



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: What do we do now that Christ is risen?

April 11, 2024

Each week in worship during the Easter season we continue to proclaim, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” We do so because the Easter season lasts for 50 days – seven weeks of resurrection days (Sundays). The Easter season concludes with the third great festival of the church year, Pentecost (pente = 50, as in the five-sided Pentagon building), on May 19.

During this season of Easter, our gospel lessons include multiple episodes of the risen Jesus showing up among the disciples and reminding them and us to “go and tell” the good news of the resurrection. Through these various stories, we see how the early disciples and followers of Jesus struggled to find their bearings after Jesus ascended into heaven. These stories reflect our own struggles with belonging and faith. Where do we fit into God’s plan of salvation? What is God calling me to do and to be?

One of my tasks as your interim pastor is to review procedures and policies and other written documents to ensure that they are up to date and match current practices. One thing I was interested in seeing was the descriptions for St. Paul’s committees. Having been familiar with your congregation for a long time, I know that there are many people doing a variety of tasks, yet what seems to be lacking is strong participation on our committees.

Some committees are very active while others really need to be reinvigorated. Perhaps this Easter season is a good time to reinvigorate – or perhaps, begin – your participation in the life of St. Paul’s. What gifts do you

have to share with the congregation? What is your passion, and how can you use that in the life of the church and the community?

As you answer some of those questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our committee chairs and/or congregation council members to volunteer your time on a committee. The Body of Christ needs your gifts!

Enjoy these beautiful Spring days!
Pastor Gwenn Trout

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS



SUNDAY, April 14, 2024, 9am
Third Sunday of Easter
Scriptures: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

04/14 Bulletin

SUNDAY, April 21, 2024, 9am
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Scriptures: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

04/21 Bulletin

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 14	April 21	April 28	May 5	May 12	May 19 Pentecost
Asst. Min.	Denise C.	Nick C.	Keith G.	MaryJane	Denise C.	Steve C.
Lector	Steve H.	Seana M.	Wendy C.	Denise C.	Keith G.	Emily B.
Ushers	Mike Stoner & Darrell McMillan			Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.
Counters	Nick C. Judy C.	Nick C. Jan A.	Nick C. Judy C.	Tim M. Steve C.	Tim M. Trudy G.	Tim M. Steve C.
Altar s/u	Deb S.	Deb S.	Sherry R.	Keith G.	Tim M.	Amanda B.
Altar c/u	Deb S.	Deb S.	Sherry R.	MaryJane	Denise C.	Denise C.
Lock-up	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Tim M.	Tim M.	Tim M.
Musician	Deb R.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Deb R.	Denise C.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.					

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School: We are continuing with *The Wired Word*. Come join in the lively discussions every Sunday between 10:30-11:30am. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are available.

Children's Sunday School will meet on April 21 and May 19. Stay tuned for more information on May 19th's Sunday School.



It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Arla Hunter on April 10. Service arrangements are pending.

GIFT CARD REQUEST SCAM. There is a recent trend of scammers posing as church pastors texting people asking for gift cards. Please be aware.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO,
HELPED WITH, AND HAD FUN AT OUR EASTER EGG HUNT!**



40 DAYS OF LENT FOOD COLLECTION for New Hope Ministries
We collected **192lbs** of food! Thanks to everyone who donated.



Even fog in a cemetery can be wondrous.

FACILITY RENTALS

May 10 (evening), May 11 (all day) - private rental (church property)

June 1 - private rental (pavilion)

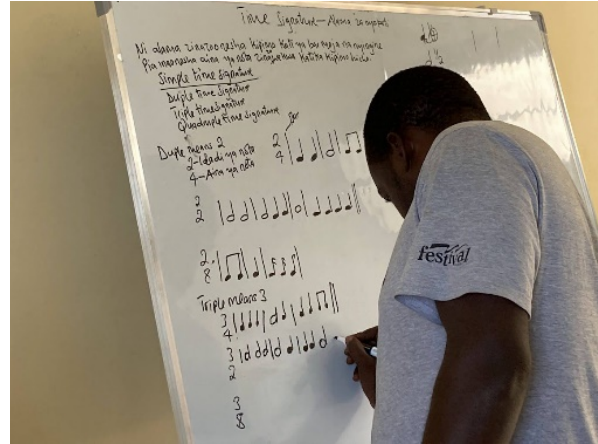
June 9 - member rental (pavilion)

June 15 - private rental (pavilion)

June 23 - free public concert by Fred Norman (pavilion)

Kitchen rental - Council recently approved renting the church kitchen to professionals needing a kitchen for their food business. Renters will be

approved by Council and the congregation will be advised via the Epistle when the kitchen will be in use.



Music in Konde Worship

By Deacon April Trout

Konde Diocese Partnership Coordinator for Lower Susquehanna Synod

Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. ~ Martin Luther.
Music is the divine messenger between heaven and the human.
~ Ludwig von Beethoven.

In February I accomplished one of my most favorite activities here in Tanzania – teaching a music class to a group of 18 musicians from throughout Konde Diocese.

As Lutherans, we appreciate music – hymns, sung liturgy, choir anthems and instrumental offerings – as an integral part of our worship services. Not intended as simply “entertainment” to liven up liturgy, music is, in addition to the sermon, one of the ways in which the word of God is proclaimed. Here in the Lutheran church in Tanzania, music is considered not only the word of God; it is regarded as an evangelistic tool, vital to spreading the message of the gospel. Most ELCT churches have several choirs of various ages and composition (I visited one parish that has nine), and generally two or three choirs sing at each worship service. For big events like a Bishop’s installation or an ordination, there might be 8 or 10 in attendance.

Choirs here often are invited to sing at each others’ churches. Sometimes this is in a nearby church, sometimes it is in another Diocese – which means a bus trip for the choir. There are regular yearly choir competitions, also, for the traditional (a cappella) choirs, in the districts and Dioceses as well as at the national level. As a singer myself, the quality and beauty of traditional Tanzanian music has awed me from the moment I first heard it. And it is all

the more remarkable when you consider that most of the choir directors have received no music training and cannot read music.

For the last five years I have been working to develop regular training sessions to teach Lutheran church musicians how to read music. If they can't read music, choir directors can learn new songs only by hearing them (and remembering them, of course). They have to learn all the notes and words to all the parts. Then to teach the song to the choir, they sing each part to each section, and the section sings it back, over and over, until they have learned it correctly. Finally, they put all the parts together. You can imagine that it takes a lot of rehearsal time to teach a new song to the choir in this way. If the choir directors learn how to read music – even at a basic level – they are able to increase their repertoire and teach new songs to their choirs more efficiently – especially if there are a couple of singers or assistant directors who can also read music.

In developing these music trainings, I've learned that it is quite possible to teach basic music theory in three to five days, depending on how much time we leave for written and practical exercises. The participants are always enthusiastic, are thrilled with their new knowledge, and want to continue their training at a higher level. If I had the money for more trainings, I'd be doing this more often! Though it's not technically part of my job description, I do it gladly and gratefully. Not only does it feed my soul, but the Diocese leaders are very happy for the opportunity to elevate the level of music within the Diocese.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

~ Psalm 100:1-2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

April

13 Jordan Boehm

15 Lisa Foore

19 Doris Trout

20 Steve Casella

20 Mary Jane McMillan

27 Stew Trout

30 Jordan Lumby

SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Doris and Stew who both turn 85 on their respective birthdays! If you'd like to personally wish them well, stop by the Bridges of Bent Creek community building on Sunday, April 21, between

1:00 and 4:00 p.m. If you can't visit in person, consider sending a card. Their address is in our directory.



The loved ones of Arla H., Andrea G., Cindy H., Kody G., Jay U., Jerry J., Doug E., Jordan B., Christian, Naoma C., Holly, Andy D.

Please let the church office know if anyone you've placed on the prayer list can be removed.

ONGOING LONG-TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

Elizabeth D., Sheree H., Janie S.,
Marge & Jerry, Terrie J., Boden R.



Next Council Meeting: 04/15, 2pm

Click the button below for documents from the most recent Council meeting.

[Council Meeting Materials](#)

**If you have any news you would like to share in the Epistle,
please email or call the church office.**



Remember to mention St. Paul's ID #10151 when you donate clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, toys and household goods.



AN EASY WAY OF GIVING

Scan the QR code with your phone to quickly and easily give to the church.



Why is the letter A like a flower?

Because a B comes after it!

<https://www.rd.com/article/spring-jokes/>



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor
Ann M. Gottlieb, Office Manager (office hours T/Th 9am-3pm)
Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music
Jack Yinger, Sexton



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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