

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2024



APRIL

Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.

From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Easter becomes more and more commercialized, it's easy to focus on just one day. There's a build-up with Easter eggs, cute little bunnies, jellybeans and the family meal. And then it's over. But what about the new life that we're raised to with Christ because of Easter?

This passage from Colossians provides insight into the new life we have through Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective. (The Message, Colossians 3:1-2)

In other words, resurrection life gives us a new perspective. One that focuses on the things of God instead of the things of earth.

We all encounter our experiences and relationships through a particular world view. It tends to focus on things like, how do I feel? What do I want? What do I believe or think I deserve? Resurrection life invites us to encounter our experiences and relationships through God's view. This means when someone hurts us, we offer forgiveness. When we're challenged by an idea or situation, we seek God's perspective before we respond. When we feel shame, blame or guilt, we offer ourselves and others the gifts of compassion, grace and love.

Resurrection life is believing that God's way is better than all that the world can offer and believing that we are new people in Christ who can choose that way. It's seeing our experiences and relationships through the love of the God who desires that we live our lives in peace and joy!

May you pursue and experience resurrection life this Easter season!

Pastor Lori

A quote by Frederick Buechner:

"The resurrection of Jesus means the worst think is never the last thing."

April News from the Pews

Welcome to the Easter season. We have celebrated the Resurrection; the Alleluias have returned and now we journey together toward Pentecost. Throughout the Easter Season our Gospel reading will be taken from the Gospel of John. We will use Setting Three for our communion liturgy. Our Gospel Acclamation will be ELW 175 which is found in the Service Music section of our hymnal. Our Offertory Hymn will be verse one of the ELW Hymn number 678: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending. Please notice the change in the color of the paraments!

Sunday April 7

Second Sunday of Easter Keuka Students with us

Peace is Jesus' only prerogative in his presence with us. Huddled together after the crucifixion, the disciples are sought out and comforted by Jesus. Who shows them the wounds he has retained.

Psalm 133

1 John 1:2-2

John 20:19-31

Sunday April 14

Third Sunday of Easter

In Jesus, the bizarre is actually what gives us the opportunity to experience God's love again and again. This text is often referred to as "The Supper at Emmaus", Jesus calls his apostles back to the basics, reminding them of his identity, his mission, and the transformative power of his love.

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

God's love is bigger than anything we could ever imagine. And that is because God's love works through the smallest things we could ever imagine.

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Sunday April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jesus is the source of energy, goodness, efficacy and understanding—a source that nothing can separate us from.

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

COME WORSHIP THE LORD FOR WE ARE HIS PEOPLE THE FLOCK THAT HE SHEPHERDS....ALLELUIA!

Prayer Requests in Public Places

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. As Mother Teresa said, "Prayer is the mortar that holds our house together." Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public.

Grab and Go Lunches



April dates for the Grab and Go Lunches will be the 12th and 26th. On April 12th we will need 4 crockpots of macaroni and cheese, 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies and 5 dozen apples. We will need 4 crockpots of potatoes and ham, 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies and 5 dozen apples on April 26th. The sign up sheets will be on the

board across from the office. You may contact Amy (315-759-0901) or Jewel (315-719-8182) if needed. Thank you for your help.

Help Needed

We are still looking for helpers to deliver the food to the Living Well for the Grab and Go lunches. Please contact Amy (315-759-0901) or Jewel (315-719-8182) if you would like to help. We will explain how we do it. Thanks for any help you could offer.



Check Out the Puzzle Exchange Shelf!

Do you like to do jigsaw puzzles? Do you wonder what to do with your puzzles after you finish them? Check out the Puzzle Exchange Shelf located next to the coat rack in the fellowship hall. You can take a puzzle, leave a puzzle and/or bring one back!



Pet Partner Connections



Feed a Pet Sunday is April 28th. We will be collecting unopened dog or cat food through the month of April. These donations will be donated to Yates Co. Pets whose owners are facing life challenges or pet surrender. You may bring your donations to church or take them to the Living Well. This will help Pet Partner Connections to continue to assist Yates County residents and their pets.

Loaves and Fishes

The Upstate NY Synod's Hunger Justice Team is asking congregations to participate in the "**Loaves and Fishes**" program for the ELCA World Hunger. We will collect money through the months of April and May to help support this endeavor. The money collected will be used towards Fish Farms and Irrigation Systems to help those communities in need.



Meeting

Social Ministry Committee will be meeting Thursday, April 18th at 2:00 PM. We will be assembling the personal care kits and have a brief planning meeting. Anyone is invited to come and help.



Mad Hatters

The Mad Hatters next luncheon is at noon on Wednesday, April 17th at the Tavern. Please let Mickie Christiansen (315-719-3060). know if you are coming by Monday, April 15th. All women of St Paul's are welcomed. Come, bring a friend!

Hunger Offering for April

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.

Matthew 25:35

Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **Literacy Volunteers of Yates/Ontario County.**



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love



Each month, we will “shower” someone from St. Paul’s with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God’s faithful presence and love.



Alternative Spring Break Presentation

Join us after worship for coffee and the opportunity to hear about the recent experiences the Keuka College students had while in Puerto Rico. St. Paul's once again helped them with funds for this trip through the Flowing Forth fund which was established through the Bon Homuhune Bequest.



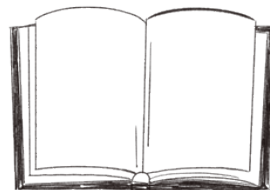
Come Watch the Solar Eclipse



On April 8th, we will experience one of the phenomenon of God's creation; a solar eclipse Why not experience it with your St. Paul's family? We will gather at 2:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Eclipse glasses will be provided.

Available Copies

Copies of Christ in Our Home devotionals for April to June and also The Lutheran Prayer Book are available on the table in the Narthex.



Key Code Reminder

Just a reminder, for those who use the Key Code, please make sure to spin the numbers so the code is not left on the key code box. Thank you!

Getting to Know Your Neighbors Save the Date

The community is in for a real treat on **Saturday, May 4th, 3:00 pm** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church as we host the **Finger Lakes Bronze Bell Ringers**. I can attest to the quality of the performance as Karen dragged me out of the house on a basketball Saturday, January 27th. To my surprise, I thoroughly enjoyed this concert. So tell one and all about this upcoming event. *Dan Malte*. Please contact Karen Malte with any questions (315-694-7388). Watch your bulletin for more information



Assembling of the Personal Care Kits

We have completed our personal care kits and will be assembling them on **April 18th at 2:00 pm**. Thank you to the congregation for doing such a good job!

Office Hours for the Month of April

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours. Jennifer is generally in every Tuesday late morning to early afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

The Sharing Shed

We remember these words from Matthew 25:35-37: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Thank you all so much for continuing to support St. Paul's Sharing Shed! Your monetary support during the month of March will help our shoppers fill the shelves!

This little shed is meeting the needs of many. The greatest needs right now seem to be: paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, laundry detergent and fabric softener; dish soap; liquid bath soap; shampoo; and snacks for children to use in their lunches! Your help is greatly appreciated!

Exploring a New Ministry Opportunity

Paul's Place is a once-a-month program through the Living Well that provides respite care for people caring for someone with dementia. Guests come on the third Thursday of the month from 10:00 am -1:00 pm for social interaction, crafts, entertainment and lunch. We have provided the space and many of the volunteers for this program since it began. Unfortunately, The Living Well will not be sponsoring Paul's Place after June.

We are in the process of discerning whether or not to continue offering this program as a ministry of St. Paul's. In order to faithfully make this decision, we need your help. Would you be willing to volunteer at Paul's Place? (frequency is flexible) Help with crafts or special programming? Provide food for either lunch or a snack? **If so, contact Angie Bailey (315-521-0940) or Pastor Lori.**



Memorials

Dick Nielsen

Phil Darrow

Don Shaw

Karen Pinneo

Greg and Shiela Disbrow

Beth Paulsen-Olmstead

Brian and Karen Fitzpatrick

Lisa Hogbin

Karen Pinneo

Terry Nussbaumer

Les and Wanda Wood

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



Anniversaries





We would love to
express our
gratitude and
appreciation to
all the
volunteers who
make our mission
happen!



THE LIVING WELL

Tuesday, April 23rd

Volunteer Luncheon

12pm - 2pm

First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan

211 Main Steet

PLEASE RSVP BY 4/19
1-315-536-0838



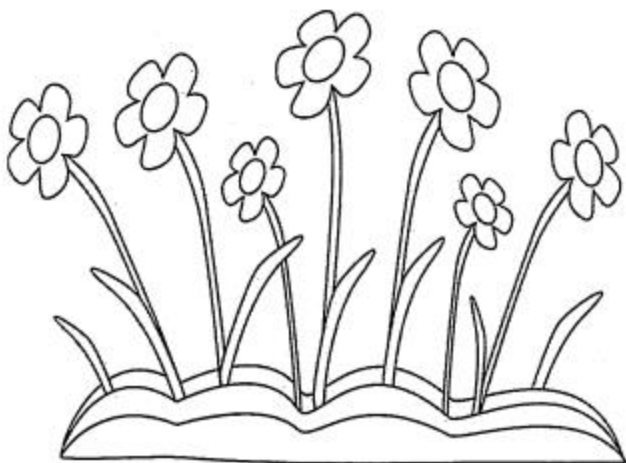
Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
Ecumenical Service
Celebrating the Resurrection

Tuesday
April 2, 2024
12:15pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton Street
Penn Yan

In Person or Via ZOOM:
bit.ly/pyprayer

*All services are posted on the Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
YouTube page*



Those Who Serve – April

	4/7	4/14	4/21	4/28
Assisting Ministers	Dorothy Oswald	Dave Nielsen	Whitney Booth	
Ushers (2)	Brian and Karen Fitzpatrick		Dave and Charlene Nielsen	
Readers	Karen Fitzpatrick			
Altar Guild				
Sound Board	Charlene Nielsen	Charlene Nielsen		
Computer	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers
Counters	Dorothy Oswald and Dave Nielsen		Dorothy Oswald	

Thank You Notes

Thank you from Clem Nielsen

Again I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to my family and friends for all the many acts of kindness and concern shown to me after my fall and convalescence; the prayers, cards, food, calls and visits. It has meant so much to me.

Blessings to all,
Clem

Thank you from Elva

To all my friends at St. Paul's - especially the Flowing Forth Group,

I just can't Thank you enough for the generous support you gave to Ajmal and Negin Zaheri. Needless to say they were thrilled to be able to get the car fixed and back on the road. Negin is pregnant with their 2nd child the end of May so they are very very thankful to know they can easily get to the hospital if needed. Ajmal will also start a pit job on top of his schooling to become a mechanic. It is a wonderful gift you have given to a wonderful family!

Hugs,
Elva

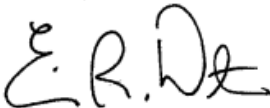
Dear St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,600 to our Alternative Spring Break Trip.

Rev. George Harvey Ball founded Keuka College in 1890 as a place to help prepare students to serve their communities and the world throughout their lives. Compassion and altruism are qualities Keuka College seeks to instill within students to this day. Your gift to Alternative Spring Break provides financial support for our students who wouldn't be able to afford this experience otherwise and it will provide them with the the opportunity to serve others. I am privileged to see the direct impact your investment has.

Thank you again for investing in our students. We will do our best to honor the spirit in which your donation was given to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,



Eric Detar
Keuka College Chaplain

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Milly's Pantry and the children and families of Yates County, I would like to thank you for your March 2024 SPLC donation of \$529 in support of our mission and programming. Your gift will help provide much needed supplemental weekend food and school supplies for the youth of Yates County.

We value your thoughtfulness and are grateful for the funds received to help maintain our programming and carry on Milly Bloomquist's legacy of charitable work.

From all of us at Milly's Panty and the children we serve, thank you for supporting our mission and fostering hope within our community.

In gratitude,



Janet H. Barrett
President
Milly's Panty Board of Directors
Milly's Pantry, Inc.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



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NEWS FOR THE MAY 2024 EPISTLE IS DUE APRIL 22nd

