



# Annunciation of Our Lady

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Magnificat

April 2017

## Important Date



### Lent 2017 Schedule

**Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, and April 5 Lenten Suppers:** (no supper on March 29 because of Spring Break). Soup/Salad potluck, 6-6:30pm, program (the scriptures of Lent) from 6:30-7:30pm.

**Sunday, April 9th Palm Sunday:** , services at 8am and 10am begin in the narthex.

**Thursday, April 13 Maundy Thursday service:** Agape meal, 7pm.

**Altar of Repose:** sign up to sit watch in the chapel from after the Maundy Thursday service until noon on Good Friday.

**Friday, April 14 Good Friday:** with services at 12noon and 7pm.

**Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil:** service at 8pm, with appetizer/hors d'oeuvres potluck and champagne reception following. *Incense will be used at this service.*

## Starbucks Food Donations

### Interested in helping?

For the past several months, Mike Bill has taken the lead on distributing the excess pastry and sandwich donations from the Gurnee/Grand Ave. Starbucks to various shelters/agencies in Lake County. Mike has done a wonderful job working out the details of the

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### Sunday Night Live



Youth Education  
April 9th, 5-7pm.

Come for a simpler version of  
Palm Sunday and Holy week.  
Youth and Adults welcome :)



process, and is now ready to teach others, so we can share the work of this ministry. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting on **Sunday, April 9th, at 9am** (we're not doing adult forum that day) in the adult forum room, to learn the pickup and delivery process. If you are not able to make it, but are still interested, please let me

know and I'll make sure that you get paired up with someone who has learned the process, and you'll get some on-the-job training with a partner. Deb Gallinger is also documenting the process, and we'll share that with you, as well.

We'll also be working out a signup schedule (maybe online, via SignUp Genius??) so we all know who is doing pickup/delivery each day.

Thank you for your willingness to help feed those in need, and to make use of food that would otherwise go to waste!

## Passion Play



Hello friends! I've spoken with several of you already, but I'd love to get an official list of people put together for our annual Passion Play this year.

If you are unfamiliar with this event, it is a dramatic presentation of the Passion of Christ using a single narrator, an ensemble of silent actors, and incredibly powerful music. There is zero acting

experience necessary! You only need a desire to tell this powerful story.

Ruth Chatlien is graciously returning as our superb narrator. The ensemble requires approximately 12 people. Ages 16+ are welcome.

As an ensemble actor, you will be dressed in all black with mime makeup. We have 2 rehearsals scheduled for Monday 4/3 & 4/10 from 7-8 pm. The play will be presented on Good Friday at the 7pm service (ensemble to arrive at 5:30 for a final run-thru).

Please let me know if you are available and interested in participating.

If you are on the fence, I guarantee that you will not be disappointed in your decision to be involved! You can reply directly to this email with a "YES!"

Thank you, everyone!  
Samantha Robison

## Appalachia Service Project



### Outreach Opportunity

Come be a part of the effort to make homes "Warmer, Safer, Drier" for people in need in Appalachia. In 2017, we will be traveling to Rainelle, West Virginia to repair and replace homes damaged or destroyed by massive flooding last

June. Trip dates are **April 22 thru April 29, 2017.**

We are getting close to our deadline for committing to the number of people on the trip, so if you are interested in participating, and want further information, please contact a member of last year's ASP team: Mike Bill, Lisa Kleine, Rev. Elizabeth, Dave Schrunk, Tony Waynick, or Dan Whipple



**Sunday's at 9:00 am  
In the education room**

**We have GREAT discussions  
Come join us**

### Rector's Study Groups

The Rector's Study Groups -  
meet **Wednesday** mornings at **10am** and  
**Thursday** evenings at **7pm**.

**Winter:** Accidental Saints: Finding God In  
All The Wrong People by Nadia Bolz-Weber

### Book Club 2017

April - The Marriage of Opposites by  
Alice Hoffman

May - Mrs. Poe by Lynn Cullen

**West - Mon April 3rd @ 7pm,  
East - Mon April 24th @ 6 pm,  
Postesta's**

### Lunch Bunch



**Date:  
Wednesday, 4/26/2017**

## From Our Deacon



Linda Lutter

COMING SOON ... AT ANNUNCIATION! THE LONGEST SERVICE OF THE YEAR! (And a pretty important one!)

Starting Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 pm and ending Saturday, April 15th around 10:00 pm.

This is the service to end all services starting with "Last Supper" dining and foot washing on Thursday, continuing throughout the night with the "Watch" in which someone sits with Jesus until the noon Good Friday service. Continuing Good Friday evening with the 7:00 pm service featuring the Passion Play. Ending with the 8:00 pm Easter Vigil with a reception.

A wonderful 3 days spent totally focusing on our Lord ... what a way to end our Lenten Journey! See you then!

God's Peace and Love,

## From Our Leader of Song

Dent Davidson

### Rehearsing Our Story

Once again we approach that week we call "holy." It's a time brimming over with drama and emotion. It's a time when we willingly suspend belief, for a brief moment, so that we can enter into the sacred story, where we can find insight and new meaning. Ideally this is what we do every single Sunday, but this week is special to us. Time seems to slow or even stop as we ponder the deep meaning of God's plan of salvation; sense is heightened as we bathe one another's feet; as we approach the cross of Christ, and enter into darkness, only to be surprised by light! "Alleluia" enters our lexicon again, after a forty day rest period. This is truly "The Queen of Seasons." The drama of Palm Sunday will pull us into this week of weeks. And it all begins to unfold as we hear of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Maundy Thursday we will share a desert meal and hear the story of the ancient Hebrew Passover before we celebrate the Eucharist and strip the church of adornment. As we faced our own mortality over 6 weeks ago on Ash Wednesday, we encounter the dying of our Lord and Savior on Good Friday, with a special presentation of the Passion Play at the evening service. At the Great Vigil of Easter we gather in that "in between" time. New Fire is struck, and the Exsultet is chanted: "This is the night!" One of the oldest pieces of our liturgy, the Exsultet is believed to be derived from an ancient Hebrew Passover chant. We hear stories of Creation and Exodus and Dry Bones and New Hope. We know that death is not the final word...ever! We go from deep darkness into the light of Resurrection Joy. The organ will thunder, bells will peal, we will joyfully sing our Alleluias once again, and we will celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter that night. (Be sure to bring your



**Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**Location:** Lunch gathering for women of the parish at 1 pm. Location will rotate and date will be 4th Wed of each month. For reservations contact Jane Schaefer at 224-372-7940 or at [cs.is@comcast.net](mailto:cs.is@comcast.net)



Great food this past month - come join us!

## Outreach Opportunities

### Feed My Starving Children

for I was  
**hungry**  
and you  
gave me food...  
Matthew 25:35

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of feeding the hungry please join us. Mark your Calendars ... Here are the Saturday dates,

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

**+April 29, 2016**

### Last Saturday every Month

God's Peace and Blessings!  
After the packing session for FMSC, Sat Dec 31 New Years Eve, there will be a New Years Eve Party for all the people who attend. The party will be just down the street from FMSC @ Deacon Linda's house. Please let her know if you are planning to volunteer that Sat and come to the party afterward.  
[lindalutter@hotmail.com](mailto:lindalutter@hotmail.com) or  
text/call @ 847-340-3253





children...in pajamas, if necessary. This is something they should NEVER miss!)

On Sunday we greet the Risen Lord with more joy and pageantry. Favorite Easter Hymns will be on tap, and music will include trumpeters Dave Hibbard and Ron O'Neil accompanying the choir on a spirited anthem by J.S. Bach. And you might just be surprised at how the Gospel unfolds that morning.

Come take part in the story...the drama...the ancient prayer made new by a God who is making us, and all things, new again!



## From Our Rector



Elizabeth Molitors

I recently downloaded a new app for my phone, intended to help manage email. It works by organizing messages by topic or by sender, allowing me to see, at a glance, the 17 already-read emails that were exchanged 3 ½ years ago about a meeting that has long since happened, and so it's probably o.k. to discard them from that folder where I'd tucked them away for safe keeping, just in case. I think of it as a spring-cleaning tool for my electronic devices.

And just like the spring-cleaning you might do in your home, this app has not only helped me clean out a bunch of stuff that I no longer needed, but it's also brought to light some treasures that I'd tucked away, and forgotten that I had.

Like this - a poem sent to me a few years ago by a friend and colleague who knows I am always on the lookout for all things Annunciation related. The poem is by Denise Levertov.

Annunciation

*'Hail, space for the uncontained God'  
From the Agathistos Hymn,  
Greece, VIc*

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,  
almost always a lectern, a book; always  
the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,  
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,  
whom she acknowledges, a guest.

But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions  
courage.

The engendering Spirit  
did not enter her without consent.  
God waited.

She was free

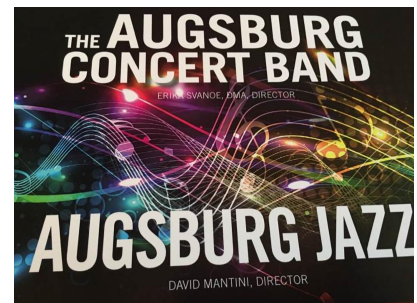


Our next PADS meal will be  
**Friday, April 21th.**

We will begin cooking at 2:00 in the church kitchen. Sign-up sheets are posted on the PADS easel for donations to contribute to this meal, along with cooking, delivering or serving. Thank you! See you in the kitchen!

~ Cheri Johnson

## RECAP



## Vestry Retreat



to accept or to refuse, choice  
integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations  
of one sort or another  
in most lives?

Some unwillingly  
undertake great destinies,  
enact them in sullen pride,  
uncomprehending.  
More often  
those moments  
when roads of light and storm  
open from darkness in a man or woman,  
are turned away from

in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair  
and with relief.  
Ordinary lives continue.

God does not smite them.  
But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, slept  
like any other child-but unlike others,  
wept only for pity, laughed  
in joy not triumph.  
Compassion and intelligence  
fused in her, indivisible.

Called to a destiny more momentous  
than any in all of Time,  
she did not quail,  
only asked  
a simple, 'How can this be?'  
and gravely, courteously,  
took to heart the angel's reply,  
the astounding ministry she was offered:

to bear in her womb  
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry  
in hidden, finite inwardness,  
nine months of Eternity; to contain  
in slender vase of being,  
the sum of power-  
in narrow flesh,  
the sum of light.

Then bring to birth,  
push out into air, a Man-child  
needing, like any other,  
milk and love-

but who was God.

This was the moment no one speaks of,  
when she could still refuse.

A breath unbreathed,  
Spirit,



### *BSA 627 Court of Honor*



suspended,  
waiting.

She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,'  
Nor, 'I have not the strength.'  
She did not submit with gritted teeth,  
raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,  
consent illumined her.  
The room filled with its light,  
the lily glowed in it,  
and the iridescent wings.

Consent,  
courage unparalleled,  
opened her utterly.

In these last days of Lent, may we use the energy of the season and the lengthening hours of light to search out the shadowed, dark spaces of our lives, discarding the clutter and "stuff" we no longer need or which has outlived its usefulness, to make room for resurrection and renewal, new (or perhaps long-buried) treasures that bring joy and hope and life.

## From Our Seminarian

Shay Craig



There are so many words during Easter season, so many stories we tell about Jesus' final days and about the Israelites preparing for the first Passover. We have litanies and dramas and extra words in our services and extra services... So many words around Easter.

But you know what we never talk about? The disciples of Jesus on Saturday morning... they have got to be terrified.

Imagine: its Saturday morning, the person they believed to be the Messiah is dead, everything they thought they knew appears to be wrong.

They have been publicly in the company of a known insurgent and he has been murdered and now they are guilty by association. The smartest thing for them to do now is to disappear into the woodwork, keep a low profile and hope the Roman law forgets all about them.

So, they go home. Take Simon-called-Peter and Andrew, for example. The ones who were called to be fishers of men and dropped their nets to follow Jesus. Imagine the scene when they walk into their mother's kitchen on Saturday morning.

She will be furious! First of all: They. Look. Shocking. They have been walking all over the region in sandals, sleeping in what they were wearing, living on loaves and fishes and there is no mention of them bathing in the gospels. Their hair is long, they have scraggly beards, they are filthy and reed thin. She plops them both down at the table and starts to make gigantic plates of food for them, all the time railing at them in the universally recognizable tenor of a mother enraged at her sons.

"You just had to throw in with him, didn't you? You just had to go traipsing around the Galilee with Mary's boy, talking crazy about the messiah and thumbing your nose at the Roman guards. And now look at you! What have you got to show for it? Your leader is gone - dead! And you're filthy and stinky and broke and hungry and the guards are looking for you and *where are your father's nets*, young

men! Do you know how long it took us to save up for new nets?  
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?"

Yes, Saturday would be a very long and hard day for the disciples.  
But it would also be a transformational day for them.

All they can do is sit with themselves. All they can do is review in their minds what happened with Jesus, what they saw, what he said, what they felt, what they knew... what they believe. It's a long day, a day of reflection and self-doubt, of criticism and exploration.

They are ruminating. They are resting. They are processing.

This time when Jesus is in the tomb is also a time of rest and stillness for those of us who follow him now. A time to be still, to reflect.

What do you know? What has spoken to you? What have you seen?

What do you believe?

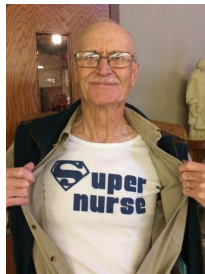
In my little internal drama, I think the boys come back in from their bath and dinner is on the table. They have spent this horrible day in reflection and now they have an answer for their mother's question, "What were you thinking?"

Their answer is, "We were thinking that God is good. That God does not want injustice and cruelty and misery for God's people. That God sent his Son to us - yes, his Son - and everything we experienced and everything we know and everything we feel tells us that Jesus was the Christ, that God loves us and that this story is not over. The question, Mother, is not "what were we thinking" but "what do we believe?"

This year, as in every year, we will hold a vigil at Annunciation. That space, that time when we pray and reflect and anticipate the coming of the Lord, that is our tomb time. I hope you will join me in using that time as the disciples doubtless did, to be humble, to be still, to reflect, and to discover anew or for the first time, what it is that you really believe.

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Dale Sanders, RN



Want to Live Longer?

1. GO TO CHURCH ! Attending religious services at least once a week can add between 4 and 14 years to life expectancy. Could this be a plus for recruiting new members?

2. LAUGH Laughter really is the best medicine, helping to reduce stress, boost the immune system, reduce pain, and improve blood flow to the brain. Researchers report that laughter has the same effect on blood vessels as exercise. The release of endorphins by laughing in one of the safe ways to a great feeling. Have you heard the one about..... Dale

**And when we laugh in church.....well, that's double the benefit!!**

Elizabeth

## From Our Sr. Warden

Deb Gallinger

After a few weeks away in the south, I have returned home. The warmth and relaxation of Florida life is definitely appealing but the Illinois draw is strong. While I was gone I missed the Augsburg concert and service, although I was able to watch the performances



on Facebook. I missed the Annunciation potluck, the end of the book study, the beginning of the Lenten program, the Sojourners gathering, and book club meetings, and, most important, I was not able to attend our Sunday services. I am home in time to participate in the remaining Lenten programs, experience Holy week and Easter worship with my parish family and enjoy the fellowship while contributing to a worthy cause at the upcoming Bunko night. I need to catch up on my reading for the book club and I am tackling my work on my prayer shawls for the knitting group. And I am resuming enthusiastically all of my work for the vestry.



Annunciation has a wide variety of outreach, worship and fellowship activities but I really missed the warm, caring and loving relationships I have in our parish family. I am so happy to see everyone again, to find out how they are, to hear what they have been up to, and to enjoy their company. I was reminded what a loving, caring community we are and how much I value and appreciate the people I am lucky enough to know here at Annunciation. I really believe we share strong caring and supportive bonds among our parishioners and I hope we can do everything we can to strengthen these bonds with each other and share our warmth and hospitality with everyone we meet.

See you on Sundays!

Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church,  
5725 Stearns School Road, Gurnee, IL 60031

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