

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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Contents:

April Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
President's WORD Lutheran Hour	3
VBS BINGO & POTLUCK	4
Preschool News	5 - 6
April Calendar	7

Spring Rains

Dear Friends in Christ,

"April Showers bring May flowers," so the old saying goes. I wonder sometimes if we don't appreciate the rain as much as we should. Spring rains wash away the snow. While a white field looks nice, we also see the dirty snow, blackened from the salt and sand we put on the roads for traction, and from the oil that drips from our cars. It piles up turning our drives into ugly spectacles and coats our vehicles with that same mess so that we cannot see out our windshields.

But rain changes all that. It melts the snow, washes away the salt and sand from roads. It cleans our windshields and brightens our cars so that they shine with the reds, blues, greens, and other colors that the manufacturers intended. Even the air smells cleaner after a spring rain.

Spring rains does more; it brings life. As the rain soaks into the ground, grass turns green again. Trees blossom and bring forth leaves and fruits. The rain causes the seeds to sprout and our crops begin to grow. Flowers shoot into the open adding more color and beauty to the world. The rain replenishes our wells, provides water for us to bathe in and water for us to drink.

Recently, on a day it was raining, I was reminded of another water that cleans and brings new life. Not ordinary, plain rain water, but water that is included in God's command and combined with God's word. This water doesn't just remove dirt from the body, but washes away our sins. It works forgiveness in our lives.

Martin Luther passionately said, "Remember your Baptism!" He's not talking about the physical act, the temperature of the water, or the baptismal gown you might have worn. He's talking about the daily contrition, the daily repentance, the purging of the Old Adam by the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross for us.

Baptismal waters do more than that; they bring life. As the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins, He reminds us that the Old Adam was buried so that we might rise to a new life. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:4 ESV)

This new life is ours now. We don't have to wait for Judgment Day; in the waters of baptism you were clothed with Christ. You stand before the Throne of God, washed, cleansed, and brimming with new life.

So when you look out the window and see the rain, don't complain about the mud and puddles, don't grumble how your outside plans are ruined. But rejoice in the water, remember your baptism and give thanks to our God.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Servants in Ministry

Bethany Parker	2	Karen Doerr	1
Dean Parker	2	Natalie Osten	1
Faye Brockmiller	4	Matthew Osten	1
Mary Palmquist	7	Nathan Taylor	7
<i>Celebrating her 96th birthday</i>		Allen Lee	10
Carl Blank	9	Matthew Muto	10
<i>Celebrating his 93rd birthday</i>		Larry Weimer	10
Bobby O’Palka	9	Diane O’Palka	12
Chance Merceir	15	Mary Podeszwa	14
Eric Bendekovic	17	Genevieve Leonberg	16
Jakob Lehman	22	Erich Borgman	18
Sandy Kostelnik	30	Sandy Parker	19
Justin Mengel	30	Chuck Szabo	24
Ruthann Weedon	30	John Dietrich	25
		Mary Palmquist	30

Greeter

- 5-Ruth/Avis Miller
- 12-Kathy Voland/Rachel Eckstrom
- 19-Eric/Luke Bendekovic
- 26-Rich/Ethel Clayton

Reader

- 5-Jeff Doerr
- 12-Sam Osten
- 19-Tom Sigler
- 26-Kathy Osten

Acolyte

- 5-Sophia Fatschel
- 12-Tyler Borgman
- 19-Cole Skuse
- 26-Cade Skuse

Audio Visual

- 5-D. Eckstrom/D. Gunther
- 12-S. Fatschel/M. Gremer
- 19-J. Ciccone/M. Muto & D. Eckstrom
- 26-L. Gunther/M. Gremer

Altar Guild

- Bonnie Keen & Tara Dulski

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- Pr. Michael recovering from recent surgery
- Sue Szabo’s mother; recent surgery for Paget disease
- Edna Gaertner for turned ankle
- Liz Shuttleworth’s mother recent back surgery
- Mary Palmquist, at St. Joseph Villa for hip injury
- The Shively family for the loss of member June Shively
- Twila DeThomas’s 12 year old niece, Khia, diagnosed with osteosarcoma
- Continued prayers of healing for Chuck Taylor, Carl Blank, Zelda Parks, and Willis Voland’s sister Betty Ann
- Carol Helkowski, Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott, and Twila DeThomas’ stepfather battling cancer.

Memorial Service

Good Samaritan Hospice, a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, will hold a memorial service in memory of those who spent their final days in one of their hospice care facilities or in Good Samaritan Home Care. The memorial services are open to all who are dealing with grief, even if they did not have a loved one in GSH care.

The service will be at Prince of Peace on Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m. Concordia Chaplain Rev. Paul Rist will conduct the liturgy. A reception will follow.

The President's Word "FORGIVENESS"

The unconditional love of God frees us to be healthy, whole and to forgive.

One of the most health promoting activities we can participate in is exercising forgiveness toward ourselves, Pastor, the Elders and others in this congregation. Through forgiveness, we free ourselves from the past so that we may fully experience the blessings that are in our life right now. Forgiveness removes the barriers in our minds that have seemed to separate us from God's healing love.

Forgiveness empowers us to create a life and a world based on the love, compassion, and kindness that God has given us to express in our life and in our world.

I cannot change the past, but I can change the thoughts and feelings I hold about the past and I can change the way past events affected me, in the present and the future.

LET'S FORGIVE! I am here for you.

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any person has a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." – Colossians 3:13

The Lutheran Hour—April Sermon Schedule

April 5 "One Step Ahead"

Your future is not a mystery. Our risen Savior is one step ahead and He leads you to eternal life. (Mark 16:1-8)

April 12 "God Always Shows Up"

Jesus shows up in your life today with His gifts of forgiveness and new life. (John 20:19-38)

April 19 "It's Not Over 'til Jesus Says It's Over"

Our risen Savior enables us to hold on when troubled times tempt us to bail out. (Luke 24:36-49)

April 26 "Open-Minded and Accepting"

Tolerance and open-mindedness are values much touted, but truth is even better. (Acts 4:12)

50 + Dinner

50+ dinners have resumed. We will be meeting at Atria's on Friday, April 17th at 6:00. We have a private room and a good time is had by all. If you would like to join us please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, April 12th. If you have any questions you can call Joyce at (724) 591-5475 or Sandy at (724) 846- 9238.

Sponsor a Sign

Prince of Peace will be placing two signs on the Cranberry Township Athletic fields. We are still looking to raise \$375 to defray the costs of these signs. If you would like to donate, please see Lynn Gunther. Thank you.

POTLUCK & BINGO NIGHT

Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship at our new event...

Potluck and Bingo Night
Friday, April 10 at 6:30 pm



No money involved, we are playing a few games for prizes. If you would like to join us for food and fun, please let us know on the signup form on the bulletin board in the hallway across from Rose's office. Hope you can join us, the more the merrier!



SAVE THE DATE! June 15-19, 2015

God's children of all ages will discover that Jesus is at work through us at Camp Discovery VBS. AND, every child will hear the Good News that Jesus, their Savior, gives us courage, gives us His wisdom, saves us, gives us faith, and gives us His love to share through His work in us.

Still in need of volunteers—if you can lend a hand please call Twila DeThomas at 724.812.3838 or email twiladethomas@yahoo.com for more information.

March Preschool News ... Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

Is it true that spring is right around the corner? We sure hope so! The weather sure doesn't seem to be on our side! That silly groundhog was RIGHT! We have faith though and are hoping it is just around the corner! What a great month we had! It was filled with lots of fun and learning! Time is just flying by and it's hard to believe that our year is coming to an end. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday! We ate green eggs and ham and made our very own hat, like The Cat in The Hat! We read all of our favorite stories by Dr. Seuss too! There are many to choose from too!

Three year olds

The three year old topic for the month was all about transportation. We had so much fun with this. The three year olds are doing such a great job! We started cutting and they are getting really good at it. We made a plane collage, colored a traffic light and made a traffic light that we could eat! They really enjoyed all of our activities this month! It was a lot of fun! They are also finishing up their alphabet books. We are all so ready to get outside and play so that we can release some energy!

Four year olds

The four year olds topic for the month was: All kinds of weather! Some of our projects included our favorite weather in a bottle and we made a kite and went outside to fly it! That was a lot of fun! We are still working hard on our alphabet books and everyone is doing a great job! Like the three's they too are very anxious to get outside. Hopefully spring is coming soon!

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

March Preschool News ... Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. -1 John 4:16*

ROAR!! March sure came in like a LION! Hopefully we will see more pleasant weather soon.

We welcome Spring!!

March 2nd was Dr. Seuss' birthday. Both classes celebrated by "hitting the books". Dr. Seuss books that is...The three year old class favorite Dr. Seuss book was One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. The four year old class's favorite Dr. Seuss book was Hop on Pop. As the month progressed, each class celebrated the anticipation of Spring. We decorated the classroom with rainbows and shamrocks. The three year olds covered a rainbow with Fruit Loop cereal. That was a delicious craft! The four year olds enjoyed some gold glittered shamrocks hanging with the student's names hanging around the room. Once the classroom was festively decorated, all we had to do was WAIT! We waited to see if the book we read, Luckiest Leprechaun would come to life. Each class had a surprise during snack time on the school days surrounding St. Patrick's Day. The Luckiest Leprechaun spread gold coins around our classroom. PESKY LEPRACHAUN...!

During the month of March we learned four new letters during writing skills. Letters **G**, **U**, **K**, and **R** were our focus. Next month we will finish up our writing skills books. All year long we compromised the writing skills and will gift them to the student's families at graduation.

At the end of the month our four year old classes took a fieldtrip to an art studio in Beaver called Artsy Doodle. The four year old classes boarded a school bus and headed to Beaver to the art studio Artsy Doodle. The children were engaged in painting an Easter egg on their very own canvas. The children also had the opportunity to use spin art in the art class too. It was an "outside the box" school day lesson, and everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

As our time with the classes is coming closer to graduation, please remember to turn in next year's registration forms, if you have not already done so. We are now accepting all 2015-2016 registrations for both three year old and four year old classes. We want to fill up all morning classes and hope to start an afternoon class. Please contact one of us at preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

**Blessings to you and yours,
Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila**

April 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	2 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 7:00 Good Friday Service	4 6:30 Easter Vigil
5 Resurrection of Our Lord 6:30 Cemetery Svc. 7:00 Easter Dawn 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	6	7 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	8 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council Meeting	9 7:00 Choir	10 6:30 pm POTLUCK & BINGO NIGHT	11 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
12 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	13	14 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	15 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	16 7:00 Choir	17 6:00 50+ Dinner @ Atria's	18 6:30 Holy Communion
19 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion 3:00 Good Samaritan Memorial Service	20	21 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	22 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	23 7:00 Choir	24	25 6:30 Holy Communion
26 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	27	28 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	29 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders	30 7:00 Choir		