



KOINONIA



March-April 2018
LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
PASTOR JAMES MILLER

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am happy to say that we had over 50 people at the Parish House of Memorial Lutheran Church on Shrove Tuesday! Pancakes, sausages, applesauce, and wonderful desserts were enjoyed by all! Special thanks to Memorial members Tandy Walker who was flipping pancakes on two griddles and Ken Decker who jumped into service on a third griddle to keep up with the demand! Throughout the whole time Joe Bahnatka had his hands in the soapy water keeping all the serving plates and cooking utensils clean. I don't know how many pancakes were made, but next year maybe we ought to count!

At the dinner, two people asked me what did "shrove" mean. I'm the pastor, and I ought to know these things, right? Well, I admitted that I wasn't sure and said something about *shrove* being derived from *shrive* and that there was some connection with discarding our sins before Lent. (I was determined to research this when I got home!)

Well, it turns out that I wasn't too far off course. *Shrove* is derived from *shrive* in Old English, which changed to *shriven* in Middle English, and is related to *scribere* in Latin---all dealing with confession of sins. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes: 'In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him.'"¹

As the final day before the austerity of the Lenten fast, Shrove Tuesday also has many customs pertaining to food. Pancakes are traditional in a number of European countries because eggs, sugar, and fat, commonly forbidden during the Lenten fast, are used up so they will not go to waste. Many of you probably already knew this, but if you didn't before, now you know (and so do I!).

From those Shrove Tuesday festivities, or Mardi Gras or Carnival in other cultures, we do move into Lent, the 40 day season where we are called to slow down and reflect on our lives and listen to try to listen to God's saving message for us more clearly. The Red Hook Council of Churches sponsors a series of mid-week Lenten services. St. Paul's will host a service on March 14 and Fr. Patrick Buckley from St. Christopher's will be the preacher.

I will be the preacher at St. Christopher's on February 21, which is before you will have read this. For that reason I want to give you a short summary of my sermon. There was a particularly terrible tragedy on Ash Wednesday: the shootings at the school in Florida. As I was writing that sermon, details began to emerge. The suspected shooter was a troubled young man whose parents had died not too long ago and who was battling depression. He was known by many people to have issued threats of violence. I read of various interventions to try to help him, but I have yet to read of anyone bringing Jesus to him.

You may say, "Don't be so naive. That's too simplistic. Of course you'd say that. You're a preacher. But let's be realistic." Well, yes, that's right. I am a preacher. And it is for that very reason that I say that this.

I am called to preach reality, and the reality is that Jesus Christ, God's only Son, became incarnate, was crucified for our sins, and was resurrected. That is not only true, it *is* reality. The event of Jesus is an event which has changed the world forever.

The message of my sermon and my Lenten message to you is this: In Lent we are called to slow down, reflect on our lives and try to listen to God's message for us. That message is Jesus' saving love for us. Not everyone has heard this message. Slow down. Listen to God, but in addition, listen to your neighbors. Are they hurting? Show them the love of Jesus. Look especially at the children and the young adults. How are they doing? Do they need some love? Do they need some stability? Is Jesus guiding them?

May your Lenten journey be fruitful. May you hear God's message for you. May you share God's message with others.

—In Christ, Pastor Jim

¹"CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: Shrovetide". accessed February 15, 2018.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

At our February meeting the Parish Council elected officers for this year. Yours truly was elected Chairperson, Joanne Plass, Parish Council Secretary and Gary Hack, Parish Treasurer. We look forward to serving our Parish in these positions of leadership for another year.

A decision was made a couple of months ago that the Parish would not participate in Lutheran World Relief's "Baskets of Promise / Personal Care Kits" during this Lenten Season. Instead we are encouraging members of the Parish (all three congregations) to support financially ELCA World Hunger's "40 Days of Giving".

ELCA World Hunger supports and funds more than projects that feed people. They support programs such as Women's Rights, Education, Health and Wellness, Immigration and Refugee Resettlement in addition to Food and Agriculture programs. These programs are funded around the world including here in our Country.

The following is from the ELCA World Hunger website:

"From Alaska to Alabama, from Chile to China, your gifts are hard at work helping our neighbors near and far break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Your generous giving makes it possible for ELCA World Hunger to be present throughout the United States and throughout the world. In 2017, we are supporting:

- *347 projects in 46 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico*
- *62 countries, including the United States*

From health clinics to microloans, food pantries to soup kitchens, advocacy to community organizing, your gifts are supporting meaningful solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. Our relationships in the U.S. and around the world create an infrastructure that allows us to be very cost efficient and effective — less than 10 cents of every dollar is used for program administration and fundraising."

If you are so inclined to financially support ELCA World Hunger then make your check payable to your congregation (Memorial, St. Paul's or Third) write "40 Days of Giving" on the memo line and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. There are special envelopes for this campaign at each church. In addition you can mail your check to the Parish office at 31 Livingston St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Donations will be accepted through Easter.

May God's Blessings be with you and your family as you journey these 40 days of Lent; looking forward to the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter.

God's Peace,
Carl Dowden



Coming in April: Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Lutheran World Hunger. Please watch your bulletin, our web site, and Facebook page for details on the date and time. Hope to see you there!

Meetings

Third W&M Mar. 6 & Apr. 3 @ 4:00p.
 m. @ Third
 Parish Council Mar. 20 & Apr. 17 @
 6:00p.m.
 Joint Session of Councils Mar. 20 & Apr. 17 @ 6:00p.m.
 Congregational Councils Mar. 20 & Apr. 17 following joint
 session
Council Meetings March @ Memorial & April @ Third

Wednesday Lenten Services

Red Hook Ecumenical @ 7:00 p.m.

Light refreshment and fellowship immediately following the services

Mar. 7	St. John's Reformed Church 126 Old Post Road North Preacher: Rev. Nikki Edelman	Upper Red Hook 758-1184
Mar. 14	St. Paul's Lutheran Church 7412 South Broadway Preacher: Fr. Patrick Buckley	Red Hook 758-0151
Mar. 21	United Methodist Church 4 Church Street Preacher: Rev. Masud Syedullah	Red Hook 758-6283



You are Invited

March 29: Maundy Thursday

Service 7:30 p.m. @ Memorial Rock City

March 30: Good Friday

Service 7:30 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook

March 31: Easter Egg Coloring @ St. Paul's

Children & adults of all ages welcome 10:00 a.m.

Donations of candy are welcome.

April 1: Easter Sunday

Services at each church @ regular times

Immediately followed by

Easter Egg Hunt / Easter Baskets



He is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia!

Service Opportunities

Crafty Christians

Thursday
11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.
at
Third in Rhinebeck
Upper Meeting Room

Children's Community

Clothes Closet

Mar. 2 & 16
Apr. 6 & 20
9:30a.m – 1:00p.m.
at
Third Rhinebeck

Contact Carol Cronk
889-4168

Food Program

Help deliver donated food to local needy families.

For more information or to volunteer:

Contact Bonnie Revero
518-697-7608

ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving

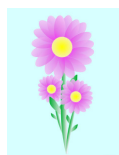
“Working with and through our congregations in the U.S., Lutheran churches around the world, and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.”

www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger

Checks should be made out to your individual church and marked for ELCA World Hunger. For your convenience, special envelopes are available in the back of each church. Please place in offering plate or mail to individual church or Parish Office.

Lenten Devotionals are available in the back of each church.

Thank you for your participation in our Parish mission of abundant life for all people.



Faith Building Opportunities

Prayer Gathering

for

Healing and Consolation

Mar. 7 & Apr. 4

1st Wednesdays

4:00 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook

Upper meeting room

Christian Ed

Mar. 13 & Apr. TBA

5:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Red Hook
(Church)

Contact Pastor Jim

914-441-4360

Bible Study

with Pastor Jim

Thursday 10 a.m.

Third Rhinebeck

Upper meeting room

Contact Pastor Jim

914-441-4360

Bible Study

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Red Hook

Downstairs at the church.

**"Martin Luther's Commentary on
Romans"**

Contact Steve Bucala 758-1228

All are Welcome!

Invite a friend!

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

At the annual congregational meeting we elected two new members to join our council, Art Smith 111, and Glenn Murray. They join all returning members from 2017 except for Nabil Ayoub whose extensive travel plans would limit his attendance.

At our first council meeting in February, Stephen Bucala was re-elected to serve as President as well as Mary Lou Williams as Vice President. Tom Cathcart is now our new Secretary as Christine Murray steps down after a long job well done. Jeff Piaget continues as we look for someone to share his responsibilities as treasurer.

Our Parish council representatives remain the same as Don Campbell has agreed to serve another term.

The council also agreed to acquire a newer and better Allen organ made available for the cost of transporting it from a former Lutheran church in the Albany area.

Your in Christ,
Stephen Bucala



March

5- Molly McConville
5- Kim McConville
6-Raena Lueck
18-Tom Cathcart
19- Arlene Theilman
21-Rob Schultz
23-Curt Birnbaum
28- Nancy Denegar

April

1- Gary Stock
5- Karen Smythe
16- Mike Lueck
22- Lois Hoger
23- David Queen
25- Trudy Thiede
27- Sue Kowalski



Prayer Ventures for March 2018—Downloaded from the ELCA resource repository: http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PV_0318_letter_doc.docx?_ga=2.21614011.122929149.1520221413-1747224346.1520221413

1 Pray for the work, advocacy and networks of ELCA Disability Ministry and that our congregations and ministries work together to invite, embrace and include people living with disabilities in the life of the church – without hesitation or preconceptions.

2 Remember in prayer our 65 synod bishops, ELCA presiding bishop and secretary gathered for the Conference of Bishops in Chicago. Give thanks for their service to the church and pray their times of worship, study, sharing and business strengthen their faith and leadership and guide the mission of our church.

3 Give thanks for music in our lives and worship, a gift that lifts our spirits, draws people together, gives expression to our emotions and thoughts, helps us reflect on our faith and Scripture, and expresses our praise and thanksgiving to God.

4 The church is not immune from the temptations of commercialization, profit and consumption. Pray we keep Jesus Christ at the center of all we do, strive to be and witness to; ask God to help us be mindful of the teachings of Jesus commending generosity, simplicity and attentiveness to the needs and circumstances of our neighbor and the world.

5 Remember in prayer communities nervously anticipating potential spring storms and severe weather. Pray their preparations, if needed, help preserve life and property, and give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response, first responders, volunteers and members of the military who stand ready to assist.

6 Pray our personal reflections during Lent, as discomfiting and disheartening as they may be, do not lose sight of the promise that we are not worthless, lost or alone – God knows us, loves us, draws us close and graciously claims us.

7 In a time when we bicker over power, superiority and influence, give thanks that through the humility, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus we experience a different understanding and use of power and authority – God’s unrivaled power and sacrificial love for the sake of the world, especially our neighbors who are oppressed, hungry, poor, ignored, suffering and long for hope.

8 Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers preparing for planting crops, managing animals and livestock, and the hard work that comes with every spring, that the world may be fed and nourished through their bountiful harvests and endeavors.

9 Give thanks for our ELCA seminaries and lay schools for ministry. Ask God to bless their work and efforts in identifying, inviting, preparing, renewing and encouraging women and men for ministry in diverse contexts and communities.

10 Remember in prayer the service and witness of the 10 young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Madagascar; the Rev. Kirsten Laderach, YAGM country

coordinator; and the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela, regional representatives for Madagascar, West and Central Africa.

11 We ask God to help us be thoughtful and articulate in our witness and interactions with others, that we are comfortable in using our own words and imagery to respond to questions about our faith, describe God’s love and activity in the world, and talk about Jesus.

12 We remember in prayer Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA, ministries that strengthen the faith of Lutheran men and women of all ages, encourage bold lives of faith and service, cultivate leaders, and attend to needs of men and women.

13 Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the Presbyterian Church (USA), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

14 “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.” In every danger, illness, uncertainty and difficult circumstance, turn to God in prayer asking for God’s loving attention, mercy, direction and healing.

- 15** Pray the Spirit will help us focus on the cross throughout Lent, seeing with greater clarity and richness its symbolism and meaning for the world as a daily reminder of the gift we have in Jesus Christ, a gift that gives newness, hope, purpose and direction for daily life.
- 16** By grace we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ – a wonderful, undeserved gift from God. Praise God!
- 17** Pray the leaders of our nations are moved to heal old and new rifts, work together for justice and peace, and share resources for the well-being and prosperity of all people.
- 18** In baptism our old, flawed self is washed away – and dies – revealing a new life and identity we have together in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pray we each remember our baptism and the promise of God’s daily, enduring gift of forgiveness and love.
- 19** Make Psalm 51 a frequent prayer during Lent: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.”
- 20** Pray for our continuing generosity in response to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*; give thanks for its impact, including the support of 11 Global Ministry Projects helping strengthen, support and empower our companion churches in building new congregations, outreach to youth, training pastors and evangelists, and much more.
- 21** The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.
- 22** We remember in our prayers people who travel frequently for work, spending time away from their home, family, social networks and congregation. Pray they remain connected and can find opportunities for worship and renewal when away from home.
- 23** God’s word and ways are written on our hearts, part of our very being and existence as baptized children of God. Ask God to help us be attentive in daily life to the spirit within us that gives our lives purpose, inspires us to be just and merciful, and helps us make decisions that please God and consider the needs of our neighbor.
- 24** Remembering the life, witness and advocacy of Óscar Romero (1917-1980), bishop of El Salvador, we recognize and give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ who work against oppression, defend the rights of the poor and risk their lives for peace in Central America and elsewhere in the world.
- 25** *Palm Sunday* Drawn into the passion story in the Gospels, we pray the vulnerability, sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ stirs our faith and instructs and emboldens us as followers, servants, leaders, citizens and bearers of the good news.
- 26** Ask God to strengthen us as servants who are given new life and freedom in Christ and are called and endowed with the Spirit to help bring peace, justice, hope and light to the world.
- 27** Pray our Holy Week and Easter traditions, worship and family activities are grounded in God’s word and the gospel and not distracted or diminished by the commercialization or popularization of this time of anticipation, reflection and celebration of Jesus Christ – our salvation and hope.
- 28** Whenever we gather as the people of God to celebrate Holy Communion, we come together to receive God’s grace and to be nourished and sustained for sharing our faith, serving our neighbor and growing the church. Give thanks and praise to God for the presence of Jesus Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 29** *Maundy Thursday* Pray we, as modern-day disciples, are not afraid to draw close to one another and our neighbor to better understand and serve each other with humility, empathy, compassion and courage.

30 Good Friday At the foot of the cross and remembering the suffering and death of Jesus on our behalf, we reaffirm that, although we are not strangers to sin, darkness and death, we also live in the reality of God's mercy, grace and new life given to us through the risen Jesus. With both humility and joy, raise up prayers of thanks and praise to God.

31 Vigil of Easter In the midst of the joy and thankfulness bound up in the good news of Easter and Jesus' resurrection, we confess we sometimes have questions and skepticisms we keep to ourselves. Ask God to create in us hearts and minds receptive to the wonderful gift and mystery of our salvation, place people in our lives who encourage our faith, and help us be alert to signs of God's redemptive presence and work in the world.



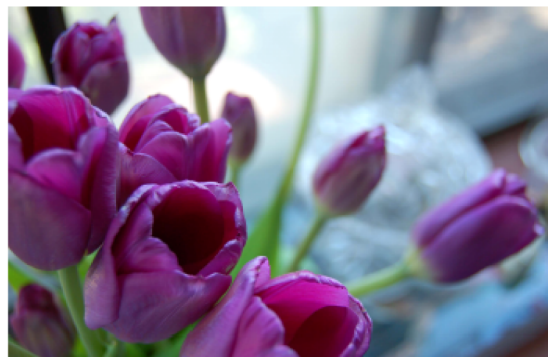
*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow
way.*

*He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

“I SERVE A RISEN SAVIOR”

Lyrics: Alfred Henry Ackley (1887-1960)

Music: Alfred Henry Ackley (1887-1960)



KOINONIA

LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

Postmaster: Send returns to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7412 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571

Newsletter Editor: Karla R. Cook
Contributors: Carl Dowden, Monica Gabryszewski, Kathy Rector (Third);
Stephen Bucala (St. Paul's); and Pastor James Miller
<http://www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org/>

Dated Material Address Correction Requested
THE SEASONS OF CHRISTMAS & EPHIPHANY & LENT



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

See Inside for More Services & Events

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden
Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council
President: Fred Novak

Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council
President: Stephen Bucala

Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,
Church Council President:
Monica C. Gabryszewski

Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am

Pastor James Miller



You are Invited

March 29: Maundy Thursday

Service 7:30 p.m. @ Memorial Rock City

March 30: Good Friday

Service 7:30 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook

March 31: Easter Egg Coloring @ St. Paul's

Children & adults of all ages welcome 10:00 a.m.

Donations of candy are welcome.

April 1: Easter Sunday

Services at each church @ regular times

Immediately followed by
Easter Egg Hunt / Easter Baskets



He is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia!