



**Pastor Sean Ewbank's April 2026
First of the Month Letter**

Happy Spring! While it has been a bit warmer in March than we are used to, right now the weather is incredibly pleasant. Beyond a brief thanksgiving, however, let's not take this space to discuss the weather.

Happy Easter! This is more like it. I am very much looking forward to my third Easter as your pastor. Thank you for all the blessings that come with this. Things here at Christ Lutheran are good. We have just paid off our mortgage. I am awaiting final numbers later this month, but I think that beyond the giving to the capital fund campaign, our first quarter offerings to the budget might be the best first quarter we have had in many years. Thank you so much for all the ministry that you make possible. Each of you is an incredible blessing.

I don't have a snappy greeting for what might be most important, however. Tomorrow is Maundy Thursday. We have worship at 7pm. This service is one of my favorite services of the year. We begin with remembering where Lent started on Ash Wednesday. We conclude the long public confession that started that day and hear God's pronouncement of forgiveness. For those that desire, I offer an individual absolution at the rear of the sanctuary after you receive communion. Speaking of communion, we read the story of the Last Supper and this year celebrate four students who will be making their first communion. The service then concludes very powerfully with the stripping of all the decorative elements out of the sanctuary. This signifies the disciples scattering after Jesus' arrest.

Good Friday we have two services, one at noon and one at seven. The noon service will focus on the five scenes that make up our Walk of Passion in the CCC. Speaking of which, have you stopped by for your prayer walk in the CCC? The scenes are beautifully assembled and there are Bible Verses, Reflections, and a Prayer that accompany each scene. The Noon Good Friday service will focus on each of these five events from the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. The 7pm service will be a musical masterpiece, with the Requiem forming the core of the service. Come and be moved by the music, reading, and prayer.

Finally Easter Sunday! We will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with three services, the first at 6:30 am outside on the plaza (dress warmly!) and the other two will be at 8 and 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. This will be a special day of celebration as we once again connect with our friends in Bethlehem and each person in worship will receive a small gift from the people of Bethlehem.

So, yes, Happy Easter!! I do invite you to join in the next few days for powerful services that lead up to Easter.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Sean