

The Messenger

April 2007

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

Doris' Cats

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, April 1, during our Palm Sunday Worship Service. A coffee hour will follow the Worship Service and everyone is welcome to bring a "goodie" to share. For our sharing time during the Coffee Hour, Doris Yurchak will bring in her cat collection.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

The Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 5, at 7:00 pm, will include the order of Tenebrae, the Service of Shadows, in which we recall the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion. This is one of the most moving services in the Christian year when we remember the darkness of despair and wait for the hope of rebirth.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY

The annual Sunday School Easter Party will be held on April 7 from 10 am to 12 pm. Come on in and paint your toast.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

EASTER SUNDAY

We will celebrate the resurrection of Christ at two worship services on Easter Morning. The Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00 am and our regular worship service will be at 10:30 am. Communion by intinction will be served at the Sunrise Service and pew communion will be served at the regular Easter Service. We will gather for a continental breakfast after the Sunrise Service.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

VBS PLANNING MEETING

Anyone wishing to teach or help with Vacation Bible School is welcome to attend the next planning meeting on April 19 at 7:00 pm. We will meet at Stairville United Methodist Church on Stairville Road, which is the host church for this year.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 29, during the regular Worship Service we will welcome new members to our congregation through the rite of Confirmation. Please be sure to attend this service and show your support for our youth who have shown their commitment to us by completing this important step in their Christian lives.

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Calendar Of Events

COMMUNION AND COFFEE HOUR

April 1

On Sunday, April 1, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion after which we will have our Coffee Hour. For our sharing time during the Coffee Hour Doris Yurchak will bring in her cat collection. Come and see the many feline friends Doris has collected.

EASTER SERVICES

April 8

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am
Regular Worship at 10:30 am

TWILIGHTERS

April 11

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, April 11, at 12 pm for a covered dish luncheon.

CONSISTORY MEETING

April 19

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 pm.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays

Women's Bible Study continues every Monday evening at 7:00 pm. We invite all women of our communities to come study the Word of God.

UPCOMING DATES

May 6 New Member Reception
May 19 Ham & Chicken Dinner
May 20 Sound System Dedication
May 27 Pentecost Sunday

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

March 21

The deadline for information for the May Messenger is April 19. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We are enjoying the earlier arrival of daylight savings time this year. I hope that by the time the newsletter reaches you that we are all enjoying warmer weather. I have heard some teasing about a Valentine's Day blizzard, followed by a St. Patrick's Day snowstorm and jokes about another one for Easter. Let us hope that these events don't make three of them in a row. I appreciate a good joke but that would be too much even for me.

We have some special services planned for Holy Week. Our Maundy Thursday service will begin at 7:00 P.M. It will be basically a Service of Tenebrae. Our Easter services will include a sunrise service at 7:00 A.M. followed by a continental breakfast and our traditional one at 10:30 A.M. This is such a wonderful time to culminate Lent with the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Margie will be traveling to Palmerton on April 11. She will have dinner with the Board of Directors to finalize her licensed ministry process. We will go back to the conference center on April 21 for a meeting about the National Synod in June. The conference office is planning how to familiarize the delegates and visitors to be prepared for the activities in Hartford for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. I was elected as a delegate and Margie will accompany me as a visitor. We consider it an honor to be able to attend these important meetings, services, concerts and other events.

The confirmation class will be taking a trip on April 20. We will travel with other youth from our area to Allentown. We will see the Zion UCC on Hamilton Boulevard which housed the Liberty Bell during the Revolutionary War. Then we will visit St. John's U.C.C., two blocks away to compare and contrast the architecture. We will go to Cedarcrest College, Phoebe Homes and Bethany Children's Home. It will be a busy learning experience. There will be no cost to the students because someone has offered to sponsor the financial element of the trip. The students will be confirmed on April 29.

And Confirmands, don't forget your homework!

Peace,

Pastor Ted

Thank You

In gratitude for our Christmas Offering, we received letters from Phoebe-Devitt Homes and Bethany Children's Home. Please read the letters which are on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

We received a thank you note from the Mountain Top Free Medical Clinic which is housed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for our gift in response to their donation request. The clinic is staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses, but our help is needed to provide diagnostic testing, medications and treatment for the patients of the clinic. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our Condolences

We offer our sympathy to Ruth Baker and her family on the passing of her sister, Betty Brunson. Our prayers and concerns go out to you and your family in your time of mourning.

Martha Stec, mother-in-law of Doris Stec, passed away on March 6, 2007. Our thoughts and sympathy are with her in her time of sorrow.

Our sympathies go out to Gertrude Ostrowski, Shauna (Florek) Smith and Marylynn Supkowski at the passing of Claude Hashagen, Jr. Claude was Gert's son-in-law, Shauna's stepfather and Marylynn's brother. We offer you our prayers to help ease your grief.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

NEW SOUND SYSTEM

As everyone knows, we had a lot of places in our church where you could not hear the service very well. With a lot of work and precious memories of members who have gone home to the Lord, we now have a new sound system in our church. Praise the Lord. We hope everyone can appreciate hearing the service much better. The system includes new speakers in the sanctuary and new microphones on the lectern and pulpit. There is also a cordless microphone that can be used anywhere in the building, including the Fellowship Hall. If you attended any of the recent coffee hours and heard members tell of their crèches and Hilda's cardinals, it worked very well in broadcasting to the sanctuary. It can also be used by Denise when the children are involved in the plays she has for us. There is also a new lapel microphone for the pastor; our old one was getting tired. There are also speakers in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. The people in the kitchen can worship as they prepare coffee hours and things of that nature. The system is designed to be zoned to whichever part of the building we want to use it. There is also a split track

CD player that Denise can use for the Sonrise Singers and can be played throughout the whole system. The system was designed and installed by Don Halchak with the help of running wires and hanging speakers by Wayne Mast and Cliff Readler. Much thanks and appreciation to these guys, they were a lot of help.

This system was installed in memory of Myrtle Rinehimer, Franklin Fine, Bea Moyer, Martha Leindecker, Loretta Eigenbrod and Lynn Hildebrand. This is all top-of-the-line equipment and should bring us many years of quality service as we spread the word of God's love for everyone. The dedication has been scheduled for May 20 during our Worship Service.

EASTER FLOWERS SIGN-UP - The last day to order Easter Flowers is Palm Sunday. There are sign-up sheets on the tables in the narthex and next to the Fellowship Hall doorway for lilies and yellow tulips for Easter. Please carefully indicate whether the flowers will be in honor of or in memory of someone. You may pay Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Rinehimer.

SPECIAL EASTER DECORATION - A stone depiction of the tomb of Jesus will be displayed in our Sanctuary from Palm Sunday through Easter. It is owned by Doris Yurchak who offered to share it with us during this special season. There is a stone which covers the entrance of the tomb and then is rolled back on Easter to reveal the risen Christ. This is a beautiful portrayal of the promise of Easter.

TWILIGHTERS - The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, April 12, for a covered dish lunch at 12:00 noon.

Loving God Back

We would like to thank everyone who planned, participated and responded to the Loving God Back stewardship campaign. This was a new experience for most of us here although many churches regularly use stewardship campaigns to help manage their finances and discover their volunteers' abilities. Thirty-three commitment cards were returned to date, representing approximately a quarter of our membership. From those commitment cards, we can count on \$42,943 definitely to be received this year. Added to that amount is the offering of those who may not have felt comfortable pledging an exact amount. We are hoping that more cards will be received in the coming weeks. If we get an additional half of our membership to pledge as the quarter we currently have, we will exceed our budget goal. Three quarters of our membership pledging \$42,943 each would equal \$128,829, which is almost \$22,000 beyond our budgeted goal. We are very thankful for the dedication of our members and their commitment to Loving God Back.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

MMI President's List and Honor Roll: Mande Kemmerer.

Mere Martin places in Math Counts competition. The Crestwood Middle School competed at Penn State University on February 10. The team place fifth out of 13 teams representing Luzerne County. Mere received a trophy for having the highest alternate score of the competition. Math really does count in so many areas of life. So congratulations to Mere and her fellow team members for their efforts.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

YOUTH BLOG ON OUR WEBSITE

Everyone can View

Only approved logins can Use

The new addition to our website is a blog for the youth. This is similar to a chat room, but Camille has designed it to be safe. Only the youth from our church who have provided her with a user name and password will have access to it. No one else will be able to post anything on the blog – not even an adult if you don't have proper access from Camille. It was created so our youth would have a place they could chat with each other online but be safer than those "open to everyone" chat rooms. We have already started the conversation with a question about the bowling outing. Plus, there is a question on the blog regarding a Biblical event. The first person answering the question correctly, with the Scripture identified, will win a candy bar of their choice. So, check out the site and start researching your Bible.

30 HOUR FAMINE

FANTASTIC JOB! I'd like to thank everyone that participated, not just the kids that showed up but the ones that stayed home and stuck to their commitment. Thanks to the parents that braved the storm and brought the kids, the people who sponsored the participants, and the adults who chaperoned the event. We needed to postpone the Mr. Z's shopping trip because of the weather, but we will get that portion of our commitment done, too. Although the total donations have not been completed yet, we can all be very proud. Our church continues to raise great kids generation after generation. Thank you, Marc Davis

ATTENTION YOUTH!!

Youth Group has done so much. You've had fun and done God's work. What ideas do you have for the group? Do you want to do more? Was there anything we could have done better?

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY APRIL 7!!!!

The party begins at 10:00 am and ends at 12 noon. As usual, we will be painting toast and hunting for eggs. All children and youth need to bring six candy eggs which we will hide for the egg hunt and a basket or bag to collect them.

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

We received a letter from Geisinger Health System regarding Mission Cataract USA. This program helps people who have no insurance or other means of paying for needed cataract surgery. To **make an appointment** for a free screening, call (570) 271-6531 and press #4. The screenings will be held on April 28 and for those who qualify, surgery will be performed two weeks later on May 12.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2007

April 1 – Palm Sunday

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Forrest and Dillon Atkinson

April 5 – Maundy Thursday

Organist: Wayne Mast
Greeters: Connie Davis and Connie Myers

April 8 – Easter Sunday

Early Service:
Organist: Orceil Bloss
Greeters: Gene and Janice Broyan

Regular Service:

Organist: Don Eroh
Greeters: Jayne and Rich Rotski

April 15 – Second Sunday of Easter

Organist: Harriet Seward
Greeters: Matt Price and Gary Eigenbrod

April 22 – Third Sunday of Easter

Organist: Harriet Seward
Greeters: Alecia Myers and Sami Dauber

April 29 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Confirmation

Organist: Wayne Mast
Greeters: Eileen Bonczek and Carol Duffy

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Marc & Connie Davis
John, Linda, & J.P. Jankowski

APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

1 Allen Dennis	6 Jim Stewart	19 Larry Arnold
1 Jayne Rotski	6 Priscilla Farrell	19 Keirsten Whitmire
3 John Richmond	7 Peter Sakowski	20 Elizabeth Dickson
3 Clifford Readler	8 Chelsea Myers	22 Hilbert Eigenbrod
3 Jana Barnes	8 Doris Yurchak	23 Lisa Kemmerer
4 Amber DeLuca	8 Nicole Johnson	24 Kathy Rinehimer
4 Derek Stein	12 Sara Silvetti	25 Joy Spangler
4 Holly Henry	13 Jeffrey Brand	26 Dorothy Fine
4 Wayne Mast	15 Amanda Wallick	27 Stacy Prelewicz
5 William Hoch	15 Barbara DeLuca	28 Dean Kline
5 Shane Oldershaw	16 Rosanne Kamat	28 Clyde Heller
5 Betty Baker	16 Priscilla Farrell	28 Lorie DiMaria
	18 Carissa Hoch	

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 4, 1981	Rick and Tammy Evans
April 14, 1979	Randy and Pat Grosz
April 20, 2002	Kevin and Debbie Price
April 21, 1990	David and Donna Myers
April 26, 1952	Donald and Mary Eroh
April 27, 1968	Jack and Bonnie Shafer
April 30, 1988	Duane and Denise Stein