



YOUR MONTHLY Lamplighter

An Easter Message based on the Gospel of Matthew 28:1-10

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary saw light peeking over the horizon as they rushed to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. It was the third day since Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. They were among the many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and provided for him during his ministry. They were witnesses to healings, miracles and teachings by him. They had followed him to Jerusalem and stood by him through his crucifixion, looking on from afar. They witnessed Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus and watched as a large stone sealed his tomb.

I believe, the women had little hope of getting close to the tomb or even getting inside. According to Matthew, at the request of the religious leaders, Pilate had ordered Roman soldiers to guard the tomb so no one could steal the body and tell people, "See, he has been raised from the dead just as he said." Unlike in the other Easter accounts, in Matthew's, the women didn't carry with them the customary spices to anoint their beloved Jesus' body. Perhaps they believed getting past the guards and removing the large stone would be impossible for them. It was just another thing added to their grief and sorrow. Still, they rushed to see the tomb to continue their vigil, unwavering in their faithfulness to Jesus even in death.



As the two women neared the tomb, suddenly all heaven broke loose. The quiet of the dawn was interrupted by the shuddering of the earth and by the descending of an angel from heaven. Before their astonished eyes, the angel rolled the great stone away and calmly sat on it. The angel's display of power and the appearance of the dazzling white clothes pierced the shadows of their grief and sorrow. The two Marys looked at each other, remembering how the earth also shook at Jesus' death. "What is happening?" Mary Magdalene thought. "Could it be?" the other Mary thought.

The angel, ignoring the Roman guards who had frozen in fear, turned to the women and said, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." As they looked inside, suddenly something inside the women broke loose and their hearts swelled in fear and in joy. It was empty! It was empty! With astonishment and wonder, they heard the angel say, "Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." Immediately, the women turned and ran from the angel and the empty tomb. They ran as fast as they could to share the good news of resurrection that had been handed over to them by God's emissary. Jesus is Risen just as he said! He goes ahead of us to Galilee just as he promised! There we will see him just as he promised!

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WE ARE GATHERED into the joy of community!

Save the Date

The next Special Congregational meeting will be held Sunday May 5th. There will be a shortened worship and covered dish in Newhouse hall. Please bring a dish to share.

There will be a letter sent to everyone in mid April.

Council will place a box in the social hall, to collect questions, concerns or ideas to be discussed at this meeting.

Bloomin' Crazy Luncheon Saturday April 6TH

**Tickets are on sale now after
worship or in church office.**

Cost is \$15

**If you can volunteer to help
for the luncheon, please see
the sign up sheet in the
social hall. There is help
needed Wednesday Apr. 3,
Friday Apr. 5 &
Saturday Apr. 6.**



**Attention
All
Salem
Youth!**

Come out for an afternoon of creativity! We will be painting river rocks with our favorite biblical imagery and verses.



Pizza and drinks will be provided!

This event will take place outside. Wear clothes that you can paint in!

Please text Cassidy to RSVP by April 7
724-771-8125

**Sunday,
April 14
12-2pm**





Pastor Frederick Heitzenroder's memorial service will be held Saturday April 27 @ 1 pm. The service will be immediately followed by a reception in Newhouse hall.

Volunteers are needed to greet or be parking attendants. Donations of cookies are also requested. Please contact the church office ASAP to volunteer.

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Hurrying along, the two Marys marveled that the inconceivable was somehow possible and plausible. They recalled Jesus' words of promise during one of his teachings, "For God all things are possible." Suddenly the unfathomable Reality of a God who can and does bring hope out of despair, light out of darkness and life out of death met them on their way. Jesus, the hope, light, and life of the whole world, met them in their trembling fear and joy and said, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Their hearts burning inside, the two Marys knelt, took hold of Jesus' feet, and worshipped him.

Dear people, on Easter Sunday, God gathers us together with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to worship through Word and Sacrament the wonder, the mystery, the power of God's mercy and love in Christ, to roll away the heavy stones and to empty the tombs of our lives and to bring new life. Easter is a celebration that all heaven breaks loose upon our lives, through the love, life and light of God in Jesus Christ, who brings forth for you and for all the earth, hope out of despair, light out of darkness, and life out of death.

Easter is also a celebration of God commissioning us along with the two Marys to go and to share this good news that the crucified Jesus is Risen! To proclaim that the crucified and risen Jesus goes ahead to the places we live out our daily lives - our jobs, our homes, our schools, our communities. As we go on our way, the crucified and risen Jesus will meet us there, assuring us that God did, does, and will always act to overcome the hurt and harm in our lives with healing and resurrection. Jesus will meet us with healing and resurrection in a funny text from a friend. In a thoughtful thank you card from a student. In a much-welcomed visit from a family member. In the sun breaking through a cloudy day. In the faces of those who break bread together on their knees.

Easter Sunday is the day the Lord has made. Along with the two Marys, Peter and all the disciples of Jesus throughout all of history, we now hear, touch, see, taste, sing, and share in Jesus' resurrection. We receive his unconditional and self-giving love, his everlasting and abundant life for you and for all the earth. A Blessed Easter to you all!

With love in Christ, I hold you and your families in my heart and pray that you see, hear, and taste the blessings of the risen Jesus Christ in your life this Easter! – Pastor Kara

WE ARE NOURISHED by the Word of God in worship & faith formation!

Seven Stanzas at Easter

During the 1950's, John Updike worshipped at a Lutheran church in Marblehead, MA, a church similar in some respects to the Lutheran church of his youth in Pennsylvania. When the congregation sponsored a Religious Arts Festival and offered a \$100 prize for the best artwork, Updike submitted the poem "Seven Stanzas at Easter." He won and received the \$100 which he promptly gave back to the church and over the years "Seven Stanzas at Easter" has become a much-loved poem.

Make no mistake: if he rose at all
It was as His body;
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecule reknit,
The amino acids rekindle,
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
Each soft spring recurrent;
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the
Eleven apostles;
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes
The same valved heart
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered
Out of enduring Might
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded
Credulity of earlier ages:
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
Not a stone in a story,
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of
Time will eclipse for each of us
The wide light of day.

And if we have an angel at the tomb,
Make it a real angel,
Weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in
The dawn light, robed in real linen
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed
By the miracle,
And crushed by remonstrance.

— by John Updike

WE ARE SENT to serve our neighbor and steward creation!

Women of the ELCA

Southwestern PA Synod

District #4

Spring Meeting - April 13, 2024

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

501 Fairfield Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

Theme: International Day

8:45 am Registration & Refreshments

9:20 am Greetings and Introduction

9:30 Worship Service

12:00 noon Lunch (luncheon fee \$10.00)

We will learn a little bit about Georgia and Latvia from two splendid and charming exchange students who are presently attending Hempfield High School and worshipping at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greensburg:

From Georgia: Tengo Kandelaki

and

From Latvia: Alaksis Ratenteks

Giving Opportunities

- Regular offerings will be split between WELCA SWPA and WELCA Churchwide
- In-kind gifts and offering for 2024 Designated Outreach (see enclosed brochure) for St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Evans City's "After School Program"

Please telephone or text message your reservation to:

Lillian Shae – 724-837-8688

If you prefer to mail your reservation, fill in the reservation form at the below, mail it to the attention of Lillian Shae at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at the above address.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Beginning this year Salem Lutheran will print offering envelopes in house. You will have the flexibility to customize your envelopes to fill your giving schedule. Please complete the order form and return ASAP.

2024 GIVING ENVELOPE ORDER FORM

Name _____

Envelope Number _____

Please check each envelope that you would like in your order. Please fill out this form and return it to the church office or email to office@salemdeilmont.org no later than **November 5th** to insure your order will be available by the end of the year.

Initial Offering \$5.00

Weekly Envelopes (52) _____

Monthly Envelopes (12) _____

Monthly Development (12) _____

Lenten Offering
(Enter Amount) _____

Mandy Thursday _____

Good Friday _____

Thanksgiving Offering _____

Advent Offering _____

Christmas Offering _____



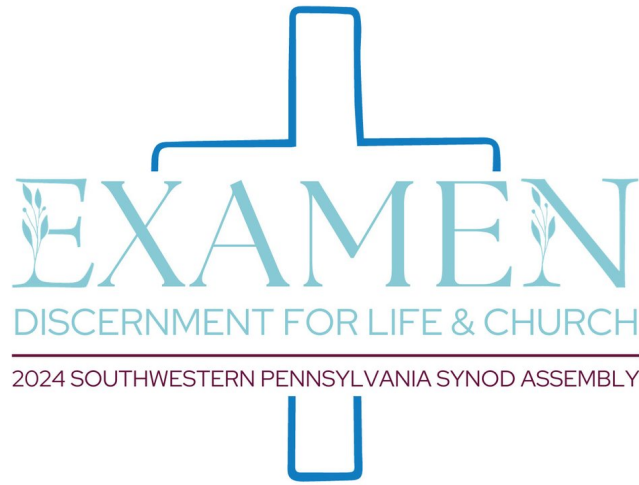
ON LINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Did you know that Salem Lutheran offers an online giving option for your convenience?

We use OnRealm. It is simple and easy! Use this link <https://onrealm.org/SalemLutheranCh51793/give>.

As with many conveniences, there is a minimal cost to offer this option. Salem is charged a 1% fee for donations taken directly from a checking or savings account, 2.65% when using a debit or credit card, and 3.5% for using an American Express card.

When giving online, Salem has set up an option to defray the processing costs (3% fee), by asking the giver to "contribute an extra fee to help offset processing costs". If you would like to provide this you must check the box.



FRIDAY, JUNE 14: 9:30 AM - SATURDAY, JUNE 15: 12:30 PM

**In Person at PennWest California (Formerly Cal-U)
250 University Ave, California, PA 15419**

We each make thousands of decisions daily that impact, not just ourselves, but our families, congregations, and communities. It can be hard to hear God's whisper guiding us to faithful decisions and holy outcomes amid the noise of the world. St. Ignatius of Loyola gifted us with **EXAMEN**, a method of reflection that invites God's presence in our daily lives and discernment.

In the coming year, between this Assembly and the next, our synod will experience many changes and our leaders will be entrusted to follow God's will in making decisions... not the least of which will be the 2025 election of a new Bishop. This Assembly will teach the method of Examen so that we may build new skills, engage in sacred practice, and set out for the year ahead with confidence and clarity. Together, we will learn how to transform discernment from a merely theoretical concept to a lived reality that can profoundly shape our shared future.

Salem Lutheran will send 2 lay persons and 1 youth to attend synod assembly. Please consider being part of this process. If you are interested please see Pastor Kara or any member of council ASAP!

Voting members from Salem have an important responsibility on behalf of all the members of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This assembly is the highest legislative authority of our synod; they will be making decisions that impact 143 congregations covering 10 counties in southwest PA.

THE *Legacy* OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



FIRES OF FREEDOM & CLOUD OF WITNESSES

**SUNDAY,
 APRIL 7
 @ 4 PM**

An Ecumenical Service of Holy Communion & Call for Anti-racist Action

House of Prayer, Aliquippa & Livestreamed

PREACHING

Rev. CeCee Mills
 North Carolina Synod



PRESIDING

Bishop Kurt Kusserow



SWPASYNOD.ORG/CALENDAR/MLK2024 (Childcare RSVP →)

2PM

Educational Pre-Event @ Uncommon Grounds Cafe

4PM

Panel Discussion: "Civil Rights Leaders of Yesterday and Today" & Youth Activity

5PM

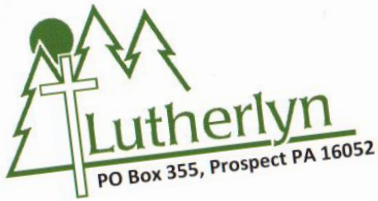
Free Dinner

6:30PM

Worship with Holy Communion

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:





You Are Invited to CampBlast!

Saturday, May 11th 2024, 11am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Pony rides, campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, hay rides, games, sports, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE!

The best part.... **EVERYTHING IS FREE!**
www.lutherlyn.com/campblast

\$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee for Summer 2024. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper. No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**
Register at **WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM**.
(Please share this code with friends!)



Registration for Summer
Camp 2024 has begun.

Please visit

www.lutherlyn.com

for dates, prices, details,
and registration!

First time campers get \$100 off with
coupon code "FIRST". Visit
lutherlyn.com/first for details.

For additional information, contact the camp
office at 724-865-2161 or
registrar@lutherlyn.com.





LIFT UP THE WORD LIGHT UP THE WORLD

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31



THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

Please mark your calendar
Thursday, May 2, 2024
@ 7pm
Delmont VFD
2360 State Route 66
Delmont, PA 15626

We pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Please keep these people in prayer and send them a card to let them know their church family is thinking of them.

Continued Care:

Susan Franke
Mae Jobe
Liz Blatney
Betty Anderson
Cheryl Whitling
Joe Shaffer
Ed Mikesell
Gloria Wellhofer
Bob Thompson
RR Schmitt
George Jobe
Helen Sparkenbaugh

Healing & Recovery:

Simbi Muzora
Addison Altman
Dani Herman
Mark Piper

Jim McPeake
Randy Barker
Susan Baker
Cathy Piper
Ronna Yeager
Wendy Heitzenroder
Kristin Buckwalter
Mason Hredzak
Terry Zeek
Lori Harr
Rick Cipullo
Nate Doty
McKenzie Wildery
Gracy & Elora Yonko
Rebecca Piper
Ed Wilson
Nancy & Mark Brutt
Lois Grudowski
Dennis

David Bush
Mike Hoch
Local Cancer Patient
Franklin Piper
Bonnie Kuhel
Marvin Staggers
Donna Carney
James Oswald
Nancy Hunter
Amanda Floy
Charlotte Bush
Karen Brandt
Suzanne Zeek
Judy Norris
Jack Susick

Sympathy to the family of:

Pastor Fred Heitzenroder
Rob Piper
Helen Colclasser
Anne Thompson
Roberta Schlotter
Jimmy Kemerer

Military or Foreign Service:

Michael & Chris Broker
Dr. Paul Oliver
Josh Kenst

**** Please Note!** Privacy laws prevent hospitals from automatically notifying churches of member's admissions. Please notify Pastor Kara at 304-668-9890 of hospitalizations or call the church office.

We Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

1 Doug Harr
5 Darla McClain
5 Kessler McIntyre
7 Sharon Thompson
8 Christian Steuernagel
9 Hunter Hayes
9 Gloria Wellhofer
11 Craig D. Mays
11 Patricia Pietopaoli
12 Leah Conners
14 Bob Linden
14 Sharon Wonderling
18 Andrew Brown
20 Morgan Rosensteel
20 Ronna Yeager
21 Sharon Dietrich
23 James Earnest

23 Alayna Hzedzak
26 Dahlia Anderson
27 Sue Deutsch
29 Tom Neumann

Happy Anniversary

1 Bryan & Ruth Ann Bartos
7 Randy & Lisa Barker
18 Greg & Mary Catherine Piper
27 Bill & Robin Evans
28 Jeffrey & Janette Kirkman

Worship & Faith Formation

- Sunday Worship on Zoom & In Person @ 9:30 am

Committee Meetings in April

Social Ministry, Wednesday April 3, @ 7:30 pm
Worship & Music, Thursday April 4, **10:15 am**
Property, Saturday April 6, 9 am
Finance, Monday April 8, @ 7 pm
Council, Thursday April 11, @ 7 pm
Faith Formation, Wednesday April 17, @ 6 pm
Steering Thursday April 25, @ 7pm

Council Highlights

March 14, 2024

- Discussed in depth the outcome of the special meeting held March 3rd. The next special meeting will be held Sunday May 5th, with a shortened worship and a covered dish dinner. A box asking for questions, concerns and/or ideas will be put in the social hall. These will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Pastor Fred's memorial service will be Saturday April 27th @ 1 PM. Social Ministry will head reception that follows. Greeters & Parking attendants are needed.
- Bloomin' Luncheon will be held on April 6th. Tickets are available. Help is needed
- Hags distribution of \$38,190.51 will be received soon..

Dear Reader, if you would prefer to receive the revived monthly Lamplighter by email, please contact the church office. One bonus of receiving it electronically is that you can see it in color! Another is you can easily click on and follow any of the embedded links! Take care!!

Salem Lutheran Church
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Delmont, PA 15626
www.salemdelmont.org
724-468-4189
office@salemdelmont.org

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