

the Messenger



April 2024

Easter



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Eastertide 2024 Pastoral Message

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The seven weeks of Easter are an opportunity to marvel at the magnitude of God's love for us and for all God's people. It is an opportunity to take time to reflect on the resurrecting good news and the new thing God is doing in our lives and through the life of our congregation.

In the coming weeks, the new transition team in conjunction with the interim consultant, **Teri Lanan**, and council representative, **Linda Sartor**, will be reaching out to the congregation with opportunities to participate in small group forums. These forums will be conducted in person and online with the purpose of gathering congregational input and reflections on the current and future ministry of God's Love. I encourage you to participate in one or more of these sessions.



What can we know or experience or share about the God of the universe? What does it mean to follow the way of Jesus? Where do we sense the Holy Spirit's movement? I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these questions and more in the months ahead.

The Holy Spirit is always moving. God's living Word is present in our midst for God is with us and within us. "Go," the angel commanded from the empty tomb, "...tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." **Yes**, we gather for worship and celebrate Christ's resurrecting love and we are sent out into the world, for it is there we experience the risen Lord's presence in and through others as they may experience God's love through us. The tomb is empty.

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace + Grace. *Pastor Brandi*



Update from Congregation Council

The Church Council held its regular monthly meeting on March 21. Following a very busy February, the March meeting consisted mostly of reviewing the reports submitted by Pastor Brandi, the financial officers, and the office staff. There were also Ministry updates 1) from the Property ministry concerning arrangements to renovate the flooring in the Mods, and 2) a brief update on upcoming plans for the Good Neighbor Garden. In addition, the Council handled a few items by motion or discussion that were primarily housekeeping.

The exciting news to be shared by the Council is the assembly of the **Transition Team**. We are pleased to announce that the following persons accepted the call to serve on the Team:

Gayle Gunnerson
Bud Herman

Jeff Hufnagle
Janet Nordberg

Linda Sartor
Will Toppin

The Team will work with the direction and advice of **Teri Lanan**, the transition consultant provided to us by the Synod, and their primary goal will be to obtain congregational input on how we see God's Love now and where we sense God is calling us in future ministry. The information that the Team collects will be vital to identifying a pastoral candidate that meets the needs and vision of the congregation. Please look to hear from the Team in the coming weeks.

Our next Church Council meeting will be held on **April 18 at 7:00pm**.

Barbara Steen, Council President



Special Worship and Congregational Breakfast

NEXT Sunday, April 7 • ONE SERVICE • 9:30am Breakfast • 10:30am • Fellowship Hall

The children of the congregation will lead worship on **April 7 at 9:30am**. Don't miss the opportunity to attend this special service as our youngest disciples use their talents to praise God. A congregational **breakfast will follow at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.**

2024 Altar Flower Dedications

The Altar Flowers can be dedicated on any Sunday in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special occasion. The *requested donation* is **\$50** per dedication; payable to *Lutheran Church of God's Love*. [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to select a week(s).



"Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace"

Sundays, April 21 – May 19
10:00am • Fellowship Hall

- **April 21: PEACE** Pr. Danny Thomas, Executive Director of the Peace Center in Langhorne
- **April 28: CONSOLE** Amy Kiper-Shaw, Certified Grief Counselor and Executive Director of Hands Holding Hearts
- **May 5: HOPE** Jamie Pfister, Training Coordinator at NOVA Network of Victim Assistance in Bucks County
- **May 12 (tentative): UNDERSTAND** Sgt Paul Deppi, Newtown Township Police Department
- **May 19 (tentative): LOVE** Sacred Ground Racial Healing and Justice presentation



Updated Good Neighbor Garden Opening Day Saturday, April 6 • 9:00am

The *Good Neighbor Garden* opening day is **Saturday April 6** at 9:00am. All hands are welcome to meet at the garden (in the field behind our parking lot) for some mulch moving and general clean up.



Bring a shovel, hard rake, or wheelbarrow if possible. The produce from this garden is donated to local food pantries. This ministry is a great way to put Jesus' words into action.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



New Member Orientation Sessions

Saturday, April 27 at 11:30am OR Sunday, April 28 at 10:00am • Pastor's Office

Prospective members are invited to attend either orientation session to learn about the congregation and its ministries. New members will be received during worship services on **Sunday, May 5**.

Questions? Contact **Pastor Brandi**.

HOPE Supporting Those in Need

While we look forward to the warmer weather and spending more time outdoors, those who are homeless are concerned with finding their next meal. You can help by providing items for bagged lunches. These lunches are donated every Tuesday to the *Reach Out Foundation* in Pennel where folks in need can go for food, shelter, showers, laundry, and social services.



[SIGNUP FOR MAY](#), or visit the **SignUp Hub** to donate item(s) for the lunches. Directions are in the sign-up link. Place donations in the **Lobby of Love** ♥ on **Tuesdays by 10:30am**.

Questions? **Sandy Anthony**.

Easter Egg Scramble follow up

Twenty-three children and their families braved the blustery rain to come to the Easter Egg Scramble on March 23. While there may not have been a lot of kids, the ones who came had a great time and found A LOT of eggs. In fact, a **record 1,538 eggs** were donated by the congregation!! We had so many eggs that we donated extras to *Valley Youth House* to make Easter Baskets for children in foster care.

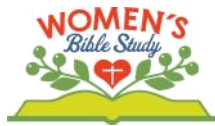


Thank you to all who donated. It was a "hopping" good time!

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays • 6:30pm • the Lounge

Women of all ages are invited to gather weekly for this emerging small group ministry. The group uses devotional materials to spark questions, conversation, and prayer. **Welcome!** **Questions?** Contact **Elizabeth Karagrigoriou**.



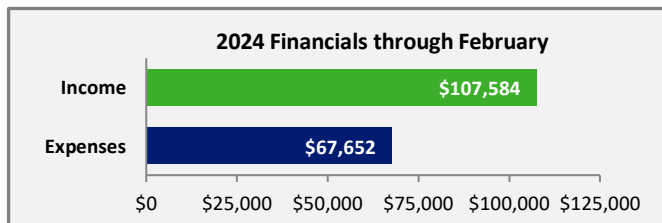
God's Caring Stitchers

Friday, April 15 and 19 • 1:00pm • Room A1/A2

All are welcome to come to our meetings. Come to brush up on your knit or crochet skills or come to learn a new craft. We make handmade items and give them to local charities.



Questions? **Cindy Sundstrom, Coordinator**.



Questions? Contact Treasurer, **Bob Smoose**, or Financial Secretary, **John Tidd**.

Ways you can SERVE

Usher, Reader, Altar Guild, Acolyte, Communion Assistant, Basket Bearer

There are many opportunities for adults and youth to assist during worship services. Any of these roles are wonderful opportunities to engage in service, meet new people, and deepen your own worship experience.

[MARCH/APRIL SIGNUP](#), or visit the **SignUp Hub** to choose weeks and roles convenient for you.

April Fellowship Dinner

Purple Leaf Chinese & Japanese Cuisine

119 Floral Vale Boulevard, Yardley

Saturday, April 6 • 6:30pm

This popular monthly dine-out event is open to all in the congregation. The group meets at the restaurant and each pays for their own meal.



[RSVP HERE](#) for April's dinner, visit the **SignUp Hub** in the Commons or call the church office **by April 3**.

Questions? Contact **Will Toppin**.



Designer Bag B-I-N-G-O

benefits God's Love Preschool

Friday, April 12 • Doors at 6:15pm • Bingo at 7:00pm

Final preparations are underway for *Designer Bag Bingo* on **Friday, April 12**. Tickets are **\$35** in advance or **\$40** at the door. It is always a fun evening of bingo, gorgeous handbags, and amazing raffle baskets. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Groups of six or more can reserve a table. [CLICK FOR TICKET INFORMATION](#). Attendees must be 21 or older.

Interested in bidding on our raffle baskets? They will be on display in *Fellowship Hall* starting **April 6**. Raffle tickets can be purchased on **Sunday, April 7** at the Congregation Breakfast. Raffle basket tickets will also be available in the preschool office all week. All proceeds from the raffle and bingo event benefit the preschool.



Happy Easter from the preschool! Each class celebrated with an egg hunt and ice cream party. In the weeks leading up to Easter the students had lessons on the miracles that Jesus performed, Holy Week, and the Resurrection.

Many families from the preschool and the congregation enjoyed the Easter Egg Scramble on a rainy Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all who donated candy-filled eggs!



Many thanks to the **Karagrigroriou family** for adopting the five chicks that hatched this year. Two classes were able to see a chick hatch; all the children were enthralled by the baby chicks. We also thank **Farmer Sandy (Anthony)** for bringing in her chickens and teaching us all about them.

We celebrated *World Down Syndrome Day* on March 21. All the children wore mismatched socks donated by **Mrs. Norvell**. The children learned about Down Syndrome and the importance of recognizing our similarities as well as our differences.

Later this month, the 4s classes will go to *Howell Farm* to learn about life on a farm. The 3s classes will go to *Tyler State Park* to learn about worms. We are also anticipating the arrival of caterpillars later this month. Watching their metamorphosis is always exciting!



Highlighted Collection for April *First Aid Supplies*

For the month of April we will be collecting any and all types of new, over-the-counter First Aid Supplies.

These items will be donated to *Bucks County Family Services Street Medicine*, a mobile unit that drives throughout Bucks County, interacting with and supporting the immediate medical, mental health, and basic survival needs of unsheltered "street-homeless" population. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about B.C. Street Medicine.



Some examples include:

- Band-Aids
- bug spray
- bandages
- anti-itch creams
- gauze tape
- calamine lotion
- antiseptic ointment
- burn ointment
- alcohol pads/ antiseptic wipes
- hand & foot warmers
- tweezers
- ace bandages
- sunscreen
- hydrogen peroxide
- sunburn lotion
- instant cold compresses

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



SEPA Women of The ELCA 2024 Convention

"Love One Another with the Promise of God's Justice"

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1000 West Main Street
Lansdale, PA

Register by May 15.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Feed My Starving Children

Food Packing Event

Sunday, May 19 • 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Delaware Valley University, Doylestown

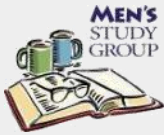
Feed My Starving Children will hold a food packing event May 16 – 20 at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown. The goal is to pack 1,000,000 meals during those five days! God’s Love has reserved 25 spots for Sunday, May 19 from 2:30 – 4:30. There are jobs for everyone including seated jobs for those who have trouble standing. Ages 5 years and up are welcome to participate. Drive yourself or carpool from the church. [SIGN UP HERE](#) by April 21.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about *Feed My Starving Children* or to volunteer during a different time slot. **Questions?** Contact **Sandy Anthony**.



The Ministry Resource Table for the month of April includes information

aligned with the upcoming *Adult Faith & Life* series entitled “Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace. Read the words of the prayer that inspired this series and learn about the guest speakers and organizations that will participate. **Welcome!**



Men’s Bible Study

April 1, 15 and 29
7:00pm • the Lounge



Gals’ Book Club

Thursday, April 4 • 7:00pm • Newtown Theatre
“Still Alice” moving screening and panel discussion

Thursday, April 25 • 7:00pm • the Lounge
“The Only Survivors” by Megan Miranda

Questions? Contact **Sharon Sottung**.

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Counters 9:30a OFFICE CLOSED Men’s Bible 7p	2 Staff Meeting 10a Women’s Bible 6:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	3 Children’s Choir Rehearse 6p Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	4 Gals’ Book Club Outing 7p	5 Knit & Crochet 1p	6 Garden Work 9a Quilters (Mods) 10a – 3p Fellowship Dinner 6:30p
7 Children-Led ONE Worship 9:30a NO Education Breakfast 10:30a	8 Counters 9:30a	9 Staff Meeting 10a Women’s Bible 6:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	10 Adult Ed Mtg 10a Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	11 Executive Committee 7:30p	12 B-I-N-G-O 7p	13
14 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a Worship Min 12:15p	15 Counters 9:30a Men’s Bible 7p	16 Staff Meeting 10a Women’s Bible 6:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	17 NO CHOIRS	18 Musicians’ Mtg 11a Church Council 7p	19 Knit & Crochet 1p	20
21 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a	22 Counters 9:30a	23 Staff Meeting 10a Property Team 1p Women’s Bible 6:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	24 Preschool Chapel 11:20a Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	25 Preschool Chapel 11:20a & 1p Gals’ Book Club 7p	26	27 1 st Communion Class 9a – 11a New Member Class 11:30a
28 Worship 8:45a & 11a New Member Class 10a Education 10a	29 Counters 9:30a TLC 11a Men’s Bible 7p	30 Investment Committee 9:30a Staff Meeting 10a Women’s Bible 6:30p Mutual Min 7:30p Rejoice! 7:30p	<p>“God is Above, Presiding; Beneath, Sustaining; Within, Filling” —Hildebert of Lavardin</p>			



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