

# The CrossWorks

Information, Inspiration and Invitation from  
Cross of Grace Lutheran Church

## Solar Eclipse as Spiritual Practice

I'm not hip to everything about the solar eclipse that will happen on April 8<sup>th</sup>. I know it's rare. I know there are throngs of people strategically traveling to get a good glimpse of the event. I know there's a lot of folklore about what it all could mean, beyond the astronomy behind it. I know some are pessimistic it will be just another cloudy day in central Indiana that afternoon.

Whatever the case, I'm curious, to say the least. I hope it lives up to the hype in some way. And it made me think about a fable I heard once that goes something like this:

A rabbi asked his students, "When is it at dawn that one can tell the light from the darkness?"

One student replied, "When I can tell a goat from a donkey."

"No," answered the rabbi.

Another said, "When I can tell a palm tree from a fig."

"No," answered the rabbi again.

"Well, then what is the answer?" his students pressed him.

"Only when you look into the face of every man and every woman and see your brother and your sister," said the rabbi.

"Only then have you seen the light. All else is still darkness."

Again, I hope the coming eclipse lives up to the hype surrounding it. I hope to have some fun if we're lucky enough to get a good look, here in New Palestine. I'm not putting much stock in the folklore and "pop-theology" about what it all could mean, to be honest. (Jesus warned me against that sort of thing, once.) But I will be thinking about the spiritual practice the parable points to.

For a handful of minutes, over the course of a particular span of time, millions of people will be paying great attention to the transition from light, to darkness, and back to light again. And I'll wonder about how I might find – in the faces of my neighbors – the face of my siblings in Christ, just the same. And I'll pray it happens much more often for all of us, than the rare celestial phenomenon that inspires it.

With hope,

*Hlah*



# Happening in April

April 2024

## ***Indiana Historical Society Field Trip • Saturday, April 6 • 10 a.m.***

Join our Racial Justice Team for a meaningful experience with the IHS Eva Kor exhibit, remembering the Holocaust and her survival of it.

## ***Mission Sunday • Sunday, April 7 • 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.***

Our Mission Sunday offering in April will support The Shelter, “a place for people without a place,” ministering to those experiencing homelessness in Connersville, Indiana. We’ll hear about this organization during worship on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Solar Eclipse at Cross of Grace • Monday, April 8***

We don’t have a lot planned, other than an open parking lot, a spirit of hospitality, and the Nahre Hot Dog Cart for folks to gather and experience the phenomenon. There may be games in the field, labyrinth-walking, and whatever fun you want to bring along. We’ll plan to open the parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

## ***MS Walk • Saturday, April 13 • 10 a.m.***

Join us in continued support of our March Mission Sunday, as we add our feet and fellowship to the offering we’ve already given. Registration, music, and fun start at 8:30 a.m. Talk with Susan Oxley for more information.

## ***Racial Justice Team “Lunch and Learn” • Sunday, April 14 • 12 p.m.***

Gather for our first discussion about Jamar Tisby’s book, ***How to Fight Racism***, and help plan more events and programming for this growing ministry.

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry • Sunday, April 14 • 1 p.m.***

Gather to create gifts of prayer that will be shared with friends and family who need a sign and reminder that they are loved during difficult times. Contact Joyce Ammerman for more information, [jammerman15@yahoo.com](mailto:jammerman15@yahoo.com).

## ***Agape Alliance Ministry • Monday, April 15 • 6:30 p.m.*** (Carpool leaves COG)

Connect with Carla Hopkins ([hopkins0@comcast.net](mailto:hopkins0@comcast.net)) or Linda Sevier ([lsevier103@gmail.com](mailto:lsevier103@gmail.com)) to learn how you can be part of this ministry to sex workers on Indy’s east side.

## ***Breakfast with Pastor Mark • Tuesday, April 16 • 6:30 a.m.***

High School Youth are invited to join Pastor Mark for breakfast at the New Pal McDonald’s. The first three eat free.

## ***Moms’ Night Out • Thursday, April 18 • 6:30 p.m.***

Gather with other moms for casual conversation, food, and friendship. Contact Chelsea Walsman to learn more. ([chelseadowdell@gmail.com](mailto:chelseadowdell@gmail.com))

## ***Craft Fellowship • Friday, April 19 • 7 p.m.***

Gather at Cross of Grace with others who like sharing ideas, creative endeavors, and good company.

## ***Spring Spruce-Up • Sunday, April 21***

Please join us for worship, ready to get your hands dirty laying mulch, pulling weeds, and helping around the property. Bring whatever rakes, shovels, and implements of destruction will help get the job done. Many hands make light work!

## ***First Communion Instruction • Saturday, April 27 • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.***

Pastor Cogan will lead this class for kids in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Their “First Communion” celebration will happen in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. If you have a child who planning to attend, please let Pastor Cogan know.

## ***Blood Drive • Sunday, April 28 • 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.***

Sign up to reserve your time in advance, or just hop on the bus in the church parking lot sometime throughout the morning.

## ***Pie the Pastor Youth Group Fundraiser Finale • Sunday, April 28***

After raising money throughout the month, a “winner” will be chosen and a pastor (or two) will get a pie in the face as we support our young people in their effort to get to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.