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

Monthly Newsletter --- May 2024

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

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

E-mail: church@saintspeterandpaul.net [www.saintspeterandpaul.net](http://www.saintspeterandpaul.net)

“THE ROCK and THE SWORD”

“Built upon the Rock of Christ and wielding the

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.”

**The Trinity Season**

At the end of May, we celebrate **Trinity Sunday**. Trinity Sunday is the beginning of a shift in the church year from focusing on the life of Christ to focusing on the life of the church. It is the longest “season” of the church year when we are shown how our Christian lives are molded by the threefold work of God.

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”*

Having celebrated the greatest events in God’s history of salvation, we pause a bit on Trinity Sunday and consider the essence of this selfsame God, who, to be sure, is in His essence far beyond our weak comprehension but who has graciously revealed Himself to us as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. When we want to summarize all that the Holy Scriptures say of God as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we call Him the Holy Trinity. Only thus can we gather together and say at one time all the many things that the Scriptures say about God. Our worship never ceases confessing our faith in the Triune God and giving “glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

The liturgical color for the octave of Trinity Sunday is white, the color of light. “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness.” And in the Holy Trinity there has been revealed unto us the entire fullness of the true Light. The Sundays after Trinity have green as their liturgical color unless, of course, some special festival calls for a different color in keeping with the church calendar. Green is not only the color of the sprouting grain, which at this time of year promises a good crop, but also of the church. It is the color to which the world changes under the beneficent rays of the sun’s powerful light, significant for the church of the more important regeneration by water and the Spirit. The altar is usually adorned during the Trinity season with flowers of the season from gardens and fields.

*Taken (with slight modifications) from Planning the Service: A Workbook for Pastors, Organists, and Choirmasters by Ralph Gehrke.*

**NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES**

* **Resolve Service** has started the air conditioning installation. This should be completed within the next week or so. The delay is a back order on the compressor units for the church. They will also install the steeple exhaust fan when they return.
* **Removal of old AC units:** We are working on quotes to block up the two future holes in the walls when the old A.C. units are removed from the secretary’s office and children’s room.
* The **clean out of the Youth Room,** in preparation of the mold mitigation and painting, is underway. Several items have been hauled away with other stuff to go in the near future.
* Repaired / replaced **tile in the parament room** which had worked loose.
* Quotes for the wooden **Stambaugh Street doors** are in progress with one quote completed. One “no quoted” (only do steel doors). One quote is to be re-quoted.
* Quotes for **plaster repair** for the interior of the church have begun.
* Quotes for **window replacement** are soon to start.
* **Damaged pew cushions:** The sun has damaged the fabric on several pews beyond the point of repair. An attempt to repair in-house did not go as well as we hoped. The Trustees are reviewing alternatives, such as re-upholstering or switching out damaged pews. Morelli Upholstery was contacted for some suggestions. They do not make house calls any longer, but we could take the pews to them. At this writing, we are awaiting their quote. We will then review and discuss alternatives.
* **Covers for organ and piano** were purchased and placed over the instruments to keep them clean.
* **Lawn mowing:** Rick Swope, who mows our lawn, was contacted to assure he was still mowing this year. He was also asked to trim around the *no parking* signs and to make sure he mows the east wall by the alley.
* Central Heating was in to review the **heating thermostat control** in the church. They proposed replacing the temperature sensor with a Honeywell T775 Series 2000 electronic, standalone controller. It was decided at the Trustees’ meeting this would be beneficial to proceed with and it is believed we can do the changeover / installation in-house with a few of our more knowledgeable members. This will be done when the heating is no longer needed for the year.

The Trustees met April 10th. Another meeting will be scheduled for later in May (TBA).

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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**“Thank you”** to those who attended the fundraiser at the **Texas Roadhouse** in Niles, OH April 6th. Our church was awarded 10% of all food purchases as long as a flier promoting our church was presented at the time of ordering. We received a check from the restaurant in the amount of $89.43 which was designated for our Major Repair fund.

Special “thanks” goes out to Cheryl Fedele, who spearheaded this event.

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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE**

Pledged as of 04.21.2024:

$184,320 (92.16%)

Remaining:

$15,680 (7.84%)

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**Total expected campaign funds**

**if all pledges are fulfilled:**

**$220,610**

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Total Contributions

as of 04.21.2024:

$203,646 (101.82%)

Previous: $201,173 (100.59%)

New: $2,473 (1.24%)

In Excess of Goal: $3,646 (1.82%)

*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.

If you have fulfilled your original pledge, prayerfully consider whether you can continue to donate to this fund. We still have outstanding projects to address and although a few projects have come in underbudget, there have been others which have exceeded initial projections.

Let’s work together to achieve all our capital campaign goals!

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

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

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**2024 Church Finances Report**

**YTD Giving/Budget**

**(as of April 13, 2024)**

General Fund: $33,549.79 / $40.687.80

SELC: $846.00 / $1,153.80

**Congratulations**

**to Bill Nelson**

**and Desarae Makis**

**who were wed**

**March 23, 2024!**

Congratulatory wishes may be mailed to them at 165 Laura Lane, Cortland, OH 44410.

May the Lord bless them with many years of happiness together!

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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 **Mike & Marie Flaugher, Bess Kleindienst, and David Williams** who recently directed Choice dollars to our church!

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**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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**Choir practice** takes place weekly Wednesday mornings, following the Matins service, and Thursday evenings between 6-6:45 pm. Please speak with Rebecca Marquette if wishing to take part.

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**2024 Church Officers**

**and Boards!**

**President**

Jonathan Baisch

**Vice President**

Matt Berent

**Recording Secretary**

Diane Riefstahl

**Treasurer**

Rebekah Baisch

**Financial Secretary**

Dolores Fee

**Trustees**

Pastor Baisch Bess Kleindienst

Cheryl Fedele Jerry Krivosh

Mike Flaugher Rebecca Marquette

Mark Gabriel Jerome Thomas

**Auditors**

Evelyn Baisch Elizabeth Haenftling

Bev Chlpka Kati Laird

Marie Flaugher Jerome Thomas

**Financial Staff**

Mark Gabriel Traudi Sulek

Gordon Marquette June Thomas

Joan Rice Linda Tomko

Nancy Robertson

**ATTENTION AUDITORS!** A **Monthly Audit** will take place following worship, Sunday, May 26th 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, May 5th. 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.

Participating in the SCRIP program is a wonderful way to indirectly donate to the church. You will receive the full value of the gift card(s) ordered and the church will receive a percentage of your total order, depending on the gift card(s) ordered. It’s a win-win!

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

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Submissions for the June issue of **“The Rock and the Sword”** newsletter and calendar are due to the secretary’s office Monday, May 20th at noon. This includes meeting dates and times for the church calendar.

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Please help us **RECYCLE!** There is a basket by the secretary’s office for recycling old “Portals of Prayer” and other non-denominational pieces of Christian literature. These materials are shipped periodically to ICLD (International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc.) who, in turn, send them to Christians in third-world countries. (Please note that weekly service bulletins and in-house published devotionals are not accepted by ICLD.)

**CELEBRATING IN MAY!**

**Birthdays**

Arlene Sutton 5 – 14

Anna Mae Daris 5 – 15

Catherine Carr 5 – 21

Ralph Dorman 5 – 21

Joe Chlpka 5 – 21

Gwendolynne Riffle 5 – 26

Kati Laird 5 – 31

**Anniversaries**

Lennie & Kim Revale 5 – 16

Joshua & Jennifer Russell 5 – 24

Michael & Kati Laird 5 – 21

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

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**Altar Guild News**

The Ladies’ Spring Luncheon was held on April 20th with 25 in attendance, including several guests. It was an opportunity for sharing good food and fellowship with one another.

Following a welcome by Altar Guild President Marie Flaugher, guests enjoyed a variety of salads and desserts. Elizabeth Haenftling and Evelyn Baisch called several games of “bingo” with beautiful mugs and plants as prizes.

It is our hope to continue and grow this event each year.

If interested in joining the Altar Guild, please speak with any of its officers: Marie Flaugher, Elizabeth Haenftling, Elizabeth Loughan, or Evelyn Baisch.

Our next meeting will be May 18, 2024, at 1PM. Evelyn Baisch will hostess.

*No two salads were alike!*



*Spring colors brightened up the room.*



*Guests enjoyed a delicious cake from Haitian Sensation.*



*Marie Flaugher waited her turn at the buffet table while Bev Chlpka and Traudi Sulek sampled the offerings.*

**

*Nancy Robertson and Cheryl Fedele enjoyed a chance to “catch up”.*

**Women’s Craft Fellowship!** A women’s craft fellowship continues to 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!

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**First Communion Celebrated**

“Congratulations” to Isaiah Deal on celebrating his First Communion during the Easter Vigil, March 30th. Isaiah was examined by Elder Jonathan Baisch and Rev. Arthur Baisch, Pastor Emeritus, who found his confession and understanding of the small catechism and Lord’s Supper to be God-pleasing. The congregation is encouraged to talk with him about his ongoing studies and support him as he continues to grow in the faith.

**** Isaiah now serves as an acolyte during our Divine Services and continues to volunteer his services around the church.



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

**Please keep the following**

**in your prayers**

PVT Alexander Carr

(New address currently unknown.)

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

Anna Mae Daris

1865 Hofius Lane

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-962-5079

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

Millie Elavsky

1209 Maple Dr.

Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-0345

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

Rudy Tomko

Nugent Convalescent Home, Rm 8

500 Clarksville Rd.

Hermitage, PA 16148

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

Jean Tomko

577 Charlotte Ave.

**NEW**

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

**llllllllllllllllllllllllllll 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.

The 2nd Quarter

**Voters’ Assembly**

will be held following worship

Sunday, May 19th

in the Fellowship Hall.

Your attendance will be

greatly appreciated!

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**Coffee Fellowship**

**is May 19th!**

Join us following worship, Sunday, May 19th for **Coffee Fellowship** sponsored by Linda Tomko. This fellowship will be held in conjunction with the **Voters’ Assembly** scheduled for that day.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for 2024! If interested in being a sponsor, please sign your name on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. 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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**Sts. Peter & Paul’s Food Pantry** ended 2023 on a very strong note and entered 2024 looking up to new and exciting things. We have been able to help so many people in our community and have even more opportunities to reach more. We have revamped and redesigned our food distribution set up. We now offer the feeling of going to a grocery store. Food Pantry Volunteer Director Ana Deal believes this empowers our neighbors (clients) to feel like they have a say even when they are in this stage of life. “I have many people that call,” said Ana, ”with a long story and explanation of why they need help or food. I am very grateful that I just get to say ‘we don’t have to worry about yesterday or the past, let’s feed you and your family so you can make a better tomorrow.’” “This pantry,” continued Ana, “is so much more than handing out cans of beans- we are love to a loveless world. Although we have a small print in our neighborhood- the hearts and lives we touch are big.”

The Food Pantry switched to the shopping style instead of pre-made boxes as of April 2024. Sixty families are currently enrolled, although not all come on a consistent basis

**Families served:**

NOV- 44 (including 8 emergency boxes!)   
DEC- 44

JAN- 47

FEB- 43

MAR- 41

We have applied for another grant for funds to support our pantry and have received a technology grant which will provide a new lap top and tablet to use for inventory and all of the paperwork connected with the state and county.

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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***Protecting Our Children at a Critical Time: Challenges Lie Ahead***

*Submitted by Pastor Emeritus Arthur H. Baisch*

***You*** . . . with the help of Alliance Defending Freedom [ADF] attorneys are helping to defend children, and their families, at a critical time.

Americans have been blind-sided by the swift spread of confusion about basic biological sex in the past few years. So much so that many people are now coming to grips with this “quiet” earthquake that so many children have endured. They have been confused about their God-given, basic biology, and in many cases set on a new path of “gender transition,” first socially, and then through hormones and even (in too many cases) harmful experimental surgery (which may, in fact, prove irreversible!).

However, through the courage of [ADF’s] clients and the generous support of ministry friends (such as our Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church), ADF is able to defend the children and families hurt by such dangerous ideology.

No child should be hurt by those entrusted with the child’s medical care. In a number of cases now in the courts, ADF’s network of attorneys is helping to protect children from the harms of gender ideology - *before irreversible harm is done!*

(In addition to the work done on behalf of children and their families), this also includes defending the “whistleblower” who courageously spoke out and exposed the experimental use of hormones that disrupt children’s natural healthy development at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, TX. The whistleblower revealed that doctors provided puberty blockers and other hormones to children confused about their sex - many with autism and special needs – in a clinic not advertised on (Texas Children’s Hospital’s) website.

Grant-funded cases like these are critical to ensuring that our nation’s medical providers put the well-being of the patients – the children – first and foremost!

***It’s a critical time to protect the most vulnerable, and you (the members of Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran, Sharon, PA) are helping to give them a firm defense. Thank You (from ADF!).***

From ADF’s ***Freedom Insider, Year End Report 6/23***

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**Additional Opportunities for Worship this May**

In addition to regular Sunday morning Divine Services at 9 am and Wednesday Matins Services at 10 am, the following will be observed this month:

* **Wednesday, May 1st**

10 am Matins Service celebrating the Feast of Saint Philip and Saint James

* **Thursday, May 9th**

7 pm Divine Service celebrating The Ascension of Our Lord

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**May Church Office Hours**

The secretary’s office will be open as follows:

* Week of April 29: Monday & Saturday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
* Weeks of May 5, 12, & 19: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
* Week of May 26: Tuesday & Thursday from 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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Remember thefollowing in prayer…

**~The Hurting and Healing:**  *Amy, Ralph, Steve, Mary Jane Anderson, Steve Antolovich, Ellen BaronCA, Don BaxterCA, 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, Drew Martz, Augusta Mennell, Juanita Rentschler, Richard ReuningCA, Nancy RobertsonCA, Kriss SvidroCA, Rudy Tomko, Fred Tonty, Bob Usnarski, Joel & Peggy Wasson, Angela WeserCA, and Ruth Wolf.*

**~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 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 Second Quarter Local Mission: Support of a Concordia, Fort Wayne Seminarian.*

*\*CA represents cancer.*

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**Mother’s Day**

**Is May 12th!**

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**Bible Memory Verses for April**

**For Adults:**

April 7: And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” *John 20:22-23*

April 14: And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. *Acts 4:12*

April 21: In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.  *Matthew 5:16*

April 28: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.  *Romans 12:2*

**For Children:**

April 7: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3*

April 14: I am the Good Shepherd…My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life*.*

*John 10:11, 27-28*

April 21: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

April 28: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

*Psalm 98:1*

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# Kids Fishing Vector Art, Icons, and Graphics for Free DownloadConcordia Fishing Derby 2024

Concordia will host a free fishing derby for kids ages 14 and under from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Saxony Farm Estate, located at Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056.

A fishing license is not needed for kids under 16, but all children will require a chaperone.

Concordia will provide bait, and prizes will be awarded throughout the day. A limited number of fishing poles will be available for kids to borrow, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have one.

Free hot dogs and refreshments will be available.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets as well, if possible.

Registration is preferred.

For more information or to register by phone, call Concordia Public Relations at 724-352-8268.

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**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

**Join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship!**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont**

*Come and meet our new Pastor,*

*Rev. Adam C. Koontz*

**Friday, June 7, 2024 ~ 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Rain or shine!

There will be Bratwurst, Hot Sausage, Hot Dogs, Strawberry Shortcake, and Ice Cream to enjoy and games for the children.

**1261 Pennsylvania Avenue in Oakmont (15139). Phone: 412-828-9323.**

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**OUR 2nd QUARTER MISSION:**

**Donation to a Concordia, Fort Wayne Seminarian**

Our 2nd Quarter Mission will be a donation to a Concordia, Fort Wayne seminarian.

Monies which are collected during this time will be sent to a randomly-assigned seminarian. These monies may be used in any way needed (books, tuition, living expenses, etc.). It is hoped that this gift will bring some joy and relief into the life of one dedicated to the study of His word in preparation for the ministry.

Donations may be placed in a pew envelope and put in the offering plate. Please be certain to specify 2nd Quarter Local Mission and note your name and envelope number.

Thank you for helping to brighten the day of a servant of God!

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**Bible Study Classes**

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

Is finishing its study of the Minor Prophets. This class is open to all.

* **Women’s Bible Study** takes place the first and third Thursdays of the month at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall! Join us for our study of the book of Romans. 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** the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This Bible Study is open to all church members and all ages are welcome!

**Thank You for Serving in May**

**Elder:** Jonathan Baisch; **Ushers:** Matt Berent, Mark Gabriel, Kati Laird, & Jerome Thomas; **Altar Ware: prior~**Elizabeth Haenftling (05.05), Marie Flaugher (05.12), & Diane Riefstahl; **after~**Elizabeth Haenftling & Hank Holcroft. **Special service (05.09):** TBD.

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**A note from Pastor Deal:** *Please let me know if you or a loved one are in the hospital or have a special need. Also, please ask the hospital or family members to phone me or the church office as I wish to visit those who may be hurting.*

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**Have an Idea for a**

**Fellowship Activity?**

We are looking for ideas for Fellowship activities! Prior to Covid, different activities were held: church picnics, pot-luck dinners, game nights, etc. We are trying to gauge interest and come up with some activities which would appeal. If you have any ideas of ways we can get together on or off church property and share some time with one another, please speak with Jonathan Baisch.

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**In observation of Memorial Day,**

**church offices will be closed**

**Monday, May 27th.**



The Ascension of our Lord

will be celebrated Thursday, May 9th with a special Divine Service.

Forty days after each Easter, many Christians around the world celebrate the Ascension. It’s the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven. The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In his human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time.

We pray you will be able to join us for this special service!

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**To listen to Pastor Deal’s sermons, phone 724-347-3620 and press Opt. 6.**

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Pentecost

Sunday

is May 19th.