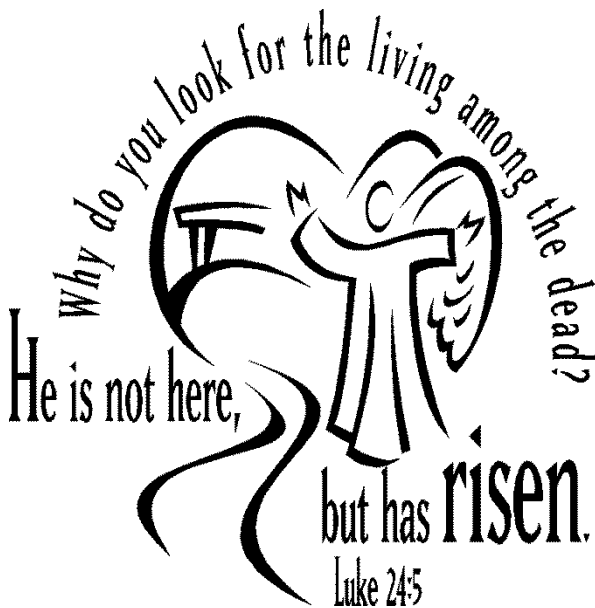


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

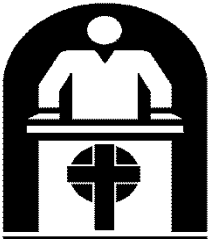


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

APRIL 2018



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000



Dear Members and Friends,

Dear members and friends,

“He is risen! He is risen indeed!” That’s the ancient greeting of the early Christians as they remembered and celebrated our Lord’s resurrection. We “celebrate Easter” one Sunday of the year but each Sunday is really a celebration of the resurrection. Each Sunday we hear the Good News of God’s transforming power to bring new life to each of us. We hear the Good News in the preached Word and in the words of Scripture and song. We have the resurrected presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine. God’s grace comes to us in Word and Sacrament.

But celebrating the resurrection doesn’t mean a whole lot if we don’t live it the rest of the week beyond Sunday. The question is: Now that God through Christ has granted us new life through Christ’s death and resurrection, what is our response to this great gift? God’s Spirit given to us in baptism enables us to share this good news in word and deed.

It may be as simple as greeting a neighbor, striking up a conversation, maybe even inviting others to worship with you. It may be marching for a cause, or contributing to a charity that relieves oppression or world hunger.

That’s what a response to God’s free gift of grace can look like. Let us celebrate the resurrection by coming to worship to receive this great gift and sharing it with others in all that we do.

Pastor Miller

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Church Music Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 13. This year, we are inviting congregational members to share their instrumental and vocal talents with us on that day. Children and adults are encouraged to participate individually or with friends to share some sacred music. The choir also welcomes friends to help us on that day. Please see Judy if you are interested in sharing your talents that day.

HOLY WEEK

March 29th – Maundy Thursday

7:00P p.m. – Holy Communion

The Stripping of the Altar



MAUNDY THURSDAY

On this night we remember our Lord's command to love one another and we celebrate the gift of His love freely given in the Last Supper. There will also be opportunity for Individual Absolution whereby, if it is meaningful for your faith, you may come forward to the pastor for

individual absolution. The pastor says, "In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins." The parishioner responds "Amen."

March 30st – Good Friday – 10:30 a.m.

The original name of the day was probably "God's Friday." It is a day to remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross, the one who is our Passover Lamb. Again this year, to guide our reflections and meditations, as observe the Adoration of the Cross.



GOOD FRIDAY

March 31st – Easter Vigil – 7:30p.m.



This dramatic and inspiring service has four parts – Service of Light, Readings, Baptism, and Holy Communion. We begin outside at dusk and enter the church as it gradually becomes brighter through the various services until the Holy Communion when the lights are turned on and all the appointments for Easter are brought in and we celebrate the Resurrection

THE EASTER VIGIL: AN EXPLANATION

There is no other worship service in the entire church year that can compare with the great Vigil of Easter, with its powerful contrasts between darkness and light, death and life, bondage and liberation. We move from the penitence of Lent to the joy of Easter. Remembering God's mighty acts of creation and the Exodus, we celebrate the central mystery of our salvation: the victorious Resurrection of Our Lord.

There are four parts of the Vigil: Light, Readings, Baptism (or Renewal of Baptismal Vows), and Holy Communion.

The Vigil begins in darkness (or dusk) – the darkness of the sepulcher in which the crucified Christ was buried, the darkness of sin and death. In the midst of this darkness a new fire is kindled, a dramatic symbol of the Risen Christ. From the new fire, the Paschal candle is lighted, representing the Resurrected Christ who is the Light of the world.

The congregation and worship leaders gather in the narthex and the fire is prepared. The pastor and assisting ministers gather around the newly kindled fire and a Paschal Candle, emblazoned with a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the numerals 2018 representing this year of grace in which Christ is the beginning and end of our salvation. The pastor lights the Paschal Candle, the assisting minister sings, "The light of Christ!" and the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God!"

The procession forms and enters the church with the Paschal Candle leading the way. The symbolism of the procession is powerful and dramatic: Christ, shining in Easter victory as the rising sun conquers the darkness and leads the people of God from death to life. At the door the assisting leader again sings, "The Light of Christ!" and the congregation again responds, "Thanks be to God!" The people light their hand candles from the Paschal Candle, distribute the light to others around them, and enter the darkened church, which is now lit with the Paschal Candle.

Arriving at the altar, the assisting minister again sings, "The Light of Christ!" and the congregation responds a third time, "Thanks be to God!" The Paschal Candle is placed on its stand. The assisting minister then sings the Easter Proclamation, which praises God in stunning poetry for the mighty acts of creation and redemption. This is the night when we pass over from darkness to light, from gloom to grace, from sin to salvation, from guilt to freedom. During the singing of the Proclamation, the candle sconces are lit, which brighten the church even more.

The Service of Readings rehearses God's mighty acts in history,

showing that what happened once in the past is happening again and-that the Resurrection is the climax of God's purposes from the beginning. A hymn and a prayer follow the readings.

During the singing of the fourth hymn, the leaders go to the baptismal font carrying the Paschal Candle, beginning the Service of Baptism or Renewal of Baptismal Vows. Since the third century, the Easter Vigil has been the primary time to celebrate Holy Baptism, the sacrament of our being joined to Christ's death and resurrection. The font becomes our Red Sea, our tomb with Christ, our womb of new birth.

A hymn of praise signals the fourth part of the service – Holy Communion. As this song is sung, there is a dramatic transition from semi-darkness to brilliant light when the church and chancel are fully illuminated. All the altar and church appointments, such as paraments, candles, and the bible, are carried in. The lights are turned on and we celebrate the sacrament in which we are gathered around the presence of Christ.

The great Vigil of Easter is a wonderful and moving celebration of our Passover in Christ from death and darkness to life and light. We participate in God's salvation through Baptism and sharing the Bread of Life from the altar. This is the night we celebrate creation and renewal, liberation and salvation. There is no other night like it! The light of the Risen Christ shines in our midst – Alleluia!

CARD MINISTRY



Here at St. Paul's we send cards to members of the congregation who are ill or in need of a cheerful word. These cards are on the table in the narthex. When you are here on a Sunday, or during the week, check the table to see if there is a card. Please sign your name and help bring a smile to a fellow member.

EASTER EGG HUNTS



On April 8th, one week after Easter, we will have Easter Egg Hunts. There will be one egg hunt for the children and a separate one for adults. Come and enjoy the egg-citing entertainment!

STEWARDSHIP IN THE SPRING

Why do we give of our time to others and to the work of the Church? We all do it. We may babysit our grandchildren or our neighbor's kids when their parents need us to. We may sing in the Church choir. We may take care of the Church building or help a friend with snow shoveling. So why do we do these things?

If giving of our time and our abilities were onerous, we would be less likely to do as much as we all do for our communities and our Church. So again, why do we do these things? For almost all of us, we do not volunteer our time in order to get recognition, nor do we do it for some sort of payback. So why do it?

Most of us give of our time, not expecting a reward because it gives us joy, and because we have been given so much by our family, Church our God and community for all of our lives that giving something to others is simply a way that we can feel a part of those people and groups that have supported us and given so much to us.

During the month of April, there will be a few Church members who will briefly speak of why they volunteer either at St. Paul's or elsewhere. We don't know yet just what their reasons are, but hearing their stories will help us think about our own reasons why we all do these things. On May 6th, we will have a Volunteer thank you breakfast before the service. Everyone will be welcome to gather and eat together.

ELECTRONIC GIVING?

The Stewardship Committee has been asked to look into the possibility of offering the Congregation an electronic giving option for those who would prefer using “modern” banking systems in their giving to St. Paul’s. This would not replace traditional plate offering during the worship service, but would be available as an option. The finance committee has done considerable research on the organizations offering these services and none of them are free, but there is a range of costs associated with them from fairly steep to quite reasonable. In all cases, once set up, electronic giving does make it easier and easier to remember when we are all so busy.

Over the next month, please talk with your favorite member of Church Council or to a member of the Stewardship Committee and let them know if you would be interested in Electronic Giving or ask them any questions you may have about Electronic Giving.

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE®

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who directed Choice Dollars® to [our congregation/school/organization]. Thrivent Financial and its members once again showed us how, together, we can make a difference by helping to strengthen communities and change lives.

MISERY BE GONE!

On the Sunday after Easter, some churches celebrate “holy humor.” Laughter is a gift from God, who wants us to be joyful. A happy disposition is also an effective — and infectious — way to share our faith.

“I cannot think that when God sent us into the world, he had irreversibly decreed that we should be perpetually miserable in it,” said John Wesley. “If ... taking up the cross [implies] bidding adieu to all joy and satisfaction, how is it reconcilable with what Solomon expressly affirms of religion, that ‘her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace’?” (Proverbs 3:17, KJV)

ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2018

Your sponsorship of the flowers and the bulletins is a great way to pay tribute to someone special in your life and also to help offset the cost of these weekly items for the church.

The prices will stay the same. Altar flowers – for one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The new flower chart and bulletin chart are posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

CHANGE AGENTS

A cartoon depicts a man at a podium firing up a crowd. “Who wants change?” he shouts. You can almost hear the excitement and urgency. “We do!” the listeners cry, all raising their hands.

But the next frame features a follow-up question: “Who wants *to* change?” The audience is silent and somber, with their hands down.

The gospel Jesus announced and lived out promises monumental change: life instead of death, healing from sickness, hope to replace despair, peace and justice instead of war and oppression. Although God could wave his hand and make the world perfect, he chooses to work through humans. That means we must be willing to change too.

Change can be scary, but God’s newness will so transform the world — and us — that we’ll never miss our old, broken reality.

—Heidi Mann

PRAYER CHAIN COMMITTEE



A note to let you know that if anyone is in need of additional prayers for someone in your family or someone you know, please call Judy Walker at 610-351-6040 or cell # 610-573-7117. She will start the prayer chain by calling the people who serve on that committee. They in turn will keep extra prayers going for that person. All we need is a name of someone in need of prayer, a reason does not have to be given as to why you want the extra prayers.

If you would like to become a member of this committee, just let me know. I am contacting the Prayer Chain Committee electronically using text messages and email from my cell phone. If you do not have a cell phone or computer, we can still contact you by phone. So if you want to be of service to those who need extra prayers, just contact me using the numbers above or see me at Church. This only takes a brief amount of time and there are no meetings to attend! We all need extra prayers and they do not take a lot of time but are of great comfort.

IRONPIGS GAME

Announce the IronPigs game. Sunday, July 8, 2018. We again will be in the PenTele Data Box. Those who attended the game last year enjoyed the fact we were the only ones in the box. We were under cover and the food was great. Mark your calendars.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Lenten Breakfast

7 ladies met at Daisy Pearson's residence on March 12 for their Lenten Breakfast. It was a time of fellowship and sharing. After brunch we viewed Morgan Freeman's *The Story of Us, The Power of Love*.

Spring Justice Retreat

- 6 ladies from St. Paul's attended the Spring Justice Retreat is on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Summer Hill. The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner led us in worship.
- Keynote Speakers: **Tracey De Pasquale** – Director of LAMPA [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania] spoke on *Let Justice Pour Down* based on Micah 6. **Janet Little** from the League of Women Voters of the Lehigh Valley spoke regarding their organization promoting political responsibility through active and informed participation of citizens.
- Breakout Session Leaders: **Lynn Fry** – Program Director of LAMPA, conducted a session on *God's Work, Our Hands, Our Voices*. **Tori Schroding** – Schuylkill Women in Crisis conducted a session on *Domestic Violence*.

Spring Cluster Meeting

- This is planned for April 14 at St. Paul's, topic: *The Sandwich Generation*. More information to follow next month.

Annual Convention

Scheduled for June 2, 2018 in West Berks. Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, 250 Church Lane Rd, Reading, PA 19606. 610-779-3480. More information shortly.

APRIL FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any item will be acceptable.

THANK YOU to all who brought in Macaroni & Cheese during our monthly collection for the food bank.

During April our “food of the month” will be canned soup and stew.

SAVE THE DATE Vacation Bible School 2018 July 16th-20th

FOLLOWING GOD’S LEAD

Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the “father of black gospel music.” At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs — rejected by many mainstream churches as “the devil’s music.”

In 1932, after Dorsey’s wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: “Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29th Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

March 30th Good Friday Service at 10:30 a.m.

March 31th Easter Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m.

April 1st Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Easter Service at 10:30 a.m.

April 8th we will have Easter Egg Hunts for the children and a separate one for adults.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for the cards, flowers, prayer shawl and many prayers during my surgery and rehab to replace my right knee.

Ed Pearson

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 45 bags of food.

Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week.

Again, thank you for your donation.

AAEFB

Margaret Rosenbeger, Corres. Sec.

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR
CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Linford Bastian
Deloris Kline
Viola Seidel

Sharon Bortz
Ed Pearson
Kathy Shryock

Helen Kessler
Heather Sedlak
Paul Xander



4 Dick Hartley
5 Kimberly Sicher
6 Nash Feimster
10 Brooke Brumbach
10 June Kellogg
11 Marlowe Reeger
11 Reagan Williams
12 Reece Henichek
15 David Walters
16 Quinn Sallit

17 Jason Durback
17 Janine Ritter
17 Frank Szukics
18 Peggy Kern
19 Hayden Kirn
19 Hildegard Wetzel
26 Finley Cope
26 Bob Nickisher
29 Ayden Flores
30 Bruce Saylor



1 Robert & Sandra Sensinger
24 Larry & Mary Schneider
27 Dawn & Jerry Fluke

FUNERAL

Pastor Carey officiated at the funeral of Deloris Kline on March 1, 2018

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The following Memorial Fund contribution has been received in memory of Rev. Richard Spengler:

Sheila Specht

The following Memorial Fund contribution has been received in memory of Deloris Kline:

Rosemary Lehman

Martha Lindenmuth

Edith Mauthe

Pamela Roeder

Charles Rothenberger

Patty Spencer

Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

Steph Wagaman

St. Paul's W-ELCA

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

APRIL 15, 2018

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THIS DATE.**



See what
great love
the Father has
lavished on us,
that we should
be called
*children
of God!*

1 JOHN 3:1, NIV

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

EMAIL: office@stpaulsville.org

Website: www.stpaulsville.org

STAFF

Pastor..... The Rev. Carey Miller

Organist/Choir Director Ms. Judy Noll

Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz

Parish Secretary Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky

Sexton Mr. Charlie Meitzler