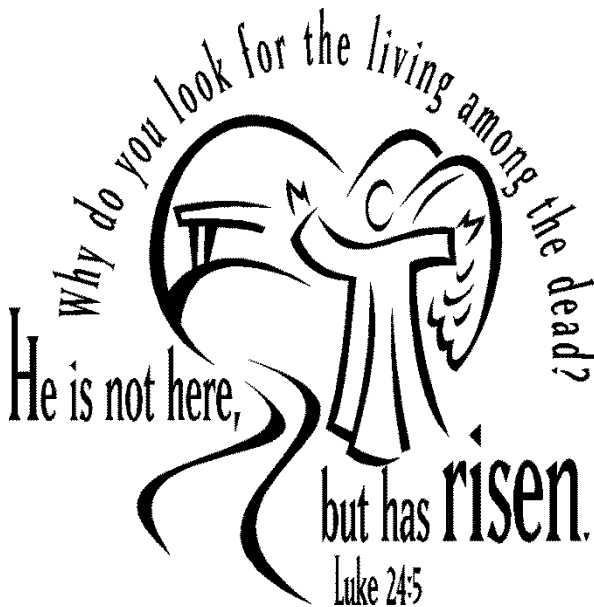


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

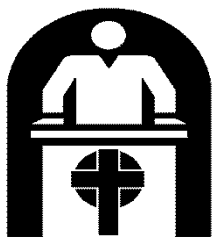


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

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 Durbach
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

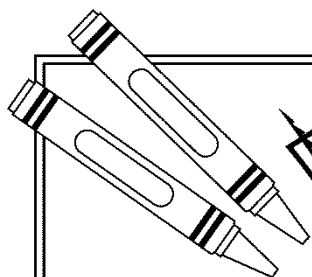
FUNERAL

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



PUZZLE

RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because
Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

$2+2 =$ ____ united	$2 \times 3 =$ ____ death	$7+6 =$ ____ resurrection
$3 \times 3 =$ ____ certainly	$18-16 =$ ____ have	$4-1 =$ ____ been
$0+1 =$ ____ if	$2 \times 4 =$ ____ we	$13-1 =$ ____ him
$2+3 =$ ____ in	$20-6 =$ ____ like	$2+5 =$ ____ his
$2 \times 5 =$ ____ be	$8+3 =$ ____ with	

"For ____ we ____
 1 2 3 4
 with him ____ a ____ like ____ ,
 5 6 7
 ____ will ____ also ____ united
 8 9 10
 ____ in a ____
 11 12 13
 ____ his." Romans 6:5, NIV
 14

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

**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@stpaulsbyville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbyville.org

STAFF

Pastor.....The Rev. Carey Miller
Organist/Choir Director Ms. Judy Noll
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz
Parish SecretaryMrs. Cindy Krasnansky
SextonMr. Charlie Meitzler

April 2018 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
1 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD/EASTER DAY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	2 BIBLE STUDY TBA	3 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	4 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	5 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	6	7																																										
8 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Post Easter Easter Potluck & Egg Hunt	9 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee 6:00 p.m.-Finance Committee (off site)	10 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	11 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	12 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	13	14 9:00 a.m.-W-ELCA Spring Cluster																																										
15 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	17 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc. 1:00 p.m.-Stewardship Committee 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	18 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	19 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	20	21 9:00 a.m.-NEPA W-ELCA Board Retreat																																										
22 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells-Last Rehearsal 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Prayer Shawl Working Session	23 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	24 12:00 p.m.-Trexlerstown Sr. Assoc.	25 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch	26 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers-Last Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.-Choir	27	28																																										
29 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	30 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study					<div> May 2018 <table> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr> <td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr> <td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																										
		1	2	3	4	5																																										
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																										
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																										
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																										
27	28	29	30	31																																												

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for April 2018

Council Person: Anita Eisenhard 484-221-0445

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please notify the council person of the month or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

EASTER - Sunday, April 1, 2018

Altar Guild: Rebecca Theodore
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Ethan Eiswerth, Vanessa Eiswerth
Reader: Jen Schmoyer
Communion Bread: Bob Bruchak
Communion Assistant: Tom Kellogg
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Carl Seibert,
Ryon Williams, Taryne Williams

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider
Reader: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimovitz
Reader: Richard Steltz
Communion Bread: Emily Danner
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Richard Hartley, Diane Kropf, John Kropf,
Madeline MacMechan, Garret Pavlacka

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Altar Guild: Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeters: Joyce and Jim Eisenhard
Reader: Calvin Fetherolf
Communion Bread: Anita Eisenhard
Communion Assistant: Calvin Fetherolf
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman

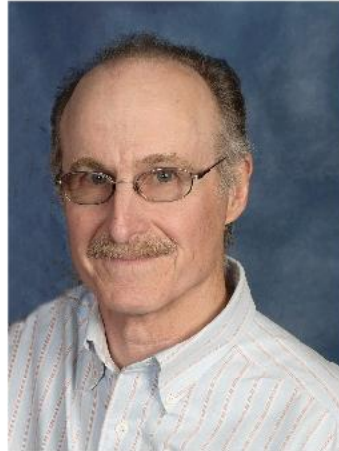
Sunday, April 15, 2018

Altar Guild: Mary Schneider
Lay Assistant: Cathy Waltemyer
Greeters: Melody and Garret Pavlacka
Reader: Martha Lindenmuth
Communion Bread: Carol Derr-Breinig
Communion Assistant: Sharon Bortz
Ushers: Robert Bruchak, Matthew Bruchak, Tom Kellogg,
Frank Szukics, Judy Szukics

Council Members for 2018



Anita Eisenhard *



Tom Kellogg *



Angie Kropf,
Council President



Bob Nickisher



Daisy Pearson *



Kay Schlenker



Joe Thompson



Carol Weiser *



Stan Younger *

* LifeTouch portrait

March 2018

St. Patrick's Pot Luck



3/18/2018

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Major Anniversaries Celebration on May 8

On May 8 at the Lutheran Center, the following will be honored for their years of service. There is a worship service at 11:00 AM (open to anyone) and then a luncheon for the deans and honorees.

15 Years Dawn R Richie
Gerald (Jerry) S Kulp
Jira A Albers
Louise N Johnson
Michael W Ware
Ryan M Hersch
Susan M Horst

25 Years Diane M LaFauci
Phyllis A Pelletier
Phyllis M Hammel
Scott W Lingenfelter
Deacon Beverly Eiche Kriner

40 Years Carl W Filer
David A Searing
E Wayne Dreyman
Harold L Hand Jr
Jay R Wetzell
Jimmy L Werley
Lee A Diefenderfer
Raymond J Hand
Virginia M Biniek
Werner M Koch
Deacon Jane M Elliott

50 Years David F Hill
George G Kinney
Lynn H Rothrock
Raymond C Hittinger
Richard A Mowery

(continued on the next page)

Chili Cook-Off in Catasauqua



It was pastor versus pastor on the evening before the Super Bowl in Catasauqua, which is home to two ELCA congregations that are actively working toward a generous Lutheran presence in the borough located in the synod's Northern Lehigh Mission District. Pastor Brian Riedy of Holy Trinity Memorial (trained chef and former restaurant owner) and Pastor Scott Paradise of Saint Paul's (just a guy with a chili recipe) brought their best efforts to a chili cook-off to benefit the Catasauqua Food Bank. This organization serves an average of 463 individuals per month and is run entirely by volunteers, including the two pastors, who help unload the larger deliveries each month.

Chili lovers gave donations for chilis, pulled pork, beef brisket, and baked goods prepared by members of the two congregations and the community. These were available throughout the two-hour event. But, the big money came from votes for the best pastor's chili. With a \$2 minimum vote, congregants and community members selected the best pastor's chili by tasting the two chilis and putting money in the basket of the pastor whose chili they liked best. While one of the pastors went home with bragging rights for a year and a genuine plastic medal, the true winners were the clients of the Catasauqua Food Bank.

The event, which is expected to become an annual tradition, raised a total of \$915. A generous Catasauqua Lutheran supplemented that amount with an \$85 donation to bring the total to an even \$1,000. A Thrivent Financial action team grant helped assure that 100% of the funds raised went to the food bank. The congregants and community members who participated were so generous that a significant amount of food remained at the end of the night. This was enjoyed the next day as clients of Haven House in Allentown watched the Super Bowl.

Anniversaries

(continued)

- 55 Years** Charles J Orem
Donald C Simmons
J Robert Kehrli
Joseph W Hager
- 60 Years** Carl R Schmoyer
E Frederick Holst
George E Hein Jr
Kenneth M Trexler
Lars B Staaby
Paul H Spohn
Rodger A Krause
William W J Ennis
Sr. Millicent J Drake
- 65 Years** Marvin E Dewalt
Theodore C Schlack
- 70 Years** Paul T Manrodt



NEPA Synod Assembly 2018

**Assembly 2018
June 8-9**

**Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza
Wilkes-Barre, PA**

**Theme - "Sharing Ministries,
Building Relationships"**

Plan now to attend. Information will be posted on the synod website (nepasynod.org) as it becomes available.

Holy Trinity, Kingston Becomes a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Holy Trinity, Kingston has become a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, making it the only Lutheran church in Luzerne county to do so. This policy welcomes all people to Holy Trinity, regardless of their ability, age, ethnicity, financial situation, gender identity, life circumstances, race, or sexual orientation.

Holy Trinity has always welcomed a variety of people; but after several congregation members asked about seeking the designation, the church began a long look at the proposal. Church members had questions. They discussed the idea at Bible studies, other events, and informally; and the church leaders took classes about the issue. The goal was to avoid surprising people with a change, and to give them an opportunity to learn and think about the issue.

At the most recent Annual Meeting, a unanimous decision was made to adopt the policy and to seek the Reconciling in Christ designation. "In the end, I think we were able to successfully address all the questions and let people understand that this is welcoming, and what we're called to do as Christians," says Pr. Paul Metzloff.

"I think it's an excellent program," said Cheryl DeHaut, a member of a church committee that researched the idea and brought it to the rest of the congregation for a vote. "If people are looking for a church, regardless of denomination, and they see we are part of Reconciling in Christ, maybe they'll come check it out. We're a small congregational family. We want people to feel welcome. We'd like some more members, and we want to be welcoming to everyone."

[Much of this article is taken from one written by Bill Wellock for The Citizens' Voice.]

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean
The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop

610-966-3030
610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair
Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor

484-358-5720
610-437-9927

May 2018 LMD NL news will be due April 13, 2018.

E-Mail any information to me at imd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

Roast Beef Dinner – Sat., March 24th, 4:00-6:30p.m., Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA. Call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144) for more information. Proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County. **Please see flyer located at your church.**

There's Room for You in a Centering Prayer Group - Centering Prayer is a particular form of quiet, receptive prayer as taught by Father Thomas Keating and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. A portion of each one-hour gathering will include some teaching about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Friday of each month - Apr. 6th - May 4th - Jun. 1st - Jul. 6th, 10:30 - 11:30 AM.** Led by Rev. Maritza Dolich and Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102. Parking available in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. **Please let us know if you will be joining us.** Inquiries to Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, Director Center for Spiritual Awakening tlcichner@rcn.com / [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362)

Spiritual Care for Elder Care-Givers 2018 - Do you provide part time or full-time care for an elder? Would you like a safe place to share your joys and struggles with other care-givers? Would you appreciate companioning in nurturing your spirit?

In today's American culture, many adults are providing full-time or part-time care for their elder parents, relatives, friends, or neighbors. Elder-care-giving can certainly be challenging, presenting both joys and frustrations to elders and their care-givers. This every-other-month gathering will provide participants with a time of guided prayer, supportive conversation around joys and struggles, and sharing new ideas for offering care. Come and go to these gatherings as you might need and desire. There is no need to make a commitment to each one.

Parking is available in a lot across Hamilton Street from the church. Meetings will be held at the Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ Lutheran Church, [1245 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18102](http://www.lehighlutherans.com). **1:30 - 3:00 PM Wednesday's: May 16th, July 18th, 2018.** Each gathering will be led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner, specially trained in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction. Please direct your interest to Pastor Tom Lichner at tlcichner@rcn.com OR [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362).

SAVE THE DATE!

CROP Hunger Walk: Sun., Oct. 14, 2018, 1:30 p.m.,
with registration beginning at 12:45 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, [140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA](http://www.lehighlutherans.com)

Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need
locally and around the globe!

Contemplative Prayer - Prayer Around the Cross - You are invited to join with others for a time of contemplative opening to the Spirit of God in and around us. We invite God's Light to shine in our hearts and to awakening our consciousness to live lives of mercy, justice, and love. Please join together in this brief time of sacred reading, silent reflection, poetry, chanting, candle lighting, intercessory prayer, and ample space for quiet reflection. **Third Sat. of each Month, 5:00 - 5:45 PM** at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa, 18102. Parking lot across street from church. Address inquiries to Rev. Tom Lichner at tlcichner@rcn.com.

Can you provide an hour or two per week to help someone who wants to change their life? St Luke's at 417 N 7th St, Allentown still has an ongoing need for volunteers to assist as tutors or substitutes for our growing multi-level ELL Program for individuals who desperately want to learn English. No foreign language needed. **ELL days and hours are, Monday and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** We always need help. We are especially looking for people who a comfortable around computers. Contact Leslie Talago or Pastor Lamb at [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943) or stluke@enter.net.

Crossroads at St. Paul's-Allentown:

"Lord, when did we see you?"

The winter overnight shelter season draws to an end on April 30th, but the ministry, and the needs, go on. Thanks to our many partners, St. Paul's will continue hosting the homeless over the summer, including health care and service opportunities. We won't be open as many days or hours each week, but those in need continue to need health and hygiene products, and non-perishable foods to tide them over until the next meal is available. Contact St. Paul's-Allentown at [610 435-9065](tel:610-435-9065), or email jennstpauls1st@ptd.net.

Please pray as you are led. Please give as you are able.

Antibacterial Wipes	Nail Clippers
Band-Aids	Q-Tips
Comb	Shampoo
Deodorant	Small Towel
Feminine Hygiene Products	Toothbrush
Hairbrush	Toothpaste
	Washcloth

*Christ
is
Risen!*

THREE TREES ON THE HILL

My family recently called my attention to a book identified as *The Tale of Three Trees* which is identified as "A Traditional Folktale." It involves the re-telling of a folktale by Angela Elwell Hunt and it includes beautiful hand-drawn illustrations by Tim Jonke. I had never seen it before, but it certainly stroked my imagination and prompted some significant reflections on the meanings associated with Lent and Easter.

This "tale" begins with a description of three pine-like trees growing alongside one another near a mountaintop in the Holy Land. It fascinates about the possibility that they are reflecting about what they are going to "become" when they grow up. The first tree imagines that it might become the most beautiful treasure chest in the world. The second tree visions itself becoming a sailing ship. The third tree imagines that it will simply remain on the hill and as a result of its beauty remind people looking at it to raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. And, even as they contemplate their destinies, they are approached by several woodcutters who axed them to the ground and proceeded to move them in different directions.

The first tree was delivered to a woodworking shop which was committed to building stable boxes, primarily to serve as feeding boxes for animals. And the carpenter set about transforming this tree into such a container which was purchased by an inn in the Bethlehem area. Once it was finished and delivered, he cleaned-up the remnants and set about his next project. The second tree was delivered to a shipyard where there were men building substantial fishing boats which were being used to facilitate the fishing industry on what we will imagine was the Sea of Galilee. Having been turned into lumber that could be used for such a project, this tree became a fishing boat which was placed in the hands of a special group of fishermen who were very much attached to this area. And the third tree became particularly anxious and disheartened when it was simply turned into construction wood and set aside for use at a later date. It was certainly anticipating a more significant place in history than that.

But as the story continues, each of these trees becomes associated with the special holy image which we are contemplating in this season of Lent and Easter. Indeed, it starts out with Christmas as that container which that inn in Bethlehem purchased became the "manger" in which the newborn Jesus of Nazareth spent the first days of his human life. And the fishing boat which was constructed from the wood of the second tree became the boat in which Jesus was sleeping as that storm attacked both him and some of his disciples, causing him to rise and declare a calm.

And the third tree attained to more than its level of expectation as two large pieces of it were transformed into the cross on which our Lord was sacrificed. The image of that tree is still very much among us, although it is now more normally constructed from gold or silver than from the wood of that tree on the hillside. As we move on through Lent and approach Easter, we give thanks for the contributions of each of those *Three Trees on the Hill*.

Pastor Richard Stough
LMD Secretary

OPERATION SUNSHINE

36 S. 8th St, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-435-9155

Open: Mon 11-3 Wed. 9-4

E-mail: LMDopsunshine@aol.com

Web site: www.LMDopsunshine.com

Paula & Dick Skelly Co-Trip Coordinators

Day of Trip Emergency Number **610-417-3286**

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers. Please join us and invite your friends as we enjoy a variety of venues together.

May 22 (Tues) – Mount Airy Lodge – ELVIS JAILHOUSE ROCK -

Come spend an afternoon with young Elvis. Not just any Elvis, but "The Worlds #1 Elvis". Performing all over the world, he was cast as Elvis in the hit musical "Million Dollar Quartet". Our Elvis won multiple Elvis competitions around the world. This high energy Elvis Tribute is filled with all your favorite hits such as: "Jailhouse Rock", "Blue Suede Shoes", "Don't Be Cruel", "Love Me Tender" and so many more. Our Elvis has the looks, the charisma, and the moves that will leave you all shook up! Lunch Buffet and \$15 slot play included with this trip.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10 AM and will return approximately 5:30 PM

Cost \$ 64.00 Payment Deadline: Thurs., May 3

June 27 (Wed) – Fulton Theatre - Hunchback of Notre Dame-

The musical begins as the bells of Notre Dame resound through the famed cathedral in 15th-century Paris. Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer who longs to be "Out There," observes all of Paris reveling in the Feast of Fools. Held captive by his devious caretaker, the archdeacon Dom Claude Frollo, Quasimodo escapes for the day and joins the boisterous crowd, only to be treated cruelly by all but the beautiful gypsy, Esmerelda. Quasimodo isn't the only one captivated by her free spirit, though - the handsome Captain Phoebus and Frollo are equally enthralled. As the three vie for her attention, Frollo embarks on a mission to destroy the gypsies - and it's up to Quasimodo to save them all. Lunch at The Pressroom.

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 9:30am and will return approximately 6:30pm

Cost \$97.00 Payment Deadline: Thursday, May 17

July 26 (Thursday) - Bucks County Playhouse - 42nd Street-

When revered Broadway director Julian Marsh falls on hard times with both his health and his finances, he helms an ambitious musical as a final production before his retirement. His lead actress, Dorothy Brock, is torn between two loves - the show's wealthy backer, Abner Dillon, and the earnest but penniless actor Pat Denning -- while aspiring young performer Peggy Sawyer waits in the wings, hoping for her big break. Lunch will be at the Lambertville Station Restaurant. **Lunch Choices:** Chicken Moscato (sautéed chicken breast in a grape tomato and white wine sauce with fresh thyme), Maple Mustard Salmon, both of these entrees are served with rice pilaf and seasonal veggies, Top Sirloin with wild mushroom butter served with roasted red potatoes and seasonal veggies. **Please choose your entree at the time of reservation.**

Bus leaves St. Timothy's at 10:00am and will return approximately 6:30pm

Cost \$99 Payment Deadline: Thursday, June 28