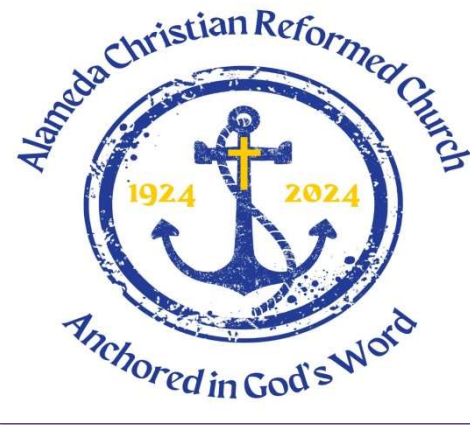


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05
		6pm Signing with Elaine 7pm Bible Study	2pm DU	12pm Cookie Ministry 2pm Lent Journal @ Parsonage	6pm Family Game Night @ Parsonage	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
General Fund Offering 10:30am Communion Service AKC Host Lunch 7pm Bible Study	7pm Prayer Meeting	6pm Signing with Elaine 7pm Coffee Break		12pm Cookie Ministry 2pm Lent Journal @ Parsonage 7pm Deacons Meeting		7:30am Men's Breakfast at Jim's
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PALM SUNDAY Calvin Theological Seminary Offering 10:30 am Service Good Cookie Sunday 7pm Bible Study	7pm Prayer Meeting	6pm Signing with Elaine 7pm Bible Study	2pm DU	12pm Cookie Ministry 2pm Lent Journal @ Parsonage 6pm Elders Meeting	GOOD FRIDAY 7pm Service Benevolence Fund Offering	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EASTER SUNDAY Resonate Global Missions Offering 10:30 am Service Brunch POTLUCK (before and after service) 7pm Bible Study	7pm Prayer Meeting	6pm Signing with Elaine 7pm Coffee Break	2pm DU	12pm Cookie Ministry 7pm Council Meeting		7:30am Men's Breakfast at Jim's
27	28	29	30			
General Fund Offering 10:30 am Service 7pm Bible Study	7pm Prayer Meeting	6pm Signing with Elaine 7pm Coffee Break	2pm DU			



The Joyful Noise

APRIL 2025 Edition

Lent and Holy Week Schedule






ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE
5 MARCH, 2025 | 7PM
Church will be open for drop ins until 8pm

PALM SUNDAY
SERVICE
13 APRIL, 2025 | 10:30AM

GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE
18 APRIL, 2025 | 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY
SERVICE
20 APRIL, 2025 | 10:30AM
Breakfast Potluck before and after morning service

Alameda Christian Reformed Church
2914 Encinal Avenue, CA 94501
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CONTENT FOR THE NEXT JOYFUL NOISE IS DUE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 RD . (SEEGULL55@GMAIL.COM)	



Mark Your Calendars

April 27- May 11 Alameda Food Bank Drive. We will collect specific items for the food bank. Monetary contributions will also be accepted and may be put in the collection bags during Sunday services.

Wanted items: cereal, pancake mix, coffee, tea, condiments (catsup, mayo, mustard---interesting kinds), spices, soup, ramen, crackers, international foods, and diapers of all sizes.

May 3, 1-3 p.m. "All Come" Spring Tea. Please plan on having tea together. Because this is a Saturday afternoon, please invite those you know who are working hard throughout the week.

The sign up will appear on the bulletin board on April 13.

The Deacons

Encouragement Cards

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but encouraging one another as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

The Lord, through the writers of the New Testament, lets us know that encouraging each other is a gift. He calls us all to have eyes to see those who need love... and we all do.

From Easter through Pentecost there will be "Encouragement Cards" in the pews in the sanctuary. Pick one up, write a word of encouragement to someone you see or someone that you are missing. Then either hand it to the person you want to encourage or drop it in the offering basket or the box in the back of church. The deacons will deliver them.

May our Resurrection season be one of encouraging each other in love.

Luann Sankey



Put Down the Duckie

The new Corner Quote (on the wall next to the bulletin board), may need an explanation. It comes from a Sesame Street song about Ernie's trouble with playing the saxophone. He goes to jazz musician Hoots the Owl for help, and Hoots is able to see Ernie's problem right away. Ernie is trying to play the saxophone while holding on to his rubber ducky. Ernie loves the Duckie. In fact he wrote a song about it that reached #16 on Billboard's Hot Singles Chart back in 1970, but you can't play the saxophone while holding a Duckie, and that's what Hoots tells Ernie in the song, "You got to put down the Duckie if you want to play the saxophone."

Someone said something in our Sunday night Bible study that reminded me of "Put Down the Duckie," and I got to thinking about how those words might apply to our spiritual lives. Is there something in our lives that is a good thing, something we love, that gets in the way of our serving God the way we'd like to—the way he wants us to? Do we have Duckies that we need to put down? It's not a matter of giving them up for good and cutting them out of our lives. It's a matter of keeping our priorities straight and not letting anything interfere with what God is calling us to do.

You can find "Put Down the Duckie" on Spotify or YouTube—and "Rubber Duckie" too.



Dear Congregation:

During April our Resonate focus is on church planters. These are people who start churches in communities across the United States. The Resonate offering will be on Easter Sunday. Please pray for those sharing the Good News of Jesus within our nation. Look for a map in the Fellowship Hall that shows where church plants are located.

During April there is a matching gift for all monies given to Resonate Global Mission. Below is the link if you would like to donate directly.

https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/double?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2025_match_campaign_your_church_resources&utm_term=2025-03-28

Blessings Come From God

Luann Sankey

On a Thursday morning, I headed off to Oak Brook, Illinois, on a Southwest 5:05 a.m. flight. I was heading to "Gather Chicago," an opportunity for people across the denomination to share how life in their churches is going. As I climbed on the plane, a row 7 aisle seat was available. Looking at the woman sitting in the window seat, I asked if the seat was taken. She smiled and said no, so down I plunked myself. It was a full flight, so I organized myself in case someone wanted that middle seat. My row companion then informed me that we didn't have to worry about the middle seat because she had paid for two seats. What a gift! Thanking God, I felt blessed. Upon arriving at O'Hare and collecting my luggage, my ride found me with no chaos. Thanking the Lord again, I felt blessed to have arrived safely.

At "Gather," Table 8 became my home for the next 2 days. My group included an older gentleman, Don, who had worked many years for the Back to God hour. He knew the Netherhoods. A young woman, Mindy, who has teenage kids and works as her church's accountant, was to his left. Bruce, 60 or so from Wisconsin, sat next to Mindy. His adult daughter had fought cancer and won. He felt the support of his church. Continuing around the table came Jessica, our table reporter, who works for Thrive. Her church is considering closing. Next was Stan, a former missionary to the Philippines, who is now the minister of missions for a church with over 1000 members. He is very concerned about calling his church to social justice. I was next. Finally, sitting to my left was Ben, our facilitator. He is a pastor working for Thrive. The context for our Gather experience was a Bible study of Luke 24, the Road to Emmaus. During our time together, we followed Cleopas and his friend through their experience.

A humorous moment for me occurred when I realized that Ben, our facilitator, was leading a Coffee Break lesson using Coffee Break techniques, and I got to be a regular participant after all these years of being in charge. I had to be selective in my comments instead of leading. It was a good exercise! One session made us look at expectations. Cleopas and his friend had watched Jesus over the course of three years. They had expected Him to be the Messiah....now He was dead. What expectations do you have of Jesus based on what you have seen Him do in your life? Here are some of the blessings mentioned by members of our group:

Despite the hardships of Covid, God used it in a number of ways among the US and Canadian churches. Prayer became a more vital part of many churches' lives. People saw miracles and answered prayers. Flexibility in worship flourished. Taking care of others within churches and finding new ways to share the good news happened. Technology took huge steps forward. God brought just the right people to situations. Time and time again, as I listened to the stories of others, I remembered something that God has faithfully done in Alameda over the last few years. He has been with our church family.

People reported church splits. Sometimes half the congregation disappeared. Sometimes those who started online never returned. The churches across the nation face challenges. Yet being in this group over these days, I saw example after example of how God's mercy has covered His churches. He has His plans and His timing. We trust and pray, asking Him to lead us, and help us follow His call. Sitting here quietly now, it seems to me that God has been faithful throughout it all. We have seen the death of loved ones, people moving, and yet as we ask our God to lead us into the future, we see Him doing that. We give thanks for those people who have joined our church and have shared their gifts at just the times needed. I give thanks for ALL those willing to use their gifts as God calls them to do so. Our Church belongs to Him.

Now Glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. Ephesians 3:20



Love is lovely
Love is kind
Love can make the mind bright

Faith can make it holy
Faith can make it nice
Faith can make your day amazing and
bright

By Brynn DeGolia

Today
refresh, refocus, renew

Mary Magdalene

From April 20, 2025

John 20:1-18

<https://todaydevotional.com/>

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”—John 20:16

On the morning of Jesus’ resurrection, Mary Magdalene went to visit his tomb early—and when she saw the stone rolled away, she quickly went to tell Jesus’ disciples. They came and saw and then returned to where they were staying. But Mary couldn’t leave. She was overcome with sorrow about Jesus’ death and couldn’t imagine life without him. So she lingered in the garden and wept.

Through her tears she saw two angels in the tomb. She explained why she was crying, and then she turned around and saw Jesus there but didn’t recognize him. It’s hard to know why she didn’t recognize him. Maybe her vision was clouded by tears. Maybe Jesus’ resurrected body was somehow different. Whatever the reason, she mistook him for the gardener and asked where Jesus’ body had been taken. And Jesus simply called her by name: “Mary.”

How often do we encounter Jesus and not recognize him? Maybe we are talking with a person in need. Maybe someone is calling us to repentance. Maybe someone is showing us kindness or grace. Or maybe Jesus is present in a random event. Maybe our vision is clouded by busyness or worry, fear, or inattention. But then Jesus, who knows everything about us, gets our attention, and we immediately know he is there. We can tell that he loves us and is always with us. We know that his grace is for us, and that he calls us to follow him in everything we do.

Jesus, thank you for knowing us and calling us to enjoy new life with you. Amen.

About the author — Bret Lamsma is Director of Faith Formation at First Church in Denver, Colorado, and has served churches in Michigan and California in youth, emerging adult, inter-generational, and educational ministries. Bret and his wife, Julie, have two children, and he enjoys hiking, disc golfing, and cheering for the Chicago Cubs.



April Coffee Server Schedule

Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes before the start of the morning service to start the coffee and set up the treats.

*Blue Row: Good Cookie Sunday. Please plan to bring 'special cookies' on this Sunday

**You are responsible to find a substitute if you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday

DATE	VOLUNTEER 1	VOLUNTEER 2
April 6	Aaron Robles	Wendy Rabin
April 13	Sue McClure	Kat McClure
April 20	Felicia Fish	David Fish
April 27	Luann Sankey	Jay Sankey



Happy Birthday to all of our brothers and sisters who are celebrating a birthday this month! May the Lord Bless you on your life adventure!

Yelena Taras (4/2)
Nick DeGolia (4/3)
Ann Hickman (4/13)
Tiernan McClure (4/19)
Ariel Chen (4/24)
Dennis Shepard (4/24)



Council Notes

March 27, 2025

ELDERS	Aaron Robles - 2027 Jay Sankey - 2025	Todd Postma – 2025 Dennis Shepard - 2026
DEACONS	Wendy Rabin – 2027 Luann Sankey – 2026	Tony Mendes – 2027 Jean Busby – 2025

1. Prayer and Devotions – Tony: The Gift of Touch - Jesus' healing touch

2. Reports and Updates

1. There was no update on the elevator for AKC.
2. Ramp project:
 - There will be a Yard Sale in May.
 - The updated cost of the ramp is now \$130,000.
3. Classis meeting
 - An overture asking for a minister to be transferred was not approved.
 - The overture from Palo Alto concerning gravamenes was not approved.
 - All candidates for ministry were all approved.
4. Deacons' report
 - The balance in the benevolence fund is sufficient for current needs
 - The Deacons proposed nominations for new deacons.
 - Encouragement cards are being placed in pews.
 - The Easter offering will be for Resonate - There will be a map and slide show at potluck showing where churches are being planted.
 - There will be an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday (week before Easter).
 - A Spring Tea will be held on May 3 from 1-3.
 - Many volunteers continue to make lunches.
 - Wendy has officially resigned from her role as Deacon and her contribution was acknowledged.

5. Elders' report
 - A meeting was held on March 20 - everyone was present.
 - Sermon planning for the next 6 months was discussed. There will be a Good Friday service on 4/18 with communion.
 - Charles Oh is visiting 6/8 - 10 and will preach that Sunday.
 - Pastor Matt's Thursday Goodies mission continues
 - Elders proposed nominations for new Elders.

3. Old Business

1. Admin - Matt
 - Deacon and Elder nominations were made. Approval by the congregation will be sought after the letters are sent to the nominees and nominations accepted.
 - Pastor Matt will ask Denise to provide letters for distribution on Sunday 4/6.
 - A motion was made to accept names submitted and to send letters inviting each to consider the call to office and respond within two weeks. Motion seconded and approved.
2. Resource - Todd
 - Update on Computer Refresh: Purchased and being installed soon for office and PowerPoint.
3. Discipleship - Jay
 - Bible Study on the book of Revelation meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm.
 - Sunday night Bible Study continues.
 - Aaron has one more week of the Confession Class leading to the profession of faith.

4. New Business

1. Admin - Matt
 - Pastor Matt requests April 1-3 off to go with the family on a trip to the dunes.

5. Rounds

1. The congregational surveys for the denominational are due on March 31.
2. Good Friday reader volunteers are needed.
3. Participation in the 4th of July parade: banners on the van with those who want to walking.

6. Upcoming Meetings

1. Council: 04-24-2025 (Thu, 7PM)
2. Elders: 04-17-2025 (Thu, 6PM)
3. Deacons: 04-10-2025 (Thu, 7PM)

7. Closing Prayer