

The Pastor's Page

April 2018

"Giving Up Lent?"



With every passing year, I find myself enjoying Lent more. *And I can't believe I just said that!*

What stands out to me are the gatherings: our Wednesday suppers and evening prayer; and the Ministerial Lenten Lunches on Fridays. These meals have become like holidays or even family reunions. There's joy and laughter in the fellowship. Everyone is welcome. And most importantly, we worship together. We hear God's Word together. We pray for each other.

Lent is the only time of year that we do this routinely. *And I think that's a shame.*

I understand that these meals require a tremendous amount of work, in terms of preparation and cleanup. I'm not sure it's practical or realistic to keep having weekly gatherings. At the same time, we can't neglect that the Church is built on relationships. You don't go to church merely for "what you get out of it." You belong to the Church. You are nurtured, and strengthened through the Word, the Sacraments, and your relationships with your family of faith. Sometimes, being a Christian is very hard—and God intends for you to have help!

Fortunately, there are opportunities on the horizon for you to enjoy the gift of fellowship. Bible Study continues to gather on the second and fourth Wednesdays and Thursdays of each month. Our monthly fellowship breakfasts on the second Saturdays of the month gathers at King's at 9:00 a.m. And by popular demand, our four congregations are coming together again at the Gilpin Township Fire Hall to celebrate Pentecost and Confirmation on Sunday, May 20—and this will include a catered meal!

Furthermore, we are looking to reinstate the monthly coffee hour—but this time, we're keeping it simple so that one person can sponsor it. A simple snack and beverage. *That's it.* The fellowship is the focus, not the food.

And with the joy we've experienced together this Lent, we ask: *has the Holy Spirit planted a seed for us to do something new or different so that we can continue to be blessed by the fellowship of our family of faith?*

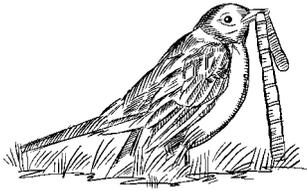
I can think of no better way to celebrate Christ's resurrection than for the Holy Spirit to challenge and empower us to strengthen our mutual fellowship and share with the unchurched what so many long for: acceptance, inclusion, and belonging made possible by the Savior whose cross reconciles us to God and each other—and who gathers his Church around Word and Sacrament.

See you on Sunday,

+ Pastor Jim

WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1-Don Aber
- 2-June Klingensmith (1919)
- 2-Lois Bowser
- 3-Elise Richardson
- 3-Beth Shaner
- 3-Marj Miller
- 4 – Richard Baker
- 5-Mark Simon
- 8- Jory Prendes
- 9- Sarah Radaker
- 10 – Diana Shea
- 18-Allison Illar Fike
- 19-Jacob Hebrank
- 20-Robert Woodside
- 23- Christian Shanta
- 24- Kali Hepburn
- 27-Shannon Hamlett
- 27-Randy Dunmire
- 27-Jennifer Daugherty



APRIL

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

- 13 – Shawna & Adam Varrato
- 23 -Bev & Bob Woodside

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 – Florence Wyrick
- 1 – Tom Smythe
- 7 – Diana Kuhn
- 8 - Kali Hepburn
- 11 – Chase Kuhn
- 13 – Evelyn Prendes
- 19 – Mark Simon
- 21 – Corrine Cribbs
- 21 – Robert Munko Jr
- 25 – Laura McKelvey
- 26 – Clarence Bell
- 29 – Amy Dunmire
- 30 – Joany McMullen



Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
724-845-7518



Pastor James Arter

Tuesday – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Wednesday and Thursday – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Or by appointment

Contact Information

Pastor James Arter, 930 Wildlife Lodge Road,
Apt. 302, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
Phone 724-212-7240
pr.jim@comcast.net

Office Angels

Thank you to all who come in to assemble the newsletter. More volunteers are welcome!

Worship Assistants

Acolytes

- 4/1 Victoria & Tabytha Hogan & Spencer Libengood
- 4/8 Jonah Zalenski
- 4/15 Katie Muth
- 4/22 Olivia Smythe
- 4/29 Victoria Hogan

Assisting Ministers

- 4/1 John Smail
- 4/8 Margaret McKallip
- 4/15 Andy Muth
- 4/22 Jason Delp
- 4/29 Alicia Szarek

Altar Guild

- 4/1 Chris Fuller & Eileen Eshelman
- 4/8 Cheryl Nelson & Deb Smail
- 4/15 Diane Kuhn & Lois Bowser
- 4/22 Sandy Smythe & Carolyn Shaffer
- 4/29 Janis Hill & Kathy Munko

Head Usher

Tom Smythe

Oil

Given in memory of Don Bowser
by Lois Bowser

Coffee Hour

Volunteer?

Newsletter Deadline April 22



Wanted - E-mail addresses

Do you have an e-mail address you would like to share with the office? This would be used to send reminders and possibly items mailed by first class mail. You can send it to felc@windstream.net

Blood Pressure check

The **third Sunday** of every month, we will be checking Blood Pressure in the **Nursery**. If you are interested in a monthly record of your blood pressure, please join us immediately after church service. Those taking B/Ps are Sandy Smythe, Andrea McCool, and Amada Graham.



Clothing Closet

We will be open **every month** on the third Saturday. The next sale date is **April 21**. If you would like to volunteer on one of the sale dates, please contact Janice King.

Check out **Pastor Jim's BLOG page**, <http://jamesarter3.blogspot.com> where you can read his sermons and Bible studies!

Prayer Ministry

We have a special place set up in the area behind the organ console. The 3 windows are set up for different prayer needs. There is a place for **public prayers** (situations and people that anyone can know about and pray for), there is a box for more **private prayers** and another box for prayers that **just Pastor Jim** would see and pray for.

If anyone would like to be personally prayed with; we will be available on Sunday mornings.



Like us on **Facebook** and stay connected with all that's happening in our church!

www.facebook.com/servinggodgracefully



Council

The following items were discussed at council;
Water cooler: A new water cooler has been purchased
Electronic giving: The option of our congregation giving on-line has been approved
New parlor furniture: Someone has volunteered to purchase 2 new sofas!
 Thank you!

Bible Study

The Bible studies meet Wednesdays **April 11 & 25** from 9AM – 10 AM and Thursdays **April 12 & 26** from 7 PM - 8 PM

Ink Cartridges

Thank you to all who have brought in ink cartridges. Please continue to bring them in. This helps save considerably on our office supplies!



Come join us for Breakfast at King's Family Restaurant in Leechburg on April 14! We will meet in the private dining room at 9 AM on the **second Saturday of every month**. This is a time for fellowship, a short devotion and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend!

GriefShare

The next session of GriefShare will began March 5 from 6PM – 8PM

To Our Church Family @ First Lutheran,

We would like to thank you all for the kind words, thoughts, prayers, cards, and delicious meals you sent for our family during

my recent surgery and recovery.

We are always reminded of how very blessed we are to have the caring loving relationship with each other through our faith in the Lord, and fellowship with each other.

May God bless each of you and hold you in his loving arms.

Sandy Smythe & family

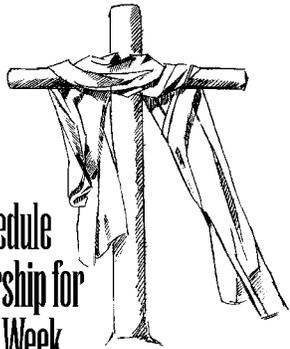


Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once.

—Miquel De Cervantes

Noisy Offering

Sunday, March 25 we will be receiving a noisy offering for the Leechburg Food Bank and World Hunger. Bring your change but we take paper money too! We will be collecting for the food bank and World Hunger all during Lent.



Schedule
of Worship for
Holy Week

March 25 – Palm Sunday

Worship @ 10:30 AM
Procession with palms

March 29 – Maundy Thursday

Worship @ 7:30 PM

March 30 – Good Friday

Community Service @ 12:30 PM
Hosted by Cross Roads Community
Presbyterian Church

Tenebrae Service @ 7:30 PM



**Easter Sunday,
April 1**

Worship @ 10:30 AM

Join us!



Kids Movie Night at the Church

April 6 - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Pot Luck Picnic

April 8 - 4:00 PM

St Paul's Highfield

Hosted by the confirmation class



March 31



Registration will
begin at 12:30 PM

The hunt begins
at 1:00 PM

This is for the entire
community. Please
invite your friends

and neighbors! Pre-registration would be
appreciated! Register online

See Doreen Smeal for more information.

Poets Speak of Spring

I dreamed that, as I wandered by the way,
Bare Winter suddenly was changed to Spring,
And gentle odors led my steps astray,
Mixed with the sound of water's murmuring ...
—Percy Bysshe Shelley from *The Question*

To what purpose, April, do you return again?
Beauty is not enough.

You can no longer quiet me with the redness
Of little leaves opening stickily.

I know what I know.

The sun is hot on my neck as I observe
The spikes of the crocus.

The smell of the earth is good.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay from *Spring*



Spring into Life

April 22nd at First Methodist Church
3:00 PM

Ministerial annual spring event of choirs from several of the local churches!



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Together in the Spirit May 20, 2018

Liturgy of Word & Sacrament and
Confirmation

With guest preacher

Rev. Kirk Bish

10:30 AM

Luncheon at 12:30 PM

Cost of luncheon: \$5 / person

Gilpin Twp. Fire Hall

A Joint Ministry of:
First, Hebron, Forks-Zion, St. Paul's Highfield
Evangelical Lutheran Churches

RSVP 724-845-7826

felc@windstream.net



Leechburg Lutherans



Our team is registered for the Apollo relay on June 8-9 and we are seeking members, supporters and survivors!

Go online to relayforlife.org - find the Apollo relay then our team (Leechburg Lutherans) from there you can join our team, support the team, register as a survivor, purchase a luminaria!



Representatives needed!

Synod Assembly is fast approaching. Our congregation is able to send three voting members, one male, one female and one youth.

(Confirmed member under the age of 21) This year's Assembly will be held June 14 – 16 at Thiel College in Greenville.

Contact the church office if you are interested in attending!



Vacation Bible School

Shipwrecked:

Rescued by Jesus

June 18 – 22 at Hebron Lutheran Church



A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.
—Robert E. Gibson