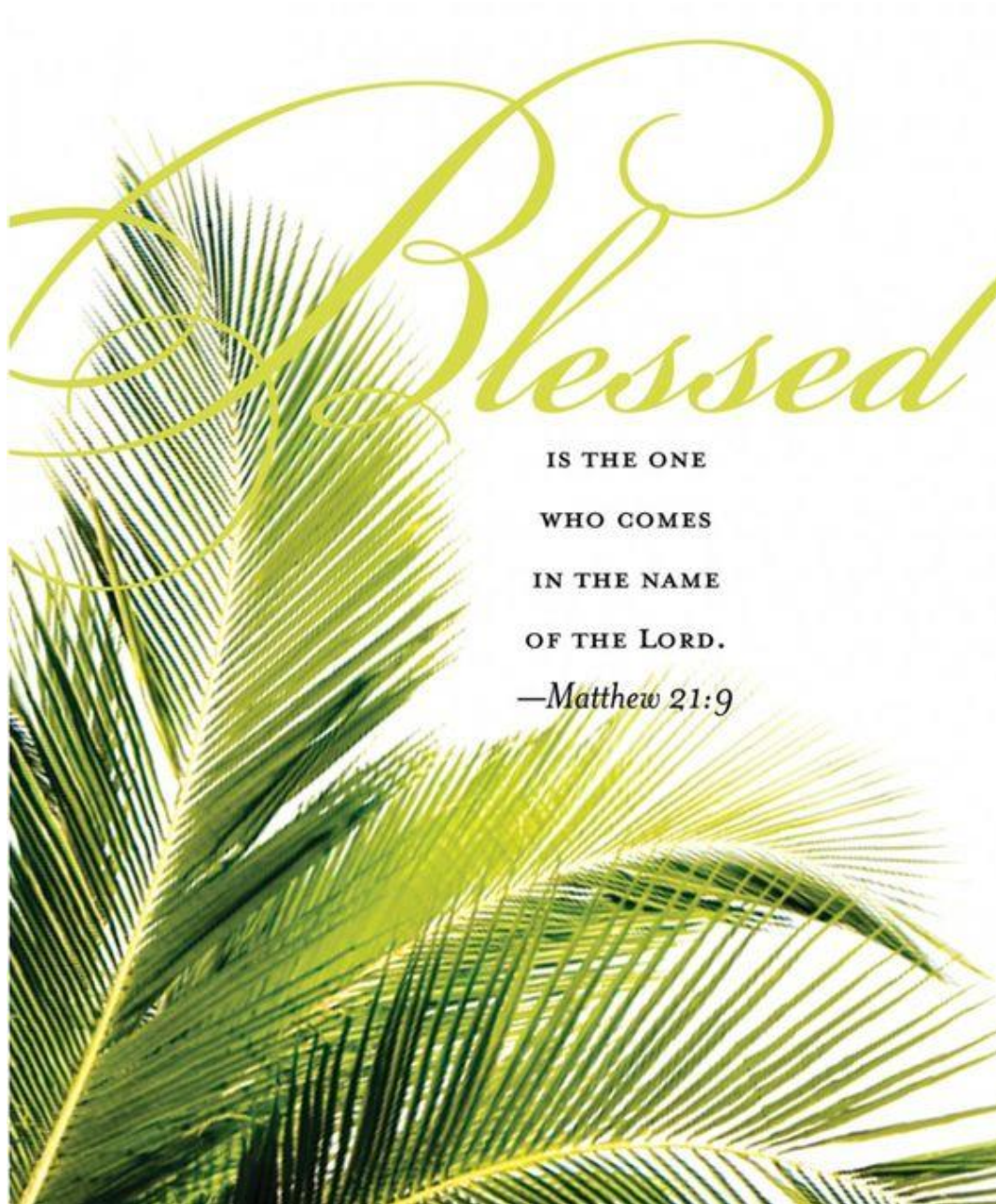


PALM SUNDAY RITE OF CONFIRMATION

April 10th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com
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Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God the Father, who sent Your Son to take our nature upon Him and to suffer death on the cross that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility, mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ in His patience and also have our portion in His resurrection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE: A prayer for peace in the midst of conflict.
Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have been our life in the midst of death, and our peace where there is no peace. Look upon Your servants in Ukraine and Russia with Your grace and assure them that in the darkness of political unrest You remain the Light of the World. Dearest Jesus, through the cross you defeated all that keeps us from the peace that passes understanding. In these tense days, we pray, be the Good Shepherd of Your flock in Eastern Europe and around the world and give all persons and countries aching from social and political turmoil Your Good News of sins forgiven, and life restored. Holy Spirit, You gather us into Your Church where we are made new by Your Holy Word. Keep us from civil strife, from the aggressive spilling of blood, and turn back all misfortunes that lead to hostility and death. Grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict; soften the hearts of the unmerciful and bring them to the knowledge of You. Triune God, grant peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, and in Your whole Church on earth, that with one heart and mind we may sing Your praises, and have peace at the last, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 Peter 2: 21-24 Wed.: Rev. 1: 5b-7 Friday: Rev. 5: 1-14
Tuesday: 1 Tim. 6: 12-14 Thurs: 1 Cor. 11: 20-32 Saturday: 1 Pet. 3: 17-22

Children’s Message: Psalm 31: 14 <https://youtu.be/je9P2PWbVKQ>

Organist: Louise Gondosch
Readers: 9 a.m. — Daniel Figueroa 11 a.m. — Gloria Meyer
Greeters: 9 a.m. --- Judy Slingerland 11 a.m. --- Judy Slingerland

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Please note there will be NO Sunday School today, April 10th as there will be a coffee hour downstairs celebrating our new Confirmands. Please join us!

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>.
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children’s Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 31: 14

RITE OF CONFIRMATION: Nine youth will publicly confess their Baptismal faith during our Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:00 am. Holy Communion service. A time of refreshments & friendly gathering will happen downstairs in between the services to meet & support our young people. **11 a.m.** remains Traditional Palm Sunday Service with communion.

EASTER SUNDAY: Please join us for our "Annual Pancake Breakfast" served from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Church basement next Sunday, April 17th. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those who wish to attend. *Since this event is so soon after Covid re-opening and some people are still hesitant to attend activities, the Fellowship is unsure how many to plan for this year. Please make the extra effort to sign up in the Narthex or call the Church with your intentions or email secretary@christlutheransc.ca*

Women's Bible Study: Have you ever thought about the central role the table plays in the lives of Christians? The Bible is full of references about food, drink, eating, and fellowship. Jesus knew the power of the table and used it to teach and embody truth about himself. When we sit down for a meal with others, we get to know them better while we nourish our bodies and souls. In this seven-session series, complete with simple yet delicious recipes, Bianca Juárez Olthoff leads us through Jesus' interactions around the table, inspiring us to invite people into our homes, open the Word of God, and break bread together. We hope you will consider joining us in person, here at the church on **Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (April 22nd)** or watch this study entitled "**Table Talks**" yourself at rightnowmedia.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Rev. Dr. John Nunes, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville NY, originally from Hamilton, ON [who preached for Pastor Todd's installation] will be coming to Christ Lutheran on **MAY 24!** From 7-9 PM he is giving a "book talk" work shop style in the sanctuary on his 2020 paperback, "MEANT FOR MORE". Pastor Todd has some copies to share with any who would like to read ahead before he arrives. More information yet to come. ALL ARE WELCOME!

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.** The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY>

| <u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u> April 3rd, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 50; 11 A.M. – 33; Total: 83 | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Weekly Need</u> | <u>Last Sunday</u> | <u>Year To Date</u> | <u>+ or – (--)</u> |
| Current: | 233,400.00 | 4,488.46 | 2,420.00 | 56,297.79 | (6,540.67) |
| LCC Missions | 20,000.00 | 384.62 | 348.00 | 3,908.00 | (1,476.62) |
| Property Improvement: | | | 107.00 | 1,787.50 | |

EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED: we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided]
 We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

GREETERS: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone, is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on **"Joy, Patience, Prayer"** which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12) *Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!*

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE: Wednesday, April 27th, 6 - 6:30 p.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church -- The Elders of Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Catharines invite you to join them in a brief service of prayer, this time focusing on the war in Ukraine, our Missionary Oleksiy Navrotsky, and his fellow workers. Plan to pause your day for just half an hour and join us in the seminary chapel to lay these concerns before our heavenly Father. Any offerings given will go to Lutheran Church-Canada's Ukraine Aid Fund, from which they are sent directly to our Lutheran pastors in Ukraine who distribute aid where needed.



THE MARY MARTHA is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and placed in an envelope designated for "LWML Ontario District Medical Missions". Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Children
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines – Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Banda



RITE OF CONFIRMATION

April 10th, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.

We are pleased to present to the congregation this year's new confirmands.

After successfully completing two years of confirmation instruction and confessing their faith before the congregation, they are ready to confirm the vows and faith of their Baptisms:

**Laura Trinity Cosco
Judah Thun Fongsamouth
Thomas Christopher Hagar
Mackenzie Elizabeth Harmer
Katharine Victoria Anne Nagy
Ryan Tapio Salonen
Joshua Timothy Salonen
Shawn Kenneth Salonen
Blaze Hunter David Zelichowski**

*May the Lord bless these new Confirmands
with His constant protection, guidance and favour.*

+ To the Glory of God +

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PALM SUNDAY 11 AM

Scripture: John 12:1-11

"Palms, Parade, Promises & Perseverance"

April 10, 2022

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As many look forward to Holy Week, to Easter, spring warmth, peace -- War and devastation rages on in Ukraine. Amid the tragic news emerge small stories of faith and hope. Aid workers can see how prayers from around the globe offer the closeness needed during times of war.

God's presence is felt when bombs fall and do not blow up said a soldier.

A little girl, 12 year old Nastya slept under a table as missiles screamed through night skies. She said the table was just a piece of furniture, now it is like God, my refuge and home. To see God as a refuge in times of havoc is itself, a miracle.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week is all about miraculous faith. The hope of the world, our very refuge and strength, enters humbly. As the saying goes, restraint is true power. Jesus IS true power. Within His hand rests the universe. Jesus doesn't expect a parade like He gets. Psalm 118, the verses we spoke at the bigging of our service, Flow from the lips of these people that day. There's a feeling of victory in the air.

Jerusalem has countless palm trees. Images of life and happiness.

Palm branches had been viewed then as not only protective shade, But water, rest, glory, power, success. Palms had become Israel's national symbol, even appearing on their coins. No different than the Maple Leafs on Canada Day. Palms decorate the temple Conjuring up feelings of beauty and prosperity. What better welcome for a King?! But kings don't ride in parades on donkeys. A stubborn, hard working animal, but also an animal of peace and humility. Jesus isn't a conquering hero, He's a servant. He is full of peace. He is ready to give up everything to win. He Who faces death is greeted with joy and triumph. Well, there is a belief that for good luck, you laugh at a funeral? Maybe this is where it starts? But it's not just the crowd of people. Palms also speak of a deeper, more Heavenly welcome. St. John writes years later in his Revelation how he sees palms in the hands of those how have come through the great tribulation and have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. They take up palms to identify with our Lord's entry into Jerusalem as a sacrifice and the victory over harmful sin, satanic threats and eternal death. Those are defeated in Jerusalem.

This is why we celebrate.

We are not yet through the great tribulation, That will end when the world ends and Jesus returns in glory. When we see Jesus face to face. Now, we only see with eyes of faith. We trust that all those with Him in Heaven gather around us When we gather. The witnesses with Palms. We echo their words, like the words of the people with Jesus heading into Jerusalem –Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

"Hosanna"-- the Hebrew word meaning 'Help, save us.' A prayerful ask of immediate divine intervention. It's not so unusual. The people following Jesus heard and saw so much. Many knew He raised Lazarus from the dead weeks before. They're wanting to see what He's going to do next. Maybe He will help them now. Religious zealots want instant help by removing the Roman occupation. Messiah seekers want Heaven brought down to earth now. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." They believe, though maybe not completely understand. They know He can do something great. Few if any recognized in the euphoric moment the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy: Rejoice greatly...Your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. But Jesus recognized the moment. And so he "found a young donkey and sat on it". The Pharisees watched all of this very critically from a short distance – Seeing nothing good in it -- Look, the world has gone after him" they claim.

The joy only hardened the authorities' resolve to kill the dead-raising Son of God. But He knew exactly what he was doing. His hour had come at last. The news must spread. It's time for the city gates to raise their heads, and the ancient doors lift up and open in honour. The King of glory is on his way (Psalm 24:7). Jesus also knows the result of this: triggering the fulfillment of another prophecy, this time from Isaiah: Jesus was pierced for our transgressions; crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5) *He is* innocent. But His expiration from agony on the cross results in His freely giving away Of his holiness and His Holy Spirit through His shed Blood.

And His will be a resurrection far more glorious and world-shaking than Lazarus's. His resurrection will be the blueprint for ever believer who lives and dies in Him.

"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

The Pharisees grumbled that the world has gone after Jesus – And thanks be to God, the world still does. All those in the world who do believe.

All who see value in the Gospel message of forgiveness and peace.

The truth of it all is that no one seeks Jesus, He finds you.

Your faith comes from Him, not from you. Where there is Gospel, cross, Scripture, there is Jesus. This doesn't make us better or nicer or greater, It does make us more aware, more reflective of our imperfect condition....And it really should humble us further, for all in our life is gift from God. In losing our pride and ego we gain the same as Christ: the cross and then an empty tomb. Let us hope the world will go after Him,

After us, Bother us with questions about our faith that makes us hang in there.

And we can win them over with kindness and listening.

Together, we will understand each other in the image of One Who comes not in all His glory and majesty, but in the lowly forms—such as in the bread and wine.

Hosanna we sing Holy Holy Holy we sing.

For Jesus comes in another form to save us in this holy meal.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." He comes to us We go out to others in the name of the Lord. Give witness to the world of Christ and Him crucified by centering your own life, your activities, your relationships upon the life of Jesus Which we have access in the Church, which is the life of Christ He gives to His Church.

When weak voices cry out "save us now",

May the Spirit move us in our liturgical Hosannas

To save others now in every way we can.

While we and the outside world go after other things –

Even day dream of better days, warmer weather,

No more war or bombs or destruction –

May we, shoulder to shoulder with people out there – go after Jesus, gaining nothing but His cross and new life.

Amen.