

# KOINONIA

March - April 2021



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

PASTOR JAMES MILLER



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing this on Ash Wednesday, in between our 10 AM and 7 PM services. Today marks the beginning of Lent, a time when we are invited to slow down. In music, when we see the word *lento*, it gives us the direction that the music is to be performed at a very slow speed. The mood of the music could be somber or joyous, or could have elements of each. So too, our Lenten season. Lent is a blessing giving to us---an invitation---a call to *slow down*---to take some much-needed time to consider things. Too often, in this age, we feel hurried. We are buffeted with information from so many sources flying at us at the speed of light! Add to this our ongoing pandemic. We are blessed that vaccines have been developed and are becoming available. We are blessed that the number of cases of covid have dropped significantly. Yet, we are still living under restrictions and are worn down.

So much has happened in the last year to jolt us externally. While we try to cope and adjust externally, we need to also be concerned internally. We need to be thinking about our souls. We need to be thinking about our relationship with God. We need to be concerned with our health: our spiritual health and our physical health, and I want to stress that these are related. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul makes this very clear.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”(1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)

This is something to give consideration during our 40 days of Lent. If we have developed eating habits or exercise habits that are unhealthy, we now have an invitation to make adjustments. We actually have more than an invitation; we have what seems to me to be a directive. Paul says we are not our own. That flies in the face of everything that modern secular society would have us believe: that we are free to be whoever and whatever pleases us because it is the individual who is in charge of their life. That’s not our understanding, though. We believe that we, along with all of Creation, have been created by God---God who knit us together in our mother’s wombs, who knows our innermost thoughts, who knows our going out and our coming in. (Psalm 139)

More than that, though, notice again what Paul says. We are not our own because we were bought with a price. That price, of course, is the life of God’s only Son, Jesus, given to die for us. That horrific event on the Cross is the trajectory of our Lenten pilgrimage. We need to be thinking about that as we are considering our health: both physical and spiritual.

So in these 40 days, we have the invitation, the opportunity, and the call to make adjustments to living lives that are more healthy---physically healthy and spiritually healthy. During this time, we might find ourselves in somber moods, coming to grips with what we ought to change and struggling to take good intentions and turn them into realities. But if we persevere, with the strength of the Holy Spirit, these struggles can bring us joyous results. Certainly the road to the Cross was filled with struggles, and the time Jesus spent on that Cross is horrifyingly unimaginable to us. Yet, the result brings us unimaginable joy: forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life if we believe in Jesus.

May each of us find the blessing of these 40 days bringing us fruit: healthier lives, healthier relationships with others, and most of all, healthier relationships with God.

Christ's peace, Pastor Jim

### Message from St. Paul's

I would like to give an update from our Annual Meeting for those who were not able to attend. The congregation approved the restoration of the stained glass windows on the west side of the church. That's the big round rose window and the three smaller windows below. We do have an application for a grant, which we are waiting to hear from. A letter will be going out to the members about this project.

I would like to take a minute and remember a dear member that we lost recently. Mary Lou Williams, who served and loved St. Paul's. Mary Lou served on the church council and treasurer for many years. She represented St. Paul's at the Red Hook Council of Churches. She was always giving a helping hand to the many church projects. Mary Lou created a St. Paul's history program for the Mill Road 4th grade students Red Hook town history tour. Mary Lou was a terrific cook and baker, we all loved the goodies she made!

We take comfort knowing she is with the Lord now, we will miss you.

Marilyn Heuer  
Council President  
845-758-1386, marbobheuer@icloud.com



#### March Birthdays

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

#### April Birthdays

- 1— Gary Stock
- 5— Karen Smythe
- 16— Mike Lueck
- 23 - David Queen

# Memorial Lutheran Church

Our 2020 annual meeting on February 21, was a rewarding and informative gathering. The subject of our slate roof repair was discussed and a weather Permitting fix will be done. Further projects needing attention were on the table.

## The Fruit Of Living Faith

We . . . *believe* to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 40:39 NKJV

We find immediate and constant fruit of this true, living, Christian faith where by We are born of God. These are power over sin (inward and outward) and peace. Whenever the blood of Christ is applied to a soul, it “purges the conscience from dead works.” As St. Paul describes in the sixth chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, it purifies the heart from every unholy desire and temper. In his First Epistle, St. John strongly asserts this same invaluable privilege (see 1 John 3:1-9).

Being justified by this true, living faith, having all our sins blotted out, we also have peace: “peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1 KJV). This is that peace of God which passes all human understanding. It is serenity of soul that has not entered into the heart of the “natural” (unconverted) person to conceive. Nor is it possible for even the spiritual man or woman to describe it. It is a peace which all the powers of earth and hell are unable to take from the one who has this living faith.

Waves and storms beat upon it, but cannot shake it; it is founded upon a rock-- the rock of Ages. It keeps the hearts and minds of the children of God at all times, in all places. They have learned to be content in every condition of life. Their hearts stand fast, believing in the Lord and His goodness.



### Memorial Members and Friend's Birthdays

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

## Thoughts from the President @ Third

We are approaching the one-year anniversary of “PauseNY” when in-person worship services and gatherings were prohibited in response to health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. We responded by adopting new technologies: continuing to worship via YouTube and participating in Bible studies via Zoom. Pastor Jim remained connected with members via phone and email and members increased their phone, email, and social media connections with one another.

A year later, we have in-person worship services, albeit in somewhat altered format to reduce the risks associated with the spread of the virus; YouTube videos featuring recordings of live services; and in-person Bible study following appropriate precautions. Over the last twelve months there has been an ebb and flow of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. With the rollout of vaccines there is increasing hope that life will gradually normalize as we move through the rest of the year.

During this season of Lent we pause to reflect on the journey to the cross and the resurrection. It is a fitting time to pause and reflect on the faith journey we have taken together this year. Last year we walked this journey spiritually together as Christians, but physically separate. This year we are thankful to have the opportunity to gather physically on this spiritual journey together. Plans are in place for joint Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and Easter services are being planned in all three congregations!

I am particularly grateful for the response of the leaders and members of Third during this rather unique and challenging time. The W&M Committee and council have been meeting in-person regularly to ensure that worship remains meaningful and that the business of the congregation is addressed. Worship participation has been positive, members have been reaching out to one another, and filled new roles as needs arose.

Adaptation has been the operative word for this year. Along with wearing masks and all the other changes during this year, we have changed our traditional seats to accommodate distancing and tolerated drafts as the heat was turned up, but windows were opened to increase ventilation. A bit of a step astray from our Lutheran sensibilities of tradition and frugality.

Be Well!

God Bless,

*Monica C. Gabryszewski*

Third Council President 914-475-6613 [gabrymc@frontiernet.net](mailto:gabrymc@frontiernet.net)

### **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

There is an initiative within the Parish to assist people with scheduling appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations. If you would like such assistance, please contact the Parish Office and someone will reach out to you. Parish Office: 845-876-4471

## **You are Invited**

### **March 28: Palm Sunday**

[Services at each church](#) @ regular times

### **April 1: Maundy Thursday**

Service 10:00 am @ Third

Service 7:00 p.m. @ Memorial Rock City

### **April 2: Good Friday**

Service 7:00 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook

### **April 4: Easter Sunday**

[Services at each church](#) @ regular times

## **Meetings**

Third W&M March 2, 2021 & April 6, 2021 @ 4:00p.m.

Congregational Councils: St. Paul's- March 16, 2021 @ 5:00 pm & April 20, 2021 @ 5:00 pm

Third- March 16, 2021 & @ 5:30p.m & April 20, 2021 @ 5:30 pm

## **Faith Building Opportunities**

### **Confirmation**

Meeting in person monthly

at

St. Paul's Red Hook

### **Bible Study**

with Pastor Jim

**Thursday**

**10 a.m.**

Third Rhinebeck– in *Fellowship Hall (with Masks)*

**All are Welcome!**

**Invite a friend!**

## **Service Opportunities**

### **Crafty Christians**

In person workgroup is on pause

We encourage all to continue their projects at home.

Contact Bonnie Reyer 518-697-7608

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

### **Children's Community**

#### **Clothes Closet**

On pause until May

9:30a.m – 12:00 pm.

Third Rhinebeck

Carol Cronk

845-889-4168

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

## Worship Under COVID-19

### Ongoing Sunday Morning

8:30 am Memorial in Rock City with Holy Communion

9:45 am Third in Rhinebeck with Holy Communion immediately following the  
worship service

11:00 am St. Paul's in Red Hook with Holy Communion

Appropriate social distancing is being followed in all Parish services.

**Attendees must wear masks throughout the service and while inside the building.**  
Hand sanitizer is readily available.

Please consider your personal health and comfort circumstances in your decision to attend an in-person worship service. Persons at higher risk of complications from COVID-19 are encouraged to consider viewing the worship service video available on the Parish YouTube:

**LutheranParishNorthernDutchess**

#### Please Note:

**In consideration for the health and safety of all congregants anyone who:**

- tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days,
  - has flu-like or other COVID-19 symptoms, or a fever, or
  - has been exposed to the virus or to someone who has tested positive within the past 14 days, or
  - returned from a COVID-19 hot spot within the past 14 days and is required or recommended to quarantine,
- should not attend an in-person worship service or gathering.



### Worship Services on Video

**YouTube Channel: LutheranParishNorthernDutchess**

Weekly uploads generally by Tuesday Evening

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

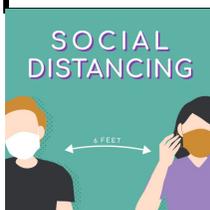
#### Access Videos:

**Parish Webpage: [www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org](http://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.***

Pastor Jim continues to be available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer:  
phone 914-441-4360 or email [circuitpastorjim@aol.com](mailto:circuitpastorjim@aol.com).



Several professionals have contributed articles for our newsletters about being prepared for life and death matters. The last issue included information on estate planning and funeral arrangements. This issue includes information regarding wills and the next issue will include articles on probate and ways to bypass probate.

Lolly Humphrey

## Wills: The Cornerstone of Your Estate Plan



If you care about what happens to your money, home, and other property after you die, you need to do some estate planning. There are many tools you can use to achieve your estate planning goals, but a will is probably the most vital. Even if you're young or your estate is modest, you should always have a legally valid and up-to-date will. This is especially important if you have minor children because, in many states, your will is the only legal way you can name a guardian for them. Although a will doesn't have to be drafted by an attorney to be valid, seeking an attorney's help can ensure that your will accomplishes what you intend.

### **Wills avoid intestacy**

Probably the greatest advantage of a will is that it allows you to avoid intestacy. That is, with a will you get to choose who will get your property, rather than leave it up to state law. State intestate succession laws, in effect, provide a will for you if you die without one. This "intestate's will" distributes your property, in general terms, to your closest blood relatives in proportions dictated by law. However, the state's distribution may not be what you would have wanted. Intestacy also has other disadvantages, which include the possibility that your estate will owe more taxes than it would if you had created a valid will.

### **Wills distribute property according to your wishes**

Wills allow you to leave bequests (gifts) to anyone you want. You can leave your property to a surviving spouse, a child, other relatives, friends, a trust, a charity, or anyone you choose. There are some limits, however, on how you can distribute property using a will. For instance, your spouse may have certain rights with respect to your property, regardless of the provisions of your will.

Gifts through your will take the form of specific bequests (e.g., an heirloom, jewelry, furniture, or cash), general bequests (e.g., a percentage of your property), or a residuary bequest of what's left after your other gifts.

### **Wills allow you to nominate a guardian for your minor children**

In many states, a will is your only means of stating who you want to act as legal guardian for your minor children if you die. You can name a personal guardian, who takes personal custody of the children, and a property guardian, who manages the children's assets. This can be the same person or different people. The probate court has final approval, but courts will usually approve your choice of guardian unless there are compelling reasons not to.

### **Wills allow you to nominate an executor**

A will allows you to designate a person as your executor to act as your legal representative after your death. An executor carries out many estate settlement tasks, including locating your will, collecting your assets, paying legitimate creditor claims, paying any

taxes owed by your estate, and distributing any remaining assets to your beneficiaries. Like naming a guardian, the probate court has final approval but will usually approve whomever you nominate.

### **Wills specify how to pay estate taxes and other expenses**

The way in which estate taxes and other expenses are divided among your heirs is generally determined by state law unless you direct otherwise in your will. To ensure that the specific bequests you make to your beneficiaries are not reduced by taxes and other expenses, you can provide in your will that these costs be paid from your residuary estate. Or, you can specify which assets should be used or sold to pay these costs.

### **Wills can create a testamentary trust**

You can create a trust in your will, known as a testamentary trust, that comes into being when your will is probated. Your will sets out the terms of the trust, such as who the trustee is, who the beneficiaries are, how the trust is funded, how the distributions should be made, and when the trust terminates. This can be especially important if you have a spouse or minor children who are unable to manage assets or property themselves.

### **Wills can fund a living trust**

A living trust is a trust that you create during your lifetime. If you have a living trust, your will can transfer any assets that were not transferred to the trust while you were alive. This is known as a pourover will because the will "pours over" your estate to your living trust.

### **Wills can help minimize taxes**

Your will gives you the chance to minimize taxes and other costs. For instance, if you draft a will that leaves your entire estate to your U.S. citizen spouse, none of your property will be taxable when you die (if your spouse survives you) because it is fully deductible under the unlimited marital deduction. However, if your estate is distributed according to intestacy rules, a portion of the property may be subject to estate taxes if it is distributed to heirs other than your U.S. citizen spouse.

### **Assets disposed of through a will are subject to probate**

Probate is the court-supervised process of administering and proving a will. Probate can be expensive and time consuming, and probate records are available to the public. Several factors can affect the length of probate, including the size and complexity of the estate, challenges to the will or its provisions, creditor claims against the estate, state probate laws, the state court system, and tax issues. Owning property in more than one state can result in multiple probate proceedings. This is known as ancillary probate. Generally, real estate is probated in the state in which it is located, and personal property is probated in the state in which you are domiciled (i.e., reside) at the time of your death.

### **Will provisions can be challenged in court**

Although it doesn't happen often, the validity of your will can be challenged, usually by an unhappy beneficiary or a disinherited heir. Some common claims include:

- You lacked testamentary capacity when you signed the will
- You were unduly influenced by another individual when you drew up the will
- The will was forged or was otherwise improperly executed
- The will was revoked

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To:



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

## KOINONIA

Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess

Pastor James Miller

[www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org](http://www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org)

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*Contributors: Pastor James Miller, Monica C. Gabryszewski (Third),  
Tandy F. Walker (Memorial), Marilyn Heuer (St. Paul's),  
Lorraine Humphrey (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 : Marilyn Heuer**

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