

The Good News

APRIL 2017
VOLUME 43 NO. 4

St. John's Lutheran Church
44 West Main St
Shiremanstown, PA 17011



Worship With Us This Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 9—8:00 AM & 10:45 AM
Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the Passion

Maundy Thursday, April 13—7:30 PM
Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 14—7:30 PM
Service of Tenebrae

Easter Vigil, April 15—6:00 PM
Contemporary Service/Easter Vigil/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 16
Lighting of the First Flame/Sunrise Service—5:50 AM
Festive Services of Our Lord's Resurrection—8:00AM, 10:45AM, & 4:00PM

The Good News

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APRIL COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Saturdays
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
April 1

6:00 PM
April 8, 15, 22, 29

Maundy Thursday
7:30 PM
April 13

Sundays
8:00 AM, 10:45 AM & 4:00 PM
April 2 & 16

8:00 AM & 10:45 AM
April 9, 23, & 30



REFLECTION BY OUR SENIOR PASTOR

“Thoughts about Easter and Martin Luther”

~Pastor Michael Seifried

When I was in seminary, I read many of Martin Luther’s works. (It seemed to be the thing to do in a Lutheran Seminary!)

One thing I noticed was how often Luther saw Christ’s presence in many of the works of the Old Testament. At that time I did not see what Luther saw. But over the years how things have changed. I now see Christ in not only most Bible readings, but also in places in my life I had never seen our Lord before. Here is why I see the focus on Christ to be so important.

I often do a very poor job of being a spiritual person. The good I know I should be doing, I don’t do. I wish I could do better but on my own I know I will always be limited in what I can do. So what is the answer?

As Luther discovered, the answer is Christ. Christ gives us the heart to be generous when we feel less than generous, to be loving even though we would want to hate, and to be a

witness when we would choose otherwise. That is the power of Christ at work.

Through Christ, many things become possible for spiritually poor people like me. Jesus is present with us now and the Easter message informs us of that presence.

On Good Friday, Jesus died on the cross, but on Easter, he rose. This means he is alive and as is true of any living person, he can still have an influence on others, a major influence. His greatest influence is seen in the victories over sin, death, and evil. He is able to reveal a love of God that is at the center of the victories over sin, death, and evil.

For spiritually poor persons like me, it will be the presence and influence of Jesus that can often inspire and motivate a less than generous and loving person to rise to new heights of what can be possible. Thanks be to God that Jesus lives!

One Year Push on the Building Fund

We owe two balances on our building loans. We owe the Trustees Construction Loan \$121,271 for their loan. The other loan is to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. That one has a balance of \$112,642. The Mission Investment loan we can potentially pay off in January 2018.

One issue is after many years of generous giving, the building fund contributions are not meeting the payments. For example, in February, we collected \$4,967, but our payment was \$7,292. Fortunately, we have a balance of \$25,930 in our building fund account which will help us make up the shortfall.

Still, we ask you to consider giving a gift to our Building Fund or increasing your contribution to the Building Fund so we can pay off the Mission Investment Fund by January 2018 and also work to retire our debt to the Trustees Construction Loan as well.

Pastor Mike

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

“Journey With Us” ~ by Pastor Sarah

Do you see Lent as a journey? A chance to start on Ash Wednesday and work yourself to the joy of Easter once again? This is how I like to look at it. A journey with a beginning and an end, and one that we can walk together each time the calendar rolls around.

My favorite part of this journey is Holy Week. The last part of Lent that takes us from Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter. It can seem like a lot of time and worship to commit to, but each day is something different and gives us part of Christ’s story that we miss if we aren’t present.

Palm/Passion Sunday begins with the joy of the entrance into Jerusalem and then immediately turns to the story of what comes next.

When we gather on Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus sharing a meal with his disciples

and inviting them to repeat those actions to remember him. We remember who he was and who he continues to be.

On Good Friday, we witness the death of our Savior. It is a painful service for some, but important that we see the darkness fall and witness the body of our Lord laid in the tomb.

And, of course, the joy of Easter is best felt when we gather for worship on Easter Sunday. There is something about singing ‘Jesus Christ is Risen Today’ as one voice that makes it all that more real.

This is a journey that comes around every year, but that doesn’t make it any less important. Let’s walk together through Lent, through Holy Week and most certainly walk together to see the joy of the resurrection.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now—July 10–14—for a week of fun at Vacation Bible School! Watch for more information on how you can volunteer and when to register your child(ren.)



NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

April Team Meetings

Monday, April 3

6:30 PM Day Care Board

Tuesday, April 4

6:30 PM Church Council—Library

Tuesday, April 18

6:30 PM Outreach and Nurture—Conference Room

Wednesday, April 19

7:30 PM Trustees—Conference Room

Thursday, April 20

6:30 PM Worship and Music—Conference Room

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAMS
Judd Fodness—Coordinator

FINANCE TEAM

FEBRUARY 2017 - Financial Manager's Report

		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		40,404.55	37,406.25	43,245.02	34,565.78
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	2,263.70	2,263.70	\$0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,062.80	1,062.80	\$0.00
BUILDING		28,256.11	4,966.60	7,292.70	25,930.01
MEMORIAL		48,191.43	5.00	0.00	48,196.43
TOTALS		116,852.09	45,704.35	53,864.22	108,692.22

Income

1	9,200.00	Day Care - Facility Use
2	800.00	Day Care Cleaning
3	1,245.00	Parsonage Rental

Disbursements

1	512.76	Church Maintenance
2	1,414.26	Ed Building Maintenance
3	200.00	Supply Organist



GOOD NEWS: The deadline for the May GOOD NEWS is Monday, April 10. If you have any information to be included in this issue, please have it in the Church Office by that date.

SERVICE MINISTRY TEAMS

Jen Shuey and Susan Van Zile—Coordinators

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM SAYS THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to donate the following to Helping Hands Ministry in Harrisburg: 16 pairs of socks, 4,454 servings of creamer, 480 packets of hot chocolate, and 2,750 servings of sugar/sweetener! Great job, St. Johns!

SOCIAL MINISTRY APRIL COLLECTION—Doctors Without Borders

For the month of April the Social Ministry Team is collecting financial donations for starving children through **Doctors Without Borders**. The money collected will be used to purchase "ready-to-use therapeutic food, which provides all the proteins, essential fats, vitamins, and minerals" that malnourished children need to survive. A contribution of \$100 can purchase 540 emergency food rations. Please include your donation with your weekly offering. Mark the envelope "Doctors Without Borders."



http://cdn.doctorswithoutborders.org/sites/usa/files/styles/detail_page_header_left_sidebar/https://media.msf.org/Docs/MSF/Media/TR1/1/3/6/b/MSF185075.jpg

WITNESS MINISTRY TEAMS

Michaël Kadjeski—Coordinator

My Neighbor is Muslim: Living Together Faithfully

Jesus compels us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:28-31). Even when our neighbors are "just like us" it can be challenging to know and love them. Increasingly our neighborhoods are diverse and our neighbors are different from us in race, religion and culture. The first step in loving our neighbors is getting to know them. Conversation is the perfect place to start.

St. John's Lutheran Church is offering an opportunity to dialogue about and with our Muslim neighbors. Dr. Rukhsana Rahman and her husband, Mr. Athar Rafiq together with Pastor Seifried will lead a series of five workshops Sunday evenings, April 23rd through May 21st. The FREE workshops will each begin with dinner at 5:15 PM and conclude by 7PM.

Plan now to attend any or all of the sessions in the series and invite interested friends and family. Registration is requested for the program so enough food and supplies can be prepared for all attendees. RSVP to Beth Bard in the church office at 761-5121. More information will follow.

Opening the Scriptures Adult Education Classes for April

Come open up your understanding of the scriptures we read on Saturday and Sunday. Our group welcomes everyone to be part of our study together. Here is what we will be looking at in April:

April 2-Martin Luther and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

April 9-Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9-“the suffering servant” of Isaiah and Jesus

Philippians 2: 5-11-“Christ in the form of God empties himself”

Matthew 27: 11-54-the suffering and crucifixion (Matthew’s Passion Acct.)

April 16-Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-43-How the resurrected Christ changed Peter

Colossians 3: 1-4-Being raised with Christ; seeking things from above

Matthew 28:1-10-the resurrection account in Matthew

April 23-Easter 2

Acts 2: 14, 22-32-Peter testifies to the resurrection in Jerusalem

1 Peter 1: 3-9-We gain an inheritance through Jesus’ resurrection

John 20: 19-31-Thomas doubts Jesus’ is resurrected until he sees him

April 30-Easter 3

Acts 2: 14, 36-41-The first converts to Christianity are baptized

1 Peter 1: 17-23-we are reconciled to God through Jesus

Luke 24: 13-35-disciples encounter the risen Jesus

New Member Classes Offered

St. John’s is offering a series of New Members’ Classes on April 9 and April 23. These classes will be from 9:15 to 10:15 in the education building. New members will be received on April 23 at our 10:45 Service.



Call the church office at 761-5121 for more information or talk with Pastor Seifried.



St John’s Signs are Available

One way to get the news about St. Johns out is by using one (or more) of our yard signs. If you haven’t as of yet got yours, pick up a yard sign at the church and place it in your yard. We want to invite as many persons as possible to come worship with us.

With Appreciation

St. John's Family,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful bouquet of altar flowers which were delivered by Sue and Fred Bottini. It was nice to see them.

Thank you, also, for all your prayers. I am recuperating from my surgery, but will be having additional surgery later. Your continued thoughts and prayers will be much appreciated.

Thank you, again. It is very nice to be remembered.
Peggy P

Dear Pastor Seifried and church Members:

Thank you for all your visits to me while I was in the hospital. The flowers you delivered were very much appreciated.

I want to thank everyone for the cards and those that called me. It is so nice to belong to a caring church.

Sincerely,
Dolores S



THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

SAGE APRIL EVENT

The S.A.G.E. members are dining at Peppermill at 1:00 PM on April 19.

Contact the church office at 761-5121 to make your reservation.

WEDNESDAY IN THE PARLOR

Join us April 19 at 6:30 PM in the church parlor for dessert, fellowship, and note writing. Call the church office for more information at 761-5121.

The Women of the ELCA, of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, is holding a Day of Renewal, Saturday, April 29, at Holy Trinity, Hershey. Speaker will be Mary Klaus, a medical missionary who has been on 43 international medical missions since 2001, and she wears many hats. The scripture theme for the day is Matthew 25:34-40. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 for the day and includes lunch and the days expenses. Come and enjoy a day of fellowship and spiritual renewal with other Lutheran women in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Please contact the church office at 761-5121 to let Beth Bard know if you're attending. If we have enough interested women, a carpool can be formed.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY—Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9

Contemporary Service of the Palms and Passion	6:00 PM
Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the Passion According to St. Matthew	8:00 AM and 10:45 AM
Sunday School	9:15 AM

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE—Wednesday, April 12

Brief Service of Word and Sacrament	6:30 AM
Wednesday Lenten Service	7:30 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY- Thursday, April 13

Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar	7:30 PM
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GOOD FRIDAY—Friday, April 14

Service of Tenebrae	7:30 PM
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EASTER VIGIL—Saturday, April 15

Contemporary Service/Easter Vigil/ Sacrament of Holy Communion	6:00 PM
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EASTER SUNDAY/RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—Sunday, April 16

Lighting of the First Flame	5:50 AM
Easter Sunrise Service/ Dedication of the Paschal Candle	6:00 AM
Easter Continental Breakfast	6:50 AM
Festive Services of Our Lord’s Resurrection/Sacrament of Holy Communion	8:00 & 10:45 AM 4:00 PM
Sunday School	9:15 AM

LILIES FOR EASTER

Lily orders are now being taken for the Easter season. The **deadline to order is Monday, April 10**. They may be made as memorials or in honor of loved ones. The lilies are **\$10.00 each with one dollar from every order going to New Hope Ministries.**



MESSAGE _____

GIVEN BY _____

Payment at the time of ordering is appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAMS
Joel and Sandra Kroft—Coordinators

**Support Camps Nawakwa & Kirchenwald on
Lutheran Night with the Senators!**

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017 – 7:00 PM



Friday, May 5, 2017 – 7:00 pm Game Time

- Proceeds support Camperships
- Ballpark gates open at 6:00 PM
- Buy \$11 Tickets (\$4 goes to Camps Nawakwa & Kirchenwald)
- Watch the game from our Box Seats
- Postgame Fireworks!
- Deadline to order tickets: **Friday, April 21**

**Back by popular demand.
Come join us for a great night of fun!**

**Need a ride? Don't like to drive at night?
No problem. Transportation can be arranged.**

Contact the church office at 761-5121



Yes!!! We want to go to St. John's night at the Senators, Friday, May 5.

Name: _____

Number of tickets needed: _____ x \$11.00 each = \$ _____

Place your reservation form with payment in the offering plate or drop off at the Church office. Deadline for payment is Monday, April 5

Bread Breakers—Progressive Dinner
 Friday, April 28
 6:00 PM

Travel from home to home with us as we progress through our evening meal. Imagine appetizers, entrée, and dessert at three different locations. Save the date and plan to join in the fun and fellowship.



Watch the church bulletin for sign up and more information. Or, call the church office at 761-5121.

Progressive Dinner!

***St. John's Youth Group
 Annual Pasta Dinner
 Sunday, April 2, 2017
 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.***

Adults \$8, Kids 10 & under \$4

Spaghetti
 Meatballs/Sausage
 Salad
 Bread
 Dessert & Drinks

YOUTH EVENTS

Spaghetti Dinner

We hope that you will come out Sunday April 2 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM for our annual Spaghetti Dinner. The proceeds from this event will support youth attending the summer mission trip to New Orleans with LutheranHANDS.

LYO Lock-in

Back by popular demand, we will hold a spring lock-in on April 21-22. Plan to meet at the church after 6pm for a fun night with friends. We will also continue to work on Youth Sunday preparations. Feel free to bring a friend!

Gathering 5-8pm

Gather with your friends on Sunday April 30th in the youth lounge. Let's get ourselves hyped-up for Youth Sunday on May 6/7!!! We will eat a meal together, finish up our plans for Youth Sunday, and thank God for our amazing group of young people.

Save the Date!

May 6 & 7: Youth Sunday weekend

May 19: Senior send off at Stephanie's house

Worship Schedule and Hours

Saturday Evening Service—1st Sat of the month—4 PM
Contemporary Worship Service—Saturday—6 PM
Sunday Quiet Communion—1st Sun of the month—4 PM
Sunday Church Services—8 & 10:45 AM
Sunday Church School—9:15 AM

Senior Pastor—The Rev. Michael L. Seifried
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Sarah M. Keilholtz
Minister of Music—Thomas A. Notestine
Youth Director—Stephanie Alsvan

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
7:30 AM—12 Noon
1:00 PM—4:30 PM

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Our mission,



as members of St. John's Lutheran Church,
is to *worship* God;
learn Christ's way, truth and life for all ages;
serve others;
and *witness* to the Risen Christ.