



The Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
15 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD 21788
Number 77 April 2015

SIGNS OF LIFE

The end of March is such a tease. One day it warms up so nicely that you end up leaving your coat in the car as you make your travels through the day—the next day it's so chilly you're digging out the heavy scarf and gloves again. It seems that everyone I know is impatient for this winter to be over! Maybe it was the cold snaps, maybe the numerous "annoyance" snows that didn't produce a lot of inches, but left us with icy roads and the fretting over whether to cancel activities or carry on. For whatever reason, we've all been super eager for Spring this year, and signs of Spring—the longer days, the crocuses pushing up through the soil, the birds singing in the early morning—are somehow even more welcome this year than usual.

To me, the anticipation of Easter seems even sweeter after a hard winter. As holidays go, Christmas gets a lot more attention—but Easter is the truly pivotal and defining event of our Christian faith. After all, at his birth Jesus hadn't yet said or done anything that changed the world—but a short thirty-some years later, his teachings, death and resurrection transformed creation.

Beginning with a relatively small group of men and women who followed him around trying to understand his teachings, watched in horror as he died, then witnessed him alive again, a movement was sparked. During that time of the first century in Palestine, many people claimed to be the messiah, God's anointed savior of the world. Many of them, like Jesus, were killed by the Romans for their seditious words. But—something happened with Jesus that sent ripples through all of creation. The movement didn't die with him.

I often have people ask me whether I really believe that Jesus, the peasant son of a carpenter and his young fiancée, rose from the dead. Yes, I do. There's the testimony of what we have preserved in scripture: within a few years of Jesus' death and resurrection Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.* (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

Then there are the gospels, written years later when the writers decided that the stories being passed from person to person by word of mouth should be written down. Each one has a slightly different take on Jesus' death and resurrection, as you would expect once people have had time to digest the events and try to make sense of it all in their own way. Jesus of Nazareth truly died, right in front of his friends and family's eyes, was wrapped in a shroud and placed in a cold stone tomb, and then—to everyone's surprise—that same Jesus showed himself alive again. The evidence is there in the lives and stories of those who have followed him for over 2000 years.

(continued)

But I think there's affirmation of resurrection in this time of the year as well. I live on a north-facing hill, so snow remains in front of my house long after it's melted away most places. That packed-down snow would seem to make it impossible for anything to come to life under its icy shroud, but each year there are shoots of crocuses and daffodils that show up as soon as the snow cover thins enough to let them poke through. Life where you don't expect it and where it shouldn't be—that's a declaration of Easter faith!

I encourage you to look at the signs of Spring with Easter faith. God brings forth life where you would never expect it: in a cold, sealed tomb under a shroud--and in the cold, hard soil under the last of the winter snow. The signs and affirmations are all around us to be seen with the eyes of faith.

Easter blessings to each of you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

Pastor Susan



CHOIR PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <u>Performances</u> | |
| | Apr. 5 | Easter |
| | May 31 | Trinity |
| Rehearsal Sundays | Rehearsal Sundays | Wed. 7:00 (Tentative) |
| <u>8:45—9:45</u> | <u>9:45—10:35</u> | |
| Apr. 5 | May 10, 17 | Apr. 1 |
| May 3 | | May 27 |

PRESCHOOL NEWS



The Preschool was closed for quite a few days during January and February due to snow and/or ice, so we will have to make up some of those days at the end of our school year in May. Those days have yet to be determined.

Registration for the 2015/16 school year was held on March 2 for current students and on March 3 for new students. At this time all of our classes are full, with the exception of the three-year-old two-day class which has three spaces available.

Pastor Susan will hold another "Wiggler Service" on Thursday, April 9 from 10 to 10:30 for the students and their families. This will be followed by an Easter Parade.

Our four-year-old children will take a field trip to "Explore & More" in Gettysburg on Wednesday, April 15.

The Preschool will be closed beginning April 2 through Monday, April 6 for Easter break. School will resume on Tuesday, April 7.

*****Holy Week and Easter at St. John's*****

April 2: Maundy Thursday *Holy Communion Worship at 7:00 PM*

April 3: Good Friday *Worship at 7:00 PM*

April 5: Easter Sunday—ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM****

(Please note new time this year for Easter Service!)

There will be NO Sunday School on Easter.

Wiggler Worship: Thursday, April 9 10:00-10:30 AM. All are invited to this special Easter worship service geared for the Preschool and for all those who are young and full of wiggles. After the service we will have an Easter parade to show off our Easter smiles!

Bible on Tap: SPECIAL MAKE UP DATE —Thursday, APRIL 16 7:00 p.m. at the Shamrock Pub. Since we missed Bible on Tap for snow in March and the first Thursday in April is Maundy Thursday, we will have a make— up date April 16, then wrap up our study of Revelation with meetings May 7 and June 4. All are welcome—simply show up with your Bible and a thirst for knowledge.

“Ring Belle”: Belle Grimes has agreed to be the contact person to make sure that information on needs in our congregation gets out. If you have news or a concern that you want church members to know about, call Belle at 301-271-3082, or let Pastor Susan know to pass it along to her. Just ring Belle!

Ecumenical Worship at St. Catherine's, April 26, 2:30. Join us as we lead worship for the residents at St. Catherine's. Help is always needed with readings and communion, and your presence makes it a more worshipful experience for the residents. We're told that they love it when the St. John's people are there!

Synod Assembly 2015. Two delegates from St. John's are needed to represent our church at Synod Assembly, May 28-30 in Ocean City, Md. All expenses are paid, and this is a great opportunity to connect with other Lutherans and hear what's happening in the Delaware/Maryland Synod. Please let Pastor Susan now as soon as possible if you can attend.

Adult Sunday School will be held April 12, 19, and 26. We will continue our study on “Making Sense of Scripture.” Please bring your Bible!

**BAKE AND FLOWER SALE AT CVS SHOPPING CENTER,
SATURDAY, April 4, 9:00—3:00**



The Fundraising Committee will, once again, have their bake ad flower sale which will feature Easter baskets, Easter flowers, homemade Easter eggs and lots of homemade baked goodies for on your Easter dinner tables. Come visit us at CVS shopping center and support the church and our hard work. Thank you!

IN THE CLOUD

(from the column entitled *From Olives to Apples*)
by Ann Marie Bezayiff

I'm waiting for an answer to prayer. Actually I've been waiting for years for an answer to one in particular. I know the answer is out there, somewhere, perhaps in the Cloud, in the heavenly prayer cloud on God's website. It's the link I keep hitting but not sure if I'm connecting or not.

After years of praying for something or someone, adjusting to the reality that nothing is going to change presents a humbling experience. We recognize that God's silence is our answer or the answer is a simple *no*. Regardless, we do have the option to continue asking. In Luke 18:1 Jesus tells us to be *persistent*. His example is the parable of the persistent widow whose tenaciousness convinces the judge to intervene. If this ungodly man is compelled to act by persistence (maybe more than a little annoyance on her part too), how much more does God listen to our requests and prayers? The lesson is keep hitting the God link with prayer.

I love Psalm 145:18, "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." God likes *truth*. He also tells us not to be anxious about anything. In Philippians 4:6 we find the words, "by prayer, petition and with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." *Thanksgiving*. God rejoices in our praise and thanksgiving. My mother always said to begin prayer with praise and thanksgiving, which is great advice. God likes to hear our appreciation for the blessings he's given us. A calming moment of praise before sharing a need or want, makes the prayer request more personal. He doesn't mind boldness and confidence when asking either, but a little humility is advisable.

In 1 John 5:14 we find the word *will, God's will*. Does our request line up with God's purpose, his plan? Our request might be self-serving and not exactly the direction God wants for us or his people. We don't know the big picture He has for the world. Jesus knows something about prayer. He's been on both sides. In Luke 6:12 he went out to a mountainside to pray and spent the night praying to God before choosing his disciples. In this quiet place away from distractions of the world, we find Jesus praying directly to the Father. He prays constantly throughout his ministry, always seeking strength to follow God's will which ultimately leads to humiliation and death. Talk about submitting to God's will! In James 5:16 we read that "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." Good to know and hang out with people like that. They can change your life. I know. I have people like that in my world and I keep them close.

We must also pray for each other. It's God's social media networking. Pray for someone else's lost cause along with your own. There's power in praying together. The webmaster hears all.

Each one of us has our own prayer journey. The Bible verses seem endless on the subject. Here's the verse [see below] which started me praying about prayer again. Exploring this verse has been a challenge, so I've included two interpretations which I found helpful. Many versions of the Bible are available in bookstores and on the internet, each adding its own insightful message.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15 New King James Bible

And we are sure of this, that he will listen to us whenever we ask him of anything in line with his will. And if we really know he is listening when we talk to him and make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us. 1 John 5:14-15 Living Bible (TLB)

Meanwhile, I'll be praying for you, for an answer to your prayer.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AND SILENT AUCTION —MAY 9

The Fundraising Committee is once again planning a Mother's Day Brunch and Silent Auction as their spring event. It will be held on Saturday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m. and the cost will be \$15.00. The Thespian young folk will be serving. We will have lots of silent auction goodies to bid on. Your long wait for winter will be over and you deserve to treat yourselves and be waited on for a change. If you happen not to be a mother – just come and remember your own mother with fondness and love. Gentlemen are welcome too. Tickets will be available for purchase in April. Seats should be reserved. Questions or to make reservations: call 301-271-7613.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS: April 9 and May 14, 2015
Council Highlights — March 12, 2015**

Old Business:

- a) No Payroll Service update as yet.
- b) Pastor Susan declined a fundraiser for Easter gift to her. "I do very much appreciate the offer of the Easter bonus. It touches me and warms my heart that it was proposed."
- c) Use of the Chapel space to be put before the congregation for suggested uses. There will need to be minor fix-ups such as baseboard and door repairs. Clean-up has been completed. Mary Lou has offered to propose cosmetic changes.
- d) The keyboard that was bought by the Johnsons and borrowed by the Frederick Community Bible Study has now been donated to CBS.

New Business:

- a) Richie Shank (property manager for the parsonage) will contact tenants regarding driving their truck through private property of Creager House.
- b) Lawn Service to be renewed.

Open Discussion:

- a) John read letter written by Gene about the "Thank you" extended to St. John's by the Food Bank.
- b) Carol's husband Paul has offered to volunteer a designated time to be of any service he can to the Church. This will be discussed with John Ford and followed up.
- c) Yellow safety strips were given to Kelli Donaghue for carpeted steps.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Donovan, Secretary

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FELLOWSHIP PROVIDERS' SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| January..... | <i>Thurmont Thespians</i> |
| February..... | <i>Social Ministry</i> |
| March..... | <i>Worship & Music</i> |
| April..... | <i>Neighborhood Niche</i> |
| May..... | <i>Evangelism</i> |
| June..... | <i>Fellowship</i> |
| July | <i>Women of the Church</i> |
| August..... | <i>Fundraising</i> |
| September..... | <i>(Picnic)</i> |
| October..... | <i>Youth/Sunday School</i> |
| November..... | <i>St. John's Preschool</i> |
| December..... | <i>Church Council</i> |

**The Provider of the month will bring the main dish
(sandwiches or whatever dish desired).**

During this Lenten season, the people of St. John's were challenged to write their own creeds to be used in worship in place of the traditional church creeds. The results were beautiful statements of faith that expressed a deep understanding of and relationship with God.

CREED *(written by Kurt Johnson)*

I believe God really loves me and I know in my heart this is true. I've done and thought things that I know deep down are not right but all the while I've felt that this God that loves me is willing to look past the part of my life that's messed up and see the inner goodness that I have to offer the world. I want to connect with this inner goodness, I want to demonstrate it for others to see, and I want it to grow in me so it takes over everything I do.

I believe there was a person who once walked on the very earth I'm on now who was born without any of this evil. Jesus taught others what a life lived with pure love could look like. It's a life that is connected to other people in a way that transcends time, it was just always here. As this connectedness is revealed to us we realize that we are all part of one whole, part of one life in God. We were joined to this community when we were baptized and we can share in remembering the life and sacrifice of Jesus in the bread and wine of communion.

I believe this feeling of connectedness is real. I believe that this love is real. I believe I was made to explore this miracle and journey with other people around me at this time and in this place for a purpose. This journey will change me forever, this love already has. Amen

CREED *(written by Kathrin Muegge)*

God has revealed himself in multiple ways: There is God the creator, the maker of everything seen and unseen. He made the universe with its infinite number of objects. With the intricate laws of physics and biology, he created life and the everlasting soul. As hard as we try, we cannot fully grasp the enormity and timelessness of the world.

God has revealed himself in Jesus. He gave us a free will and the choice to follow Jesus or not. We are asked to gain a pure heart that is a heart that loves everything around us, unlimited and Unconditional. If we can achieve a pure heart our righteous actions will follow.

God has revealed himself in the Holy Spirit that speaks to the mysterious site in us. The Holy Spirit is the connection we can have with God. We can try as hard as we want, we alone cannot achieve the right faith and proper love. By God's grace we can enter this special connection with him. That helps us to find the right path and that can give us strength, courage, and peace. Amen

CREED *(written by Mary Beth Johnson)*

I claim Jesus Christ as my Lord, my Savior. I am thankful He called me and grateful for the peace and power I receive in response to my relationship with Him.

I believe in God the Creator. I am grateful to have an all-knowing God who is with me today, knows the past and future, and loves the world despite our fallen nature.

I feel God's Holy Spirit in me and around me. It is powerful to have this Spirit available. Amen

CREED *(written by John Ford)*

I believe in one God, creator of all that exists. I believe that we have barely comprehended the incredible complexity, scope, and dimensions of God's physical and spiritual creation. I believe that God loves each of us, has given us free will, has endowed us with the consciousness of good and evil, will ultimately be the only judge of our choices and actions, and that we will, in some mysterious way, be present with him when our physical body dies.

I believe that God sent His son Jesus Christ, as revealed through the scriptures, to show us His love, forgiveness, and how to live our lives. I believe that God has sent prophets over the years to guide, remind, and inform mankind of who He is and what He expects of us.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is God's way of communicating with our souls to manifest His presence with us. Amen

(continued)

CREED *(submitted by an anonymous writer)*

I believe that a loving God created us and all that exists. And in Jesus Christ born of a virgin, to redeem us from the power of the devil by His precious blood. And that he will descend from heaven to judge us in righteousness, for the glory of his kingdom. We have been blessed with a Holy Spirit to enlighten us on straight paths until resurrection day. As we are one body and soul, so is the Trinity one. Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS

Marie Seiss
Janet Heckert

Luke Bradley
Dorothy Stowell

Belle Grimes

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dale Wireman—friend of Debbie Ayers
Larry Haga—family of Becky Smith
Jeremy Hahn
Kevin Orndorff—son-in-law of Debbie Ayers
Michele Myers—niece of Harriet Valentine
Rick Baker—brother of Darlene Fogle and Debbie Ayers
Kelly Heath—daughter of Belle Grimes
Jesse Wolf—son of Belle Grimes
Jacob and Edna Matthias—parents of Belle Grimes
Rev. Frederick Simmel—former Pastor of St. John's
Betty Post – sister of Gayle Spahr and Judy May
Marge Dolson – friend of Gayle Spahr
Lauren Jones – stepdaughter of Carol Donovan
Brian Murphy – friend of Carol Donovan

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Dylan Goins

Josh Waldron

Brandon Meeks

MAY BIRTHDAYS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Laurin Spahr
4/6 Michael Delauter
4/9 Rodman Myers
4/11 Eric Hobbs
4/15 Randy Valentine
4/16 Darlene Fogle
4/18 Stacey Brown-Hobbs
4/18 Mary Dart
4/18 Kathrin Muegge
4/22 Becky Urian
4/30 Taylor Myers

5/2 Ryan Delauter
5/11 Zachary Getz
5/12 Nancy Riffle
5/15 John Urian
5/19 William Getz
5/18 Carroll Zentz
5/18 Warren Zentz
5/20 Carroll Roderick
5/21 Gloria Angleberger
5/25 Michael Lewis
5/26 Brian Getz
5/26 Beulah Zentz
5/28 Amanda March
5/29 Lisa Riffle
5/30 Inus Lohr
5/30 Kristin Fox
5/31 Nathan Fox

April 2015

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

| DATE | SERVICE | ASS'T. MINISTER | LECTOR | WELCOMERS | ALTAR |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| 4/2 | <u>Maundy Thursday</u> 7:00 pm | J. Ford | B. Riffle | B. & N. Riffle | G. Spahr |
| 4/3 | <u>Good Friday</u> 7:00 pm | xxxxxxx | xxxxxxx | G. Spahr | G. Spahr |
| 4/5 | <u>10:00 a.m. *</u> EASTER | S. Dart | G. Spahr | D. & D. Valentine | G. Spahr |
| 4/12 | 8:30 a.m. | L. Riffle | J. Ford | Dart Family | G. Spahr |
| 4/19 | 8:30 a.m. | B. Riffle | C. Fraley | J. & C. Ford | G. Spahr |
| 4/26 | 8:30 a.m. | K. Muegge | L. Riffle | L. & N. Riffle | G. Spahr |

* Easter Sunday Crucifer: K. Johnson

SING & REJOICE SERVICE

| DATE | SERVICE | LECTOR | ACOLYTE | WELCOMERS | PRAYER |
|------|-------------------|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 4/5 | <u>10:00 a.m.</u> | <u>ONE SERVICE — Traditional at 10:00 a.m.</u> | | | |
| 4/12 | 10:45 a.m. | B. Riffle | S. Getz | T. & A. Hauk | G. Spahr |
| 4/19 | 10:45 a.m. | C. Muegge | A. Mumm | C. & J. Muegge | M.B. Johnson |
| 4/26 | 10:45 a.m. | R. Johnson | M. Donaghue | T. & A. Mumm | K. Donaghue |



**** Please Note ****



*If you cannot be present on the assigned date,
be sure to trade with another assistant. Thank you!*

APRIL 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|--|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 7:00 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion Service NO BIBLE ON TAP | 3 7:00 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY Worship Service | 4 9:00-3:00 Bake and Flower Sale at CVS Shopping Center |
| 5 <u>EASTER</u> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> <u>ONE SERVICE</u> <u>TRADITIONAL</u> (NO Sunday School) | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 10:00 a.m. "Wiggler" Worship Service 7:00 Church Council | 10 | 11 |
| 12 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 7:00 Bible on Tap at Shamrock | 17 | 18 |
| 19 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice 2:30 St. Catherine's Service | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

MAY 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|--|--------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 10:45 a.m. <u>ONE SERVICE</u> <u>SING & REJOICE</u> Social Ministry Fair Trade Sale for Sarah Johnson's Ministry | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 7:00 Bible on Tap at Shamrock | 8 | 9 11:00 am Mother's Day Brunch and Silent Auction |
| 10 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 7:00 Church Council | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 SYNOD ASSEMBLY | 29 SYNOD ASSEMBLY | 30 SYNOD ASSEMBLY |
| 31 8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice | | | | | | |

HIDDEN WORD PUZZLE—JOSEPH

The following words can be found on the word search grid below. Circle the letters that make the word. The letters must be in straight lines, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Words may be spelled either forward or backward. How many of these words can you find?

JOSEPH
BENJAMIN
JACOB
EGYPT
COAT
ISHMAELITES
RACHEL

POTIPHAR
PHARAOH
REUBEN
SIMEON
LEVI
JUDAH
ISSACHAR
ZEBULUN

DAN
NAPHTALI
GAD
ASHER
GENESIS
DREAMS
CUP

J O S A C O B D A R A O H G P D
P U C N A P B R A H C A S S I R
P H A U T A O C V N E L P Y G E
H B E L E V C O A S G A H O I A
A G G U G R A H P I T O P O L M
R E U B E N J A M I N E U J A S
A O C E J U O P O T I P G A T A
O G E Z E L S E E R Y G E Y H G
H E S E B U E R M P A A N A P E
A N E B E N P O C I A R E M A T
R E N R A C H E L E S A S A N L
R S E H C A R R E M H C O A D E
A I G A D C O A V I E S M G A V
H S H U B E N J I S R A A D U J
P O J S E T I L E A M H S I H J

Church Office: 301-271-7877

Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck

PastorSusan@saintjohnlutheran.org

(H) 410-442-9946

(M) 410-707-4640

Administrative Assistant: Dede Himes

Email: admin@saintjohnlutheran.org

Council President: John Brown

Web Site: www.saintjohnlutheran.org

St. John's Preschool: 301-271-4109

Chairperson: Stacey Brown-Hobbs, 301-271-2390

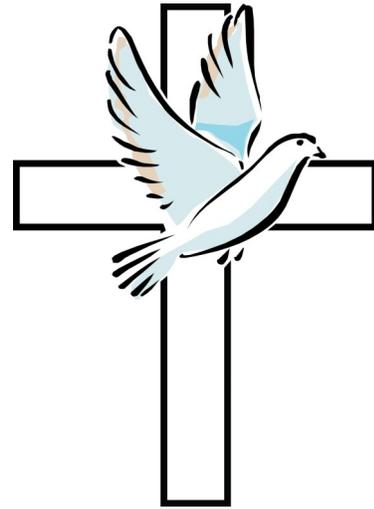
Registrar: Marie Skillinger

Email: stjpreschl@aol.com

Thurmont Thespians

Beth Watson, 301-416-0864

Email: beth.watson@myactv.net



**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

*15 N. Church Street
Thurmont, MD 21788*

*"Loved by God ... to love others!"
Ministers: The People of St. John's
Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck*

**8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:40 AM Sunday School, all ages
10:45 AM Sing & Rejoice Worship**



*Please submit articles for the
May 2015 Grapevine by
April 20.*