

# Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

## SUPPLY PASTORS FOR APRIL:

**April 1** - The Rev. David Kistler  
**April 8** - The Rev. Richard Bardo  
**April 15** - The Rev. George Harpel  
**April 22** - The Rev. Paul Schoffstall  
**April 29** - The Rev. John Hazel



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Two young children of God – **Devin Cipriani** and **Lucas Leitner** – completed First Holy Communion instruction and received the Sacrament of the Altar for the first time in the Worship Assembly on February 25. We rejoice with them in God's grace and look forward to sharing in the Lord's Supper with them and their families each Sunday.



**HOLY BAPTISM:** On Sunday, March 18, **Kaylee Marie Barbush** became a child of God and a member of the Church through the waters of Holy Baptism. We rejoice with Kaylee, her parents Todd and Tiffany, and her sister Mia, at this momentous event. We pray for them the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they walk in the grace of God.



**SYMPATHY:** The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are with the family of **Gene E. Mundie**, who passed away on February 21. May all who mourn find comfort in the abiding love of God, the blessing of Christian fellowship, and the hope of the Resurrection.



**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD:** On Sunday, **April 1**, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ during a **10:00 a.m. Festival Service with Holy Communion**. Just two days prior, we mourned for Christ's suffering and death on the cross – a death and punishment He willingly bore. For our sake – for our sins, He died in our place. On this glorious day, we praise Him and celebrate the joy of His resurrection and proclaim our love for He who died for our salvation.... our gift of eternal life! **Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



**COFFEE HOUR:** Hostesses are needed for the monthly coffee hours. Please sign up on the chart in the St. Stephen's Room. Help us to support this fellowship time together.



## DONATE FOR HUNGER & DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT:



Our participation in the Buck-A-Chick/Stock-A-Backpack initiative is underway. Millions of children depend on school meals to provide their nourishment during the weekdays. On the weekends, however, many struggle to put food on their plate. For only \$10, you can fill a child's backpack with food that will feed the child and his/her family for an entire weekend. Melody Hinderer has challenged us to give generously to help feed families through this program and, in turn, has offered to match every backpack filled in order to double our efforts! Thank you, Melody! We will continue this fundraiser throughout the month of April. Please see Melody's article in this month's newsletter for more information.

## GREAT PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP:



It's time for Spring cleaning the local roadways of litter that has collected in the past



year. If you would like to participate individually or as a group in this year's cleanup, please let Kathy or Bruce Young know **by April 1st**.

You must give a definite starting and ending point of the route you plan to clean, the number of adults and children participating, and the location you will leave filled bags. This information is necessary to have the materials (garbage bags, gloves, and safety vests) ordered in time.

*The official cleanup day is Saturday, April 21, but you may pick up litter and leave your bags any day during that week.* Anyone who cleans up after April 21 must make their own arrangements for bag pick up with PennDOT.

Please be aware that many routes are regularly picked up by certain organizations. If you plan to be involved for the first time it would be a good idea to choose a route that you notice is not typically picked up by anyone else.

For additional information, please see Kathy or Bruce.

**SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE:** Our Spring Shoo-fly Pie Bake is just around the corner. This semi-annual fundraiser will be held this month on **Monday, April 9 and Tuesday, April 10**. The proceeds benefit the many ministries of St. John's LCW (Lutheran Church Women). Recipients have included: victims of domestic violence, those affected by natural disasters, animal rescue organizations, hunger outreach programs, and homeless shelters, just to name a few. LCW outreach extends to those in need locally, nationally, and internationally. Sign-up sheets to volunteer and to order pies are now available in the St. Stephen's Room. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Crawford at 788-1361 or Arlene Poltrock at 788-3710. Thank you in advance for your support!



**SPAGHETTI DINNER – SUPPORT OUR CUB SCOUTS:**



Cub Scouts Pack 63 will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in Luther Hall on **Sunday, April 15 from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM**. Tickets

will be sold in advance at a cost of \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (age 12 and under). Limited tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. For tickets, please contact Jennifer Cipriani at 570-578-6952. Please come and support our cub scouts!

**SUPPORT OUR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED:** Our Church Women United (CWU) has organized a fundraiser through



Panera Bread at 564 Susquehanna Boulevard in Hazleton. The fundraising event is good for one day, **Wednesday, April 18 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** The fundraiser works as follows: simply present the CWU/Panera fundraiser flyer, which is available on the table in the St. Stephen's Room, and Panera will donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase to CWU. Many of our members frequent this establishment; please consider enjoying a meal there on this day to help benefit this organization. Thank you for your support!

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** The deadline to submit articles for the May newsletter is **April 15**. Articles can either be emailed to the church ([stjohns@epix.net](mailto:stjohns@epix.net)) or placed in Tara's mailbox outside the church office.



**“SPOTLIGHT”:** The film “Spotlight,” winner of Best Picture at the 2015 Academy Awards, will be shown in the church nave on **Friday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m.** Spotlight is based on the true story of the Boston Globe's Pulitzer Prize winning investigative research, which uncovered the child molestation scandal and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese. The film stars: Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams, Mark Ruffalo, Liv Schreiber, John Slattery, and Stanley Tucci. Rating: R Running Time: 2 hrs 8mins



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** There are still some Sundays available to sponsor altar flowers in July, September, November and December. The cost is \$17. If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday, please sign the flower chart or phone the church office. Payments should be given to Betty Kushner or placed in the offering basket in an envelope clearly marked “Altar Flowers” *along with the date in which you are sponsoring the flowers.*



**COMMUNION CARDS:** In order to be a voting member of the congregation, you must be confirmed and *both* make a monetary contribution *of record* (envelope with your name) and commune *of record* (complete a communion card) in the current or preceding year. Easter is a good time to remember to fill out a communion card.



**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING - FUNDRAISER:** Two young members of St. John's, Jenna and Abby Ray, will be attending the 2018 National Youth Gathering this July in Houston, Texas. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in faith with other like-minded Christian youths. Several fundraisers are being planned in order to help defray the costs of this youth conference. Currently, Jenna and Abby are participating in a homemade pierogi sale. The sign-up sheet is in the St. Stephen's Room. The cost is \$10 for a dozen pierogi. The **deadline for orders is April 15**, with a delivery date of April 22. Please provide payment to Joyce Ray. Thank you in advance for supporting our young members!



**SAUSAGE SUPPER:** Our Spring Sausage Supper will be held on **Saturday,**



**May 5 from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Tickets for the all-you-can-eat supper are \$11 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 6-10. Children 5 and under eat for free. Proceeds from this event support St. John's Building Fund. Volunteers are needed to set up tables, provide cakes, serve and clean up. If you have any questions about volunteering or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Carol Crawford (788-1361) or Arlene Poltrock (788-3710). Sign-up sheets will soon be available in the St. Stephen's Room.

**MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA:** In celebration of Mother's Day, and to honor all the mothers in our congregation, a



Mother-Daughter Tea has been planned for **Friday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m.** in Luther Hall. Women and girls of all ages are invited. A covered dish meal will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be available in the St. Stephen's Room in the near future for attendance and covered dish offerings.

**MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTES & BOOKLETS:** This year, in celebration of Mother's Day, we are collecting donations to honor or memorialize the special women in our lives. Fittingly, the donations will be given to the Pregnancy Resource



Center in Hazleton. This organization provides various services for new or expectant mothers (and fathers), including parenting and life skill classes, cooking and nutrition classes, fatherhood mentoring, mom's support groups, emotional support, and programs to help "purchase" items in PRC's Baby Boutique. A form for Mother's Day tributes is in this month's newsletter and forms are also available on the table in the narthex.

We think supporting the Pregnancy Resource Center is a wonderful way to honor your mother, but we are not stopping there. This year, we would like to create a special booklet to be prepared for distribution in church on Mother's Day. You can help by sharing a special story or a photo with your mother, grandmother, daughter, or special woman in your life. If you possess the talent of poetry, you may submit your poem honoring mothers. Please email your booklet contributions to the church email or place in Tara's mailbox outside the church office no later than **April 29.**

**WHITE HAVEN LIONS – ANNUAL DINNER:** Pastor



Kaufman would like to extend an invitation to attend the White Haven Lions Annual Spaghetti Supper on **April 24, 2018 from 3:30 to**

**7:00 p.m.** Take outs are available anytime. \$8 – adults; children under 12 -\$4. The dinner will be held at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in White Haven. Proceeds benefit the Lions' scholarship fund. Call Pastor Kaufman for tickets.

**MOVIE AT ST. PAUL'S, MOUNTAIN TOP:** You are invited to join the folks of St.

Paul's on **Tuesday, April 27th** as we view the movie "The Passion of the Christ." As we make our way to the cross, join others to see this moving retelling of Christ's crucifixion. ~ Pastor Kaufman



**OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS:** Our Prayer Shawl Ministry



members have been busy, each carefully knitting and crocheting blankets and shawls with the intent to wrap the recipients in comfort, warmth, peace, love and protection. Recently, a member came upon a call for a need for prayer shawls for military veterans receiving care through the SpiriTrust Lutheran program. Please see this month's newsletter for the article on this gracious endeavor, as our women set upon creating red, white, and blue shawls for our veterans. Thank you to our Prayer Shawl Ministry members. We are grateful for the outreach you caringly provide on behalf of St. John's. Our prayers are with our military veterans and all those who suffer or are in need.

**"JESUS" – SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES:**

Tickets are still available for the production of "Jesus" at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster. A bus trip has been planned for members of St. John's and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top for **Saturday, June 16.** The cost is \$130 for adults and \$73 for children (12 and under), and that includes the cost of a ticket, bus fair, and dinner at Shady Maple. A \$50 deposit is required to reserve your seat; seating is first come, first served. Please register and hand in payments to Betty Kushner. Checks are to be made payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church.*



**INDOOR YARD SALE:** Our annual Indoor Yard Sale will be held **Saturday, June 2** in Luther Hall. The time of the sale is 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with a \$1 per bag sale from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please start saving items that you would like to donate; we rely on your generosity to make this fundraiser a success. The proceeds benefit the ministries of our Lutheran Church Women. You may start bringing items to the church on May 12, following the Mother-Daughter Tea. Items can be dropped off on Sundays while the church is open or during office hours (Mon, Tues, and Fri 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). If you are unable to come during that time, please phone Mary Ellen Sims (788-2866 or 436-8120) and she will come to unlock the door at an agreed upon time.



**SYNOD ASSEMBLY – DELEGATE & VOLUNTEERS**

**NEEDED:** The 2018 Northeast Pennsylvania Synod Assembly will be held **June 8-9** at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township. This year’s theme is “Sharing Ministries, Building Relationships.” Each year, two delegates (one male/one female) from each ELCA congregation are invited to attend the assembly and take an active role in the operations and decisions within the NEPA Synod. Melody Hinderer has been selected as this year’s female delegate. We are still looking for a male delegate to represent St. John’s.

While each congregation can only have two delegates to the assembly, all members are invited to attend as “visitors.” Unlike delegates, however, visitors are not able to vote on matters at the assembly. The fee to attend has not yet been listed on the Synod website. The fee for delegates is paid by the church.

In addition, Pastor Kaufman is the hosting Dean of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District. She is also co-chair of the Usher Team and is in need of volunteers (i.e. ushers, greeters, etc.) Those who take part in the assembly as a volunteer are not charged a fee to attend. If you are interested and/or have any questions regarding serving as a volunteer, please contact Pastor Kaufman.



**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Please let the Property Team or any council member know, if you have any property concerns or notice repairs that need to be made in our church or



anywhere on our church grounds. We must remain proactive in keeping our church safe and making repairs as needed. If you would like to join our team, please attend our meetings which are held the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. If you would like to be contacted to help with upcoming projects, just let us know. Even if you cannot commit to attend meetings, that’s okay, we will be happy to have you participate whenever you can. If you have any questions, please let me know. Submitted on behalf of the Property Team ~ Melody Hinderer

**CHURCH TEAMS – GET INVOLVED:** Our church teams are hard at work planning events to help us continue to grow in our faith and keeping God’s house in order. Our teams and various ministry groups are always looking for new members and welcome everyone. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming more involved in the operations of the church and/or our outreach ministries, please contact the respective team chairperson:

- Property Team** – Melody Hinderer
- Worship & Music Team** – Arlene Poltrock
- Adult Choir** – Arlene Poltrock
- Learning Ministry Team** – Kimberly Deliman
- Lutheran Church Women** – Mary Ellen Sims
- Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Peggy Hawk
- Knot-A-Quilt** – Lorraine Klinger
- Prayer Circle** – Theresa Steinman
- Lay Eucharistic Ministry** – Betty Kushner

There is also detailed information about our church teams and ministries in the July 2017 newsletter. If you don’t have a copy of the July newsletter and would like one, please email or phone Tara at the church office.

