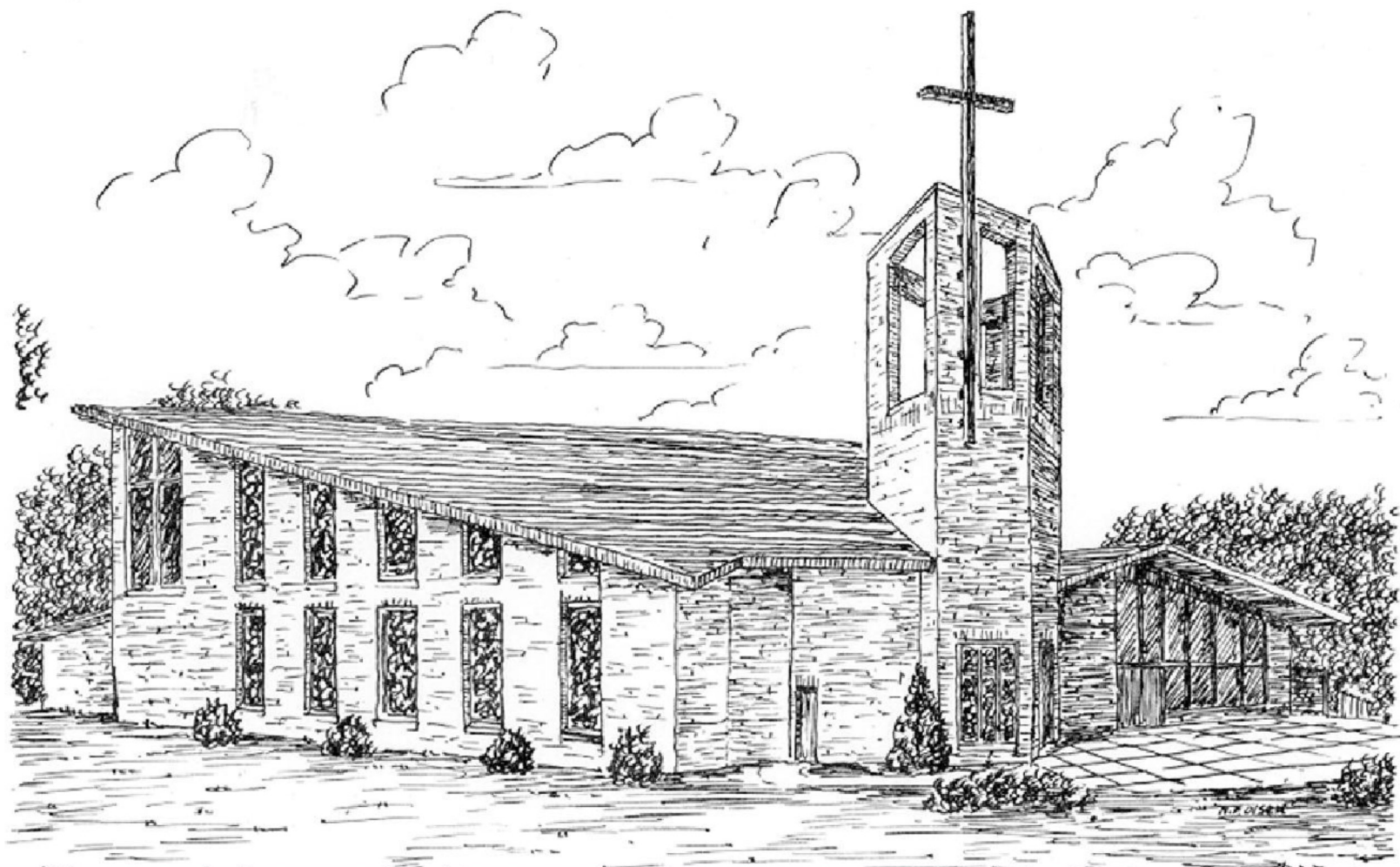


GOOD NEWS AT MEMORIAL

Memorial Lutheran Church Newsletter

March/April 2024



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PASTOR'S PAGE

The next couple of months will bring with them some very big events not only in the life of the church but also in my own personal journey as well. And I am looking forward to all of these events very much.

In the church, of course, we will be celebrating the Big Event on March 31 this year – Easter (also known as the Resurrection of Our Lord). This Sunday is what our faith is all about. The rejection that Jesus experienced by those he encountered, the suffering that he endured in his faithfulness to the Gospel, and the sacrifice that he made on the cross, all became worth it through his resurrection from the dead. That event gives us hope. That event gives us strength. That event lets us know that even the end of this earthly journey is not the end of our journey. Without Easter, there would be no Christian faith. Without Easter, we would have no reason to gather on Sunday mornings as worshippers. Easter makes everything possible in our faith.

To help us prepare for this Big Event, we are especially given the gift of Holy Week. As we gather on Sunday, March 24, we remember Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, and we hear the story of Jesus' rejection, suffering, and death. We gather again on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to be reminded, in particular, of some key evenings in the life of Christ in his final week. Please join us for those worship opportunities as well so that you are reminded of the reasons why we celebrate Easter in such a big way. Then, please join us for Easter Sunday when we proclaim the loud "alleluias" and sing the joyful hymns of new life. And, after the service is over, please join us for the annual Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall where we can enjoy some food and fellowship with one another before continuing our celebrations with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you during this remarkable time in our church year.

In addition to these big events (and especially the Big Event of Easter) that fall on our calendars in the next couple of months, there are a couple of big events in my own life during the weeks ahead.

The first one is the celebration of my 60th birthday. I don't know where the time has gone or how it managed to disappear so quickly, but I will be celebrating 60 years on March 28. That also happens to be Maundy Thursday this year. The first 60 have certainly been amazing. And I look forward to the years that are to come as well. Thanks for being such a wonderful part of my journey.

In April, from April 1 to April 10, my wife, Barb, and I will be taking some much needed and much desired time for vacation. Four years ago, we planned a trip to Scotland. But, just a few months before the time we planned for our departure, COVID hit the world, and the plans changed. It has taken us four long years, but we finally have been able to put the trip back on the calendar. We are very excited. You will be in very good hands

PASTOR'S PAGE, CONTINUED

during my absence, and I will look forward to seeing you when we return. But we are very much looking forward to this opportunity to explore another part of the world and see some of the countryside in Scotland. I've seen lots of pictures and watched a few movies featuring the Scottish landscape. But this will be my first opportunity to see it in person. I am looking forward to all that we have planned and to all that will occur without our planning.

I pray that these next two months will be a time filled with great celebration and wonderful adventures for you and your loved ones as well. Please remember us in your prayers during our travels. And I look forward to sharing all of my experiences with you when I return.

In Christ,
Pastor Lester Spies

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church's Financial Position

	Receipts	Expenditures	Deficit
January	\$21,602.77	\$21,879.80	(\$277.03)

The Council decided that it was worthwhile to publish the above information in our newsletter.

Background

Financial Reports (Income Statement and Balance Sheet) are prepared each month. This provides good, timely information. The Cash position (checking account and savings account) are monitored closely throughout the month. To keep key people informed, Financial Reports are discussed at every Council meeting. The church's cash position changes with the seasons – collections generally go up around Christmas and Easter, collections go down during the summer months.

Current position

We start the year with a small deficit after one month. Your regular, ongoing contributions give us the cashflow to meet our obligations throughout the year. I've highlighted in the past that contributions fluctuate through the year. They go up around Easter and at year-end. The current Checking and Savings account balances are approximately \$70,000 – this represents more than 3 months of spending even if no contributions were collected. We also have short term investments at US Bank to draw upon if needed. This protects us in emergencies and prevents overdrawing our checking account.

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FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL, CONTINUED

I know that many of you attended our Annual Meeting at the end of January. To keep that fresh in your minds and to share information for those who did not attend, I wanted to highlight some of the meeting.

First, 4 members of the congregation have volunteered to serve on the Council:

Marlene Kaspustanczek

Kathy Mehlenbeck

Richard Woods

Charlotte Ghazarian

Second, we are hiring a Director of Music Ministry.

Third, with an aging building, many issues arise that need attention. One of those items designated as a high priority by the Council, is either the replacement or repair of the front doors; to include a buzzer system. That anticipated expense has

been included in the current budget. We will share more information as we learn more.

Fourth, again this year the Council is challenging you to try something new. We can partner you with someone who has experience. Hopefully new connections will result that strengthen us as a team.

Last, we had good discussion on service opportunities. One suggestion discussed was preparing sandwiches as a part of a meal to be distributed in our community. Some members have used their initiative to begin this after the Service on Sunday morning (known as TLC – The Lunch Crew). I point out that the Annual Meeting was just a few weeks ago.

These are a few highlights from the meeting. There is a lot going on. If you have any questions, please ask.

DEACON DENNIS' NEIGHBORHOOD

⇒ During the Lenten season keep aware of:

- The jar for contributions on the Spiritual Table for ELCA WORLD HUNGER
- Continued Mini-Meditations on the Psalms that will be sent weekly, usually Wednesday or Thursday.

⇒ Check out the shelf in the library converted to resources on various mental health issues. There several already there and more will be coming. It has a big red sign. Peruse the resources and make use of whatever you feel can help or something you just want to read about. Please return the books when finished. Printed handouts you may keep. If you have questions, please see me. This topic arose during the Annual Meeting and the shelf of resources is a response to that.

⇒ Also check out the books on the small bookshelf in the library area, especially those on the top. There will be additions and subtractions. Feel free to add one of your own to share. One of the books encourages Christians to read. Very insightful.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

LENT This year our traditional mid-week meal and worship service returns! Please join us Wednesday evenings for a meal at 5pm, followed by worship at 6pm. There are sign up sheets in Bruemmer Hall if you are interested in contributing to one of the meals.

The Maundy Thursday service will take place on Thursday, March 28 2024, at 6pm. It will include Holy Communion.



The Good Friday service will take place on Friday, March 29, 2024, at 6pm. This service will include the reading of the Passion story from John and will feature some time of meditation and hymn singing. It will not include Holy Communion.

If you have any questions or concerns about these special services during the Lenten season, please contact Pastor Spies.

EASTER BREAKFAST AND CELEBRATION

Join us after Easter service on March 31 for good food and fellowship. As in the past, we will be serving breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and sweet treats. Help with providing a casserole or dessert would be much appreciated. To help the Fellowship Committee in planning, please get your reservation in by Palm Sunday, March 24. Free-will offerings gratefully accepted.

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Dear Friends,

We are already planning our second year of the Community Breakfast. The dates for 2024 are: May 11, September 14, December 14. In the week leading up to each breakfast you will notice our bright yellow and black yard signs on Green Bay Road and Range Line Road. People going by will see the time in which breakfast is served, and that it is FREE.

Please come and eat with us and enjoy the fellowship and the music entertainment. Talk it up with your friends and neighbors. We find "Word of Mouth" is pretty effective in getting information out to the community.

In April, the volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted on the board in the fellowship area. There are many opportunities to volunteer. If you are interested, take a look and see what might work for you.

In any case, we want you to come and eat and join the fellowship. Our menu is: hot ham and rolls, scrambled eggs, French toast sticks, cheesy potatoes, fresh fruit, bakery, coffee and juice. We are making plans to make each breakfast special with table favors to take with you, reflective of the season. Looking forward to seeing you!

-Community Breakfast Committee

GOOD NEWS IN ACTION

We started the year by attending Hephatha Lutheran Church on 18th and Locust, one of our sister churches and then serving lunch afterwards. It was a good experience for all of us and especially the attendees. We served hot dogs, baked beans, chips, chocolate milk and jello salad.

We also had concluded our serving a meal at the St. Vincent de Paul site on 9th and Madison in Milwaukee on the first Sundays of the month where we have been serving since 1984. We are still contributing \$200 a month to the facility until next November hoping that our slot can be filled with another church.

Our first quarter mission is Reformation Lutheran Church located at 3806 W. Lisbon at a "storefront church". They used to be Reformation on 35th and Garfield but moved to the new location over ten years ago. We have been taking clothing, food, quilts, bedding and other things needed by neighborhood people. This is most appreciated.

We continue serving at Serenity Inns located at 28th and Brown street in Milwaukee. This location is for men who are trying to get rid of drug and alcohol addiction and they have ways which help them do this. We serve on the fifth Tuesdays. This location serves 12 men in a very large duplex. They are building another facility across the street so they can double the number of men who need help.

At our Annual Meeting, President Ron Searles encouraged each of us to "find something new" to do. Laura Jeske and Jenni Ceasar took him up on that and have started a group to make lunch bags each Sunday after coffee hour. The lunch bags will be distributed each

week to either MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, Hephatha Lutheran Church, or Reformation Lutheran Church on Lisbon Avenue in Milwaukee. Each lunch bag will consist of a turkey, ham or bologna sandwich with cheese, lettuce, mayo and mustard; along with a bag of chips, a piece of fruit or fruit cup, and a cookie or granola bar. Laura and Jenni said they will initially start with three dozen sandwiches and see how it goes from there. If you have any question, please let Jenni or Laura know. Start of do something different!!!! Thank you very much!!!



Buzz and son's family.

Eating lunch after Annual Meeting.



Serving at Hephatha Lutheran Church.

Taking clothing, quilts and bed clothes to Reformation with L+R Tee, John and Marge.



TLC (THE LUNCH CREW)

There's something new at Memorial - TLC (The Lunch Crew). We are making lunch bags with sandwiches for MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary each Sunday and for Hephatha Lutheran Church once a month. What we are in need of are volunteers to make sandwiches, pack the lunch bags, and/or deliver the bags to their destination. Monetary donations and donations of other items are very much appreciated. These other items include apples, oranges or fruit cups, individually sized bags of chips and either cookies or granola bars. We could also use quart sized and sandwich sized Ziploc bags and brown paper lunch bags. If you have any questions, please talk with Jenni Ceasar or Laura Jeske. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

GREETING CARDS FOR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Did you know that Memorial sends greeting cards once a month to homebound members and other people in need as a way to help them feel connected to the church? If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving such a card, please talk to Margo Pavlik or Meredith Searles for their name to be added to the list.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT SCRIP IS?



Scrip is a fundraising program for Memorial where you may purchase gift cards that you can give to other people but the Scrip cards can also be used for yourself when you buy gas for your car or purchase groceries or even when you shop at other stores that are participating in the program. When you buy a Scrip card at the base price, Memorial receives a portion back.

Order forms and envelopes are available on the table in the vestibule and can be put in the offering plate on the last Sunday of the month. The cards you choose will be ordered and distributed the following Sunday. If you have any questions, please see Laura Jeske.

MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Barb Carroll
- 2 Pat Schuette
- 20 Hannah Schuette
- 26 Matthew Dobbe
- 28 Pastor Spies
- 30 Gabbie Elliott



MARCH ANNIVERSARY

23rd - Jerome & Julia Stein 68 years

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nick Rudolph
- 8 Joel D'Amato
- 10 Jean Hoffmann
- 16 Lorie Ackermann
- 17 Samantha Steiner
- 22 Barb Althoen
- 22 Jenni Ceasar
- 24 Robert Rudolph
- 27 Ruth Meilander
- 29 Paul Mehlenbeck



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

21st - Ronald & Meredith Searles 34 years
30th - Robert & Kathi Siegel 41 years

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DATED MATERIAL

Worship

Sunday: 9:00am

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH · GLENDALE, WI MARCH/APRIL 2024 GOOD NEWS AT MEMORIAL

MARCH

Sun, 3/3	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Wed, 3/6	5:00	Lenten Meal
	6:00	Worship
Sun, 3/10	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Wed, 3/13	5:00	Lenten Meal
	6:00	Worship
Sun, 3/17	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion St. Peter's Letters Bible Study
Wed, 3/20	5:00	Lenten Meal
	6:00	Worship
Sun, 3/24	9:00	PALM SUNDAY Worship with Holy Communion
Thur, 3/28	6:00	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, 3/29	6:00	Good Friday Service
Sun, 3/31		EASTER SUNDAY
	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00	Easter Breakfast

APRIL

Sun, 4/7	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun, 4/14	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun, 4/21	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun, 4/28	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion

*The Memorial Lutheran Quilters Group
meets every Wednesday morning 9-11:30.*