



YOUR MONTHLY Lamplighter

For your faith life and spiritual growth during Holy Week, I am sharing part of a resource from sundaysandseason.com called *Listening to the Cry of Creation: Stations of the Cross*. It is adapted from "Listening to the Cry of Creation" by Linda Neil, CSJ. As it states in the introduction to the prayer service: "*The Stations of the Cross has been a devotional practice for many centuries. Drawing on both scriptural images and traditions that emerged over generations about the day of Jesus' crucifixion, the stations invite us into contemplation of both Jesus' sufferings and the sufferings of the whole creation.*"¹

Contained in this rite are quotes from *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical written by Pope Francis in 2015 (line numbers are indicated after each quote). I hope you will find it helpful in your personal devotions during Holy Week, as you contemplate the passion of our Lord Jesus and his life given on the cross, for you and for the world. You could take time each day, focusing on one or more stations at a time. Read the devotion. Focus on an image of Christ on the cross or hold a crucifix in your hand. Observe silence. Finish with prayer. The service starts here and continues on pages 8 and 9 of the newsletter. I pray that you may come to see "*God's saving action in Christ's passion, death, and resurrection; where Christ's saving passion is unfolding around us today; and how Christ's saving passion holds us in the future in all our dying and living.*"

– With you in Christ, Pastor Kara

Listening to the Cry of Creation: Stations of the Cross.

In the name of the God, who creates all things, who bears all sufferings, + who enlivens all creatures. Amen.

We gather today around the ancient tradition of the Stations of the Cross. The stations give us a window into the sufferings of Jesus and call us to listen to the cry of all who experience poverty, marginalization, and persecution. Now as never before, our awareness extends to the suffering of the whole earth. We hear today words of Pope Francis, whose work *Laudato Si'* has been pivotal in calling Christians around the globe to meet Christ at the cross and attend to the suffering earth. As we reflect at these stations, we are called to witness the cry of creation, to pray for the web of life, and to lend our voice to halt destruction. We also remember that God's presence in suffering makes resurrection possible.

Pray: God of the cross, we stand in awe of your love made known in the midst of suffering. As we behold your life-giving cross and remember your passion and death, hear our cries and those of all creation for your redeeming and resurrecting grace, through Christ the Crucified One. Amen.

1. Jesus is condemned to death.

Mindful that so many creatures have been condemned to extinction, let us call to mind and heart all the species that have been lost.

Pause for silent reflection.

"Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence nor convey their message to us. We have no such right" (33).

2. Jesus carries his cross.

Mindful that holding on to excess goods makes it challenging for us to pick up the cross, let us call to mind and heart all the species that have been affected by human consumerism.

Pause for silent reflection.

"'Less is more.' A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment" (222)

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WE ARE GATHERED into the joy of community!

Bloomin' Crazy Luncheon **Saturday May 3rd**



Salem Lutheran Church
301 E. Pittsburgh St.
Delmont, PA 15626
724-468-4189
Doors open at 11 am.

The flowers are blooming, spring is in the air, and Social Ministry & Thrivent invites everyone, men & women, young & old, to their spring luncheon in Newhouse hall. You will enjoy an afternoon of delicious food, fellowship, a basket auction & a special raffle!
Bring your friends and family!!

Cost is \$15 per person. Tickets can be purchased Sundays after worship or in the church office or from any member of social ministry.

**All proceeds benefit
the Compassion Fund.**

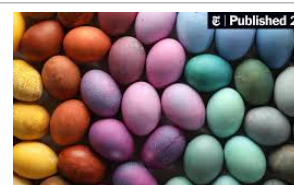


Social Ministry & WELCA
invites **EVERYONE** to a
Prayer Breakfast
Saturday
March 26, @ 9 am

Join us for breakfast, prayer and fellowship in the Newhouse hall. We will be doing a service project, making no sew fleece blankets. We look forward to seeing everyone, young & old, male or female!!



Youth Group Sunday
Lenten Fair
APRIL 6, 11am



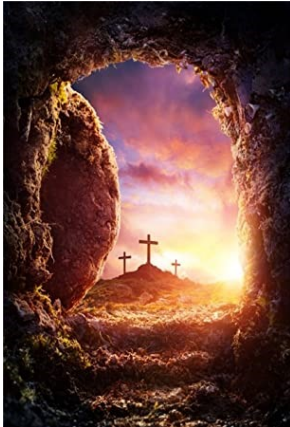
Come and see!
food, crafts, egg hunt

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

**Easter Sunday
Worship @ Salem
9:30am**

Join us for our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

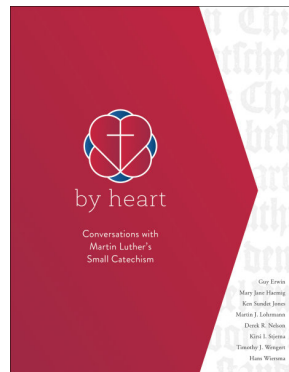
***He is Risen!
He is Risen, indeed!***



**Lent Tuesday Evening Prayer
March 4 – April 15 at 6 pm
Newhouse Hall**

Join us for prayer and devotion as we journey with the word of God and explore *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, its biblical and historical context, its link to the church's faith, and its connection to Luther's life and your life today!

All Are Welcome!



Holy Week and Easter

Mark your calendar. Set a reminder.

Palm Sunday

April 13, 9:30am

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 7pm

Good Friday

April 18, 7pm

Easter Vigil

April 19, TTBA

Easter Sunrise @ Shields Farm

April 20, 6:30am

Easter Sunday

April 20, 9:30am



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Salem Worship assistance needed for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday. We are looking for Usher, Assisting Minister & Acolytes. If you are willing to help please contact Pastor Kara ASAP!

April 3:

12pm – Food by Delmont Presbyterian Church
12:30pm – *Devotion by Rev. Tony Catullo*

April 10:

12pm – Food by St. John Baptist de la Salle and St Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes
12:30pm – Monsignor Michael J. Begolly

2025 Delmont Ministerial Thursday Lent Luncheons

Location:

**St. John Baptist De La Salle RCC Fellowship Hall
497 Athena Dr, Delmont**

The Delmont Ministerial Association warmly invites you to Lent Lunches at St. John every Thursday during Lent. **All are welcome** to share in a simple soup and sandwich meal followed by prayers and reflection on God's word.

Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. -Joel 2:12



A.S.K After School Kids

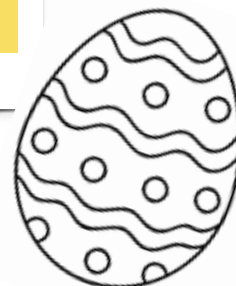
A.S.K. is a bi-monthly after school program of faith formation and activities for children of any age. Parents are invited to drop off children at the church for faith formation, including Bible stories, learning the basics of faith, music, crafts or games, and of course, there will be snacks.

For more info and to let us know that your child will be joining us, please call or text Pastor Kara, 304-668-9890.

Classes are from 4-5:30pm

April 8 Lesson on Holy Week

April 22 Lesson on Easter



WE ARE SENT to serve our neighbor and steward creation!



Social Ministry request for Candy & Snack Donations

Social Ministry is supplying Easter Baskets to each of the 45 residents at the ARK. Please help with the collections of candy, crackers or snacks to be put in the baskets. There are 35 regular and 10 diabetic residents. Please put all donations in the basket in the social room.



Delmont Lions



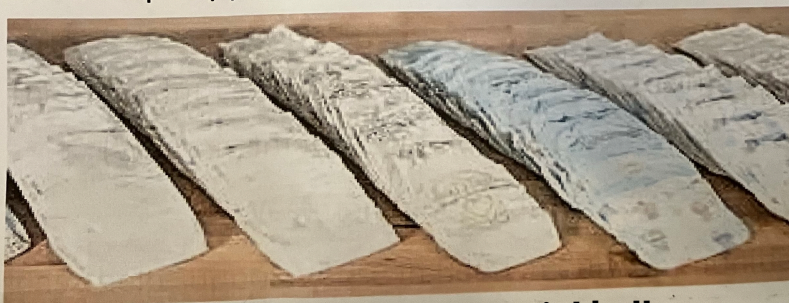
Diaper



Drive

The Delmont Lions are collecting diapers for the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) program in Westmoreland County.

Please help support those in need in our communities.



Donation Box is in the social hall

EARLY Collecting of Bar Soap & Shampoo



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



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

As part of my pastoral care to the community, I am sharing the information below that I received about various food pantries that operate in local areas. If you or someone you know is in need of food, please use and share this list to care for you and your family and the families around you.

– Blessings and Christ be with you! Pastor Kara

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Cornerstone Ministries

2200 Cornerstone Lane
Export, PA 15632
724-733-0070

First Tuesday of the Month 1 - 5 pm
(No wait time after 3 pm)

Mother of Sorrow's

4202 Old Wm Penn Hwy
Murrysville, PA 15668
724-594-5297

First Tuesday of the Month 4 - 6 pm

First Presbyterian Church - Jeannette

4th & Bullitt Street
Jeannette, PA 15644
724-527-3736

4th Friday of the Month 10 am - 12 pm

Salvation Army - Jeannette

1100 Clay Ave. Ext
Jeannette, PA 15644
Contact: Marsha Schmidt
724-523-3120

4th Friday of the Month 10 am - 12 pm

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

246 S. Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-1457

3rd Thursday of the Month 9:30 - 10:30 am

Christian Layman Corps

258 E. Pittsburgh Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-4464

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month 10 am - 1 pm

First United Methodist Church

15 East 2nd Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-3111

2nd Friday of the Month 10 - 11 am

Salvation Army - Greensburg

131 East Otterman Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-3335

Emergency Food Monday - Friday 9 am - 3 pm

St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Grace Church

1011 Mt. Pleasant Road
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-836-0175

1st Saturday of the Month 9:30 - 11 am

St. Barbara Community Food Pantry

111 Raymaley Road
Harrison City, PA 15636
724-744-7474

2nd Tuesday of the Month 3 - 5 pm

Youngwood Food Pantry

100 Lincoln Avenue
Youngwood, PA 15697
724-836-0964

3rd Wednesday of the Month 12:30 - 2 pm

New Stanton Food Pantry

612 South Center Avenue
New Stanton, PA 15672
724-925-7081

3rd Thursday of the Month 12 - 1 pm

St. Agnes/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton/SVDP

200 Leger Road
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
724-691-3711

2nd Saturday after 1st Friday on the Month

10 - 11 am

First United Methodist Church

310 Oak Street
Irwin, PA 15642
724-863-6858

Saturday after 2nd Friday of the Month 8 - 10 am

Manor Food Pantry

Box 537, Cleveland & Atlantic Avenues
Manor, PA 15665
724-864-2670

2nd Tuesday of the Month 9:30 - 11:30 am

St. Edward SVDP

120 St. Edwards Lane
Herminie, PA 15637
724-493-3987

1st Wednesday of the Month 9:30 - 11 am

West Newton United Presbyterian Church

300 South Third Street
West Newton, PA 15089
724-872-7414

2nd Friday of the Month 10 am - 12 pm

Rostraver Food Pantry

1268 Fells Church Road
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-469-1286

3rd Thursday of the Month 10:30 - 11:30 am

Salvation Army - Mon Valley

800 Thompson Avenue
Donora, PA 15033
724-684-4282

2nd Thursday of the Month 10 am - 1 pm

April 2025 Head Usher - Debbie Durstine

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Lent Tuesday Evening Prayer 6	2 Meals on Wheels Social Ministry 12:30 Worship/Music 2 Choir Rehearsal 7 Delmont Band	3 Office Hours 10-4 Choir Rehearsal 10 Delmont Lent Luncheon @ St. John 12-1 Delmont Band	4 Meals on Wheels	5 Property 9
6 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 <i>With Holy Baptism</i> Assistant Bob Lasser Acolyte Madi Fellowship 11 Youth Group 11 Bells Rehearsal 11 Scouts/Newhouse 8 - 12	7 Meals on Wheels Office Hours 11-1 Staff Mtg 11-1 Pastoral Care Hours 2-5 Finance 7 Scouts	8 ASK 4-5 Lent Tuesday Evening Prayer 6	9 Meals on Wheels Choir Rehearsal 7pm Delmont Band	10 Office Hours 10-4 Choir Rehearsal 10 Delmont Lent Luncheon @ St. John 12-1 Council Mtg. 7 Delmont Band	11 Meals on Wheels	12
13 Passion/Palm Sunday 9:30 Assistant Scott Deutsch Acolyte Lydia Sunday school 11 Confirmation 11 Bells Rehearsal 11 William Penn Worship 1	14 Meals on Wheels Office Hours 11-1 Staff Mtg 11-1 Pastoral Care Hours 2-5 Scouts	15 FINAL Lent Tuesday Evening Prayer 6	16 Meals on Wheels Christian Edu 6 Choir Rehearsal 7 Delmont Band	17 Office Hours 10-4 Choir Rehearsal 10 Maundy Thursday 7 Delmont Band	18 Meals on Wheels Prayer Vigil 8-6	19
20 Sunrise Service 6:30am Easter Sunday 9:30 Assistant Bob Linden Acolyte Franklin Sunday school 11 Confirmation 11 Bells Rehearsal 11	21 Meals on Wheels Office Hours 11-1 Staff Mtg 11-1 Lampighter Info Due Pastoral Care Hours 2-5 Scouts	22 ASK 4-5	23 Meals on Wheels 175th Anniversary 6 Choir Rehearsal 7 Delmont Band	24 Office Hours 10-4 Choir Rehearsal 10 Delmont Band	25 Meals on Wheels	26 Prayer Breakfast 9
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:30 Assistant Martha Koval Acolyte Nolan Sunday school 11 Confirmation 11 Bells Rehearsal 11	28 Meals on Wheels Office Hours 11-1 Staff Mtg 11-1 Pastoral Care Hours 2-5 Scouts	29 Adult Faith Formation 6	30 Meals on Wheels Conference 4 Caucus @ Salem 7 Choir Rehearsal 7pm Delmont Band			

3. Jesus falls the first time.

Mindful of the heaviness of our own sin, let us call to mind and heart our behaviors that harm creation.

Pause for silent reflection.

“A healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change” (218).

4. Jesus meets his mother.

Mindful of the nourishing gifts God provides in creation, let us call to mind and heart that the earth is our mother.

Pause for silent reflection.

“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, [God’s] boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains—everything is, as it were, a caress of God” (84).

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross.

Mindful that each of us has gifts to offer and opportunities to serve, let us call to mind and heart our personal call to serve creation.

Pause for silent reflection.

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to [their] own culture, experience, involvements and talents” (14).

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Mindful that beholding the face of another in love inspires compassion, let us call to mind and heart our mystical connection to creation.

Pause for silent reflection.

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things” (233).

7. Jesus falls the second time.

Mindful of the ways our actions place burdens on others, let us call to mind and heart all our suffering human siblings.

Pause for silent reflection.

“When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person . . . it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself” (117).

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Mindful of Jesus’ invitation to the women to weep not for him but for their children, let us call to mind and heart our responsibility to the next generation.

Pause for silent reflection.

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question does not have to do with the environment alone and in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal” (160).

9. Jesus falls the third time.

Mindful that we can become overwhelmed by the suffering of the earth, let us call to mind and heart a concern for creation that weighs on us.

Pause for silent reflection.

“By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world’s problems and in offering ourselves to God ‘as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable’ (Rom 12:1)” (220).

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Mindful that many are stripped of their safety as they advocate care for the earth, let us call to mind and heart those who risk their lives to protect creation.

Pause for silent reflection.

“Clearly, the Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism* unconcerned for other creatures” (68)

11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Mindful of our call to reject violence in every form, let us bring to mind and heart our call to acts of service to creation.

Pause for silent reflection.

“Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness” (230).

12. Jesus dies on the cross.

Mindful of the ways our personal actions, human systems, governments, and corporations destroy the earth, let us call to mind and heart our responsibility for that destruction.

Pause for silent reflection.

“This sister [our common home] now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life” (2).

13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Mindful that we cast off so much waste that others must bear and that we confuse what is precious with what is waste, let us call to mind and heart our misuse and abuse of resources.

Pause for silent reflection.

“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth” (21).

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Mindful that at times we shut away that which troubles us, let us call to mind and heart those who refuse to accept the truth of our changing climate.

Pause for silent reflection.

“The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty” (175).

After a period of silence, pray the Lord's Prayer and finish with these words:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



February 2025 Budget Report

	February	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Tithes @ Contributions	\$ 9,093.20	\$ 24,266.15	\$ 175,950.00
Other Income (includes Use of Building, Headstart Rent, Hags Endow)	<u>\$ 715.98</u>	<u>\$ 3,215.62</u>	<u>\$ 73,207.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 9,809.18	\$ 27,481.77	\$ 249,157.00
Administration	\$ 552.69	\$ 1,425.78	\$ 11,650.00
Christian Education	\$ 13.49	\$ 13.49	\$ 2,400.00
Facilities	\$ 5,893.62	\$ 9,899.57	\$ 39,654.00
Personnel	\$ 13,283.69	\$ 26,622.35	\$ 163,883.70
Property	\$ 660.00	\$ 2,153.53	\$ 24,000.00
Social Ministry	\$ 00.00	\$ 251.16	\$ 3,000.00
Stewardship/Evangelism	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 200.00
Worship & Music	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 2,950.00
Pilgrimage	\$ 54.97	\$ 54.97	\$ 2,500.00
Synod Mission	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 8,000.00
Hags Distribution	<u>\$ 00.00</u>	<u>\$ 00.00</u>	<u>\$ 9,675.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 20,458.46	\$ 40,420.85	\$ 267,912.70
Net Total	(\$ 10,649.28)	(\$ 12,939.08)	



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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.

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@salemde尔蒙t.org no later than **November 24th** 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) _____

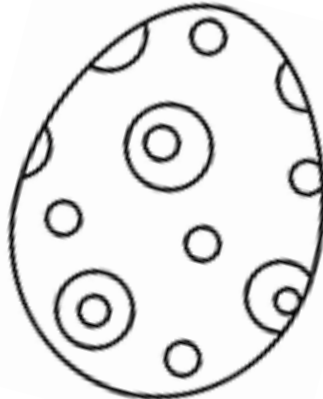
Maundy Thursday _____

Good Friday _____

Thanksgiving Offering _____

Advent Offering _____

Christmas Offering _____



Council Highlights March 2025

- * Discussed what plan we would take if Head Start would lose there funding and how the church would respond if that was to happen. CD's could be used in case of emergency. No action was taken.
- * The Audit committee has sent the report to Finance and they will review and send to council with commentary and recommendations.
- * Social Ministry will provide Easter baskets to the residents of the ARK.
- * Bloomin' Crazy Luncheon tickets are being printed. Baskets are being requested for donation for raffle.
- * Scott Deutsch has designed the logo for the 175th Anniversary. Tommy's Catering has been chosen. Committee looking for a videographer.
- * Boy Scouts are available and willing to help with projects. Mike Sullivan will reach out.

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
Cheryl Whitling
Joe Shaffer
Ed Mikesell
Gloria Wellhofer
Bob Thompson
RR Schmitt
George Jobe
Helen Sparkenbaugh
Charlotte Bush

Susan Baker
Cathy Piper
Ronna Yeager
Terry Zeek
Rick Cipullo
Nate Doty
McKenzie Wildery
Lois Grudowski
Dennis Doran
Mike Hoch
Local Cancer Patient
Donna Carney
Amanda Floy
Karen Brandt
Suzanne Zeek
Jack Susick
Sherry McQuaide
Lilly

Anthony Sciotti
Sharon Thompson
Carol Hartman
Carol Logan
Linda DelBaggio
Sophia Pleseamts
Scott Rushbrok
Tom
Bill
Charlotte Bush
Kristin Buckwalter
Joe & Teresa
Martha Koval
Dolly
Lisa Barker
Colleen
Pastor Brian Chaffee
Deacon Amy Santoriello

Cheryl Adamik

Sympathy to the family of:

Joe Sesti
Ed Wilson

Military or Foreign Service:

Michael & Chris Broker
Dr. Paul Oliver

**** 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!

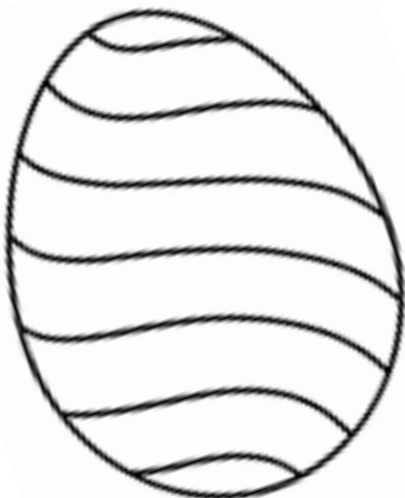
Happy Birthday

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
28 Justin Kilpatrick Jr.
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



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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