

The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 2018

Worship With Us May, 2018

Sunday, 6th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Sunday, 13th – Ascension of Our Lord

Texts: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

The church celebrates the Ascension of our Lord on the previous Thursday but we will hear the readings on this Sunday. The gospel tells of the risen Christ ascending into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Sunday, 20th – The Day of Pentecost - Pastor Walter Wagner Presiding

Texts: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church's birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. Ezekiel's vision shows the Spirit resurrecting and re-creating not just individuals but a whole people. Romans makes it clear that God is in the process of re-creating the entire cosmos; yet the Spirit is also at work in the most intimate and personal way, praying in us "with sighs too deep for words" when we do not know how to pray.

Sunday, 27th – Holy Trinity Sunday

Texts: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

May

- 6 Toilet paper, bath soap, toothpaste, deodorant
- 13 Fruit juice, kool aid mixes, coffee, hot chocolate
- 20 Spaghetti and sauce, macaroni and cheese
- 27 Instant potatoes and rice
Pancake mix and syrup



Yard sale at Bergstrasse May 5 7 AM—1 PM

Set up Friday, May 4—any help to set up would be appreciated. Also, help is needed on the day of the sale.

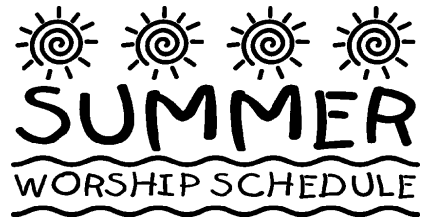
The proceeds go to 4 Our Kids, Power Pak Program and classmate Randy Walker who has ALS.

It's always a lot of fun and donations, help, etc. are all accepted with a smile and a hug.

Ascension Day Thursday, May 10 7:00 PM



ASCENSION DAY WORSHIP will be offered on May 10 beginning at 7:00 PM at Swamp Lutheran Church in Reinholds. The service will include Holy Communion with Pastor Tim Craven (Mellingers, Schoeneck) preaching.



**Worship in June,
July, and August
will be at 9:30 AM**

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Worship - 10:30 a.m.

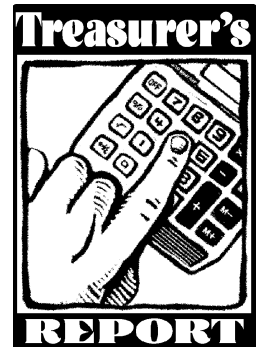
The Rev. Robert Kramer, Interim Pastor
717-405-0044 (cell)

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **June** newsletter is
May 20.

Balance as of 3/31/18

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 8,163.90 |
| Improvement Fund | \$ 2,966.75 |
| Mission Plus | \$ 74,283.04 |
| Mission Plus 2 | \$ 2,722.67 |
| Parsonage Secty Dep/ Memorial Fund | \$ 6,259.89 |





There is a story told about “Two Horses.” They were grazing in a pasture. From a distance, each horse looked like any other horse. But upon closer examination, a quite amazing relationship is discovered. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he was blind. His owner had chosen not to have him “put down” but rather made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

However, there is even more. Among the two horses was the sound of a bell. It came from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to the horse’s halter is a small bell. It lets the blind horse know where the other horse is so he can follow. Throughout their time in the pasture, the horse with the bell periodically checks on the blind horse. When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, it stops occasionally, looking back, to make sure that his blind friend isn’t too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems and challenges or because we are blind to what is happening around us. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Yes, we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bells of those who God places in our lives. But most of all God gave us Jesus to die and rise so that we too might have life and discover the way to an abundant life.

And God does not stop there. God attaches the bell of God’s Spirit to each of us who in turn have the opportunity to become companions to others who are seeking an abundant life. We become the sound of justice and peace for all the peoples in this world.

As we continue in this Easter Season may we give thanks for God’s gracious gifts by being the people who say, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!”

Pastor Bob

The power of Pentecost

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God’s giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Just days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he’d promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit’s power.



Bergstrasse Council Highlights April 8, 2018

At its April 8 meeting Council discussed removing the remaining black wood lattices from the windows in the sanctuary. Several have been broken and removed, and the cost of replacing them is prohibitive at this time.

Dates for the church picnic have been proposed—June 24, July 15 or September 16. The picnic will be held at the church this year.

A suggestion has been made to hold Sunday services at 9:30 AM year-round. Council tabled the matter until a new pastor is installed.

The portion of the church sign listing Sunday School hours will be covered as there is no Sunday School at this time.

A new sign indicating the narthex entrance to the sanctuary is being considered.

Revision of forms for reimbursement and for wedding rentals of the church are being made. When ready, new forms will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

A Day of Feeding

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to sign-up to participate in **A Day of Feeding**. This is a food packing event to be held on Saturday, June 2 on the campus of Messiah College in cooperation with Messiah College, Kids Against Hunger, and Orphan Grain Train. The food that is packaged will go to the Caribbean where hurricanes have caused great destruction.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to indicate if you would like to volunteer to work the 10:00 AM to Noon shift packaging food on June 2. Carpooling to Messiah will be available.

Geranium order form

Name _____

_____ Geraniums @ \$2.40 each \$ _____

Sunday, May 20 will mark the celebration of Pentecost Day in our worship. Help us brighten this service with red geraniums.

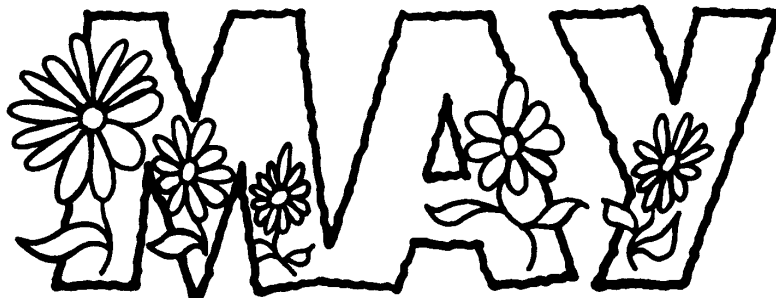
The flowers will enhance our worship and you will be able to take them home with you for planting following the service. Please place form and money in the offering plate by May 13.



Worship participants for May

| May | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greeter | Jean Fryberger | Evelyn Michael | Glenn and Almanara Buffenmyer | Cathy Feather |
| Lector | Curt Hare | Deb Burkholder | Cleone Rudisill | Selma Hainley |
| Acolyte | Deb Burkholder | Jaidyn Feather | Bishop Villarreal | Deb Burkholder |
| Counters | Dave and Jean Wilhelm | Earl and Sandy Eshleman | Dave and Jean Wilhelm | Bonnie Grater Mary Duing |
| Flowers | Betty Evans | Peggy Rushton- Witmyer | Selma Hainley | |
| Bulletin | Karen Plowman | | | |

| | Ushers | Communion Ushers May 6, 13, 20, 27 | Altar Guild |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| May | Ben Gunzenhauser Deb Burkholder | Cathy Feather Lisa Conway | Jane Pittman Almanara Buffenmyer |



Seed Money Received for Projects

| | Seed Money Collected | 20% Congregation | Funds Still Needed | Project Cost |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Doors | \$ 949 | \$5,532 | \$4,583 | \$27,660 |
| Paving Parking Lot (Church) | \$10,237 | \$14,545 | \$4,308 | \$72,727 |

Funds still needed for projects \$8,891

Thank you for your generous gift of quilts and kits for LWR's distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God's grace and love to people all around the world. We have processed 22 mission quilts.

Thank You!

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

Because of your support of \$50, we can continue to offer a wide variety of programs, build collections and provide an unmeasurable amount of resources to our patrons—free of charge.

Penny L. Talbert
Executive Director
Ephrata Public Library

On behalf of the board of directors of Ephrata Area Social Services, our staff, and those we serve, I want to thank you for the recent generous financial donation of \$100 to our general fund plus \$24 from your Souper Bowl Sunday to our food bank received in February 2018.

Lisa Shaver,
Interim Director, EASS

Dear people of Bergstrasse Lutheran,

It was an honor and privilege to be with you in October for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! Thank you for inviting me, and for allowing my leadership on that Sunday. Thank you, and the Lohrs, again for your hospitality.

Your new Walker organ is a treasure. I have played many instruments in my misspent life, and I admit yours is one of the finest of its kind. Treat it well, keep it maintained, and get word out to the organ community of its existence, that it may be played well and played for many years.

Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the glory),

Gene Traas
Director of Music Ministry
Calvary Lutheran Church (NALC), Brookfield WI

Mabel Bolar
 Harold and Evelyn Coldren
 Earl and Sandy Eshleman
 Betty Evans
 Jean Fryberger
 Polly Gunzenhauser
 Donna Hebert
 Carolyn Hibshman
 Bill Irvine
 Howard Jorgensen
 Darlene Kreider
 Larry Lausch
 Shirley Martin
 Lawrence and Mitzi Rice
 Randy Rice
 Polly Schmuck
 Erma Snader
 Noah and Joan Stahl
 Nancy Sweigart
 Ruth Troutman
 Kaye Biermann
 Halley Bittle
 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)
 Nancy Heiser (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Chris Horbey
 Robert L. Hornberger (Polly Schmuck's brother)
 Carolyn Houck (friend of Betty Evans)
 Orion McMahon (niece's husband of Jane Pittman)
 Caitlyn Mertz (family of Jane Pittman)
 Mark Mertz (Jane Pittman's cousin)
 Michael Rudisill (Cleone Rudisill's grandson)
 Weston Rudisill (Cleone Rudisill's grandson)
 Jennifer Sikie (family of Jane Pittman)
 Jared Snyder (Gail Smith's grandson)
 Tom Stuber (Jane Pittman's brother-in-law)
 Joe Suprik (friend of Jane Pittman)
 Cosette Sweigart (Polly Gunzenhauser's niece)
 Vernon Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's son)
 Randy Walker (friend of Chad and Kathy Landis)
 Harry Werner (friend of Sylvia Smith-Garman)
 Miriam Wolf

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*




Congratulations to those with
 May birthdays:

3 Mabel Bolar
 18 Ruth Troutman
 24 Jane Pittman
 25 Mitzi Rice
 26 Mary Duing
 27 Chad Landis

Anniversaries

11 Randy and Toni Rice
 15 Dave and Jean Wilhelm

**A SPECIAL TIME OF GIVING
 THANKS TO GOD** for the
 Paschal Candle that has burned
 during each worship time during
 the season of Easter will be
 included in the worship on May
 13. The candle was purchased
 with part of a memorial gift from
 the family of Neil and Vera
 Strickler.



Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

April 9, 2018

Monday of the 2nd Week in Easter

Dear Children of God in Lower Susquehanna Synod,

First, I want to say how grateful I am for the many expressions of support and encouragement I have received upon taking a temporary absence as bishop to serve as acting president of United Lutheran Seminary.

We know that in their nearly 200 years of providing theological education, the Lutheran Seminaries at Gettysburg and Philadelphia have played invaluable roles in advancing the Lutheran witness across our continent. They have trained hundreds of leaders who have brought the liberating Good News of Jesus Christ to millions of God's people. Our church has always valued the well-educated, competent leaders that our seminaries train. To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, our church needs that leadership expertise more than ever.

That is the reason why, when the newly constituted United Lutheran Seminary faced a severe leadership crisis last month, I agreed to step in as acting president. My objective was – and still is – crystal clear: to provide the leadership necessary to stabilize United Lutheran Seminary long enough to identify and put in place an interim president.

Along with members of our Synod Council and staff, I pray that the time needed will be brief – measured in only weeks or, possibly, several months. Addressing some of the questions and speculations that have arisen, I wish to make it clear my call remains as the sitting bishop of our Lower Susquehanna Synod. I intend to resume fully my synodical responsibilities as soon as I am able. Again, to clarify any concern or confusion, I will not be a candidate for either the interim president or permanent president of ULS.

In the meantime, God's mission and the core work of our synod continues. As he has several other times in his 19 years on synod staff, the Rev. Thomas E. McKee is serving as acting bishop. Some of his regular duties are being shared by the rest of the staff, who are also stepping up in this hour of need. I have total confidence in Pastor McKee and the staff to keep our synod on track until I return.

Meanwhile, I ask your prayers for the synod staff, for our congregations, for the United Lutheran Seminary community, and for me. May the Holy Spirit guide, support, sustain and encourage our church and its leaders as we move into God's preferred future for us.

Yours in Christ,

†James S. Dunlop, bishop