

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

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**APRIL 2023**



*Maundy Thursday*

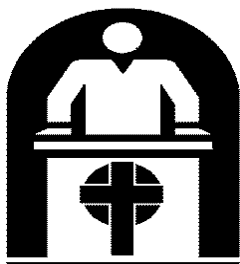


**GOOD FRIDAY**



*Easter*

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



Dear Members and Friends,

Easter will be upon us in the next couple of weeks. But before that there is Holy Week. I urge you to attend our Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday service.

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

## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

### **Palm Sunday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am(masked) and 10:30am**

We raise our branches and shout "Hosanna!," then hear the Passion of Our Lord.

### **Maundy Thursday – April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

We receive individual absolution and Holy Communion and observe the stripping of the altar and the draping of it in black.

### **Good Friday – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am**

Good Friday marks Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and death. Included in the service is the adoration of the cross.

### **The Resurrection of Our Lord – 9:00am(masked) and 10:30am**

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Special music will be offered before the service.

## **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY – APRIL 16th**

Holy Humor Sunday, Day of Joy and Laughter, Bright Monday, White Monday, Emmaus Day, Dyngus Day, Risus Paschalis – these are all titles for a very old Christian tradition. The purpose of the day is to celebrate the resurrection in a joyful, humorous manner.

In the past 20 years an organization called “The Fellowship of Merry Christians” has revived this ancient custom and many churches today celebrate what many call “Holy Humor Sunday.”

We will again celebrate Holy Humor Sunday here at St. Paul’s on April 16<sup>th</sup> (the week after Easter, “low Sunday”). It is a day to make light of what we are about on a Sunday morning. Sometimes we get so hung up on the solemnity of worship and doing things “right” that we become rigid and think there is only one way to do things. It is one day out of the 52 Sundays that we worship when we can “not take ourselves so seriously.” It is a day that we celebrate the joy of the resurrection, God defying the works of the devil. The devil thought he got rid of Jesus. The joke was on him. We have this great joy. We can celebrate, sing, laugh, and have fun.

Churches have done many different things on this day. People are asked to wear mismatched clothing, two different socks or shoes, or a tie that doesn’t match. They play practical jokes on the pastor or the people, smiley faces on the paraments, do the liturgy in reverse order, the pastor changes the color of his stoles during the worship, and many other humorous things. Many people had a good time and enjoyed it immensely. Come and join in the fun.

**COME, JOIN US ON APRIL 16th FOR HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

**AND**

**BE READY FOR JOY AND LAUGHTER!!!!**

## BASKET SOCIAL NEWS

The Basket Social Committee has been busy planning this year's Basket Social event, scheduled for September 23, 2023. We just kicked off our basket drive on March 12. We are seeking donations of completed baskets (or items for baskets), empty baskets, and gift cards. If you are interested in putting together a basket, there are suggested basket themes on the table in the Narthex. You can pick up a basket tag for making one of our themed baskets; don't forget to put your name on the sign-up sheet. The basket tag has a due date – bring the completed basket to church by that date along with a list of basket contents. You can list the contents on the index card on the back of the basket tag.

In addition, we are planning to have Special baskets which will be bigger and more valuable than the regular baskets. Our Specials are 1) Coach Bag and Wallet, 2) Eagles Merchandise, 3) Hand-Made Quilt, 4) Pioneer Woman Cookware Collection, and 5) Cornhole Set. Our Grand Prize this year will be a \$1,000 gift card.

If you would rather not make a basket, we are accepting donation of items - new or nearly new items are preferred. **And we are especially in need of baskets themselves. So if you have a stash of empty baskets that you can spare, please bring them to church - we will put them to good use.**

Check out our [Basket Social Web page](#). And thanks to all who have already signed up to make a basket!

Basket Social Committee Members:

Carol-Derr-Breinig

Melanie Dimovitz

Anita Eisenhard

Rosie Gallagher

Peggy Kern

Amanda Mesko

Pastor Miller

Peggy Saylor

Becky Theodore

Steph Wagaman

## PARISH NURSING NOTES

Spring is just around the corner. Physical activity (or anything that gets you moving) is really good for you. Even 5 minutes is a good start. Start easy and add as you feel stronger. Exercise helps control your blood pressure, lowers your bad cholesterol, boosts your mood and can also help improve your sleep quality. It helps keep your bones and joints strong and can also make your overall outlook more positive.

If you have a disability or other medical issues, you should talk to your physician to find satisfying and safe ways of accomplishing this. It's also a smart idea to get your Doctor's permission. If you have a heart condition, very cold or hot temperatures are hard on your heart. The suggestion can be to walk in an air conditioned or heated mall or only do so when the outside temperatures are more moderate. If you are overweight, getting more active can help stop you from gaining weight and lower your health risk as well.

The recommendation for exercise is 150 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic activity each week and 2 hours of muscle strengthening activity. (lifting weights, using resistance bands or pushups are a few ideas) Find things that you enjoy and exercise only to your tolerance. Even things like gardening, aerobic dusting, dancing or vacuuming could count:)

Get out and enjoy the spring weather!  
June Kellogg

With assistance from: [health.gov/myhealthfinder](https://health.gov/myhealthfinder)

## PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING



There will be a blessing of prayer shawls during worship service on April 23. All the shawls will be on display in the front pews, and available for anyone to take. There is also a selection of baby blankets available. So if you would like a prayer shawl for yourself, or know someone who could use a prayer shawl, or have a new baby in your circle of friends and family – please take one along with you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Or see Peggy Kern or Steph Wagaman at any time to get a shawl.

## **SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS**

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2023. Bulletin sponsorships will be for both services. The price is \$20.00. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates. Fill out the **white** slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the signup sheet.

Altar Flower Sponsorships are: one vase is \$22.00 or both vases are \$44.00. If you are sponsoring both vases, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. Fill out the **blue** slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the signup sheet. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates.

## **USHERS/WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED**

We are in need of people to help with the 10:30 a.m. worship service. For the service, worship is the same as before Covid 19 – i.e. hymns are sung, offering is collected in the pew, and communion is taken at the altar. You will be handing out the bulletin, helping to collect offering, and directing the congregation to the altar and handing them a communion cup. If you would be willing and interested in helping, please contact Steph Wagaman at 610-395-0355 or [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

## **SILK FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH**

Because there are many Sundays when no one sponsors the flowers in the flower stands in church (and because it is an expense of \$44.00 for two flower arrangements) we have decided to use an arrangement of silk flowers to adorn our church when there are no sponsors. There will be at least two silk flower arrangements available (possibly more to come at a later date) to put in the flower stands.

When there are two flower arrangements that are sponsored, the flowers will appear as usual in the flower stands. When there is only one flower arrangement sponsored, it will be placed on the organ or piano and the two silk arrangements will be placed in the flower stands. When there are no flowers sponsored, the two silk flower arrangements will be placed in the flower stands.

# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Our monthly meeting was on March 8<sup>th</sup> where our business discussion was about –

- *The Flame*, which was been mailed to individuals and churches in the NEPA synod.
- Spring Fling and Service Event scheduled for April 28, 29 at Kirby House. Flyer and registration details were included in the NEPA W-ELCA synod mailing. As of March 16, there were still 5 registrations left for overnight guests.
- NEPA W-ELCA Convention is scheduled for June 14 at St. Paul's, Breinigsville. More details forthcoming in the next two months.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Triennial – September 21-24 in Phoenix; the website has been updated. Check out details at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/events>.
- Fall Justice Event – October 14, TBD. The Justice Committee is working on this event.

Our monthly bible study was *The Ten Commandments: Reviving the soul*, session three, *The sanctity of life and love* (Commandments 5 and 6) by Christa von Zychlin. The 5<sup>th</sup> commandant - *Don't Commit Murder*. Join us in April to study the 6<sup>th</sup> commandant – *Thou shalt not commit adultery* – since we had such a lively bible study and only got through the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Mark your calendar and please join us on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.  
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!!!

## IRONPIGS



Mark your calendars for June 18, 2023. We have reserved the PenTeleData room again on that date for the church to go to the IronPigs game. Game time is 1:35 p.m. The opposing team will be the Toledo Mud Hens. More information will be coming.

# LOOKING FOR HELP ON AN OUTREACH PROJECT

Judy and I are considering joining an outreach project that involves making sleeping mats out of plastic bags – for donation to the homeless. The mats are crocheted out of plastic bags that are cut into strips, tied together, and then wound into a ball - called “plarn.” Even if you can’t crochet, you can help by creating the plarn for us to crochet. We can train you on the process, and it is a great way to get rid of plastic bags! If you are interested in helping out, see us at church or contact us –

Judy: [disneyjudym@gmail.com](mailto:disneyjudym@gmail.com) or 610 914-7782;

Steph: [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) or 610 395-0355.

Judy Noll

Steph Wagaman

## THANK YOU

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your food donation of 107 pounds of much needed items given on 3/14/23. Your donation allows us to keep our shelves stocked with items that we know our clients appreciate. It also allows our budget for purchasing food to be stretched a little further.

Your support enables us to provide food assistance to 1,800+ low-income households in the Allentown area every month. Your donation helps us provide vital food resources throughout the year. Due to inflation, we have seen an increase in need, and the Food Bank has served over 47,000 people this year. A recent Penn State University study reports ‘over 12% of PA households were experiencing hunger at the end of 2020’.

Our Food Bank provided food to over 13,000 families this year. We anticipate that number will continue to rise. Each visit provided our clients with enough groceries, including fresh fruits and vegetables, for a short period. It is with the generous donations, such as yours, that allow us to continue to serve those who are food insecure in our community.

There is no way to aptly express our gratitude for your support. The staff and over 150 volunteers at the Food Bank are continually in awe of community support and generosity as demonstrated through your donation. YOU are helping us make a difference!

With sincere gratitude, Jennifer Kelley, A.A.E.F.B. Volunteer



## 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.

## 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.



We have opened the church, and we will still be sending cards to the members of the congregation. If you know of someone who is ill or hospitalized, please let the office know. We will send a card signed from the congregation.



3 Nick Bellucci	18 Peggy Kern
4 Dick Hartley	20 Cole Clark
5 Kimberly Sicher	26 Finley Cope
10 Brooke Brumbach	26 Bob Nickisher
10 June Kellogg	30 Bruce Saylor
17 Janine Ritter	



14 David & Pam Craig

## SHARING THE LOAD

In 1969 the Hollies released “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.” Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father. He’s my brother.” Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been “carried” at some point, and we’ve likely “carried” someone else. The Hollies’ song declares: “His welfare is my concern.” Jesus said it this way: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The load isn’t too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

## LEHIGH ZION CEMETERY SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

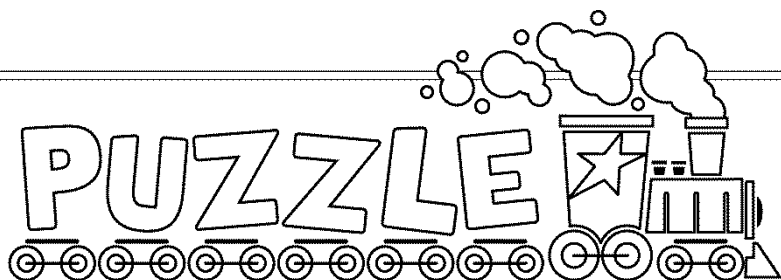
April 17, 2023 the Lehigh Zion Cemetery Association will have their annual shareholders meeting.

*Anyone having a plot on the cemetery is a shareholder.*  
Officers are elected at this meeting.

APRIL 17, 2023, 7 P.M.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BREINIGSVILLE, PA

Please see Sharon Bortz if you have any questions.

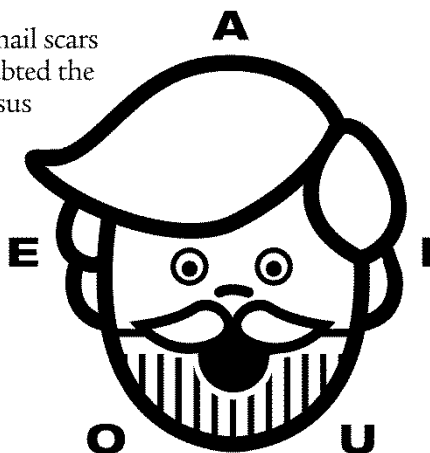


## SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

### Directions:

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete  
John 20:29, NIV.



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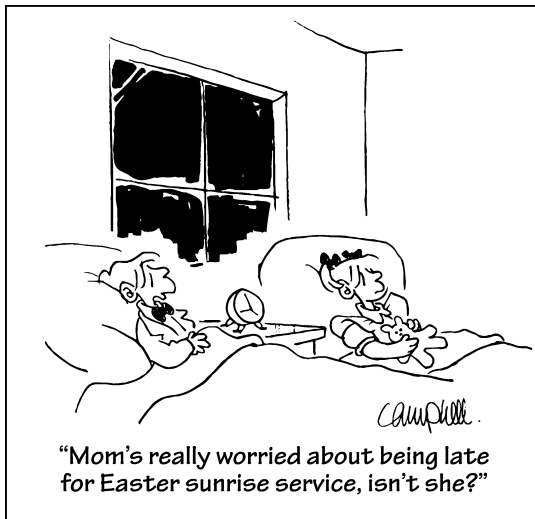
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**JOHN 20:29, NIV**

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS  
APRIL 12, 2023**

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



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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsbbville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbbville.org)**

**Website: [www.stpaulsbbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbbville.org)**

**STAFF**

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

# April 2023 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
						1  April Fool's Day																																										
2 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 	3 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Basket Social	4	5 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	6  9:30 a.m.-TOPS Joyful Ringers & Choir TBA 7:00 p.m.-Worship	7  10:30 a.m.-Worship	8																																										
9 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 10:30 a.m.-Worship <i>He is Risen</i>	10 <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	11	12 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA 7:00 p.m.-Council	13 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	14	15																																										
16 <b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER HUMOR SUNDAY</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:00 a.m.-Blood Pressure Screening 10:30 a.m.-Worship <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	17 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study 7:00 p.m.-Zion Lehigh Cemetery Board Mtg.	18 6:30 p.m.-Haafsville Board Meeting	19 6:30 p.m.-St. Paul's Cemetery Board Mtg.	20 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	21	22																																										
23 <b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship-Pray Shawl Blessing	24 9:30 a.m.-Bible Study	25 1:00 p.m.-Worship & Music Committee	26 6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts	27 9:30 a.m.-TOPS 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	28	29																																										
30 <b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.-Potluck Lunch						<div> May 2023 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></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			
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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 2023

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or  
the Council Person of the Month – Jennifer Bentsen 484-226-5227

### Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

**9:00AM**

Masks Required

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

Masks Optional

Zack Dimovitz, Anita Eisenhard

**Altar Guild:** Jennifer Bentsen

**Communion Asst:** Cal Fetherolf

**Communion Bread:** Jennifer Bentsen

**Greeters:** Frank & Sandy Bennighoff

**Lay Asst:** Rosemary Lehman

**Reader:** Cal Fetherolf

### Sunday, April 16, 2023

**9:00AM**

Masks Required

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

Masks Optional

Ken Ritter, Judy Walker

**Altar Guild:** Janine Ritter

**Communion Asst:** Peggy Saylor

**Communion Bread:** Ken & Janine Ritter

**Greeter:** Alice Bastian

**Lay Asst:** Rosemary Lehman

**Reader:** Jennifer Bentsen

### Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

**7:00PM** (*Masks Optional*)

Richard Hartley, Bruce Wagaman

**Altar Guild:** Steph Wagaman

**Communion Asst:** Sharon Bortz

**Communion Bread:** Melanie Dimovitz

**Lay Asst:** Daisy Pearson

**Reader:** Peggy Kern

### Sunday, April 23, 2023

**9:00AM**

Masks Required

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

Masks Optional

Melanie Dimovitz, Madeline MacMechan

**Altar Guild:** Rosemary Lehman

**Communion Asst:** Anita Eisenhard

**Communion Bread:** Dorothy O'Connors

**Greeter:** Madeline MacMechan

**Lay Asst:** Daisy Pearson

**Reader:** Lacey Edwards

### Good Friday, April 7, 2023

**10:30AM** *Masks Optional*

**Lay Asst:** Sharon Bortz

**Reader:** Daisy Pearson

### Sunday, April 30, 2023

**9:00AM**

Masks Required

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

Masks Optional

Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak

**Altar Guild:** Esther Seibert

**Communion Asst:** Sharon Bortz

**Communion Bread:** Tom & June Kellogg

**Greeter:** Peggy Saylor

**Lay Asst:**

**Reader:** Tom Kellogg

### Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

**9:00AM**

Masks Required

No Assistants

**10:30AM**

Masks Optional

Lacey Edwards, Amy Williams

**Altar Guild:** Amy Williams

**Communion Asst:** Bob Bruchak

**Communion Bread:** Bob Nickisher

**Greeter:** Melanie Dimovitz

**Lay Asst:** Sharon Bortz

**Reader:** Nancy Miller



# Chocolate Dessert Pot-Luck-Lunch



February 26, 2023

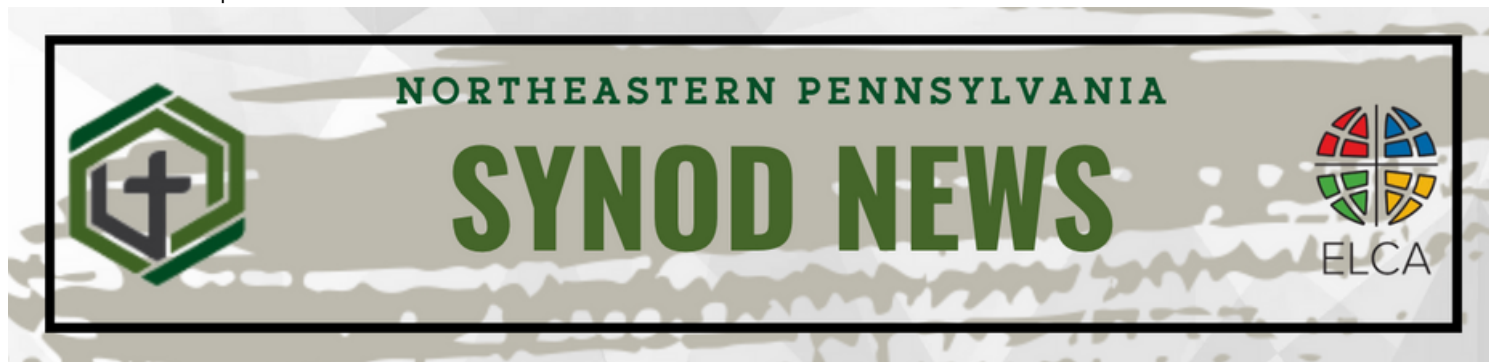


Thank You Becky & Keith



Congregational Meeting





## OUR FAITH IN ACTION

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Bangor had the vision to extend the use of our outdoor grove for our community. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we found that our grove provided a new opportunity to worship together before we opened for indoor worship in late fall. Our vision took on a new reason: to make the grove more accessible and available for more use to complement worship.

The first step identified was building a walkway to make the grove easy to enter and exit. We applied for a grant from the Synod Witness and Service Team Ministry and received it. (We also applied for a special ELCA grant but did not receive the ELCA grant.) As buying supplies became an issue, we needed to apply for a second Witness and Service grant. We received this grant in June of 2022, which enabled us to complete the walkway for our 50th Anniversary picnic and joint worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Mt. Bethel.

Since the completion, we have held several outdoor worship services. We have also added "Faith by Firelight", a monthly gathering for anyone who wants to be in God's beautiful creation, play a few bible trivia games and enjoy s'mores. God has blessed our congregation with this beautiful space, and we keep visioning and planning for ways to make it a safe haven for our community and us. We are thankful that this grant was made possible through mission support given by congregations in our Synod.







JUNE 1-3 2023 AT  
KALAHARI RESORT

## ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020.

If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together! REGISTER ONLINE at [godslove.org/](https://godslove.org/)

*Did you know that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is a Reconciling in Christ organization?*



*We believe that God values and embraces each person as a beloved child, that the Spirit gives a diversity of gifts for the common good, and that Jesus Christ calls us to work for justice.*

## MEMES FOR YOUR EASTER DELIGHT

