

# The *Celebration!* Connection

**Celebration Lutheran Church**

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## **April Fool!**

Did you get salt out of the sugar bowl for your coffee or cereal?

Did the lids to the pepper and salt shakers fall completely off with the first shake?

Were all your shirt sleeves turned inside out?

Good April Fool jokes and pranks are supposed to strike out at our routines, shake up our perceptions, make something ordinary odd and extraordinary.

Look at what happened on Palm Sunday.

First of all, Jesus seriously instructed his disciples to go and commit the first-century equivalent of "grand theft auto." "Borrowing" a valuable animal, a pristine, unbroken young colt, was frowned upon and punished in first century Palestine as seriously as horse-thieving was in the Old West.

THEN, the disciples had to have envisioned that their majestic entrance into the holy city would lead to great success. Surely Jesus chose to enter the city in such a significant, royal, messianic manner because he was planning some sort of popular uprising, or some extraordinary display of power. This Passover Week was **obviously** going to be a scene of great success.

April Fool!

Instead, Jesus reaches the Temple, enters into that sacred space and simply stares it down. Then, without a word, Jesus turns on his heel and leaves — not just from the Temple Mount, but from the city of Jerusalem. Yet nothing speaks louder about the transformation Jesus' presence and sacrifice are about to bring into being than this: Just as Jesus instructed his disciples to shake off the dust of those communities that would not welcome them, so Jesus shakes the dust of the Temple and the entire priestly/sacrificial bureaucracy off his feet as he walks back to Bethany.

The Temple and all it **thinks** it accomplishes, is nothing. Jesus does not linger around there, for there is nothing of God there. Besides, he has a young colt he promised to return "immediately." "If the Temple, the priestly authorities, the religious power structure, thought Jesus was on his way to pay them honor and homage . . . Well....."April Fool."

Jesus never flinched from playing "the fool" in order to fulfill God's will. He directed and rode in a pilgrimage parade to the tune of "Hosanna" into Jerusalem. And then he left it all to plod back to Bethany.

His disciples were not scholars, they were fishermen and tax collectors, nobodies and ne'er-do-wells. His "foolish" path took him into Jerusalem to the chants of "Blessed be" and had him driven out of Jerusalem with a cross beam on his back journeying to Golgotha.

How willing are you to become an "April Fool" for Christ?

It is for no reason that Jesus Christ is also known as the "Son of David."

Remember that King David is the backbone of Judaism, the patriarch of Israel's identity, the lineage for the Messiah. But, David is also the one who stripped himself naked so he could

dance for joy before the Lord, freely and fully expressing to the Lord his joy and gratitude, his utter dependence and commitment.

David danced naked before the Lord so that he could be fully present before God's presence.

And that's just one person in the Old Testament!

Isaiah stomped around naked and bare-foot for three years!

Jeremiah wore a ruined loincloth; wore an oxen yoke around his neck, and bought land occupied by the enemy (a truly BAD investment).

Ezekiel ate scrolls of written words — not exactly a low carb diet!

Hosea married a prostitute and they named their children after God's judgments.

And then, came the ultimate April Fool - the April Fool of Christ's death, the April Fool that destroyed the sting of sin and offered instead complete salvation that brought about a whole bunch of new fools!

Saul of Taurus became Paul the Apostle. The libertine, sophisticated Saint Augustine became a father of the faith.

Throughout the two thousand one hundred years of Christianity the faithful have stepped forward from the safety of anonymity or the security of a well-heeled position to embrace . . . foolishness, nakedness, a Palm Sunday parade mentality . . . in order to proclaim Christ!

Yes, it's traditional to get "dressed up" for Easter. Well, how about instead, we get "dressed down" we get kind of "naked."

Let's take a risk at caring about someone who is truly risky. Go out on a limb. Take the path usually not taken. Don't cross the street to avoid a possible problem. Don't be afraid to be naked. To be on parade. To be different.

Let us all be a follower of the One who never flinched when it came to being a fool for God.

Be an April Fool for Christ!

And I'll see all you April Fools in church!

## Pastor Fogle

### Contribute

### to the Food Pantry

"Bring One Sunday" is the second Sunday of each month. This month it is **April 14<sup>th</sup>**. The Good Hope food pantry needs non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations. Please make the checks out to *Good Hope Lutheran Church*. There has been a greater need for these donations as many people are no longer working, and are in need of help. If you have questions regarding this ministry contact Greg and Gloria Tapper 734-427-1142 or [Getapper@yahoo.com](mailto:Getapper@yahoo.com).



## Welcome to the Celebration Family of Faith!

Margi and Rono Danakili  
36669 Hivley St  
Westland, MI 48186  
734-329-2000

Steven Prinz  
38774 Grandon Street  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-444-7433



David Runstrom  
2105 North Sheldon Road #510  
Canton, MI 48187  
269-267-2237

*If YOU would like to become an official part of the Celebration family of faith, please connect with Pastor Fogle*

### Please Take Home Your Plants

### After Easter ...

Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter plants. However, we are not able water them on a regular basis. Any plants left at the church (and still alive) will be planted in the church garden.

### Crafty Connections

The crafters have been busy making all kinds of crafts, knitting, felting, crocheting, needlepoint, painting, and paper crafting. We would love to see what you are working on! Bring your latest craft to church the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, **April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**, or the last Wednesday of the month, **April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**. We usually craft for about two hours. Come and join us for some creativity and conversation.

**Bold  
Women's  
Sunday 2024**

Bold Women's Sunday— this year on April 7th— celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?

**W/ELCA has invited Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt to preach for Bold Women's Day on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please come and hear this wonderful storyteller.** We will gather a separate thankoffering on this Sunday, the proceeds of which will be used to support ministries of the



**Get Ready  
to Dig In!**

Join us on **Saturday, April 27th** at 10:00 am for a time of fellowship and get some tips on gardening.

Laura Harrison, a very talented gardener, will be sharing her tips on gardening and answering your gardening questions.

*Women's Bible Study*

*Scripture and Nature:  
Teachers of faith*

Scripture is like food; it nourishes us and sustains us. The goal of this study is not to prescribe one way of eating. Doing so would deny the beautiful diversity of cultures, health and principles that influence how we eat. It's also impossible to claim some way of "biblical eating," since people back then ate in a great many ways. Even so, we can learn a lot from what the Bible says about food. We often forget that the way we eat matters--not just our own bodies, but for the bodies and lives our neighbors near and far, and to the nonhuman world. Food is one more way we can love the Lord our God and love our neighbors as ourselves. So take a bite of something good. Let's talk about food.



The Women's Bible study group will meet on **Wednesday, April 17th at 1:00 pm.** Copies of the Bible study available from Lauren Preston's mailbox. All women are invited to join in the study and fellowship.

**Pill Bottle Collection  
Ending April 7th**

Collect the last of your empty pill bottles and bring them to Church. The last of time we will be collecting these containers this year will be April 7th.



## Spring into Life!

The next Blood drive is April 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Please be sure to sign-up to donate blood. Although, walk-ins are welcome, there is no guarantee they will be able to fit you in. To schedule an appointment, please log onto the *RedCrossBlood.org* website and enter the sponsor code: *celebration-church* or call the church office and we will make sure you are signed up.

### Live-Stream Broadcasts

Please consider sponsoring a week or more live-streaming for \$15 per Sunday. The live-stream broadcast may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up; on the Communication Board, call or email the office [office@celebrationlc.com](mailto:office@celebrationlc.com)

Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed directly to the church.

**April's livestreams are being sponsored by:**

**April 7:** Charlene Tennant

**April 14:** Marion Jones

**April 21:** Marion Jones

**April 28:** Marge Ross

### Advice from Gardener, Jerry Baker

If you remove the weeds before they have babies, you will have fewer weeds to deal with all summer.

## Altar Flower Providers

Spring is in the Air! What reminds me most of spring? Flowers. The sign-up for altar flowers is on the Communication Board. Please sign-up to sponsor a vase or two. The cost is \$23 each.

Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed directly to the church.

**This month's sponsors are:**

### April 7

Bob and Janet Clisch in celebration of Bob's Birthday

Dave and Cheryl Evancho in celebration of Amber's birthday

### April 14:

Rick and Jodi Reed in celebration of Victoria's birthday

### April 21:

Tim and Debby Hoepner in celebration of Tim's birthday.

Larry and Georgia Hartsell in celebration of Larry's birthday

### April 28: (no sponsor yet)

## More Gardening Advice

My most efficient weeding tool, is the garden rake. It also accepts a long handle so you can use it like a hoe. Look for it in seed catalogs or ask me about it. Luan Purcell.





- 7 Deanna Holt
- 9 Bob Clisch  
Carole Knapp  
Victoria Reed  
Chuck Truskowski  
Camden Gray
- 11 Hewitt Hammer
- 13 Amber Evancho
- 19 Laurel Fick  
Charleigh Truskowski
- 22 Larry Hartsell  
Trudy Buelow
- 23 Amy Kramer
- 26 Tim Hoepner
- 28 Ray Smith



- 7 Cliff and Maureen Switzer
- 9 Pastor and Heather Fogle

### Prayers

If you or someone you care about is in need of prayers, let us know. You can write the names on the yellow welcome card located in the pockets on the back of the chairs, or you can contact the church office. Let us know whether this will be an on-going prayer. If not, the names will be removed after having been on the list for two weeks. Also, please be sure to let us know when the person/people for whom we are praying can be removed from the list.

### Members of the Congregation We are Lifting Up This Month In Prayer

#### **:April 7**

Brian and Kathy Goodykoontz  
Margaret Grasley  
Carol Gregg  
Kathy Groff

#### **April 14**

Carole Hakala  
Viona Hakala  
Hewitt Hammer  
Jim, Susan, Jenna, Rowan, and Reece  
Hardy

#### **April 21**

Bill and Laura Harrison  
Larry and Georgia Hartsell  
Steve Hartsell  
Barb Heidmann

#### **April 28**

Anne and Peter Heikkinen  
Tim and Debby Hoepner  
Dave, Deanna, Benjamin,  
and Catherine Holt  
Stewart Israel





## April Devotions

Monday, April 1

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Genesis 1:1-19  
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tuesday, April 2

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Genesis 1:20—2:4a  
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Wednesday, April 3

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Song of Solomon 3:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

Thursday, April 4

Psalm 133  
Daniel 1:1-21  
Acts 2:42-47

Friday, April 5

Psalm 133  
Daniel 2:1-23  
Acts 4:23-31

Saturday, April 6

Psalm 133  
Daniel 2:24-49  
John 12:44-50

**Sunday, April 7**

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

Monday, April 8

Psalm 135  
Daniel 3:1-30  
1 John 2:3-11

Tuesday, April 9

Psalm 135  
Daniel 6:1-28  
1 John 2:12-17

Wednesday, April 10

Psalm 135  
Isaiah 26:1-15  
Mark 12:18-27

Thursday, April 11

Psalm 4  
Daniel 9:1-19  
1 John 2:18-25

Friday, April 12

Psalm 4  
Daniel 10:2-19  
1 John 2:26-28

Saturday, April 13

Psalm 4  
Acts 3:1-10  
Luke 22:24-30

**Sunday, April 14**

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

Monday, April 15

Psalm 150  
Jeremiah 30:1-11a  
1 John 3:10-16

Tuesday, April 16

Psalm 150  
Hosea 5:15—6:6  
2 John 1-6

Wednesday, April 17

Psalm 150  
Proverbs 9:1-6  
Mark 16:9-18

Thursday, April 18

Psalm 23  
Genesis 30:25-43  
Acts 3:17-26

Friday, April 19

Psalm 23  
Genesis 46:28—47:6  
Acts 4:1-4

Saturday, April 20

Psalm 23  
Genesis 48:8-19  
Mark 6:30-34

**Sunday, April 21**

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

Monday, April 22

Psalm 95  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 23

Psalm 95  
1 Chronicles 11:1-9  
Revelation 7:13-17

Wednesday, April 24

Psalm 95  
Micah 7:8-20  
Mark 14:26-31

Thursday, April 25

Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 8:1-7  
Acts 8:1b-8

Friday, April 26

Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 8:11-13  
Acts 8:9-25

Saturday, April 27

Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 9:7-15  
Mark 4:30-32

**Sunday, April 28**

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

Monday, April 29

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Galatians 5:16-26

Tuesday, April 30

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 32:9-20  
James 3:17-18

