

St. Peter Lutheran Church

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DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

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Palm Sunday is March 28, 2021

April Newsletter Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021

The Messenger



Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 14, 2021
Turn Clocks Ahead 1 Hour

The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – March 2021

A Little Bit of This and That for March 2021

During the week of February 7, I had my classes on The Prophets and The Epistles of Paul. Both were taught by enthusiastic scholars in their fields. It was a joy to journey the week with four of my cohort members in person and the rest through Zoom. The learning was rich. Dr. Cory Driver taught the class on the prophets and just in passing he told us that if we wanted to improve on our preaching that we should read Christian Historical Romance novels. I thought that this was strange coming from a man, but I decided to take him up on what he said and I ordered an *Out of Egypt* series of books by Connilyn Cossette. I read the first book last week as I was not ready to jump into writing my paper for class.

This book was about a wealthy Egyptian young woman who was sold into slavery after her fathers fleet of ships all sank and he had to pay off his debts. Working alongside her was a Hebrew girl who was full of joy and the two became friends. At the same time Moses was called to lead his people out of Egypt. As a result, the ten plagues began to occur and I must say that I have a whole new perspective on what the experience of those plagues must have been like to experience. For instance, when the infestation of little frogs came, they covered everything. They were in the bed sheets and one could not walk without stepping on them. Also, when the frogs died, there was a terrible stench as the dead frogs piled up and had to be carted into piles to be burned. The fly infestation brought biting flies like the horse flies we so detest. The boils were everywhere on the bodies so that the people walked in agony as they were on the bottoms of their feet.

Then I gained a whole new perspective as Moses led the people out into the desert. I felt their fear as Pharaoh approached with his army and I saw their fear of death for their young children when they wandered for days without water.

I was also amazed at how God called this young Egyptian woman to faith in the Hebrew God through a series of circumstances. As she wandered in the wilderness with the Hebrews she was changed. She moved from being a person who thought that God had abandoned her to experiencing the presence of God at work in her life. In the last several days, I have been thinking about wilderness journeys as our scriptures for the week for February 21 showed that Jesus went out in the wilderness for 40 days after he was baptized. He emerged with a faith to speak truth, to cast out demons and to pray for miraculous healing for people. He became more able to listen to the voice of his father God and to then share to give us a glimpse of what God is all about. As a result, lives were (and still are) changed to experience the power and hope of Christ.

Lent is often thought of as 40 days to experience God in a new way and for some this might be on a wilderness journey. Lent is meant to be a time when we turn our hearts more intentionally toward God, and I think this gives the Holy Spirit a chance to work more deeply in our lives.

As I have studied the New Testament, I have become very aware that the condition of our heart toward God is important. Jesus often chastised the disciples for having hard hearts when they could not understand what he was trying to teach and show them. There is something about having a soft heart that is open toward God that is important. As we continue to journey this lent, may you be aware of how your heart is toward God. May you sit in quiet and breathe in the presence of God. If you feel disconnected, I invite you to tell God that and to ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart to listen for and know God's presence for you. We are told that God will never leave us or forsake us, and for many all over the world, this year has been a difficult one in which we feel like we have been wandering in the wilderness. We thirst for life to return to what it was, but it may be that things may never be quite what they were, especially for those who have lost so many loved ones. So, how we lean into God to allow God to work in our lives is important. Like Kiya in the book I read, wilderness experiences can lead us to experience God in a whole new way. On this Lenten journey it is my prayer that we carve out time to be still and know that God is our God, that we pray for our country and those in need, and that we act and speak in ways that bless others. May God continue to bless you on your journey this Lent.

Vicar Carol

The Year of Generosity:

The theme for our synod this year is on generosity. It is based on a Bible verse from The Sermon on the Mount by Jesus.

Matthew 6:21- For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

We have so many opportunities in our lives to be generous, not only with our treasure, but in word and action. This year, the theme for the Ohio Rostered Leaders' workshop, was on this topic of generosity. We started off by being led in Bible Study by the new Northeast Ohio Bishop, Bishop Laura Barbens. She spoke on the topic of God's abundance to us. The Bible Study was rich in drawing out some of the Biblical stories in which God has been so abundant in his grace and love. It makes me grateful for our God who deeply loves and cares for us. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we can still experience God's generosity to us.

So, I am thankful for God's abundance in our lives. I am also thankful for all of you. In the time of this pandemic, you have been generous in your prayers, attendance, and giving to the work of the church. I want to say thank you! We are the body of Christ and we all have gifts to share for the ministry of this body. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

LifeWise Academy:

LifeWise Academy is an ecumenical organization that works with churches to host character education through the Gospel with public school children. Since our church is ideally located across from Franklin Elementary School, we have been asked to provide the learning classroom for the students at the school to engage in this program.

Dave Stemen will be our head liaison for the program and on February 22, an ecumenical group of us will have gone to the school board meeting to see about the viability and support of the Delphos City Schools for this program. By the time this gets to you, we will know if it is going to happen for the fall of this next school year.

If it is a go, we will need to begin to decide on what room to use and begin to get things ready. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dave. Because we also want to have designated rooms for our Jr. and Sr. high students, we may still need to make some changes to how the rooms are currently being utilized.

The important thing is that we want to encourage filling those rooms with children and sharing the Gospel of Christ. This could be a very good thing for our community and our church.

Dear High School Students,

Vicar Carol and Shelby Koenig are asking that some of our high school students consider being a lay reader every 4-6 weeks. If we can have three or four of you sign up to use your gifts in this way, it would be a wonderful blessing for the church. We miss seeing many of you in church and would love to have you join us in worship more often. There is a blessing that comes in serving. Won't you consider becoming one of our high school lay readers? If you are interested in helping out for this important ministry role, please call Vicar Carol or Shelby Koenig.

Breeze:

Breeze is a church management information system to make communication a breeze. The council has purchased a new laptop for Denise Koepfel to use as our financial giving secretary and we need to move forward to purchase a new data system that will enable her to keep the financial records of giving for the members. She will be the only designated person who has access to these records. The reason we are making a change is that the other computer and giving system was so outdated and quickly become obsolete.

The Breeze program also offers an alternative online giving platform that is also completely confidential as the information will only be accessed by Denise. The program also offers a way for the office to more easily send out meeting notices and keep in contact with people.

I have talked with two different people who use it at their churches and they say it is a breeze to use and very helpful to the ministry of the church. There is a \$50.00 a month flat rate fee for its use, but council and I think it will easily pay for itself as more people become use to using the online option. This will also allow people who cannot be at church who view our Facebook Live service or listen on the radio to make contributions if they are moved to do so.

It may take a few weeks to get up and running so we ask your patience as we learn this new program and discover all of its possibilities to aid in ministry. There will be an app that you can download on your phone or computer.

General Announcements

Radio ministry was given to the glory of God in February by:

Ed and Jacque Fritz in thanksgiving of their 64th wedding anniversary on February 2nd.

Leonard and Shirley Jarman

The Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger

Ed and Sandy Talboom

The flowers on the altar February 21, 2021 were in honor of the life of Jane Gonyea. Jane Gonyea passed away on February 13. Jane's celebration of her life with her funeral service was held at the church on February 17. Please keep her family in your prayers as they navigate the road ahead. We pray that God's love and peace will be with them.

The calendar is in the red book for sponsoring the Radio Ministry. (\$45 per Sunday)

You can also sign up to be a reader during a worship service. The readings can be given to you early. Please sign up.

Altar Guild meeting is Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM

WELCA: Due to the pandemic, meetings are not scheduled. You will be notified by email or phone if something comes up that you need to be aware of.

Readers Needed for the first and second scripture lessons and the prayers during the worship service. Your readings can be emailed to you so you can look them over in advance. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.

Youth Groups: As we move closer to getting this pandemic under control we need to begin to think about painting and preparing the space for our youth. We will be interested in purchasing some comfortable seating and making the rooms inviting.

Remember our Shut-ins

Carl Dienstberger

E. Fourth St.

Delphos, OH 45833

Sharon Reel

Vancrest of Van Wert

10357 Van Wert-Decatur

Van Wert OH 45891

Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:

Fred Hasting

Dominic Munoz

Navy

Navy

Stateside

Annapolis MD

InReach/OutReach

Prayer Chain – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

March Birthdays

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|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4) Georgia Mayer | 16) Jacquie Fritz | 24) Kenneth Metzger |
| 5) Eric Fritz | 16) Megan Marlow | 24) Jeremy LaRue |
| 5) Natalie Mox | 19) Nicole Wortman | 26) Nathan Staples |
| 9) Linda Mayer | 19) Braytan Kruse | 30) Ayven Turner |
| 10) Kristin Koebel | 21) Deanna Hoehn | 31) Ryan Kloepfel |
| 10) Kyle Kramer | 21) Aaron Trentman | |
| 10) Kathy Watkins | 23) Russell Klentz | |
| 13) Andrew Hoehn | 23) Tony Luke | |
| 14) Jane Gonyea | 24) Carl Mox | |
| 14) Bobbie Jo Elling | 24) Deb Trentman | |
| 15) Chris Prine | 24) Roy Trentman | |
| 15) Julie Fitch | | |

Please join us in 2021, as we read through the entire **New Testament in Chronological Order**. Not Matthew to Revelation, but James to Revelation. You may be surprised to know that many of the New Testament Letters were composed before the Gospels were written.

March 1 Romans 12
March 2 Romans 13
March 3 Romans 14
March 4 Romans 15
March 5 Romans 16
March 6 Philemon
March 7 Colossians 1
March 8 Colossians 2
March 9 Colossians 3
March 10 Colossians 4
March 11 Ephesians 1
March 12 Ephesians 2
March 13 Ephesians 3
March 14 Ephesians 4
March 15 Ephesians 5
March 16 Ephesians 6

March 17 Mark 1
March 18 Mark 2
March 19 Mark 3
March 20 Mark 4
March 21 Mark 5
March 22 Mark 6
March 23 Mark 7
March 24 Mark 8
March 25 Mark 9
March 26 Mark 10:1-31
March 27 Mark 10:32-52
March 28 Mark 11 (Palm Sunday)
March 29 Mark 12
March 30 Mark 13
March 31 Mark 14:1-11

Servants of the Lord

March 7	10:00 AM			
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MONEY COUNTERS: Deb Trentman, Dan Staples

ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
March 14	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Ryan Trentman, Lois Ewing

ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
March 21	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Ryan Trentman, Lois Ewing

ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
March 28	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Karen Hartman, Alan Trentman

ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

Children's Page: There is a song called "Jesus Loves the Little Children".

Red, Brown, Yellow, Black and White- They are precious in his sight.....

Directions: Draw children around the world and color them all the different colors.



Prayer for The United States of America:

Lord, this has been a tumultuous time in our nation with much unrest and division. You tell us in scripture that if we will humble ourselves and pray that you will heal our land. Lord, we pray in humility and concern for this the United States of America that we might love you first and foremost, in our lives, and then love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray that where there are unhealthy and hurtful deeds being done to others, that you would bring a desire to care for each other even when we disagree. May you forgive us our sins as far as the east is from the west. May you bring healing and restorations so we may all walk in the grace and love with our brothers and sisters in this The United States of America. Let us pray.... Have mercy, O God.