

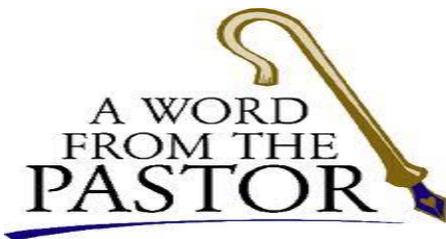
CORNERSTONE

“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S”

April 2018

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 24, Issue 4



“Which is better: Christmas presents or Easter Presents?”

Sometimes, in my house, the “Easter Bunny” gets rather generous (?) in what is put into baskets. In an effort de-emphasis candy, things like: jump ropes, jacks, chalk, baseballs, bats, bubbles, pool toys, and so on appear in the baskets. As in OVERFLOW! This made one of the kids say, “This is like Christmas!”

Which made me wonder which is better? Christmas or Easter presents. Younger kids might look at you funny if you were silly enough to ask something so obvious. Christmas presents are way better! Kids get excited about a new bike, a new game, and even new clothes (except socks or underwear). In the church, kids know that baby Jesus is a gift. What could be more perfect for kids than the Baby in a manger?”

Don’t get me wrong. Easter presents are great, too! And the best part of Easter for most kids is often one word – candy! But...kids know that toys last – at least a while. Candy, much as we love it, is gone fast.

Some of this comes from the fact that kids **assume life**. Ever since they were alive they’ve been – alive! It’s just true; it’s just there, no need to think about it or miss being alive. But of course, one day everyone discovers the shadow that death throws over all of life. And eventually, toys, games, and clothes stop being enough. That’s when you first start to see the

power of Easter presents. The world changed when baby Jesus came into it. His arrival was praised, hated, and attacked. And for all his adorableness, baby Jesus was mostly a promise.

Easter Jesus is a man. Somehow, He’s also God. And He’s a sacrifice. Sometimes, He’s a challenge for small kids to relate to.

Easter Jesus suffered more than baby Jesus. How many kids know how to explain suffering?

He made payment for our deadly sins. How many kids know the value of a dollar, let alone payment for sin and death?

But kids **assume life**.

Until they grow up.

Then they start to see the Jesus that knew about our death, the death you can’t hide from. Jesus cried about people who suffer. He got angry about those who want to keep you out of God’s family. And then, he gave you the gifts that you don’t mostly want to touch. His beatings. His thorns and blood and sacrifice. Full payment for sin and death.

And finally, you see the miracle present: you have new life! Now you can be a kid again in the greatest possible way. You can **assume life** again! Jesus rose from the dead, showing His victory, giving you His victory, building God’s family of life ever since.

Kids might not always know it, but Easter gives the present of life. It gives the present of family forever. It gives the present of hope. It delivers all the promises that were given when baby Jesus was born. I love Christmas presents! But the presents Jesus gives through Easter...they make all of God’s presents to us possible. They make your life today a present worth living. Alleluia to our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

+Melba

SHARING GOD'S LOVE AT EASTER

In 2017, Diamond Dibble wanted to do a project of taking Easter baskets to Children's Hospital. She wanted to make the children feel better and for them to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. She asked her mother if she could do this project. Diamond then recruited two of her friends to help. Pastor Melba approached her congregations to see if they would like to take part. Some of the students in Diamond's class put together baskets also.

That year, Diamond Dibble, Evelyn West and Sophia Nickola delivered 20 baskets to the hospital with Pastor Melba Dibble, Chaplain Elizabeth Mayforth – Lutheran Chaplain for Children's and Father David Rumbald.

This year, the girls delivered seventy-one baskets to the Children's Hospital. Many thanks to the Lutheran churches, the families of the fifth grade at St Louise de Marillac and Chaplain Mayforth for making this such a success.

Diamond, Sophia and Evelyn really enjoy being around the children and their families at the hospital. From the very young to the teenagers, these girls love to visit and show the love of Christ to all. They even have had the experience of having to gown, glove and mask to go into some of the rooms. The families are so grateful for the visit and the distraction the baskets offer to the children. The families take the time to explain to the girls what is going on with their child.

We even got to meet two canines taking their maiden trip to the hospital to cheer up the families staying at Children's Hospital.

Next year Diamond is hoping to expand this project to include the Children's Institute and Children's Hospital to receive Easter Baskets. The girls want to thank everyone that created the baskets and St Louise for allowing them to take part in this heart-warming and educational project.

The desire of a ten-year-old to do a service project has evolved into an ecumenical experience for everyone involved. These young ladies show the

Grace of our Lord and Savior in ways that truly are amazing.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon we will mark the beginning of Holy Week when, once again, we recall the events that led Jesus to the cross and to his triumph on Easter morning. Now it is time for me to let you know that this will be my final Easter as a P.L.U.M. pastor. I look forward to sharing the coming seasons of Easter and the first days of Pentecost with all of you. On June 30th I will end my tenure by resigning my call as a full-time pastor of the Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries.

The decision has not come easily, to put it mildly, and I so wish that I could tell each of you personally. I have grown to love and appreciate each of you and your congregations. You are the body of Christ to me. I believe in our cooperative's purpose and am so proud of you! You are a beacon of hope for the Church that is unique and irreplaceable. You have stepped out in faith in the face of the challenges facing the Church of Christ today. The Holy Spirit keeps calling you. God's love flows through you. God's mission needs this model of congregational ministry.

At the same time, I sense that the time has come for me to enter a new season in my life. Many of you have seen this coming as I have shared the preparations I have been making for my future. I have family members who are eager to have me join them in retirement and I have projects that I want to tackle which I currently don't have the time or energy to undertake. Whatever I do next, whatever I accomplish next, my time with all of you will be at the heart of it.

We Christians believe that through death comes resurrection and it is through endings that new beginnings emerge. It is my hope that you will view this next phase in your life together as an opportunity to experience the new life that can come from this transition. The experiment that we have undertaken together to form a new model for small

congregational ministry (P.L.U.M.) will provide you with continuity of pastoral leadership. You have come to know and love Pastor John, Pastor Melba, Pastor Paul and Pastor Liz over these last years as I have. They will be here to guide you and provide pastoral care for you through the months ahead. Bishop Kusserow and his staff are aware of my decision and will be working with the P.L.U.M. Board and the pastors to begin the search for a new member of the pastoral team. Your pastors are already planning for this transition. They will be seeking your input and are ready to address your questions and concerns. It is fitting that our last days ministering together will be the early days of the season of Pentecost when, clothed in the good news of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are invited into the adventure of serving as God's faithful people. We have been blessed with an amazing adventure in ministry together. I am confident that I am leaving you in the best of hands. Simply know that I will carry you in my heart as I hope you will me in yours. God bless you and your ministry together. With deepest love and affection,

Pastor Beth Siefert,
March 9, 2018



The Flower Chart for 2018 is on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church. You can sign up at any time. If you do not attend church regularly and have any questions on dates remaining contact the church, 724-745-5962. The cost of two vases is either \$20.00 or \$25.00. Payment is due by the last Sunday of the month that you donate flowers.



Our annual Congregational Dinner meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018 following the worship service. This will be a Covered Dish Dinner with the chicken and beverage provided by the church. There will be a sign-up sheet on the desk in Eberle Hall to indicate what you would like to bring and also how many are attending. Following dinner there will be time to discuss our 2017 Financial Statement, view reports from Pastor Melba and the various committees of the church. Mark this important date on your calendar **NOW** so can be at the meeting.

Camp Agapé

Traditional Bible Camp schedule is as follow:
Classic Resident and Day Camps (ages 8-15) will be held June 17-22. **An Art and Science Resident Camp** (ages 8-15) will be held from June 24-June 29. **Music, Art & Drama Resident Camp** (ages 8-15) will be held July 29-August 3. The following is the schedule of Learning Camps: **Reading & Math Day Camps** (ages 5-8) are scheduled for July 8 – July 13, July 15-20 and July 22-27. **Reading and Math Resident Camps** (ages 5-8) are offered July 8-July 13, July 15-July 20 and July 23-28. **Reading and Math Resident and Day Camps** are designed for campers who are at, above or below their grade level in these subjects. New to the schedule is a **User Group Confirmation Camp**, July 1-3.

The details for each camp are as follows.
Resident Classic Camp (ages 8-15): Campers will enjoy camp favorites such as swimming, Bible study, cookouts, sleeping out, and much more. **Cost is \$290.00 per camper.** **Classic Day Camp (ages 5-8):** Day campers arrive at 9:30 a.m. and leave at 4:00 p.m. Lunch and snacks are provided. Campers

enjoy traditional camp activities and have the option of sleeping over Thursday night. **Cost is \$105.00** per camper. **Resident Art & Science Camp:** the week is designed to help campers develop a greater appreciation for both art and science. Hands on projects will be created to help the campers gain a greater understanding of God's creation through Science. Camp begins on Sunday and concludes on Friday. **Ages 8-15, cost is \$290.00/camper.**

Resident Music, Art & Drama Camp: This week is designed to give campers an opportunity to prepare for and present a musical drama. The final presentation will occur at Retreat and Learning Center at 6:00 p.m. on Friday after dinner at 5:30 p.m. User Group Confirmation Camp provides staff, facility, activities and meals for a congregation, or a group of congregations to do a three day confirmation camp.

More information or registration forms can be found in the Narthex or on the camp website:

www.campagape.org.

Volunteers needed:

Camp Agape' has scheduled the following work days for anyone who would like to volunteer to prepare the camp for the 2018 season. Tasks to be completed are fixing garden fence, cutting vines, planting trees, planting a garden and fixing and painting tables and gardens. The workday begins at 9:00 a.m. and are scheduled for April 21st, 28th and May 5th. Check the bulletin board for more details.



The following placed Lilies at Easter:

Karen & Logan Billingham in memory of her mother, Dolores Billingham.

Karen & Logan Billingham in memory of Marko Kostelich.

Karen & Logan Billingham in member of Karen's grandparents, Oliver and Dolores Carrier.

Karen & Logan Billingham in memory of Karen's grandparents, Bill and Phyllis Billingham.

Scott & Lisa Cregut in memory of Dan & Joyce Cregut.

Scott & Lisa Cregut in memory of Peter & Gloria Karmazin.

Aaliyah Gilpin in memory of their "Grandma Molly".

Shawndel Kelley in memory of Harry & Carol Lazorchak and William & Fonya Kelley.

Anna Mae Kostelich in memory of her husband, Marko Kostelich.

Anna Mae Kostelich in memory of her parents, Andrew and Bertha Straka.

Anna Mae Kostelich in memory of her brother, Glenn Straka.

Anna Mae Kostelich in memory of her brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Irene Straka.

Lee Jones in memory of his wife, Sherry Jones.

Ruth Latta in memory of her loved ones.

Ruth Latta in honor of our Risen Savior.

John & Ann Morrocco in memory of the Morrocco family.

John & Ann Morrocco in memory of the Barks family.

John & Ann Morrocco in honor of Jesus Christ.

The Porter Family to the glory of God.

Jill A. Shook in memory of her parents, Raymond and Amelia (Molly) Shook and her grandparents, Charles and Julia Krieger.

John & Carol Jean Straka in memory of John's father and mother, Ed and Irene Straka.

John & Carol Jean Straka in memory of Carol Jean's father, William DePaoli and her mother, Shirley Halley.

John and Carol Jean Straka in memory of Andrew & Bertha Straka.

John and Carol Jean Straka in memory of Lewis & Mamie Zanakis.

April Assistants and Sponsors

Acolyte

- April 1 – Josh Porter
- April 8
- April 15
- April 22 – Diamond Dibble
- April 29 – Jaxon Porter

Assisting Minister

- April 1 – Carol Ferens
- April 8 – Ann Morrocco
- April 15 – Ann Morrocco
- April 22 – Carol Ferens
- April 29 – Jill A. Shook

Eternal Candle

- Charlotte Stemmler

Fellowship

- April 1 – Easter Sunday
- April 8
- April 15
- April 22 – Lee Jones
- April 29 – Jennifer Porter

Flowers

- April 1 – Easter Lilies
- April 8 – Charlotte Stemmler
- April 15
- April 22 – Ruth Latta
- April 29

Lector

- April 1 – John Straka
- April 8 – Carol Jean Straka
- April 15
- April 22 – Ann Morrocco
- April 29

If you are interested in serving as an assistant or sponsoring the eternal candle or flowers, please contact the church office (724-745-5962) or email: stpaulscbg@verizon.net.

Worship Schedule

April 1	Rev. Liz Mayforth
April 8	Brenda Henry
April 15	Rev. Liz Mayforth
April 22	Rev. Melba Dibble
April 29	Brenda Henry

Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.



Emily Bell	April 6
Jennifer Porter	April 16
Aiysha Dibble	April 20
Jaxon Porter	April 20
Sydney Richmond	April 24
Rebecca Harvison	April 27



Ev, Sharlene, Anna Mae, Mark, Virginia, Margaret, Albert, Jim, Eric, Patty, Joyce, Dan, George, Edward, Randy, Mary Ann, Jim, Christine, Anita, Rich, Faith, Anna Mae, Holly, the Richmond Family, Rose, Laura, Andy, Tyler, Jim, Carol, Logan, Karen, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and members and our church. If anyone should be added or removed, please contact the church office (724-745-5962) or email: stpaulscbg@verizon.net.



**GROUP VBS 2018:
SHIPWRECKED**
RESCUED BY JESUS

There will be a VBS FunShop on Saturday, April 21st at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bethel Park. More details including registration rate are posted in Eberle Hall. The time is 8:30 – 12:30.