



# Arlington Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Lights From the Heights” - Newsletter

April 2026



## The Passion Window Holy Week

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

Noon Service - Sanctuary

Good Friday - 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran

Easter Morning - 9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

Come Celebrate our Risen Lord!

Easter Morning

April 5, 2026

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Rose Window and  
The Christ Blessing Window





## From Pastor Walter Still - April 2026

**‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’**

One of my greatest experiences of Easter happened when I was studying “The Bible and the Land” during a sabbatical in the Holy Land. The group had shared many experiences from the stories of the Old and New Testament as well as the “living stones--” the incredible people that live on the land today. The course was coming to an end, and the focus was on Jesus’ final days in Jerusalem—we now call “Holy Week” and includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Easter Monday. We moved among holy sites, singing, praying, reading and exploring scripture, archaeology and legend. The time was overwhelming and faith enrichening!

Among the many celebrations of Holy Week is one that begins at sundown on Saturday evening in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. This massive church was begun in the fourth century and built over Calvary, where Jesus was crucified, and the tomb where he was raised from death to Easter. The gathering on Saturday night is the first service of Easter and is centered around the Edicule—the structure that has been carved from the hillside around the tomb given by Joseph of Arimathea for Jesus’ body. One can still enter this holy space, carefully guarded by monks directing people to “pray and move out for others.”

The teacher who curated the service had experienced it many times. He shared that people gathered as evening approached. The church was dark as all the lights and candles had been extinguished on Good Friday. Chants grew from the crowds such as “Come, Lord Jesus” in the many languages of the people. The chants intensified as the waiting extended to midnight. There was eventually movement as a procession of clergy in somber black vestments moved toward the Edicule. Just before the Orthodox Patriarch was about to enter the tomb, he was searched as a police officer would for contraband. The chanting increased...the Patriarch entered the dark tomb of Jesus...people’s anticipation increased...they chanted...then, there was a speck of light...it sparked the crowd to shout “Christ is risen! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!” Soon the new light was coming from everyone’s candles, and the brightness of Christ’s victory was triumphant. Designated teams took the light of a burning candle to area churches and the airport as the light was taken around the world.

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The light of Christ was transforming the world! A triumphant message!

The professor was filled with the triumph of the story of the light of Christ from the Great Vigil of Easter in Jerusalem. I was too! But...I had to ask a question “If the candles in the tomb had been extinguished on Good Friday and Patriarch was searched that he had no matches....how did he light the candle?” The professor thought, and then looked at me and said “If you had been there, you wouldn’t ask that question.” I heard the answer! Now I had new appreciation for the women as Jesus appeared to them Easter morning—and appears to you! Christ is Risen!

We are there, as Jesus appears to us, NOW!

Alleluia!

Pr Walter+

Click on this link to view pictures and learn more about the new fire of Easter in Jerusalem:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2025/4/20/thousands-gather-for-centuries-old-holy-fire-ceremony-in-jerusalem>



Easter Memorial Garden 2025

## THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN!

With your generous donations we once again will create a beautiful Easter Memorial Garden in memory of loved ones who have gone before us and honoring others who share in our love and faith of :

“Trusting in the Resurrection” .

*“Lord, we thank You for the gift of Your Son and the victory of His resurrection. May our hearts be filled with gratitude, our lives with compassion, and our days with the joy of Your presence. Amen. “*

## PATH OF DISCERNMENT - CONGREGATION FORUM - MARCH 22

Thank you everyone who attended the forum on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We especially want to thank Pastor Walter Still, Deacon Krista Lind from the St. Paul Area Synod, and the Congregation Council leaders Paul Kowitz, Ryan Henk, Pam Wiehe and Barb Schmidt in leading the discussions. We also thank you for listening and sharing your concerns on this Path of Discernment. As I write this summary I am reminded of the Scripture reading Ecclesiastes 3 - *A Time for Everything*. (The words printed in **red** are my words and please think and add your own words)

**“There is a special time for everything. There is a time for everything that happens under heaven.** *And the Lord walks with us during these times.*

**<sup>2</sup>There is a time to be born, and a time to die;** *We were born in 1909 and we will come to rest - and the Lord has been and will be with us.*

**a time to plant, and a time to pick what is planted.** *We have planted many seeds in our members, in our neighborhood, in our city and the Lord has been there and He is here in our harvest.*

**<sup>3</sup>There is a time to kill, and a time to heal;** *We have “killed” some dreams and hopes but the Lord has been there and is here healing us .*

**a time to break down, and a time to build up.** *There have been and will be breakdowns over the months ahead but there will also be a time for us to build up all that AHLC stood and stands for. And the Lord is with us.*

**<sup>4</sup>There is a time to cry, and a time to laugh;** *We will cry, no doubt about that, but we too will laugh. And the Lord will be with us.*

**a time to have sorrow, and a time to dance.** *We have sorrow and the Lord is with us, holding us. We will dance and the Lord will be dancing with us.*

**<sup>5</sup>There is a time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones;** *Some stones have been tossed and we will gather them and the Lord is with us.*

**a time to kiss, and a time to turn from kissing.** *We will kiss and show our signs of love for one another and there will be times when we will turn away. But the Lord is with us.*

**<sup>6</sup>There is a time to try to find, and a time to lose;** *We are finding the treasures of this church and we will mourn the loss of those treasures, but the Lord is with us.*

**a time to keep, and a time to throw away.** *We will seek what to keep and we will weep over what we throw away. But it is good and the Lord is with us.*

**<sup>7</sup>There is a time to tear apart, and a time to sew together;** *We will tear apart because of the emotional ties of these times, but will will come together in celebration of all the things we have done together and the Lord is with us.*

**a time to be quiet, and a time to speak.** *We have been quiet and in that quietness we are praying and listening and in our time of speaking we too are praying and listening. And the Lord is with us.*

**There is a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.** *These are our struggles in the next few months, love those that are leading us, hate the situation,. We are at war with the decisions that need to be made and we hope to find Peace. And the Lord is with us!*

We know that this is a difficult time for all of us.

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## MARCH CONGREGATION FORUM CONTINUED

Just as it was in scripture we find our church in a time of transition, on a Path of Discernment.

We have tasked our Congregation Council to make difficult decisions. They are working hard on these decisions. We pray together, we talk and most importantly, we listen.

At the March Forum - Deacon Krista Lind said that the St. Paul Area Synod will work with us on this Path of Discernment. She, as well as Bishop Lull and Pastor Joe Lees have been meeting with the council and other leaders of our church over the past several months and they continue to pray for our congregation.

Council members gave information on four focal points:

Transition Dates; Finding A Place – “Going as a Group”; Alley Shoppe; and Financial Legacy. These points were presented for discussion, talking points, a chance for the congregation to hear and pray about.

**Transition Dates - Ryan Henk** - It was presented that 2026 would be the transition time for our church. This would include finalizing the sale of the building. Paul and Mary Kowitz and Jim Persoon met with House of Praise on Sunday, during the forum and then Barb Schmidt and Pastor Still joined us. They informed us of some complications with the appraisal and are working through them. They still want to proceed with the sale. Ryan talked about the financial reasons to look at 2026 as the transition period, as well as the legal things that need to be completed. A revised budget once the sale goes through will need to be adopted by the congregation.

**Finding a Place - “Going Together” Barb Schmidt** Spoke on being family and moving our family to another church that would support the mission of AHLC - A Beacon for the East Side of St. Paul. Some variables when considering a church would be: a stable staff and congregation, a facility in good shape, a great music program, bible studies, homebound/shut-in ministry program, and an endowment that could nurture new ministry.

**Alley Shoppe - Pam Wiehe** - A faith-filled ministry of AH, develop a transition team with Alley Shoppe leadership to develop a plan that could best enhance its vitality. Whether with House of Praise, another church, or remaining in this location under our Post-Closing Purchase Agreement, Alley Shoppe is a vital ministry of this congregation and neighborhood.

## MARCH CONGREGATION FORUM CONTINUED

**Financial Legacy Plan - Barb Schmidt** - discussion around the ministry stories (baptisms, confirmations, pastors birthed, ministry partners) as well as the financial legacy we hope to leave. A new annual budget will need to be developed once the sale of the building is finalized. Profits from the sale and funds remaining in the MIF/Ogren funds would be part of the financial legacy as well as operational needs to see us through. Discussion on financial support for Alley Shoppe, Tanzania, AH East Side Endowment, were introduced.

We know that there is a lot of questions and work yet to do. We will have a forum again on April 26th. We ask that you continue to pray for the Lord's guidance through our decision making process, for our leadership team, for House of Praise as we work with them to complete the sale of the building, and for our members as we transition into "What's Nex?" for us.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Hospitality
April 5	Dana Nelson Mary Kowitz	Janine Almquist Dana Nelson Kathy Brackey	David Almquist Tom Brackey	Easter Sunday
April 12	Diane Allmendinger Cheryl Hollman	Elaine & Charles Rohrbach	David Almquist Wayne Hansen	Kathy Brackey Mary Kowitz
April 19	Barb Schmidt Jim Persoon	Jim Persoon Barb Schmidt	Florence R David Almquist	Jon & Karen Helgason Florence Rasmusson
April 26	Valerie and Orv Osmundson	Valerie and Orv Osmundson	Elaine & Charles Rohrbach David Almquist	Cheryl Hollman

## SCRIP CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE

**We have Scrip cards available in the office .** Stop by and see Mary or Chris to pick up cards that you might need for Easter Basket gifts. We also have an order form in the office for those cards that we might not have in stock right now. They usually arrive here within a week.

# LET'S CELEBRATE!



## April Birthdays

Charles Rorhbach	April 4
Cynthia Young	April 6
Kenneth Wagner	April 9
John Ibach	April 15
Alyssa Ebert	April 15
Gary Clark	April 19
Cindie Peterson	April 20
Florence Rasmusson	April 24
Becky Grace	April 24
Michael Daley	April 28

## April Anniversaries

Koreen and Richard Pedginski	April 4
Charles and Elaine Rorhbach	April 5
Marion and Sven Anderson	April 10
Mark and Amy Adams-Westin	April 22
Gary and Deb Gray	April 28
David and Vicki O'Connor	April 29
Julie and Richard Anderson	April 30



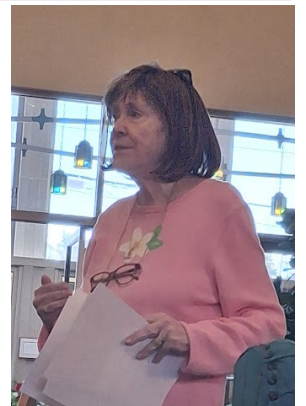
## THANK YOU! IT MEANT SO MUCH!

Thank you to Valerie Osmundson for leading our Mid-Week Lenten Scripture study on the "Seven Last Words". We appreciate your love of scripture and your willingness in sharing it with all of us.



Thank you to Barb Rossow for your keyboard expertise during our Mid-Week Lenten Services.

Also a big thank you to Cheryl Hollman and Florence Rasmusson for the tasty soup and treats on Wednesdays. YUMMY!



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your generosity of spirit and money makes all that we are as a church and a community possible. Please consider making an online donation by filling in the form found on our website. Your contribution will be processed by our secure payment center.

You may also mail your donation by cash or check, payable to:  
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church- 1115 Greenbrier Street - St. Paul, MN 55106.

**Thank you for your support!!**

### Financial Report Card

	2026		2025	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<i>February</i>	\$ 38,573.89	\$ 46,720.59	\$ 81,475.25	\$ 101,161.76
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<i>February</i>	\$ 59,436.81	\$ 76,967.73	\$ 46,968.08	\$ 86,993.20
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	\$ (20,862.92)	\$ (30,247.14)	\$ 34,507.17	\$ 14,168.56

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Alley Shoppe Volunteers, Mondays and Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.

**Alley Shoppe Clients - Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. - 1:00p.m.**

Alley Shoppe Donations - Mondays and Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - noon

Romeo Breakfast - Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. Perkins County Road D & WB Avenue

- April 1      April Fool's Day
- April 2      Maundy Thursday - 12:00 (noon) service in the Sanctuary
- April 3      Good Friday - 7:00 p.m. service at First Lutheran -6:00 choir rehearsal
- April 5      EASTER SUNDAY**
- April 6-9    No Open Door School - Spring Break**
- April 6      Special Congregation Council Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Reception Room
- April 7      Worship, Music and the Arts Board - 10:00 a.m. - Pastor's Office  
Building User Meeting - 2:00 p.m. Reception Room
- April 8      FPA Meeting - 5:00 p.m. Reception Room
- April 21     Congregation Council Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Reception Room
- April 26     Congregation Forum - 10:45 following the Worship Service

# CHURCH INFORMATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1115 Greenbrier Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-771-5501  
www.ahlc-stp.org

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

**9:30 a.m.**

In person and streaming at  
www.ahlc-stp.org

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Wednesday**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Thursday** - 9:00 a.m. - Noon

**Friday** - Closed

## STAFF

**Reverend Dr. Walter Still**

Senior Pastor

651-771-5501 x 102

Email: pastor@ahlc-stp.org

**Barbara Rossow**

Organist/Choir Director

651-771-5501

Email: pianobr@aol.com

**Mary Kowitz**

Business Administrator

651-771-5501 x 101

Email: office@ahlc-stp.org

**Chris Vos**

Financial Administrative Assistant

651-771-5501

Email: finance@ahlc-stp.org



**ALLEY SHOPPE**

**Pam Wiehe, Director**

Cell - 651-216-9074

Church Office - 651-771-5501

Email: alleyshoppe@ahlc-stp.org

## **Alley Shoppe Hours**

**Mondays**

**9:00 a.m. - Noon**

**For Volunteers**

**Tuesdays**

**9:00 a.m. Devotions for Volunteers**

**9:30 - 1:00 p.m. for Clients**

**Donations Accepted**

**Mondays and Tuesdays**

**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church**  
**1115 Greenbrier Street**  
**St. Paul, MN 55106**



**OUR VISION**

**“Arlington Hills Lutheran Church  
Community, A Beacon for the Kingdom  
of Jesus Christ.”**

**OUR MISSION**

**“To Spread the Good News of  
Jesus Christ to all in word and deed.”**