



March 30, 2021

“When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.”

Mark 16:4

Hello to you, wherever you are. If you are reading this in your favorite chair, on the beach, in another state, at your desk, on your lunch break, hello. There’s a tiny little detail I want to tell you about today as we soon enter into the latter half of holy week. When the women get to the tomb on Easter morning, they “look up.” The women look up. They were walking and wondering who would roll away the stone and then – when they look up – the stone is rolled away.

This is just to say, when life has got you down – look up. Looking up is the posture of the resurrection and you already, have been “raised up” with Christ. Maybe the summary statement for Easter could be comprised of just four words, “Things are looking up!” Or we could go with the classic phrase that is just like it, “Christ is risen, indeed!”

From all of us at Saint Andrew, the staff, leaders, and pastors – Happy Easter, dear church.

Pr. Jenn

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1

12:30 pm – Outdoor Worship with Communion

This in person service will be held on the Celebration Patio at Saint Andrew.

Please bring a chair and shade or umbrella if needed. Bulletins will be provided and Holy Communion will be shared. Masking and social distancing will be practiced and the service will be held outdoors - rain, snow, or shine.



6:30 pm – Livestream

www.facebook.com/salcwausau

Worship with Holy Communion, preaching, and the stripping of the Sanctuary Altar.

Good Friday

Friday, April 2

12:30 pm – Livestream

www.facebook.com/salcwausau

Traditional Saint Andrew Tenebrae worship with the reading of the Passion of Jesus and several musical offerings.

1:30 - 6:00 pm – Open Sanctuary

The Sanctuary will be open for a time of reflection and prayer. Live instrumental music will provide a back drop to sit in a pew, light a candle, and ponder the stations of the cross. Interactive Stations of the Cross will also be available throughout the church to provide an intergenerational opportunity for families and children to dwell in the story of Jesus' death. Masking and social distancing will be practiced.

6:30 pm – Outdoor Worship

In stark contrast to the noon service, there will be no music at this service. We will center our connection to the cross through the ELW Hymnal Good Friday Liturgy.

This in person service will be held on the Celebration Patio at Saint Andrew. Please bring a chair and shade or umbrella if needed. Bulletins will be provided. Masking and social distancing will be practiced and the service will be held outdoors - rain, snow, or shine.

Easter Sunday – Christ is Risen Indeed!

Sunday, April 4

8:30 am – Livestream and Outdoor Worship

10:30 am – Outdoor Worship

These in person services will take place in the east parking lot at Saint Andrew. Please bring a chair or a blanket to sit in the grassy areas. Children who attend will receive a special bag with a variety of resources to connect during worship. Hard-boiled, colored Easter eggs may be brought to be shared with the Salvation Army. Dress warm and casual or wear your Easter Sunday best! The Sanctuary will be open to connect to the art installation of paper cranes and for families to take an Easter picture. Low mobility and handicap parking will be available in the north parking lot off of Partridge Ave. All others please watch for signs or parking attendants to direct you. Masking and social distancing will be practiced and the service will be held outdoors - rain, snow, or shine.

What about Sunrise Service on Rib Mountain?

Rib Mountain State Park rangers and the Wisconsin DNR are not yet allowing gatherings of more than 50 people. We have kept tabs and checked in each week and this past week learned that it is unlikely this will change before Easter. (Thanks to Bailey at the park for your patience and help!) We expect to share a special livestream at just about the time of sunrise, so be sure to “like” Saint Andrew on Facebook to get an alert early on Easter morning for a special surprise.

Please let us know you'll attend any of the above services by registering online [here](#) or calling the church office at 715-842-3333.

Sunday Worship in the Season of Easter

Sunday, April 11

10:30 am Livestream –

The installation of Bishop Anne Edison-Albright

******There will be no 9:00 am livestream or in person outdoor worship******

Worship online with the whole synod to celebrate the ministry

By the grace of God and the call of the Church
The Rev. Anne Edison-Albright
will be installed as the fifth Bishop
of the **East Central Synod of Wisconsin**
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Sunday, April 11, 2021

10:30 am (CT)



Streaming Live on Facebook
or at www.ecsw.org

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, preaching and presiding
Your prayers and presence are requested
The color of the day is RED



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

we share with
our new bishop. Pr. Jenn is
chairing the installation team
and will be in Appleton
to support the worship service
led by Presiding Bishop of the
ELCA,

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Pr.
Justin will be on vacation on
this Sunday following Easter.

***Beginning Thursday, April 15
and Sunday, April 18***

Based on the Saint
Andrew *Plan to Gather* criteria,
regular weekly opportunities to

worship and gather in person will begin the week of *April 11*. A mailing from council
with more details will be sent the week after Easter and those updates will also be
included in future Weekly Waves and communications. Stay tuned for more
information. We give thanks to God that the time to resume gathering is so close as
numbers decline and the community is healing through safe practices.

Holy Week on Cable

Here are the dates of the available Easter Services on Public Access:

Thursday 4/1 - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday 4/2 - Good Friday Service

Sunday 4/4 - Palm Sunday Service

Remaining services the week of 4/5 - Easter Service

Soup Thank You

To the choppers of vegetables, the Monday morning soup orderers, the person that
picked up soup to-go for the office, the Narthex greeters, order fulfillers, kitchen
cleaners, and soup delivery drivers who were church visitors in disguise, the food
distributor, the makers of those nifty soup containers, and to all of the soup eaters,
thank you. To the people that donated funds so that we could share gifts abundantly
with community partners, thank you. To the Social Ministry for their support to make
it happen and to the Communications Ministry leaders for time editing websites and
making order forms, thank you. To Chet and Sandra, thank you for helping make the

dream come true – for your hours, focus, and care helping bring to so many food for bodies and souls, thank you. Thank God for you.

And since this was such a good thing – look for other “meals for community” coming back again sometime in the not too distant future. We’re going to do this again.

Art in Verse

If you've been keeping up with the display of cranes in the Sanctuary, you can thank two sisters for much of the work-Diane Kronenwetter and Jayne Sistermann have been working tirelessly on this project. Here is their perspective on how they have come closer to Christ and each other in their artistic expression.

Ephesians 2:8-

For by Grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God.

We are sisters that love art in all forms.

When we create together, our hearts open and we have discovered that our finished “art” shines brighter than if we made it alone.

This past Advent, we accepted the invitation to help make the Christmas season special at St. Andrew.

Jayne’s idea and creation of the “chains of love” that included all 3,337 member names are still connecting us together, lining the trees near the road outside of church. (We are out of the pews and into the streets!)

This Lenten season, we both continued our healing by participating in the peace crane project.

Using the folding process as a metaphor for life: we all begin as paper, starting out slow, sometimes it’s messy and you need a do over, but no matter how you fold it, it starts to take on a different shape-a beautiful transformation!

Seeing these finished cranes, in all their beauty, the creative doors began to open within and beyond us, in ways we had never imagined.

Inspired by Pastor Jenn’s words to the congregation during the Pandemic “We were baptized for times like these”, the baptismal crane mobile art project was born.

This was when the artistic process felt like spiritual life. Things got messy. All that vision and energy pushing us in the beginning started getting tangled and chaotic. It

was clear this was where we needed to be, present with the messiness, sorting through the chaos to find a clear path that was always divinely led.

By the Grace of God, the mobile has come together. We have named it “For Times Like These”.

May we all remember that grace is God's best idea-it changes our hearts and attitude. It's the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off.

Lord, help us to listen for your voice through all the mess and chaos, and see that beautiful surprises have always been your promise. Amen

Thank you, Diane and Jayne, for showing us the beauty in the messiness and reminding us of God's unending grace.



An Update From the Bishop

Dear people of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin,

My last Covid-19 update came as we were preparing for Christmas and starting to imagine what Lent would look like; we'd made the decision to postpone the new bishop installation (and many other installations in the synod, too) because of increased risk and full ICUs.

Today, we are in Lent and beginning to mark many one-year anniversaries of the pandemic. We are getting close to Holy Week, which will be different than last year, and different from other years, too. We passed the terrible milestone of 500,000 deaths due to Covid, and while infection rates have gone down, serious illness and death continues in this country and around the world. In the midst of the reality and impact of that loss, the reality and positive impact of the vaccine is another marked difference between now and my last update in December.

The combination of anxiety, grief and genuine—but hard, at first, to recognize—hope of this time feels like Easter. It feels like Jesus meeting us like he met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, hearing our mourning and our “but we had hoped” testimonies from the past year, and revealing embodied possibilities we had not been able to fully imagine a few weeks or months ago.

Again, I commend more comprehensive sources of guidelines and recommendations to you and your Covid-planning teams, especially the Wisconsin Council of Churches. At the Conference of Bishops, we were given this resource from Ecumenical Protocols for Worship, Fellowship and Sacramental Practice as CDC-vetted benchmarks and guidelines for in-person worship:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IPNroq4of1LGqOo1gY2kexqMfNx4sYHM/view>

Here is what I am learning on this road with you:

Make decisions based on Christian ethics and values: put the needs of the most vulnerable, first. From the beginning, one of the burdens of this pandemic has been relentless high-stakes decision making. As if the decisions we needed to make for ourselves and our families weren't enough, many of us—pastors, deacons, and other church leaders—found ourselves wading through public health data to make informed decisions on behalf of congregations and other contexts. Guiding our analysis of that data and our decisions as Christian leaders is the Gospel truth that Jesus turns the world upside down and makes the needs of the most vulnerable among us the most important of all. Jesus also insists that our family is larger than we think—we are deeply interconnected and interdependent, and our decisions must reflect care not only for me and my household but for the greater good. These values guide us firmly toward decisions that safeguard the health and wellbeing of others, particularly others who are at high risk.

Constant high-stakes decision making takes a toll. Your leader needs a break. Your pastor, deacon or vicar is likely showing signs of being under extreme stress. Leaders who adapted with creativity and enthusiasm at the beginning of the pandemic are exhausted and worn down. This is not a reflection of your leader's skill, suitability for ministry, or call from God; it is a normal response to being in ministry—a caregiving, leadership position—in a crisis and, in this case, a year-long crisis. Congregations: reach out to your rostered leaders to find out what kind of sabbath renewal would be

most meaningful. For some, it will be the gift of additional time off. Work together to ensure the necessary support for your leader to be away and focused on renewal: this rest time is good for the health of your leader and the health of the congregation. For some, what's most needed might be to direct continuing education or additional funds this year for coaching, counseling, spiritual direction or classes focused on health and wellbeing. Pastors who are renewed and equipped in their leadership and caregiving work will be better able to bring resources and hope to hurting people: caregivers, leaders and front-line workers in many different fields and people who fall into many different high-risk groups who are also worn down and exhausted, in need of pastoral care and healthy congregational community.

We know that after natural disasters, many clergy leave the congregations they helped lead through the disaster, and some leave the ministry, due to the trauma and burnout they have experienced. Clergy need renewal after a year of pandemic; some will be renewed by rest, sabbath and support from their congregations. Others will be renewed by change.

There is hope. There always was hope, of course, because we are resurrection people, and we know that death is not the end of the story, even in a pandemic, even with so much loss. The best metaphor I've heard recently is that we're very close to the end of the pandemic tunnel, but if we try to exit the tunnel early we will still crash into the walls. That may be what's making this time feel so hard—seeing that light, that better time ahead, and not being quite there yet. What gets us out of the tunnel? Getting vaccinated and encouraging others; all clergy are eligible to be vaccinated in Wisconsin, now, and a new group of high-risk people become eligible March 22. I am pretty excited that my husband, parents and I will likely all be vaccinated by sometime in April. There is joy in the hope of those small family gatherings. When it comes to public gatherings and spaces, continued and consistent use of masks and physical distancing also help us get out of the tunnel, whether we're vaccinated or not, indoors or outdoors. Continuing those mitigation methods now gets us to the end of the tunnel, sooner.

In a recent letter to rostered leaders, I shared that I believe communion can be celebrated in online worship, but that the question about online worship and communion is very different than it was in March 2020. Our focus now is not how to get online in a crisis (quickly, creatively, and well for the short term) but how to fully explore the implications and possibilities of online worship in a sustainable way. As many congregations are now gathering or preparing to gather in person, many are also thinking about how to stay connected with people who have joined online, as well as how to best keep people safe in their contexts at this stage of the pandemic. For these conversations, being church together helps tremendously. Sharing ideas, questions, worries and dreams with each other in your conference makes all of our ministry stronger.

The disciples didn't know it was Easter; they thought they knew that Jesus was dead, and that dead people stay dead. We know different, but I think this year we have some greater insight into how grim things were for the followers of Jesus in those three days. We have been walking together through this pandemic, sometimes stumbling in our grief, often holding each other up. Jesus has been walking with us and with all creation. I am grateful to walk with you in these days as your bishop.

Gratefully,

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright

Videos Available on YouTube

Did you miss worship live? Was there something in particular that you'd like to listen to again? A children's sermon that tickled your ear? Facebook not your thing? Church is uploading these video resources to our YouTube channel. Check out [this link](#) or search for Saint Andrew and hit "subscribe" to see and share the latest content.

Plan to Gather Weekly Update: 3/30/2021

The Plan to Gather can be found in full detail at www.salc-wausau.org/covid. The various lines on the graph below are the bench marks we have currently set in order to gather in person. The grey line is our current bench mark for outdoor worship. Outdoor worship will begin with Holy Week and Easter services.

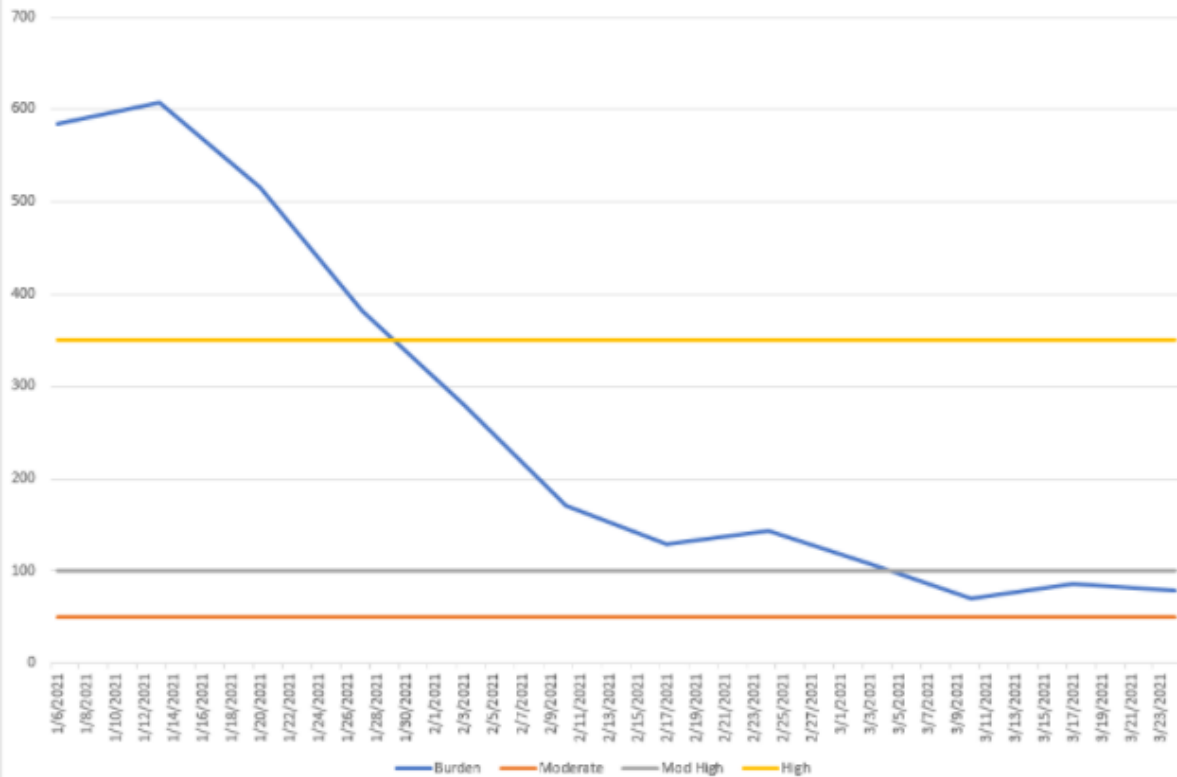
SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 3/24/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
3/3	108.4	Shrinking	High
3/10	71.2	No Change	Moderately High
3/17	86.1	No Change	Moderately High
3/24	79.4	No Change	Moderately High

Current SALC Status: Phase One

2021 Case Rate per 100,000 Marathon County Residents
AKA Burden



About

Worship

Learning

Calendar

Contact Us

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