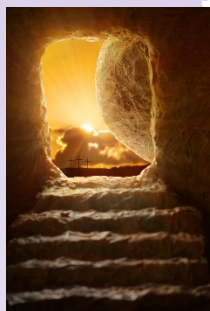




Worship
10:30 am



Stay
safe
and
healthy



St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

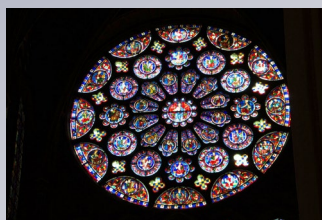
April 2021
Volume 63 Issue 3

The Epistle

Our new worship
time is 10:30 am

Remember to pick up your new
church directory for 2021 with
everyone's address and contact.

If there is an error, please let Andrea
know to make the correction.



He is Risen!
He is Risen
indeed!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

St. Paul's will host the Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 PM on April 1. Good Friday worship will be at Christ Lutheran at 7 PM on April 2. There will also be virtual services posted on the church Facebook page. All of these services are for both congregations.



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Easter Sunday worship will be at 10:30 AM on April 4. As we had planned with Christmas before we shut down in-person worship, please contact me at pastormatt@stpaulssassamansville.com to "reserve" your spot and to ensure we have an adequate plan for spacing in the church.

PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX
FOR FORMS THAT YOU NEED TO SPONSOR:
BULLETINS / FLOWERS / SHARES OF FAITH

Remit them to the church office.

Note from Pastor Matt



Each season of the Church year carries with it certain themes and areas of focus. As we live through these cycles year after year we return to those themes and allow them to speak to us and hopefully help us deepen our walk of faith. In Advent, we look with anticipation toward Christ's return as we also anticipate the celebration of his incarnation. In Lent, we look to the traditional disciplines of the season, prayer, fasting, and giving to give us a deeper appreciation of our Lord Jesus and all that he has given for us and the whole world. Christmastide and Epiphanytide (in the old practice of naming the seasons) are seasons that focus on Jesus' incarnation and arrival as light to the world.

The celebration of the seasons of the liturgical calendar gives us deepening appreciation of these themes as we return to them each year. There is one "season," however, I hope to which we never return. We are now one full year into the season of "Covidtide." Although this is not an official season of the Church year it has affected everything we have done over this past year. When the world shut down one year ago, I could not imagine all that the next year would hold. What will we take from this season? How has this season changed us?

This season has been one where we all have dealt with loss. Most acutely, many people have lost friends and loved ones to the virus. Along with that loss is the additional difficulty of not being able to say goodbye and mourn in the traditional way. Even those who have not lost anyone close to them have also experienced losses over the past year, loss of work, loss of opportunities, loss of connections, loss of routine, and other losses. Like any loss it takes time to work through these losses, and like any loss these losses will stay with us for a lifetime even as their intensity decreases. As we work through these losses, we can be encouraged to lay them at the feet of Jesus just as we can with any losses we experience in life. The suffering and the pain are real and when we experience these things, they can also connect us to our Lord who suffered for us. Just as Jesus bore the suffering of the cross, the promise of his resurrection reminds us that the suffering we experience in this life is not ultimate. It is not the final word for us.



This Covidtide season, hopefully, has allowed us to experience something other than suffering and loss. This time should also remind us of what is truly important in life. As we have been asked to remain separated from each other for a time it also reminds us that we need each other. Our friends, family, and community are necessary parts of our human existence. We need each other. We need community that brings us together. Most of all we need community that brings us together under the cross of Jesus. Under the cross we all stand in equal need of God's grace and mercy. As we recognize that we are in need of that grace and mercy we should extend that grace and mercy to our brothers and sisters. I pray that as a community defined by God's grace and mercy in Jesus Christ, we can welcome others into that community to know that grace and mercy.

Unlike the way this season began, very suddenly, this season will end gradually. Things have improved since December and January. Everyday more people are getting vaccinated, and we have been able to help seniors in the community get access to those vaccines. As that process continues, the situations should continue to improve. This season will end, and the practices of this season of Covidtide in the church will fall away. We will be singing in church again. We will hug each other again. We will put away the masks. When will this all happen? I don't yet know, but the day will come. It will not happen all at once but one step at a time, and those steps will begin relatively soon.

When vaccines are widely available, and the public has had the opportunity to receive them we will be able to put away these practices of Covidtide.

In the meantime, remember why we have been doing these things. While these practices offer us some level of safety and protection for ourselves, more importantly these practices offer safety and protection for our sisters and brothers. In the Church when we make decisions, we do not do so for ourselves but for the sake of others.

As this season comes to an end, keep the faith. As difficult as this time has been Jesus remains present with us just as he does through all the seasons of the year and throughout our lives.



In Christ.....Pastor Matt



Remember in your prayers:

Walter Dittman, John and Miki Mroz, Cleora Shellaway, Marie Stauffer, Grace Stauffer, Lillian Sweinhart, Kathy Hoffman, Arthur Yerger, Willard Koch, Marlene Duchak, Mary Ann Levan, Jana LePage, Michael Billetta, Marion Eschbach, Ruth Miller, Eleanor Ruth, Joan Roth, Thomas Weiss, Sylvia, Brian Fontaine, Harry Henning III, Clifton Shaw, Mike Moyer, LeRoy Roshong, Linda McCue, Bill McCue, Michael McLaughlin, Robin Prutzman, Deb DeTurck

The young men and women serving in our armed forces....

Noah Ziegler, Matthew McHugh, Eric Littlefield, Adam Wolford

For the families and friends who mourn the loss of their loved ones.....

Chuck Yerger, Gloria Stricker, Esther Renninger, Arlene Hess, Betty Seifrit, Glenn Moyer

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STAFF

Pastor Matthew Finney
Lili Sanderlin, Music Director
Andrea Kershaw, Secretary
Becky Higham, Sexton

“To know Christ and make Christ known
Spread the Gospel by word and action.”



April 2021

April 2021							May 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3							1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 28	29	30	31	Apr 1 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	2 7:00pm Good Friday Worship (Niantic)	3
4 HAPPY EASTER! 10:30am Worship	5	6 6:30pm Women of the Church	7	8	9	10
11 10:30am Worship	12	13 7:30pm Worship and Music	14	15	16	17
18 10:30am Worship	19 6:30pm Congregation Council	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	May 1