



KOINONIA



March-April 2020
LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
PASTOR JAMES MILLER

Dear Friends in Christ,

One day follows the next. Before we know it, a week goes by, then a month, then a whole season. So it is with the Church Year. We find ourselves in Lent. It is a time that can bring back memories of self-sacrifice: of “giving up” something. This is a practice that relates to the ancient practice of fasting during Lent. The idea is to give honor to Jesus who fasted forty days in the wilderness, and at the same time, was tempted by Satan. Jesus willingly subjected himself to this in order to show that although fully divine, He was also fully human and therefore, truly was tempted, and truly suffered. We are taught that because of this He can comfort us and give us strength when we are tempted in our lives. If we “give up” something that we truly enjoy it is supposed to help us to begin to understand our weaknesses and that we need to turn to Jesus for strength---that we can’t “go it alone” in this life.

This practice of turning away from things we enjoy, especially the things we really enjoy eating or drinking can have good health benefits for us, especially if this results in our changing bad habits into good habits which last past the season of Lent. If this is your practice during this Lenten season, I commend you for this, but want to remind you to be always turning to Jesus for help as well as to give thanks for the strength He is giving. The object of Lent is to remind us of our weaknesses and strengthen our relationship with Jesus. If our physical health improves as a result, consider that to be a good by-product, not the main purpose.

There is another temptation that we are all prone to and that is in how we think about others. As sinners, we sometimes find ourselves losing patience with others, getting into arguments, and sometimes not finding resolutions. When this happens, we begin to think mean thoughts that eventually harden into grudges against others. This is not the way of peace and this is not the way of our Lord Jesus, who calls us to forgive one another as He has forgiven us. We heard Him speak about this in our Gospel lesson just a few weeks ago. “So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Mat 5:23-24 RSV)

Finally, I want to offer you a simple but powerful reflection on Lent. It comes to us from the Byzantine Church, centuries ago:

“The Lord my Creator took me as dust from the earth,
and formed me into a living being,
breathing into me the breath of life.
God honored me,
setting me as ruler upon the earth over all things visible,
and made me the companion of angels.
But Satan the deceiver,
using the serpent as instrument,
enticed me by food---
parted me from the glory of God,
and gave me over to the earth and to the lowest depths of the earth.
But in compassion, O Savior, call me back again!”

Dear friends, our Savior, Jesus, *is* calling us back. He is calling us back each day. Let us respond to His call during this season of Lent. Let us follow Him, one day at a time, one step at a time, as He approaches that most important day, when He willingly offers Himself to be crucified, for *our* sins, so that we might be saved.

—Christ’s peace, Pastor Jim



You are Invited

April 5: Palm Sunday

Services at each church @ regular times

April 9: Maundy Thursday

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

April 10: Good Friday

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

April 11: Easter Egg Coloring (Details TBA)

Children & adults of all ages welcome
Donations of candy are welcome.

April 12: Easter Sunday

Services at each church @ regular times
Immediately followed by
Easter Egg Hunt / Easter Baskets



He is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia!

Wednesday Lenten Services

Red Hook Ecumenical @ 7:00 p.m.

Light refreshment and fellowship immediately following the services

Mar. 4	St. Paul's & Trinity Episcopal Parish 39 Woods Road Preacher: Rev. James Miller	444-3120
Mar. 11	United Methodist Church 4 Church Street Preacher: Br. Randy Greve	Red Hook 758-6283
Mar. 18	Christ Church Episcopal 7423 S Broadway Preacher: Rev. Dr. Robert Gram	Red Hook 758-1591
Mar. 25	St. Paul's Lutheran Church 7412 South Broadway Preacher: Fr. Patrick Buckley	Red Hook 876-4471
Apr. 1	St. John's Reformed Church 126 Old Post Road North Preacher: Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah	Upper Red Hook 758-1180

Meetings

Third W&M	Mar 3 & Apr 7 @ 4:00p.m.
Parish Council	Mar 17 & Apr 21 @ 6:00p.m.
Joint Session of Councils	Mar 17 & Apr 21 @ 6:30p.m.
Congregational Councils	Mar 17 & Apr 21 following joint session



Council Meetings: March @ St. Paul's & April @ Memorial

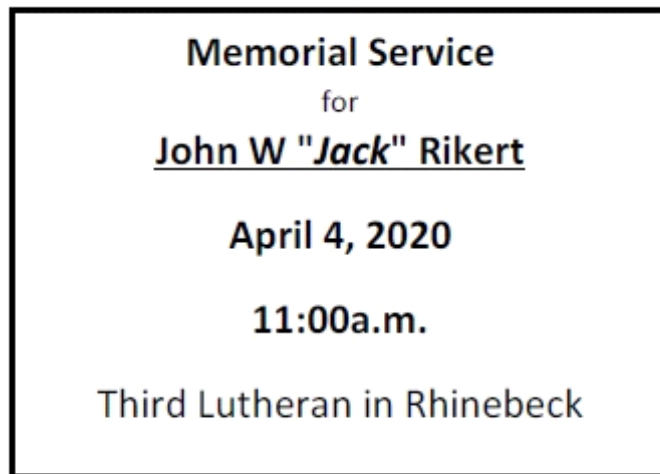


Memorial Members and Friend's Birthdays

Karen Becker ----- March 12
 Stan Stewart ----- April 03
 Fred Novak ----- April 17

Faith Building Opportunities	
<u>Christian Ed</u> 1 st Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Confirmation – 5:00 p.m. St. Paul's Red Hook <i>Contact Pastor Jim</i> 914-441-4360	<u>Bible Study</u> with Pastor Jim Thursday 10 a.m. Third Rhinebeck Upper meeting room <i>Contact Pastor Jim</i> 914-441-4360
<u>Prayer Gathering for Healing and Consolation</u> 1 st Wednesday 4:00 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook Upper meeting room	<u>Men's Breakfast</u> 1 st Saturday @ 8:30 a.m. Memorial in Rock City Parish Hall <i>Contact Tandy Walker 518-789-6899</i>
All are Welcome!	Invite a friend!

Service Opportunities										
<u>Crafty Christians</u> Thursday 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Third in Rhinebeck Lower Meeting Room Contact Bonnie Revero 518-697-7608 <i>All members and friends of the Parish are welcome to participate.</i>	<u>Children's Community</u> <u>Clothes Closet</u> 1 st Friday March 6 April 3 9:30a.m – 12:00p.m. Third Rhinebeck Contact Carol Cronk 889-4168									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"><div></div><div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">?</div><div></div></div> <p style="text-align: center;">The Parish Mission Statement:</p> <p><i>United in Christ, inspired by God's Grace, we are called and empowered to share the Good News of Jesus' love for all people and to answer His call to serve.</i></p> <p>The Parish leadership is interested in hearing your ideas for how we as a Parish might answer "His call to serve" in the current year and beyond. Please share your ideas with a member of the Parish Council:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"><tr><td>Susan Martin</td><td>Don Campbell</td><td>Carl Dowden</td></tr><tr><td>Karen Streifeneder</td><td>Rob Frey</td><td>Monica C. Gabryszewski</td></tr><tr><td>Tandy Walker</td><td>Christine Murray</td><td>Joanne Plass</td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for your participation in our Parish mission to answer "His call to serve".</i></p>		Susan Martin	Don Campbell	Carl Dowden	Karen Streifeneder	Rob Frey	Monica C. Gabryszewski	Tandy Walker	Christine Murray	Joanne Plass
Susan Martin	Don Campbell	Carl Dowden								
Karen Streifeneder	Rob Frey	Monica C. Gabryszewski								
Tandy Walker	Christine Murray	Joanne Plass								



FORUM ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE OPIOID CRISIS

On April 22 the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess will be sponsoring a forum of participants from various agencies that are working together to combat the problem of drug and substance abuse, a problem that is plaguing all communities including ours. The forum will begin at 7:00 pm at Third Lutheran Church.

The statistics on drug abuse are alarming: 130+ people die every day from opioid -related drug overdoses. An estimated 2.1 million people have an opioid use disorder, and 11.4 million of those who were prescribed an opioid misused their prescription. Moreover, opioids are but only one type of the substances being abused.

The forum will include the following panelists: a representative from government who will describe what legislative actions are being taken; a doctor from the medical community; a member of local law enforcement; a counselor from the Council on Addition Prevention & Education; and a member of the clergy. To further drive home the problems associated with substance addiction, a member of our community will relate a personal experience. The forum will end with a brief training session on administering Naloxone (brand name Narcan) for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose.

The intent of the form is to provide awareness of the various agencies who are working hard to combat this affliction. And thus, "Hand in Hand for a Better Tomorrow" is the theme of this forum to be included on event flyers and other advertising. All members of our parish are encouraged to attend, as are members of the community. Our local school districts have agreed to advertise this event within the high schools. Please plan to attend, and pass the word to friends and neighbors.

For further information, please contact either Carole Hack (845-876-8180) or Bonnie Reyero (518-697-7608)





March

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

April

1- Gary Stock
5- Karen Smythe
16- Mike Lueck
22- Lois Hoyer
23- David Queen
25- Trudy Thiede





Reverend LeRoy Ness

The Reverend LeRoy Ness, who served God, his country, and numerous congregations across America and the globe, died at his home in New Canaan on February 20, 2020. He was 85. The cause was heart failure.

Reverend Ness was a Lutheran pastor and an Army chaplain. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1986 as a colonel, having served at posts and assignments in the United States, Germany, Iran, Norway, and Vietnam, where he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. In Vietnam, he was awarded the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Bronze Star. He was eager to attend to the needs of troops on the front line. While visiting a forward position that was under enemy fire, a soldier asked him why he was there, as he did not need to be. He replied, "I'm here because you are." On one occasion, he took his commander's helicopter to visit troops isolated by an enemy attack. The Viet Cong recognized a command helicopter and detonated a mine just as Chaplain Ness was to alight from its strut. The helicopter was damaged, and the commander was angered, but Chaplain Ness survived. Colonel Ness retired from the Army having served in its third ranking chaplain's post at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

After retirement from the Army, Reverend Ness served at Lutheran churches in Staten Island, Kingston, and Rhinebeck, NY. He and his wife Evelyn moved to New Canaan in 2014, and for a time he was the interim pastor at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. He was an active member of the community, participating in the Men's Club, frequenting the YMCA, attending veterans events, helping at the ABC House and joining the Sons of Norway.

Leroy Thane Ness was born in 1934 on a farm outside of Brookings, South Dakota, to Clarence and Hilma (Anderson) Ness. After attending a one-room schoolhouse and Brookings High School, he graduated from Concordia College, in Moorhead, MN, where he met his wife Evelyn. He earned a divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He later earned a master's degree from Indiana University. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA.

It was the Lutheran Church that sent him to the Army, to fill its quota in the chaplains'

corps, but it was an inspired choice. Reverend Ness thrived in the Army. As a pastor, Reverend Ness never hesitated to roll up his sleeves and to take on hard tasks, from cleaning gutters to counseling the addicted. He delighted in serving breakfast to his congregants. He tirelessly visited shut-ins. He left every congregation that he led larger and more energized than when he arrived. He was generous with his time and his money.

Reverend Ness is survived by his wife Evelyn (Dahl), daughter Elizabeth (Tobey), sister Olive (Alexander), and grandchildren Emma and Beatrix Tobey.

A funeral service will be held on February 28th at 11:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in New Canaan.

Should friends desire, contributions may be sent to the ABC House of New Canaan, CT. Their mission is to offer young men the opportunity to learn in an educational program that will affirm and nurture their academic talent, participate in the arts, community service, athletic and other extra-curricular activities; and to develop confidence and independence as they prepare for their future. 64 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, CT, 06840.

Published in New Canaan Advertiser on Feb. 27, 2020



Pastor Ness with members of the Men's Saturday Morning Breakfast at Memorial in 2011.
Photo K.R. Cook

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: Monica Gabryszewski, Carole Hack(Third); Tandy Walker (Memorial) and Pastor James Miller
<http://www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org/>

Dated Material Address Correction Requested
THE SEASONS of LENT & EASTER



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden
Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council
President: Tandy Walker
Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council
President: Marilyn Heuer
Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,
Church Council President:
Monica C. Gabryszewski
Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am

Pastor James Miller

See Inside for Services & Events

Substance Abuse Forum

April 22, 2020 @ 7:00p.m.

Third Lutheran in Rhinebeck