

# the *Voice* parish newsletter

**Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church**  
975 Washington Road Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228

*“Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock.” –Matthew 27:59-60*

Jenners Crossroads Cemetery in Somerset County is located just beyond Jennerstown, a village of less than 700. My grandparents are buried there with other relatives on my mother’s side. I’ve made plans to be buried there too. From the cemetery, the Laurel Mountains can be seen in the distance.

One morning, peddling a stationary bike at the Jewish Community Center, I overheard a man mention Jennerstown. He was raised in that area and knew some of my relatives. We discovered we’ll be interred in the same cemetery. He actually had photos of the cemetery on his cell phone and began showing them to me, commenting on the beautiful mountains rising in the distance. While discussing where we’ll be buried, a man near to us said, “Stop the morbid talk! I don’t want to hear about death at the gym; I’m trying to get into shape!” We changed our conversation.

Holy Week is morbid. Jesus dies. Joseph of Arimathea put Jesus’ body in a tomb. When facing circumstances like death, faith is most meaningful. We express daring trust in God. That’s what was happening the morning I met the man at the gym. We were sharing our daring, abiding trust that Jenners Crossroads Cemetery will not be our last stop. God’s final word will be life.

Make plans to join the church in Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Easter silences all cemetery talk. God is stronger than death and will raise us to life. This good news in Christ is the daring, abiding faith we’re called to share.

Happy Easter to all! Christ is risen!

Pastor Doug Heagy



April, 2023



## Save the Date: April 30, 2023 **Congregational Brunch & Ministry Fair**

Please join us after Worship on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for a Ministry Fair followed by a delicious brunch hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

- Learn about our Activities and Organizations
- Visit Activity Stations related to the Youth Group, Music, Vacation Bible School, Social Ministries and more.
- Take a tour of the church property including the Youth Room, Library, Working Sacristy and Columbarium.
- Engage with Committee Chairs and Group Leaders to learn how your talents and interests can support our activities and outreach.
- Experience a Time of Fellowship with friends and neighbors from our parish.
- Enjoy a buffet style brunch.

**To accommodate the Ministry Fair, a single Worship service will be held at 9:30 that day.**



### **SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE:**

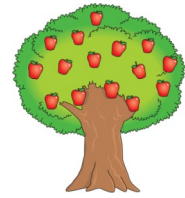
**April, 2023**

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please switch with another server. If you cannot get a substitute call the church office at 412-563-0300 or Pastor Doug at [412] 926-5440; or email the church at mtlebo-luth@aol.com

	8:30	10:00
April 2-Crucifer	Annaleigh Dwulit	Nico Provins
April 9- Easter Crucifer	Henry Keplar	Carter Lutz
April 16-Crucifer	Chase Lutz	Gabriel Provins
April 23-Crucifer	Luke Dwulit	Sam Wetzel
April 30-Crucifer	ONE LITURGY at 9:30 AM	Max Bruno

# FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## Thank God for our food



*God said [to Adam and Eve], 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food' .-Genesis 1:29*

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, "Where do apples come from?" Little Ian speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food – every bite – comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal, we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- Mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest; for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, discuss the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a service highlighting creation and food. Maybe "Blessing of the Seeds," or the ancient "Rogation Sunday" ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

--Rob Blezard Copyright ©2018 Rev. Robert Blezard.



# **APRIL & MAY BIBLE STUDIES**

## ***Monday Nights & Thursday Mornings***

### **MONDAY NIGHT**

***Peter, Paul, & Mary***

**7:00 PM—8:00 PM**

April 17	1 Peter 1
April 24	1 Peter 2-3
May 1	1 Peter 4-5
May 8	2 Peter 1
May 15	2 Peter 2
May 22	2 Peter 3
May 29	John 20:1-8 / Acts 9:1-20

### **THURSDAY MORNING**

**SCI Fayette Inmate Testimonies / Emmaus / 1,2,3 John**

**10:00 AM—11:15 AM**

In April, we will conclude reading individual testimonies of faith composed by inmates living in the SCI Fayette Prison; and examine the Emmaus story in Luke. An in-depth study of 1 John, 2 John, & 3 John will begin in May.

April 13	Wayne Smith
April 20	Damien Schlager
April 27	Luke 24:13-35
May 4	1 John 1-3
May 11	1 John 4-5
May 18	2 John
May 25	3 John





The worship links to Facebook & You Tube can be found on our website:  
[www.mtlebanonlutheran.org](http://www.mtlebanonlutheran.org)

## WORSHIP

**Sunday's**  
**8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**

*Virtual Worship 8:30 AM Facebook LIVE*  
*Posted later on our YouTube channel*

### THE WORD of the LORD

- April 2            Sunday of the Passion  
                          Palm Sunday
- Isaiah 50:4-9a  
                          Psalm 31:9-16  
                          Philippians 2:5-11  
                          Matthew 26
- Liturgies for Holy Week at 7:30 PM  
                          Wednesday Virtual Devotion ONLY  
                          Maundy Thursday  
                          Good Friday
- April 9            The Resurrection of Our Lord  
                          Easter
- Isaiah 50:4-9a  
                          Psalm 31:9-16  
                          Philippians 2:5-11  
                          Luke 23:1-49
- April 17           Second Sunday of Easter
- Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
                          Psalm 16  
                          1 Peter 1:3-9  
                          John 20:19-31
- April 23           Third Sunday in Easter
- Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
                          Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
                          1 Peter 1:17-23  
                          Luke 24:13-35
- April 30           Fourth Sunday in Easter / 9:30 AM
- Acts 2:42-47  
                          Psalm 23  
                          1 Peter 2:19-25  
                          John 10:1-10
- Sunday School 10:00 AM

**First Holy Communion....**For those second graders [and older children who have not yet been instructed], First Communion instruction dates are listed below. The children who receive instruction will celebrate their First Holy Communion at the **10:00 liturgy on Sunday, May 14.**

Full participation in the Eucharistic life of the Church is a milestone in a young person's life for "at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel."



Parish practices vary widely on the age and circumstances for full participation in the Lord's Supper. However, it was over 30 years ago that the Lutheran Church in America separated "confirmation" and the reception of Holy Communion. Since that time, congregations have continued to lower the age at which children are instructed and invited to commune.

**First Communion instruction in Eastertide 2023 will be offered on Saturday mornings, promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 29 and May 6 & 13. Classes will be one hour in length. Attendance is required! Parents of students [particularly, if this is a first child receiving instruction] are encouraged to attend.**

Questions with regard to communion practices and/or First Communion instruction are welcome and should be directed to the Pastor. Please contact him also if you have scheduling conflicts with the above dates.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** for the May issue of the *Voice* are to be submitted by **Sunday, April 16.** Articles may be left in the church office or email: [mtleboluth@aol.com](mailto:mtleboluth@aol.com).

#### Looking Ahead Upcoming Feast Days

**Ascension of Our Lord**  
 Thursday, May 18th

**Day of Pentecost**  
 Confirmation Sunday  
 May 28

**The Holy Trinity**  
 June 4

## **NEW COLUMBARIUM - South Chancel Wall**

Interment is available in the new columbarium and open to church members and extended families. The policy for the columbarium niches is available upon request from the church office.

The cost of each niche is \$1,000 for interment of a single individual and \$1,500 for the interment of two.

**Please contact the church office to indicate your interest.**



As pandemic fear fades, online worship has remained convenient, but it's important to remember why church attendance matters...

**We can't** serve fully from our sofas.

**We can't** have a full community of faith on our sofas.

**We can't** experience a sanctuary of believers worshipping together on our sofas.

**Christians are servants, not consumers.**

*We are contributors.*

*We engage.*

*We give.*

*We sacrifice.*

*We encourage.*

*We pray by laying hands on the hurting.*

*We do life together.*

**The Church needs everyone. We all need the Church.**

—Michael Carl



# ONLINE GIVING

*Is now available in association with*



myEoffering

[www.mtlebanonlutheran.org](http://www.mtlebanonlutheran.org)

## WHAT IS myEoffering?

myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We chose to use myEoffering because they are part of a trusted, Christian family-owned company, who have been serving the needs of churches for nearly 100 years. Their product is solid, secure, easy, and convenient.

## WHY SHOULD I USE myEoffering?

Many of you already pay for most of your purchases electronically, whether online or with a credit or debit card. So we have decided to offer this service as a convenience to you - you can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every Sunday. Simply log in to our service and set up your offering. You can set the donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time-to-time. This new service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes.

## HOW DOES IT HELP?

Online giving is the future. In the lifetime of our young people, we will see electronic payments overshadow traditional methods of paper payments. In order to position ourselves to continue doing the work of God in the future and to make it as convenient as possible to be a cheerful giver to God's work, we have decided to offer online giving to you. In addition to easier access to giving and more engagement with young stewards, online offering has many benefits for the church. It allows us to more easily track contributions for budgeting. It saves us from manually tracking those contributions every week. It saves us from large fees on check processing and allows us to more accurately forecast expenditures and needs.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Signing up is as simple as going to our church website listed above and look for the green computer mouse icon. That button will take you to the myEoffering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! Or scan the code to the right with your mobile device to get started now.



SCAN THIS  
CODE WITH  
YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE NOW





## WE REMEMBER in our prayers:

**O God, fill us with your light, that we might delight in your goodness and glory and serve you with joy.**

**As we pray for those who struggle in sickness and in sorrow, illumine with your light and with the warmth of your healing presence which will remind them that they are not alone. Especially we pray for:**

Bishop George Bashore; Craig Elias; Deb Cecotti; Scott Halapin; Patty Pavlak; Kalie Radigan; Cheryl Poenisch; Rian Dankert; the family of Annabelle Santos; Janice Seigle; Elena Getz; Nancy Ingles; Levi; Andy Kelemen; Maria Simbra;

### How to prepare for fasting...

Genuine, Spirit-filled fasting calls for intentional preparation. Such fasting calls for the following as a minimum:

- Examine your motives (Isa. 58:3-7)
- Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (Rom. 12:1,2)
- Ask God to reveal your sins to you (Ps. 19:12)
- Confess your sins (1 John 1:9)
- Seek forgiveness from those you have offended (Mark 11:25; Luke 17:3,4)
- Make restitution as the Holy Spirit leads (Matt. 5:23-26)
- Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
- consult with your physician before beginning a fast of any length.

### What to do while fasting...

- Pray (Dan. 9:3; Acts 14:23);
- Meditate on the Word of God (Ps. 1:1,2; Col. 3:16).
- Meditate on the attributes of God: love, grace, wisdom, compassion, sovereignty (Pss. 48:9, 10; 103:1-13).
- Expect God to bless you and reveal Himself to you (Heb. 11:6).
- Do not underestimate spiritual opposition (Gal. 5:16, 17)
- Refuse to yield to your worldly nature (Rom. 12:1,2).
- Exhibit an attitude of joy (Zech. 8:19; Matt. 6:17,18).

## A CALL TO A VIGIL OF PRAYER AROUND-THE-CLOCK DAILY THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK

*Because prayer is grounded in God; because prayer is answered; because prayer has no substitute; because prayer is power;*

*and*

*Paul asked for prayer without ceasing,*

*and*

*Peter asked for a watch of prayer,*

*and never forgetting that*

*Jesus commanded*

*“Watch therefore, and pray always”*



The 156 hours from the close of worship of Passion [Palm] Sunday until the faithful gather for the Vigil of Easter is one of the most important weeks in our congregation's life.

*Pastor Doug is participating and invites you to join with your congregational family members in the Holy Week Vigil of Prayer.* Around-the-clock, prayers of confession, adoration, thanksgiving, intercession and petition will be brought before our Heavenly Father's throne of grace.

Each participant will select one or more hours in the Holy Week during which they will maintain the Vigil.

A guidebook listing congregational members, missionaries, church leaders, governmental officials, the afflicted and homebound, as well as many others in need of prayer, is provided.

Too, in the guidebook you will find suggestions for opening and closing your hour of prayer. Common prayers in the booklet, hymnal, or supplemental prayerbook may assist you.

*You will find the hour to pass very quickly!*

You need not come to the church sanctuary to pray [although you are welcome]. Participants may pray *at home*, allowing a fuller participation in the Vigil by our home-bound and out-of-town members.

A large posterboard is located in the Narthex, providing spaces on which you can reserve your hours of participation in the Vigil. Or, you may call the Church Office during regular office hours to reserve your Vigil time.

God has appointed prayer as His method for conferring the blessings we all need, whether spiritual or temporal, for He has ordained that prayer shall be one of the causes that occasions His divine intervention.

Please join together with your fellow members in these great hours of prayer.



Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am, we will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter.

Please join us.

All are welcome to join.

Easter flower donors are welcome to contact a member of the Music and Worship Committee immediately following the late Easter Day Liturgy to receive their ordered plants from the chancel.

Second Quarter Editions of *Portals of Prayer*, our congregational family's daily devotional, are available in the Narthex. You are invited to take a copy for personal use and encouraged to use it daily in your meditative life.

### HOME SWEET HOME

Welcome to the House of the Lord, where everyone is welcome. Enter into a great heartwarming place of worshippers, believers and friends; a place to reflect, think and pray. God is waiting for you at the door with open arms. Bring the whole family to share in God's word.



“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
*Exodus 20:8*”

FLOWER CHART  
AND WORSHIP BULLETINS  
STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2023 YEAR.

Please see the signup sheets in the Narthex or call the church office for available dates.

### Shut-in Committee

The Social Ministry Committee is looking for volunteers to help in various ways with homebound members of our congregation. We have a number of members who are in need of assistance from time to time. Whether due to aging, surgery, or other situations, people could use rides to doctor's offices, errands run, and social visits. This is not a large time commitment; and the hope is to create a team that could be contacted as needs arise. If you're interested in helping out in this way or have questions, please contact Sara Dougherty at [tidsid@verizon.net](mailto:tidsid@verizon.net) or 412-523-1499; or the church office.

Thank you for helping with this important ministry!



# Three Rivers Saxophone Quartet

## 50th Anniversary Recital

Sunday June 4th, 2023-3:00PM  
Mt Lebanon United Lutheran Church  
975 Washington Rd  
Pittsburgh PA 15228



Warren Yeckel  
Mike Jacob



Steve Ehrin  
Marino Galluzzo

### Featuring

*Music from Renaissance, Baroque, Movies, Broadway, Contemporary and Jazz*

*Music by Bach, Gershwin, Kern, Berlin, Rodgers, Porter, Morricone and more.*

*Original music written especially for us by Vito DiSalvo and Marino Galluzzo - World Premieres*

*Music arranged especially for us by Rick Mansfield, James Guerra, James Pybus, Ralph Guzzi and Marino Galluzzo*

*Saxophone quartet with rhythm section playing from the Hollywood Saxophone Quartet library*

*Music arranged by famous musicians Lennie Niehaus, Billy May and Marty Paich*

*Special Guest Musicians, Deb Weible, Bruce Wallace and Tom Earley*

*Three Rivers Saxophone Quartet former members*

*Large Saxophone Choir featuring many prominent Pittsburgh Musicians*

*Many musicians from across the United States.*

**Program is Free - Donations accepted**

**Hero Hotline:**  
Called Together to Serve God!  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 10-14, 2023**  
9am-noon



*"So let's strive together for the things that bring peace  
and the things that build each other up." Romans 14:19*

**VBS Volunteers Needed—  
Youth and Adults**

Volunteers are needed to help with Vacation Bible School, some during VBS week, July 10-14. Other tasks can be done before or after VBS, in the evenings, weekends or whenever convenient. A few positions have been filled, but there are still openings in site leader, crew leader and assistant roles, as well as help with decorating, setup, crafts, snacks, and games.

To volunteer: contact [drhazlett@verizon.net](mailto:drhazlett@verizon.net) or call the church office at 412-563-0300.

Look for VBS registration in the May Newsletter, and soon on our Church website.

**VBS items needed to borrow:**

(for week of July 10-14)

- Tent Canopies, with stakes or sand bags
- CD players (boom boxes)

**VBS Items to Donate:**

- paper towel tubes
- old magazines
- Air Clay in bright colors
- half-used spray cans, any colors, even old
- blue painter's tape, masking tape)
- large cardboard box (i.e., refrigerator) -at least 5 ft.
- tiny cardboard boxes – 1 ft. or less
- brown packing paper -like those in online purchase shipments
- scrap fabric pieces – at least 2 ft square – solid colors or minimal pattern
- dryer vent tubing – or any flexible tubing – at least 1 ft long (a lot is great)

*Look for updated list, including snack ingredients in the May Newsletter  
and the Bulletin Board.*

## HERO HOTLINE

Called Together to Serve God

### Vacation Bible School

July 10-14, 2023



*“So let’s strive together for the things that bring peace  
and the things that build each other up.”  
Romans 14:19*

**CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!**

**CONTACT DEB HAZLETT TO VOLUNTEER!**  
[drhazlett@verizon.net](mailto:drhazlett@verizon.net)

## VBS Volunteer Meetings



Calling all VBS Hero Hotline Volunteers...  
teens and adults!

Please join us at one of the two orientation  
meeting for VBS Week:

Sunday, June 11 from 11:am-12:00 noon  
or  
Monday, June 12 from 7:00-8:00 pm

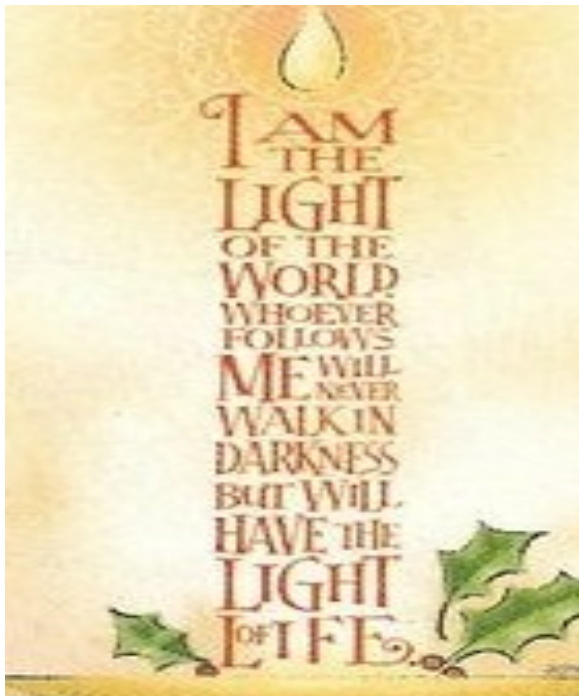
Light refreshments for Superhero Volunteers  
will be provided. We will gather in the  
Social Hall.

*“So let’s strive together for the things that bring  
peace and the things that build each other up.”  
Romans 14:19*

## Daily Bread Ministries Meal May 21

Next month’s menu will be *Fried  
Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Veggie and  
Dessert.*

Donations are now being  
accepted in the white giving box  
in the Narthex; or you can mail  
checks to church office. Mark the  
check memo line, *‘Daily Bread  
Ministries’*. Thank you for  
supporting this vital ministry!



# CampBlast at Lutherlyn

## CampBlast at Lutherlyn

May 13, 2023, 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Join us for a **FREE** day of FUN that highlights all that Camp Lutherlyn has to offer. Rain or Shine! Many awesome indoor and outdoor activities to enjoy at CampBlast!

Go to <https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/campblast.html> for directions and schedule.

Camp Lutherlyn brochures are on the bulletin board in the lower entrance hallway and in the hallway by the Narthex.

## Lutherlyn's 2023 Summer Camp Schedule

<b>Week 1</b> June 18-23	-Staff-In-Training (SH) -Life in the Wild (Jr & JH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)	-Classic (JH) (SH) -Horse Camp (JH & SH)
<b>Week 2</b> June 25-30	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri)	-Adventurers (JH & SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
<b>Week 3</b> July 2-7	-Family Camp -On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade)	
<b>Week 4</b> July 9-14	-Arts & Musical (Jr & JH) -Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH)	-Horse Camp (Jr) -Adventurers (JH & SH)
<b>Week 5</b> July 16-21	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Adventurers PLUS (SH) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri)	-ADV Horse Camp (JH & SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
<b>Week 6</b> July 23-28	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Junior Adventurers (Jr)	-Venture (SH) -Rocketry (JH & SH)
<b>Week 7</b> July 30- August 4	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Rocketry (Jr) -Horse Camp (JH & SH)	-Night Owls (JH & SH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)

"Young Folks" - campers enter grades 2-3, "Jr" - campers enter grades 4-6, "JH" - campers enter grades 7-9, "SH" - campers enter grades 10-12 or a 2023 graduate

**Registration for 2023 starts on February 1.**  
Camperships are available for all who need assistance.  
Visit [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer) for details.



### You Are Invited to CampBlast!

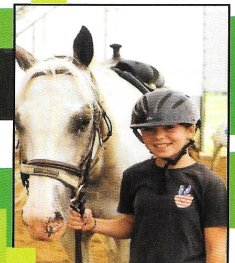
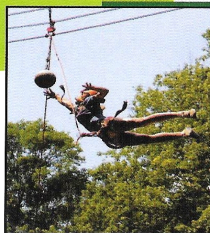
**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, 11am-4:30pm**

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Horseback riding, campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, kayaking, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE!  
The best part.... **EVERYTHING IS FREE!**  
[www.lutherlyn.com/campblast](http://www.lutherlyn.com/campblast)

### \$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee for Summer 2023. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST TIME summer camper. No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**  
Register at [WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM).  
(Please share this code with friends!)



# The Great and Holy Week

April 2-9

## The Passion of our Lord [Palm Sunday]

April 2 at 8:30 and 10:00 am



Recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, fronds of palm are distributed and blessed, asking that God would bless those who bear them and recipients would ever hail Jesus as their Lord and King. The Passion of our Lord is read from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In prayer, hymns, reading and proclaiming, we hear the great paradox of our faith: Christ is the mighty one who reigns from the tree of life.



**WEDNESDAY** Mid-Week Lenten *Online Virtual Devotions ONLY*  
April 5 at 7:30 pm

## Holy Thursday

April 6 at 7:30 pm



The focus of Holy Thursday is not merely the “anniversary” of the institution of the Lord’s Supper, but rather an openheartedness to Jesus’ commandments: Love one another even as I have loved you, and Do this in remembrance of me. Our worship liturgy will proclaim the loving servanthood of Christ. Following the Eucharist, the Altar is striped to signify Jesus’ betrayal, being stripped of His glory and willingly placed into the hands of His captors.

## Good Friday

April 7 at 7:30 pm



Our Tenebrae Liturgy is an adaptation of the ancient office of light dimming used to impress upon the hearts and minds of believers the awful consequences of sin and magnitude of our Savior’s sacrifice. The liturgy includes hymns [sung without accompaniment], readings which trace the experience of our Lord from His trial before Pilate to His crucifixion, death and burial, and prayers. Worshipers sense the grueling ordeal as the path of Jesus is traced through the sanctuary.

**THROUGH THY CROSS AND  
PASSION  
O LORD + DELIVER US**

## *You're Invited...To the Sunday Morning Fellowship*

Each Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to greet one another and welcome visitors at our: *Sunday Morning Fellowship* in the Foyer. Join us in between the early and late Liturgies to share greetings and conversations with friends and visitors. Refreshments are available for all.



The Sunday Morning Fellowship also provides opportunities to volunteer:

- Sponsor the Coffee Project of Lutheran World Relief, helping small growers, their families and communities through the fair trade of coffee.
- Volunteer to set up and clean the Fellowship refreshments table. It's easy to do and a member of the Hospitality Committee will show you how. Also, written instructions are available.
- Provide sweet (or healthy) treats for all to enjoy. (Gluten free and nut free treats are also welcomed)

If you'd like to help you can sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway, or contact the church office.

## THE WALK TO EMMAUS

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

12:30 PM

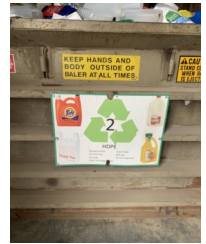
On Sunday, April 23, the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus from Luke 24:13-35 will be our Gospel reading in worship. Following worship, church members are invited to join Pastor Heagy and others for a walk on the Montour Trail in remembrance of the Emmaus walk that took place on the first Easter Day. We will meet at a designated point and conclude the afternoon with refreshments at Al's Café. Please join the fun and invite friends! We will walk, not run, in our time together. Doubters and stragglers are welcome!

**MORE DETAILS ARE FORTHCOMING IN THE SUNDAY BULLETINS**



# Environmental Stewardship

*“We see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God’s gracious gift of creation.”  
(ELCA Social Statement, Caring for creation, Vision, Hope and Justice)*



*The ELCA states “We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society”.*

In response to this, we at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church will do our part to be good stewards of our precious environment. The social ministry committee will strive to communicate ways that we can consciously do what we can to care for our planet.

## Recycling Opportunity

Michael Brothers located at 901 Horning Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15236 offers fantastic recycling opportunities!

This is a drive-thru location open Monday-Friday 7am-5pm and Saturday 7am-1pm.

At this location, you can recycle:

Glass

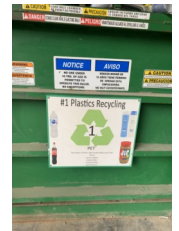
Plastics #1-7

Christmas lights

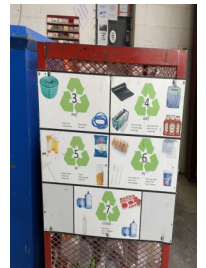
Aluminum/cans

Metal

Cardboard



Smaller plastic items are a problem at automated recycling centers but NOT a problem at Michael Bros so many items can be recycled that cannot be recycled at other locations. They also take ALL plastics-not just #1 and #2.



You just drive up to Michael Bros (very well marked) and someone will be there to help you place your items in the correct bins. You do not need to separate the different plastics but you do need to separate the glass from the cans from the cardboard from the plastic.

Below are examples of many hard to recycle items that Michael Bros will accept:

Disposable utensils

Cups/lids

Take-out containers

Clam shells for berries, take-out, etc

Packaging for things like electronics  
cartons

Bread tabs

yogurt containers

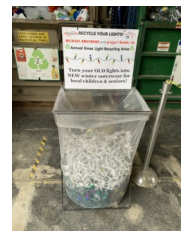
prescription bottles/lids

straws

coffee cup lids

caps/pull tabs from milk/juice

flower pots (cleaned)



Michael Brothers is just 5 miles from Church. Let’s do our part to keep these items out of the landfills! Any questions, please contact Sara Dougherty at [tjdsjd@verizon.net](mailto:tjdsjd@verizon.net) or 412-523-1499.



# SPRING INTO READING



GET A FRESH START WITH  
EASTER BOOKS, AND MORE...  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS TOO!!  
In Our Church Library



CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, APRIL 23-29



I would like you to consider participating in a our online giving designed to simplify weekly giving in our congregation.

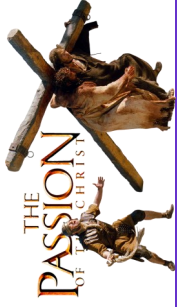
Electronic giving will enable every household or individual to make their church offering using electronic funds transfer or credit card. You may already be using online bill pay for your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Many of you also have used your credit cards to purchase goods online through Amazon, eBay, or a number of other sites.

We have teamed up with myEoffering to enable you to use the same process to give your offering electronically from your bank account, credit or debit cards.

There is no cost to you for this new giving option. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue uninterrupted.

You can participate in the electronic giving program immediately. Just visit our church website and look for the "Donate Now" button.

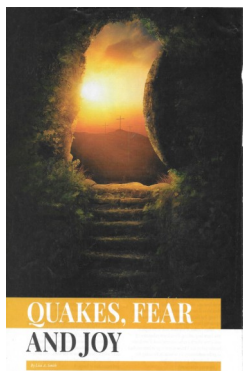
Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



# APRIL 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Sunday of the Passion</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Holy Wednesday</b> 7:00 Choir 7:30 Live Virtual Devotion	<b>6 Holy Thursday</b> 7:30 Worship Liturgy	<b>7 Good Friday</b> 7:30 Worship Liturgy	<b>8</b> 10:00 Easter Decorating Sanctuary
<b>9 Resurrection of Our Lord</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship	<b>10</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:30 Council Working Group	<b>11</b> 4:00 Catechetics 2	<b>12</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>13</b> 10:00 Bible Study 4:00 Catechetics 1	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Easter 2</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School	<b>17</b> 7:00 Bible Study	<b>18</b> 4:00 Catechetics 2	<b>19</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>20</b> 10:00 Bible Study 4:00 Catechetics 1	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Easter 3</b> 8:30 & 10:00 Worship 8:30 Live Virtual Worship 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 7:00 Bible Study	<b>25</b> 4:00 Catechetics 2	<b>26</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>27</b> 10:00 Bible Study 4:00 Catechetics 1	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Easter 4</b> 9:30 Worship 9:30 Live Virtual Worship 11:00 Congregational Brunch & Ministry Fair						



I'd always skimmed over the earthquake in Matthew's resurrection story (28:1-10) until I was in "a big one." I live in Alaska. There hadn't been "a big one" in my part of the state since Good Friday 1964, when a 9.2 shaker on the Richter scale destroyed homes, killed dozens and forced the relocation of Southcentral Alaska coastal towns decimated by tidal waves.

Scientists warned there would eventually be another big one here. I was making breakfast for my children in 2018 when it hit—a 7.1 quake. I was downstairs with the 2-year-old when the shaking started. I knew I was supposed to shelter in place—stop moving!—but my 5-year-old was somewhere upstairs alone, and he started screaming. I was filled with terror. Bookshelves flung their contents; photos sailed off the mantle. The shaking was the hardest I'd ever felt, and it just kept going.

I grabbed my toddler and tried to run upstairs, but the shaking made it difficult to walk. A massive chandelier was swinging wildly above my head, and I saw the folly in climbing the stairs under it while holding a toddler. Glass shattered upstairs. My 5-year-old was still screaming. Was he hurt? I was screaming. We were all afraid.

### **THE EASTER STORY IS ONE OF INTERWOVEN FEAR AND JOY—THE SAME IS TRUE IN OUR LIVES.**

After less than a minute of shaking, which felt like an hour, everything was still. I went upstairs and stopped short: a sea of broken glass filled the hall and bathroom floor. A wall-mounted bathroom mirror had shattered and sent shards throughout the hall, nearly into my son's bedroom. My son, who I thought might have been in the bathroom, was safe on his bedroom floor. I felt a moment of joy amid the terror.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who walked to the tomb went there expecting death. They were already traumatized by the terror of seeing their beloved Jesus beaten and executed. Then the earth began to quake, and they were afraid all over again.

Instead of broken glass, they saw blinding light and an angel, who shone with painful brightness. Do not be afraid, the angel said, he has been raised. The women were still filled with terror but something else crept in—great joy. They ran to tell the disciples and met the risen Lord on the way.

The Easter story is one of interwoven fear and joy—the same is true in our lives. We don't have to live on a fault line to feel the ground move beneath our feet. We have all felt the earth quake, so to speak. It's the phone call that begins with "sit down." It's the doctor with bad news from the PET scan. It's the realization that you can't fix the relationship. It's the realization that you can't fix your child. It's another month when the money runs out before the month does. We have all lived through some kind of earth-quaking experience. We have all felt fear.

Yet sometimes it is precisely in the shaking that we get a glimpse of great joy. Someone you love is holding your hand. A member of your church brings a hot meal. A Scripture verse brings a word of comfort. God's peace comes unexpectedly. Someone offers you forgiveness. Someone sits quietly beside you.

The women at the tomb didn't suddenly drop their fears when they learned that Jesus was alive. The women ran to tell the good news while they were full of fear and joy. The same may be true for us. They were afraid, but they went anyway. They didn't go alone—they had each other—and as they went, they found Jesus. I can think of worse metaphors for the life of a disciple.

Right after the quake of 2018, my children and I were together on the floor of my older son's room when the first big aftershock came, a 5.7. Aftershocks always come after a big quake, and you can't predict them. The aftershock was another big jolt, but this time it was different. We sat with our arms around each other and a few stuffed animals thrown in for good measure. We were afraid but thankful to be together.

"No storm can shake my inmost calm" read the words of the hymn "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 763). This is not entirely true when I'm relying on a calm I must manufacture. I can't manufacture it. But God can. Our inner calm is God's own peace, given by the Spirit.

What I know from Christ's death and resurrection is that God doesn't promise a life of steady ground. God promises God's presence in the shaking and the joy of God's loving embrace.

God says to us what Jesus said to those fearful and joyful women at the tomb: you will see me. It's a solid foundation on which to rest. †

To discuss this article and the Easter story, download a study guide by clicking on the "Spiritual practices & resources" tab at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org).



**1** Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, stories and cultures of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the church's rich history and tradition. Ask God to bless the advocacy, witness, leadership development and ministry support provided by ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

**2** *Palm Sunday* Pray for strength to follow Christ and the will of God, especially when fear of criticism or standing out discourages us from proclaiming and demonstrating our faith.

**3** Give thanks for the chance to study, pray, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, joining partners, companions, friends and neighbors around the world in doing God's work.

**4** "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 36:7). Give thanks and praise for God's love and grace, which envelop all people and are never deterred by borders, divisions or regulations of our making.

**5** Remember in prayer people who live in despair and yearn for hope, especially those recovering from natural disasters, incarcerated in prisons and jails, displaced by war and economic crises, or suffering poverty, hunger, unemployment or lack of shelter.

**6** *Maundy Thursday* When we gather for communion with our siblings in Christ, we remember when Jesus gathered with disciples, friends and strangers around a meal. Give thanks for the bread and wine that remind us of God's abundant mercy and the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, providing us the nourishment to live our baptismal call, walk in God's ways, serve our neighbor and share the gospel.

**7** *Good Friday* Ask the Spirit to renew and strengthen our faith as we recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the sake of the world. Pray that our hope will be stirred and our lives energized by God's grace, given despite our complexity, weakness and suffering.

**8** *Holy Saturday* Give thanks that darkness and death no longer hold us captive — God's promise of forgiveness, freedom and new life has been fulfilled for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**9** *Easter Sunday* "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised" (Matthew 28:5-6). Praise God! Give thanks that our lives, purpose and hope are forever changed in the risen Christ, God's tangible expression of love and mercy for humankind.

**10** Give thanks for musicians, choirs, cantors, music directors, orchestras and bands that give witness to our faith, draw us into worship and reflection, and help us express our joy and praise to God.

**11** [Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving alongside our companions](#) in Germany, Austria, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

**12** Give thanks for God's steadfast love and kindness, which are so often obscured by our daily activities, concerns and distractions.

**13** Pray for students in our seminaries who, responding to the Spirit's call, explore opportunities for ministry and service wherever God is at work in the world.

**14** Pray for the Peace Not Walls campaign as we work for justice, peace, human rights, reconciliation and healing in Palestine and Israel. Ask that our efforts might yield results as we accompany the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and all Jews, Christians and Muslims working together for peace with justice.

**15** Give thanks for teachers in our public schools and pray that God will sustain and renew their energy and commitment as they manage the challenges of their vocation. Ask the Spirit to grant them compassion, wisdom and skill to attend to the needs of students and parents, and promise to generously support their service.

**16** The story of Thomas, who was skeptical when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, is not unlike our own when we feel doubt and yearn for proof of God's presence and love. Ask God to forgive our uncertainty, and pray that our faith, like Thomas', will be renewed, so that we, too, might proclaim of Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

**17** Pray for our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, that the Spirit will sustain her faith and wisdom and continue to equip her for guiding our church through the challenges of doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**18** Ask God to help us serve our neighbors in need, share the gospel, endure all hardships in this world and find comfort in the assurance of "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4).

**19** Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission serving alongside our companions in Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Brazil.

**20** Pray for God's counsel in how to be a positive, compassionate and healing influence in society and the world, following the path of life, light and truth.

**21** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Western Iowa and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**22** *Earth Day* Praise God for the diverse and abundant natural resources that sustain life, the interconnection of all that exists, and the wonders of creation that inspire and humble us. Pray that we will wisely steward what God has entrusted to our care and work diligently to restore what we have damaged and depleted — for the well-being of humanity and the honor of our Creator.

**23** Pray that we might take advantage of opportunities to talk with one another about our faith, our questions, our thoughts and the challenges of following Christ.

**24** Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers who, each spring, prepare, plant and tend fields, orchards and herds so that they will produce bountiful harvests and feed the world.

**25** Rejoice in the good news that God has reclaimed us with the blood of Christ — Savior, Messiah and Teacher, the light of the world and the bread of life that sustains our spirit.

**26** Remember in prayer musicians and worship leaders gathering online for the Music that Makes Community webinar "Composing Ourselves: A Laboratory for Creating Congregational Songs." Pray that the Spirit will inspire and nurture their skills for writing new worship songs drawn from diverse cultures and traditions.

**27** Thank God for listening and responding to our prayers, both spoken and silent.

**28** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana and Alaska synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**29** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwest Intermountain Synod, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

**30** Pray that our faith might grow and mature as the Spirit guides and encourages us through worship, service, Bible study, involvement in a faith community, and the witness of our global companions.

## Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228  
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www.facebook.com/MtLebanonlutheran  
email: mtleboluth@aol.com



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

### The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### The Reverend Kurt Kusserow

Bishop  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

### The Reverend Douglas M. Heagy

Pastor

### Dr. Christopher Keenan, DMA

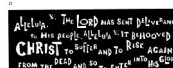
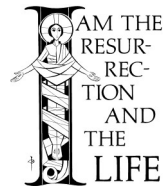
Director of Music and Organist

### Mr. Larry Allen

Director of Music and Organist Emeritus

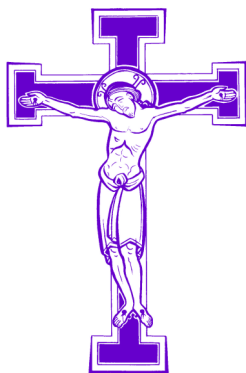
### Mrs. Kris Malia

Parish Secretary



## The Great and Holy Week

April 2—9



### The Passion of Our Lord [Palm Sunday]

April 2 at 8:30 and 10:00 am

Recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the Distribution of Palms

### Wednesday Online ONLY Midweek Devotion

April 5 at 7:30 PM

### Maundy Thursday

April 6 at 7:30 pm—The Last Supper

### Good Friday

April 7 at 7:30 pm—Tenebrae Liturgy

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## Resurrection Sunday

### Sunday, April 9

Festive Sanctuary Worship 8:30 and 10:00 AM

Virtual Worship Live stream on Facebook 8:30 AM

