

KOINONIA

May - June 2023



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN
DUTCHESS

PASTOR JAMES MILLER



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

Dear Friends in Christ.

Consider these verses from Psalm 135:

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

¹⁶ They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see;

¹⁷ they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths.

¹⁸ Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

(Psa 135:15-18 ESV)

Idolatry is an important subject in the Bible. God, in speaking through the prophets, cries out about it already in the Book of Genesis. We may think to ourselves, "Well, that was then, a long time ago. We live in modern times. This is not a problem now. We don't bow down to gods made of wood or stone."

Or do we?

The First Commandment is this: "you shall have no other gods." (Exodus 20:3) In his Large Catechism, Luther asks, "What does it mean to have a god? Or what is God? Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress."

Luther believes that every person has a god. In his Small Catechism, he says that "to have a god means to fear, love, and trust something or someone to which or to whom you look to for all good.

In times past, that is, in Biblical times, the Israelites were forbidden to mix with people from other lands because they would likely end up putting their trust in the gods of those peoples. Notice that I referred to them as gods of those peoples and not "gods" of those peoples. In fact, those carved images of wood or stone, or silver or gold were treated as gods by those peoples. The problem is that they were not the living God: the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were inanimate objects, created by people.

Now we are getting to the heart of the matter. The living God is the Creator of all things: of the earth, the heavens, and of all life on earth. People are part of this Creation. People are creatures. How can it be that creatures create something to worship? How can creatures create their creator? It makes no sense.

And yet, look around. Our secular society seems to be driven by demand for material wealth, fame, and power. The non-stop media sources continuously promote products promising us happiness and glamor, and images of famous people. The latest electronic devices, sports teams, and political figures compete for our attention, all promising us happiness and freedom if we would just fixate on them (read: bow down to them)---if we would just fear, love, and trust them.

Just as with the idols of the nations, these are false gods. They will not give us any true and lasting happiness. We have just celebrated Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the long-prophesied Messiah, who was nailed to the Cross for our sins. Through faith in Him, we are promised true and lasting happiness: eternal life. God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Luther tells us that whatever or whoever we trust deep down in our hearts is our god. To paraphrase a contemporary commercial, "What matters is not what's in our wallets. What matters is Who is in our hearts." Let us be thankful and led by Who is in our hearts: the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Christ, Pastor Jim

News from St. Paul's

Greetings from St. Paul's! We are all looking forward to spring and the improved weather that comes with it. There is nothing better than being able to get outside and start sprucing up the grounds and making our presence known through beautification. On April 22nd, we held a parish car wash to support the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. On April 29th, we held our annual clean-up day around the grounds and we're working on a big punch list of projects we need to complete both inside and outside. There is never a lack of projects to be done. We look forward to the beautiful flowers around the church and Parish Hall and a summer without construction as the village's septic system project is complete and is up and running and the new grass has been planted. As if all that wasn't enough, we ask everyone to be on the lookout for a new window fundraising campaign as St. Paul's marches forward in our pursuit to fully refurbish the stained-glass windows.

Inside, where the real action happens, we were blessed with the March baptism of Nora Logan Sherwood. On June 3rd, we will conduct Owen Mussig's Eagle Scout Court of Honor followed by a celebration in the Parish Hall. Owen is a Troop 288 Boy Scout who replaced the dilapidated barn doors for his Eagle project. June 4th, the baptism of Pastor Miller's grandson will be held at St. Paul's at 11:00 am. And finally, in late June we will recognize the high school graduations of Nathan Piaget and Sam Patton from Red Hook and FDR respectively.

We are blessed to have so many wonderful parishioners and we look forward to all that is happening, both inside and out. Please come and join us each Sunday at 11AM to hear His words.

Yours in Christ,

Brad Patton, Council President



May Birthdays

4– Lisa Baisley
7– Rose Rider
14– Pat Bucala
14– Chloe Smith
21– Clara Patton
26– Gerda Veneman
26– Eric Murray

June Birthdays

5– Karla Cook
7– Mackenzie Smith
22– Bruce Williams
24– Elizabeth Dill
26– Jack Walker
28– Sam Patton

Memorial Lutheran Church

We are entering a season of warmth, and the challenges continue before us, we at Memorial are drawing near the closing of some of these challenges.

We currently have projects at our Church which requires a new septic 500 gal. tank, also a water line from the Fellowship hall into our lavatory, at rear of Church.

This will require excavation for the waste water line from septic tank to leach fields at Fellowship Hall, and water line from Hall into Church.

Gods work our hands has really shown what the Parish Church community is all about.

We at Memorial Lutheran Church have great admiration for our fellow Church members and their continued support.

Thank you, very much!



Linda Woodward	May 10
Ken Decker	May 17
Nancy Kelly	June 23
Dorothy Bahnatka	June 29

Gods Blessings, Tandy Walker Council President

Blessing of the Animals

May 6 @ Noon

(rain date May 7 @ 1:00PM)

Third Lutheran Church

Bring your pets to be blessed. Invite family and friends. All pets welcome!

Activities will be held outside: Blessing, Information Booths, Tag Sale

Raffle to benefit American Humane

2 TIFFANY wine glasses; \$100 gift card for CINNAMON RESTURANT; 1 decorative basket

Tickets: 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5

A number of groups will be participating with their Ambassador Animals
representing a variety of rescue and special interest organizations.

All proceeds other than the raffle will support capital projects at Third, such as the main staircase and the roof.

Contact: Rosemary 845-478-2452

Thank You!

Season of Hope - We assembled 71 Personal Care Kits for families in need around the world!

Parish Car Wash - \$780 was raised for ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief for earth quake victims in Turkey and Syria.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship Services on Video

YouTube Channel: [LutheranParishNorthernDutchess](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)

If you missed a Sunday, the services are still available on the channel for easy access.

Parish Webpage: www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org

Click on Pastor Jim's picture on the Home Page. This will take you to the YouTube channel for the Parish. Select the readings or sermon you would like to view.

Please share via your social media networks, Like the Parish Facebook page, subscribe to this YouTube Channel, and/or forward the weekly emails.

You are Invited

May 6– Blessing of the Animals . Begins at Noon at Third. Further details elsewhere in this newsletter.

May 14 - Noon at St. Paul's. Meeting for anyone interested in a **Bible Study on Matthew** led by Steve Bucala and Nabil Ayoub.

June 4– Baptism of Andrew Zion Miller (Pastor Jim's grandson) at St. Paul's at 11:00 am.

Meetings

Third W&M May 2 , 2023 & June 6, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

Parish Council May 16, 2023 & June 20, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

Joint Session of Councils May 16, 2023 & June 20, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Congregational Councils: May 16, 2023 & June 20, 2023 @ 7:00 pm (Third 4:30 pm)

Council meetings are at Third in May , Council meetings are at St. Paul's in June

Faith Building Opportunities

Bible Study

with Pastor Jim

Thursday 10 a.m.

Third Rhinebeck– upstairs classroom

Contact Pastor Jim, 914-441-4360

Zoom Bible Study—Readings from Genesis

7 PM on Wednesdays for 6 weeks beginning April 26 and ending May 31

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89126414876?pwd=dXcrRFoXT0paWUovVUFjdnpkQk05Zz09>

Meeting ID is 891 2641 4876

Passcode is 696852

May 3: The Fall Genesis 3-4

May 10: Noah, Babel Genesis 6-11

May 17: Abraham Genesis 11:31– Genesis 20

May 24: Isaac Genesis 21-26

May 31: Jacob Genesis 27-36

Service Opportunities

Crafty Christians

We are meeting in person

Every Thursday at 11:00 am at Third in Rhinebeck

All members and friends of the Parish are welcome to participate.

Contact Bonnie Reyero

518-697-7608

Thank you for your participation in our Parish mission of service.

Return: Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess
31 Livingston Street
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

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To:



KOINONIA

Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess

Pastor James Miller

www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org

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*Contributors: Pastor James Miller, Monica C. Gabryszewski (Third),
Tandy F. Walker (Memorial), Brad Patton (St. Paul's),*



**Memorial Lutheran Church, 8:30 am Service, 1232 Rte. 308, (Rock City)
Rhinebeck, NY 12572 Council President: Tandy Walker**

**Third Lutheran Church, 9:45 am Service, 31 Livingston Street, Rhinebeck,
NY, 12572 Council President: Monica C. Gabryszewski**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 11:00 am Service, 7412 South Broadway,
Red Hook, NY 12571 Council President : Brad Patton**

Pastor James Miller, Cell phone (914)441-4360, CircuitPastorJim@aol.com

Parish Secretary, Christine Murray, Parish office:845-876-4471

Parish email: tlcr@frontiernet.net

Secretary hours are Wednesday & Thursday, 10am– 3pm