

CORNERSTONE

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

February 2019

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 25, Issue 2

WHY ARE SOME TREES EVERGREEN?

Some people like the cold winter; they enjoy outdoor sports, hunting, and cross-country skiing. But many, perhaps most, do not enjoy winter. Winter afflicts us with colds, aches and pains, and the dangers of icy sidewalks and roads. We miss the full foliage of the trees and the soft variety of greens that surround us in Pennsylvania.

There is a legend I have heard and you may have hear it too. The legend explains why some trees are evergreen, that is, green, all year long.

When the plants and trees were first made, the Great Mystery gave a gift to each species. But first God set up a contest to determine which gift would be most useful to whom.

*“I want you to **stay awake** and keep watch over the earth for seven nights.” God told them.*

*The young trees and plants were so excited to be trusted with such an important job that the first night they would have found it difficult **not** to stay awake. However the second night was not so easy, and just before dawn a few fell asleep.*

On the third night the trees and plants whispered among themselves in the wind trying to keep from dropping off, but it was too much work or some of them. Even more fell asleep on the fourth night.

By the time the seventh night came the only trees and plants still awake were the cedar, the pine, the spruce, the fir, the holly and the laurel.

*“What wonderful endurance you have!” exclaimed the Great Mystery “You shall be given the gift of remaining green forever. You will be the **guardians of the forest**. Even in the seeming dead of winter your brother and sister creatures will find life protected in your branches. Ever since then, all the*

*other trees and plants lose their leaves and sleep all winter, while the evergreens **stay awake**.*

Of course, like all legends, there is a kernel of truth that is wrapped in the mantle of the fable. In this case, the truth is that some trees **do** stay green throughout winter. So I suggest that we look at the evergreens around us and see them as **signs of promise**. Spring will come and all the greenery and the flowers will return. Life is renewed by the creative, loving care of our God.

May your celebration of Easter – the annual renewal of life and the gift of eternal life for all believers – be filled with all the joy and triumph of the day.

+Pastor Paul on behalf of PLUM’s pastoral team

Dear Members of PLUM

I am eternally grateful for the love and support that you have given me over the past few years. Thank you for allowing this future pastor the chance to spread her wings and explore this calling that has been pulling at me for many years. I will always treasure the opportunities that you gave to me to lead worship and Bible studies. You have helped me to learn and to grow in so many ways. I value the friendships that I have made. I hope that you know how fortunate you are to have this relationship with our pastors and fellow PLUM members.

I am very excited to begin my internship at Hope Lutheran Church, Forest Hills. Although it has taken me beyond the PLUM churches, you are - and remain - my church family. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I begin this last leg of my journey toward ordination. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

I close with one of my favorite hymns. The lyrics are especially appropriate: "God be with you till we meet again." *Sue Devine*

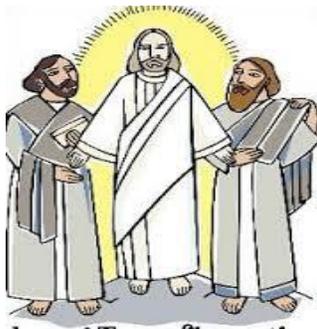
"God Be with You" by J.E. Rankin

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you:
With His sheep securely fold you.
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath His wings protecting hide you;
Daily manna still provide you.
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you.
Put His arms unfailing round you.
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you;
Smite death's threat'ning wave before you.
God be with you till we meet again



Jesus' Transfiguration

PLUM Joint Taize Worship Service
Transfiguration of Our Lord
March 3, 2019 3:30 PM
Resurrection Lutheran Church
7600 Steubenville Pike
Oakdale, PA 15071

Liturgy will include contemplative music and
prayer
Refreshments will follow



SHROVE TUESDAY

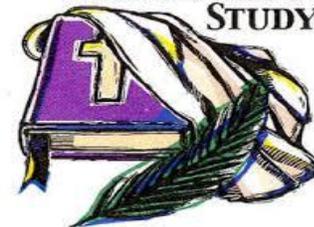
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Hospitality Committee has planned a Pancake Supper for Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Pancakes and sausage will be served from 5:30-6:15 p.m. We have invited the members of PLUM to join us in fellowship that evening. Following the dinner, there will be an activity. If you are planning on attending contact Ann Morrocco by Sunday, March 3rd. Come join us on Shrove Tuesday for some good food and Christian fellowship.



On Wednesday, March 6th, Ash Wednesday service will be held beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be Imposition of Ashes and also Holy Eucharist. Rev. Liz Mayforth will be presiding at the service. Mark your calendar and plan on attending this service as we begin our 2018 Lenten Journey.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Beginning on Thursday, March 14th, a Thursday evening Lenten Bible Study will begin. These studies will continue on March 21st, March 28th, April 4th and April 11th. The evening will begin with a light supper served from 5:15-6:00, (volunteers are needed for

the suppers), 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. Mark your calendar no so that you do not miss out on these Thursdays as we travel through the Lenten Season.



During February the members of St. Paul's will be collecting used and broken crayons to be sent to the Crayon Initiative. The crayons are melted and molded into new crayons that will be distributed to hospitals and agencies serving children. Secondly, our mission emphasis for the month will be for the Canonsburg-Houston Meals-on-Wheels program.



Snow Removal – Bill McWilliams has been contracted by the Church Council to maintain our sidewalks during the winter months. If you wish to contribute to help defray the cost of this service, there are envelopes on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary marked Snow Removal. Don't forget to include your name and envelope number.



SOUP SALE

Saturday March 16, 2019

9am to 1pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

218 Alter Street, Carnegie, PA 15106

Stuffed Pepper

Chicken Rivelle

Chicken Noodle

Beef Barley

\$3.50/pint \$7.00/quart

Delicious homemade baked goods also for sale!

Place your order by calling the Church at

412-279-3615

Last day to order is March 8, 2019

A.S.A.P.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;

You've got no time to spare,

But as you hurry and scurry –

ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

In the midst of family chaos,

"Quality time" is rare.

Do your best; let God do the rest

ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like our worries
are more than you can bear.

Slow down and take a breather

ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

God knows how stressful life is;

He wants to ease our cares,

And He'll respond A.S.A.P.

ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

Author unknown

February Assistants and Sponsors



Assisting Minister

- February 3 – Carol Ferens
- February 10 – Carol Ferens
- February 17 – Jill A. Shook
- February 24 – Ann Morrocco

Eternal Candle

- The Ferens Family

Fellowship

- February 3 – Ann Morrocco
- February 17 – Ruth Latta

Flowers

- February 3 – Carol Jean Straka
- February 10 – Anna Mae Kostelich
- February 17 – Ruth Latta
- February 24 – Ann Morrocco

Lector

- February 3 – Carol Ferens
- February 10 – Carol Ferens
- February 17 – Carol Jean Straka, John Straka, Ann Morrocco, Jill A. Shook
- February 24 – Lee Jones, Mark Pollo

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.

2018 PLUM EVALUATION

It is time to complete the 2018 PLUM evaluation. Members at worship on Sunday will be asked to complete the evaluation. If you have any questions, please contact Jill at 724-747-4418. Surveys should be completed and returned by March 3rd.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N53VD5T>

Worship Schedule

February 3	Rev. Martin Rafanan
February 10	Vicar Brenda Henry
February 17	Rev. John Gropp
February 24	Rev. Liz Mayforth

Pastor's schedule is subject to change without notice.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Kristin Richmond	February 4
David Kraeer	February 21
Cecelia Patterson	February 27
Milt Stemmler	February 27

LORD, HOLD ME...

I'm tired,
depressed,
hurt, sad,
and
I'm alone.



I will always
be with you
and
hold you

Remember,
you are
NOT ALONE

JESUS DAILY ©

Keep in your prayers: Ev, Sharlene, Matthew, Anna Mae, Mark, Albert, Patty, Pam, Virginia, Betty Jane, Rich, Edward, Anna Mae, Eddie, Randy, Steve, Barbara, Charlotte, John, Pastor Wayne, Bella, Pastor Paul, 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.