



# Saint Mark Lutheran Church

45-725 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 • (808) 247-4565 • [www.StMarkHawaii.org](http://www.StMarkHawaii.org)

## April

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Wow! It would be hard to envision our world in the state that it is right now if weren't actually how it is. I know we've all be inundated with developing news hour by hour of the spread of COVID-19 across our city, state, country, and world. It's truly a pandemic. How does that affect us as families and as a congregation?

According to the leadership of Hawaii, we are to remain in our homes and avoid contact with people who are closer than 6 feet from us. We are to wipe down surfaces, etc. We have been hit with all kinds of rules, guidelines, and regulations that didn't even exist a couple of weeks ago. So, our daily routines have been altered completely. We now have a "new normal" it seems.

The most challenging thing for me is not being able to be with you at church and Bible classes. At least I'm able to be with you virtually. Is that the right word? I'm still learning how to "do church" without anybody here. We're definitely not alone in this though.

These times may just be perfect timing for God to do something spectacular that enables His Word to go out in a new and different way. It's still unfolding. So, stay tuned and see what great and wonderful things He does.

I have a friend who is a pastor in St. Petersburg, Russia. He sends out a pretty comprehensive newsletter (when he does). He is part of the local seminary training there as well as the pastor of his church. In his latest newsletter he said something that resonated with me and I think it will with you. So, I share some of those thoughts with you. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of a sound mind." These are powerful words given our time and circumstance. He spoke to the students of the Ingrian Lutheran Church seminary students before they had to return to their homes (some in Siberia) due to COVID-19. We need to be reminded also that our Lord is with us as we "shelter at home." In health, in illness, in life and even in death His promise is to be with us. As people get sick and sometimes die as a result of this virus, as God's children we are safe in His arms for eternity. I pray that you all stay healthy and well.

In the meantime, thank you for your patience and endurance during these strange times. No matter what else, God is still in control and we continue to be covered by His grace and mercy. Please don't forget to stay connected with your fellow members, family, **friends, neighbors**, and co-workers, but especially senior citizens who are most at risk.

In His service,

Pastor Les





## *A Letter from Reverend Dr. John Bombaro*



Dear Friends and Family,

Lenten greetings from Rīga! With the help of the Lord through all of you, we have hit the ground running (and dodging COVID 19) in Latvia. We encourage you to regularly follow this mission by reading our newsletter.

The March/April issue includes:

- The transition from the US to the EU.
- Finding a home at St. John's Lutheran Church where we kick off weekly English services.
- Making ministry happen during "social distancing".

Read about these items in our newsletter, Eurasia Mission: [Download Bombaro Mar/Apr Newsletter](#)

Please pray for us, our fellow missionaries and the Church in Eurasia: [Download our prayer card](#)

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Pastor John and Melinda





# April Events & Activities Update



## Sunday Service & Special Services



Due to the unforeseen current events happening in our World and State due to COVID-19, all of our 9:30am Sunday Services as well as our Special Services will be cancelled for the month of April. This includes Mid-week Lent Services, Soup Suppers, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday Service. We would like to remind our Church Ohana and friends that Sermon videos will be posted to our website. All videos will be uploaded from YouTube and posted to our website, [stmarkhawaii.org](http://stmarkhawaii.org), to watch at your convenience. Saint Mark's Sermon videos will not be live-streaming. Pastor Les will be posting Sermon videos for all Sunday morning services as well as all previously scheduled Special Services. We thank you all for being patient and kind during this time. As of now, our Church is abiding by the recommended order to cancel all Services until April 30th. We will do our best to keep everyone updated on when Church services will be open again to the public. If you have any questions please feel free to email us or call the Church Office at 247-4565.

## April Meetings & Events

There will be no Easter Breakfast Potluck or Easter Egg Hunt this year. All Saturday Food Banks, as well as all Worship team practices, Choir practices, and Wednesday Bible Studies will be cancelled for the month of April. Monthly Elder's Meetings, Board of Education Meetings, Church Council Meetings, Parish Education Meetings, and LWML Mite Box Meetings will also be cancelled, or done virtually, for the month of April. Please contact your Head Board Member if you have any questions. Mahalo.





## *Palm Sunday Bible Readings: Sunday of the Passion*

### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

4 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. 5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. 8 He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

### **Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:1-27:66**

1 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, 2 "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." 3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. 5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people." 6 Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. 8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." 10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. 12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." 14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. 17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. 20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." 25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." 26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 66 What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."





## *Easter Sunday Bible Readings: The Resurrection of Our Lord*

### **First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ ( he is Lord of all),37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### **Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10**

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."





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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Normal Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm			1 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled) 6:00pm - Soup Supper (Cancelled) 7:00pm Lent Service (View on SMLC Website)	2 7:15pm - Worship Team (Cancelled)	3	4 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled)
5 8:30am - Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship (View on SMLC Website) 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled)	6 7:00pm - Elder's Meeting (Cancelled)	7	8 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled)	9 6:00pm - Board of Ed. Meeting (Cancelled) 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Service (View on SMLC Website)	10 7:00pm - Good Friday Service (View on SMLC Website)	11 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled)
12 8:00am - Easter Service (View on SMLC Website) 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice(Cancelled) 11:00am - Parish Ed. Meeting (Cancelled)	13	14	15 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled)	16 7:15pm - Worship Team (Cancelled)	17	18 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled)
19 8:30am- Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship (View on SMLC Website) 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled) 11:00am - LWML Mite Box Sunday (Cancelled)	20 6:00 pm - Church Council Meeting (Cancelled)	21	22 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled)	23 7:15pm- Worship Team (Cancelled)	24	25 8:00am - Food Bank (Cancelled)
26 8:30am- Sunday School (Cancelled) 9:30am- Worship/Fellowship (View on SMLC Website) 10:45am - SMLC Choir Practice (Cancelled)	27	28	29 10:00am - Bible Study/ Prayer Warriors (Cancelled)	30 7:15pm- Worship Team (Cancelled)		Normal Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm