



**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRINDSTONE HILL**

4856 Wayne Road Phone: 717-267-2266
Chambersburg, PA 17202-9355 Fax: 717-267-7030
E-Mail Address: info@solomonslutheran.org

April 2021

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Solomon's Says

A Newsletter from the Faith Community of Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

Pastoral Letter – Pastor Bill Nienstedt

[Jesus said], Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:12:24

As we mark the one-year anniversary of the pandemic this March, we remember the over 500,000 people who have been lost to the virus and the millions of families who have been affected in our country alone. Although we will never forget this tragic year, as Christians we take heart in the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

Of course, suffering and pain have been with us from the time of the fall in the Garden of Eden. Yet, we tend to have short memories and forget the struggles our forebears endured throughout the ages.

In 1904, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Little Germany district of Manhattan chartered the *General Slocum* excursion boat for their 17th annual picnic on Long Island. Over 1,400 passengers, mostly women and children, were on board when the ship caught fire. Tragically, the lifeboats were inaccessible, and the life preservers were useless. An estimated 1,021 people burned to death or drowned in the East River. Although this disaster led to new safety regulations, the loss permanently impacted the German immigrant community in Lower Manhattan.

Just seven years later, on March 25, 1911—110 years ago—a fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Manhattan caused the deaths of 146 garment workers—123 women and girls and 23 men. The factory employed about 500 workers, mostly young Italian and Jewish women and girls. This was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of the city, and one of the deadliest in U.S. history. Again, it took a disaster to enact needed fire safety regulations in factories and workplaces.

A little more than a year later, the RMS Titanic hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic and more than 1,500 people perished.

These tragedies are examples which show how fragile and precious life is. Every day is a blessing and a gift from God. None of us know how long we will live or what tomorrow will bring. We are temporary residents in this world that God has made. But, as Christians, we rest assured in the sure confidence of the Easter promise of eternal life. Death does not have the final word! Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Paul writes in Romans, *“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 his 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.”* (Romans 6:3,4)

As baptized people of God, we proclaim the good news of the gospel every day in our words and deeds. As we look forward to better days ahead, remember that you are a reflection of Jesus Christ to others. Consider ways you can reach out to those who are suffering, challenged by poverty, injustice, disaster, or fractured relationships. Even small gestures can go a long way in improving the lives of others.

As we journey through this Easter season, I pray God’s richest blessings on you and your family, and I invite you to remember the regeneration of spring and your new life in Christ Jesus. I hope to see many of you in church as we pray for an end to the pandemic in the coming weeks and months.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Pastor Bill

Special Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday is April 1st
Worship at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion and
Stripping of the Altar



Easter Sunday, April 4
Sunrise Service at the New Franklin Ruritan, 6:30 a.m.
Festival Holy Communion Service at Solomon’s, 10:15 a.m.

News from Social Ministry

Social Ministry: Shawl Ministry - Because there is not the usual crowd attending church, communications between members is not there. So please let me know if you or a member of the congregation who is ill and would like a prayer shawl. Social Ministry really has no other way to know who would appreciate one. Edna Harris bernedna@centurylink.net or 717-352-4392.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. See Pastor Bill if you would like to give a monetary donation.

Heads-up: During the month of April we will have our semiannual paper drive for Maranatha Food Bank. Products such as toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, etc. are greatly appreciated.



Gospel Readings for APRIL:

Maundy Thursday, April 1st – John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 2nd – John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday, April 4th—Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 11th—John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 18th—Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 25th—John 10:11-18

Welcome New Members

Welcome New Members

by Kristy Nienstedt

Yet another casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic was our “New Member Sunday” 2020. It had been planned that we would welcome Rosalie Hoffman and Carol Locke during morning worship but instead they were welcomed as new members by acclamation of the church council.

Since opportunities for fellowship have been greatly limited this past year, you may not have been able to meet them so read on to learn a little more about Rosalie. I will profile Carol in the May newsletter.

Rosalie Hoffman was born in Chicago, Illinois, but considers Pennsylvania her home having grown up in Wilmore, PA. She came to Chambersburg seeking employment after her high school graduation in 1956. Rosalie soon landed a job at the Stanley Company. When she eventually met her future husband John, the move became a permanent one.

Rosalie and John were married at Second Lutheran Church in downtown Chambersburg. John’s ancestors had been attending the church since the late 1800’s so they made it their church home too. When the time came to start a family, the couple moved to New Franklin where they raised their two daughters, Cheryl and Cynthia. Sadly, John passed away ten years ago.

Rosalie remained a member of Second Lutheran Church until its closing in 2019. Nancy Deardorff invited Rosalie to visit Solomon’s upon hearing she was looking for a new church home.

Rosalie enjoys being outdoors and especially loves gardening. She is also an animal lover and is hoping to adopt a new kitten soon. Once she is fully vaccinated, Rosalie looks forward to returning to in person worship. I invite you to reach out to Rosalie and introduce yourself when she does!



Friendly Reminders

If you would like to sign up for **altar flowers** for a Sunday during the month of May, the 23rd is still available. Please email or call Kimberly (office@solomonslutheran.org / 717 267-2266).

Have an item for the May newsletter?! Deadline is **April 19th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.

Opportunities for Fun and Fellowship



A drive thru Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 11:00 a.m.
in the Church Woods on April 3, 2021.

Remembering Our Homebound Members

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, Christians everywhere will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even though our church will be open for worship this Easter, some of our members will still not be able to attend. We can help make them feel connected to our Solomon's community at this special time by remembering them at Easter with a greeting card or friendly note. Presently our homebound members include the following:

Harold "Bud" Armstrong
Connie Bikle
Jere Brehm
William & Jane Brindle
Ginny Detwiler
Esther Gift
Genny Grant
Bonnie Hudson
Dot Hunter
Jean Jackson

Frances Kramer
Carol Locke
Nancy Marshall
Becky McCleary
LaRue McKenzie
Marjorie McMullin
Gertie Reichard
Linda Russ
Clayton Schwartz
Ina Shreiner
Rose Wishard





Celebrating a Birthday in April....

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|------------------|
| 4/1 | Mike Schultz | 4/21 | Glenn Wildeson |
| 4/2 | Peggi Norman | 4/21 | Bonney Coldsmith |
| 4/8 | Luke Mentzer | 4/23 | Phil Johnson |
| 4/11 | Esther Gift | 4/26 | Todd Schultz |
| 4/13 | Katy Nienstedt | 4/27 | Janice McEntire |
| 4/15 | Alan Johnson | 4/27 | Hailey Gross |
| 4/16 | LaRue McKenzie | 4/29 | Taylor Garcia |
| 4/18 | Katie Garcia | 4/29 | Ilona Laney |



Happy Anniversary

Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in April...

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 4/26 | Denny & Tammy Helman |
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Join us for Worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

OR check us out on *YouTube!*

Links are listed on our website.

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Pastor Bill Nienstedt

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)