

Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church



St. Athanasius Lutheran Church

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Lent/Easter Newsletter
(April/May 2025)

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From the Pastor . . .

Thank You

From time to time, I just like to thank all of you for all you do for our church and for each other. *There is so much!* Just one little newsletter page isn't enough. But it's something. Know that you're appreciated!

Thank you to our Executive Board for running all the business side of the church. Thank you to those who serve on our Board of Elders, our Board of Evangelism and Outreach, and on the Commission on Mercy, for all the time and energy they devote. Thank you to our musicians and the beautiful music they provide. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for caring for our children and youth. Thank you to our acolytes and ushers. Thank you to all who help set-up and take down our church every Sunday - it's a lot of work! Thank you to our Building Committee, our Investments Committee, and our Church Technology Council. Thank you to those who run the livestream. Thank you to those who serve on the Altar Guild.

And there's more! Thank you to those who bring food for after the service on Sunday. Thank you to all who send cards and make phone calls. Thank you to all of you who make sure to speak to our visitors and make them feel welcome. Thank you to those who speak encouraging words. Thank you to those who give rides so people can be with us on Sundays. Thank you to those who adopt a college or seminary student and support them through the year. Thank you for praying for one another. Thank you to all who show up faithfully every Sunday - you matter! Thank you to Grace for serving as my administrative assistant. And thank you to my wife who has stood by my side through thick and thin, and does so much more than anyone could ever imagine! How blessed we are with all of you! THANK YOU ALL!

His servant and yours,

Pastor Douthwaite



Holy Week Service Schedule

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday

Divine Service, 10:15 am (Vienna)
and 2:00 pm (Purcellville)

Monday, April 14: Holy Monday Vespers, 7:00 pm

[Livestream only]

Tuesday, April 15: Holy Tuesday Vespers, 7:00 pm

[Livestream only]

Wednesday, April 16: Holy Wednesday Vespers, 7:00 pm

[Livestream only]

Thursday, April 17: Holy Maundy Thursday

Divine Service, 7:30 pm

(with the stripping of the altar)

Friday, April 18: Holy and Good Friday

Tenebrae Service of Darkness, 7:30 pm

Location TBD

Saturday, April 19: Great Vigil of Easter, 7:30 pm

Location TBD

Sunday, April 20: Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord

Divine Service, 10:15 am (Vienna)
and 2:00 pm (Purcellville)

NOTE: The services on **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** are *online only* on our YouTube channel. The service on **Thursday** will be at the church. We cannot use the church on **Friday and Saturday** - the location of those services will be announced soon.



Announcing our *Eighteenth* Good Shepherd Seminar

Confessing the Faith of Our Fathers: Athanasius, Luther, and the 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed

- When? Saturday, May 3rd, 10:00 am until 3:30 pm
(Doors open at 10 am; Matins begins at 10:15 am)
- Where? Courtyard Marriott Hotel
6710 Commerce Street, Springfield
(near the Springfield Mixing Bowl)
- Cost? **Free for members of Saint Athanasius**
Suggested donation for others: \$15
(All proceeds to go to the Seminary's student aid fund.)
- Who? Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith, presenter
Professor of Historical Theology,
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN
- Lunch? Catered by Malek's Pizza Palace

The Council of Nicea met in the year 325. We are still confessing the faith they put to words in the Nicene Creed 1,700 years later! For the faith doesn't change, and this faith we pass on from generation to generation. And it is vital that we do. Come learn about the **past**, its relevance for the **present**, and how that helps us face the **future**.

Take advantage of this special opportunity to hear and learn from one of our seminary professors. 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 and have plenty for lunch. **Thanks!**



2025 Walk-Run-Ride for Life and Congregational Picnic and Fun Day

The Walk-Run-Ride for Life is one of Assist Pregnancy Center's biggest fundraisers of the year. Our congregation has participated in this for a number of years now - **is this YOUR year to join us? Why not?**

It's easy! To sign up, go to our church website and click on the "Walk-Run-Ride for Life" link right there on the front page. From there you will be able to sign-up for our team, or sponsor our team or anyone on it. Our goals this are to raise **\$5,000** as a team and to have **30** people on our team. Can you help?

ALSO, on **April 26th**, we will gather to have a **Congregational Picnic and Fun Day** at Southside Park in Vienna (very close to the church) from 10 am - 2 pm. Those who wish can do their walk or run, but we'll also have a potluck picnic (we'll provide the meat, you bring a side or dessert) along with games, door prizes, and have fun hanging out together. *Even if you are not part of our Walk-Run-Ride for Life team, you are invited!* Family and friends welcome too!

So what should you do?

- (1.) Consider joining our Walk-Run-Ride for Life team.
- (2.) Sponsor the team or someone on it.
- (3.) Mark your calendar to join us for some fun and fellowship on April 26th.
- (4.) Pray for Assist and the important work they do.

Hope to see you on the 26th!

Special Opportunities for you . . .



2025 St. Mark's Conference *One Holy Church is to Remain Forever*

April 28-29

Hosted by Our Savior Lutheran Church,
Baltimore, MD

For more information or to register, go to:

<https://www.oursaviourbaltimore.org/conference/>

The Saint Mark's Conference concerns the confessional, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church of the Augsburg Confession.



The Trinity Conference

May 1-2

Hosted by Immanuel Bible Church,
Springfield, VA

For more information or to register, go to:

<https://www.brushfire.com/solamedia/>

or talk to Tim Royster

1700 years after the Council of Nicaea, the mystery of the Trinity remains at the heart of the Christian faith. Recovering orthodoxy in our modern context is vital to the unity of the church worldwide.

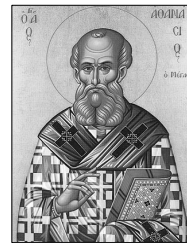


From Luther . . .

[Luther speaks of the daily bread God provided the people of Israel in the wilderness, and the hope this story provides us.]

God wanted to show that He will feed and nourish His faithful, who walk according to their calling, as it says in the fifth book of Moses in chapter 8: “God gave you manna . . . that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” For God is able to feed His people even where there is no bread, as here in the wilderness . . . And the Lord Christ also gives this promise, that if we first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness, then everything else will be added to us [cf. Matthew 6:33].

[from: “Sermons on Exodus: Chapter 16[:19-20]” in *Luther's Work*, Vol. 62: *Sermons on Exodus Chapters 1-20*, © 2022 CPH, p. 259]



From St. Athanasius . . .

[Athanasius speaks of praying together as Christians.]

God will readily hear prayer. For if, according to the promise of our Savior Himself, where two shall agree together as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them, how shall it be when so great an assembly of people with one voice utter their Amen to God? Who indeed was there that did not marvel at the sight? Who but pronounced you happy when they saw so great a multitude met together in one place? How did the people themselves rejoice to see each other, having been accustomed heretofore to assemble in separate places! The circumstance was a source of pleasure to all; of vexation to the calumniator alone.

[from: “Defense Before Constantius,” §16 in *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series*, Vol. 4, p. 244]



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 Fourth Petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Now, we consider . . . the necessities of our body and of the temporal life. . . . For when you mention and pray for daily bread, you pray for everything that is necessary in order to have and enjoy daily bread. . . . You also pray against everything that interferes with it. Therefore, you must open wide and extend your thoughts . . . In short, this petition applies both to the household and also to the neighborly or civil relationship and government. Where these two things are hindered so that they do not prosper as they should, the necessities of life also are hindered. . . . In this way, God wishes to show us how He cares for us in all our need and faithfully provides also for our earthly support. He abundantly grants and preserves these things, even for the wicked and rogues [Matthew 5:45]. Yet, He wishes that we pray for these goods in order that we may recognize that we receive them from His hand and may feel His fatherly goodness toward us in them [Psalm 104:28; 145:16].

[from *The Large Catechism, Part III. The Lord's Prayer in Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (first ed.)*, © 2005 CPH, p. 443-44]

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.

Lent 5 (April 6):

Holy Gospel: Luke 20:9-20 (Parable of Wicked Vineyard Workers)
Office Hymn: LSB #430 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion (April 13):

Holy Gospel: Luke 22:1—23:56 (The Passion acc. to St. Luke)
Office Hymn: LSB #438 "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

The Resurrection of Our Lord (April 20):

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:1–12 (Jesus is not here! He is risen!)
Office Hymn: LSB #458 "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

Easter 2 (April 27):

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

Easter 3 (May 4):

Holy Gospel: John 21:1–19 (Jesus goes to His disciples.)
Office Hymn: LSB #485 "Long Before the World Is Waking"

Easter 4 / Good Shepherd Sunday (May 11):

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30 (Sheep follow the voice of the Shepherd.)
Office Hymn: LSB #709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Easter 5 (May 18):

Holy Gospel: John 16:12–22 (Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.)
Office Hymn: LSB #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Easter 6 (May 25):

Holy Gospel: John 16:23–33 (Promises for Prayer.)
Office Hymn: LSB #556 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

Note: The Liturgy for the remainder of the Lenten season is **Divine Service 3** (p. 184ff). The liturgy for all services in the Easter season is **Divine Service 1** (p. 151ff).