



May 2024

YOUR MONTHLY Lamplighter

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5



The last Sunday of April we sang for our hymn of the day, *ELW #447 O Blessed Spring*. The first verse is: "O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine: here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch on his life-giving Tree." O blessed spring, indeed!! I don't know about you, but I am totally embracing the new warmth in the air and the budding creation all around us in these past weeks. After what seems like a very strange winter, the signs of spring blooming around us are a welcome sight for these winter-tired eyes.

I am particularly enjoying seeing the buds of green pop out on the trees this spring. I am reminded of the many Psalms in scripture that speak of all creation singing in praise to God. When I see the trees popping with green again, I imagine them singing anew, and even singing praise to the Tree of Life, Jesus the Christ, who pours light and life into all creation. So, I find myself these days giving thanks to God for all the trees of nature which give shelter and food and create oxygen for many living creatures. I give thanks to God for giving us and all creation *the* Tree of life, Jesus Christ, who is our mystical shelter and food and who gives us the breath of life. I thank God that here in our faith community, and in faith communities around the world, Christ enjoins each one of us to be a branch on his life-giving Tree.

So, I offer for your reflection and meditation throughout this blessed spring an icon of Christ the Vine. Cut it out and hang it up on your fridge, on the bathroom mirror, even on the dash of your vehicle, or put it in your wallet or purse or backpack or briefcase. When your eyes happen upon it, throughout the course of our day, may you be reminded and give thanks that Christ has willingly and graciously and lovingly connected himself to you and all creation. Why is this so important? Why might this warrant a moment of daily and intentional reflection on our part?

Because, dear people of God, without this life-giving link to Jesus Christ, our inner strength and balance, our spiritual growth and vitality, our ability to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, etc amidst life's challenges is can become limited, if not utterly withered. In nature, a branch not connected to a vine is a dead branch not bearing fruit of any kind. So it is in faith. May this image of Christ the Vine, intimately connected to his disciples, remind you and me and anyone who gazes upon its mystery and beauty that we are not dead branches, but we are the living and fruit-bearing branches connected to the source of life, light, love and healing – Jesus Christ. Christ is the true vine, we are his branches, interwoven together into community, strengthened and empowered to bear good fruit that nourishes and feeds our lives and the lives of those we encounter at work, home, school, church, and in our neighborhoods.

May your lives be fruitful this blessed spring and always!!!! - Pastor Kara

Dear Salem Congregation,

At our annual staff review meeting on September 25, 2023, the Mutual Ministry Committee considered my request for a Sabbatical leave in 2024 for a period of 10 weeks. After affirmation of this plan and much discussion, they voted to make a recommendation to the Congregation Council that I be granted Sabbatical leave in 2024 for a period of 10 weeks. The Congregation Council approved the Sabbatical leave at the November 9, 2023 meeting. The Congregation approved the Sabbatical with the approval of the 2024 Budget at our Annual Meeting on November 19, 2024. The specific dates were set in January 2024 for the Sabbatical to be June 3 through August 11.

I am very grateful to Mutual Ministry, the Council and the Congregation for granting me this time of rest and renewal away from my pastoral call and duties. The SWPA Synod guidelines state that a Sabbatical leave for pastors is a gift granted by a congregation to its pastor intended for their mutual benefit. I certainly feel that way – gifted and blessed by Salem people.

For the Congregation

The mission of the congregation benefits from the opportunity to be re-empowered through caring for the ministry of the congregation in the absence of a pastor or deacon in addition to the presence following sabbatical leave of clergy whose skills and creativity have been renewed or enhanced through a time for reflection, spiritual re-encounter, renewal, and community. (SWPA Sabbatical Policy)

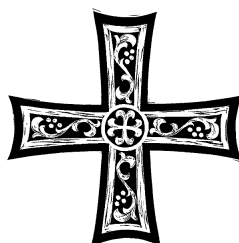
For the Pastor

The ministry of the clergy benefits from the personal renewal that comes from an extended time for reflection, spiritual re-encounter, renewal, and community. (SWPA Sabbatical Policy)

It is my hope and prayer that this time of Sabbatical will indeed be a blessing and benefit of rest, renewal and re-empowerment for both of us. I pray that during this time, you as a congregation will also reflect on ministry and mission for us as we go forward together. I certainly will be reflecting upon this. It seems fast approaching. So, if you have any concerns, questions, or would like to get together and visit before I go on Sabbatical leave, please be in touch with me ASAP. I would be happy to visit and talk about the Sabbatical, about church, about life or whatever you need.

Finally, I am very grateful to my colleagues and friends in the SWPA Synod who will be coming to lead worship and provide pastoral care for you this summer while I am on Sabbatical leave. I have utmost trust in them and know that I leave you in caring hands. As I said at our special meeting in March, I would print the summer pulpit supply schedule for you in the May Lamplighter. Please find it on the next page.

Pr. Kara J. Propst



Pulpit Supply Schedule

Please come and welcome all these fine pastors and preachers to Salem Lutheran Church, and take advantage of this opportunity to hear so many different preachers proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sundays

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Preacher and Presider</u>
June 9, 2024	Rev. Peter Asplin
June 16, 2024	Rev. Allen Riethmiller
June 23, 2024	Rev. Melissa Stoller
June 30, 2024	Rev. Allen Riethmiller
July 7, 2024	Rev. David Clement
July 14, 2024	Rev. Bishop Kurt Kusserow
July 21, 2024	Rev. David Clement
July 28, 2024	Rev. Richard Neumann
August 4, 2024	Rev. Brian Bennett
August 11, 2024	Rev. Julie Smith



Pr. Asplin



Pr. Riethmiller



Pr. Stoller



Bishop Kusserow



Pr. Neumann



Pr. Clement



Pr. Smith



Pr. Bennett

Pastoral Care Schedule

During the Sabbatical leave, when you are in need of a hospital visit and/or pastoral care services, call the church secretary or the congregation president directly, and either Brenda or Tracy will get in touch with the scheduled pastor to take care of your needs.

Weeks Pastoral Care Services

June 3 – June 15	Rev. Brian Chaffee
June 16 – June 22	Rev. Caroline Clifford
June 23 – June 29	Rev. Chris Combs
June 30 – July 20	Rev. Scott Dennis
July 21 – July 27	Rev. Chris Combs
July 28 – Aug 11	Rev. Roger Steiner



Left to right: Pr. Chaffee, Pr. Steiner, Pr. Combs



Pr. Clifford



Pr. Dennis



Calling All Graduates

We would like to acknowledge all our graduates!

If you know of someone who is graduating from high school, vocational school, or college contact **Pastor Kara ASAP** so that a date can be chosen for recognition!!

WE ARE GATHERED into the joy of community!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The **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.

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

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



LOOKING FOR SUMMER MUSIC PARTICIPANTS

Sunday June 2nd will be the last Sunday of the chancel & bell choir season.

This is **your** opportunity to participate in the summer music program at Salem. Ronna Jean Yeager is looking for anyone who would like to share their musical talent with the congregation.

No matter what your talent; singing, playing an instrument etc. Ronna is looking for you!!! If you can help, please contact Ronna ASAP @ 724-972-2266 to pick your Sunday!

SUNDAYS ARE GOING FAST!

WE ARE SENT to serve our neighbor and steward creation!

Bar Soap & Shampoo

Social Ministry is collecting bottles of shampoo and bar soap to be distributed at the Mother of Sorrows food bank in June. They would like your help with this project. Please bring your items and place them in the laundry basket in the social hall by

Sunday May 26th.



If you are unable to purchase items you can leave a donation in the jar and social ministry will purchase them.

2024 GIVING ENVELOPE ORDER FORM



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.

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@salemdelmont.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 _____

"The Youth of Salem enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship on Sunday, April 14. Together, they discussed scripture about God being their rock and steadfast through all areas of life. They also had the opportunity to create rock art with those scriptures in mind. Keep your eyes open = you may see some of their creations around the grounds of the church!"



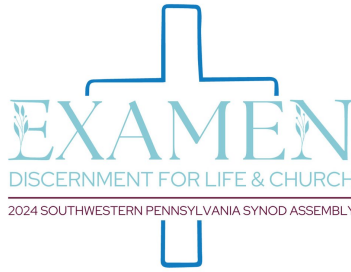
On Sunday April 7th, Pastor Richard Neumann lead us in Worship. We give thanks to God for him.



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the women's prayer breakfast group who put together the beautiful butterfly blanket for me to use while I was in Allegheny General Hospital having a kidney transplant surgery. I had a

few complications and had to have a second surgery. The butterfly blanket was a wonderful comfort during a difficult stay in the hospital. I appreciate my cousin, Ronna for suggesting making one for me. Please continue to bless people with your ministry, it has great value! Please also continue to pray for me as I continue to recover.

Thanks,
Nancy Brutt



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

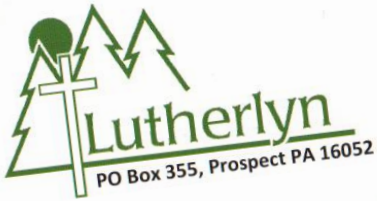
In Person at PennWest California (Formerly Cal-U)
250 University Ave, California, PA 15419

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.



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.



COST \$20
**TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED ONLINE,
AT DELMONT LIBRARY OR AT THE
SALVATION ARMY!**



DELMONT PILGRIMAGE
CHRISTMAS IN JULY
FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, JULY 27: 5-7 PM
RED BARN WINERY (DELMONT)

ENJOY AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS-THEMED FUN WHILE EXPLORING
DONATION OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE DELMONT PILGRIMAGE!

ADMISSION INCLUDES:

CHOICE OF GLASS OF WINE, BEER, OR SOFT DRINK
LIGHT BUFFET

DAVE WEBER'S WORLD FAMOUS CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN

LIVE MUSIC BY "PARTY OF TWO"

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TICKETS
ON
SALE NOW!!!



WWW.TINYURL.COM/PILGRIMAGEFUND



**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31


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

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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


OR

Unity in the Community of SW PA
National Prayer Day
Westmoreland County Courthouse
2 North Main Street
Greensburg, Pa 15601
May 2, 2024 12pm-3pm



**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

Sponsored by



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
Betty Anderson
Cheryl Whiting
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
Bob Silvis
Diana Lewis
Kaylee McAdoo
Merle Neumann
Brian Ludwig
Seth Logan

Sympathy to the family of:

Enola Erdley
Liz Blatney
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 Mae Jobe
2 Randy Barker
2 Lucy Fisher
4 Patrick Yusko
5 LaVerne Rupnik
6 Kasey Thompson
7 Grace Steuernagel
9 Rodger Fink
9 Mary Jane Nicely
11 Daniel Lichok
11 Rebecca Piper
12 William Kline
13 April Visnick
14 Kevin Cipullo
15 Amy Fong
16 Logan Smith
17 Michael Visnick

23 Vayda DeFrances
23 Graham DeFrances
23 Ethan Gray
25 Michael Tomcyk
28 Brenda Rosensteel
30 Connie Paulich
31 Jimmy Ashley
31 Hope Britz

Happy Anniversary

2 Kenny & Sharon Dietrich
3 Bob & Marcia Linden
16 Andrew & Linsey Brown
17 Ken & Ashley Bertelle
19 Erik & Kristen Gray
20 Rodger & Debbie Durstine
21 Jason & Jennifer Fisher

Worship & Faith Formation

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

Committee Meetings in May

Social Ministry, Wednesday May 1, @ 7:30 pm
Worship & Music, Thursday May 2, **10:15 am**
Property, Saturday May 4, 9 am
Finance, Monday May 6, @ 7 pm
Council, Thursday May 9, @ 7 pm
Faith Formation, Wednesday May 15, @ 6 pm

Council Highlights April 2024

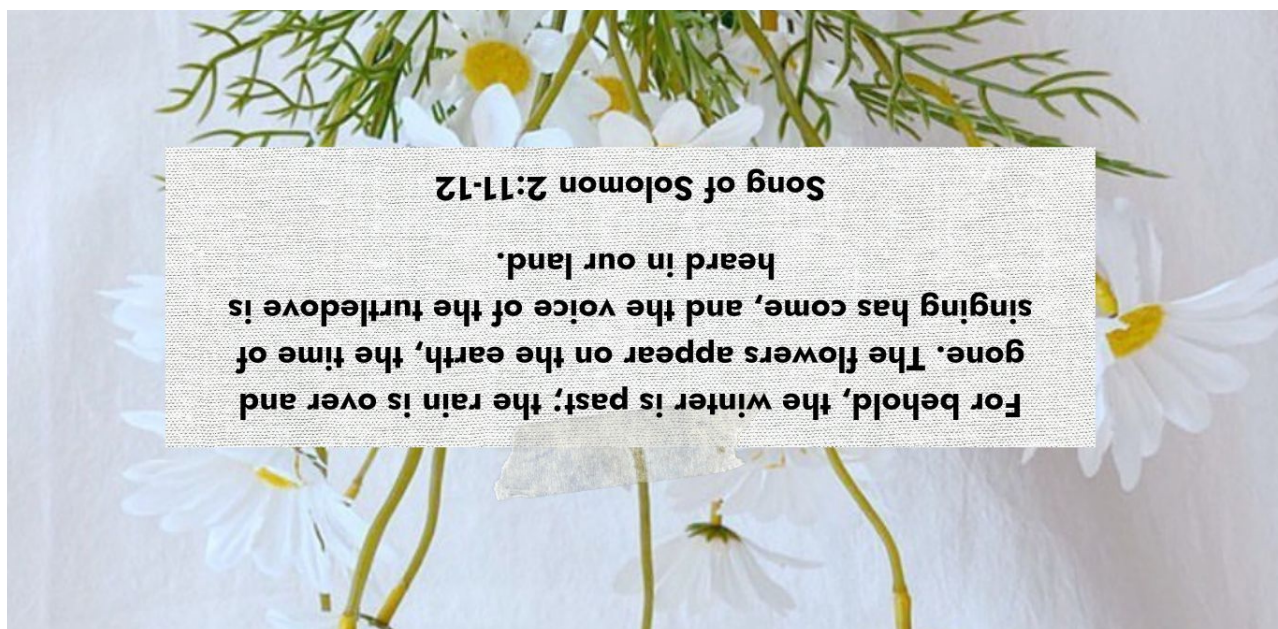
- All ten weeks for Pastors sabbatical are covered, Sunday worship & Pastoral care.
- Two people are needed for Synod Assembly held at Penn West California on June 14-15.
- Pastor Fred's memorial service will be held on April 27th at 1:00 pm.
- There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday May 5th. There will be abbreviated service and a covered dish lunch. There is a box in the social room to place your questions in that will be answered at the meeting.
- 38 Easter baskets were made for the residents of the ARC.
- Soap and shampoo are needed for the food bank in June. Please place your donations in the laundry basket on the table in the social hall.

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
301 E Pittsburgh Street
Delmont, PA 15626
www.salemdelmont.org
724-468-4189
office@salemdelmont.org

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Song of Solomon 2:11-12

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.