

**April 4th**  
**Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day**

**First Reading**

**Acts 10:34-43**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

**Gospel**

**Mark 16:1-8**

**April 11th**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading**

**Acts 4:32-35**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 133**

**Second Reading**

**1 John 1:1--2:2**

**Gospel**

**John 20:19-31**

**April 18th**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading**

**Acts 3:12-19**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 4**

**Second Reading**

**1 John 3:1-7**

**Gospel**

**Luke 24:36b-48**

**April 25th**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading**

**Acts 4:5-12**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 23**

**Second Reading**

**1 John 3:16-24**

**Gospel**

**John 10:11-18**

## PASTOR'S PONDERABLES

### IT IS FINISHED

"Remember to finish what I begin." When I was 7 years old, I joined Blue Birds. This was an arm of the girls' organization known as Camp Fire Girls. The Blue Birds had tenets, that is, character building phrases that one recited at the beginning of each meeting. One night we presented these tenets in a program for our parents. The one I shared was, "Remember to finish what I begin." As soon as I finished my speech, my mother called out in front of everyone, "Bonnie needs to remember that one."

"Remember to finish what I begin." Jesus says, "It is finished!" The Greek word means "accomplished." Three words, that can either bring a sigh of relief or a sorrowful reaction. What did Jesus finish? What does "it" stand for? Was he talking about his ministry? That he had finished all his teaching, and preaching, and healing? Was he talking about his life? Here he was, approximately in his early thirties, saying that he was finished living. Did he believe that he had accomplished what Adam, the first man, could not do, and be obedient to his Father's will? Is that what was finally finished? If Jesus was finished, what was he doing being resurrected and returning to his disciples for another 40 days? What was it that Jesus finished?

Jesus is announcing to his Creator and to the crowd that he has completed the work that he was assigned to do from the beginning. Jesus has fulfilled his vocation - his calling - the purpose for which he was born. God and Jesus are united in work and in love. He revealed the truth of God to an often hostile world, knowing that his words and actions could cost him his life.

"It is finished!" Everything prophesied about Him was completed. Salvation is accomplished, redemption is attained through Jesus' death and resurrection. There is nothing that can be added to it. Nothing that we can do that makes His sacrifice better. It is not conditional on our good works, on our baptism, on our church membership. All we can do is to receive it by faith, celebrate it, and live out our lives in response.

There is an Orthodox icon called the Harrowing of Hades. It shows what Jesus is doing when he descends to the dead. He reaches out his hands and pulls Adam and Eve from their graves into a new life with Him, eternally bathed in the presence of God's love. We are Adam and Eve.

In Christ, God did for us what we could not do for ourselves. He only had to do it once. "It is finished!" is what God does, and our only response is to say, "Thank you" and to live the life for which that great sacrifice was accomplished. It is finished tells us that "Salvation is more a matter of cherishing the magnitude of God's love than it is a matter of the forgiveness of sins. We all want this viral pandemic to be finished. But, even in its midst, we are to live this life for which we were born and to be united with God in work and in love, because Jesus said, "It is finished!" Amen.

Happy Easter from Pastor Oplinger



## WALKING WITH JESUS DURING



## Holy Week

**PALM SUNDAY** - Indoor worship @ 9 AM. All precautions continuing in place. Even if you are vaccinated. Please wear a mask and sit in open pews. We will celebrate Holy Communion in the aisles. Offering baskets will still remain at the back of the church. We will still not be singing or having indoor fellowship after church.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** - 7 PM service with Holy Communion; no foot washing. Precautions in place.

**GOOD FRIDAY** - 7 PM Tenebrae Service with reading of Jesus 7 Last Words. Precautions in place.

**EASTER - SUNRISE SERVICE** - 6:30 AM at Millport Mennonite Church. This will be an outdoor service of combined congregations in the Rothsville area. Salem United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Congregational Church, Millport Mennonite Church and Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please bring your own lawn chair.

**EASTER SUNDAY - SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT** - 9 AM at Jerusalem. Precautions in place.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Roger L. Kurtz**



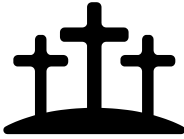

As we celebrate Christ's resurrection on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the text of "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" – found on page 378 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* – perfectly captures the transformation of our spirits from Good Friday's sunset of sadness to Easter Sunday's sunrise of gladness. Referring to Jesus' triumph over sin and death, stanza three of the hymn speaks to the assurance felt not only by Christians in general, but also by an author whose earthly life was filled with many trials and tribulations: *This is a sight that gladdens – what peace it does impart! Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart. No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take, the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.*

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) wrote the words to "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" in 1648. Born near Wittenberg, Germany, he lost both his parents while he was still going to school. Gerhardt studied theology at the University of Wittenberg and became a pastor, serving a Lutheran parish in Mittenwalde and then the great St. Nicolas Church in Berlin. The sunniest period of his professional life was during the early years of his Berlin ministry, when he enjoyed universal love and esteem; however, he was relieved of his duties in 1666 after refusing to comply with a government edict he found contrary to Lutheran doctrine and teachings.

Living during the era of the Thirty Years' War, Gerhardt experienced much distress due to the conflict. In addition, he encountered incredible tragedy in his personal life:- four of his five children died young, and his wife passed away after a prolonged illness while he was unemployed. Sadly, Gerhardt's later years as a widower were spent pastoring what one author called a "rough and unsympathizing people."

Next to Luther, Gerhardt ranks as the most gifted and popular hymn writer of the Lutheran Church. In the history of hymnody, he is considered a transitional figure, writing at a time when hymns were changing from an objective and corporate focus to a more devotional and personal one. Despite the suffering he endured, a remarkable sense of inner peace and strength are found in his texts. Besides "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness," seven other hymns by Gerhardt appear in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (#241), "All My Heart Again Rejoices" (#273), "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" (#340), "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (#351), "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadows" (#568), "Evening and Morning" (#761), and "If God My Lord Be for Me" (#788).

Shortly before his death, Gerhardt included the following words as part of a personal testament written to his son. Like the timeless beauty of his hymn texts, they remain relevant and inspirational over three centuries later: *Pray diligently, study something honorable, live peacefully, serve honestly, and remain unmoved in your faith and confessing. If you do this, you too will one day die and depart from this world willingly, joyfully, and blessedly.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:00am Holy Communion  <b>Easter Sunday</b>	5	6 3:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	7	8	9  <small>GOOD FRIDAY</small>	10
11  9:00am Holy Communion	12	13	14	15  <i>Newsletter</i> <b>DEADLINE</b>	16	17
18 9:00am Holy Communion	19	20 7pm Congregational Council Meeting	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i> 	23	24
25 9:00am Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	

# APRIL CELEBRATIONS

## April Birthdays

1 - Jacob Garman	14 - Evelyn Wissler
4 - Rodney Rhoads	16 - Audrey Adams
4 - Zachary Fetter	18 - Lucille Martin
5 - Kenneth Craley	19 - Dave Carson
5 - Jess Volker	23 - Daniel Volker
8 - Deb Carson	27 - Beth Trachte
12 - Joan Dull	28 - Laura Bowman



## APRIL birthdays!



## April Wedding Anniversaries

Jeffrey & Beth Morgan celebrate on April 17th

Gerald & Janice Styer celebrate 60 years on April 22nd

## April Anniversaries of Baptism

Brian Burkholder - 4/1/51

Melvin Ravegum - 4/1/56

Chrystine Anderson - 4/2/34

Spencer Ehrhart - 4/3/10

Kathy Schreiber - 4/10/61

Dennis Styer - 4/12/98

Joyce Burkholder - 4/13/52

Jacob Garman - 4/16/54

Leslie Miller - 4/17/55

Gregory Sammet - 4/20/52

Michael Lee Frantz - 4/21/63

Timothy Sweigart - 4/26/70

Beth Trachte - 4/28/65

Zachary Frantz - 4/30/00

Joseph Dean Hoover, Jr. - 4/30/00

Nicole E. Nafe - 4/30/00



*Best wishes to those celebrating in April. If your special day was missed, please contact Tracy in the church office - (717)626-8972*

The generosity and continued support by our congregational members is greatly appreciated. Our contributions exceed our expenses on a monthly basis. We truly return to God a generous portion of our abundance for the many blessings bestowed by Him upon us.

Thank you from your finance committee -Ken Craley, Larrie Miller and Pastor Oplinger

*Your finance Committee*



Lynn Beard, The Carson families, Spencer Ehrhart, Brenda Fetter, Jacob Garman, Weston Hertzler, Alma Hollingsworth, Wendy Hoover, Hunter Leisey, Lillian Logeman, James Martin, Ken Martin, Lucille Martin, Mae Maxwell, Doug Michael, Florence Morgan, Cameron Ironstand Oplinger, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Gerald Styer, Charles Sweigart, Trista Winkquist, Evelyn Wissler, Wyatt Wolfe and Craig Young. Be with Military Personnel, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and the helpers and the residents at Nursing Homes.



**Updates and corrections to the 2020 Annual Report**

Patti Stripling's email address is: [pattistipling@ymail.com](mailto:pattistipling@ymail.com)

Beth Trachte's new cell phone number is: 717-742-7130

Sunday June 6th at 10:00 am is the Annual church picnic and worship in the park.

Lucille Martin's cell phone number is: 717-615-2283

Jill Clubb's cell phone number is : 717-654-0684

**Property Committee Update**

1. Annual fire extinguisher inspection completed - 2 recharged.
2. Elevator inspection completed.
3. Emergency lighting bulb in elevator stairwell replaced.
4. A special Thank You to Brad & Ross Clubb for donating the equipment and manpower to clear our parking lots - multiple times!
5. LED lights installed under the portico.
6. Outdated computer components taken to Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority.
7. Recertification class completed for CPR & AED.
8. Rear entrance door lock repaired.

**A thank you from Seafarers International House:**

Dear Pastor Bonnie and friends at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran:

We are so grateful for your generous gift of 50+ hand knitted hats for our seafarers and sojourners. They are not only beautifully crafted, but they are infused with God's love and warmth for those who that specifically during this time of pandemic. Jesus always promised to be with us during our "storms" and he is with us through your kindness. Thank you.

Enclosed are some newsletters. Our most recent newsletter is going to be ready in a few weeks, but, for now, I'll send the fall edition.

God bless you as, together, we weather this storm in Jesus' name.

Peace,

Pastor Marsh Drege

## *Stewards of our natural world*

*“God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.” –Genesis 1:31*

Type “glacier loss” into an internet search engine, examine photos of ice sheets today versus just a few decades ago, and you will draw the same conclusion as the world’s best scientists: We are losing ice, and fast.

But melting glaciers is just one of the many crises facing our natural world. Stressed by warming temperatures, rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, acidifying ocean waters, and pollution of land, air and water, nature itself is under grave threat. Thousands of species of insects, plants and animals are going extinct as habitat, from coral reefs to rainforests to estuaries, is destroyed.

“Our planet is in crisis,” says campaignfornature.org. “The natural world is disappearing at an unprecedented rate.”

For God’s people, appointed as caretakers of God’s creation, this is not just troubling news but also a call to action.

This April 22, the 51st Earth Day, let’s dedicate ourselves to learning about and fighting for God’s creation.

Here are some ideas:

- Learn about the growing crises and how they threaten our lives. Teach others.
- Pick one problem and make it a focus for education, awareness, and action in your family or congregation.
- Connect with nature by visiting a park or wild place near you.
- Pick up litter and trash from the street or public land.
- Learn about the plants and animals that live in your area.
- Plant flowers, herbs, vegetables, or trees.
- Advocate for public policies that will promote conservation.
- Find a special way to observe Earth Day in your family, congregation, or community.

Our natural world is under threat, but God’s people can make a difference by caring and getting busy. –

*Rob Blezard*

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## Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Food Bank

April's Food Bank Suggestions:

- baked beans
- juice for children
- canned meats (chicken, spam, tuna, etc.)



***Items can be placed in the drop boxes in the narthex - thank you!***

**APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, WHAT DO MAY FLOWERS BRING?**

**BLOOD DRIVE - Saturday, May 8, 2021 @ Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BLOOD BANK** will be conducting a blood drive in the social hall from 9 AM to 3 PM. More information later on registering to give blood. If you would like to volunteer to be present for an hour or two during the day, please sign the schedule in the narthex on the bulletin board.



**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY - Tuesday, May 18, 2021 @ Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church** Everyone living in the Millport District is eligible to vote at our church from 7 AM to 8 PM. If you would like to volunteer to be present for an hour or two during the day, please sign the schedule in the narthex on the bulletin board.







# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

*“As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally.”*

**Present:** Pastor Oplinger, Rene Amey, Chrystine and Odel Anderson, Joyce Burkholder, Brenda Fetter, Larrie Miller, Mel Ravegum, Florence Morgan, Zachary Fetter, Jean Slaymaker.

**Absent:** Jim Martin and JD Wissler.

**Guests:** None.

**Devotions were led by:** Pastor Oplinger – Affirming Spirit Filled Communities.

**Meeting led by:** Rene Amey, council president

## **Recognition:**

1. Shelby Hoover for updating Jerusalem's website. One can access the site using [Jerusaluth.org](http://Jerusaluth.org).
2. Flyway for snow removal of driveways and sidewalks.
3. Janet Craley for replacing a battery in an emergency light in the social hall and replacing exterior lights.

## **Reports:**

### **Pastor's Report:**

1. Central Penn Blood Bank regarding the use of our facility for a blood drive. Pastor Oplinger did contact them and now awaiting a return call.
2. Pastor Oplinger asking for one week vacation – week of March 1<sup>st</sup> for Icon Workshop. No substitute is required and if emergency arises, she will take care of it.
3. Telephone company decision needed to move forward with WiFi. More information to follow at next meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** Jean Slaymaker made a motion to accept the Secretary's report of January 19, 2021 and Mel Ravegum seconded. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The February 4, 2021 Treasurer's report was distributed to Council members. Joyce Burkholder made a motion to accept the report, subject to audit, and Brenda Fetter seconded and the motion was approved.

**Old Business:** Combined Easter Dawn Service with Rothsville churches. Pastor Oplinger will check with involved congregations.

**New Business:** A question was asked if end of year audits were completed. Pastor Oplinger reported audits have been completed.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Sunday School:** Nothing to report.

**Worship and Music:** Meetings are on hold for now.

**Cemetery:** Florence Morgan reports a recommendation was made to increase the price of burial lots Ray Bowman to be paid for his services.

**Memorial:** Nothing to report.

**Finance:** See Treasurer's Report

**Property:** Battery replaced in emergency light in the social room. Lights have been replaced at the portico entrance.

**Service:** Joyce Burkholder reported:

Service Committee to meet on 2/17/21 to discuss quilt making and ways to raise money.

**Stewardship:** Pastor Oplinger will be using messages in the newsletter from Pastor Rob Blezard.

**Reminder Dates:** February 17, 2021 Ashes to go and Holy Communion.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2021

**Announcements/Correspondences:**

1. A Thank You was received from the executive director of the ELCA for the money donation of \$160.00 for "Good Gifts"
2. Randy Garman sent a letter with an update on his father, Jake Garman and a money donation.

**Adjournment:** Joyce Burkholder made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Florence Morgan seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brenda Fetter, Council Secretary**

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**Willis Beam**

411 A East Main Street  
Leola, PA 17540  
(717) 203-4941  
*Birthday: October 7*

**Jacob Garman**

United Zion Ret. Community  
722 Furnace Hills Pike,  
Room 130  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: April 1*

**Alma Hollingsworth**

Room 602, Muhlenberg Lodge  
300 St. Mark Drive  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: September 21*

**Lillian Logeman**

Keystone Villa, Room 321  
100 North State Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
Landline (717) 738-5821  
Cell (717) 888-0371  
*Birthday: August 31*

**Jim & Lucille Martin**

536 Brookshire Avenue  
Manheim, Pa 17545  
Landline (717) 664-4319  
Cell (717) 598-8003  
Lucille's Cell (717) 615-2283  
*Jim's Birthday: Nov. 10th*  
*Lucille's Birthday: April 18th*

**Norma Rhoads**

2646 Camp Road  
Manheim, Pa 17545  
*Birthday: September 24*

**Evelyn Wissler**

321 Meadow Valley Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
*Birthday: April 14*



Please extend your sympathies to the entire Carson family on Karen Carson's passing from this life to eternal life. She was a beloved mother and grandmother and great-grandmother.

## WHAT IS A HYBRID CHURCH?

If we didn't learn enough new words attached to concepts as the result of a viral pandemic, the Christian church is moving forward in various ways to be the Body of Christ in this time of keeping ones distance for safety's sake. To that end, Jerusalem is experimenting with a virtual worship service (and other meeting times) in the least intrusive way possible.

Beginning Easter Sunday, we will offer a virtual worship service besides in person worship. If you have an internet connection, you will be able to participate in worship from home. If you do not have a computer, there will be a telephone number to use to dial into the worship service. It will be just like listening on the radio. You will hear the service, but you will not be able to see it. However, if you have a "smart" phone, that has an internet connection, you will be able to see and hear the service. There will be a computer on a pedestal in the 2nd pew that will be positioned to see the chancel to transmit the service.

We need to offer special thanks to the Rev. Peter Pearson for bringing your pastor into the 21st century as a "hybrid church." He is an iconographer and my iconography instructor for the past 17 years. He was one of the ministers who laid his hand on my head when I was ordained. He is the Episcopal priest at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Moscow, PA. He came here a few weeks ago and met with Roger Kurtz, our Director of Music, and a few members of the Congregational Council. He invited us to participate virtually in their worship service for the past few Sundays. He has had different ones of us participate, even though they are two hours away. You have received invitations to join in their worship service if you have a computer. Council members who are computer-less had a phone number to call to join in the service. The disciples at St. Mark's have been very welcoming of us in our participation in their worship.

### A Thank you from Lititz Warwick Community Chest

Dear Jerusalem Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the board members of the Lititz Warwick Community Chest, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of 30.8 pounds of food items to keep the pantry well stocked. The donation will be used to help local families through a difficult time. We are grateful to be part of a generous and caring community.

Our volunteers continue to deliver nonperishable food from our pantry stock along with fresh meat and perishable vegetables. The Lititz Warwick Community Chest delivered food to 33 families in the month of February . The total number of deliveries for 2020 is 536. We appreciate your support in meeting this need.

**Covid-19 update:** The volunteers at Lititz Warwick Community Chest are working hard to support our neighbors in the national emergency. We have streamlined the grocery delivery process, and are delivering food to those requesting it. We are grateful for the many donations of food and money from individuals, businesses, churches and organizations. Together, we well get to the other side of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Patty Pfennig, Communication Coordinator

Lititz Warwick Community Chest.

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
36 Church Street  
Lititz, PA 17543



## **Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

36 Church Street, Rothsville (Lititz), Pennsylvania 17543

**Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.**

717.626.8972 | [www.jerusaluth.org](http://www.jerusaluth.org) | [jerusaluth@windstream.net](mailto:jerusaluth@windstream.net)

Pastor's email: [jerusaluthpastor@windstream.net](mailto:jerusaluthpastor@windstream.net)

**Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm

**The Reverend Bonnie M. Oplinger, *Pastor***

**Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music***

*Office Administrator*

**Joan C. Dull, *Sexton***

**Congregation, *Ministers***