

HILLTOP HERALD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH www.churchonthehilltop.org LINGLESTOWN, PA

APRIL 2018

The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day-April 1 8:30 & 10:30AM

- ◆ 8:30AM—Abbreviated service of Holy Communion (Choirs will not be present).
- ◆ 10:30AM—This is the primary service of the day. Choirs will participate, and a supervised Nursery will be provided.

Our Sincere Thanks

To the many persons who assisted with worship during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, from our choirs (Handbell, Vocal and Tone Chimes), to acolytes; from altar helpers to readers; from assisting ministers to ushers and greeters, and on and on. We are truly blessed with so many persons who have made worship ministry a part of their personal ministry. A special word of thanks is due our Director of Music, Sue Daniels, for her dedication and service. And, to Carl Elser, Herb Johns and the rest of our "kitchen crew" for the delicious Lenten soup suppers. Many, many thanks to all!

FROM THE PASTOR...

As our Lenten journey has come to an end and we find ourselves in the midst of the Easter Season, I am hopeful because of our journey. I am hopeful because there is new life in resurrection. Soon the warm weather will assist the new growth to appear in our midst. The new growth that appears means new life when we see the buds on the trees or the flowers that are beginning to push their way to the surface. It is a fresh look and a fresh beginning that is new as compared to the cold of winter.

In our gospel according to St. Mark, that is our gospel for Easter

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Sunday this year, we read, "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him." But wait, he was not there for the women to anoint his body. The angel at the tomb tells the women "He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him." The dark three days in the tomb have come to an end and there is life anew; Jesus is not there but is raised.

Spring is the time of newness all around us as the warmth of the sun brings us out of our winter hibernation. May we too find newness in our lives as we enjoy the warmth of the sun but also the warmth of the love given to us in the resurrection. What we do with this newness matters. It matters because we are called to live out our lives as the baptized children of God.

I keep thinking about the point that was brought to my attention almost a year ago or so that we are a neighborhood church. I keep referencing this and it has come to me again as I sat in a Dean's meeting at the Synod Office. There was a statistic that was presented because of the conversation about a congregation in our Synod who is in a renewal process. The statistic was that Lutherans on average invite someone to come to church every 23 years. I cannot imagine this statistic is accurate but I have heard it before. This particular congregation that is in renewal has challenged themselves that every member will invite someone to come to church every quarter of the year. Not every 23 years but every quarter.

It seems to be a very simple thing for someone to invite somebody to church. Maybe we need to consider the idea of inviting someone to church at least every quarter, too.

We have had some new life in our midst with people coming and

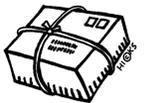
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worshipping with us and seeking membership. I would say that most of them came because of someone expressing some interest to them about our church. We will be having several baptisms coming in the next few months, too. That is new life as well. It's important for us to remember that Jesus invites us to go into the world to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Maybe it's time for us to go as our Lord commands us. Maybe it's time for us to go and invite someone to join us in worship. You see Jesus is risen alleluia and it is spring time and new life is all around. So I say "thanks be to God." Pastor Kerns

Lenten Offering Boxes

Just a reminder if you haven't returned your Lenten boxes: you can place them in the offering plate on any Sunday or bring them to the office.

Care Packages for our College Students and Military



The Fellowship Team will assemble care packages on Sunday, April 8, to arrive just in time to help ease our college students through finals and to brighten a serviceman's day. If you are interested in making a donation for the boxes, there is a sign-up sheet in the Great Room. In addition to monetary donations to help defray shipping costs, we will need provisions for 20 boxes, specifically homemade cookies, snack-size bags of chips, pretzels or crackers, candy, applesauce or pudding. We will also be sending our personal greetings to the students & servicemen, so please be sure to write ...*Continued on page 4*

Hilltop Herald
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U.S. Postage
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Return Service Requested

Easter Day Services, Apr 1
8:30AM-Abbreviated Service
10:30AM-Primary Service

Care Packages, Apr 8

Fellowship Breakfast, Apr 15

Youth Happenings —

Christ Lutheran Youth (Grades 7-12)

- ◆ April 6-8 - Spring Retreat, 6:30PM @ church
- ◆ April 22 - Meeting, 6-8:30PM

Welcome to our Newest Member!

Robert “Bob” Large was received “back into the membership” of our congregation by *Reaffirmation of Faith*. Please greet him and welcome him to the Lord’s Family!

Care Packages ...Continued from page 1

a friendly hello or short message. Many thanks for your support. Any questions, please contact Heather Wevodau at wevod2@hotmail.com.

A Word of Thanks . . .

- ◆ “Thanks to my church family, and everyone who sent cards, and made phone calls to me after my surgery. Thanks for keeping my spirits up during my recovery.
Cathi Leigh McAdams”
- ◆ “Christ Lutheran Church, thanks so much for your recent donation to the food pantry. Your contribution is sure to be appreciated by those we serve.
Deb McDowell for Grantville Area Food Pantry”
- ◆ “Christ Lutheran Church, thank you for your donation of \$464 last year. We appreciate that you thought about us in your time of giving. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to serve

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those in need in our community. Sincerely, Karen Keaton, Operation Team Member, GAFF”

After-Five Group

We will meet at noon on April 4 at Panera Bread on Jonestown Road. No reservations needed; just show up!

AND. . .

The After-Five Group will meet again on April 18 at 7:00PM in the Great Room. Please join us as Wendy Plowman will present "Container Gardening by the Kitchen Door." Come join us for the presentation and herbal tea tasting. Please let me know if you can attend, but it is not mandatory. Bev Stickley, 717-545-3661 or bazstick@comcast.net.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Jamie (nee McAdams) and Dale Browning on the birth of their son, Connor William on March 6. The vital statistics? 7 pounds., 2 ounces, and 19.4 inches in length. His proud and very excited grandmother is Cathi Leigh McAdams.



Allison and Kurt Cranford on the birth of their daughter, Harriett on March 6. The vital statistics? 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and 22 inches in length. Mom and baby are doing great and everyone is adjusting nicely.

