

Countryside Trinity Church Newsletter



The festival of the Resurrection of the Lord (or Easter Sunday) is the center of the Christian year. On this occasion the church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

It is sometimes said that every Sunday is a little Easter; liturgical theologian Laurence Stookey suggests that it might be more appropriate to say that every Easter is a great Sunday (*Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Abingdon Press, 1996, 158-161). Easter Sunday is the Lord's Day writ large: a great annual celebration of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week. As such, the service should be centered around the typical and fundamental elements of Christian worship on the Lord's Day: the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Easter Sunday is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of Baptism, if not celebrated during the Easter Vigil of the previous night.

Easter Sunday is something like the keystone of an arch — the top and center stone upon which all the other stones lean and depend — both in terms of its theological significance and its relation to other events in the Christian year. Theologically speaking, the faith we claim and the life we live depend on the affirmation, celebration and proclamation of Christ's resurrection. In a chronological sense — since Easter is a "moveable feast," taking place on a different date each year — all the other events of the Christian year (from the Transfiguration of the Lord and Ash Wednesday through Pentecost and Trinity Sunday) pivot around the date of Easter Sunday, shifting accordingly.

For Western Christians (Catholics and Protestants) the date of Easter is the first Sunday that comes after the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21 (the Spring Equinox) — occasionally shifted to the following Sunday, when the original date happens to coincide with the Jewish Passover. This computation means that Easter always occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. The Eastern Churches (Greek and Russian Orthodox, e.g.) use a different set of astronomical tables based on the Julian Calendar (instead of the Gregorian), which means that Orthodox Easter generally follows the Western date by one, four, or five weeks (sometimes occurring in early May).

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Countryside Trinity Church has a "Prayer Chain" and we would love to add your friends and family to those we pray for. Please call the church office to provide Your loved one's information. 989 793-0125.



Express yourself and your faith by joining the worship, music, or usher team today. There are so many meaningful and fun ways to get involved, and there is something for everyone to do and **YOU** are needed in order for CTC to continue to grow and move forward. If you are interested in becoming a worship helper, Liturgist, sing in the choir or have any questions about how you can help, please speak with Darren Woodke, Dan or Barb Groom.



Come to Adult Bible Study on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. Lasts about an hour - all are welcome.



The Mission for the Month of April is Underground Railroad baby shower which is scheduled for April 26th @ 1:00 p.m. Hope you can attend.

a message from OUR PASTOR

Dear Countryside Family,

Interim periods in the life of a congregation can often bring despair. Folks begin to wonder if the church has a future after the former pastor leaves. Folks begin to wander fearing that they don't want to be a part of what they perceive as a "sinking ship". Other folks wax nostalgically about the "good old days". While still other hunker down seeking to preserve the traditions of the past until death comes—either their death or the death of the local congregation. Into the midst of all these attitudes and actions God gives us Easter!



While still other hunker down seeking to preserve the traditions of the past until death comes—either their death or the death of the local congregation. Into the midst of all these attitudes and actions God gives us Easter!

Easter is the reminder that God holds the power of life and death, and that death is never God's final word. Easter is a call to life, a challenge to Christ's followers to live into the resurrection. Easter is God's word of "Yes" to all the hearts and minds that cry "No". Easter is Jesus breaking the chains of death so that we can live—as individuals and as a community of faith—into a glorious future. Easter is God's fulfillment of a promise. Easter is a word of hope to a people who have lost hope in the shadow of the cross. Easter is the strength of God in the midst of our human weakness and frailty. And Easter is the power of God that declares in the midst of the all that looks seemingly impossible that with God "nothing is impossible." So I join with Pope John Paul II and with millions of other Christians around the globe and proudly declare: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

Alas, like Jesus, the only way to resurrection is to enter into death. The other evening at the Session meeting I shared the words of Jesus from John's gospel: ***Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)*** I then asked the Elders and Deacons what must die in order that our congregation could bear much fruit? It is a hard question because we are trying very hard to discover and live into the vision we believe God is calling us to. It is hard because sometimes we have blinders on so that we can't see the very things that need to die. We struggled and we will continue to struggle as we seek to be faithful to Christ's call, as we seek the resurrection power of Christ in our ministry here.

Perhaps there is one thing that needs to die immediately and it is an attitude of despair. Perhaps as Easter people we can trust more in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ and less in our own abilities to save Christ's church. Perhaps we can trust in the God of Yes and put to rest our personal tendencies to say "no". Maybe these are the first grains that have to fall to the ground, so that out of their death can come glorious crop righteousness.

May you find in Christ's resurrection your own sense of being born to new life, and may we Christ's congregation of the faithful experience the joy of living fully into the resurrection power of our Lord and Savior.

Christ is risen—and so are we.

Pastor Dave

YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK

Mary Ann Parker

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of March 20, 2018, that you may find helpful as we have made a few changes in how we do things:

Opening: Pastor Dave opened the meeting with prayer and reflection on what needs to be done regarding a resurrection of our church.

Clerk's Report: Church membership remains at 97.

Pastor Myers Report: Motion sustained to approve one week vacation from April 2 to April 8, 2018 per pastor's request. Pastor Hahn will be guest pastor on April 8th.

Denomination Report: Mary Longstreth was Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery meeting at Linden Presbyterian Church on March 6th. She and Pastor Dave gave a brief report of the meeting.

Committee Reports: The various committees gave their reports. **We are looking for members to the various committees. Please consider joining us.**

Old Business: Kathy Loviska still is dealing with Charter Spectrum regarding WIFI.

New Business: Motion sustained to allow Kathy Loviska to purchase a laptop computer with software for the church for no more than \$500.00. This laptop can be used in conjunction with the other new electronic equipment that was purchased via donations in December of 2017.

****All committee meetings' Sunday will be postponed to April 15, 2018 when Pastor Dave will be back from vacation.**

Submitted for your information,
Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session



Treasurer's Report

	January and February				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	15,006.43	14,005.80	29,002.95	9,400.00	9,409.28
Memorial	15,866.83	285.00		(1,500.00)	14,651.83
Special projects	1,149.76		51.00		1,098.76
Mission					
Hunger	619.10				619.10
Heifer proj (Church School)	2.60				2.60
UCC/PCU	290.50		70.50		220.00
Good Samaritan	2,508.28				2,508.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3,844.36	314.31			4,158.67
Local	-	264.16			264.16
Bricks	1,325.40				1,325.40
	40,613.26	14,869.27	29,124.45	7,900.00	34,258.08
Endowment	174,363.20			(7,900.00)	166,463.20
	214,976.46	14,869.27	29,124.45	-	200,721.28

New Telephone and Internet Provider at CTC

As of January 31, 2018, we have switched to Charter/Spectrum to provide our telephone and internet service to the church. Things are progressing fairly well, with one glitch still needing to be worked out.

Our telephone number remains the same, however, we will be utilizing a new email address and are also busy building a website. Soon, we will also be able to offer internet access to any guests entering our building. We currently have internet access for residential "Charter" customers. The sign-in information follows for those who currently have Charter in their homes.

Internet access for Charter customers: On your phone, laptop or tablet, go to settings and search for available networks. Choose **SpectrumWiFi**. You will get a screen pop-up that asks for your User Name and Password. Enter that information and sign-in. I believe you only have to do this once and each time you come into the building - you will have internet access on your mobile device. As soon as I have the sign-in information for non-Charter customers, I will let you know.

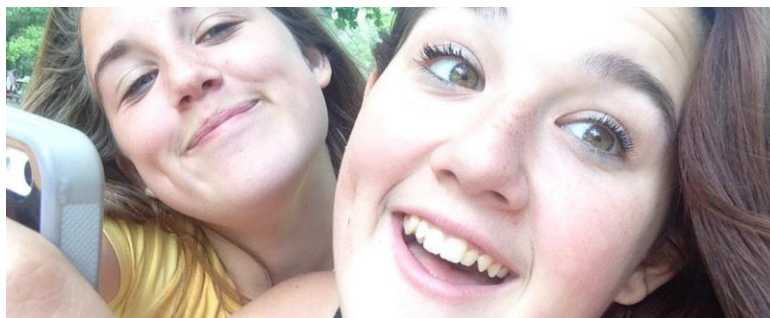
Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com

Website: www.ctcsaginaw.com

Getting to Know You . . .

By Kathy Loviska

Ainslee Emma and Aubree Hope Mahan, born in that order one minute apart, came into this world on August 15, 2000, at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. I was very fortunate to be present in the operating room to witness this joyous occasion first hand.



Now, when I say I was present - I was that, however, I was seated by my daughter, Michelle's head, and there were sheets draped all over her - so I really didn't see-as much as hear-what was happening on the other side of those sheets. Still . . . it was pretty exciting and I wouldn't trade that experience for anything in the world.

While their older sibling, Alexa, was born without any hiccups, the doctor decided that since Aubree had been in the breech position for a good part of the pregnancy, it would be best to perform a caesarian section for the twins' birth. So, it was that I got to sit at my daughter's head and try to keep her focused and calm.

I heard Ainslee's cry first as they held her up and made their way to the side where they cleaned her off and took her vital signs. All seemed to be well with her. Now it was Aubree's turn but because the medical staff had difficulty in clearing Aubree's lungs, she was to spend her first day or two in the NICU where they could keep a close eye on her. We felt very sad seeing her with tubes and needles seemingly everywhere and longed to be able to hold her - but that didn't come until the next afternoon when they let her visit in her mother's room. After this first little scare, Aubree's tubes and needles were removed and she was able to join Ainslee in her mother's room and all progressed normally from there. That was seventeen years ago last August and this year they will graduate from Heritage High School. Wow! Time sure flies.

We all moved back to Michigan in 2002 when the twins had just turned two years old. The twins are a product of what is termed a "Blended Family" so besides their older sister, Alexa, they also have ten half and step brothers and sisters, some of whom live here in Michigan, and some who live in Texas and Florida.

Both girls are currently working at Bob Evans Restaurant on Tittabawassee Road in Saginaw Township. They started as "Hostesses" but now work as "Servers" still filling in when needed as "Hostesses". Plans for college are still up in the air . . . but they are looking at their options and deciding what is next for them. While the majority of their lives they have done pretty much everything together, they are branching out and growing into their own individualistic self - with some pretty strong ties which will forever run between the two of them, it's that "twin" thing.

As for hobbies and what they like to do - they both love to shop (go to the mall as most teens like to do) and since they began working and receiving a pay check this has become a favorite past-time of theirs. They also enjoy the company of their friends and just being kids. Movies and concerts are something they enjoy and they love to travel and visit new places. They plan to go to Florida to visit their father and step-mother shortly after graduation and are looking forward to that trip.



This year Aubree was installed as a Deacon at Countryside Trinity Church and most recently became part of the combined group of Session and Deacons who will be working together for the next year in their duties at the church. Both girls have been members since they were seven years old and have always enjoyed the time and activities in which they have participated over the years. They especially loved the trips to Michigan Adventure and the lock-ins at the church with all the other children led by Randy and Lynne Groom.

I trust the future holds many wonderful and exciting adventures for these two and they assure me they will continue to keep Countryside Trinity Church in their thoughts and prayers wherever they go. I, as their grandmother, hope they don't travel too far away and they *continue* as Countryside Trinity Church members.

Women's & Mission Update

From "Marcia Lacker"

WOMENS ASSOCIATION

The women will hold their Baby Shower/Birthday Offering Meeting on Thursday April 26 at 1 pm. Take advantage of the baby sales now.

There is always need for diapers. We are also buying for toddlers. Look in Fellowship Hall for lists of needed items. Money is welcome if you choose not to shop. Hand knitted items are wonderful. All these items will be sent to the Underground Railroad. We will have dessert and a time to play games. (Prizes too!) Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering will be received. Everyone is welcome. The weather should be good.

MISSION

The mission of the month is Underground Railroad. URR serves all residents of Saginaw County; victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human slavery. URR began in 1977. It is the only provider of emergency shelter services, leadership and programs to end domestic violence in the community.

The resale shop, located on State Street, sells electronics, household items and clothing.

Annually URR provides 14, 000 safe bed nights for over 500 women and children. 4,000 people access one or more of their services.

Read Program: The **READ** Association of Saginaw County is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joys of reading. Primary goals are to motivate children to want to read and to enhance their confidence and self-esteem so that they can read at their respective grade level. **READ** strives to instill in all children a love of reading and the value of becoming a lifelong reader. A child's ability to read is important to their development to live as happy, successful and productive members of society. Currently we have several members from Countryside Trinity Church working with students at Weiss Elementary School in this wonderful program. They are Kitty Blehm, Lori Halase, Dan Groom, Mari McKenzie, Pastor Dave Myers, Mary Ann Parker, and awaiting training are Louis Diechman, Marcia Lacker and Angie Mitchell.

The Backpack Program is an undertaking of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan which attempts to reduce child hunger, educate students and families on proper nutrition and promote healthy lifestyles. Designed to provide extra support on weekends for children who receive free or reduced-priced lunches at school, this program provides a backpack full of nutritious and easy-to-prepare foods for children to take home on the weekends when school meals are not available. For many of these children, this backpack is their only source of food when school is not in session. Countryside has several members who regularly assist in the packing of these backpacks at Weiss Elementary School. They are Kitty Blehm, Pat Denno, Marcia Lacker, Mary Ann Parker, Mari McKenzie and Judi Westendorf.

in the COMMUNITY

St. Mary's Opens Walk-In Clinic St. Mary's of Michigan opened its new walk-in clinic at 5810 Gratiot Road in Saginaw Township, just west of Center Road on Monday, February 26th. People who feel ill or have minor injuries, but don't require emergency care, will be able to get medical attention without an appointment. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 pm seven days a week. For more information call 989 790-3650.

Zehnder's 24th Annual Ragtime Festival

- April 18 - April 21

Zehnder's has been host to ragtime performers from around the United States and Canada for over 23 years. Come and enjoy ragtime music performed by featured pianist, Bob Milne and other world renowned musicians.

Events for 2018 Event include: Dinner Concert on Wednesday, Lunch Concerts on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Saturday Evening Grand Finale Dinner and Concert, Vaudeville Night – Thursday, Friday Night Picnic, Educational Seminar – Friday

Enjoy Special Meals Prepared Especially For You By Zehnder's Certified Chefs. Tickets are required for most events and prices vary. Call [\(844\) 296 -5197](tel:8442965197) for reservations or more information.

word FOR THE DAY Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH REPAIR CAFÉ

What do you do with a broken toaster? Or with a bike when the wheel runs out of true? Toss it? **No way!** Our Saviour Lutheran Church is organizing the first Repair Café in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

At Our Saviour Lutheran Church at 2525 Hemmeter, on April 21st, everything centers on making repairs. Starting from 9:00 a.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. various volunteer repair experts will be available to help make all possible repairs free of charge. Tools and materials will also be on hand.

For more information, check out www.Repaircafe.org. There is a flyer on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall at Countryside Trinity Church- or you can call Bob Long, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 989 799-5470.



Upcoming EVENTS

Good Friday Services

March 30, 2018

1:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at
Faith Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Tri City Presbyterian
Tennebrae Service at
Westminster Presbyterian
Church, Bay City, MI

Easter Brunch

April 1, 2018

9:00 a.m. in CTC Fellowship Hall

Easter Worship Service

April 1, 2018

10:30 a.m. in CTC Sanctuary

Family Game Night

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

6:30-8:30 p.m. in CTC Fellowship
Hall (Bring Snack to Share)

Book Study-No Book Study This Week

Bible Study-No Bible Study This Week

Worship Service-Rev. Michael Hahn Guest Pastor

Sunday, April 8, 2018

10:30 a.m. in CTC Sanctuary

Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 8, 2018

11:30 a.m. in CTC Fellowship Hall

All Committees Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 2018

11:45 a.m. in designated areas

Countryside Trinity Church MINISTRIES



Share God's Word

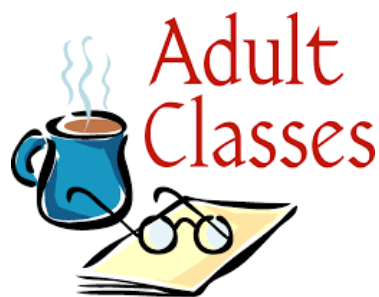
Throughout the year, our youth participate in many activities.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Countryside offers Sunday Church School each week from September until June during the Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Children begin in the Sanctuary and after the Pastor's time with the young disciples, they move into the classroom.

TEEN MINISTRY

Our young adults at Countryside Trinity meet once a month for fellowship and to participate in fun activities both inside and outside of the church. They are currently planning a "Mission Trip" to occur in the spring or summer of this year.



Adult
Classes

ADULT MINISTRY

Countryside Trinity members and friends attend weekly book club and bible study meetings where we are all learning and sharing in wonderful discussions.



Vacation Bible School is Coming Soon at Second Presbyterian Church! Mark your calendar for the week of June 18 – 22 as VBS will experience being Shipwrecked! But wait – Jesus recues! Jesus recues us through life's storms. Shipwrecked VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciencey-fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs (my favorite part!), and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life! It will be a very fun week! Forms for registration and adult help will be in Fellowship Hall the Sunday after Easter.

Easter Food Baskets



*A huge thank you
to all who donated food and money
and to those who contributed their time
to shop for food and come
pack the five Easter Food Baskets
for the five area families who received them.
We fed six adults, fifteen children
And three dogs!*





Bickford Assisted Living

Elaine Kraenzlein

Health Source

Bob Gulliver

Edgewood Assisted Living Center

Betty Huber

McBrite Manor

Bob & Marie Lemmer

Wellspring Memory Support

Carolyn Pendell

Swanhaven Manor

Fern Evon Little

New Hope Valley Independent Living

Ed Iles & Dorothy Gray

St. Francis Home

Judith Lorenz

Wellspring Assisted Living

Shirley Roof & Carol Williamson

In Hospital or Private Homes

Betty Burr, Dawn Curtis, Bessie Daugharty, Betty Hauk, Fran Preuter, Fred & Kathy Williamson

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 William Nolan (1998)
- 2 Lysithea Evans (2013)M-Alexa Mahan
- 5 Nancy Erndt (1947)
- 5 Dorothy Gray (1926)
- 5 Evon Little (1926)
- 12 Kathy Loviska (1949)
- 13 Dallas Williams
- 14 Lucas Gonzales
- 20 Carol Williamson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

No April Anniversaries to celebrate.



Thank you! *My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who surprised me with a wonderful coffee hour to celebrate my 100th birthday. The cake, choir singing and cards from the entire congregation were great! You certainly have made me feel at home here at Countryside Trinity. Thank You! Helen Reynolds*

Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Presbyterian, and this is a casserole."

2018

CALENDAR YEAR

APRIL

CALENDAR MONTH


SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603

Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com Phone: 989-793-0125

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 9:00 am-Easter Brunch RSVP 10:25 am-Announcements/Sanctuary; 10:30 am-Easter Worship Service, With Communion	02	03 Family Game Night bring snack to share	04 NO BOOK STUDY THIS WEEK	05 NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK	06 OFFICE CLOSED	07
08 10:25 am-Announcements/Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Celebration of April Birthdays & Anniversaries	09	10 11:30 am-1:30 pm Zonta Club Meeting (Lounge) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Private Party-Aubree Mahan (Lounge)	11 Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired	12 Bible Study 4:00 pm	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 10:25 am-Announcements/Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: 11:45 am All Committees Meeting 4:00-6:00 pm City of God	16	17 6:00 p.m. Session/Council Meeting	18 Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired	19 Bible Study 4:00 pm	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 10:25 am-Announcements/Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour:	23	24	25 Deadline for May Newsletter Articles Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired	26 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Baby Shower to benefit Underground Railroad Bible Study 4:00 pm	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 10:25 am-Announcements/Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour:	30	01	02 Book Study 1:00 pm Bring Lunch if Desired	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	11 	12

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 793-0125

BLESSINGS FROM COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

GOD'S FOOLISNESS

Written by Chaplain Susan Hand -

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." 1 Corinthians 1:25

We are in the season of Lent and this year it begins with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day. Lent ends this year with Easter falling on April Fool's Day. I believe those days are an appropriate beginning and ending to Lent in that the season starts on a day celebrating love, a reminder of God's love in Jesus and ends on a day when God fooled the world by raising Jesus from the dead.

Paul refers to the cross as "God's foolishness" in First Corinthians. The weakness of the cross displays the power of God to forgive, heal, bless and raise the world to new life. The disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting and acts of love. These might seem foolish to the postmodern mind. Some are chasing success, but Lent challenges us to look at a different set of values as revealed in the cross of Jesus Christ. Prayer is more valuable than money. Fasting leads to a richer insight into God's way. Acts of love are worth more than a fat stock portfolio. It is the spiritual way that challenges us when we are tempted to think that only what can be seen is real.