

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

“The days are surely coming...” suggests either disaster or **hope**. In Jeremiah 31 and 33, the prophet is offering God’s hope after the united kingdom had been divided and both Israel and Judah were basically in ruins. The Babylonians had captured “the best and brightest” and taken these religious and political [well basically the same] leaders from Jerusalem to Babylon where they lived in exile for 70 years [a few generations]. This was not a time of great hope in the eyes of the world. Yet Jeremiah emerges as a prophet to proclaim HOPE: *The Days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David. He will execute justice and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 33.14-16*

Such words of HOPE were also reflected when Jeremiah announced that the days are coming when God will make a new **covenant** with the Hebrew people. Maybe Jeremiah should have announced “in some future year or decade or century” there will be a new covenant and a righteous branch of David who will execute justice and righteousness. Ultimately the **new covenant** and the **righteous branch** arrives with Jesus Christ. So about 700 years after the proclamations of Jeremiah, the people who lived in great hope realized their hope in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

God’s time is different than our time. God’s patience greater than ours. Many Jews became discouraged while waiting for 700 years. Some of us are becoming impatient with the length of the call process. When we consider that it has been only 15 months since our call committee was formed, we are moving forward. Slowly and deliberately. The good news is that we will not wait 700 years or months until we call a pastor. We are in God’s hands and God has a plan for us.

The good news is that Jesus was and is and will be forever the righteous branch and the new covenant. Jesus initiated the new covenant when he told the disciples, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.” WOW- our sins are forgiven! But the price was the execution of an innocent man who was the righteous branch of David. Jesus paid the price for our forgiveness. Forgiveness is free for believers. We will celebrate the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and again remember the night, when despite the ultimate betrayal, Jesus promised believers a new covenant of freedom in the forgiveness of sins. That folks is Christian Hope.

During this Lenten season, St. Paul and Zion have gathered to explore Christian Hope, that which sets us apart from the rest of the world. I hope you have been able to join us for food, fellowship, discussion and worship. I pray that you will participate in the coming weeks in the Holy Eucharist on Maundy Thursday and the suffering of our savior on Good Friday [7 p.m. at St Paul] and the great Easter feast. God offers us forgiveness and then the miracle of resurrection with the joy of eternal life on Easter. Sacred days are surely coming. I hope you can be with us for the holiest of holy weeks in our church year.

May The Creator who continues to fill all with abundance, Christ who spreads his arms in love and forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit who draws us into God’s holy presence abide with you during Lent and always.

Shalom,
Pastor Bev +

IN CHRIST
ALONE MY HOPE
IS FOUND



Only new prayer requests will be in the weekly bulletins.

CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS: Family of Mike Wilson on the death of his father Thomas Wilson, Shonna Ash, Ann Boben, Landon Brewer, Tom Brosenitsch, Carol Bulger, Nancy Bulger, Samantha Bulger, Karen Campbell, Kim Christy, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch, Rick Dickerson, Don, Emma [child suffering from viral meningitis], David English, Mark Fox, Bernie Fedorka, Barbara Frantz, Charlotte Glaspey, Brett Greenhill, Adrienne Haegg, Jenny, Judy Hart, Lily Herklen, William Loveridge, Bobbie Marchlenski, Martin Matscherz, Patrick Monahan, Pattie Mulligan, Nolan Nachriener, Don Nielsen, Verna Patscko, Lois Peeples, Mike Pollack, Jax Ramirez, Erin Roman, Bud Senn, Dawn Swidorsky, Louise Spithaler, Bob Sullivan, Susan Vannewkirk, John Wherry, Lilly Wolfe, and Ron Zinkham.

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

MEANINGS IN THE MEAL

Jesus instituted Communion while celebrating the Jewish Passover with his disciples. The meal's ritual foods hold meaning for Christians, too, because our faith story is interwoven with that of Judaism.

Matzoh: This unraised bread recalls the Israelites' hasty departure from oppression in Egypt. Jesus used the Passover bread to symbolize his body, which delivers us from bondage to sin and death.

Salt water: It symbolizes the tears of the Hebrews and of all who suffer in any time and place. Christians believe that in Jesus, God embraced human suffering so we need never face it alone.

Parsley: Dipped in the salt water, this green, leafy vegetable represents the Hebrews' rebirth out of sorrow into the joy of freedom. Easter's celebration of resurrection proclaims a coming day when God "will wipe every tear from [our] eyes [and] there will be no more death" (Revelation 21:4, NIV).

Shankbone: A lamb slaughtered for each Hebrew household meant life for those within. The meat strengthened them for the escape journey, and the blood, swabbed on their doorframe, signaled for Death to "pass over." Jesus used wine at the Passover meal to symbolize his blood — of the Lamb of God — which he would shed for our salvation.

Egg: For Jews celebrating Passover, an egg symbolizes memory of the Exodus and renewal of faith. For Christians at Easter, eggs — especially open, empty ones — call to mind Jesus' empty tomb, renewal and abundant life.



Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

*"Easter is more than a day, an event, a remembrance. It is a way of life."
—Michael Marsh*

Dear Members of St. Paul:



The calendar has told us we have reached spring and the last few days of weather seem to be agreeing with it. Let's hope it lasts as we begin to get ready for Easter this month.

We will be closing the month of March with "A Little Night Music" performed this evening, March 31st at 6:00 PM. Our choir along with EPIC (Enthusiastic Performers in Christ), a group from Hope Lutheran Church as well as other community members will be uniting for an evening of shared music. A wonderful way to start the month of April and our countdown to Easter.

Our next Lenten service at our church will be on April 3rd. Soup and sandwiches will be served along with our discussion of "Renewing Hope". April 10th will be the last Lenten soup dinner at Zion Lutheran Church.



Maundy Thursday will be April 18 with services at both St. Paul and Zion at 7:00 PM. Our service will include Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday-April 19 service will be at St. Paul, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday-April 21 join us for worship with Holy Communion at our 9:00 worship service.

A big "thank you" to all our youth (Ayla & Allison Alexander, Abigail & Isabella Muthler, and Emerson & Kennedy Peffer) who participated in the service on March 24th. It is nice to always see the youth willing to serve and participate in our church services when asked.

I hope to see all of you in church for our Easter services.

Sincerely,
Linda
Council President

WILLING WORKERS

Join us for our Smothered Chicken Dinner on May 2 from 4:00 to 7:00.

We will be asking for help with food donations [heads of lettuce, whole cranberry sauce, potatoes, jellied cranberry sauce, large cool whips, #10 cans of green beans and yellow cakes without icing]. We will also need volunteers on the day of the dinner both in the morning (9:00 AM to help peel potatoes) and in the evening both in the kitchen and dining room.

Cost of the dinner will be \$10.00 for adults. \$5.00 for children 10 and under. Take out will also be available.

Other dinner dates for the year will be:

Horse Trading Days – July 18 [Spaghetti Dinner], July 19 and July 20.

Fall Festival – October 12 and 13

Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner – October 24

MAY TEA

MAY 19, 2019, 2:00 to 4:00 PM



Anyone who is interested in setting a table (that includes tablecloth for 8 ft. table, place settings and anything you want to decorate with) please

let me know, I have several people already.

I am going with 8 to 10 tables that will be 60 to 80 people. We will need tea sandwiches, pastries, cookies, etc. We can get creative with the food. I'm setting the price at \$10. That will be for supplies and funding the Willing Workers. It will be a lot of fun. I am open to any ideas you may have and will have updates as we go along.

Bobi-Jean has graciously accepted organizing the entertainment.

Phyllis Metz

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

We are still looking for someone to volunteer as our Sunday School Superintendent. Working with our young people is a wonderful opportunity. Elizabeth Muthler did an outstanding job for many years teaching and planning for our small group of children. If you are interested in volunteering for this important part of our church ministry or have any questions, please see Pastor Bev or Bev Brosenitsch.

Adult Sunday School continues to meet after worship and everyone is invited to stay and study with us. Jen McMurray is our leader.

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

SAVE THE DATE

Luke Wilson will be having his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, July 7th, at English Lutheran Church from 2 to 4 pm. This includes a short ceremony followed by a light dinner and the Congregation is invited. An invitation will be sent at a later date.

ROOTED-YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Several young adults from the Presbytery of the Ascension and other churches have created a non-denominational group designed for 18 to 30 year olds in the Beaver/Butler County area and surrounding counties. This group is designed to be time of fellowship where members from within the group will share a weekly message, worship together, and enjoy food. The group will meet on Friday nights at 7 starting April 12th. They will meet at Burry's Church, 1835 PA Route 68, Rochester, PA. If you have any questions or for more information text Emily Painter at 724-996-7702 or email youngadults.pa@gmail.com

THIS MOTHER'S DAY,



Blanket the World with Love!
cwsblankets.org/mothersday

CWS COMING TOGETHER TO COVER OUR NEIGHBORS

When hurricanes brought flooding and heartache to North Carolina, loving congregations provided hundreds of warm, comfortable blankets for the relief effort. They now need

help again. We would like to take part in the CWS blanket drive in honor of Mother's Day. We will be collecting monetary donations starting April 14 and ending on Mother's Day, May 12.

"They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity." – 2 Corinthians 8:2

FISH FRY DINNERS AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

We will be joining Zion and English Lutheran in providing desserts for the April 5 Fish Fry Dinner. Due to the increase of dinners sold from 600 to 700 they are asking for 225 to 250 desserts from each congregation. Desserts can be delivered to the American Legion on New Castle Street between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM. No need to cut your dessert, volunteers will handle the portions. We need everyone's participation in helping us to meet our desserts obligation.

2019 SUMMER CAMP

Camp Lutherlyn brochures are now available. Brochures are on the table by the office door or go to www.lutherlyn.com

















Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

- People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8) 
- Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3) 
- Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26) 
- This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2) 
- Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24) 
- Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17) 
- Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25) 
- While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29) 
- This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1) 
- These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56) 
- These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7) 
- Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15) 

Answer: palm branches, bread, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linens, silver coins, cross, crown of thorns, dice, reed.



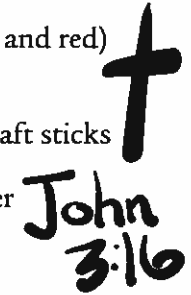
"I put in a jelly bean for pastor."

God so loved the world

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

What you need:

- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



What you do:

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.

2019

CALENDAR FOR 2019



APRIL

ASSISTING MINISTER: Marcy Miller
 USHERS: Tom and Lisa Finigan
 BELL RINGER: Jeff Miller
 OFFICE HOURS: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00 to 12:00 - 724-452-8832, spicofzelie@gmail.com

LECTOR: Marcy Miller
 GREETERS: Don and Cathy Loeffler

SUNDAY
 EIGHTH AND A ST.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

8:30 Choir
 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion
 10:00 Sunday School
 11:00 Confirmation at St. Paul 

12:30 Willing Worker's Meeting
 7:00 Council Meeting

6:15 Lenten Dinner and 7:00 Service at St. Paul Lutheran
 6:15 Lenten Dinner and 7:00 Service at Zion Lutheran

8:30 Choir
 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion (meet in Strobel Hall for blessing and distribution of palms)
 10:00 Sunday School

7:00 Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion 

7:00 Good Friday Service 

8:30 Choir
 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 

10:00 May newsletter info due in office



8:30 Choir
 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion
 10:00 Sunday School
 11:00 Confirmation at English