

# Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

## **SUPPLY PASTORS FOR FEBRUARY:**

February 4 - The Rev. Rashion Santiago  
February 11 - The Rev. David Kistler  
February 14 - The Rev. Rashion Santiago  
February 18 - The Rev. Paul Schoffstall  
February 25 - The Rev. David Kistler



## **THE 2018 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**



The 2018 members of Church Council are: Jennifer Cipriani, Carol Crawford, Kimberly Deliman, Melody Hinderer, Dawn Klick, Jane Krouse, Carolyn Kuehn, Tara Kushner, David Leitner, Edna Maslo, Joyce Ray\*, and Don Wenner, Jr.

## **COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2018:**

President: Don Wenner, Jr.  
Vice President: Jennifer Cipriani  
Secretary: Carolyn Kuehn  
Assistant Secretary: Jane Krouse  
\*\*Treasurer: Betty Kushner  
\*\*Assistant Treasurer: Melody Hinderer

\*Serving second consecutive term  
\*\*Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer do not have to be members of Church Council.  
Please pray for our council and for the Lord's guidance upon them as they serve our congregation.

**BULLETIN OF REPORTS - 2017:** Our 2017 Bulletin of Reports was made available, to our members, in the St. Stephen's Room in advance of our annual congregational meeting. If any member did not pick up a report and would like one, please email the church office ([stjohns@epix.net](mailto:stjohns@epix.net)) and one will be mailed to you.



## **ANNUAL CEMETERY BOARD MEETING:**

The annual St. John's/U.C.C. Cemetery Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in the basement of the U.C.C. church.



**"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING":** Please support the ELCA Hunger Appeal program **"Souper Bowl of Caring" on February 4th, 2018.**



Monetary donations will be given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and food items will be given to the Valley Food Pantry.

Our youth will be collecting donations and food items at the end of the church service. Ending hunger is a cause that we just cannot ignore.

Help end hunger, please give whatever you can.

~ Thank you, Melody Hinderer ELCA WHAA

**"MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN":** The 2016 film "Miracles from Heaven" will be shown in the church on **Friday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m.** If anyone would like to attend and needs a ride, please phone Tara Kushner (788-4809). Synopsis: When Christy discovers her 10-year-old daughter Anna has a rare, incurable disease, she becomes a ferocious advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution. After Anna has a freak accident, an extraordinary miracle unfolds in the wake of her dramatic rescue that leaves medical specialists mystified, her family restored and their community inspired. Based on a true story. The film stars Jennifer Garner and Martin Henderson.  
Rating: PG; Running Time: 109 minutes



**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Ash Wednesday, which this year aptly falls on February 14 (Valentine's Day), marks the first day of the penitential season of Lent. We will have a service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes on **Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m.** All are welcome. Please come and bring your neighbors and friends to this service of worship as we join together to meditate, self-reflect, and prepare for Easter.



**JOINT MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES:** The Congregational Council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountaintop would like to extend an invitation to the members of St. John's, suggesting a weekday service be offered at **St. Paul's at 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday and an evening service at St. John's at 7:00 p.m.** Members from both congregations are invited to attend the service time which best fits their schedule. The same service will be offered at both locations and should you place your offering envelopes into the plate, your envelopes will be returned to the appropriate church. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.



Each Wednesday following the worship service at St. Paul's, a covered dish luncheon is held. We look forward to having you join us.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS:** As in the past, you are invited to receive daily devotions that will help you reflect on God's role in your life and challenge you to follow in his example. Hard copies will be made available or you can receive them via email or on Pastor's personal or St. Paul's church Facebook page. You are encouraged to share them as well.



**BEYOND VIOLENCE WOMEN'S SHELTER:** We will continue to collect items for Beyond Violence Women's Shelter in Berwick during the month of February. Beyond Violence provides support and safety to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. There is a basket in the back of the St. Stephen's Room to place your donated items. Items most needed are:

children's craft supplies	cleaning supplies
diapers and wipes	large freezer bags
dish detergent	batteries (all sizes)
shampoo/conditioner	light bulbs
body wash	towels/wash cloths
toothpaste/toothbrushes	foil/saran wrap
laundry baskets	large storage bins
women's hygiene products	
laundry detergent & fabric softener	
paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates)	



Thank you in advance for supporting those in need during this difficult time in their life. May God's love and strength be with them.

**CWU – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Church Women United will hold their World Day of Prayer 2018 worship service on **Friday, March 2 at 2:00 p.m. at Providence Place.** Church Women United is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. This movement includes women from over 170 countries. On the first Friday of March each year they hold a World Day of Prayer to promote justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebration. This serves to bring awareness of other countries and cultures and share in their burdens, sympathize with their plights, and pray for them.



“This year's focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation, with the **theme “All God's Creation Is Very Good!”**. Universal issues of climate change, natural disasters, pollution, and human abuse of the environment—all affecting God's good Creation and God's people—will be explored.

The host country is Suriname, a small country in South America, with the world's largest nature reserve, located in the Amazon.

This year we are urged to evaluate how our actions affect our planet - one of our Lord's greatest creations. The environmental crisis is also a crisis of global justice. God's justice always meant loving and sacrificial self-giving. We, as Christians cannot be silent. We live with the hope and belief that people have the means, and increasingly, the will to focus on justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.”

[<http://worlddayofprayer.net/suriname-2018.html>]

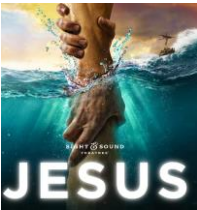


**LCW (Lutheran Church Women):** The first meeting of LCW after winter break will be **Tuesday, March 6.** All women of the church are members of LCW. This organization is engaged in mission outreach in our local community as well as nationally and throughout the world. LCW is funded by several fundraisers, including our shoofly pie bakes. We encourage all our female members to attend our meetings and help make decisions regarding our outreach ministry. If you have any questions, you may call Mary Ellen Sims (788-2866).



**BUS TRIP - SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES:**

[Sight & Sound Theatres invites you to experience the greatest rescue story of all time! "Jesus" is the action-packed musical stage adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person to ever walk the earth, and the everyday people whose lives he changed forever.] ~ Sight & Sound



A bus trip has been planned with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top for **Saturday, June 16** to see the new production "Jesus" at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster. The cost is \$130 for adults and \$73 for children (ages 12 and under). Your ticket, transportation and dinner at Shady Maple are included. A deposit of \$50 is required to secure your seat. Please give your deposits in an envelope with your name and marked "Sight & Sound" to Betty Kushner. Make checks payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*. Seating is first come, first served.

**SUMMER 2018 BEAR CREEK CAMP:** It's that time of the year already! The Bear Creek Camp schedule for camping opportunities for our youth and their families has been received.

There are, again, 7 camping sessions available for our youth and 1 camping session for families beginning the week of June 17.

Bear Creek Camp's residential program, for children from grades 1-12, is a traditional camp program centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living and small group development.

This year's theme is "This Changes Everything." If this theme sounds familiar, it is also the theme for the National Youth Gathering. This will reinforce the teachings from the national gathering, but from a camp perspective.

A \$15 Early Bird Discount is available for those who register by March 1. Our LCW has also offered to pay half of the camp price for any of our youth members who are interested in attending. Brochures and registration forms are available in the church office. Please contact the office secretary, Tara, either by phone or email, if you would like more information.



*Lenten Reflection:*

- Focus on gratitude ~ give up complaining*
- Think kind thoughts ~ give up judgments*
- Be hopeful ~ give up discouragement*
- Turn to forgiveness ~ give up bitterness*
- Return good for evil ~ give up anger*
- Control your tongue ~ give up gossiping*
- Be optimistic ~ give up pessimism*
- Enjoy the beauty that is around you ~ give up gloom*
- Pray for trust ~ give up jealousy*
- Trust Divine Providence ~ give up worry*
- Hang in there ~ give up giving up*

**HOLY WEEK**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**March 25: Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**  
*10:00 a.m. Worship Service w/ Holy Communion and Narrative Reading*

**March 29: Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday**  
*7:30 p.m. Worship Service w/ Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands*

**March 30: Good Friday**  
*7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service*

**April 1: Easter Sunday**  
*10:00 a.m. Worship Service w/ Holy Communion*

**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**April 9 & 10: Shoo-fly Pie Bake**

**May 5: Sausage Supper**