

# The Beacon Messenger

April 2018

A publication of Bethesda Lutheran Church and East Church Congregational

## **In the Sure and Certain Hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life**

We hear these wonderful words at the graveside of each committal service. Although we are saddened by the loss of a loved one, our sure and certain hope in the resurrection lifts us in our grief and sustains us on our journey through life.

Easter is more than a day or even a season of seven weeks, Easter is a life-changing event. Things will never be the same again after Easter; life wins, death is defeated. Jesus is alive again and we will be too. Because of God's great love for us Jesus took on our sin and in exchange gave us his righteousness. Through Jesus' death and resurrection God destroyed the power of death. Jesus' resurrection changed everything. We no longer look at death as an end but as a doorway into eternal life. Where we once saw despair we now see hope.

We were powerless before sin and death. Through Jesus God entered into these human conditions triumphing over both. The greatest gift we will ever receive is our baptism. Baptized into Jesus death and resurrection we receive forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. We will never be the same again.

*"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* (Romans 6:3-5)

God not only brings us through death, but through life. We have a living Lord to help us through anything and everything that comes our way in life. Our journey does not end at the cross, it ends at the empty tomb.

I walk every day to feel good and to stay healthy. My goal is 10,000 steps a day which my phone counts for me. When I first started this several years ago when I reached my step goal my phone went, "TA DA" and I relished meeting my goal and the especially my "TA DA" reward.

What Jesus accomplished is so much more than meeting a goal; he conquered sin and death, they no longer have power over us. I wonder about that moment when God raised Jesus from death. As the risen Christ stood before them did the angels all exclaimed, "TA DA" to celebrate all that he accomplished. Or, perhaps it was the loudest "Alleluia!" ever spoken. Its sound is still echoing through the universe.

Hearing this good news we are called to go out and "Easterize" the world, share the good news with others. Death does not have a grip on you, God holds you close as a beloved child. And nothing in all of creation can ever separate you from God's love. Now that is news worth sharing. When you face difficult times share the hope that you carry within you with others. You do not need a theology degree or fancy words, just share the sure and certain hope of the resurrection; because Jesus lives, we too shall live. We belong to God forever!

*"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."* (Colossians 3:1) This new life in Christ opens our eyes to see our neighbors in need. It opens our heart to love all of God's children. It opens our ears to hear the truth, both the truth of God's great love and the truth of our sinful world. Instead of local public opinion shaping our reactions and responses we lift ourselves to see and hear what Jesus saw. We are now Jesus' hands and feet to help where we can, we share his words of love and acceptance. Stand firm in this sure and certain hope; you can depend on it. *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24)

Your fellow disciple of Christ,

*Pastor Lauren*

## **Thank You!!!!**

- Jay Cleaveland for mopping up endless water from the church basement after heavy rain storms and with the help of Mike Dufault finding the source of the leak in the storage room.
- Marybeth Lewison for organizing the Personal Care Kits project and for everyone who contributed items and help to make up the kits.

## **Social Ministry**

### **Heifer Project**

We reached our goal of \$150 and Pastor Lauren read to the children in Make Way For Ducklings and shared the Heifer program with the children. They are busy raising money and a parent will match what the children raise.

### **Personal Care Kits for areas hit by disasters**

Many people around the world don't have the basic materials to wash and keep germs away following a natural disaster. Basic hygiene helps us stay healthy. On Saturday, March 17 we assembled 41 personal care kits.

<b>Social Ministry</b>
<b>What we just completed</b>
Heifer Fund goal \$150 Health Kits 41
<b>What we are doing now</b>
Easter Dinner bags
<b>What is coming next</b>
Quilts will be shipped in May

### **Social ministry meeting**

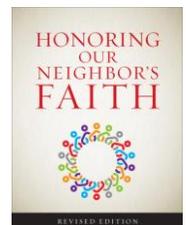
The social ministry team meets once a year to plan what ministries we will support in the next year. Our meeting is on Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

### **Save the Date – Dinner Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm.**

Our favorite caterer is back and we are pleased to host another dinner. Invite your friends, fill a table, enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship. Tickets will be available in the near future, but for now, save the date.

### **Adult Education Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith**

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we will return to "Honoring our Neighbor's Faith" a comparison of world and other Christian religions to Lutheranism. **Join us Sunday's at 9am behind the organ. Bring your coffee and perhaps a friend.**



### **Since you asked...please explain standing for the gospel**

When I was a child I was taught to stand when an important person or an elder entered the room. It is a way of showing respect. When we read the gospel, Jesus enters the room and we stand, as we are able, in respect for our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. When we read the gospel each Sunday we are not only reading about what Jesus said and did, we are acknowledging the presence of Christ and hearing Jesus speak to us anew. As the book is carried into the midst of the congregation it is appropriate to turn and follow the book facing the reader during the reading of the Holy Gospel. The reader then lifts the book and returns to the pulpit. It is appropriate to continue standing and turn to face the book as it is carried to the pulpit. When the book is placed on the pulpit we take our seats.

### **Council officers elected**

The new council began their work in February. Their first order of business was to elect officers. Sue Mariotti was re-elected as president, Shirley Flanders as Vice President and Judy Johnson as secretary. Mary Hunter continues as treasurer. Many thanks to each of them for their leadership and service.

### **Catching up after winter**

This winter has been hard on all of us. The extreme cold increased our electric and gas bills and made it difficult for some and nearly impossible for others, to go out in the extreme cold. The snow kept many indoors as well and after the snow ice was a concern for those at risk of falling. Many people had the flu and it lasted for many weeks along with a powerful virus that affected many. All this contributed toward a decreased attendance on Sundays and mid-week during Lent. However the church expenses continue whether people are able to attend or not. Our giving for the first two months of the year is well behind budget. If you are behind and are able to get caught up we would be most grateful. The church is there for all regardless of your giving, but we too have to pay our bills.

### **Directory Addendum**

New information is underlined.

**Pastor Bergstrom** has died, please remove him.

**Kristen Sorel**

Delete home phone, add cell phone 413-348-8570

### **ASSISTING SCHEDULE April 2018**

	<b>April 1</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>April 22</b>	<b>April 29</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Mary Hunter	Karen Davies	Mary Hunter	Tom Davis	Karen Davies
<b>Reader</b>	Karen Davies	Michael Dufault	Karen Davies	Eleanor Sacheli	Jay Cleaveland
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Karen Davies	Shirley Flanders	Tom Davis	Mary Hunter	Carmen Melecio
	Judy Johnson	Carol Haglund	Diane Housman	Judy Johnson	Eleanor Sacheli
<b>Nursery</b>	Mary Holmquist	Sandy Carnevale	Linda Ewell	Pauline Duffney	Becky Lewison
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Easter Breakfast	Jay Cleaveland	Carol Haglund	Marybeth Lewison	Pauline Duffney



### **Remembering in Prayer**

We all share in the ministry of intercessory prayer. We are called individually to pray each day and as a gathered community of faith in worship. If you have someone we need to include in our prayers please notify our church office.

May God be with them and bless them with wholeness and health.

# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9am Easter Brunch 10am Bethesda & East Worship 10am Church of Jesus Christ (Comm) 10:30pm Divine Faith (Pearson) 12pm Divine Faith (nave)	<b>2</b> 5pm Basketball	<b>3</b> 10a class (Pearson) 4pm Acts (Comm) 5pm Basketball 6pm Divine Faith 7:30pm NA Mtg (Comm)	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Church of Jesus Christ (Comm Rm) 7pm Medieval (gym) 7pm Power Tabernacle	<b>5</b> 10am Class (Pearson) 5pm Basketball 7pm AA Mtg (Comm) 7pm Nar-anon Mtg (Pearson Rm)	<b>6</b> 6pm Clutterers Anon (South) 6:30pm New Jerusalem	<b>7</b> 9am Quilting 9am first communion 12p New Jerusalem 2pm outside event
<b>8</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Bethesda & East Worship 10am Church of Jesus Christ (Comm) 10:30pm Divine Faith (Pearson) 12pm Divine Faith (nave)	<b>9</b> 5pm Basketball	<b>10</b> 10a class (Pearson) 4pm Acts (Comm) 5pm Basketball 6pm Divine Faith 7:30pm NA Mtg (Comm)	<b>11</b> 6pm NA convention planning (Pearson) 6:30pm Church of Jesus Christ (Comm Rm) 7pm Medieval (gym) 7pm Power Tabernacle	<b>12</b> 10am class (Pearson) 5pm Basketball 7pm AA Mtg (Comm) 7pm Nar-anon Mtg (Pearson Rm)	<b>13</b> 6pm Clutterers Anon (South) 6:30pm New Jerusalem	<b>14</b> 10a New Jerusalem 2pm outside event (gym) 6pm Divine Faith
<b>15</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Bethesda & East Worship 10am Church of Jesus Christ (Comm) 10:30pm Divine Faith (Pearson) 12pm Divine Faith (nave)	<b>16</b> 5pm Basketball	<b>17</b> 10a class (Pearson) 5pm Basketball 6pm Divine Faith (nave) 7:30pm NA Mtg (Comm Rm)	<b>18</b> 6pm Bethesda Council (Pearson) 6:30pm Church of Jesus Christ (Comm Rm) 7pm Medieval (gym) 7pm Power Tabernacle	<b>19</b> 10am class (Pearson) 5pm Basketball 7pm AA Mtg (Comm) 7pm Nar-anon Mtg (Pearson Rm)	<b>20 Newsletter items due</b> 6pm Clutterers Anon (South) 6:30pm New Jerusalem	<b>21</b> 9am Scrapbooking 12p New Jerusalem
<b>22</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Bethesda & East Worship 10am Church of Jesus Christ (Comm) 10:30pm Divine Faith (Pearson) 12pm Divine Faith (nave)	<b>23</b> 5pm Basketball	<b>24</b> 10a class (Pearson) 4pm Acts (Comm) 5pm Basketball 6pm Divine Faith (nave) 7:30pm NA Mtg (Comm Rm)	<b>25</b> 4pm Campaign Non-violence 6pm Social Ministry 6:30pm Church of Jesus Christ (Comm Rm) 7pm Medieval (gym) 7pm Power Tabernacle	<b>26</b> 10am class (Pearson) 5pm Basketball 7pm AA Mtg (Gym) 7pm Nar-anon Mtg (Pearson Rm)	<b>27</b> 6pm Clutterers Anon (South) 6:30pm New Jerusalem	<b>28</b> 10am New Jerusalem 6pm Divine Faith
<b>29</b> 9am Adult Education 10am Bethesda & East Worship 10am Church of Jesus Christ (Comm) 10:30pm Divine Faith (Pearson) 12pm Divine Faith (nave)	<b>30</b>					