

Sharing Joy

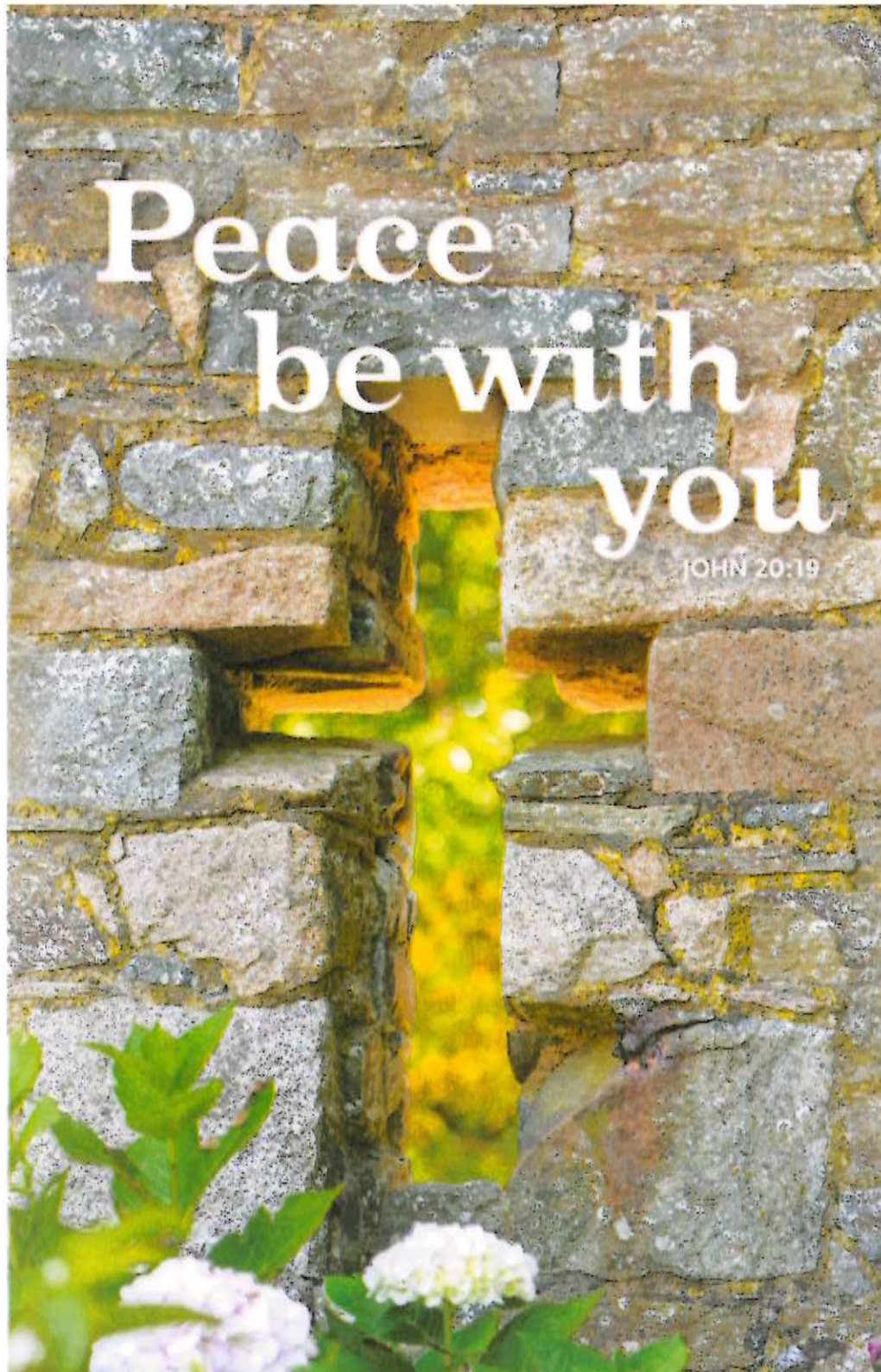
Thank you for sharing our joy," said the parents of the bride to the wedding guests. This simple message sums up the reason we gather with loved ones to celebrate the best moments of our lives. When we share our joy, it multiplies.

When the disciples were gathered in a locked room, the appearance of the risen Jesus transformed their fear into joy. On the evening of the resurrection, all the disciples except Thomas were together. They got to see Jesus standing among them, and they rejoiced! Immediately, Jesus gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. He also sent them out to continue his work in the world, including the forgiveness of sins.

With that commissioning, Jesus channeled the disciples' joy into a sense of belonging and purpose. Now they were no longer afraid or isolated. Jesus was alive. Everything had changed! Their risen Lord made them into a new community. But Thomas wasn't there when Jesus first stood among them, and he couldn't grasp the good news. He saw the joy radiating from the other disciples' faces, but he didn't share it.

As a gift of grace, Jesus appeared again and brought Thomas into the new community. He let the skeptical disciple see and touch the wounds on his body. By doing so, Jesus extended the joy and sense of belonging that the others had experienced to Thomas, who responded with joy, "My Lord and my God!"

As disciples of Jesus, we belong to the same resurrection community that our risen Lord created that first Easter evening. We get to share our joy in the promise of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with those around us. Our believing and sense of belonging fortify each other. As today's reading from 1 John declares, when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and carry out God's work in the world together, our joy is made complete.



Millcreek Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Chaplain Michael Yesenko as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Almighty God, whose risen Son calls his followers to go forth as his witnesses: Use your church today to lead our world to repentance, that all may experience your forgiveness. We pray through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

*Opening Hymn: **No. 131 LBW (green),**

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

*Greetings: Page 57, line 5

*The Kyrie: Page 57 & 58, line 6

*Hymn of Praise: ***The Feast of Victory***, Page 60

*Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)

The First Reading (on lesson insert)

The Psalmody (on lesson insert, read responsively)

The Second Reading (on lesson insert)

*The Gospel (on lesson insert)

*The Gospel Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **No. 145 LBW (green), *Thine is the Glory***

*The Nicene Creed: Page 64, line 20

*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22

*The Greeting of Peace: Page 66

Choir Anthem

*The Great Thanksgiving: Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29 & 31

*The Lord's Prayer: Page 71 (spoken)

Holy Communion (Table)

*Post Communion Prayer: Page 74, line 40

*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43

*Departing Hymn: **No. 262 LBW (green),**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

* **Please Stand**

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor, Chaplain Michael Yesenko

Lay Leader, Susan Long

Organist, Pianist, Debbie Tice

Lay Reader, Cheryl Batdorf

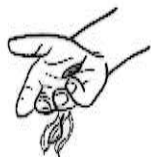
Ushers, Audio, Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Larry...with, love Nancy.

The bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Skeet Seldomridge... love, your family.

Thank you to Chaplain Michael Yesenko for serving as guest pastor today while Pastor Scott is on vacation.

Thank you to Isabel Rivera for designing the welcome sign for Chaplain Yesenko.



Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

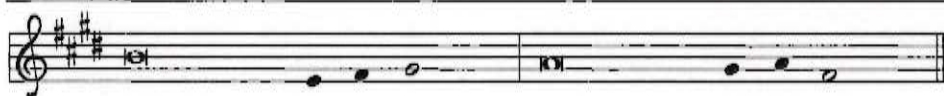
Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon

them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalms

Psalms 133; tone 10



How good and how pleas-¹ant it is,
when kindred
live togeth-¹er in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head,
flowing down up-¹on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
flowing down
upon the collar¹ of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon
flowing down upon the
¹hills of Zion.

For there the LORD
has commanded the blessing:
life for-¹evermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we

declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no

continued

Second Reading, continued

darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us

from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark

of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

TODAY'S READINGS April 7, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:38b-48.

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9 of 15
Tracks 1 and 2

131

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
 2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness Of our Lent - en fast is o'er;
 3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row That last eve - ning round him lay
 4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er Death or hell shall us en - thrall;

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
 Through the o - pengates of glad - ness He re - turns to life once more;
 Now has found a glo - rious mor - row In the ris - ing of to - day.
 Be we Christ's, in him for - ev - er We have tri - umphed o - ver all.

Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him As his light once more ap - pears;
 Death and hell be - fore him bend - ing See him rise, the vic - tor now,
 See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, Spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;
 All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion Of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;

Bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, Ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
 An - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, Glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.
 He was dead, but now is liv - ing; He was lost, but he is found.
 Hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

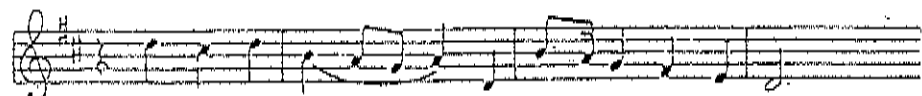
Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic -

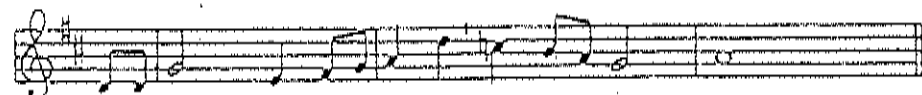
to - rious head! Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ is ris - en from the dead!

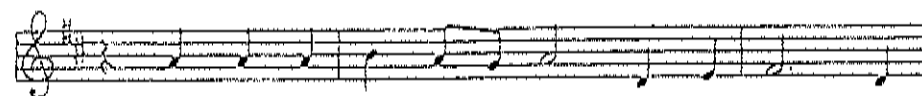
The Feast of Victory



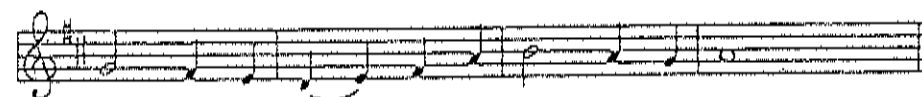
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



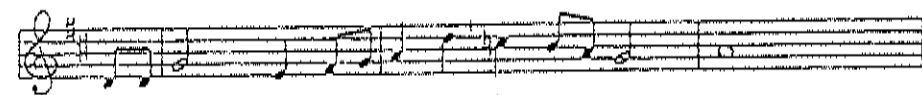
☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



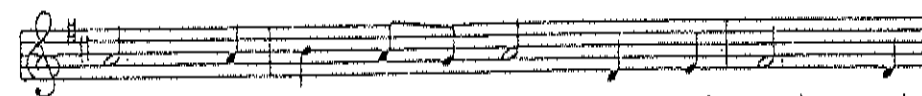
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



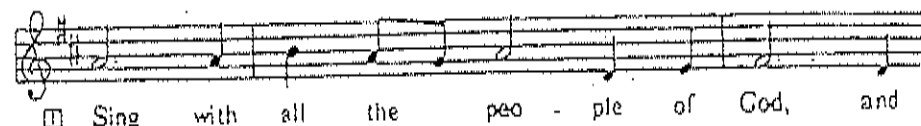
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



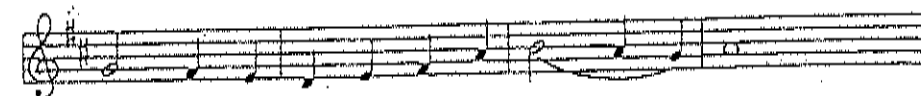
☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



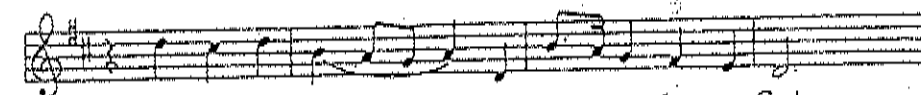
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



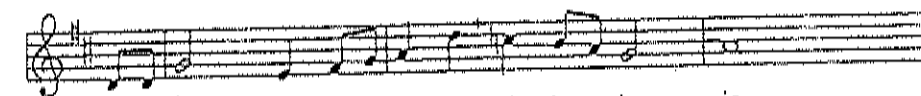
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



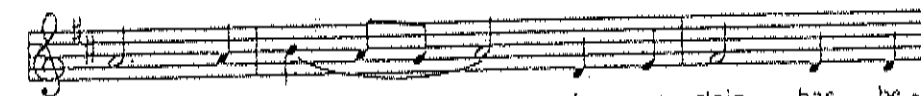
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



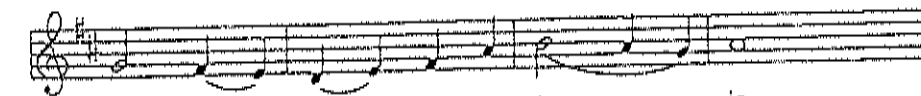
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



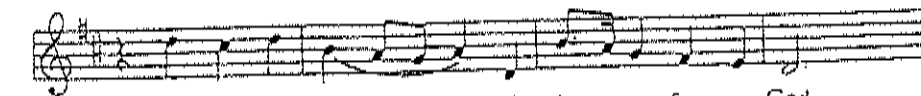
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



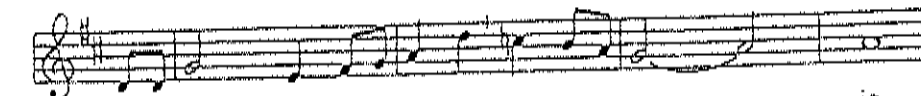
☐ For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; End - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life; Life is nought with-



vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his Church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-qu'rors,



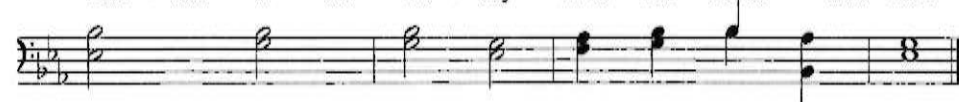
Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For the Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan




Refrain
Where thy bod - y lay,
Death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
To thy home a - bove.




End - less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won!




Savior, Again to Your Dear Name



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise With one ac -
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home-ward way; With you be -
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night; For us trans -
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life, Our balm in



cord our part - ing hymn of praise; Once more we bless you
gan, with you shall end the day; Guard all the lips from
form its dark - ness in - to light. Keep us from harm and
sor - row, and our stay in strife; Then, when your voice shall



ere our wor - ship cease, Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.
sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called up - on your name.
dan - ger till the dawn; Your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.
bid our con - flict cease, Call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.



"The Church on the Hill"

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Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday April 7, 2024

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 9:00 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

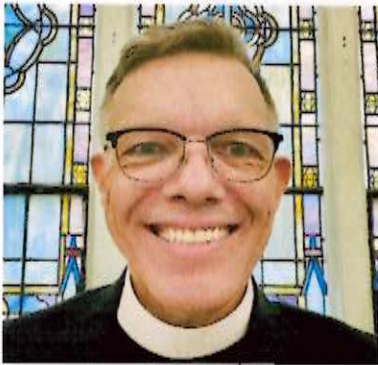
Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

TULPEHOCKEN TRINITY CHURCH will host *Servant Stage* presenting *I'll Fly Away*, Sunday April 14 at 7:00 PM. It is a pay-what-you will event. The program consists of old time favorites, bluegrass standards, classic hymns and more, this original tribute to Gospel and Bluegrass music is sure to be a treat for the ears and balm for the soul!

SHARING CUPBOARD: The evangelism committee wishes to thank **EVERYONE** who "**March**"ed to the beat of those in need within the ELCO school district. May God's "gladness" keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Evangelism Committee

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

Pastor Scott will be on vacation from Saturday, April 6 through Saturday, April 13. If you have a pastoral emergency during the time Pastor Scott is away, please **contact Pastor Angie Hammer (717.682.6580)**. Pastor Scott will be at Millcreek for worship on **Sunday, April 14.**



The guest pastor for **Sunday, April 7** is **Chaplain Michael Yesenko**. He is serving as Chaplain to Spang Crest, a Luthercare Community, in Lebanon and provides pastoral care to residents, families and staff. Michael completed a Chaplain Residency at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. His Lutheran Studies were completed at United Lutheran Seminary. He worked in the Federal and private non-profit sectors after he received his Master of Divinity at Vanderbilt University and Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Psychology at Concordia College. Michael grew up on a farm in central North Dakota and now calls Pennsylvania home. His hobbies include hiking and kayaking.

TREASURER'S REPORT: March 31, 2024-TREASURER'S REPORT: March 31, 2024-Current Offerings-\$1,047.00, Plate-444.00, Initial-6.00, Easter Offering-1,140.00, Building Improvement-20.00, Rental-75.00, 50.00. **Total-\$2,782.00.** Attendance-109, Children's Easter Activity-14

March Electronic Offering(s): Current-\$1,415.00, Restore & Renew-100.00. **Total-\$1,515.00**

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet Sunday April 14, following the worship service.

MONTHLY CHURCH BREAKFAST is Saturday, April 13 at Country Fare in Myerstown, at 8:00. Ask for the Millcreek group and you will be directed to our table. Nancy Deiter

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE meets at the church Wednesday, April 10 at 2:00 PM.

The **evangelism committee** will be celebrating the April resident's birthdays along with "general fun and merriment" when we visit the **Spang Crest** campus on Monday April 29th at 7:00 p.m. A music sing-along and light refreshments with small gifts for the residents who attend is being planned for the evening. Julie Strickler and Deb Tice will be providing the music. Volunteers are definitely needed for this evening! If you'd like to help with the festivities, please contact any member of the committee.

MAY PARISH ECHO: If you have items you would like included in the May newsletter, submit information to David and Aislinn Staaby by April 15th. You may do so by emailing them at mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com or putting items in the newsletter mail slot in the office.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

THANK YOU to Nicole Johnson and all her *Easter Egg Hunt helpers*, you know who you are, there were many. It was a huge success on a beautiful day. Also, a big thanks to the Engle's for the sign and the bags of jelly beans and jelly bean prayer.

A note of thanks to Pastor Scott, The Music and Worship Committee, and Choir for the beautiful service(s) throughout Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY: Charmayne Balsbaugh will satisfy our sweet tooth Sunday, April 14 in the multi-purpose room with her baked goods. You may purchase items after the worship service. All proceeds are donated to the church. Many thanks to Charmayne!

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Paul Zimmerman, 139 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073.

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Julie Strickler, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Mike Nelson (friend of Kristin Bender)



It's time for our
30th Annual Community Clothing Giveaway!

It will take place on
Saturday, April 13, 2024
from **8 am to 10 am.**

Donations are no longer needed at this time.

Please come and encourage others to come on
Saturday, April 13, from 8 am to 10 am
to choose clothing in our Fellowship Hall.
There is something for everyone, no money is exchanged,
and everyone is welcome.

Richland Community Bible Church
215 South Race Street
Richland, Pennsylvania
(717) 866-2541