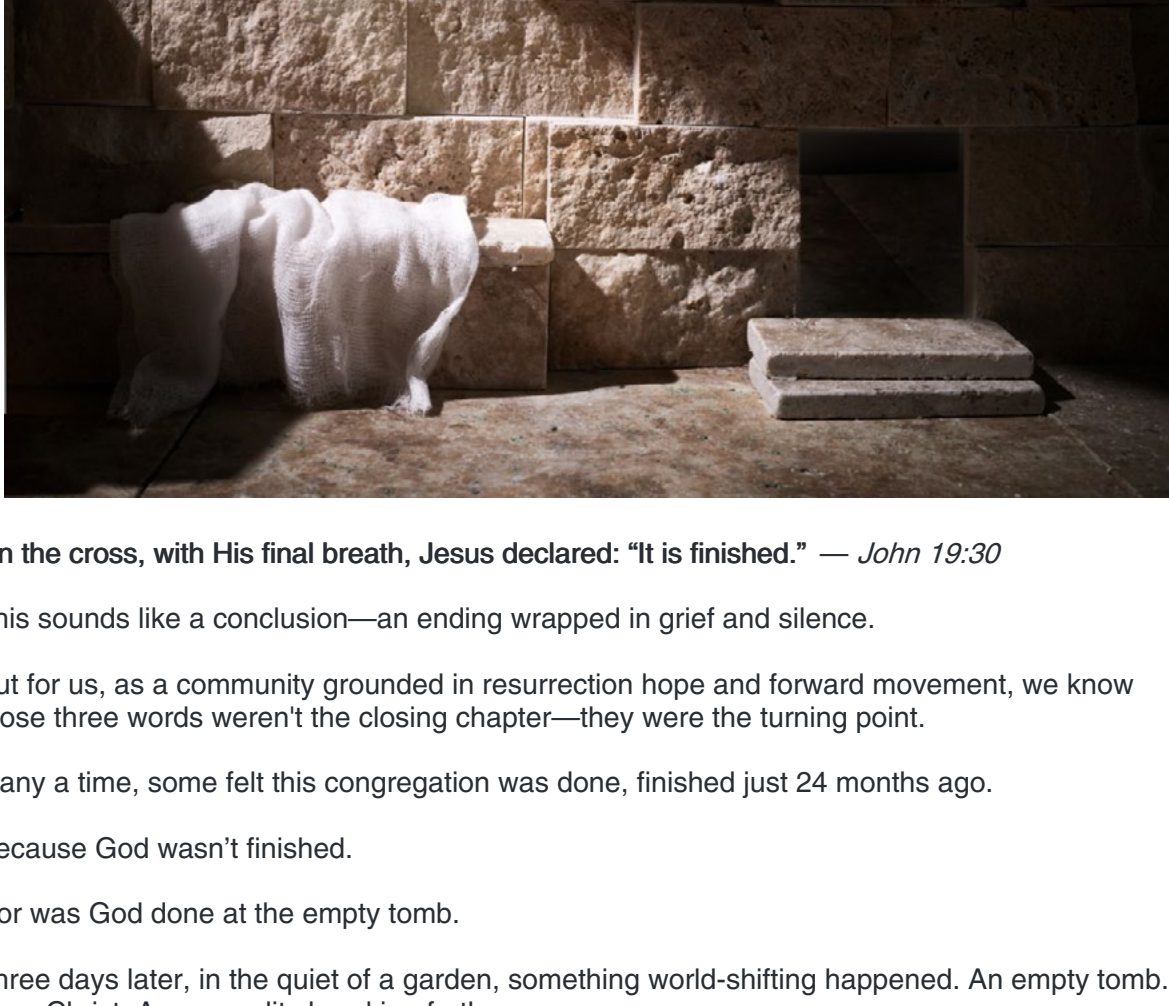




April 18, 2025

The End That Sparked a New Beginning



On the cross, with His final breath, Jesus declared: "It is finished." — *John 19:30*

This sounds like a conclusion—an ending wrapped in grief and silence.

But for us, as a community grounded in resurrection hope and forward movement, we know those three words weren't the closing chapter—they were the turning point.

Many a time, some felt this congregation was done, finished just 24 months ago.

Because God wasn't finished.

Nor was God done at the empty tomb.

Three days later, in the quiet of a garden, something world-shifting happened. An empty tomb. A risen Christ. A new reality breaking forth.

"He is not here; He has been raised." — *Matthew 28:6*

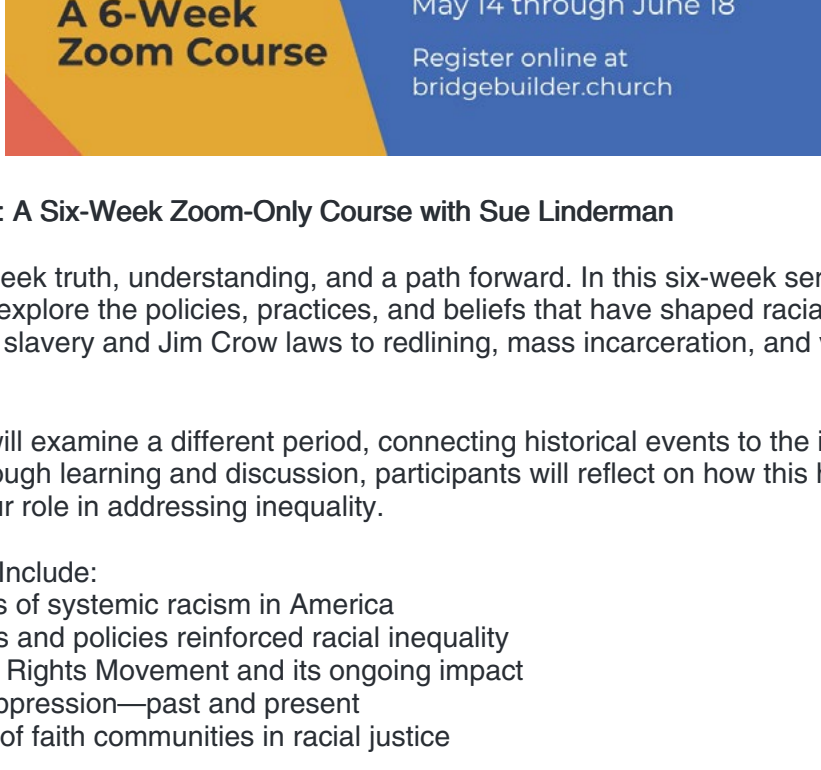
This is the heartbeat of who we are. Not just a church that remembers the resurrection, but a church that lives it—every day, in bold and beautiful ways. We are a people shaped by resurrection power, energized by radical grace, and committed to co-creating with God a more just, inclusive, and love-filled world.

Because Jesus lives, we live with purpose. Because love conquered death, we dare to believe that new beginnings are always possible. In a world hungry for hope, we rise as resurrection people—curious, creative, compassionate—ready to reflect the light of Christ in new and transformative ways.

The story didn't end at the cross. It started there.
And it's still being written—through us in Southern Delaware.

Peace,
Pastor Karis

Racism in America – The History We Didn't Learn in School



Bridge Building: A Six-Week Zoom-Only Course with Sue Linderman

Join us as we seek truth, understanding, and a path forward. In this six-week series, Sue Linderman will explore the policies, practices, and beliefs that have shaped racial disparities in America—from slavery and Jim Crow laws to redlining, mass incarceration, and voter suppression.

Each session will examine a different period, connecting historical events to the inequities we see today. Through learning and discussion, participants will reflect on how this history informs our faith and our role in addressing inequality.

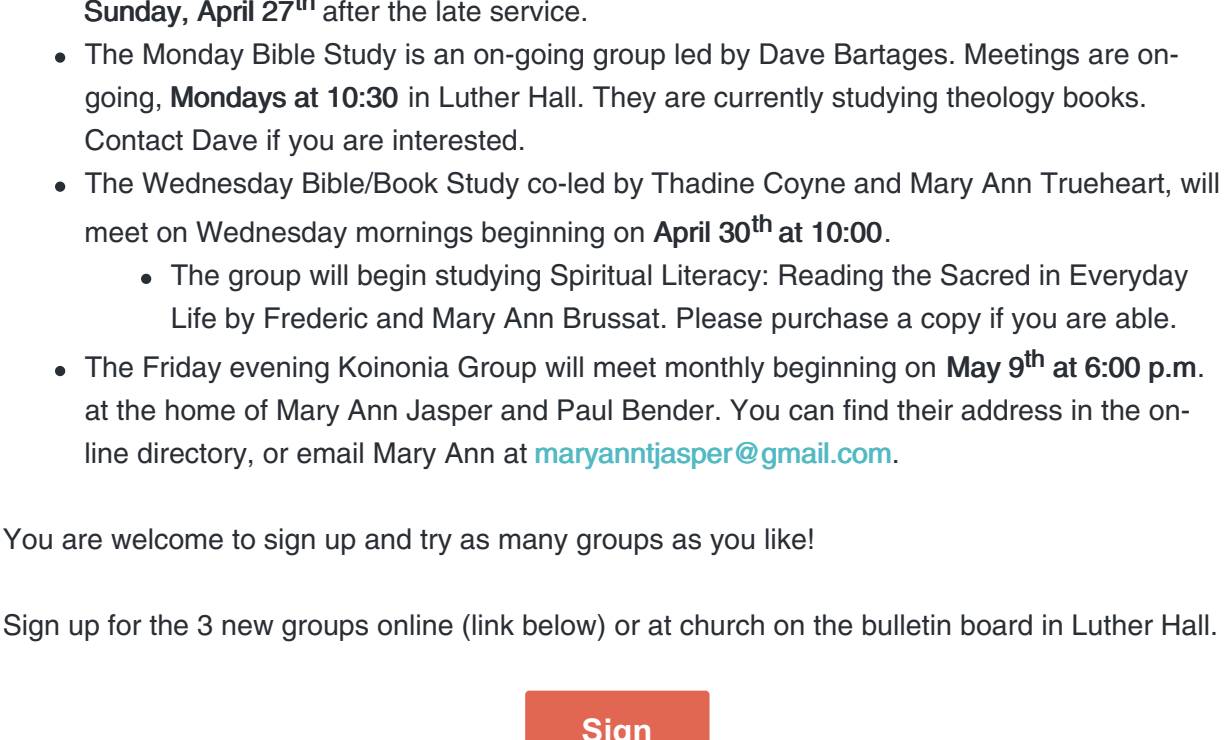
Course Topics Include:

- The roots of systemic racism in America
- How laws and policies reinforced racial inequality
- The Civil Rights Movement and its ongoing impact
- Voter suppression—past and present
- The role of faith communities in racial justice

The class will take place on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning on May 14.

[Register Now](#)

Small Group Opportunities: Connect, Study, and Grow Together



Small Group Updates

- The Sunday Sermon discussion Group, led by Sandy Cosentino will begin meeting on **Sunday, April 27th** after the late service.
- The Monday Bible Study is an on-going group led by Dave Bartages. Meetings are on-going, **Mondays at 10:30** in Luther Hall. They are currently studying theology books. Contact Dave if you are interested.
- The Wednesday Bible/Book Study co-led by Thadine Coyne and Mary Ann Trueheart, will meet on Wednesday mornings beginning on **April 30th at 10:00**.
 - The group will begin studying *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat. Please purchase a copy if you are able.
- The Friday evening Koinonia Group will meet monthly beginning on **May 9th at 6:00 p.m.** at the home of Mary Ann Jasper and Paul Bender. You can find their address in the on-line directory, or email Mary Ann at maryanntjasper@gmail.com.

You are welcome to sign up and try as many groups as you like!

Sign up for the 3 new groups online (link below) or at church on the bulletin board in Luther Hall.

[Sign Up](#)

New Bridge Builder & Friend Recognition on Easter Sunday!

On Sunday, April 20, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, Community Lutheran will welcome and celebrate our new Bridge Builders and friends of Community.

Join us for this special occasion as we embrace new faces and strengthen our bonds in faith.

Reach out to Pastor at Pastor@bridgebuilder.church, and we'll make sure you're celebrated this Easter!

[E-mail Pastor](#)

What's Happening at Community

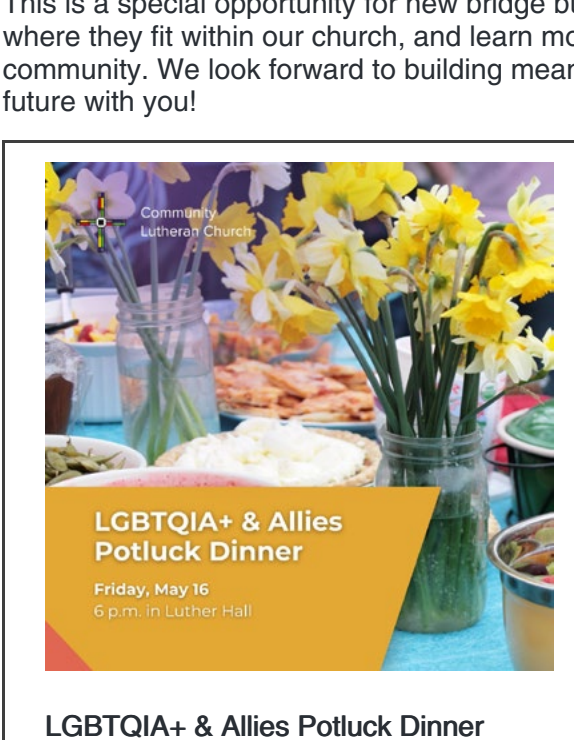
ESL Ministry Update

The first half of class was spent around the table, where the teachers asked the students what words or phrases they had heard in the past week that were difficult for them to understand.

Some of the students asked about phrases that English speakers used as slang: "*Waccha want?*", "*Howya doin'?*", or "*Wazup?*". Other challenges were English words such as "beach", "hill", and "but" that sounded similar to other impolite English words. We all had a good laugh over these words!

Students with children in school asked about words and phrases their kids were bringing home from the playground. Some were OK, and some were not.

The second half of class was spent one-on-one with teachers and students working on vocabulary and pronunciation.



LGBTQIA+ & Allies Potluck Dinner

Friday, May 16
6:00 p.m.
Luther Hall

Join us for a potluck dinner as LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies come together to support one another and plan for June Pride celebrations. All are welcome!

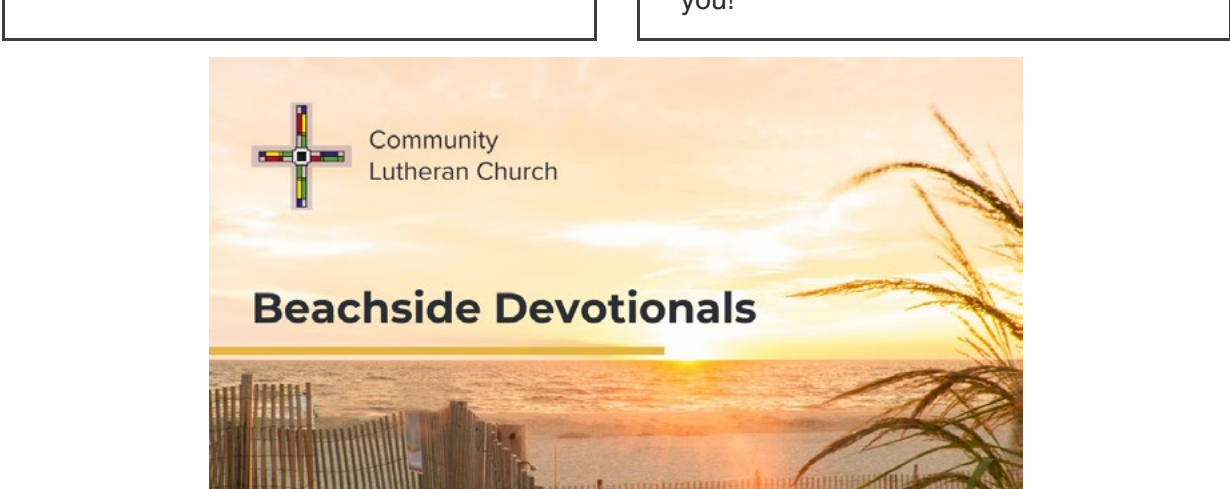


- Our last class for the season will be on **May 22**.
- We will resume classes on **Sept. 4**.



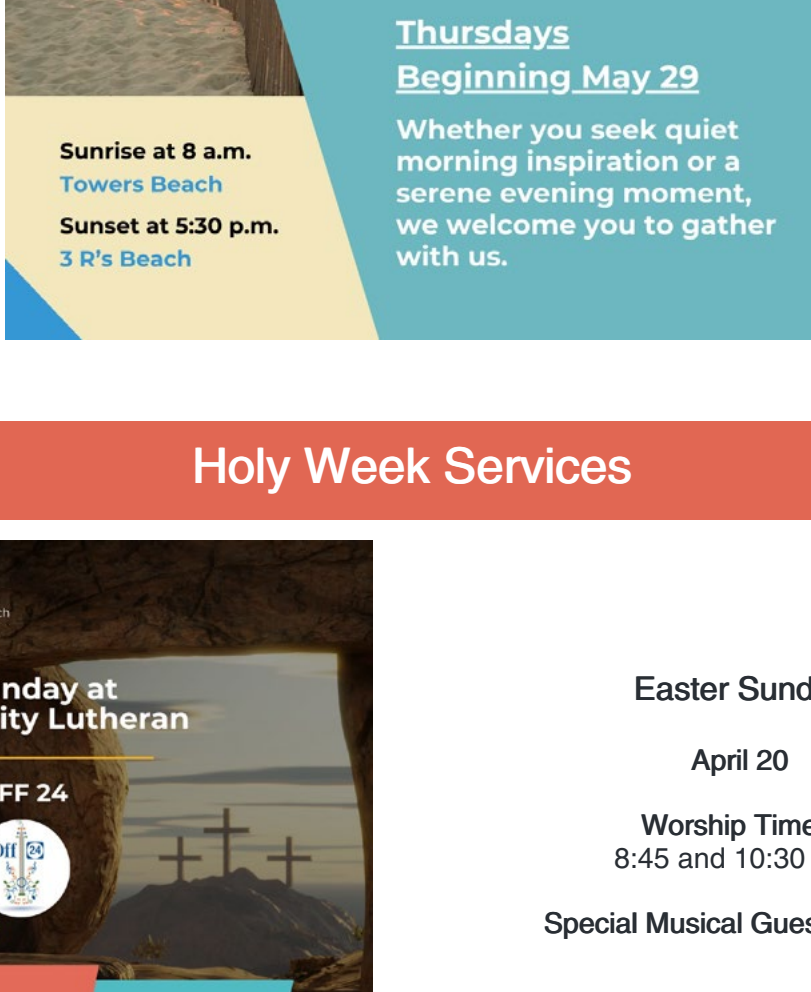
Are you ready to connect and grow with Community?

Join us on May 18, immediately after the late worship service, for the Bridge Builder Luncheon. This is a special opportunity for new bridge builders to meet our ministry team leaders, explore where they fit within our church, and learn more about the exciting trajectory of our faith community. We look forward to building meaningful relationships and sharing our vision for the future with you!

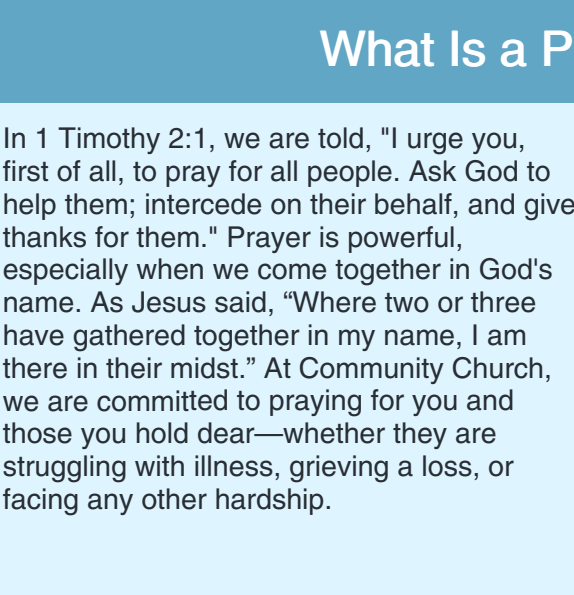


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Holy Week Services



Easter Sunday

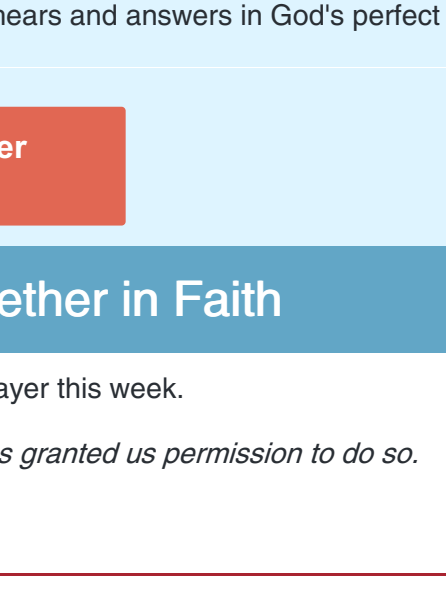
April 20

Worship Times:
8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Special Musical Guests: Off 24

What Is a Prayer Request?

In 1 Timothy 2:1, we are told, "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them." Prayer is powerful, especially when we come together in God's name. As Jesus said, "Where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst." At Community Church, we are committed to praying for you and those you hold dear—whether they are struggling with illness, grieving a loss, or facing any other hardship.



To ensure privacy, we will only include first names in prayer requests, though you are welcome to share your relationship to the person being prayed for. We also ask that you refrain from sharing personal details about others without their consent.

How Can We Pray for You?

If you would like to submit a prayer request for yourself or a loved one, please contact tech.clc.30897@gmail.com.

We are here to support you in prayer, trusting that God hears and answers in God's perfect timing.

[Submit a Prayer Request](#)

Prayer Requests: Together in Faith

No requests this week. Continue to lift one another in prayer this week.

Each person mentioned in this newsletter publication has granted us permission to do so.

Team Leaders

Please submit e-newsletter articles every Tuesday at noon for publication each Friday.

Articles should be emailed to tech.clc.30897@gmail.com.