

April
2017

St. John Lutheran Church



Mission Statement

St. John is a living witness to the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ.

We gather faithfully in His name to worship and praise Him; and we go forth in peace to share the Good News and to serve the world around us.

St. John Lutheran Church
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Pastor's Cell #: 412-585-1628

Dear friends in Christ,

On the Saturday before Palm Sunday we will open our doors to the community and present "*The Great Surprise – Jesus is Alive!*" It will be a great opportunity to share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection for the sake of the world, and a fun time for all as the children experience a series of unexpected events working up to the surprise of the empty tomb.

I don't know about you but I am not all that fond of surprises. I like things orderly and planned and a surprise can disturb that. I think most of us can agree that whether good or bad, surprises are highly disorienting; we don't know where to turn or what to do next. Even pleasant surprises, when unexpected, can throw us out of step.

The Easter story is full of surprises; from the women finding the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, Peter didn't believe and checked it out himself, the shocking appearance of Jesus in the locked room, and in the breaking of the bread in Emmaus. Surprises that altered the path of those that encountered them, as seeming defeat and sorrow turned into joy. The surprises didn't end there as Jesus surprises Saul on the Damascus road, and Peter is surprised in the house of Cornelius, as the good news is proclaimed not for a few but all.

The title of the event "*Great Surprise*" got me thinking about how we church folks, who have heard the story time and time again, have lost the sense of surprise the empty tomb brought that first Easter morning. We forget the excitement and good news that sin and death has been defeated, once for all. The resurrection account in the gospels becomes the "old familiar story" instead of the fresh account of God transforming all of reality. Our lives can seem to be a humdrum routine that seems to be life draining.

In Luke's gospel the angels asked the women at the tomb, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Are we settling for the darkness of Good Friday instead of the joy of Easter dawn? The surprising Easter story continues daily. Into our many experiences of death and dying God brings new life. Into our experiences of disappointment and failure God brings new hope. In the midst of our cynicism and desperation God brings the surprising presence of the Risen One.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to each of you,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman



Maundy Thursday – April 13 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Good Friday – April 14 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil – April 15 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday – April 16 – Worship at 8:00 am and 10:30 am



Lent is traditionally a time of fasting. Through the prophet Isaiah, God reveals to us the depth and breadth of authentic fasting in the alternate reading for Ash Wednesday: "Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6).

This Lent we are participating in the World Hunger emphasis **40 days of Giving**, a special opportunity to lift up the church's hunger and poverty ministry. The goal is to raise \$1 million from across the ELCA during Lent to help give our brothers and sisters around the world opportunities to earn a fair, sustainable living with dignity. Information will be shared during worship and you will have the opportunity to support this ministry with your special offerings.

In addition, we will be collecting loose change in the greeting area all during Lent, and the children will each receive special banks to collect their own offering.



Soup Supper and Study

April 5 - Join us as at 6:00 pm as we gather for our final soup supper for this Lenten season.



The Great Surprise.....Jesus is Alive

Saturday – April 8, 2017

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Parents and children enjoy activities and learn together and it all focuses on Jesus. There are seven stations for families to visit – Animation Station – the

Families are warmly welcomed and given sacks to collect activity station goodies.

At the amazing Animation Station everyone hears the Easter story. At the Confounding Creation station, they will make colorful bouncing balls, a reminder of the Resurrection. Joining hands at the extraordinary Energy station causes energy sticks to spring to life. Guess what floats or what sinks and get a prize, a Bible Tag with a Jesus centered Bible verse.

Silly props make for memorable family “fotos”. Enjoy a snack and interact with other families. At the Marvelous Mirascope small things float in the air. Everything points to the ultimate Easter truth: Jesus is alive.



**St. John Easter Egg Hunt and
Easter Breakfast
Easter Sunday – April 16**

Please join us for a fun time with the children for the Egg Hunt and for our Easter Breakfast between services.



**Saturday – April 22
(alternate date April 29)
9am till Noon**

Many hands make the work lighter.
Come join us and help clean up the
church grounds and dig in the dirt!
All are welcome!

**Easter Cantata - Concordia Alleluia Chorale
Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00 pm**



The Concordia Alleluia Chorale will present its Easter Cantata for the public on April 11 at 7:00 pm at Haven One, 112 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA - Entrance 2A. The cantata is entitled “On This Rock” and is the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, told from the perspective of the disciple, Peter. The Rev. Ralph Storm will portray the role of Peter. Cookies and punch will be served.



Ladies Tea

Saturday - April 29

St. John's Annual Ladies Tea will be **on Saturday, April 29 from noon till 2:00 pm**. Ticket cost is \$15 per person. There will be a Fashion Show by LulaRoe by Amber Jean and Gift Basket raffles. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the DePaul School for Hearing & Speech. You may purchase tickets from Missy Kramer or any of the Deacons.

Bible Study **Wednesdays – Noon**

Bring your lunch and your bible and join us for bible study each Wednesday at noon. All are welcome!

Quilting Group **April 10 – 6:00 pm**

Our group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. If you have an interest in quilting or would just like to learn, please join us!

Ladies Book Group **April 19 – 7:00 pm**

The Ladies Book Club is currently reading "Sensible Shoes" by Sharon Garlough Brown. It follows four women who meet at a retreat center and begin a spiritual journey as their lives are interwoven. We meet to discuss the book and share our insights and learn from each other, and we laugh, which is equally good for the soul! Meetings are in the 'living room' section of the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join us, the book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Music Together Program

The Spring session has begun. Join us on **Wednesday, April 5 at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue each Wednesday if enough register. You may register online at: <http://marylynnebennettpianostudio.weebly.com/music-together-registration.html>, email at mlobie1@gmail.com or 412-436-9579. This program is for early childhood through age 5 and their parents/caregivers.

Youth Group News

April 1 – Senior Bowling @ SJLCC – 1:45 pm

April 2 – Food, Fun & Faith – 11:45 am

April 21-23 – YouthFest at Lutherlyn

The Deacons would like to focus our attention to year 'round emphasis with newsletter articles and temple talks. The categories that we will touch on will be Earth-keeping, Growth, Giftedness, Finances, Lifestyle and Planning.

*Take some time to read the bible verse below, thank you and have blessed day.
Our Stewardship theme/focus for April:*

Live in God's Relationships

Now Jesus^[a] was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,^[b]

⁴ and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

⁵ And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves,'⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';⁷ and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'?⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence^[c] he will rise and give him whatever he needs.⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

The Deacons would like to thank you, our congregation, for your spiritual gifts the first 3 months of the year. Our thermometers this winter were going back and forth weekly, our up and down temperatures had some of us sick for weeks, but we are thankful that Spring is finally here. As we go through our daily lives these Spring days, let us continue to receive, seek, and knock, as God continues to welcome all of us through those open doors.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04/07 John Fritz
- 04/07 Zachary Claus
- 04/11 David Hrach
- 04/11 Todd McCormick
- 04/13 Jonathan Brower
- 04/16 Raymond Hackworth
- 04/17 Deanna McDonald
- 04/20 Martha Ward
- 04/24 Susan Bielo

Hold the Date!

May 6 – Stewardship Training – 9am-3pm
May 7 – Youth Group – 11:45 am



- 04/12 – Robert & Carolyn Zimmerman – 37 yrs.
- 04/18 – Clarence & Marlene Strabel – 59 yrs.
- 04/30 – Joseph & Gretchen Baysek – 23 yrs.

Communion Bread Schedule

April - Kim Richards
May – Cindy Knauff
Counters for April
Denise Hager & Sally Foster

APRIL

Worship Helpers

Please check the bulletin board in the church office for the new sign-up sheet for all worship helpers for each Sunday for the remainder of the year.

Assisting Ministers

8:00 am Clarence Strabel
10:30 am Martha Ward

Ushers

8:00 am
10:30 am Carolyn Jarrett

Communion Assistants

8:00 am
10:30 am

April Newsletter

Address service requested

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