

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

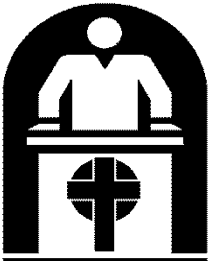


SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

APRIL 2019



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



Dear Members and Friends,

In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the Resurrection of Christ, Easter Day. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. It is an important week of worship for Christians. I urge you to attend these services. You may have heard the phrase, “you can’t have Easter Sunday without Good Friday.” But I would like to add to that by saying, “You can’t have

Easter Sunday without Good Friday and the *Easter Vigil*. We had 70 in attendance last year at the Vigil. I invite you to come to that dramatic and inspiring service this year. It brings together so many important themes of our Christian faith.

We are then prepared to celebrate our Lord’s resurrection on Easter Sunday. *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!* Those words have been spoken for centuries, especially at the Easter season. What does that mean? Christ is risen. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. We as sinful human beings put Christ to death but God loves us so much that his Son rose from the dead to save us from that which should send us to eternal damnation. Do we believe that Christ rose from the dead? Do we really? Can I as the pastor make you believe it? I know that I can’t prove that Jesus rose from the dead. But I can witness to it. It proclaims a truth that I’ve seen repeated over and over again in the lives of people I know. I have seen new life spring forth in people and in congregations. None of it can happen without the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that works in and through us to give new life to others. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. I don’t know *how* it is true, but I have witnessed the truth it proclaims. Alleluia! Amen!

Pastor Miller

BLOOD DRIVE/YARD SALE

We are coordinating a blood drive with our Annual Yard Sale this year on June 8th from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please call the church office to schedule appointments for donors wishing to give blood.

PRETZELS ANYONE?

Christians in the Roman empire; made a special Lenten food of flour, salt, and water, since meat and dairy foods were forbidden during Lent. Because Lent was season of penance and devotion, the dough was shaped into the form of two arms crossed in prayer. In Latin, “little arms” is *bracellae*. When the food was taken to Germany, it was called a brezel or a pretzel. The oldest known picture of a pretzel may be in a manuscript from the fifth century in the Vatican. Pretzels are still an item of Lenten food in many parts of Europe and are sometimes distributed to the poor in the cities.

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT

In the newsletter is a copy of the Lehigh Mission District Newsletter. There is an announcement about flyers attached for different events coming up. There are too many to print out for the newsletter and if I attach all of them to the email, I probably would not be able to send it out.

If you are interested in any of the events listed either call or stop in the office for more information

EASTER VIGIL

Many of you (actually 70 of you) attended our Easter Vigil service last year. While St. Paul's has celebrated the Easter Vigil in the distant past, it wasn't done the way we did it last year. Many were impressed and looking forward to it again this year. If you haven't attended the Easter Vigil, the following is an explanation of the Vigil service. I invite you to this inspiring and dramatic service on April 20th at 7:30 p.m. – Pastor Miller

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. The Easter Vigil begins in darkness (or dusk) – the darkness of the sepulchre 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. Easter Eve with its Vigil is a night truly blessed, a night when the past and present and future of salvation become merged into the here and now. This is the most holy night of the Christian year.

There are four parts of the Vigil: Light, Readings, Baptism (or Renewal of Baptismal Vows), and Holy Communion. The service begins outdoors with a fire prepared either on the ground or in a charcoal grille. The Pastor and assisting leaders gather around a Paschal Candle and the newly kindled fire. An acolyte holds the Paschal Candle with a cross, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the numerals 2019 on it representing this year of grace in which Christ is the beginning and end of our salvation. The minister lights the Paschal Candle and the assisting leader 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. As the people of Israel were once led by a pillar of fire, so now we are led through the darkness by the light of Christ. At the door the assisting leader again sings, "The Light of Christ!" and the congregation again responds,

“Thanks be to God!” At this time 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 Easter candlelight.

Arriving at the altar the assisting leader 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 leader then sings what is called the Easter Proclamation. The Easter Proclamation, which comes to us from the fourth or fifth century, praises God in stunning poetry for the mighty acts of creation and redemption. *This is the night (sung from the Proclamation)* 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 beautiful Proclamation, the candle sconces are lit, which brighten the church even more.

The Service of Readings continues the Vigil and rehearses God’s mighty acts in history. Old Testament texts are read – not as ancient history, but in the sense that what happened once in the past is happening again, and because 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 after the fourth reading the leaders go the baptismal font and carrying the Paschal Candle. We now begin 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. Indeed, the Vigil remains the most meaningful time of the year for Baptism – since baptism is 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 is sung and this 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. This is when all the altar and church appointments such as paraments, candles, bibles, other altar appointments are carried in by people. The lights are turned on quickly. We then 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!

THE SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with ashes and ends with alleluias. It is a season of spiritual growth, beginning on March 6th and concluding six weeks later with the brilliant white colors of Easter. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found quite meaningful.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human experience. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." Second, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Ashes were used anciently in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for one day the words "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" will be said over our bodies. Fourth, ashes are a symbol of repentance, as expressed in Luke 10:13 and the hymn "Savior, When in Dust to You." Please join us for this important service to begin the season of Lent on the morning and evening of March 6th, at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

This is the day that begins with praise and ends with sorrow. We praise our Lord as he enters Jerusalem. We raise our palm branches and shout Hosanna. We then hear the Passion of Our Lord and get ready to enter the solemnity of Holy Week. Join us on Sunday, April 14th at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin "Mandatum" which means commandment. Jesus gave a new commandment, to love one another, at his Last Supper where he washed the disciples' feet.

In this service, the confession concludes with an absolution which is a little more involved than usual because Maundy Thursday is the climax of the Lenten discipline which began on Ash Wednesday. Following the public absolution there is opportunity for individual absolution. This is strictly voluntary for those who feel it is meaningful in their life of faith. After the individual absolution, the people return to their seats.

After the Communion, the altar is stripped. The sacramental vessels, the paraments, and other worship appointments are removed, some of the church furniture appointments are draped in black, and Psalm 22 is read. The congregation is invited to meditate on the symbolism of the stripping of the altar, which represents the stripping of Jesus' garments at his crucifixion. After the altar is stripped and the Psalm is read the congregation should leave in silence. This service is at 7:00 p.m. on April 18th.

Good Friday

Good Friday marks Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and death. Included in this service is the adoration of the cross of Jesus. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. on April 19th.

Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil service includes services of Light, Readings, Baptism, and Holy Communion. It is a dramatic and inspiring service that begins in darkness and ends in the brilliant light of Easter. Please join us at **7:30 p.m. on April 20th**.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Since we are celebrating the Easter Vigil the night before, there will not be an Easter Dawn service. We rejoice in the Resurrection of Our Lord. Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on April 21st.

MISSION INTERPRETER EVENT, SAT. APRIL 6, 2019

Mission Interpreters tell the stories of the ministries of our Synod and the ELCA that are supported by our giving that goes beyond our congregation to our wider church. If you may be interested in learning more about our Mission Interpreter ministry, we invite you to a gathering on Saturday, April 6, at 11:30am to 2pm, at Starlite Diner, at Routes I78 and 100, Allentown. Julia Menzo, Director of Liberty Lutheran Congregational Services, will share about the ministries of her organization, one of many supported by our mission support giving.

Please call Charlotte Gross at 484-695-1641 to register. Seating is limited. Lunch will be provided.

WHEN IS EASTER?

Christmas is December 25; Valentine's Day is February 14; Halloween is October 31 – but when is Easter? Each year we have to look at a calendar to find out when Ester is, for this moveable feast can occur any time from March 22 to April 25. Why is this so?

The yearly celebration of Jesus' resurrection is the oldest feast of the Christian Church, and the resurrection has been the central belief of the Christian faith from the beginning. Of course, every Sunday's worship is a celebration of the risen Lord, but a special day for the resurrection has been part of the life of the church from its early days.

The earliest Christians celebrated the resurrection on the fourteenth of Nisan (our March-April), the date of the Jewish Passover. Jewish days were reckoned from evening to evening, so Jesus has celebrated His Last Supper the evening of the Passover. Early Christians celebrating the Passover worshiped Jesus as the Paschal Lamb and Redeemer.

During the first three centuries of the Church, when believers were frequently under persecutions, there was little effort to establish uniform observances of the Christian festivals. However, when Constantine became emperor and Christianity was no longer illegal, it was possible to consider more carefully the date of Easter. One of the purposes of the Council of Nicaea in 325 was to settle that date. Constantine wanted Christianity to be totally separated from Judaism and did not want Easter to be celebrated on the Jewish Passover. The Council of Nicaea accordingly required the feast of the resurrection to be celebrated on a Sunday and never on the Jewish Passover. Easter was to be the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

The ruling of the Council was not immediately accepted everywhere. It did not sit well for those who had been celebrating the resurrection on the Passover to suddenly be declared heretics. Confusion was also caused by Rome and Alexandria having different dates for fixing the spring equinox, sometimes resulting in different Easter dates. Eventually, however, the ruling of the Council of Nicaea was accepted by all the church, and the date of Easter was between March 22 and April 25. In the sixteenth century the West accepted the new Gregorian calendar, while the Easter and Russian churches kept the Julian calendar. Because of this, Easter is again celebrated on different dates by churches in the east and west.

In spite of the differences among the churches surrounding the

celebration of Jesus' resurrection, there has been a unanimous agreement that the Resurrection is a most joyous event and the basis of all Christian hope.

POTLUCKS AND EASTER EGG HUNT

We have another potluck lunch following worship on April 7th. Bring a favorite dish for everyone to enjoy! This is a special one as we will collaborate with our tablemates to fill plastic Easter eggs with individually-wrapped candy and other goodies. These Easter eggs will be used for the upcoming Community Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast on Saturday, April 20th at 9AM. The plastic Easter eggs, candy, and other goodies will be provided and set up at every table for the start of the potluck. Please spread out, as all eggs must be filled and closed. Please do NOT consume or take the candy and other goodies, because there will be enough for each egg. Once all eggs are filled and closed, see Angie for a little treat to thank you for your participation.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: Please update your calendars! The date for our Community Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast switched. It is now on Saturday, April 20th, which is the day before Easter Sunday; this date is final, and it will not change. Breakfast begins at 9AM, and the Egg Hunt will begin at 10AM. The volunteer sign-up sheet for all aspects of this event is in the narthex. Please make every effort to help out with this event.

This year's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast is open to the community! Everyone is welcome attend! With a free-will donation or non-perishable food item for food bank donation, the breakfast is open to the public. The event is rain or shine. Tell your friends! We hope to see you there!

Continued on next page

To make our Community Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast as successful as possible, the Evangelism Committee is requesting monetary donations from our congregation to cover the event costs. In a yellow basket in the narthex, there are specially marked envelopes for donations toward the Easter egg hunt and breakfast. In the coming weeks, you may place the donation envelopes in the offering plates. Your donations will be used for purchasing breakfast items and prizes and candy for the egg hunt; breakfast includes pancakes, sausage links, orange juice, water, and coffee. We thank you in advance for your generosity, as we continue to drive community outreach.

On a related note, we need to borrow your griddles for the free-will-offering community breakfast. If you have one to lend to the church for this breakfast, please let Pastor Miller and/or Angie Kropf know.



EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Guess what? It is time to place your order for Easter flowers. An order form is available in this newsletter. They will also be available on our website and on the table in the narthex. You can also call me in the office at 610-398-700 or send me an email at – office@stpaulsbbv.org.

The **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 31st**



LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPES

Enclosed in the newsletter is a Lenten envelope. There are also more envelopes available on the table in the Narthex.



TRADING PLACES

During a 2018 terrorist attack in France, Lt. Colonel Arnaud Beltrame sacrificed his life for a stranger's. He willingly swapped places with a store clerk who was being used as a human shield. After several hours of trying to end the standoff, Beltrame was killed.

At the hero's funeral, President Emmanuel Macron said Beltrame knew the risk but realized "the example has to be set from the top." And Father Jean-Baptiste said only the officer's faith could explain his sacrifice: Beltrame "knew, as Jesus said to us, that, 'There is no greater love than to give one's life for one's friends.' I believe that only a Christian faith moved by charity could [account] for this superhuman sacrifice."

MEANINGS IN THE MEAL

Jesus instituted Communion while celebrating the Jewish Passover with his disciples. The meal's ritual foods hold meaning for Christians, too, because our faith story is interwoven with that of Judaism.

Matzoh: This unraised bread recalls the Israelites' hasty departure from oppression in Egypt. Jesus used the Passover bread to symbolize his body, which delivers us from bondage to sin and death.

Salt water: It symbolizes the tears of the Hebrews and of all who suffer in any time and place. Christians believe that in Jesus, God embraced human suffering so we need never face it alone.

Parsley: Dipped in the salt water, this green, leafy vegetable represents the Hebrews' rebirth out of sorrow into the joy of freedom. Easter's celebration of resurrection proclaims a coming day when God "will wipe every tear from [our] eyes [and] there will be no more death" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

Shankbone: A lamb slaughtered for each Hebrew household meant life for those within. The meat strengthened them for the escape journey, and the blood, swabbed on their doorframe, signaled for Death to "pass over." Jesus used wine at the Passover meal to symbolize his blood — of the Lamb of God — which he would shed for our salvation.

Egg: For Jews celebrating Passover, an egg symbolizes memory of the Exodus and renewal of faith. For Christians at Easter, eggs — especially open, empty ones — call to mind Jesus' empty tomb, renewal and abundant life.

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.

ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2019

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 – one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. If you are sponsoring both bouquets, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The 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.

HOSPITALIZED?

Parish Code for hospitalized parishioners is 321. Please give this code when you are admitted to the hospital so the pastor can be made aware that you are a patient and can administer the pastoral care you require while you are hospitalized.

Please take note, that if you are admitted on a Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the pastor will not be aware that you are hospitalized until Monday mid-morning, since the church does not have office hours on Friday, and the hospital pastoral care office is not available on Saturday or Sunday.

This means, if you would like the Pastor to know you are hospitalized on the weekend, please call the church office or the Pastor.

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.

FOOD BANK ITEM(S) FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

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.

Food Bank is currently in need of plastic shopping bags.

THANK YOU to all who brought in macaroni & cheese during our March collection for the food bank.

During April our “food of the month” will be canned soup & stews.

LET LAUGHTER 'SPRING' FORTH!

“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.”
(Doug Larson)

“Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.” (Evan Esar)

“Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.” (Charles Dickens)

“The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful.” (e.e. cummings)

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” (Margaret Atwood)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31st **DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTEER FLOWERS**

April 7th Potluck lunch and filling Easter eggs.

April 18th Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 19th Good Friday Service at 10:30 a.m.

April 13th Breakfast 9:00 a.m. & Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.0.

April 20th Easter Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m.

April 21st Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

At our meeting on Wednesday, March 13, we discuss our Lenten Breakfast which will be April 10 at the Pearson Residence.

The Spring Justice Retreat on Human Trafficking, Sandi Wagaman reported has 41 reservations so far. Marilyn Thomas and Rosemary Lehman will drive so that those going from our group can carpool. They will be departing the church parking lot promptly at 7:40 a.m. on March 30.

Our Spring Cluster Meeting on Opioid Crisis in America at Weissenberg Church in New Tripoli will be on April 13. We will carpool from the church parking lot and leave promptly at 8:15 a.m. We will decide at our April meeting who will be driving.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE JUSTICE RETREAT AND CLUSTER MEETING. Please see a member of WELCA if you are interested in details of these events.

Sharon Bortz, Carol Derr-Breinig, Melanie Dimivitz, Joyce Eisenhard, Rosemary Lehman, Martha Lindenmuth, Heather Sedlak, Patty Spencer, Marilyn Thomas, Sandi Wagaman, Judy Walker.

Our annual Convention is May 18 in Lehighton. More details later.

After our business meeting we had a Bible Study on *Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus* Session three Friends for life in Christ by Julie A. Kanarr.

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

Dave Apgar
Helen Kessler
Esther Nolfé
Irene Wenz

Linford Bastian
Bill Knoll
Kathy Shryock

Doris Fenner
Judy Kresley
John Thomas

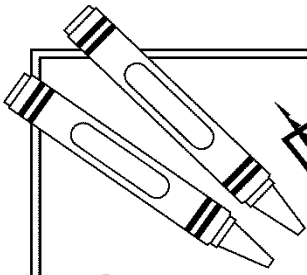


4 Dick Hartley
5 Kimberly Sicher
6 Nash Feimster
10 Brooke Brumbach
10 June Kellogg
11 Reagan Williams
12 Reece Henichek
15 David Walters
16 Quinn Sallit
17 Jason Durback

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



PUZZLE

Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)

Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)

Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)

This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)

Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)

Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)

Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, linen, spices, silver coins

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

APRIL 14, 2019

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

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000

HOSPITAL CODE: #321

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE





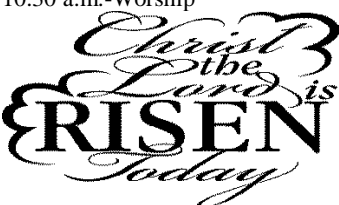
EMAIL: office@stpaulsbyville.org

Website: www.stpaulsbyville.org

STAFF

Pastor.....The Rev. Carey L. Miller
Organist/Choir Director.....Ms. Judy Noll
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz
Parish Secretary Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky
Sexton.....Mr. Charlie Meitzler

April 2019 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
	1 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	2 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	3 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	4 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers NO Choir Rehearsal	5	6																																																	
7 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-First Communion Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch	8 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	9 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	10 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA Lenten Breakfast At Daisy Pearson's Home 7:00 p.m.-Council	11 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	12	13																																																	
14 PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	15 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	16 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc. 7:00 p.m.-Property Committee	17	18  MAUNDY <i>Thursday</i> 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 7:00 p.m.-Worship Joyful Ringers & Choir TBA	19 <i>Good</i> FRIDAY  10:30 a.m.-Worship	20 9:00 a.m. Breakfast 10:00 a.m.-Community Easter Egg Hunt EASTER VIGIL  7:30 p.m.-Worship																																																	
21 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD/EASTER DAY 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	22	23 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.	24 10:30 a.m.-Rowdy Bunch 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	25 10:00 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	26	27																																																	
28 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 a.m.-Morning Bells 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	29 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	30 12:00 p.m.-Trexkertown Sr. Assoc.				<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">May 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th> <th style="text-align: center;">M</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> <th style="text-align: center;">W</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> <th style="text-align: center;">F</th> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	May 2019							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	
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Those Who Serve for the Month of April

Council Person: Tom Kellogg 610-398-9033

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

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Altar Guild: Rebecca & Keith Theodore
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Marilyn Thomas, Patrice Walters
Reader: Tom Kellogg
Communion Bread: Joshua Solderich
Communion Assistant: Bob Bruchak
Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Brooke Brumbach, Carlene Brumbach,
Bob Nickisher, Aubrie Pavlacka

Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019

Altar Guild: Michele Rampen, Patrice Walters
Lay Assistant: Dick Steltz
Greeters: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff
Reader: Michele Rampen
Communion Bread: James & Joyce Eisenhard
Communion Assistant: Peggy Saylor
Ushers: Tom Kellogg, Garret Pavlacka, Diane Kropf,
John Kropf, Madeline MacMechan

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019, 7:00PM

Altar Guild: Jen Bentsen, Joyce Eisenhard
Lay Assistant: Daisy Pearson
Greeter: Bruce Wagaman
Reader: Peggy Kern
Communion Bread: Bob Nickisher
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Thomas
Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Jeff Waltemyer

Good Friday, April 19, 2019, 10:30AM

Greeters: Stan & Mitzi Younger
Readers: Sharon Bortz, Sandi Wagaman
Cross Bearer: Tom Kellogg

Easter Vigil, April 20, 2019, 7:30PM

Altar Guild: Janine Ritter, Susan Xander
Lay Assistant: Meredith Schmoyer
Greeters: Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth
Readers: Sharon Bortz, Tom Kellogg, Martha Lindenmuth,
Daisy Pearson
Communion Bread: Angie Kropf
Communion Assistant: Jeremy Schmoyer
Ushers/Sconce Lighting: Matthew Bruchak, Robert Bruchak,
Anita Eisenhard, Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

Altar Guild: Amy Brenfleck, Rosemary Lehman
Lay Assistant: June Kellogg
Greeters: Dick Hartley, Martha Lindenmuth
Reader: Sandi Wagaman
Communion Bread: Alice Bastian
Communion Assistant: Wells Rampen
Ushers: Amy Brenfleck, Angie Kropf, Rosemary Lehman,
Martha Lindenmuth, Bruce Wagaman

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Altar Guild: Brooke & Carlene Brumbach
Lay Assistant: Sandi Wagaman
Greeters: Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich
Reader: Jen Schmoyer
Communion Bread: Diane Kropf
Communion Assistant: Rosemary Lehman
Ushers: Zack Dimovitz, Lisa Newhard, Joshua Solderich,
Larry Schneider, Mary Schneider

Pot Luck Mardi Gras Luncheon



March 3, 2019

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2019 Freed in Christ for a New Day Saturday, June 1st, 8:30am-4:30pm Genetti Ballrooms Inn and Suites, Hazleton

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! - Psalm 118:24

God said, "Let there be light"... God saw that the light was good... and God called the light, Day. - Genesis 1:1-5

Jesus answered... "I am the light of the world." - John 9:5



For 2019 our Synod Assembly is a one-day event - **and what a difference a day can make!** All are welcome and all congregations are called and empowered to send two voting members and any number of visitors, as together we do God's work: sharing life, love, faith and hope for the new days ahead, as the people of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

This year we celebrate our past and look to our future, as we strive in this living present and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ - whose Good News has freed us to make this day and each day a new opportunity to give thanks, to worship, to pray, to dialogue, and to seek the good of our neighbors - all by the power of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of our great God, all because of what Christ has done for us.

We gather in a new place: Genetti Ballrooms Inn and Suites in Hazleton. Our co-workers in Christ in the Coal Region and the Pocono Mountains look forward to being our hosts. A one-day event means costs can be a bit lower this year. Registration fees for voting members are only \$100, while visitors this year will pay \$20, which covers the cost of our special luncheon celebration in honor of the 50th anniversary of the chartering of our Synod.

We will also have another way to save costs and paper, while keeping us all up-to-date, with a customized "Guidebook App" for Assembly 2019. With just a simple, secure download to your smart phone or tablet, you'll have instant access to all the documents and information needed, as well as vital and helpful announcements and guidance. The App is free and available to anyone, whether or not you can attend the Assembly. More information will be given in next month's *Synod News*, and at your upcoming Mission District Assemblies.

A registration packet will be mailed to all rostered leaders and information will be on our synod's website at www.godslove.org.

God promises to shine on us the liberating light of Christ,
to make us alive,
to make this moment like a new morning,
and to send us out in joy, peace and power.

Join us in June as we are

FREED IN CHRIST FOR A NEW DAY!

Anniversaries of Ordination

15 YEARS

Dana D Heckman-Beil
Jean L Huber
Katie E Lyon
Maritza Torres Dolich
Michael L Reist
Anthony P Pagotto
Virginia Anne Goodwin

25 YEARS

Elizabeth C Langensiepen
Eugene C Zaiser
Jeffrey G Bohan
Louise E Williams
Deborah Matern Graf
Diana J Hill

40 YEARS

Samuel R Zeiser
Christian P Matthy
D Michael Bennethum
Donald J Schwartz
Edith B Roberts
John R Kuschel
Richard H Elliott
Roy H Koehler Jr
Sherrie L Sneed
Thomas F Irwin Jr

50 YEARS

Kenneth C Feinour Jr

55 YEARS

Arthur L Hahn Jr
Donald P Beck
Harry J Goos
James C Papada
John J Deisinger
Thomas H Reinsel
Thomas J Keener

60 YEARS

C David Godshall
Dale E Sandstrom
Elton P Richards
Paul J Hoh

St. Luke, Allentown Muhlenberg College Partnership



ELL students - Nely is third from the left

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located in center city, Allentown hosts an English Language Learning (ELL) program. Trott Nely Montana, a senior at Muhlenberg, coordinates and teaches in the program. Nely majors in Media & Communications, and minors in both Africana Studies, and Documentary Storymaking. He is a member of a number of professional and student organizations including serving as a tutor, Emerging Leaders, Track & Field, Tour Guide, Adult ELL Teacher & Coordinator. When he is not participating in extracurriculars or at school, Nely likes to draw. Plus, he enjoys playing basketball with friends or personally training peers at Muhlenberg.

Nely took over the position of the program from Jose Flores, who was part of Muhlenberg graduating class of 2016. After observing one class with Jose, Nely recognized the significance of the program. He could understand and relate to the ELL students, because he too had taken courses to learn English. In addition to supporting learning and developing better English skills among local residents, the program offers Nely the opportunity to connect and form lasting relationships with some of the locals in Allentown and the church community.

After graduating college, Nely plans to continue school in a MFA and/or PhD program in film and hopes to become a professor. He also is interested in the external and internal factors that hinder low income, high achieving students from attaining a profitable education. Nely understands the trials of being the first member of a family to go to college.; and he wants to provide low income, high achieving students with exposure to numerous resources, and access that would further their education.

65 YEARS

Robert F Sauers

70 Years

James B Miller
John M Aurand



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>.

The Rev. Jerel W. Gade, Dean 610-966-3030
 The Rev. Kurt E. Garbe, Assoc. of the Bishop 610-266-5101

Mr. Joshua Fink, Mission District Chair 484-358-5720
 Mrs. Linda Smith, Newsletter Editor 610-437-9927

May 2019 LMD NL news will be due April 15, 2019. E-Mail any information to me at lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com.

The LMD Council is looking to add a few additional members to its ranks (Lay or Ordained) and needs a new treasurer. This group normally meets about 5 times a year on Sunday evenings at Western Salisbury Church. If you can help, please contact Dean Gade by phone [610-966-3030](tel:610-966-3030) or email stpeters@ptd.net.

Wisdom Way of Knowing - 3/29, 4/26 from 3-5:30pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. This monthly gathering will introduce the rhythm and tools of a 'Wisdom way of knowing', an 'integral way of knowing' which engages and harmonizes our three intelligence centers: heart, mind and movement. This will be an experiential gathering with a balance of centering, teaching, Lectio Divina and gentle body prayer. Together we will explore ways to weave the different components of Wisdom into our daily life and spiritual practice. RSVP to marcellak2@aol.com.

***NEW - Seeking Truth & Building Trust in an Era of Political Polarization** by The Hon. Charles Dent, Sr. Policy Advisor, DLA Piper and Visiting Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Perry World House **Fri., April 5th, Noon to 1pm, Seegers Union, Room 111-112**
 A presentation in the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding of Muhlenberg College's 2018-2019 First Friday Series: **Seeking Truth, Building Trust: Making the World Make Sense.** 2400 Chew Street, Allentown. Free and open to the public. Bring your lunch or purchase it at one of Muhlenberg's tasty dining venues. **Please leave time to find street parking.**

Paint & Sip Party - April 7th, 12:00 to 4:00. Lehigh Lodge No. 326, 2120 Route 100 South, Macungie Pa. Sponsored by Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church, Alburtis, PA. Kitchen will be open. BYOB. Cost is \$35.00. Contact [610-395-1215](tel:610-395-1215) for information or to order tickets.

***NEW - Easter Egg Hunt, Sat., April 20th at 10 a.m.** St. Mark, Allentown, 201 E Juniata St, Allentown. Everyone is welcome! If anyone would like to donate items, please call the church office at [610-797-6440](tel:610-797-6440) Monday through Thursday, 9 am to noon.

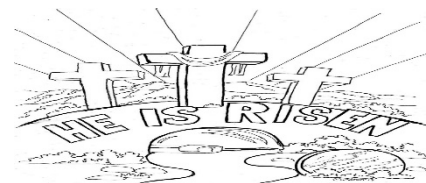
The Gospel of Thomas Series - The first and third Wed. of the month **1:30 to 3:00pm.** Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA. Discovered in a cave in Egypt in 1945, the Gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings of Jesus. Rather than being narratives, they are more like koans or riddles. They appeal more to the heart and imagination than to reason. You are invited to attend ongoing gatherings to explore this gospel using the prayer form of *lectio divina* (Latin for Divine Reading). Direct questions and registration to Mary Howe: mhowe@rcn.com

***NEW - Book Discussion Group** at Luther Crest Senior Living Community, Allentown, Pa. ALL ARE INVITED! We will discuss the new book...Little Excursions in the Alternate Universe, By Helen Wernlund. This quirky little volume is part memoir, part reminiscence, and part collection of wanderings of an original mind. In this series of short essays, you may discover a different way of looking at the world, with humor and a love of life, in the so-called Golden Years. Helen is a resident at Luther Crest, and she will join in the discussion. Led by Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. At each of the five group gatherings, two short essays will be read aloud and discussed. **Books may be purchased at each gathering for \$15.00 each.** The group will meet in the Fuellenbach Dining Room at Luther Crest from **10:30 am - 11:30 am on the following days: April 24/Wed., April 30/Tues. May 9/Thurs., May 15/Wed., May 22/Wed.** Please register for this book discussion group by April 14, by calling Rev. Tom Lichner at [610-533-9362](tel:610-533-9362) OR Luther Crest Chaplain, Rev. Ginny Heimer at [610-391-8210](tel:610-391-8210).

****** PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ******

- 1 - **Spring Craft & Vendor Show** - Sat., March 23rd, 10-4:00pm. St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943)
- 2 - **Roast Beef Dinner** - Sat., April 13th, 4-6:30pm. Friedens Evangelical Church. Call [610-865-4144](tel:610-865-4144)
- 3 - **Jesus Christ Superstar** - Sun., April 14th, 2:00pm. St Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-434-3943](tel:610-434-3943)
- 4 - **COME get a TASTE...and SEE what Spiritual DIRECTION is all about!** - Wed., April 24th, 1-4:00pm. Center for Spiritual Awakening, Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP: Mary Howe at mhowe@rcn.com
- 5 - **Big Band Dance** - Sat., April 27th, 7-10:00pm. St Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church. Church office [610-435-6512](tel:610-435-6512) or Rick Focht [610-393-8914](tel:610-393-8914) or Jim Henry [610-435-9834](tel:610-435-9834)
- 6 - **19th Annual Basket Social** - Sun., April 28th, 12:00pm. St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 7 - **Clothing Drive - Fundraiser for our Youth.** St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)
- 8 - **Melvin Adams from Ghetto to Globetrotters** - Sun., May 5th, 2:00pm. St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. Call [610-432-8762](tel:610-432-8762)

******* Please see more information on page 2 *******



REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

In keeping with our usual schedule, this Newsletter is being distributed about halfway through the Lenten Season. Ash Wednesday is history by several weeks and Easter will occur a few weeks in the future. This suggests that this is an ideal time to ponder the unique meanings of this very special season in the Church Year.

Ash Wednesday has long had a special significance for faithful Christians. It initiates a period of **REFLECTION**. An e-mail invitation from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA a few days before Ash Wednesday reminded us that this special day "invite(s) us to look at ourselves and our neighbors in a different way, and start a Lenten journey of reflection, reconciliation, and acts of kindness." And uniquely it also invited those in the area of the State Capitol to visit representatives of LAMPa in the main rotunda of the Capitol building between 7&9AM or 11AM&1PM on Ash Wednesday for prayer and the imposition of ashes. Similar opportunities were offered by several groups in our area and presumably across the country.

Ash Wednesday serves as an invitation to six weeks of reflection about the ways in which we as individuals and the world as a whole have fallen short in our dedication to maintaining the kind of world that our Creator would hope from us. LAMPa Director Tracey DePasquale reminded us that the Ash Wednesday "rite serves as a reminder of what unites humankind as well as an invitation to extend forgiveness and move beyond what separates us."

The Lenten Season challenges us to contemplate both the personal and societal shortcomings across the years which have contributed to the challenging predicament with which we are currently living. There are few of us who are not wrestling with stresses and distresses relating to our own lives and those closest to us. And our world relationships are far from perfect.

As we continue our Lenten reflections, we move on toward Holy Week and Easter. During Holy Week, and especially on Good Friday, we are reminded of our Lord's major gift as he sacrifices his life in the spirit of **RECONCILIATION** to liberate us from both our personal shortcomings and those of our world. There is good reason to believe that, were it not for this gift, our world, had it survived, would be in total disarray. And our personal relationships would be in a total shamble. But his sacrificial death opened new doors for us and for our world.

And, thanks be to God, our celebration of Easter will, once again, conclude this year's experiences with **REFLECTION** and **RECONCILIATION**. As we celebrate our Lord's emerging from that sealed tomb, we are reminded of the love which has been shared with us and which we are now empowered and encouraged to share with one another and our world. Whatever else they do for us, our Lenten and Holy Week observances, culminating in our Easter celebration, remind us that it is this to which we have been called!

God Bless!
Pastor Stough

OPERATION SUNSHINE

1933 Hanover Ave.
Allentown, PA 18109

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

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.

October 16 to 18 (Wed. to Fri.) - WINE AND DINE IN SCENERY DIVINE! – FINGER LAKES, NY – Come join Operation Sunshine and White Star Tours for a fun-filled 3 Days/2 Nights in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York. Our tour includes 2 nights lodging, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners including one at the Belhurst Castle, the Corning Museum of Glass, Willard Memorial Chapel, Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion, Finger Lakes Winery tour and tasting, Scenic Lake Cruise, the National Soaring Museum, Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track, and a souvenir gift. All taxes and gratuities are included. **Call the Operation Sunshine office for a flyer and pricing.**

**** Continued from page 1 ****

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. this part of the program is in JEOPARDY due to insufficient volunteers.** 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

Come Away To A Quiet Place – 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 discussion about centering prayer. So, whether you never heard of centering prayer, are a beginner, or an experienced pray-er, all are welcome. **First Fri., of each month 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 in Lot across Hamilton St. from Church. Enter on 13th Street, look for the sign "Schantz House/Ruhe Annex". **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).