

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Have you ever noticed the drama associated with worship? In past years, folks would get up before dawn to join the women going to the tomb on Easter Sunday. On Christmas Eve we stay up late to welcome the Christ Child as did the shepherds! Sundays we again remember the resurrection story. When our Lenten season begins with **Ash Wednesday**, our weekly routines are disrupted as we gather for worship to remember the drama of the Passion and Last Supper of Jesus. During Lent we will gather on Wednesdays to remember the drama of the season. This year we will alternate worship space with Zion, so watch for the time and location. During Sunday worship we hear for the first time or again the stories of faith in Holy Scriptures. Our choir offers prayers, praises and stories of the God we worship. Baptisms and funerals are drama stories that tell of our faith.

Again on **Maundy Thursday** we will gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist both as a remembering of the Passover meal and the story of the exodus of God's people as they prepared to leave Egypt. Congregations often re-enact the Last Supper with a Seder meal. Last year our Sunday school classes gathered to remember and experience the meal.

As with any drama, there is much behind the scenes planning and preparations. The worship and music committee carefully makes sure that the hymns sung each Sunday are known and appropriate for the texts. (Notice that we don't sing Christmas carols during Lent!) The committee also arranges for appropriate decorations, for the communion table to be set up before worship, monthly 3rd Sunday fellowship meals are planned. My thanks to all who help with the behind the scenes preparations as well as participation in the drama as ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, lay readers, choir members and worship assistants get ready for worship. Baptisms and funerals are also carefully planned and arrangements completed by many before those special worship services. My thanks to all of you for your diligence and attention to details that sometimes go unnoticed or unappreciated. You all assist with orderly worship.

This year Lent begins after we already experience the lengthening of the days. We look forward to partnering with Zion as we prepare for the Christian celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Wednesday theme is "Renewing Hope." We hope you can join us on Wednesdays as part of your Lenten discipline. Yes, we will usually feed you great homemade soup. Since daylight savings arrives earlier now, March 10th this year [translation, maybe a longer day but definitely a shorter night!] our **Good Friday** drama won't exactly be experiencing the diminishing light as in past years. However, we will be hosting the Good Friday service for St. Paul and Zion as we again experience the death of Jesus, whose dying is the gift of forgiveness for all of us.

So the dramas continue as we gather to worship and omit hymns of praise during Lent. We will continue to depart after worship to go into the community to serve the Lord. We will prepare for the Passion, Death and Resurrection and of our God. We at St. Paul look forward to your continued presence at worship as we remember the life, death and resurrection of our God.

May we all continue to experience Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness for us each day because God is Love.

Shalom,

Pastor Bev +





Only new prayer requests will be in the weekly bulletins.

CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS: Shonna Ash, Ann Boben, Landon Brewer, Tom Brosenitsch, Carol Bulger, Nancy Bulger, Samantha Bulger, Karen Campbell, Kim Christy, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch, Pete Carlino, 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, Tina Lawson, William Loveridge, Bobbie Marchlenski, Martin Matscherz, Nolan Nachriener, Don Nielsen, Verna Patscko, Lois Peeples, Mike Pollack, Jax Ramirez, Erin Roman, Bud Senn, Dawn Swidorsky, Louise Spithaler, John Wherry, Tom Wilson, Lilly Wolfe, and Ron Zinkham.

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

Thoughts on prayer

“You don’t know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, ‘Lord, I don’t know how to pray!’ you can be sure you have already begun.”

–St. Josemaría Escrivá

“Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won’t always find answers, but you will always find Jesus.”

–Father Mike Schmitz

“If the lungs of prayer and the Word of God do not nourish the breath of spiritual life, we risk suffocating in the midst of a thousand daily cares. Prayer is the breath of the soul and of life.”

–Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

To God you shall return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually – that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends – one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral – meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.



Dear Members of St. Paul:

Where does the time seem to go? It seems like we just started 2019 and here we are ready to begin the third month already.

Don't forget the Willing Workers Soup and Sandwich dinner being held this week on February 28th. Please remember to stop in and enjoy some delicious warm soups and hearty sandwiches during this cold weather we have been having.

Plans have been made for our Lenten season which will be starting in a few weeks. Please see our schedule below:



Ash Wednesday	March 6	11:00 Worship and Lunch at Zion Lutheran
		7:00 Worship at St. Paul
with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes		
Lenten Services	March 13	6:15 at Zion
	March 20	6:15 at St. Paul
	March 27	6:15 at Zion
	April 3	6:15 at St. Paul
	April 10	6:15 at Zion
Maundy Thursday	April 18	7:00 Worship at both St. Paul and Zion Lutheran
Good Friday	April 19	7:00 Worship at St. Paul

The theme for the Lenten discussions will be: "Renewing Hope". If you are unable to attend the dinners that are being held at both churches, please come for the discussion period from 7 to 7:30 pm. Pastor Banyay and Pastor Susie Essex will be leading all the worship/discussion periods during Lent. A sign up sheet is also in the narthex if you would like to provide a crockpot of soup on the nights we are hosting.

I hope everyone has noticed the lighting in the church recently. Both Jeff Miller and JaLeen Anderson have worked with Universal Scaffolding in getting our lights changed in the church. Universal was a big help in changing the bulbs and cleaning some of the fixtures for us while high up on the scaffolding (a job I am sure none of us would want to attempt).

Jeff also spent a couple of days working with Motta Heating to get the furnace working in Strobel Hall. A big thank you to Jeff who spends a great deal of time here helping to keep things repaired and in good working condition.

Also a big thank you to Nancy Williamson for leading the choir these past few months in Bobi-Jean's absence. Our choir may be small, but certainly mighty in their singing and leading us in worship.

Looking forward to some warmer weather soon and hopefully we will see many of you at our church services. We certainly miss seeing all of you in attendance.

Sincerely,
Linda
Council President

WILLING WORKERS

Join us for our Soup and Sandwich dinner Thursday, February 28 from 4:00 to 7:00. Soup being served is: Broccoli Cheese, Chicken Noodle, Potato, Stuffed Pepper, Vegetable and Wedding Soup. Sandwiches: Roast Beef, Hot Sausage, Hot Dogs. Plus cookies and brownies. Cost will be: \$3.00 Bowl, \$1.50 Cup, Sandwiches \$4.00, \$1.50 Hot Dogs and \$2.00 with sauerkraut. Take out will also be available.

Soup and desserts may be brought to Strobel Hall any time after 12:00 PM the day of the dinner.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help with the dinner. We greatly appreciate your support.

Other dinner dates for the year will be:

- Smothered Chicken Dinner – May 2
- Horse Trading Days – July 18 [Spaghetti Dinner], July 19 and July 20.
- Fall Festival – October 12 and 13
- Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner – October 24



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.

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us on Sunday, March 17, for our Third Sunday Fellowship in Strobel Hall. Please see Jen McMurray if you would like to help with food or set up.

ONE VOICE FOR CHRIST



Sylvia Brackbill will be part of the One Voice Christian Vocal Ensemble during the Lenten Season. Sylvia was part of the ensemble for the Advent season and Thom and I had the pleasure of going and hearing them perform.

The musical offerings in each concert vary from season to season and year to year. The music represents a wide variety of styles from classical to contemporary, and the concerts are presented with Scripture passages and dramatic narration interspersed throughout the musical presentation. I would encourage everyone to try to go to one of the performances listed below.

March 3 at 3:00 PM: Saint Sebastian Parish, 311 Siebert Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (Special presentation 45 minutes)

March 3 at 7:00 PM: Memorial Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 8800 Peeples Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

March 17 at 2:00 PM: Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church, 200 Grace St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136

March 31 at 2:00 PM: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2535 Fairmount Church Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

April 7 at 7:00 PM: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 608 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229

April 14 at 2:00 PM: Grace Anglican Church, 319 West Sycamore Street, Mt. Washington, PA 15211

April 28 at 3:00 PM: Claysville Presbyterian Church, 134 Wayne Street, Claysville, PA 15323

If anyone is interested in going as a group for either the March 3 or March 31 performance, please let Colleen Cipro know which date works the best for you.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

MID WEEK LENTEN TAIZE' SERVICE

The Taize' community is an ecumenical monastic order in Taize', Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than 100 brothers from the Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from approximately 30 countries from around the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schutz. The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, with a focus on youth, and through the brother's ecumenical outlook, they encourage you to love in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

The Taize' service is one of contemplation. Silence and simple melody, along with candlelight and prayer, prepare us to open our hearts and minds to God. There will be reading of scripture, prayer, and a time of silence where your mind calms, your soul opens, God speaks, and the heart hears. Taize' has more to do with listening to God than speaking to God. It is a welcome time of beauty and simplicity.

We ask you to PLEASE enter and exit in silence. If at any time during the service you feel a call to go to the chancel rail to pray, or touch the healing waters of Baptism, you are encouraged to do so. We hope you will be renewed by this peaceful and comforting service.

Mid Week Lenten Taize' Service starts on Wednesday, March 13 and ends Wednesday, April 10. Complete schedule is in the newsletter and in the calendar. CDs will also soon be available if you want to become familiar with the music.

2019

MARCH



ESSEXVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LECTOR: Jen McMurray
 GREETERS: Thom and Colleen Cipro

SUNDAY
 FASTEN UP FOR LENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	02	03	04 11:00 Service with lunch at Zion Lutheran 7:00 Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes	05	06	07  Remember to turn your clocks ahead when you go to bed tonight!
08 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Confirmation Daylight savings time begins	09 7:00 Council Meeting	10	11 6:15 Lenten Dinner and 7:00 Service at Zion Lutheran	12	13	14
15 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Third Sunday Fellowship	16	17	18 6:15 Lenten Dinner and 7:00 Service at Zion Lutheran	19	20	21
22 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Confirmation	23	24	25 6:15 Lenten Dinner and 7:00 Service at Zion Lutheran	26	27	28
29 8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	30	31	 <p>Join us for Ash Wednesday and our Lenten Wednesday Services! We also look forward to seeing you at or 9:00 Sunday Worship Services.</p>			