

CORNERSTONE

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

April 2019

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 25, Issue 3



Dear Partners in Ministry,

The propaganda never ends! Daily we are bombarded through our junk mail, email, TV commercials, newspaper, magazine advertisements, and even telephone solicitations, with those “free” gift offers. We are tantalized with free magazines, food, appliances, furniture, electronics, credit cards, and even trips to Florida as part of these freebie offers; and, how many times are we tempted, and in fact, succumb to the inducement of the offers? On our computers, each time we’re tempted to open one of those “stranger” emails; we receive a caution prompt that asks us, “DO YOU KNOW WHO SENT YOU THIS EMAIL?” Some of our telephones are even registered with both the state and the federal “Do Not Call Lists” to curtail the amount of solicitations we receive, but now scammers use “caller ID spoofing” to disguise their numbers.

For most of us, we abhor “junk mail” and the minutes each of these distractions steals from our day to day living. With all that being said and our familiarity with the old adage, “If it sounds too good to be true it probably is!” there are still times when we are mesmerized into checking out one of those enticements. Now we may think this is all new 21st century garble, but it isn’t. If you were one of the children back in the 50s and 60s such as me, how many boxes of cereal did we have to eat so we

would have the necessary box tops to send away for some free plastic trinket? To be sure there was always a hitch back then, and there’s always a hitch now. All you have to do with any of these “free” offers is “pay for shipping and handling,” “buy one to get one free,” “sit through a sales promotion,” or “sign a contract to receive thus and so for a year at such and such a price.” But just think, in return you’ll get your “free gift.” Is it any wonder why, when people come to church, they are skeptical when they hear about the “free gift of salvation” that is ours through the Easter resurrection of our Lord Jesus?

As we continue our journey through this Lenten season, may we be mindful of how we church people can also muddy the waters. How many of our attempts to proclaim “saved by the grace of God” are followed with the “yes but(s)” of the law or requests to serve the organization of the church and its many needs? Stewardship is a response to the free gift; not a requirement in order to receive it. Stewardship begins with our humble and thankful acknowledgment that our salvation is free as are the other free gifts we receive from our God that include: our time, our talents, and our resources, including our possessions and our finances. Stewardship is simply sharing freely what we have received for free.

In a world so caught up in the bait and switch tactics of “yes buts” and “free with strings attached,” may we diligently work to end the confusion for ourselves and for those God places in our field of mission. Let us fervently work together as God’s people this coming year not because we must, but to fulfill the “Great Commission” from our Lord:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of

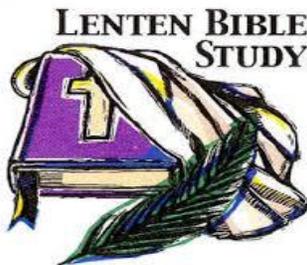
the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Who among us does not want to hear the words spoken to us that Jesus, on Good Friday, spoke to the thief on the cross next to him? When the thief asked to be remembered once Jesus comes into his kingdom, Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43). No dishes, no service, no sacrifice, no boring sermons, no suffering, just the free gift of salvation.

It is the 4th Sunday in Lent. Easter is three weeks away. With whom will you share the "free gifts" God has given you?

A Glorious and Hope-filled Easter to All!

Pastor John



There are two Thursday evening Lenten Bible Study remaining. They are scheduled for April 4th and April 11th. The evening will begin with a light supper served from 5:15-6:00, followed by the study from 6:15-7:15. The theme of the study is "Were Are There?" and focuses on the declarations made by the people who were there as witnesses of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. Each week will look at a statement made in Scripture by the crowd, Caiaphas, Pilate, Peter, the chief priests or the centurion at the cross, helping us to place ourselves at the scenes of Christ's final days and ponder what we would do if we were there. Each session includes Scripture readings, questions for discussion, prayers and suggested activities.



We will begin Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday at 11:15 a.m. There will be loud Hosannas sung at the beginning of the service during the Processional. The Passion of our Lord according to Matthew will be read throughout the service. Rev. Sarah Lee-Faulkner, Assistant to the Bishop will be presiding. There will be a Fellowship Time following the service.



Maundy Thursday worship will be held at St. Paul's beginning at 7:00 p.m. The service will include Confession and Laying on of Hands for Absolution and Hand Washing. There will be Holy Communion and the service will conclude with the Stripping of the Altar. Rev. Paul Koch will be presiding.



A Community Good Friday Worship service will be held at First United Presbyterian Church in Houston beginning at NOON. All are invited to attend. The theme is Sights, Sounds and Smells of Good Friday. Thus year St. Paul's will be joining Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakdale for a combined Good Friday service. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. Carpooling will be provided. Call Jill if you need a ride.



An Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday, April 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This is a PLUM sponsored service and it will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Dormont. The Bell Choir will be playing. Following the service there will be a Fellowship time.



Celebrate the Risen Savior at the Easter Sunrise Service at Woodruff Memorial Park on Route 19 beginning at 7:00 a.m. This service is being hosted by Beinbauer Family Funeral Homes and Woodruff Memorial Park. This is a community-wide inter-denominational sunrise service. Refreshments will follow the service



Our celebration of the Risen Christ will begin on Easter Sunday worship at 11:15 a.m. Rev. Jocelyn Johnston will be presiding.



The Handbells are gearing up for another performance! We are once again reaching out to all PLUM churches to see if there are any PLUM members who would like to join our combined PLUM

Handbell Choir. This choir will meet for practice at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays, April 6 and April 13.

Our goal is to perform at the PLUM Easter Vigil which will take place at Bethany, Dormont on Saturday, April 20th.

Bethany has a three octave set of handbells, including chimes. Some musical knowledge is helpful, but not necessary. We will teach you! The choir plays a variety of music and those that joined us last time, found the bell playing experience to be a great deal of fun.

If you would like to be a part of our joint choir, please contact Karen in the church office at Bethany (412-531-9363 or Bethany-dormont@verizon.net).

We would love to have you join us in this musical endeavor. We look forward to hearing from you!



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



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

The Lutheran Disaster Response will be our Monthly Mission for April. Money that is collected will be sent to help those who were affected by the recent storms and flooding. Please use the envelope on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary for your gift. Make sure to include your name and envelope number. Thank you

April Assistants and Sponsors



Assisting Minister

- April 7 – Ann Morrocco
- April 14 – Carol Ferens
- April 18 – Ann Morrocco
- April 21 – Carol Ferens
- April 28 – Jill A. Shook

Eternal Candle

- Ann Morrocco

Fellowship

- April 7 – Jill A. Shook
- April 28

Flowers

- April 7
- April 14
- April 21 – Easter Lilies
- April 28 – Ruth Latta

Lectors

- April 7 – Mark Pollo, John Straka
- April 14
- April 21
- April 28

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 7	Rev. Mayforth
April 14	Rev. Lee-Faulkner
April 18	Rev. Koch
April 21	Rev. Johnston
April 28	Rev. Stoller

Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.

Keep in your prayers: Ev, Matthew, Anna Mae, Mark, Albert, Patty, Pam, Virginia, Betty Jane, Rich, Edward, Anna Mae, Eddie, Randy, Steve, Barbara, Charlotte, John, Kelly, Pastor Wayne, Dr. Wolfson, the Miller, Paulick, Galano, Burchesky, Richmond families, 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.



Easter Lilies

It is time to order Easter lilies to decorate our church for Easter Sunday. The price of a 4 or 5 bloom plant is \$8.00. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 14th and money is due by April 14th. To order, fill out the information below and return either by placing in the offering plate or by mail. Checks should be made payable to the church.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lilies @ \$8.00 each.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_