

Dear Members of the Body of Christ,

During the month of May we continue to celebrate the season of Easter. Yes, we will hear Easter hymns of victory over death and joy and hope and love. But then such good news is often included in the hymns we sing. This question often helps me filter issues of compassion and justice in our nation and throughout the world. *“How does God’s love aide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?”* [1 John 3.17]

We live in a nation that promotes democracy and strives to abide by the U.S. Constitution. That is reassuring as I hear of civil strife throughout the world. But any man made institution has limits, the church on earth, congregations in Zelenople and our state and federal government. Congregations who proclaim Christ’s victory over death and forgiveness of sins struggle to be in the world but not of the world.

As we continue to be bombarded with news, one question that is not usually on the agenda is, *“Who is my neighbor?”* [Luke10:29] We don’t ask this question to justify ourselves as did the lawyer standing before Jesus, but to search our hearts to see how we can respond to those in need as did the Good Samaritan. Houses burn down, people confront life and death questions, we see our neighbors near and on TV suffer. Our congregation, the ELCA and all Christians continue to search and research to find workable solutions for feeding the hungry, providing jobs with just wages and benefits, offering educational opportunities, being brave enough to reach out to strangers. We constantly ask ourselves, “What would Jesus have us do?”

*And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.* [1 John 3.23-24]

The love we have for one another is experienced as we greet one another at worship or in the grocery store. The love we have for one another abounds at the food pantry at Zion Lutheran the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month as hundreds in our community receive food. The love abides in us when we reach out with a phone call or letter to someone. The love of Christ is evident to those who see the world through eyes of faith.

This May is the month of Easter Sundays for us. By the death of Jesus we have our sins forgiven so that we are free to serve one another and the unknown other. Some of us will be at our synod’s stewardship training. May 6<sup>th</sup> to enhance our stewardship skills so that we can serve others. On May 13<sup>th</sup> we hope our families with youth will join us at Camp Lutherlyn for **CampBlast** to experience the many activities offered to campers each summer. First time campers qualify for \$100 discount and our Willing Workers are willing to provide camp scholarships to assist campers.

Preparations are already underway for Pentecost on June 4<sup>th</sup> when Luke and Sydney will be confirmed. We look forward to seeing you at our Pentecost celebration. Oh, and of course the women of our congregation will be remembered on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> when our nation celebrates Mother’s day.

Christ has been raised from the dead. Christ has forgiven our sins. Christ is alive to the world as we at St. Paul are the church on earth.

Alleluia, Christ is alive.

Jesus lives.

Amen, amen, amen.

Pastor Bev

**Dear members of St. Paul's congregation,**

We just held our Smothered Chicken Dinner Thursday night, April 27. We served 70 adult dinners, 35 take out, and 5 children dinners for a total of 110 dinners. THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED FOOD ITEMS, WORKED IN THE KITCHEN, DINING ROOM, ATTENDED THE DINNER AND HELPED IN ANY WAY. You are a wonderful congregation and we appreciate all you do for us.



We will be having a clean-up around the church sometime in May. If you want to help, please let someone on council know. Thanks to Cindy

Loveridge for cleaning all the seat

cushions and the pews. This is something that has been needing done for a long time. We need to clean the Altar area and polish the gold items and other things we have noticed, but are not part of the cleaning person's job description.

Pentecost will be on Sunday, June 4. Being confirmed will be Sydney McMurray and Luke Wilson. Please plan on joining us for this special day and remember to wear red! No need to bring geraniums this year, since Sean Martin has done just a wonderful job with the flowers. Also the families of Sydney and Luke will be hosting a luncheon following the service. If you would like to attend the luncheon, a sign up sheet is in the narthex or call the church office.

Holy week brought several new families to our church with an interest in seeing what we do. I talked to them and they expressed to me how friendly and loving our church family is. I am very proud of all of you for showing our love of God and welcoming others to our worship. We love our church and our family. Like all families we do have our problems, but working together we can overcome any problem in a loving and constructive manner. As we come to worship on Sunday morning, come with a heart ready to give thanks to God for our church and family. Any concerns you do have, please leave them at the door and we can address them during the week.

Marty Goetz

Council President

## YARD SALE

June 8, 9 and 10

Bag Sale on June 11 for members!

Items can be brought in and placed on the back of the stage any time after May 15<sup>th</sup>. Because of Confirmation on June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will not be able to start setting up until after the luncheon. We will begin setting up late afternoon and everyday leading up to the yard sale on June 8.

Strobel Hall will be open daily from 8 AM until 8 PM. Tuesday we will be open until 5 PM due to Weight Watchers. Bring your items in and place them in the back of the hall to the left. If you have time, you can place your items in the proper area. We will have the areas marked. We hope to have everything displayed by Wednesday so we can price items on Thursday. We will not be accepting electronics (computers, TVs, large appliances). Please make sure items are in useable condition and clean. Sign up sheets will be available in church, starting May 11. We will need people to sort, place items, set up and take down, work on sale days and other small jobs. If you can't be in church to sign up, you can call Colleen in the office to volunteer. This is a joint effort. We need everyone to help.

More information will be in the bulletins leading up to the Yard sale.





**Only new prayer requests will be in the weekly bulletins.**

**NEW PRAYER REQUEST:** Verna Patsko mother of Barb Bulger recovering from open heart surgery.

**CONTINUED PRAYER REQUESTS:** Tom Baker, Brad Bartley, Landon Brewer, Evelyn Bordon, Carol Bulger, Samantha Bulger, Ernie Dambach, Candice Dishman, Don, David English, Mark Fox, Barbara Frantz, Brett Greenhill, George Goetz, Andrienne Haegg, Cindi Hunter, William Loveridge, Bobbie Marchlenski, Nolan Nachriener, Darlene Neibar, Nellie Chmara, Terry Oakes, Mindy Pasquale, Mark Pollack, Dan Rossi, Erin Roman, Louise Spithaler, George Stout, 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 [splcofzelie@gmail.com](mailto:splcofzelie@gmail.com) Also if you would like to be notified of any needed prayers, please email the church office, with your email address.**

## Women of valor

In *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* (Thomas Nelson), Rachel Held Evans explores the concept of the Proverbs 31 woman, whose character is described as noble or virtuous. Many scholars say the most accurate translation of the Hebrew phrase *eshet chayil* is actually the “valorous woman.”

To many modern-day women, Proverbs 31 seems like an impossible-to-meet job description. But Evans says that shouldn't be the case. “The woman of Proverbs 31 is not some ideal that exists out there; she is present in each one of us when we do even the smallest things with valor,” she writes. “Like any good poem, the purpose of this one is to draw attention to the often-overlooked glory of the everyday.”

To affirm the females in her life, Evans started calling them “women of valor.” What an honoring way to bless someone's day!

## Be a praying parent



Prayer is the saucer into which parental fears are poured to cool. ... Each time a parent prays, Christ responds. His big message to moms and dads? Bring your children to me.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

### What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



### What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother's Day gift.



## 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.



It is time to register for summer camp!!! Go to [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com) to find out about the different camps offered including Small Fry Days information. Please keep in mind if you have a child interested in camp and needs help with the cost, please see Pastor Bev.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT CAMP LUTHERLYN

**CampBlast** on Saturday, May 13, 11 am to 4:30 pm. The day will highlight all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Horseback riding, campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, high ropes course, bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, archeology, rockets, kayaking, biking, tours, great food, and MORE! The best part...everything is FREE!

**Lutherlyn Tour**, Wednesday May 17 or Thursday August 31, 10:30 to 1:30 – lunch included. Please RSVP by one week prior to the scheduled tour to Deb at 724-865-2161 or [deb@lutherlyn.com](mailto:deb@lutherlyn.com)

**"My Grown-up and Me" Camp**, Tuesday, July 11 or Thursday, July 13. This is a day for 3-6 year olds to spend at camp with their grown-up (parent/guardian, grandparent, babysitter, etc.). Our hope is that this will provide a fun way for younger kids to experience camp with someone that is special to them.

**Youth Group Days – Jr. High/Sr. High Days – July 10, 12, or 14, Elementary (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – July 25, 26, or 27**  
This is an opportunity for groups of youth/kids to come to camp together for a fun day in the summer. Hopefully this will help youth stay connected to each other, the church, and their faith over the summer.

**Grown-Up Camp**, August 28-30, Camp isn't just for kids! This 3 day retreat is for adults to come, relax, and have fun at camp!

"Your children will become what you are, so be what you want them to be."  
—David Bly



2017

MAY

ASSISTING MINISTER: Thom Cipro  
GREETER: Phyllis Metz  
BELL RINGER: David Williamson  
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00-12:00 spicofze@gmail.com www.spitz.com 724-452-8832

LECTOR: Marcy Miller  
USHERS: Jeff and Marcy Miller

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
9:15 Sunday School 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion	12:30 Willing Workers Meeting 7:00 Council Meeting					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:15 Sunday School 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion Happy Mother's Day!!!						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion Third Sunday Luncheon We welcome Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner to our service	10:00 June Newsletter info due in office					
28	29	30	31			
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 Choir Practice 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion	Memorial Day					

Items for the Yard Sale may be brought in starting May 15. Items are to be placed on the back of the stage. Strobel Hall will be open daily starting June 5 from 8 AM until 8 PM, except for Tuesdays [8 AM to 5 PM]. After June 4, items are to be placed in the back of the hall to the left.

"I am the resurrection and the life."

JOHN 11:25

Join us for worship at 10:15, Sunday School at 9:15  
Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended — withdrew from the earth — but he has never left us.  
Where two or more gather in his name, he is there. He is here!