

KOINONIA

May-June 2018



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
PARISH
PASTOR JAMES MILLER



ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!

We have arrived! We began a journey on Ash Wednesday and spent the forty days of Lent contemplating our lives and our faith. I hope we spent some time thinking about our sins--- about the harsh words we may have said to someone in haste, the grudges we have been carrying maybe for years, and the opportunities we have had and refused for making peace with our neighbors, or perhaps a family member. I hope we also gave some thought to how blessed we are to be living in a nation that abounds in so many riches---in opportunities, in food, in sanitary conditions and excellent medical care. At the same time, I hope we have not turned a blind eye to those in need---both in this country and around the world. I know that in our Parish all three congregations made very generous financial contributions toward the ELCA program Forty Days of Giving.

Christ died for our sins. The proper response to His love for us is for us to offer His love to others in the form of acts of kindness, charity, and in our prayers. We are also called to offer hope. As I am writing this, it is still cold outside. Although it is past the middle of April, I saw snow in the air this morning and there was snow on the ground when I came home at night. Yet, while Winter seems determined to not relinquish its grip, I also see flowers coming up slowly and buds on trees beginning to show color. It is sad to say that there continues to be many problems in our country and in the world. But just as I see signs of Spring appearing on this damp, raw day, I take hope that these problems will be solved when more people take seriously the love of God for us in Jesus Christ.

There is no problem that cannot be solved, no disagreement that cannot be resolved, and no wound that cannot be healed when people come to know the peace that can come only from Jesus, and then truly base their decisions and actions led by the presence of Jesus in their lives. I have committed my life to this belief. Do you know someone who doubts this? Someone who disputes this? Someone who is hurting and needs to feel this hope and this faith? Please, bring them to church or have them come to me. I want to speak with them. That is why I am here.

As we move from Winter into Spring, and I promise you, *this will happen*, let us pray that the hearts of all people will thaw, that they will feel the love of Jesus and work toward living peaceable lives and offering help and hope to all they encounter, in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

Christ's peace. Pastor Jim



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE IS UP AND RUNNING:
HERE'S HOW TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH US

One of Martin Luther's best-known ideas is what he called the "priesthood of all believers." By this he meant that, even though Lutheran churches have a called pastor, every believer is called to be a Christian minister. Sometimes we have paid that idea more heed than we have at other times. It has sometimes been all too easy for us to become mere "consumers" of what the pastor does rather than co-ministers. That's why the ELCA strongly encourages congregations and parishes to create an active Mutual Ministry Committee.

The Old Days. Some of us will remember that in the past the Mutual Ministry Committee acted primarily as a grievance committee. Issues and conflicts within the congregation or the parish were brought to the committee, which was charged with trying to resolve them fairly and confidentially. That continues to be one of the responsibilities of the Mutual Ministry Committee, but the new thinking is that the committee should also be taking a broad look at the ministry of the parish, how it's going, how it can be improved, how members can be supportive of the pastor.

The New Way. Your parish Mutual Ministry Committee has now met twice and has begun to think about how to carry out our responsibility to review our ministry and think about the possibility of new opportunities for ministry. Of course, the Parish Council is ultimately responsible for endorsing substantive changes in ministry. We see the purpose of our committee as:

- focusing exclusively on how we are doing in ministering to the spiritual needs of our members and community, rather than having to deal at the same time with the other issues—financial, building maintenance, etc.—that demand the attention of the Parish Council and the three church councils;
- providing feedback to the pastor and members of the parish on our assessment of how the parish ministry is going, along with any suggestions for the future;
- as before, confidentially working to resolve any personal conflicts or issues brought to the committee.

Where You Come In. If our goal is to all be Christian ministers, it's important that we all have an opportunity to review and comment on the effectiveness of our parish and congregational ministries. We are asking you to provide any feedback you may have to any member of the committee. Pastor Jim has always, of course, been open to our feedback, and many of us have shared with him our comments on the parish or congregational ministry. It goes without saying that you are always welcome to provide feedback directly to Pastor Jim. You may also choose, though, to share your feedback with another member of the committee. We are:

- Pastor Jim
- Linda Woodward (for Fred Novak) and Karen Streifeneder (Memorial)
- Carol Braun and Gary Hack (Third)
- Lolly Humphrey and Tom Cathcart (St. Paul's)

Some items you may wish to comment on are:

- Where do you think we are doing well in addressing the spiritual needs of the parish, our congregation, and the community? How have you personally been affected?
- What opportunities do you see for improving what we're already doing—or for doing something different that you feel would be beneficial? Are there ways in which you feel your personal spiritual needs could have been more effectively addressed?
- Are there ways in which you would like to be more personally involved in the ministries of your congregation or the parish?
- As in the past, are there any conflicts or issues that you would like to bring to the committee for confidential resolution? This is the one area where we will not be communicating our activities outside the committee. We are committed to absolute confidentiality of any personal conflicts or issues.

The committee will normally meet quarterly, except in the rare event that someone has asked us to resolve a personal conflict or issue, in which case we will meet as soon as possible. Our next regular meeting will be in late June. In the meantime, we heartily welcome your input.

Tom Cathcart

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT @ THIRD

Thank you to all who participated in the ELCA Lenten World Hunger initiative. Your generous support enabled Third to send \$536 to ELCA World Hunger to help in their efforts to alleviate inadequate access to sustenance in many parts of the world.

On Good Friday the silhouette of Jesus on the cross displayed against the front of the building served as a reminder of the price that was paid for our salvation. The silhouette of just the cross continues to be displayed throughout the Easter season.

We continue to celebrate the resurrection during this Easter season. What a perfect time to renew and invigorate our faith. Through regular attendance at worship we hear the Word and have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Other faith building opportunities are listed in the Faith Building box elsewhere in this newsletter. If you haven't been able to attend recently, we hope to see you back again soon. Your empty seat means we have not had the opportunity to greet you, to hear your voice among us, and to worship with you as one in Christ.

Just as we are called to nurture our own faith, we are called to share the story of that faith, of the resurrection, and God's Grace. So invite friends and acquaintances to "come and see". If you notice your "pew neighbor" has been missing, make contact and let them know that they are missed.

See you in church! Invite a friend.

Monica C. Gabryszewski

Third Council President 914-475-6613 gabrymc@frontiernet.net

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH

The Parish office is compiling a list of local services to distribute to folks who approach us with some type of need. Included would be services provided by the county and services such as the Children's Clothes Closet, the Food Program, local food pantries, support groups such as AA, etc. If you are aware of any services available in the community, please provide the information to Christine at 876-4471 or tlcr@frontiernet.net. Thank you for your assistance.

Service Opportunities	
<p><u>Crafty Christians</u></p> <p>Thursday 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. at Third in Rhinebeck <i>Upper Meeting Room</i></p>	<p><u>Children's Community</u></p> <p><u>Clothes Closet</u> May 4 & 18 June 1 & 15 9:30a.m – 1:00p.m. at Third Rhinebeck</p>
<p><i>Contact Carol Cronk 889-4168</i></p>	
<p><u>Food Program</u></p> <p>Help deliver donated food to local needy families.</p> <p>For more information or to volunteer: <i>Contact Bonnie Revero 518-697-7608</i></p>	
<p><i>Thank you for your participation in our Parish mission of abundant life for all people.</i></p>	

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

We have the engineering specifications for the roofing project the Synod requires as conditional for the grant from Synod. The roofing project will hopefully commence this summer.

Our new organ has been installed and sounds great. Plans are in the works for a proper dedication ceremony. Details to follow.

Thanks to everyone who helped at the spring clean-up day and worked hard all morning and accomplished much. That same afternoon we hosted along with the youth group our annual spaghetti dinner. Everything tasted great and a special thanks to the many youngsters and parents who again worked so hard to make the gathering so much fun and successful.

Finally, St. Paul's adult bible study of St. Paul's epistle to the Romans with Martin Luther's Commentary on Romans, will conclude Thursday May 10th down in the Kort room at St. Paul's. The Adult Bible Study Group will start up in September.

Steve Bucala

Paul, Apostle of Christ

This is a movie review for the film "Paul, Apostle of Christ". The film takes place during the Roman Empire when Nero was the emperor. Rome is burning and Nero blames the Christians. He tosses many of them in jail, including Paul. Luke, the physician who wrote one of the gospels, is part of the Christian community in Rome. Luke is allowed to visit Paul in jail where he encourages Paul to dictate some of the letters that end up in the Bible. Prisca and Aquila are devote Christians who harbor a Christian colony in Rome. In one of the scenes some of the Christians are going to be slaughtered the next day. Luke tells them "there will be pain for a short while and then you will be with the Lord forever." In a different scene Paul says "if you have a hand full of water and it seeps away, this is your life on earth. The life with the Lord is the ocean." The movie shows how difficult it was to be a Christian in those times. I recommend everyone go and see it, or find it on Netflix.

Submitted by Lolly Humphrey

Please Note:

The Parish is not going to participate in the Cancer Relay for Life this year. Many council members are sad about this, but someone from each church is needed to be in charge. Donations can be made to the Cancer Society through the internet.

There is an autism walk also to raise money. Donations can be made to the Hudson Valley Autism Society (HVAS) and can be given or mailed to Patty Piaget at 22 Hoffman Woods Road, Red Hook. Let's help if we can.

Submitted by Lolly Humphrey





TO THE FAMILY OF ST. PAUL'S

May

- 2- Steve Hughes
- 7- Rose Rider
- 14- Chloe Smith
- 14- Pat Bucala
- 15- Fred Cook
- 21- Clara Patton
- 22- William Cook
- 25- John Donegan
- 26- Eric Murray

June

- 3- Aaron Kelsey
- 3- Teresa Hughes
- 5- Karla Cook
- 7- Mackenzie Smith
- 7- Rev. Richard Holzer
- 22- Bruce Williams
- 24- Elizabeth Dill
- 26- Jack Walker
- 28- Sam Patton

[Prayer Ventures for May 2018]

1 We give thanks to God for the diverse cultures, languages and heritages of our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters in Christ and pray for the leaders, growth and vibrancy of Asian congregations, ministries and multicultural congregations throughout the ELCA.

2 Continue to pray for the people and communities in Puerto Rico and other areas of the Caribbean involved in long-term hurricane recovery work, especially restoring safe housing, power and clean water; give thanks for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners to bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

3 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Rocky Mountain and Southeastern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

4 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area and Southeastern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

5 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Southwestern Texas and South-Central Synod of Wisconsin synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

6 Pray for God's forgiveness and patience – for ourselves, our church and society – in these times when, too often and easily, we allow differences of opinion and life experience, hostility and vengeance to create rifts in our relationships and communities, that the Spirit will help recenter our lives in Jesus' commandment to love each other as God has loved us.

7 Pray for the service and witness of the 11 young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program; the Rev. Rachel Eskesen and Zachary Courter, YAGM country coordinators for Central Europe; and the Rev. Anne Morawski serving with our companions in Hungary and Serbia.

8 Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the United Church of Christ, 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.

9 The call to believe and be baptized is for all people, without exception or favoritism. We ask God to help us see the Spirit at work in the people around us and to be welcoming, encouraging, bold witnesses to the gospel.

10 *Ascension of Our Lord* We were not left alone and helpless when Jesus ascended into heaven; we are assured of God's blessings and the power of the Holy Spirit stirring and equipping us to share the good news of the gospel, grow the church and care for our neighbors in need.

11 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Southeast Michigan, New Jersey and Metropolitan New York synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God's work in the world and growing the church.

12 The ELCA Guardian Angels program, with its welcoming congregations, synods and volunteers, physically and spiritually accompanies migrant children, single-parent families and adults through their immigration court processes. Pray for migrants who often navigate confusing and complex situations, that they find hope, confidence and companionship for moving forward, resettling and discovering welcoming faith communities.

13 Pray we grow – throughout life – in faith and understanding of that to which we give witness and testimony: God’s love for us and the eternal life we have received through Jesus Christ.

14 Pray the Spirit is with us and in us as we live our faith together and embrace our church’s values of forgiveness and reconciliation; dignity, compassion and justice; inclusion and diversity; courage and openness to change; and faithful stewardship of God’s creation and gifts – values grounded in faith, our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor.

15 Pray for those who are doing God’s work in the world in partnership with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay: the seven young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program; Krystle Moraska and Ignacio Madrussan, YAGM country coordinators; and Alberto (Gustavo) Driau, regional representative for South America.

16 Pray our church takes to heart the invitation to discuss and share input to the draft of the women and justice social statement to create a statement that reflects the word of God, our theology, the values of our church and concern for gender-based equality and equity in the world.

17 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Northern Great Lakes, Pacifica and Saint Paul Area synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God’s work in the world and growing the church.

18 We ask God to help us support and reassure students who are experiencing anxiety, weariness or self-doubt while preparing for and taking exams and finals, that they will know they are not alone in life and that our true identity and value is wrapped up in God’s unconditional love.

19 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Southeastern Iowa, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Oregon synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God’s work in the world and growing the church.

20 *Day of Pentecost* Pray we are all filled with the Holy Spirit to speak and act boldly in the world giving witness to God’s love and the good news of Jesus Christ – a gift to people of every nation, culture and circumstance.

21 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God’s work in the world and growing the church.

22 Lift up in prayer ELCA rostered women of color, women who serve faithfully throughout the church; give thanks for the families, mentors and supporters who journeyed with them, and pray other women of color – of all ages – are also surrounded by people who invite, inspire, encourage and equip them for lives of service and ministry.

23 Give thanks for the thousands of young adults beginning their training and service at ELCA camps and retreat centers across the country; pray their faith, enthusiasm and care inspire the lives and stir the faith of children, youth, adults and families.

24 Ask God to grant us wisdom, curiosity and discernment in our conversations about science and technology issues in our society and world and to further the work of the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology to expand awareness and promote conversation about the implications of science

and technology for Christian faith and life.

25 Pray for young adults who are finishing their formal education and discerning their vocation and future, that the Spirit will inspire them to use their faith, gifts and passions for the well-being and benefit of our neighbors, communities and world.

26 Give thanks for the gift of the Spirit present and at work in the world and our lives – helping, renewing, energizing and guiding us revealing God’s truth, will and wisdom.

27 *The Holy Trinity* We profess through our creeds and teachings our belief in the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; at the same time, we confess we have questions about the mystery of the Trinity. Pray our wondering, curiosity and even uncertainty drive us to prayer, studying Scripture and conversation with one another while still trusting that we are children of God – loved just as we are, questions and all.

28 *Memorial Day* Remember and give thanks for women and men who have served in the military and sacrificed their lives for the sake of justice, peace, freedom and the well-being of our country, other nations and people who suffer oppression and injustice in the world.

29 We are a church active with doing God’s work in the world. Pray that congregations, youth and adults involved in summer service-learning experiences, volunteerism and community projects are guided by God’s vision of peace, justice and compassion in the world, a spirit of accompaniment and long-term partnership, mutual respect and hope.

30 Pray for the service and witness of ELCA missionary Jeffrey Martin working in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the 12 young adults in the Young Adults in Global Mission program serving in Scotland and England with the ecumenical program Time for God.

31 Remember in prayer leaders and delegates gathered for the Western North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Greater Milwaukee and Indiana-Kentucky synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them for God’s work in the world and growing the church.





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LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

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**Dated Material Address Correction Requested
THE SEASONS OF EASTER & PENTECOST**



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

**SEE INSIDE FOR MORE UPCOMING
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

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