

St. Jacob's Lutheran Newsletter



We Are St. Jacob's Lutheran Church
Sharing Jesus' Love By

- + growing deeper in our faith;
- + supporting each other and raising up leaders for ministry;
- + making disciples and caring for the neighbor.

Pastor's Message

The treasures of Lent are many, everything from increasingly warm days and budding flowers to chocolate eggs and time with family. These are the things our family celebrations of Lent tend to center around, although some attention is also paid to the cross and the empty tomb, the reason behind our observance of both Lent and Easter. When the Church celebrates the treasures of Lent, we prioritize three or four of the everyday disciplines of our faith and focus more intensely on them than we do the rest of the year. That makes Lent a little different from other festival days or seasons of the Church year, because it is focused on the disciplines or practices of the faith and not so much on the stuff that comes with the season. In fact, the Church tries to do away with some of the stuff of life so that we may better focus on the discipline faith invites us to practice and through those disciplines building the relationship we have with Jesus Christ.

Like any other relationship we have, our sense of our life with Christ can be much reduced by the amount of time and effort that needs to go into everyday activities like feeding ourselves and our families, household chores, work and travel to work and back, grocery shopping, school, dance and sports. If it seems as though we scarcely have time to breathe, well, that is because so much of our day is already spoken for before we roll out of bed. And this is the case even for retired folks, whose usual take on life three or four months into retirement is, "I am so busy I don't know where I got the time to work!" Lent is a time when we do our best to simplify our lives a bit so we may spend more time with Jesus in prayer, in our Bibles, and in helping our neighbors.

One way we round up a little more time in a day is fasting. A fast is a reduction or an elimination of a meal or a day's worth of meals with the hope that the time we would have spent cooking and eating can be spent in prayer, and the money that could have gone to the grocery bill for that meal or day can be given to support neighbors with great needs. A fast of any sort should not ever be undertaken by a child or by an elder for health's sake. The caloric needs of the young and the old are too great to risk a fast from food. And there are some among us whose health does not allow for a fast, so we should always check with our doctors before committing to fasting from a meal or three. A fast should never be extended beyond a single day; we are none of us Jesus so four days fasting much less forty are likely to do significant harm. We do not fast to lose weight, but to gain time and energy for Jesus and a fast extended beyond one day is going to result in the loss of both. But fasting for people between,

say 15 and 65, who are in good health frees up a bit of energy and more than a bit of time to do what we know the Lord calls us to do daily, check in with Him.

Those “check ins” occur during prayer or Bible reading or a combination of the two. I like the latter, because it allows whatever passage from Scripture we are reading to sink in a bit more, but however we dive into Scripture and prayer, it is the doing of it that fosters a better, richer relationship between ourselves and our Lord. Any way we can develop a habit during Lent of getting our Bibles out (or the phone app up) will be good for us and connect us more thoroughly with God, and that is even the case if we do not quite get what is going on. Leviticus and Numbers in the Old Testament are heavy slogging, so start with the Gospels of Matthew or Luke. Also, ask your Pastor for help. I absolutely live for moments when someone tells me they don’t get what was going on between Jesus and whomever. We do Bible studies every year, and you can ask me or check our newsletter for the next one. Good commentaries written for people who didn’t go to seminary are out there, too, and I can recommend one or loan you one to read. Just find yourself some time, even if it is only ten minutes a day, where you can read the Bible and pray. Most of us, once we develop the habit, keep it year round and even extend the time for the blessings that daily dive into Scripture and conversation with God brings us.

Prayer really is a conversation with the Almighty, so as we pray and thank God for His gifts, ask Him for forgiveness, or for help with another person’s (or our own!) sorrows, we should add a little space for listening to His response. I am not saying we hear His voice in our heads so much as I am reminding us all that God will speak to us from another’s mouth when we share our concerns with a friend, from the pages of our Bibles, and even in sudden, unexpected blessings.

Lent is a time filled with unexpected blessings. In the past, I have referred to it as a bootcamp for the spirit, and so it is, but in that time and energy devoted to God we find a love that will not let us go despite our wayward ways, and a mercy beyond our understanding.

Keep a holy Lent,
Pastor

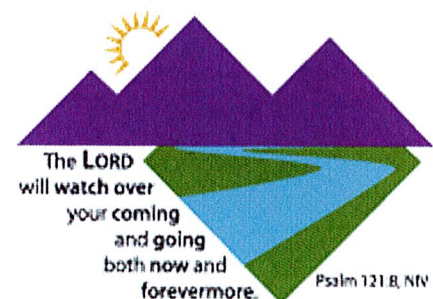
EASTER BREAKFAST – New Member will be offering a free breakfast on April 1 from 8 – 10 a.m. Please plan to attend and invite friends or family. We will also need help in the kitchen preparing and serving the breakfast.



An Easter egg hunt will be held at 10 a.m. Bags of plastic eggs will be available in the Narthex. If you can, take some eggs and fill them with candy for the egg hunt. The filled eggs must be returned by March



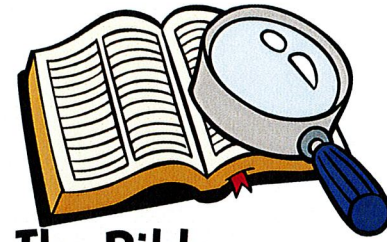
CHEESEBALLS – We will be taking orders for cheeseballs for Easter. Order forms will be available by March 12th and orders will be due no later than April 2nd.



Confirmation Class



We will finish the Gospel of Matthew this month and hopefully the Gospel of Luke as well, and then we will compare the two for what we can learn of our Lord's saving ways. We are planning Confirmation Camp which will take place relatively early in June this year. Our topic will be prayer, as well as the Small Catechism and the historical books of the Old Testament.



The Bible in 90 Days

We are in our fourth week of this program and it is going well. We are almost through the first five books of the Old Testament known as the Torah or the Teachings, and will soon begin the historical books. Good job everyone!

WORSHIP MATTERS

The whole of March is taken up with the observance of Lent. The altar is dressed in purple for our penitence for our sin. The décor of the Sanctuary is simple, reflecting again that this is not a festival time of year but a solemn one. We focus a great deal on the cross and the forgiveness won us by Jesus' willing sacrifice of His sinless life, a focus reflected in our corporate confession of our sins, a confession that concentrates on our transgressions against God and His commandments. We do not hear the words of absolution or forgiveness during Lent, not until Maundy Thursday of Holy Week do we hear that we are forgiven, by the authority of God Himself, the whole of our sins. Also on Maundy Thursday, we participate in Holy Communion with young ones and newcomers who have been prepared for their first Holy Communion, with the bread they themselves have baked. Lent is also traditionally a time of preparation for Baptism or for a return to worship after having offended against it.



Healthy Steps for Older Adults

St. Jacob's will be holding the York County Area on Aging Agency classes for Fall Prevention.

There is no fee for this program. You must be 60+ years of age and you must pre-register by calling Megan at 717-855-0437 no later than **March 8**.

The classes will be held on Tuesday, March 21 and Tuesday, March 28 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Learn about the cause of falls, how to prevent falls, safely exercising in the home, home safety, medication, food checks and more.

MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

MARCH 5	2 LENT
Acolyte	Clark Sanders
Altar Guild	Matt McMahon, Paul Bortner, Sr.
Audio/Visual-Early	Henry Stuckert
Audio/Visual – Late	Mike Swift, Molly Williams
Children’s Church	Jessica Roberson
Hospitality	Pastor & Henry
Lector – Early	Wendy Hemelgarn
Lector – Late	Shawn Hain
Usher - Late	Carolyn Miller
MARCH 12	3 LENT
Acolyte	Ava Sanders
Altar Guild	Sue Williams, Jenn Swift
Audio/Visual-Early	Henry Stuckert
Audio/Visual – Late	Jeffrey Sanders, Mike Swift
Children’s Church	Jessica Roberson
Hospitality	POTLUCK
Lector – Early	Wendy Hemelgarn
Lector – Late	Phyllis Forsythe
Usher - Late	Noah Crum
MARCH 19	4 LENT
Acolyte	Bentley Waltersdorff
Altar Guild	Lisa Severn, Pam Kelley
Audio/Visual-Early	Henry Stuckert
Audio/Visual – Late	Jeffrey Sanders, Molly Williams
Children’s Church	Jessica Roberson
Hospitality	Confirmation Class
Lector – Early	Wendy Hemelgarn
Lector – Late	Matt McMahon
Usher - Late	Paul Bortner, Sr.

MARCH 26	5 LENT
Acolyte	Victoria Swift
Altar Guild	John & Phyllis Forsythe
Audio/Visual-Early	Henry Stuckert
Audio/Vision-Late	Shawn Hain, Molly Williams
Children’s Church	Jessica Roberson
Hospitality	
Lector – Early	Wendy Hemelgarn
Lector – Late	Brenda Winemiller
Usher- Late	Jim Dunlap

We are looking for volunteers to serve as **Altar Guild assistants, Audio/Visual techs, Children’s Church assistants, and Lectors.** If you are interested, please contact the church office at 717-235-7313 or by email at Stjacobs@comcast.net.

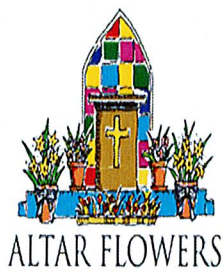


Lighthearted blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.



ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS



If you wish to sponsor flowers on a Sunday, please put your name by the date on the clip board in the narthex and you will be contacted by the church office as to how you want your sponsorship to read. If your name is already on the list and you wish to change, please contact the church office by phone at 717-235-7313 or email – stjacobs@comcast.net.

FLOWER PRICES

The price for two (2) altar vases or one 8-inch arrangement for the altar is **\$40.00**. There is a small (6-inch) basket option for **\$30**. Please contact the church office for any changes you wish to make and specify what size you would like.

Please make checks payable to: St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

Flower sponsors who cannot be at the church on the designated date to pick up their flowers should please call the church office at 717-235-7313 ahead of time.

FLOWERS

BULLETINS

MARCH 5	Pastor Murray & Henry Stuckert	Pastor Murray & Henry Stuckert
MARCH 12	Jim & Connie Hersh	Paul, Sr., & Violet Bortner
MARCH 19	Baer family	Steve & Vicki Kessler
MARCH 26	Nace/Naylor	John & Phyllis Forsythe

It's still winter ... but spring is near. It's Lent ... but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord.



HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

ONE BODY • ONE SPIRIT

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

PAL: Single serve fruit cups, cans of mixed vegetables, butter, tomato sauce, eggs, coffee, creamer, sugar, milk, snacks, and scalloped potatoes

CLOTHING BANK: Family sized toiletries, men's & women's ankle socks, women's underwear size 7, men's underwear, white t shirts XL/2X, women's plus 1x, 2x, 3x underwear, and diapers size 5 & 6

CHANGING LIVES SHELTER: Razors, deodorant (women's), shampoo, body wash, Comet, bathroom cleaner, Clorox wipes, disinfectant spray, men's boxer underwear

We accept donations Mon.-Sat. 8:00 am—12:30 pm or by appointment. Call 717-633-6353 to schedule a drop-off time.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

“Shall strive to extend Christian compassion and help to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the underprivileged and to all persons in need of aid in body and soul.”

SPECIAL APPEALS

MARCH SPECIAL OFFERINGS are designated for the Konde Diocese, our sister congregation in Isanga Parish, Tanzania, Africa.



APRIL SPECIAL OFFERINGS are designated for Veterans and are sent to Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries Inc.

Offerings Received:

January – Confirmation Camp - \$180



Please remember to use the Yellow Special Appeals envelopes in your packets.

Thank you all for your generous contributions to our special appeals each month. Those less fortunate do appreciate your generous donations.

YOUTH FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to your generous contributions, the Youth Pantry is in good shape, although we still need holiday foods and hygiene products. Please place your items in the box marked for the Youth Pantry. Monetary donations are also welcome.



SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Needs throughout the year:

apples	box milk
peanut butter	Spam/Treat
jelly	cereal (cold/hot)
oatmeal	pasta
pasta sauce	canned meals
soup	toothpaste

Special need for March: Applesauce

If you are interested in helping with the Outreach Ministry, please contact Ray Seeley. We meet the first Thursday of each month.

SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

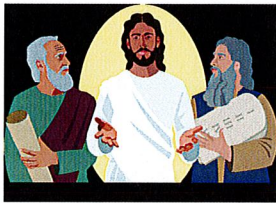


We wish a **Happy 70 + Birthday** to the following who will celebrate their special day this month. May God continue to bless them in the year to come.

Tersie Krebs

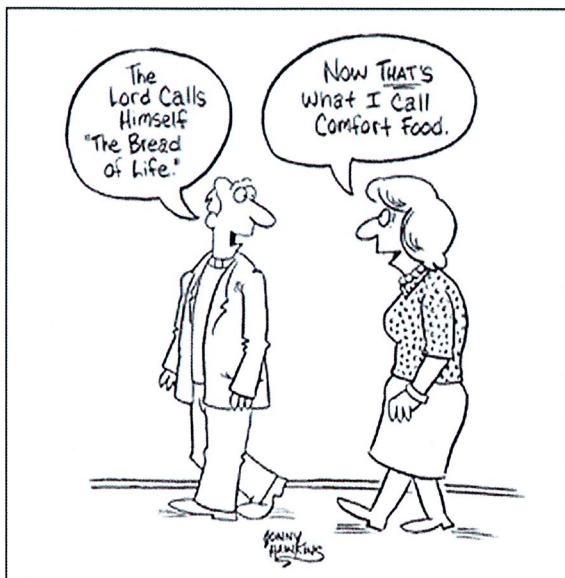
March 3

3839 Snyder Road
Glen Rock, PA 17327



A God who knows

It is easy to dismiss or ridicule the idea of God on a cross. But I would have a hard time following a philosophical abstraction. At some points in our lives, we may need a God who has entered our darkest places of uncertainty and depression. A God who can comprehend the fear of a death without significance. A God who knows the silence of God. —Michael Gerson



HOLY BIBLE TRIVIA

What disaster caused Jacob to send his sons from Canaan to Egypt?



Answer on Church Office page.

Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



Answer on Church Office page.

DEACON'S CORNER

+Christian Symbol+



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

CHURCH OFFICE

For question and concerns, please call the Church Office at 717-235-7313.

Email: stjacobs@comcast.net

Facebook: [Stjacobs LutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StjacobsLutheranChurch)

Web: stjacobslutheran.org

Inclement Weather Cancellation

In case of inclement weather, check Facebook page first. If you don't have the web, tune in to one of the following stations for cancellation notices for Sunday Services.

Fox 43

ABC 27

Facebook – [Stjacobs LutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StjacobsLutheranChurch)

Web – stjacobslutheran.org

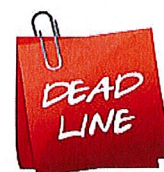


PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor will have special office hours to meet with people.

The hours will be **Tuesdays 1-3 p.m.** If you need to see Pastor another time, just call and set up an appointment. Call when you have an emergency that requires pastoral care at any time

MARCH 10 FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER



OFFICE HOURS

Monday----- Closed

Tuesday----- 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday--- 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday----- 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Friday----- Closed



ANSWER: Famine (Genesis 42:1-5)



Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

Resurrection faith

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The coronavirus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

"I realized I only half-believed I was going to die," he tells *The Christian Post*. "In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally."



While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter's main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it's a wake-up call for Jesus' followers to act. "The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world," Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. "But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust."



Pal Pusztai

At the request of the Atlantic Mission Region and its Dean, the Rev. Steve Shipman, the Council of St. Jacob's Lutheran Church approved the creation of a Call Committee for a nonstipendiary position (meaning, no salary) for the Region itself. Pal Pusztai has been approved for ordination by the North American Lutheran Church, and seeks a call. He is a part of our Mission District, but has asked to remain in Dover. He has spent the last year covering for pastors on vacation or otherwise away from the pulpit, and could be available for an interim position were he ordained.

Ordination allows a candidate not only to preach and administer a congregation, but also to preside at the Eucharist or Holy Communion. The way in which ordination takes place in Lutheran denominations is threefold. There is the call to ministry by the Holy Spirit; the testing of that call by a candidacy process, the achievement of a seminary degree in theology and three field experiences; and, finally, the validation of that call by a congregation which sees in the candidate for ordination the characteristics of a faithful pastor. As he has been approved for ordination by the North American Lutheran Seminary and the Candidacy Committee of the NALC, Pal is seeking validation of his call through a congregation of the NALC, and we have taken on this important role on behalf of the whole Atlantic Mission Region.

What this means for us is that we will host a weekend question and answer session for Pal, as well as a Sunday when he will preach at both services. Pastor Murray will be available to preside over Communion as Pal cannot do that until ordained. The congregation will then vote and will confirm his call or not. We will cast written ballots, and count them immediately after the vote is taken.

What this means for St. Jacob's Lutheran Church should the vote be positive is that Pal will have a roll here at St. Jacob's as an Associate Pastor but without pay as most of his service will be to other congregations in our Atlantic Region as a supply pastor or an interim. We will only pay him when he supplies for our regularly called Pastor or we ask him to assist us with something else. Pal will also be available for a regular call with another congregation should one become available in the general area of Dover.

At this point, Pal has been interviewed by our Call Committee, and his name has been passed to the Council for another interview. They will interview him on March 14. If the result of that interview is positive, a date for the call sermon will be set and the congregation will be notified. We will need a quorum of members who have communed and contributed over the previous quarter and the current one to have a valid meeting.




March 2023

OFFICE HOURS:

Tues—Wed—Thurs—10:00 am—2:00 pm

Mondays and Fridays—CLOSED

PASTOR'S HOURS: Tuesday—1-3 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am Sewing Group 10:00 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Study	2 6:30 pm Outreach <small>John Wesley, 1791 & Charles Wesley</small>	3 Pastor Off	4
5 2 Lent <i>Sending of Eucharistic Ministers</i> 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Children's Church Hospitality after late service	6	7 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours 7:00 pm Music and Worship <small>Perpetua & Her Companions, Martyrs, 202</small>	8 10:00 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Study	9	10 Pastor Off	11  <i>Spring Forward</i>
12 3 Lent <i>Prayers for Healing</i> 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Children's Church POTLUCK after late service 12:30 pm Confirmation Class	13	14 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Church Council	15 9:00 am Sewing Group 10:00 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Study	16 8:30 am PAL at HACC	17 Pastor Off <small>Patrick, Bishop, Missionary to Ireland 461</small>	18
19 4 Lent 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Children's Church Hospitality after late service 12:30 pm Confirmation Class	20	21 10am-12pm Healthy Steps for Older Adults 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Property Committee <small>Thomas Cramer, Martyr 1556</small>	22 10:00 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Study	23	24 Pastor Off	25
26 5 Lent 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship Children's Church	27	28 10am-12pm Healthy Steps for Older Adults 1-3 pm Pastor's Office Hours	29 10:00 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Study	30	31 Pastor Off	

BLUE—Renewers of the Church
 RED—Martyrs