



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

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April 2025

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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 Michael Allwein

Dear members and friends of Solomons Lutheran faith community!

25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. ³³Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. [Matt. 6]

The best things are the most difficult things to be talked about! The second best things are most often misunderstood. So we spend most of our time talking about the third best things: sports and the weather. One of the most arduous areas of spirituality is that the best things are most often the most difficult things to talk about. I don't want to avoid the difficult conversations, especially in this, my final newsletter article as I finish out my interim time here at Solomons Lutheran.

I/we have spent this past year exploring possibilities as to how Solomons Lutheran can continue to be a viable faith community in this New Franklin area. We have explored various possibilities, and where we are at this time is exploring a shared pastor between Solomons UCC and ourselves. In some ways we have done pretty well these past few years with interim pastors (Pastor Barbara and me), but interim pastors will not sustain any congregation in the long run. Working together with a vision for the future is one of the main reasons a called pastor willing to commit to a mutual working together into the future is necessary for sustainability.

I am very aware that no pastor is perfect. No one congregation fulfills every need. No congregation program is totally flawless. But I do know that when individuals are looking for a new church to attend

these day they go to the church's webpage. Surely, they want to attend worship, but what seekers also look for is 'how is the church involved in the community?'

When I look at the outreach of the UCC church what I see immediately (and I know there is more) is the community garden, their desire for solar panels aiding the environment, their reaching out to children with physical handicaps in the community and the Power-Pak program. None of those things happened without first a vision to make them happen. An important question for us to wrestle with is, "do we want to get involved in such programs?"

Here, we are doing many things to support the community. You can name them better than I, but I think of the outreach coming from the Fellowship Center, our involvement in the Power-Pak Program, our involvement in the Bible sharing, Lutheran World Relief, Luther Ridge, Antietam Battlefield, etc.), I wish we could be more demonstrative with getting the word out as to how we are involved in the community.

As I said at the congregation meeting in February, I believe we are at a crossroads. I want us to "*strive first for the kingdom of God*" in all we do, but I also do not want to allow worrying that "this may not be a perfect fit" cloud our decision-making.

Even after April, at this point I have been given permission from the bishop's office to continue in this work between the two Solomons congregation. There are still some important unanswered questions, but I am sure that if this is God pointing us in this direction, God will also help us prayerfully deal with our own uncertainties as well as pointing a way forward for us. Please be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit!

This is my prayer going forward!

**When you no longer know how to be,
may the Father take you on your deeper journey.
When you no longer know what to do,
may the Spirit reveal to you your fitting task.
When all feels lost or foreign,
may you know your home in Christ.
On the path that is before you,
may you have companions for the journey,
may you find Christ in the questions,
and may you know the love and blessing of God.**

Blessings & love,
~*pastor mike*



Gospel Readings for APRIL:

Sunday, April 6 - John 12:1-8
Sunday, April 13 - Luke 19:28-40
Sunday, April 20 - Acts 10:34-43
Sunday, April 27 - John 20:19-31

Special Worship Opportunities

Music Notes for Holy Week

The choir has been very hard at work learning new music for Holy Week and Easter, even adding extra time to their rehearsals on Thursday evenings. We are hopeful you will take the time and join us for worship and reflect on the meaning of their beautiful anthems and the scriptures during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday's anthem, "Think of Me and Remember" is very fitting for communion and Holy Week. Jesus reminds us of his love when he says, "My life I give, so you might live." Good Friday's anthem, "Where are the Shepherds Now?" reminds us that just a few short months ago, we saw the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels at the manger, and now Jesus hangs on a cross...where are the twelve he chose, where are the faithful, where are the grateful? As he hangs alone on the cross, he utters the words, "Father forgive them," a very powerful text for Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, our alleluias return to worship as we celebrate the resurrection! Join all of us during this Holy Week/Easter journey.



Worship Schedule

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Palm Sunday, April 13 | 10:15 AM |
| Maundy Thursday, April 17 | 7:00 PM with stripping of the altar |
| Good Friday, April 18 | 7:00 PM Tenebrae service |
| Easter Sunday, April 20 | Special music begins at 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM |



Lenten **Soup Supper**

Solomon's Lutheran Church
Wednesday, April 9th
5:30pm
Worship to follow at 7:00pm



Qigong/Tai Chi Class will be starting **April 23rd, Wednesdays at 7:00pm** at Solomon's Church main Sunday school room. This is an open class. If you can walk independently, you will survive the class. All exercises are mild. For more information contact: Colleen Johnson.

Relay For Life 2025 - 2025 Relay for Life:

The event will take place at Greencastle/Antrim High School on Friday, May 16th from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Solomon's is signed up as a team again this year and if you like to join the team, please go to the website to join our team or call 1-800-227-2345. Sam & Becky will also be collecting the Luminary forms and will need the form and donation by Sunday, May 11th. You will find the luminary attached to this newsletter. Please reach out to Becky Mull if you have any questions and we hope to see you on the track! Thank you for your continued support.





Ordination

Luncheon

Sunday, April 6
following the church service

In honor of Pastor Mike's
45 years of Ordination

Solomon's Serving Schedule - April

| | 4/6/25 | 4/13/25 | 4/20/25 | 4/27/25 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Head Usher | Ron Coldsmith | | | |
| Lector | Kathy Bowen | Wayne Dale | TBD | TBD |
| Acolyte | Jaxon Alosi | Wayne Dale | TBD | Norm Kuykendall |
| Communion Set-Up | Ilona & Jerry Laney | Ilona & Jerry Laney | Ilona & Jerry Laney | Ilona & Jerry Laney |
| Communion Clean-Up | Ilona & Jerry Laney | Ilona & Jerry Laney | Ilona & Jerry Laney | Ilona & Jerry Laney |
| Communion Assists | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Communion Bread | Ilona Laney | | | |
| Securing Offering | Tana Vance & Edna Harris | | | |
| Coffee Fellowship | Tana Vance & Marjorie Dale | | | |

April 17 Maundy Thursday

Acolyte - Aaron Shreiner

Lector - TBD

Communion Bread/Set-up/Clean-up – Ilona & Jerry Laney

April 18 Good Friday

Acolyte - Aaron Shreiner

Lector - Wayne Dale, Kathy Bowen, Rich McEntire

Communion Bread/Set-up/Clean-up - Ilona & Jerry Laney

Remembering Our Homebound Members

It's not too late to send an Easter Card!

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 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:

Betty Amt
 William Brindle
 Ginny Detwiler
 Genny Grant
 Frances Kramer

Joe Mock
 Carol Locke
 Marjorie McMullin
 Ina Shreiner
 Martin Wenger



News from Social Ministry



Maranatha Paper Drive: During the month of April, we will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed are toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc.

Please place the items in the totes under the coat rack, next to the mailboxes.

News from Christian Ed



Christian Education Spring Fun Event is scheduled for April 12, 2025. We will meet at Nellie Fox Bowling at 2:30 p.m. We will bowl until 5:00 p.m. and then go to Vinnie's for pizza and drink. Please sign up (sign-up sheet is in the Sunday School room) so we know how many people to plan for. All are welcome!

Solomon's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19

11:00 AM

Solomon's Picnic Woods

**All Children
ages 12 and under
are invited!**



Friendly Reminders

If you would like to sign up for **altar flowers**, there are a lot of dates available for the summer months.

Have an item for the May newsletter?! Deadline is April 21. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org



Tuesday, April 15, 2025
6:30pm
Solomon's Fellowship Center

Congregational Dinner

Menu

**Stromboli, Salad, Chips, Applesauce, Cookies,
and Ice Cream Sundaes**



Adults \$7.50
Children (5-11) \$4.00
Under 5 Free



Celebrating a Birthday in April....

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|------------------|
| 4/1 | Mike Schultz | 4/21 | Bonney Coldsmith |
| 4/8 | Luke Mentzer | 4/23 | Phil Johnson |
| 4/14 | Lois Allwein | 4/26 | Todd Schultz |
| 4/16 | LaRue McKenzie | 4/27 | Janice McEntire |
| 4/18 | Katie Garcia | 4/27 | Hailey Gross |
| 4/21 | Glenn Wildeson | 4/29 | Taylor Garcia |
| | | 4/29 | Ilona Laney |



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in April...

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 4/26 | Denny & Tammy Helman |
|------|----------------------|

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4856 WAYNE ROAD
CHAMBERSBURG PA 17202-9355

Join us Sunday mornings!

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

OR check us out on *YouTube!*
Links are listed on our website.

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Pastor Michael Allwein

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."

Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)