

Dear Members of the Body of Christ,

The Fifth Sunday of Lent is April 2nd and then we enter the week of the passion beginning with Palm Sunday on April 9th. Welcome to the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

During Holy Week we will remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the most holy days in the Christian year. Oh much fuss surrounds Christmas, some folks get more stirred up about Christmas, but it is the death and resurrection of Jesus, not his birth, that sets him apart from all humans.

We Lutherans take Holy Week very seriously because we believe in the Theology of the Cross. Luther explained that we know God only in the humiliation and passion of Jesus Christ. That is why Palm Sunday begins with a joyful celebration and concludes very soberly as we prepare for the week of the Passion of Jesus. In remembrance of the passion, we will worship on Wednesday, April 5th with the final Lenten season soup supper and Taize service at English Lutheran. We will gather on Maundy Thursday to remember the Last Supper, we will sit at the cross on Good Friday. We will gather on Easter Sunday to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Why all the fuss? Because we believe that through his death, Jesus forgives our sins and through his resurrection, we receive eternal life. We are not reenacting these events, but gather in worship to prayerfully remember who saves us from our sinful nature and claims us forever.

Maybe you have noticed that there are many children's books about the Easter Bunny but few books about the death and resurrection of Jesus. We humans like to avoid or ignore the unpleasant but we Christians are there as people suffer. It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to be present for others during unpleasant times. I hope you search diligently to locate Easter books that include the death as well as the resurrection of Our Lord for the young ones in your lives.

The sign outside Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Northside Pittsburgh boldly announces **Visitors expected!** As the ministers of St. Paul Lutheran, I hope you expect visitors at worship. I hope you invite others for worship. I hope you provide hospitality to the strangers who enter our doors. Now is the time to return to the Lord, Now is the time to invite family and friends. Now is the time to invite lapsed members of this congregation. Members will prepare to read lessons, hand out bulletins, welcome those who arrive at worship, distribute the holy meal. All of this preparation is because we expect worshippers, including visitors, to be present with us during Holy Week and Easter.



One Easter story, recorded in Luke, is the account of two who were walking to the village of Emmaus. Jesus joined them on their journey as the two told the astonishing account reported by some women: **Jesus is alive! He lives!** These disciples still did not recognize Jesus, but invited Jesus to join them for a meal and a night's rest. As a result of **inviting the stranger**, the two disciples soon recognized the presence of our Lord in their midst. We are compelled to invite others to hear the good news by participation in worship so that all the world can come to know and experience the presence of Jesus.

We at St. Paul are preparing to include you and your family, your friends, neighbors and whomever else you invite to join us for this most holy week. Invite others, include them, let them know that Jesus saves, Jesus forgives, Jesus lives, Jesus loves.

I look forward to worshipping with you in the days ahead.

Shalom,

Pastor Bev



Holy Week

Palm Sunday 10:15 – April 9. Join us for the procession of palms in Strobel Hall.

Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion 7:00 PM on April 13.

Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness 7:00 PM on April 14.

Easter Sunday, April 16 – No Sunday School – Worship at 10:15 AM.

Easter lifts the fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg

Dear members of St. Paul's congregation,

Several people have asked me if we are looking for a new minister. Pastor Bev is doing a great job, but they want to go forward with a permanent Pastor. In the next month, you will receive a survey with questions as to where you feel our church is going and what we desire for our future. The survey will only be sent to active and contributing members. This will be sent to you via email or if you haven't given us your email by regular mail. Please pray about the survey and answer each question to the best of your ability. Holy Cow (the group handling the survey) will go over the answers and report back to Council. At that point we will know what direction you want us to move.

On May 21, Pastor Sarah will be back to help us get started on a search for a new pastor and/or another church to work with. Please continue to pray and support our church and for the council so that the right decisions are made. Don't just sit on the sidelines. We need all members to make a commitment to our church family both financially and in Sunday morning attendance.



Only two more opportunities to join us at English Lutheran for the Lenten Soup dinner and worship with Taize music. **We will need two volunteers**

to provide soup on April 5. A sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Willing Workers Smothered Chicken Dinner, April 27 from 4:00 to 7:00. For only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children you will get a delicious Chicken dinner with stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, dessert and beverage. This is one of our best dinners. Sign up sheets for food donations and helpers will be passed around in church the next few weeks. Please consider donating something and/or helping the night of the dinner. We can always use your help. We have a great meal so come on down and join us.

Marty Goetz
Council President

YARD SALE

June 8, 9 and 10

So when you start your spring cleaning and have items you no longer use, we will start accepting items in Strobel Hall May 1 to June 4.

A complete list of times to bring items in and where to put them will be in the next newsletter. Please make sure all items are clean and in working order.

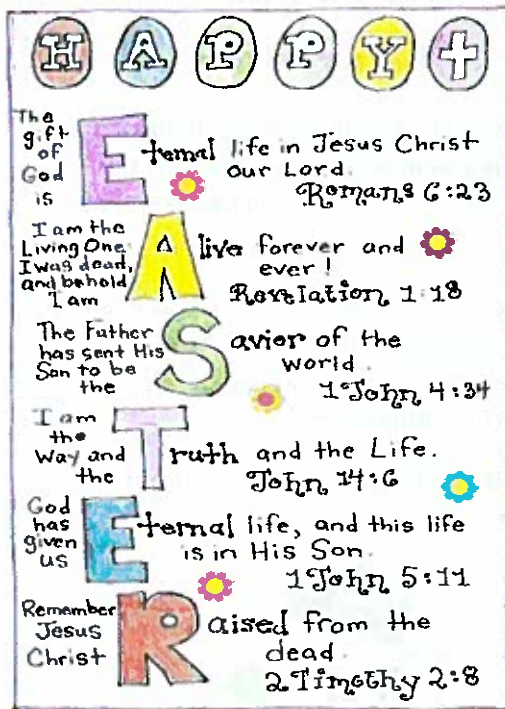
We will also no longer accept televisions and computers.



SPRING CONCERT

Harmony-Zelienople Community Band concert on Sunday, April 2, 2:00 pm at the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School. Band members include Jen and Sydney McMurray. Special guest will be the Seneca Valley High School Madrigals. Free Admission!





SUNDAY SCHOOL

In March, we began the month by visiting the residents at Creek Meadows. The girls played their instruments, including the flute, piano, viola, and ukulele. The residents really enjoyed it and even sang along to some of the songs. We spent the rest of the month learning about prayer.

We will begin April by learning about Holy Week and Easter. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday (April 16th) for adults or children. The rest of the month will be spent finishing up our Love Is curriculum.

The adult class has begun their study of Jonah, Amos and Hosea. Please come and join them Sunday mornings at 9:15 in Strobel Hall.

Elizabeth Muthler



Join everyone at BOABAB BLAST!

Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School God's Great Get-Together won't be the same without YOU! Vacation Bible School is coming to English, St. Paul and Zion Lutheran from July 31 to August 3, 2017. We will gather at Zion Lutheran. All kids ages 3 to 13 are welcome!

TRUST LOVE FOLLOW CARE

The great baobab tree in the expansive African savannah is the setting for this year's VBS. This exciting get-together has something for everyone in the community to love. Kids will be creating, running, jumping, and following with action packed games; singing amazing songs; and sharing the good news with everyone they meet.





Only new prayer requests will be in the weekly bulletins.

CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS: Andrienne Haegg, Tom Baker, Brad Bartley, Landon Brewer, Carol Bulger, Samantha Bulger, Ernie Dambach, Candice Dishman, Don, David English, Mark Fox, Barbara Frantz, Brett Greenhill, George Goetz, Cindi Hunter, William Loveridge, Bobbie Marchlenski, Nolan Nachriener, Darlene Neibar, Nellie Chmara, Terry Oakes, Mindy Pasquale, Mark Pollack, Dan Rossi, Erin Roman, Louise Spithaler, Family of Lou and Becky Tomei, Lilly Wolfe, and Ron Zinkham.

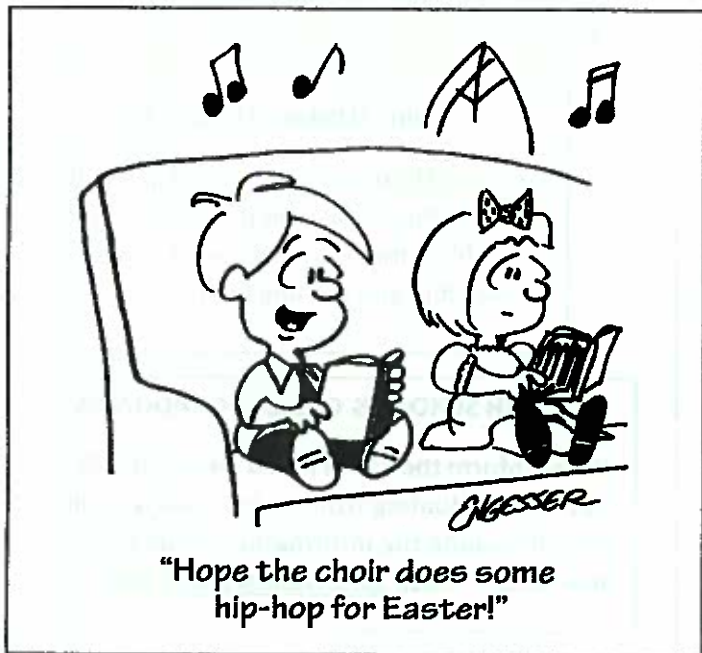
Please keep the church updated on your prayer request. All updates and request may be emailed to spicofzelle@gmail.com Also if you would like to be notified of any needed prayers, please email the church office, with your email address.



If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be "saved" requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death – death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

–Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*



"Hope the choir does some hip-hop for Easter!"

JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.

What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.

"We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen."
 —Richard John Neuhaus



APRIL

2017

ASSISTING MINISTER: Marcy Miller
 GREETER: Marty Goetz
 BELL RINGER: Jeff Miller
 Office Hours: Mon., Wed. Fri. 9:00-12:00 spicofaie@gmail.com www.spicz.com 724-452-8832

LECTOR: Christian Muthier
 USHERS: Tim and Beverly Brosenitsch

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
02 9:15 Sunday School 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion @ Eng.	03	04 5:45 Lenten Soup Dinner and Taize Prayer Service at English Lutheran Our turn to provide soup.	05	06	07	08
09 9:15 Sunday School 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion - Meet in Strobel Hall for Procession of the Palms	10 12:30 Willing Workers Meeting 7:00 Council Meeting	11	12 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion	13	14 7:00 Good Friday Service of Light and Darkness	15
16 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion HAPPY EASTER!	17 10:00 May Newsletter info due in office	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion	24	25	26 4:00-7:00 Willing Workers Smothered Chicken Dinner	27	28	29



Join us for worship at 10:15, Sunday School at 9:15
 Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday 10:15 worship starts with the procession of palms, Maundy Thursday 7:00 Service, Good Friday Service 7:00