

KOINONIA

May - June 2024



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN
DUTCHESS

PASTOR JAMES MILLER



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As we sing in that well-known hymn,

“The strife is o’er, the battle done; now is the victor’s triumph won!

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions has dispersed.

Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!”

While we sing Alleluia (Praise God!), we are still reminded that, indeed, there was strife. There was a battle. We are reminded of the purpose of all this in the last verse: “Lord by the stripes which wounded you, from death’s sting free your servants too.” And that He has done. He has paid the price for us---a price we could never pay for ourselves.

We move forward in this joyous season of Easter, which coincides with Spring: rebirth. Flowers are starting to bloom. The forsythia are already bright yellow. Many trees will be vying for our attention as they shine forth in color.

Yet, in the midst of our spiritual joy, and the joy we witness in nature, we cannot help but be aware of events in the news: internationally, nationally, and locally---events which cause us to shake our heads in grief. These events, as well as personal events such as illness and loss can have the effect of reducing our Easter joy. They can cause a person to question, or, God forbid, lose their faith.

We must remember that while it is true that the ultimate “strife is o’er, the battle done”, the day to day life we live in this world still contains strife and difficult situations for many. We must remember that the Easter message is not that having faith in Jesus will produce an *easy* life. No. However, through faith in Jesus we are promised *eternal* life. I pray that promise should free us from despairing in this life, and strengthen us in order to offer hope to those in need. May we live in true Easter joy, singing praise to God. Alleluia!

Christ’s peace, Pastor Jim

News from St. Paul's

Greetings from St. Paul's! Much is going on as spring has sprung. It was really nice to get outside on our annual clean-up day held April 20th. We cut a lot of limbs and trees as well as did a lot of raking and more landscaping around the Parish Hall. It is always amazing how nice it looks after just a little bit of sprucing up the property and we're looking forward to the flowers. While we were there, we added to our lengthy punch list which will be posted soon.

If you drive around the back of the church, you should notice our new entrance into the sacristy that will allow much easier handicap access. This area was very rough and in disrepair. Thank you to Bruce Williams who took on this project and managed the entire thing. It was a generous gesture, and we very much appreciate it.

March 17th was a special day with the baptism of Grayson Allen Keller. It was also great to host the car wash for the Lutheran World Emergency Relief fund on May 4th and thanks to everyone who participated in the parish event.

It is that time of year again...GRADUATION! St. Paul's has three high school graduates looking forward to moving on to their next fun challenges. Molly McConville is graduating from Stevenson School in Monterey, CA. Both Charlie and Henry Lueck are graduating from Red Hook High School. Congratulations to all and best of luck!

Finally, we are gearing up for our window campaign which is off to a good start. We hope to finish the project in 2025. Be on the lookout for more information and how you can contribute.

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

Yours in Christ,
Brad Patton, Council President



May Birthdays

7– Rose Rider
14– Pat Bucala
14– Chloe Smith
21 –Clara Patton
26– Gerda Veneman

June Birthdays

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

Memorial Lutheran Church

As we approach warmer days and the start of much-needed projects outdoors, we pray for the safe guidance of our Lord.

It would be greatly appreciated if parishioners were willing to donate a few hours on a Saturday that is yet to be scheduled for planting, racking and general clean-up of Memorial property, or just a great time of fellowship. Yes, let us throw in pizza and soft drinks.

Also, our community is in great need of your compassion and support. The demand for charitable food donations continues, and your contribution can make a significant difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

GOD IS THE GIVER

Every good and perfect gift is
From the *Father*

It is true that outward religion is worth nothing without the religion of the heart.
“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”
(John 4:24 KJV). Therefore, external worship is lost labor without a heart devoted to God.

The outward ordinances of God profit much when they advance inward holiness.

But when they do not advance it, they are unprofitable and void.

And when they are used in the place of inward religion, they are an utter domination to the Lord.
All outward means whatever, if separate from the Spirit of God, cannot profit at all, cannot lead in any degree either to the knowledge or the love of God.

Without controversy, the help that is done upon earth, He doeth it Himself. It is He alone who, by His own almighty power, works in us what is pleasing in His sight. All outward things, unless He works in them and by them, are mere weak and beggarly elements.

We know there is not inherent power in the words spoken in prayer, in the letter or the sound of the scripture read, or in the bread and wine received in the Lord’s Supper.

It is God alone who is the giver of every good gift, the author of all grace.

The whole power is of Him, whereby, through any of these, there is any blessing, conveyed to our souls.



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

May 18 @ Noon

(rain date May 19 @ 1:00PM)

Third Lutheran Church

Activities will be held outside

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pets to be blessed. Invite family and friends. All furred, finned, scaled and feathered pets welcome!

Community Adorned “Pet Remembrance Tree”

The community is invited to adorn the 6-ft tree with loving tributes to “family” members they have lost. Items can be a special pet toy, leash, photo, note, paw print or a card, etc.. The tree will be placed in front of the church on May 5th, so items can be placed directly on the tree. Items can also be dropped off at the church in a marked box under the covered office entrance near the church’s mail box.

Raffle to benefit American Humane

American Humane started the “Be Kind to Animals Week” to honor the human-animal bond.

Raffle includes: Adams Fairacre Farms \$75 Gift Card, Harney & Sons Tea House Gift Card \$50,
Alice in Wonderland Porcelain Doll, Blue Sky Ceramic Bulldog Teapot

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

Other Free Family Friendly Events

A number of groups will be participating with their Ambassador Animals representing a variety of rescue and special interest organizations. For example, see Lazarus the Eurasian Eagle owl with Dr. Laura, DVM; interact with local service animals, including representatives from the police canine unit; spend time with rescued farm animals...pigs, goats, bunnies, horses, etc.; check out various environmental groups who focus on bees, butterfly gardens, creating a safer haven for birds, etc.; visit the “Ask the Vet Table” hosted by Countryside Animal Hospital.

Contact: Rosemary 845-478-2452

To ensure the safety of ALL, all animals must be properly, leashed, kenneled, or harnessed!

Pooper scooper laws apply and bags will be available.

Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess Vacation Bible School

When: Monday-Friday, July 15-19, 2024, 1-3:45 PM

Where: The Parish Hall of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
at the corner of Fisk and South Broadway in Red Hook

Who: Children entering grades K-5 in the fall. **Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors....**

To learn more and to register or volunteer, contact Carol Braun @ 312-613-4753 or visit

www.myvbs.org/livingwater2024.

You are Invited!

May 5 - Parish Car Wash at St. Paul's from 10:am– 1:00 pm

Benefit Lutheran World Relief— Disaster Response.

May 9 - Ascension of Our Lord Worship Service at Third at 5:00 pm.

May 18 - Blessing of the Animals . Begins at Noon at Third. Further details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Meetings

Third W&M May 14, 2024 @ 5:00 pm & June 4, 2024 @ 4:00 pm

Parish Council May 21, 2024 & June 18, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Joint Session of Councils May 21, 2024 & June 18, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Congregational Councils: May 21, 2024 & June 18, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

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

Faith Building Opportunities

Zoom Bible Study— the Book of Hebrews—with Pastor Jim

7 PM on Wednesdays ending May 15.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81997802964?pwd=Um5hdUxXZnpVcTc3YVROSm53RTYyQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 9780 2964

Passcode: 643068

May 1: Please read chapters 8 & 9

May 8: Please read chapters 10 & 11

May 15: Please read chapters 12 & 13

Bible Study - with Pastor Jim

Thursday 10 a.m.

Third Rhinebeck— *upstair classroom*

Contact Pastor Jim, 914-441-4360

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 Reyer

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

Dated Material Address Correction Requested

To:



**LUTHERAN PARISH
OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS**
Three Churches, One Body

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), Rosemary Hradek (Third), Carol Braun (Third)



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