

# CHURCH CONNECTIONS

*Messages for God's People*

Morgan United Methodist | St. John's Lutheran | St. Luke's Lutheran  
on the web at [luthadist.webstarts.com](http://luthadist.webstarts.com) and [facebook.com/stjohnmorgan](https://facebook.com/stjohnmorgan)

## Worship Times

Worship times for April are:

8:15 St. Luke's

9:30 St. John's

11:00 MUMC

Worship times for May, June, and July are:

8:15 MUMC

9:30 St. Luke's

11:00 St. John's

## Holy Week

**Maundy Thurs. April 2 at St. John's**

The Good News is Even Judas Gets His Feet  
Washed

**Good Fri. April 3 at MUMC**

The Good News is Revealed Through  
Nonviolence

## Upcoming Special Worships

There are several times in the coming months that we will gather as a full parish for Sunday worship. Here are those dates at places.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
April 12	9:30	MUMC
May 10	9:30	St. Luke's
May 17	9:30	St. John's
June 21	9:30	Vernon Pk. Morgan
July 26	11:00	St. Luke's lawn

## Colors on the Altar

As we begin April it has become Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, when we remember and contemplate Christ's suffering and death. The color on the altar remains purple as we begin this week but then on Maundy Thursday, the night of his betrayal and arrest we remove all paraments and fixtures from the altar and the front of the church as a sign of mourning as Jesus enters his suffering for us. Good Friday maintains the stark picture of mourning as the altar is left bare.

As we celebrate Christ being raised from the dead on Easter morning we cover the altar with white, a color of celebration and a reminder of Christ's presence with us always. Easter is not just one Sunday, the season of Easter is seven Sundays long, so white remains on the color until the middle of May.

## Dates for Communion

Communion will be offered on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at St. John's.

The Morgan United Methodist Church will gather at the Lord's Table on April 5th.

St. John's and St. Luke's will celebrate Communion on April 5th and 19th.

## Ushers for April

**Morgan United Methodist Church:**  
Josh Sell

## Council Meetings

St. Luke's Council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00 PM.

The Morgan United Methodist Admin. Council will meet April 15th at 7:00 PM

## Parish Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please wish these people a happy birthday and anniversary as they celebrate another year of living and loving in God's world.

### St. Luke's

Kari Zempel 9th, Derek Marlow 13th, Brent Sandmann 19th, Jamie Sander 20th, Patrick Wendinger 21st, Craig Lund 24th, Sharla Sander 24th, Amanda Collogan 24th, Brittany Wendinger 24th and Sandy Nestande 28th.

### St. John's

Chase Schiller 17th, Shaylee Schiller 19th, and Dwight Bluhm 26th.

### Anniversaries:

Bob and Marie Fischer 12th (1975)  
Chad and Melanie Danielson 24th (2004)

### MUMC

Betty Johnson 12th, Rick Rivera 14th, and Issac Potter 18th.

### Anniversaries:

Jack and Char Carlson 8th (1989)  
David and Kristina Janke 13th (2002)

## Devos at the Depot

Take a moment away from the rush of the week to join with friends and neighbors in singing familiar songs, hearing some good news and finding meaning in it all! We start around 6:30, or whenever you can join us. The Depot has tacos available for purchase. We will meet **April 21st** for this lighthearted gathering. Bring a friend!

## Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study will not meet in the month of April. The next meeting will be Tuesday May 5th at 7:30 in the St. John's basement.

## Prayer Concerns

Please continue to pray for the members of our congregations and those we know that are in need. Brent Sandmann, Todd Sherman, Landen Grejtek, Irene Landgraff, Carl Lund, Lori Buchanan, Dave Munsell, Diane Larson, Dick and Jeri Forbrook, Sandy Schroeder, Roger Voelz, Mark Winterfeldt, Jim Nielsen, Kathy Potter, Dee Johnson, Bob Mithun, Donna Plotz, Glen Seifert.

## From the Pastor's Desk

How are your preparations for Easter coming? I know it's not Christmas, but still there may be many things to take care of before Easter Sunday arrives. The meal is probably not as elaborate as it is at Christmas but someone has to take care of the ham and make the potato salad and the Easter baskets need to be filled. Then when do you dye the eggs? We have normally done them in the afternoon on Good Friday which means there have been several

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times that I have gone to church with very colorful fingers.

There is also figuring out where to have an Easter egg hunt. Who gets to participate and who does the hiding? Can we have it outside? What is the weather going to be like?

We seek to fill the day with family, friends and activities to celebrate. As we do so it is ironic that what we celebrate is empty.

The tomb is empty. That may not come as much of a shock to us because we have heard the story many times but on that first Easter morning what would have that been like?

In the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb early in the morning by herself. She discovers the tomb empty and assumes the worst. Someone has come and taken Jesus' body and now even the last remembrance of who he was has been taken away. That feeling of emptiness, that everything was gone had to be heavy and filled with so many emotions. So much so that after telling two of the disciples she comes back to the tomb just to cry. There is seemingly nothing left. Mary Magdalene's life is empty.

But in order to be filled up it first had to be empty. As she weeps by the empty tomb suddenly the impossible happens. She encounters the very one that she knew was gone. Jesus meets her there at the empty tomb to fill Mary up more than she knew was possible. It is because of the empty tomb that she is now filled with life beyond understanding.

It is the empty tomb that brings us new life. It is because Jesus rose from the dead that gives us victory over the very place that Mary went to look for him. Because Jesus is alive we can celebrate this Easter and every day!

God's Peace, Pr. Lowell

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[St. Luke's Lutheran](#)



[Morgan United Methodist](#)



# April

## Morgan United Methodist St. John's Lutheran & St. Luke's Lutheran

2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
				7:00 Maundy Thursday worship at St. John's	7:00 Good Friday Worship at MUMC	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<u>Easter Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC	Pr. Lowell on Vacation	Pr. Lowell on Vacation	Pr. Lowell on Vacation	Pr. Lowell on Vacation	Pr. Lowell on Vacation	Pr. Lowell on Vacation
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<u>Worship</u> 9:30 Joint Worship at MUMC	Pr. Lowell on Vacation	7:00 St. Luke's Council Meeting	7:00 MUMC Admin. Council Meeting			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC	Newsletter items due	6:30 Devos at the Depot at Franklin Depot				
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC						

Return Service Requested  
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MORGAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF MORGAN  
ST. LUKE LUTHERAN OF FRANKLIN



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