

**“A SPECIAL WEEK”
APRIL 2007**

There are fifty-two weeks in a year. This division of our yearly calendar gives us the chance to deal with time in manageable segments. Many times we find ourselves thinking of time in week-long sections. We talk about our “work week.” Students get nervous when “exam week” approaches. They then can’t wait for the week of spring break to arrive. And of course, the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day is filled with holiday get-togethers with family and friends.

For the followers of Jesus Christ, the most important week of the year is coming in the beginning of April. I am referring to Holy Week. We have been preparing for this week all during the season of Lent. This special time begins when we celebrate Palm Sunday. Jesus’ triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem heightened expectations among the people. Many hoped that he would be crowned a new King David and would drive out the hated Romans. Our Palm Sunday worship service will begin with a procession with palms as we remember that dramatic entrance.

The festive shouts of Palm Sunday turn solemn when Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples is celebrated on Maundy Thursday. As we gather that night to break the bread and to pass the cup, we will remember the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples. He gave them a new commandment to love each other. After the meal, Jesus’ own actions would illustrate sacrificial love.

A Prayer Vigil will be held in our sanctuary on Good Friday from noon to three o’clock. During these three hours, we will read the seven sayings that Jesus spoke while he was hanging on the cross. Each of his sayings will help to direct our attention to aspects of his saving work for us.

The somber mood of Good Friday will turn into songs of joy on Easter morning. For many in the Seminole community, the sunrise service by the lake is an event that they look forward to every year. We gather by the side of the lake to celebrate Jesus’ victory over the power of death. We will rejoice at the words spoken by the angel,

*“Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek
Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for
he has risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28:6).*

What an ending to a very special week, a Holy Week. I hope that you can join us during these days in April.

Pastor Robert Wierenga
Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church
www.lakeseminolepc.org