Tickets \$25 per person. please mark your calendar and come support the youth group fundraiser. You are never too young or too old to come, enjoy and join us for a High Tea.  
More detail information to come.

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**All Stars Learning Center children have their Thursday morning Chaple time in the sanctuary. We are grateful for the Learning Center staff and family.**



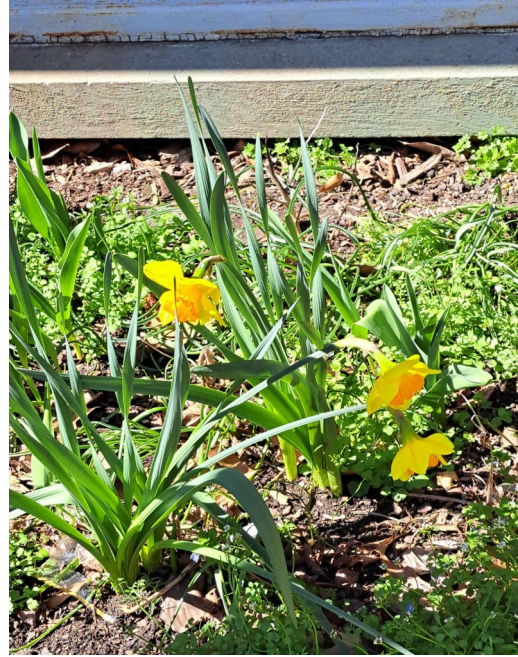




## *Spring has Arrived!*

*“Daffodils in the courtyard. These beautiful yellow flowers remind us that beauty is all around us.*

*Thank you to the Theas for bringing these beauties and joy to the courtyard”.*



Joy and beauty in the courtyard. Thank you to the Theas!!

**“Among the daffodils, hope unfurls its petals, announcing the dawn of a hopeful season.”**

– John Keats





# All Stars Learning Center



**Hope Lutheran Church**  
1901 Middleborough Road  
Essex, MD 21221  
410-686-6060  
[allstarscenter@yahoo.com](mailto:allstarscenter@yahoo.com)



*Do you want your child to have a sweet and fun filled Summer?*

We invite your child to experience our  
**"Summer is Sweet" Summer Program!**

**Learn fun facts** about Sweet Treats, Maryland, the USA,  
and Wild Animals!

**Other fun activities will include:** STEM, water play,  
biking obstacles, spirit week, and special visitors!

Outdoor Activities		Arts/Crafts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized Sports                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soccer, Basketball, Baseball</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sprinkler / Water Balloon Days</li> <li>Obstacle Courses</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make Americana Jewelry</li> <li>Make a CD Donut</li> <li>Decorate a Sun Visor</li> <li>Make a Picture Frame</li> <li>Tie-Dye String Bags</li> <li>Arrange Edible Snacks</li> <li>Make an Ornament</li> </ul>
Special Events	<u>Special Visits</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cook-Out</li> <li>Carnival</li> <li>Ice Cream Party</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kona Ice</b> <b>Santa</b> <b>Oriole Bird</b></p>	

**\*\*Our Summer Program covers ten weeks<sup>1</sup> of care, beginning June 16, 2025, and ending August 22, 2025. We offer full time care and part-time care. Tuition ranges from \$75.00-\$250.00 per week, with an additional activities fee of \$10.00 per week. Our Center provides breakfast, morning snack, and afternoon snack. Lunch must be provided by parents. For more information and to register your child for our Summer Program, please contact Nicole at 410-686-6060. \*\***

<sup>1</sup> You do not have to sign up for all 10 weeks, but registration is 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served.

*This organization and its materials are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Baltimore County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this Baltimore County Public School or Office.*



**Join us for our Vacation Bible School adventure for  
2025, “Trusting Jesus in a Wild World”**

**Date: July 21-24, 6:00pm—8:00pm.**

**Dinner option: 5:30pm—5:55pm**

**This is always an awesome week of singing, dancing, bible stories, crafts, games, snacks and interactive sessions. Our Campers will explore timeless bible stories that show we have Jesus – our true north! This will give Campers a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever!**

**Stay tuned for more information.**



May the road rise  
to meet you.

May the wind be always  
at your back.

May the sun shine warm  
upon your face.

And rains fall soft  
upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in  
the hollow of His hand.

MISSIONtoSave.com



AS WE TURN OUR  
ATTENTION TO NEW  
SEASONS AND NEW  
BEGINNINGS IN OUR  
LIVES...MAY WE BE  
REMINDED EACH MORNING  
THAT GOD GIVES NEW  
MERCIES TO US.

The Rev. Maria Paiva



gather  
FOR FAITH AND ACTION



WE CAN TRUST GOD  
WITH ALL OF OUR  
UNKNOWN BECAUSE  
HE IS GOOD!





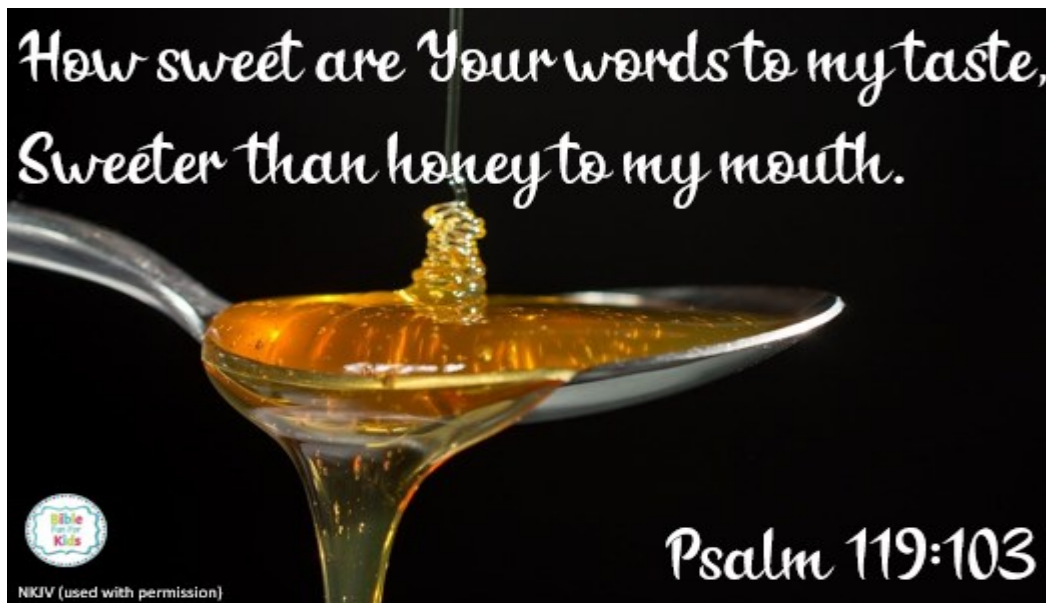


04	Brian Frueh
05	Brooklynn Hays
05	Connie Baker
06	Jackie Eversley
08	Katlyn Smith
09	Susan Yelton
11	Lisa Crout
11	Margo Crout
26	Deloris Phillips



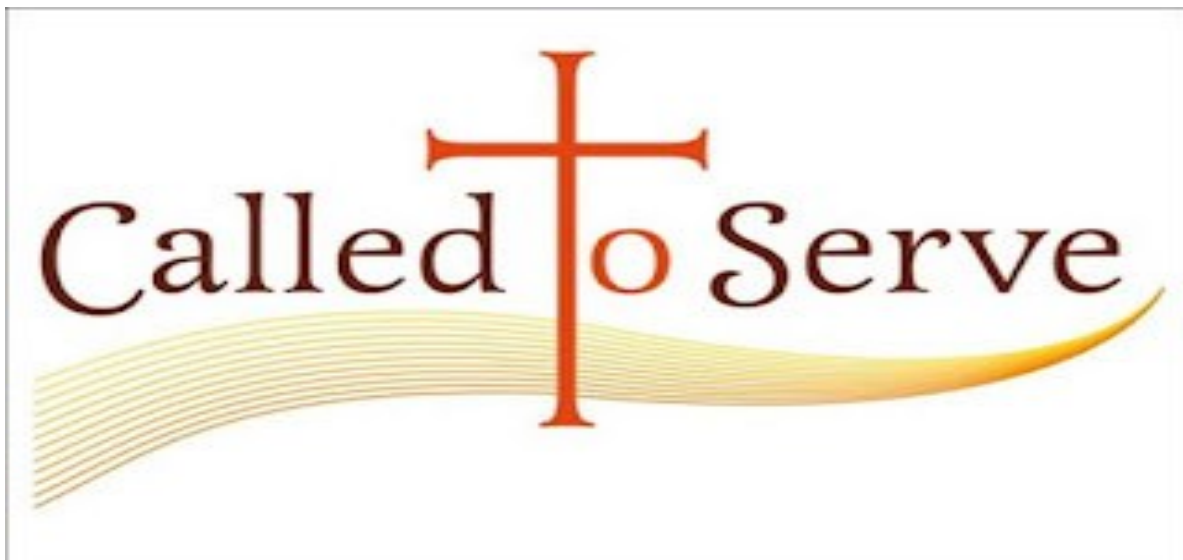
# Worship Themes for April 2025

Date/Day	Scripture texts	Theme
<b>April 6</b>  <b>Lent 5</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21  Psalm 126  Philippians 3:4b-14  John 12:1-8	The Lord gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people  Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.  To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings  Mary anoints Jesus for his burial
<b>April 13</b>  <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a  Psalm 31:9-16  Philippians 2:5-11  Luke 22:14—23:56	The servant of the Lord submits to suffering  Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  Humbled to the point of death on a cross  The passion of the Lord
<b>April 20</b>  <b>Easter Sunday</b>	Acts 10:34-43  Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  1 Corinthians 15:19-26  Luke 24:1-12	God raised Jesus on the third day  This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.  Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits  The women proclaim the resurrection
<b>April 27</b>  <b>Easter 2</b>	Acts 5:27-32  Psalm 118:14-29  Revelation 1:4-8  John 20:19-31	The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus  You are my God, and I will exalt you.  Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming  Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ



## Duty Schedule for April 2025












Date/Duty	April 6 Lent 5	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 20 Easter Day	April 27 Easter 2
Assist	Eric Eszes	Bob Schweitzer	Colan Kahl Joan Schweitzer	Thea Melton
Lector	Jack Crout and the Youth	John Kelly	Jess Kahl Marge Carl	Thea Coker
Serve if needed	Bob Schweitzer	None	TBD TBD	None
Ushers	Jackie Eversley Denise McLaughlin	Laurie Koontz Carol Ogle	TBD  TBD	Donna Jacob David Presnell
Counters	Bob Schweitzer Denise McLaughlin	Linda Moler Thea Melton	Colan Kahl Joan Schweitzer	Donna Jacob Steve Kahl
Flowers	Steve and Sharyn Kahl Ruth Kraeger	Joan Schweitzer Carolee Calo	Steve and Sharyn Kahl Donna Jacob	Jeff and Kate Patten James and Nicole Eck
Sunday School	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin	Rachel Morgan





# April

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>April showers bring May flowers</p>		1	2 <b>6:00 PM</b> Midweek Lenten Soup Supper <b>7:00 PM</b> Service	3 <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary  6	4 <b>6:00 PM Streets of Hope</b>	5
6 <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary  <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice	7 <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters   QUILTING GROUP	8	9 <b>6:00 PM</b> Midweek Lenten Soup Supper <b>7:00 PM</b> Service	10 <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary	11	12
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary  <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice	14 <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters   QUILTING GROUP	15	16	17 <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary  <b>7:00 PM</b> Maundy Thursday Service	18 <b>7:00 PM Good Friday Service</b>	19 <b>7:00 PM</b> Saturday Vigil
20 <b>Easter Sunday</b>  <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary  <b>9:00 AM</b> Continental Breakfast  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary	21 <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters   QUILTING GROUP  <b>7:00 PM</b> Executive Committee Meeting   BOARD MEETING	22	23 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom   Midweek BIBLE STUDY	24 <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary	25	26 <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom Bible Study   JOIN A STUDY GROUP
27  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary  <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice	28 <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters   CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING   COUNCIL MEETING	29	30 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom   Midweek BIBLE STUDY			



# ***Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church***

## ***Our Staff***

1901 Middleborough Rd. Baltimore, MD 21221

Pastor **Meheret Caruthers** • Office 410-686-7587 • Cell 240-413-7515

E-Mail: [pastorm@hopeelca.org](mailto:pastorm@hopeelca.org)

Music Director: **Colin Eversley** • Cell 410-499-2291

E-Mail: [craeversley11@hotmail.com](mailto:craeversley11@hotmail.com)

Secretary: **Shirley Edmonston** • Office 410-686-7587

E-Mail: [hopesecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hopesecretary@outlook.com) - Office hours 8:30-1:00 PM

Council President: **Bob Schweitzer** • Home 443-8434-0065

Council VP: **Jeff Patten** • Home 410-456-5464

Council Secretary: **Denise McLaughlin** • Cell 410-6860199

Treasurer: **John Kelly** • Cell 443-770-0127

### **Council Members at Large:**

Gina Baker	410-456-9548
Nicole Eck	443-271-4014
Colan Kahl, Past Pres.	410-2922544
Sharyn Kahl	410-574-3060
Lynne Lake	443-854-0708, Youth Leader
Vicki Lesko	410-630-2228
Thea Melton	410-585-5670



**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**Articles for the May  
Messenger are due by  
Thursday  
April 24, 2024**