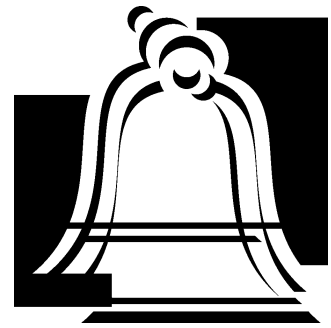
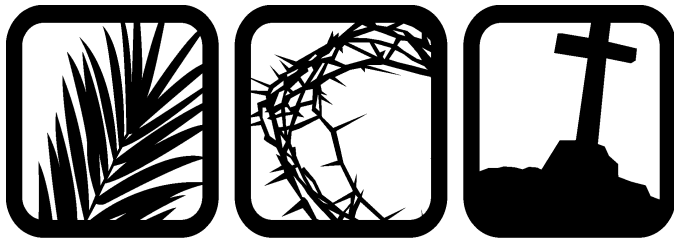


The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2019



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 14 10:30 AM - Palm/Passion Sunday
The worship will include the Procession of the Palms

Thursday, April 18 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday
The Maundy Thursday worship will celebrate The Last Supper.
A pot luck supper will precede the worship beginning at 6:00 PM.

Sunday, April 21 6:00 AM—Easter Sunrise Worship
An Easter Dawn Service will be offered at 6:00 AM.

Breakfast following the Sunrise Worship in Neidamyer Hall

Sunday, April 21 10:30 AM—The Resurrection of Our Lord
Celebration of Holy Communion

Late Breaking News....

The Bergstrasse congregation by an overwhelming positive vote of over 90% extended a call to the Rev. James Goodyear, aka Pastor Jim, to serve as the next Pastor. Pastor Jim accepted the call and will begin serving on April 8. With Holy Week beginning on April 14 there will be many opportunities to meet Pastor Jim. He will be living with his brother in York until the parsonage becomes available.



*We're
Getting
a New
Pastor*





FROM THE PASTOR

A man was driving along the highway when he saw the Easter rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was struck by his car.

The basket of eggs and candy the rabbit was carrying went flying all over the place. The driver, being a sensitive man, as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the rabbit carrying the basket. Much to his dismay, the colorful rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful, he began to cry.

A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong. 'I feel terrible', he explained, 'I accidentally hit the Easter rabbit and killed it. Children will be so disappointed. What should I do?'

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car trunk,

reached into her night bag, and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the dead, limp rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the furry animal. Miraculously the Easter rabbit came to life, jumped up, picked up the spilled eggs and candy, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. 50 yards away the Easter rabbit stopped turned around, waved and hopped down the road. Another 50 yards further on, he turned again, waved and hopped another 50 yards, again he waved.

The man was astonished. He wanted to know what substance could be in the woman's spray can. He ran over to the woman and asked, 'What is in your spray can? What did you spray on the Easter rabbit?'

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

An idle tale. Nonsense. Silliness. When the women returned from the empty tomb on that first Easter morning, the Gospel writer Luke describes the reaction of Jesus' closest followers upon hearing of their experience of the women to be just that (Luke 24:11). The humongous stone blocking the cavernous tomb had been rolled away? They saw two angels? And those two angels told them that Jesus had risen? Could this be the fantasy of the grief-stricken or the product of overactive imaginations fueled by a lack of sleep and the dark early morning shadows? Jesus was dead. And the dead stay dead. So *of course* the followers don't believe the women's story.

Perhaps we too have a hard time believing the women's story. We've gotten used to the empty tomb. "Oh yeah, Jesus rose. That's nice. Now pass the ham, please." Could we join them in thinking it's just an idle tale, that it doesn't really matter in our lives?

Could we have so domesticated this story that it becomes just another tale to us as well? But what if it were true? What if Jesus did actually burst from the tomb early on that Sunday morning and because of that everything has changed?

I cannot offer a spray can that will make everything better. However, I invite you to come to worship on April 21 (and the six Sundays of Easter thereafter) and experience the risen Jesus Christ. He has overcome death and the grave. We have nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing whatsoever to fear because he is risen and promises to be with us even to the end of the age. This is not an idle, worthless or frivolous tale. These are the words of life and healing and joy. May they penetrate deeply into your whole being. And may we all truly live as Easter People who intimately know the profound and life changing power of the resurrection.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob



Happy
SPRING!

The Bell is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church
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Worship - 10:30 AM

The Rev. Robert Kramer, Interim Pastor
717-405-0044 (cell)

Due date for the **May** newsletter is
April 21.

Worship With Us

April, 2019

Wednesday, 3rd – Lenten Cluster Worship, 7:00 PM

Texts: John 3:16-17; Luke 17:11-18

Sola Christus, Christ Alone. Pastor Tim Craven explores Who Is Jesus?

Sunday, 7th – Fifth Sunday in Lent – Word & Sacrament – Healing Prayers following Worship

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

The Lord our God makes all things new. In this day's first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Sunday, 14th – The Sunday of the Passion/Palms

Texts: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14--23:56

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah's words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus' passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment. Embrace it.

Thursday, 18th – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM

Texts: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Sunday, 21st – Easter Dawn, 6:00 AM

Texts: Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

We begin the day with worship among the dead. The news of Christ's breaking of the darkness of sin and death brings us all the Easter victory. The Paschal Candle shines as a symbol of the resurrection. The day is proclaimed with the ancient Easter shout, joyous songs and festive musical offerings and the word of God that proclaims the victory of Christ for us all.

Sunday, 21st – Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day, 10:30 AM – Word and Sacrament

Texts: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death "by hanging him on a tree." Alleluia! God allows Jesus to appear "to us who were chosen by God as witnesses" in holy baptism and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

Sunday, 28th – Second Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

Council Highlights March 10, 2019

Council approved an increase in fees to Harold and Jeremy Nolt for opening graves and cremations. However, we are still in need of a person for overall management of the cemetery, including plot sales.

Lisa Conway gave Council a copy of the report received from Ephrata Police Chief Harvey of his recent seminar on "How to Survive an Active Shooter Event", which she and Cathy Feather attended. A copy of the report is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Council approved Kathy Landis' request to hold a fundraising yard sale at the church on May 17 and 18. Proceeds will go to 4 Our Kids, Power Pack Project, and ALS/Randy Walker.

In response to the suggestions the church needs a general cleaning out, Council agreed that no more church items will be disposed of until after the installation of a new pastor.

The next Council meeting will be after church on April 14.

Special Congregational Meeting March 24, 2019

The congregation met to consider calling the Rev. James Goodyear as pastor of Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church. 33 eligible voting members were present.

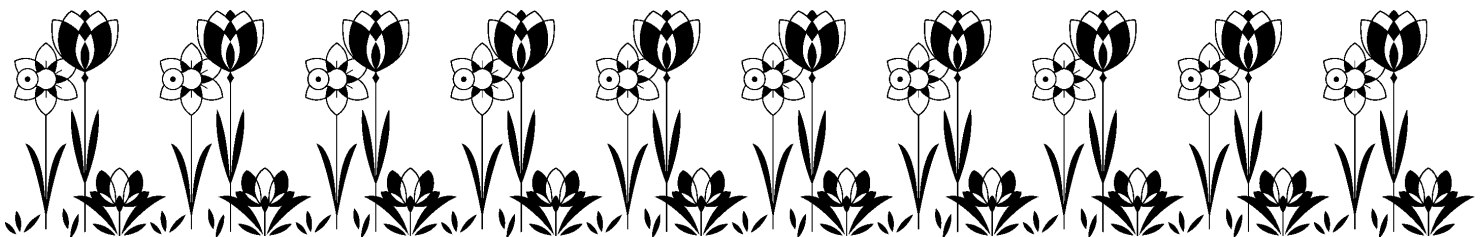
Council President Cathy Feather opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Thomas McKee from Synod conducted the election, giving the reasons Synod considered Rev. Goodyear to be a suitable candidate for Bergstrasse.

The voting was by individual printed Yes/No ballots. The result was 30 "Yes" (91% of the votes cast) and 3 "No".

Rev. McKee announced the new pastor for Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church was the Rev. James Goodyear.

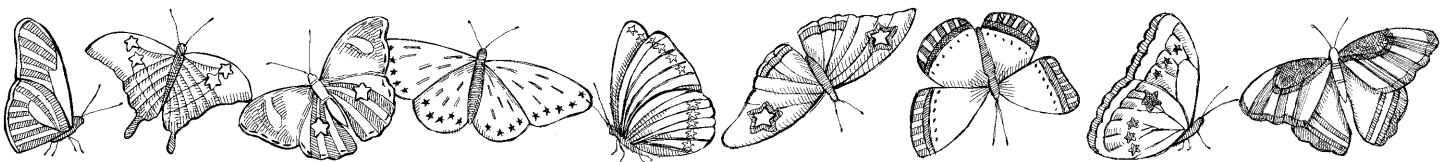
Darlene Kreider moved for adjournment of the meeting, and Almanara Buffenmyer seconded.

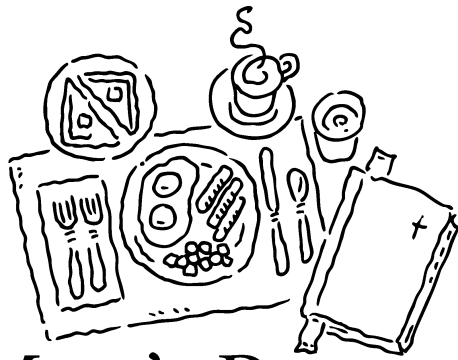


Worship participants for April

April	7	14	21	28
Greeters	Lisa Conway	Betty Evans	Jane Pittman	Darlene Kreider
Lector	Cleone Rudisill	Cathy Feather	Sunrise Bonnie Grater 10:30 Selma Hainley	Peggy Rushton- Witmyer
Counters	Dave and Jean Wilhelm	Bonnie Grater	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing
Flowers	Nevin Rutt Gladys Horvath	Deb Burkholder		
Bulletin				

	Ushers	Communion Ushers April 7, 14, 21	Altar Guild
April	Curt Hare Nevin Rutt Jane Pittman Darlene Kreider	Deb Burkholder	Jane Pittman Betty Evans





MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Attention Ephrata Lutheran Men: Would you be interested in joining a group of Lutheran men in Ephrata for a men's prayer breakfast group? The group would meet selected Saturday mornings at the Udder Choice for food, socialization, and devotions/worship. We have reserved a room at the Udder Choice April 27th at 9:00 for an initial breakfast/meeting where we can discuss a format for future breakfasts. If you are interested in attending this initial event, please let the office know by April 21st so we can inform the restaurant of the number who will be attending.

Thanks from:

LutherCare is committed to serve, and we are deeply grateful you have joined us in this important mission, with your gift of \$600 to support LutherCare and Luther Acres.

Your donation will help us continue to provide quality care to residents, children and their families and others served through LutherCare's many programs. In addition, this gift will support services to Luther Acres residents, enhancing their lives through enrichment and purpose.

William C. Snyder
Vice President—Philanthropy & Community Engagement
LutherCare

I'm excited to be able to share some details about where some of your items traveled in the last year. Your mission quilts went to Iraq. Your donations departed our Maryland warehouse in mid-December 2018. LWR's partner in Iraq is RNVDO, an organization partnering with the United Nations and others to coordinate relief efforts to those who are displaced; helping people who had fled and are returning home; and providing support to communities as they move toward early recovery and long-term health and sustainability. This shipment of Mission Quilts and Fabric Kits is serving nearly 22,000 people, providing life-saving warmth in the winter season and tools for learning a new trade along with hope for a bright future.

Melanie W. Gibbons
Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager
Lutheran World Relief



Mabel Bolar
 Evelyn Coldren
 Earl and Sandy Eshleman
 Betty Evans
 Polly Gunzenhauser
 Carolyn Hibshman
 Bill Irvine
 DJ Keisling
 Barry Kreider
 Darlene Kreider
 Shirley Martin
 Kendall Mumma
 Lawrence Rice
 Phyllis Roberts
 Ellie Root
 Dennis Ruhl
 Polly Schmuck
 Erma Snader
 Noah and Joan Stahl
 Kathryn Sweigart
 Nancy Sweigart
 Ruth Troutman
 Jane Adams (Irene Smith's daughter)
 Barbara Alexander
 Rev. LaVonne Althouse (Inez Hare's sister)
 Kaye Biermann
 Halley Bittle
 Claire Brenner
 Evanna Estes (friend of Mary Duing)
 David Evans
 Kevin Ferguson (friend of Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser)
 Rick Gerhart
 Elmer and Sheila Gockley
 Harold and Norma Good
 Earl Goshert (Jane Pittman's step-father)
 Naomi Goshert (Jane Pittman's mother)
 Ben Gunzenhauser, Jr. (Ben and Polly's son)
 Seth Hamill (Selma Hainley's son)
 Chris Horbey
 Robert L. Hornberger (Polly Schmuck's brother)
 Carolyn Houck (friend of Betty Evans)
 Orion McMahon (niece's husband of Jane Pittman)
 Kirk and Renee Meiskey (friend of Selma Hainley)
 Caitlyn Mertz (family of Jane Pittman)
 Mark Mertz (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Dorothy Miller (friend of Deb Burkholder)
 Anna Mae Moyer (Pastor Bob's aunt)
 George Rudisill
 Dana Shoemaker (friend of Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser)
 Jennifer Sikie (family of Jane Pittman)
 Jared Snyder (Gail Smith's grandson)
 Tom and June Stuber (Jane Pittman's sister and brother-in-law)
 Joe Suprik (friend of Jane Pittman)
 Diana Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's daughter-in-law)
 Vernon Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's son)
 Randy Walker (friend of Chad and Kathy Landis)
 Miriam Wolf



Congratulations to those with April birthdays:

- 10 Charlotte Weaver
- 12 Cathy Feather
- 16 Carolyn Hibshman
- 25 Ron Daub

Anniversaries

- 2 Nevin Rutt and Gladys Horvath
- 15 Glenn and Almanara Buffenmyer
- 22 Jeff and Lisa Stover
- 24 Dave and Donna Hebert
- 27 Curt and Inez Hare

Food bank

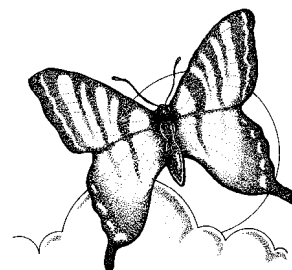
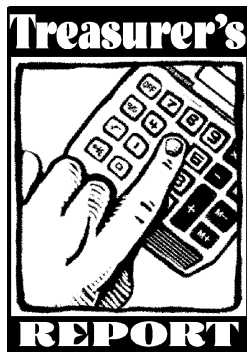
- April
- 7 Peanut butter and jelly
 - 14 Canned fruit and vegetables, instant potatoes
 - 21 Canned meats / fish, hamburger helpers or prepared meals
 - 28 Laundry Soap
 - Diapers, baby wipes

Seed Money Received for Projects

	Seed Money Collected	20% Congregation	Funds Still Needed	Project Cost
Paving Parking Lot (Church)	\$10,237	\$14,545	\$4,308	\$72,727

Balance as of 2/28/19

General Fund	\$ 13,631.53
Improvement Fund	\$ 6,779.23
Mission Plus	\$ 79,877.97
Mission Plus 2	\$ 2,734.14
Parsonage Secty Dep/ Memorial Fund	\$ 11,282.78



*“What the caterpillar calls the end
of the world, the Master calls a
butterfly.”*

Richard Bach

Easter is eternal

Truth

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

—Donald H. Tippet