**Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church LC-MS**

Monthly Newsletter --- March 2024

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

Phone: 724.347.3620 (Opt. 2, Pastor Deal; Opt. 3, Office)

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“THE ROCK and THE SWORD”

“Built upon the Rock of Christ and wielding the

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.”

**From the Pastor:**

**The Time for Repentance is Now!**

Lent is a season of repentance. It is when the Lord’s baptized, and all those who see, hear, and believe, approach the Throne of Grace pleading with God for His mercy and forgiveness. In Romans 2:4, the Apostle Paul writes *“...do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*” God *is* longsuffering. What this means is that He is the one who suffers the wrongdoings of the ones who transgress His word. He is patient, not desiring that any should be lost; but desiring that they turn from their wickedness and repent.

As Saint Paul writes, there are those who consider God’s goodness in mercy simply an excuse to continue on in impenitence and who feel that some sins are non-issues. But sin is no laughing matter to God. Paul goes on to write in Romans 2, *“But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

*who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds….’”*

If you refuse the Word of God and go on despising the One who came in order that you may have life, you are setting yourself up for death and hell. Turn!!! Turn now, pleads God and each of His ministers of the Gospel, lest you should suffer everlasting death because of this!

During Lent, we focus on the significance of our Baptism and how, with it, we put to death the old Adam and rise again to new life with Christ. *“Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life* (Romans 6:1-4).”

God makes it quite clear what the new life in Christ looks like*, “For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness* (Romans 6:19).*”* Christ has forgiven us all our sins and in freeing us from the Law's condemnation has also made a way for our eyes, ears, hands, and feet, head and mouth, for all our members to be ordered rightly in service to Him. If sin is no joke, neither should be our pursuit of righteousness and holy living.

These two go hand in hand together. To turn away from sin is to turn toward Christ and His Holiness. To turn away from unholy living is to turn toward the holy life that pursues faithfulness. No longer are we turning towards conforming to the world and its excuses for evil and sin; but we are turning toward Christ and being conformed to His life and word in the mercy of our forgiving God.

As Martin Luther wrote, “The righteous man has peace with God but affliction in the world, because he lives in the Spirit. The unrighteous man has peace with the world but affliction and tribulation with God, because he lives in the flesh. But as the Spirit is eternal, so also will be the peace of the righteous man and the tribulation of the unrighteous. And as the flesh is temporal, so will be the tribulation of the righteous and the peace of the unrighteous.”

If unsure as to whether what you are doing is right or wrong, good or evil, consult the Scriptures or ask your pastor. Don’t allow the devil to get a foothold in your life and turn you away from your confidence in Christ’s atoning sacrifice upon the cross. Don’t consider your sins as no big deal because, for your sake, Jesus suffered death and hell in order to bring you out of death and hell, now and for eternity. The time for repentance is now!

In Christ,

Pastor Deal

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 **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Blue: Pledged as of 02.18.2024 $184,320 (92.16%)

Orange: Remaining

$15,680 (7.84%)

Total Contributions

as of 02.18.2024:

$195,882 (97.94%)

Previous: $194,155 (97.08%)

New: $1,727 (0.86%)

Remaining: $4,118 (2.06%)

*Amounts used are based on weekly deposits reported.*

It’s not too late to submit a Capital Campaign pledge card! Pledge cards are available on the table outside Pastor’s office. If circumstances have changed and you need to update your pledge card, please see Jonathan Baisch. Updated pledges help our Trustees plan more effectively and efficiently.

**NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees met on January 23 and February 13, 2024.

Joining Trustees Cheryl Fedele and Mike Flaugher are six new Trustees: Pastor Baisch, Mark Gabriel, Bess Kleindienst, Jerry Krivosh, Rebecca Marquette, and Jerome Thomas.

It was decided that Mike Flaugher will continue as Trustee Chairman and Cheryl Fedele will serve as Secretary. Other assignments include Rebecca Marquette, maintenance of musical instruments; Jerry Krivosh, boilers; and Pastor Baisch, Finance Committee representative. Bess Kleindienst will complete an inventory of the Youth Room. Once the inventory is completed, volunteers will be needed to move items so mold remediation can take place and the room painted. The paint has been purchased and awaits brushes.

The Trustees are looking for some volunteers to also help with the hymnal holders in some of the pews. Several holders are loose and some bow out. A chart of where the issues are has been made which will help reduce the search for which pews have issues. If anyone wants to help tackle this project, please see Mike Flaugher or Jerry Krivosh. This project only requires only the ability to use a screwdriver and glue.

**Other Items Addressed:**

* The elevator was serviced and passed inspection.
* A dehumidifier for the attic in old church was purchased and installed.
* No Parking signs – Signs were purchased, posts put in ground, and the signs are up. These signs should help stop people who keep leaving mobile equipment in the parking lot during Sunday services from taking up spaces intended for vehicles belonging to members and guests.
* A lock box for keys was purchased. Jerome Thomas will be sorting and placing keys in the box once it is installed.
* The motor of the attic fan in the old church needs replaced. This fan vents up through the steeple (which serves as the vent to the church). Resolve Services has quoted the repair in the amount of $600 for a new motor, new drive belt, grease bearings, and adding a humidistat control. The humidistat control will eliminate the need for someone to remember to turn the fan on when humidity is high. Council has approved this work and the repair will be scheduled.

The Trustees will not be meeting in March. However, if you should have any questions or concerns for the Trustees, please place a note in Mike Flaugher’s library mailbox.

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**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** A **Monthly Audit** will take place following worship, Sunday, March 17th in the library. If unable to attend, please phone Bev Chlpka at 724-962-4806.

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**SCRIP Program:**

The next date for **SCRIP orders and payments** is Sunday, March 3rd. Checks should be made out to Sts. Peter & Paul’s and are to be given to Matt Berent or placed in the offering plate. You should receive your gift cards the following week.

Forms for ordering gift cards are available on tables in the narthex and next to the nursery.

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**Bible Study Classes**

* The **Sunday Morning Bible Study** (8 am)

continues its study of the Minor Prophets. This class is open to all. (Please note that class will not be held Easter Sunday.)

* During Lent, the **Women’s Bible Study** will be open to all! Join us following the weekly, Wednesday Matins Services for a light lunch of soup & bread while studying the book of Romans. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for those willing to provide the meal.
* The monthly **Men’s Bible Study** is temporarily suspended until a new meeting day/time is determined.
* Join Pastor and Ana at their home (695 Crowder Ave., Sharon) for a twice-monthly **Sunday Evening Bible Study** at **6 pm** (new time!) on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This Bible Study is open to all church members and all ages are welcome!

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**CELEBRATING IN MARCH!**

**Birthday**

Michael Laird 3-23

**Anniversaries**

Eddy & Judith Furey 3-1

Brian & Liz Shreffler 3-27

\*If birthdays or anniversaries have been omitted, please let the church office know. Thank You!

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Submissions for the April issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter and calendar are due to the secretary’s office Monday, March 25th at 9 am. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

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Collected pop tabs can be left for Marie Flaugher in the library.

“It Is Written”: Filling Your Heart and Mind with Scripture

by Vicar Wessel

During this Lententide, we focus on an intensified struggle with sin. As we heard in the Gospel reading from the first Sunday in Lent (Matthew 4:1-11), Jesus modeled the use of Scripture in our struggle with temptation. Scripture gives us a sure foundation to build on and to restrain and fight against the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature (Matthew 7:24-27). It is also chief among the weapons that God gives us to engage in our battle as Christians with sin and Satan, not merely defensively, but also offensively, to actively drive them away (Ephesians 6:17b). But in the temptation of Christ, we also see that the devil knows how to use Scripture too (Matthew 4:6). Because of this, it is necessary for Christians to know Scripture deeply and intimately, to know not merely a few basic passages and ideas, but to know and be well-versed in Scripture, so that we will not be led astray, either by false teachers or by temptations, even when they come under the guise of being Christian and using Scripture. There is a reason why God exhorts His people to constantly be engaged with His Word, to teach it diligently to your children, to talk of it when you sin in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up, to bind it as a sign on your hand and to be as frontlets between your eyes, to write it on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). God’s Word should go with you everywhere you go.

 Because of this, it is a good and helpful thing for Christians to devote as much Scripture as possible to memory. Perhaps many of you know some favorite verses by heart, and that’s wonderful! But having larger portions of Scripture memorized is only all the more wonderful! It gives you a deeper familiarity and understanding of Scripture than merely knowing a handful of verses from here and there. Since our culture doesn’t place a very high value or priority on memorization, the thought of this might be a bit daunting, but if so, consider adding some Scripture memorization to your ongoing Lenten discipline. It will enable you to carry the Word of God with you wherever you go and make use of it in your life and in your struggle with temptation.

 Naturally, this raises two big questions, the how and the what. In terms of the how, there are many techniques that can be used, and you will be able to figure out what works best for you. But at the end of the day, good memorization that will help you impress the Word of God deep into your heart and mind, and not merely store it in your short-term memory will involve lots of repetition. But this should not be boring, mindless repetition. It should be a repetition that is actively involved in following the flow of the words and the thoughts in the passage. Additionally, it will be helpful to look at the big picture of a larger passage you might be learning by heart. Even while you work through individual words, phrases, and verses, take the time to read through the *whole* text that you are trying to memorize. Understanding how everything in the text fits together will be a huge help in storing it deep in your heart, and the more time you spend with the big picture text, the easier you will find it to learn the individual words and phrases. What is true of repetition in general is also true of repetition in different sensory paths: you will learn Scripture more quickly if you write out the passage by hand, or if you say it aloud, so that you are not merely doing it silently in your head, but simultaneously saying it and hearing it. Similarly to repetition, consistency is also important. You will accomplish more and it will be much easier if you spend a few minutes a day learning Scripture than if you try and spend a whole hour only one or two days a week.

 As for the question of what to memorize, you can’t go wrong with Scripture. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, emphasis added). Any Scripture that you learn by heart will be profitable. But since the Bible is a large book, and you have to start somewhere, some suggestions may be in order. If you have some favorite verses that you already know, you could start there and learn the surrounding context. Since we meditate on the passion of Christ especially in Lent and since it is the center and source of our Christian faith, you may consider learning some or all of one of the passion accounts (Matthew 26:36-27:54, Mark 14:27-15:39, Luke 22:39-23:47, John 18:1-19:37). Also, Romans 5-8 is a good description of much of what life in this world looks like for a Christian, so a portion of that may be an appropriate place to start as well. Whether you start with these suggestions or somewhere else, I encourage you to take up the task of deeply embedding the Word of God in your heart and mind, so that you may be firmly rooted in it. It will bear abundant fruit, for the Word of God does not return to Him void, but accomplishes the purpose for which He sends it (Isaiah 55:11): building up and strengthening you in the Faith in Jesus Christ.

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Plans are to publish a **new church directory** in March 2024. Please notify the secretary *in writing* if you do NOT want your information included or if there has been a change in information. Information to be included includes mailing address, email, landline and mobile phone numbers, names of spouse and children (if living at home), and birthdays/anniversaries.

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**Women’s Craft Fellowship!**

A women’s craft fellowship will be held the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlepoint and other crafts and join us! Don’t have a craft? Come for the camaraderie! Please enter the church using the Clover St. entrance. You are welcome to bring a snack to share if you’d like!

The first quarter

Voters’ assembly

will be held 10-minutes following the end of worship

Sunday, March 3rd in the Fellowship Hall.

Copies of the tentative agenda are available on the table in the narthex and on the shelves by the

secretary’s office.

**Please keep the following**

**in your prayers**

 PVT Alexander Carr

(New address currently unknown.)

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Anna Mae Daris

1865 Hofius Lane

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-962-5079

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Millie Elavsky

1209 Maple Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-0345

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Rudy Tomko

Rm. 8

Nugent Convalescent Home

500 Clarksville Rd.

Hermitage, PA 16148

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Jean Tomko

2629 Romar Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-979-4360

lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll

Betty Ann Wolf

7777 Arthur St.

Masury, OH 44438

330-448-1080

lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll lll

Ed & Millie Zachar

1320 Old Forge Rd.

Niles, OH 44446

330-652-9316

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**REMINDER:** If you do not have an email account or do not receive emails from the church, but wish to be notified of significant information concerning your fellow church members, please put a note in the secretary’s mail slot asking to receive a phone call. Every attempt will be made to phone you within 24 hours of an email being sent out.

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**LIKE & FOLLOW our Church’s Facebook page**

**(Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church)!**

**Altar Guild News**

* The Altar Guild has commissioned the building of a 2-shelf stand which will hold the new Remembrance book and display case. This item should be finished and on site in the next month or so and is being paid for by monies donated in memory of past members.
* Members of the polishing committee are reminded that a polishing session will take place March 13th in the library beginning at approximately 12:30 pm. In case of bad weather, the date will be moved to the following Wednesday.
* All women in the congregation (and their guests) are invited to attend the Spring Ladies Luncheon Saturday, April 20th beginning at 11 am. A sign-up sheet will be made available later in March for those wishing to attend. Attendees are encouraged to bring a salad to share!

The next Altar Guild meeting will take place Saturday, March 16th at 1 pm. The March hostess will be Evelyn Baisch.

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Help beautify our sanctuary

Easter Sunday

with daffodils and Easter lilies!

Orders and payments will be accepted through Sunday, March 10th for plants at a cost of $13.00/each.

Order forms and payment instructions are available on the table in the narthex and by the nursery.

Plants may be taken home following worship Easter Sunday.



***The Consolation of Eternal Life***

A great many people believe that our eternal life will begin at the time of our death. In reality, our eternal life with God began on the day of our Baptism, the day we became children of God. As adopted members of God’s family, we become heirs of heaven. As our heritage, God shares His very life with us, life which is eternal, life which transcends all time and space.

 When we reflect on this great truth, we can come to realize that those we love who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, have not been separated from us. They are really much closer to us because they now live in the fullness of God’s love, a love that embraces each one of us, whether here on earth or in the heavenly kingdom. It is in this divine love that we are truly united, not only to God, but also to each other.

In our time of mourning, we often feel that we are distant, or separated, from those we love. Actually, they are united with us now more than ever before. No more do they know the restraints of the human condition. Now they are able to love us with a deeper love, a fuller love, a love that is enriched by God’s own love. No, death does not separate us from those we love. It deepens our union with God and with one another.

Remind yourself, when next you approach the altar to receive of our blessed Lord’s Supper, that you are doing so ***“with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven”*** including your loved ones!

Submitted by Pastor Emeritus Baisch

**Attacks on Free Speech: You Help Challenge the Rise of Government Censorship**

***You*** . . . for more than a decade have helped Colorado cake artist Jack Phillips endure through targeted attacks from government officials and activists who have kept him in and out of court. He has indeed suffered through much…but in the months ahead, may yet finally see his right to freely express his beliefs protected!

*The Winds of Censorship Are Blowing Around the World!* It’s not just happening in the USA. One of the most brazen attacks on free speech ever seen is happening in Finland. ADF International is supporting the legal defense of Paivi Rasanen, a medical doctor, member of the Finnish Parliament, and a Christian. [Pastor Baisch personally met her at a *“Making the Case”* Conference of **Issues, etc.** at Concordia University-Chicago] She is facing persecution for “hate speech” for defending basic biblical beliefs about marriage and sexuality in a Tweet about the Bible – even after previously, and ***unanimously***, acquitted! Unbelievably, in her latest trial, the prosecutor summarized, *“You can cite the Bible, but it is [her] interpretation and opinion about the Bible verses that are criminal.”*

Finland may seem a world away, but Americans – and all concerned with the protection of freedom of speech across the world – should take caution from her case. This is a blatant example of government activists sending a chilling message to those who dare to live out their faith.

Rasanen is awaiting a verdict in this her second trial and, God willing, both she and Jack Phillips will prevail.

As a society we can’t give up on supporting and defending the right of free speech, which is essential to the well-being of us all. No society can flourish if it is built upon lies about this fundamental right.

That’s why [Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church’s] partnership with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) makes a difference – standing for the truth!

**YOUR** support for ADF’s efforts is making a path to victory possible. Together with ADF, we will stand for the truth that everyone in our society has the right to speak freely, to let their voice be heard!

* Religious freedom means that all people have the right to follow their conscience and peaceably to live out their faith; and
* The right to speak freely should be protected because it is the basis of a free nation.

From ADF’s ***Freedom Insider, December 2023.***

Submitted by Pastor Emer. Arthur H. Baisch

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Lenten Soup Fellowship

Join us during the penitential season of Lent and share a weekly meal of soup and bread combined with fellowship.

 From February 21st through March 20th, meals will be offered following the 10 am Matins Service and at 6 pm, prior to the 7 pm Vespers Service.

 A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex for those willing to provide the soup and bread. Please plan on enough for about 12-14 people at each meal. Soup bowls are available in the Fellowship Hall kitchen along with napkins and cutlery.

 The morning meal will be combined with a Bible Study on the book of Romans.

**Word of Hope: 1-888-217-8679**

The only 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL Hotline that is distinctly Lutheran, bringing healing found in Christ, to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.

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**Coffee Fellowship**

**is March 10th!**

Join us following worship, Sunday, March 10th for **Coffee Fellowship.** This month’s sponsor will be Diane Riefstahl.

The 2024 Fellowship Sponsor sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If interested in being a sponsor, please sign your name on the sheet. Sponsors are asked to drop off 2-1/2—3 dozen “treats” and a quart of juice in the Fellowship Hall kitchen prior to church on their given Sunday. Coffee preparation, set-up, and clean-up will be done for you.

Please speak with Diane if you should have any questions.

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**REMINDER:** Please let the church office know of any changes to your address, phone, cell phone or your e-mail address!

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The second Sunday of each month has been designated as **“Stock the Food Pantry” Sunday.** Your financial donations to this important outreach mission will be greatly appreciated.

 If you would like to know how you can help with our Food Pantry, please speak with Director Ana Deal!

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Remember thefollowing in prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:** *Amy, Steve, Mary Jane Anderson, Steve Antolovich, Ellen BaronCA, Amy Blomenberg, Lois BortnerCA, Sara Brubaker and her son, Canaan; Dee Bullock, Bev & Joe Chlpka, Susan Davies, Tim Dudash, Mike Flaugher, Judith & Eddy Furey, Griffin, Pastor Charles Henrickson, Joan, Keith Jozwiakowski, Darla Krajci, Barbara Kreske, Jess Lavoie, Paul LucasCA, Sandy Marshall, Lynn Price, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Kriss SvidroCA, Rudy Tomko, Bob Usnarski, Joel & Peggy Wasson, Angela WeserCA, Ruth Wolf, and Michelle Young.*

**~The Homebound:**  *Anna Mae Daris, Millie Elavsky, Jean Tomko, Betty Wolf, and Ed & Millie Zachar.*

**~Serving in the Military:**  *Alex (Sasha) Carr, Duncan Vaupel, Curtis Sinewe, and Joshua Solyan.*

**~Community & World Needs:**  *Those suffering from or affected by the coronavirus; those suffering due to the conflicts in the Middle East and between Ukraine and Russia; those suffering from loss and dislocation because weather disasters; those suffering from addiction and their families; Local, State, and National Government Leaders; safety for all Police Officers, Firefighters, & First Responders; the unemployed; our First Quarter Local Mission: Community Outreach. \*CA represents cancer.*

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**Don’t forget**

**to set your clocks AHEAD one hour**

**March 10th!**

**Bible Memory Verses for February**

**For Adults:**

Feb. 4: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.  *Mark 12:30*

Feb. 11: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  *Mark 12:31*

Feb. 18: Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.  *1 Peter 4:8*

Feb. 25: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

*Philippians 4:8*

**For Children:**

Feb. 4: Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. *Psalms 95:7-8*

Feb. 11: See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. *Luke 18:31*

Feb. 18: The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. *1 John 3:8*

Feb. 25: The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.  *Isaiah 50:4-5*

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Beginning Tuesday, February 27th, a ***new* Catechisis class** will take place at All Saints, Slippery Rock, beginning at 5:30 pm. This class is open to all who wish to participate.

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A box has been placed on the pew outside the library for donations of diapers, baby clothes, and wipes to **Katharina’s Closet**, an outreach mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Warren, OH. Sts. Peter & Paul’s will be collecting items here through Sunday, March 3rd. If you would like to make a financial donation to this cause, which will aid area women and families in need, please make your check out to Katharina’s Closet/Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church and give it directly to Matt Berent.

 For additional information, see the brochure posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor Deal’s office.

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**OUR 1st QUARTER MISSION:**

**Community Outreach**

Recently re-named “Community Outreach”, our first quarter local mission gives us an opportunity to increase our presence in our community and our community’s knowledge about us. Monies collected can be used for participating in or supporting local events which will help us reach our neighbors in a positive fashion. Such events may include sponsoring community meals or taking part in community activities.

 If you have any specific ideas as to what you would like to see us participate in, please speak with Pastor Deal.

Your support of this Quarterly Mission will be greatly appreciated. Donations may be placed in a pew envelope and put in the offering plate.

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**REMINDER:** If you do not have an email account or do not receive emails from the church, but wish to be notified of significant information concerning your fellow church members, please put a note in the secretary’s mail slot asking to receive a phone call. Every attempt will be made to phone you within 24 hours of an email being sent out.

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**Please check in!** It is important that you mark the attendance sheet *each* service which you attend! This information is valuable in helping us track attendance and plan for up-coming services (preparing bulletins, etc.). Please help and take a moment to let us know you’re here. It will be greatly appreciated!

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Interested in singing in the **choir Easter Sunday?** Please let Rebecca Marquette know of your interest. Rebecca will make herself available thirty minutes before midweek Matins services and thirty minutes following the midweek Vespers services for those wishing to participate.

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**Thank You for Serving in March**

**Elder:** Jonathan Baisch; **Ushers:** Mark Kleindienst, Jerry Krivosh, & Gordon Marquette; **Altar Ware: prior~**Marie Flaugher (03.03 & 03.31), Elizabeth Haenftling (03.10), & Diane Riefstahl (03.17, 03.24, 03.28, 03.29, & 03.30); **after~**Marie Flaugher (03.28 & 03.30), Diane Riefstahl (03.29), and Cheryl Fedele & Clara Krivosh (all Sundays).

**2024 Church Finances Report**

**YTD Giving/Budget**

**(as of February 11, 2024)**

General Fund: $14,105.50/$16,275.12

SELC: $404.00/$461.52

Copies of the **2023 Annual Report** are now available.

Shelves have been placed in front of the secretary’s office for *recent* copies of items generally found in the narthex (Council/Voters’ Assembly agendas & minutes, etc.). Items will now be available in both locations for your convenience.

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The Sunday evening AA group wishes to thank all who generously donated to their **Sober New Year’s Eve** party. Your support of their mission to live a sober life is greatly appreciated.

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**We were chosen!** By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible Thrivent members choose where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating Lutheran nonprofit organizations and congregations.

 **Many thanks** to Thrivent Financial members **Lisa Jelinek and Max Jelinek** who recently directed Choice dollars to our church!

**Did you know?** In 2023, Sts. Peter & Paul’s was the recipient of $1,015.00 in **Thrivent Choice** dollars! We thank those who so generously named our church as their recipient. It is not too late to direct funds to our church for 2023! Contact your Thrivent representative by March 31, 2024, if you wish to do so.

**Additional Opportunities for Worship this March**

In addition to regular Sunday morning Divine Services at 9 am, the following will be observed this month:

* **Lenten Midweek Services**

Wednesdays through March 20th

Matins Service beginning at 10 am

Vespers Service beginning at 7 pm

* **Tuesday, March 19th**

7 pm Vespers Service celebrating The Feast of St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

* **Holy Monday, March 25th**

10 am Matins Service celebrating The Annunciation of Our Lord

(7 pm Vespers Service at All Saints)

* **Holy Tuesday, March 26th**

10 am Matins Service

(7 pm Vespers Service at All Saints)

* **Holy Wednesday, March 27th**

10 am Matins Service

(7 pm Vespers Service at All Saints)

* **Maundy Thursday, March 28th**

7 pm Divine Service

(10 am at All Saints)

* **Good Friday, March 29th**

8 am **Stations of the Cross**

(Sts. Peter & Paul’s and at All Saints)

12-3 pm **Tre Ore** (Sts. Peter & Paul’s)

8 pm **Tenabrae Service**

(Sts. Peter & Paul’s and at All Saints)

* **Easter Saturday Vigil, March 30th**

8 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul’s

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**March 24th is Palm Sunday!**

Join our procession as we enter the front doors of our church raising our voices to the Lord while singing “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”. Meet in the hallway by the steps to the Clover St. entrance, weather permitting.

**March Church Office Hours**

The secretary’s office will be open as follows in March:

* Weeks of March 3, 10, & 17: Mondays (8:30 am – 5 pm), Wednesdays (8:30 am – 10 am; noon-5 pm), & Thursday/Friday (as needed).
* Week of March 24: Monday (8:30 am – 5 pm), Thursday (8:30 am – 4:30 pm), & Friday (8:30 am – noon; 3 – 4:30 pm).
* Week of March 31: Monday & Thursday (8:30 am – 4:30 pm).

If needing to enter the building during the week, please phone first to make certain someone is there to let you in.

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 The **2024 PALM (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries) Sunday Appeal** helps fund PALM’s Small Mission Grant Fund.  Donations can be made through Palm Sunday, March 24, by check (to “Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries”, memo line “PALM Sunday Appeal”), or online at [**www.palmpa.org**](http://www.palmpa.org)

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**EASTER DIVINE SERVICES**

**9 am at Sts. Peter & Paul’s, Sharon**

**11:30 am at All Saints, Slippery Rock**

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

**He is risen, indeed!**