



Pastor's Corner

by Pr Dave Heckler

Welcome to April! Once again, we're anticipating the climactic event of the Christian year, our holy remembrance of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ—a remembrance and celebration rich with drama, power, paradox, and ultimately triumph, all of which our liturgies testify to and lived out. For worship leaders, this season is always filled with activity and sometimes fraught with anxiety and exhaustion...

But alas, we're doing so while war's going on in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, the DRC, and in so many homes and neighborhoods right here in America. All of these are intentionally inflicted humanitarian disasters of epic proportions—and alas, the adrenaline rush of all this violence is so addictive and compelling that entire nations (including our own) lie under its thrall. Worse yet, in many cases such violence is commended and encouraged by Christians themselves—a blasphemy so blatant and obvious that it's driven millions of young adults away from the Church, even as it attracts so many others to its siren song of future "greatness"...

But as this season (not to mention the history of the past 2000 years) reminds us, the sad hypocrisy we're seeing right now is nothing new. Alas, Christians of every age and in every land have been doing this for ages. (And we ourselves aren't immune to this hypocrisy; there are plenty of folks in our own land who aspire to such "dominionism" and "Christian nationalism" in the pursuit of national "greatness" and religious and moral "purity" and social "cleansing"...). And it all rises from a notion of God's power and authority that desperately wants us to skip from Palm Sunday's "triumphal entry" directly to Jesus' resurrection and ascension and ignore the crucified Christ, preferring to use the cross of Christ only as a battle emblem, as in *"In hoc signe vinces!"* ("By this sign, conquer!")

Nevertheless, Holy Week comes around every year to remind us that this isn't God's way. It's *never* been God's way. And the proof of this is seen in Christ Jesus: While the crowds are cheering on Palm Sunday, Jesus is weeping [*Luke 19.41-42—"How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace; but now it's too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes."*]. When Jesus knows that God has given Him complete power, He chooses to use that power to wash His disciples' feet, the job of the lowest of household slaves [*John 13*], and to feed them with His very life [*"This is My body/blood, given/shed for you"*]. When Judas betrays Jesus to try and force Him to "man up" and drive the religious leaders and the Romans out by force, Jesus refuses to defend Himself or lash out in violence. When Jesus is hanging from the cross and His accusers are demanding He prove His divine authority by saving Himself, Jesus refuses, giving His life for us even as we're trying to rip it from Him. And even when Jesus rises from death, He doesn't seek out those who'd condemned and crucified Him to deal them some payback, but goes to His fearful disciples and empowers them with the Holy Spirit to forgive others, and just so to make peace [*John 20.19-31*]. Indeed, when Jesus finally says in John 12 that "now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified", His very next statement is about the necessity of a grain of wheat falling into the earth and dying in order to bear much fruit—about God's glory being revealed in the giving of Himself even unto death, not in the seizure of others' lives and property unto His own "greatness".

In this and every year, Holy Week gives us a living tutorial of what really makes for "the Kingdom and the power and the glory" of God. And to skip it, either in our imaginations or our liturgies or our ways of living out the Gospel in the world, is ultimately to embark not simply on a path of heresy or even blasphemy, but an inevitable path toward violence—a violence sadly on display right now. The question for us, even as we re-enter the rich drama of this Holy Week, is whether we'll allow this violence for which we condemn others to challenge our own hearts and steer us away from falling into this same violent path ourselves...

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord, *Pr Dave*

Holy Week and Easter: The Victory of Our God!

"Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" the classic spiritual asks us. In the Great and Holy Week of the Church year, we answer "Yes" with humility and awe, following Christ along the way of the cross for our salvation and recognizing our own complicity in His death and our sharing in the saving benefits of His Passion through our baptismal union with Him. Here's how we'll observe this Great and Holy Week:



- ❖ On **April 6**, the **Fifth Sunday in Lent**, we behold Mary of Bethany (who may also be Mary Magdalene) anointing Jesus with oil at a dinner party being held in His honor. "She's done this to prepare Me for burial," Jesus tells those gathered (which probably shocked even Mary)— but she also did it out of pure, unabashed love for Jesus, a love whose passion mirrors Jesus' own love for us...
- ❖ On **April 13**, we begin the most solemn week of the Church year with a powerful **Palm Sunday Eucharist**, beginning with the blessing of palms and continuing with a congregational reading of the Passion of our Lord according to Matthew. After the service, we have a fun **Palm Sunday/Easter Event** for children and adults— so be sure to stick around after worship!
- ❖ **April 14-16:** Pr Dave will be posting **Holy Week Daily Prayer** services on our congregation's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown), sending out in advance a liturgy and the "propers" for Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week. We invite you to take some time each day of Holy Week to pray through these services.
- ❖ **April 16:** Come join Pr Dave and plenty of our friends from the Quakertown Lutheran Cluster at **6:00 PM** at **St Isidore's Church** on Pumping Station Road outside of Quakertown for a journey around **the Stations of the Cross**. For many of you, this may be a new experience— but it's a powerful way to "walk the walk" and contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond for our salvation.
- ❖ **April 17:** On **Maundy Thursday @ 7:00 PM at St Paul's**, we'll stand with Jesus at the brink, and see our sinful betrayals met by His self-giving love. We'll confess our sins once more, and this time we hear the strong word of God's forgiveness. We'll behold Jesus washing His disciples' feet, and find in this humble act the shape of our life in Him. We'll receive His Body and Blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. This powerful service closes in silent prayer, with the stripping of the altar foreshadowing the solemnity of Good Friday. Our friends from Christ UCC in Trumbauersville and perhaps even St John's in Richlandtown will be joining us at St Paul's for this service— and we'll also livestream this service from St Paul's on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stpaulsqtown/live).
- ❖ **April 18:** You're invited to join our neighbors throughout the Quakertown Ministerium at **12:00 PM** in our annual **Community Good Friday Service** at First United Church of Christ in Quakertown (Park and Fourth Streets). This service will be an hour-long service featuring pastors from across our Quakertown area.
- + **April 18:** We'll gather at Christ UCC in Trumbauersville with our friends from St John's Richlandtown and Christ's Lutheran in Trumbauersville at **7:00 PM** to share in **Good Friday Tenebrae**. In the darkness of the evening, we gather for the reading of the Passion according to John, further dramatized by the dimming of lights, the crash of the *strepitus* symbolizing the sealing of Christ's tomb, and the hope-filled adoration of our Crucified Lord— the secret of life eternal whispered and shouted against the darkness.
- + On **April 19 @ 7:00 PM**, you're invited to share with our friends from across our Quakertown Lutheran Cluster and Pennridge Lutheran Cluster in **the Great Vigil of Easter** at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio (on Dill Street). This service, which first gathers in darkness, features a candlelight procession, the reading of Scriptures and psalms that carry us through the span of the Hebrew Bible's story, a time to reaffirm our Baptism into union with Christ (and perhaps to witness a Baptism as well), and finally the first grand announcement of Christ's Easter victory and its celebration around the Table of Our Lord. If you've never experienced this service before, you really ought to check it out! (We're hoping to do this service in Quakertown in 2026...)



✦ On **April 20 @ 6:00 AM**, come share with our Pennridge and Palisades area UCC neighbors in their annual **Easter Sunrise Eucharist** at the Harrisburg School Road Marina on Lake Nockamixon. Pr Dave will be helping to accompany this service with his guitar, and we'll be sharing in Holy Communion, letting our alleluias rise with the resurrection dawn.

✦ And on **April 20 @ 9:00 AM**, our songs of rejoicing will fill the air with the fragrance of Easter lilies and the presence of the Risen Christ in Word and Sacrament

as we celebrate the great Feast of **the Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day**. And we'll follow this service with our annual **Easter Breakfast** for the whole congregation.

- ✦ Remember that we're sharing in worship and fellowship together both **in person and online** and sharing together in **weekly Holy Communion**. And **we'll keep on "livestreaming" our worship services via Facebook Live** and streaming the audio of our services via our **Free Conference Call** line (857.232.0157, conference code 144261).
- ✦ We're also moving toward restoring a number of our traditional worship practices such as "**passing the [offering] plates**" to receive our offering and **gathering around the Table** for Holy Communion rather than doing "continuous Communion" as we've been doing. (We're hoping to have both of these practices return the beginning of May.)
- ✦ Mark **May 4** on your calendars— we'll be observing "**Rachel's Day**" that Sunday, remembering the many children whose lives are snuffed out each year by all forms of societal violence. If you're interested in helping with or participating in the leadership of this service, please contact Rose Sutkins at rsutkins@gmail.com.
- ✦ And remember as well that for our worship, **we need a variety of ministry helpers**. There are many ways to get involved. **Crucifers/Acolytes** carry the cross and light the candles. **Communion Assistants** help distribute Communion. **Ushers** direct people to their seats or to the altar, distribute bulletins, answer questions, and guide visitors. **Readers** read Scripture during the service. The **altar guild** prepares the altar before service on Sundays and cleans up the altar after worship. If one of these ministry opportunities interests you, please reach out to the church office for more information. Thank you!

Monday Morning Bible Study

Come join us each week for our **Monday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call! (See article below for instructions. For Zoom, use meeting ID number 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805.) We're "**Living with the Lectionary**", digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come on out in the broad daylight and invite your friends to join you! (Note: We won't be having Bible study on New Year's Day, Jan. 1...)



Sunday School is Back!

Kids, come join us for **Sunday School at St Paul's** from 10:15-11:15 AM on the **second and fourth Sundays of each month**. (In April, that's **April 13 and 27**; in May, that's **May 11 and 25**.) We have room for all students age 4 through fifth grade, with older kids being helpers/leaders— and we have a great group of students ready to welcome you. Spread the word and join us for Sunday School!

Join Us Online via Zoom or Free Conference Call!

If you'd like to participate in most of our activities taking place over **Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in. If you're **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you— something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.



Supporting Our Ministries



Thanks for continuing to support our ministries here at St Paul's! Your tithes and offerings are much needed during this time. We know that right now, funds are tight for everyone; but we encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might be able to support our ministry together. If you'd like to give electronically (via Simply Giving, our church website, or some other electronic means) and would like some information on how to do that, please contact the church office.

You can financially support our ministries in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for **Simply Giving**, you're already taken care of; [2] You can **mail your offerings** to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online, even using a credit or debit

card. And remember, if you tithe using "Simply Giving" and you've increased your tithe amount on your pledge card, you need to fill out a new Simply Giving authorization form noting the change. Please contact the church office for a form.

April's "Monthly Special": Lutheran World Relief



Our **"Monthly Specials"** and **"Noisy Offerings"** are special opportunities for giving to help specific ministries in our community and beyond— some of them through the Lutheran church, others through the community organizations. For April, our **Monthly Special** recipient is **Lutheran World Relief**. LWR responds to natural disasters and complex crises, helping people recover, rebuild, and reduce their vulnerabilities to future shocks; and works with partners to rapidly develop and implement programming based on short- and long-term needs. Over the longer term, LWF partners with communities around the world to create jobs and develop productive, inclusive, and resilient economies rooted in agriculture, promoting sustainable farming practices so farmers and agribusinesses can improve productivity while conserving their natural resources. Please give as you're able!

Scrap Recycling Event

**Saturday, April 12
9 AM - Noon**

**Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
218 E. Broad Street
Trumbauersville, PA 18970**

christslutheran.com | 215-536-3193

FREE - NO CHARGE - BRING ANYTHING WITH A CORD!
Air conditioners, flat screen TVs (no older tube models please), computer screens, fridges, scrap metals, etc.

**PLUS!
Easter Candy
Sale**



Synod and Conference News



✦ Our **Quakertown Lutheran Cluster Collaboration Task Force** has been working hard to build closer ministry partnerships among our congregations. Brett Shaw, Gordon Bryan, and Pr Dave have been representing us on this task force.

We're working on several areas of collaboration at this point. One of them is creating **more cluster worship activities** that bring us all together around the Word and sacraments. This year's Midweek Lenten Series— an expansion of our usual St John's-St Paul's partnership— is but one example of this.

We're also looking at developing a monthly **"Dinner Church"** service akin to our midweek Lenten services, but including Holy Communion. We've established a Quakertown Lutheran Cluster **Facebook page, "Quakertown Area Lutherans Together"**. And to help us identify a common community ministry focus for our cluster, our task force is inviting each of our congregations to **interview our local community leaders** over the next several months. These will include our Haycock Twp. Supervisors, the fire chief, the local State Police contacts, and our AA, Al-Anon, and Scout leaders, among others.

✦ Our **2025 SEPA Synod Assembly** will be held **May 30-31** at a new site, **Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale**. Our theme will be **"Ponder Anew"**, and we'll be electing a new synod vice-president at this assembly. Registration for Synod Assembly will be open soon; we know that Rose Sutkins and Aaron Shimalla (our youth/young adult delegate) will be representing us, but we could use an additional male delegate to represent us as well.

Upper Bucks Conference at the Iron Pigs April 27

"Take me out to the ball game!" Once again, we're booking an **Upper Bucks Conference Day at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs**— and this time, it shouldn't be 100 degrees at the ballpark! This year, we have 250 tickets for the Picnic Patio for the game vs. the Columbus Clippers on **April 27 @ 1:35 PM**, and we'd love for you to have one of them. Tickets are **\$30 per person**, which includes all the food you'll want to eat from the Picnic Patio; each congregation in the Conference has 20 tickets available to it. **You'll find a signup sheet for the game on the table in the fellowship hall.**



Please note the following changes from last year's event:

1. Unfortunately, we're unable to offer reimbursements this year. If you purchase a ticket but are unable to attend, you'll need to find someone to take your place. The Iron Pigs don't reimburse ticket holders.
2. Again, tickets are **\$30 per person**, which includes all the food at the Picnic Patio. Make your checks out to **"St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church"** and get them to our treasurer Karen Roehner **by April 9**, who'll then deposit them and get one single check to Pr Dave. (If you're wondering why the check's being sent to Pr Dave, well, he's the newly elected Conference Treasurer...) Once Karen has all of our checks, she'll deposit them into our church account and write one single check to Pr Dave.
3. The IronPigs don't offer mailed tickets; tickets will be emailed to our designated contact person, who'll email them to you.
4. Remember, **the Iron Pigs are completely cashless**; to purchase anything, you must do so by debit/credit card.
5. **Parking is \$5**— again charged by debit/credit only). If you have questions regarding parking, please call the Iron Pigs directly at 610.841.7447 (PIGS)
6. Karen will make our single check out to **"UPPER BUCKS CONFERENCE,"** w/ **"IRONPIGS 2025"** in the memo line.

Please order and pay for your ticket[s] by April 13 so we can get everything in in time for the game. And we'll see you at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown Apr. 27!

Like Us on Facebook (and Otherwise Online)!



Did you know that St Paul's maintains an active church website, as well as several Facebook pages? Check out our online presence at the following sites:

- Our church website: www.stpaulsqtown.org
- Our email address: stpaulsqtown@gmail.com
- Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown
- For daily Morning & Evening Prayer: <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>



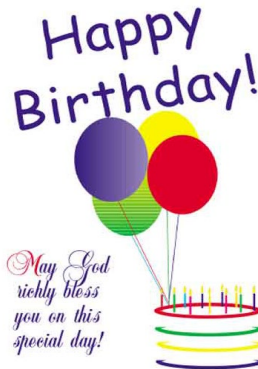
Scouts BSA Troop 007 News

- We're so thankful for St Paul's welcome and support. But right now, there's one more thing we really need to continue to survive and hopefully, thrive: **We need more Scouts!** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Scout meetings on Thursday nights, or check us out at Scouts007.org.
- We now have a fully chartered **Cub Scouts Pack 007** at St Paul's! Many thanks to Rich and Robin Beaumont, Sharin Babb, and John Hunsberger for their hard work and leadership in bringing this troop together and leading it.
- And once again, our Scouts and Cubs will be holding a **Hoagie Sale in April**. We'll have an order form posted in St Paul's narthex beginning April 6, for Italian or turkey hoagies, with or without onions, at **\$7 each**. Orders due April 20; **hoagie build and pickup will be April 24**.



Happy Birthday, Friends!

4/3 David Gullett
4/9 Raymond Constable
4/10 David Johnson III
4/12 Robin Lawrence
4/13 Dana Alderfer
4/13 Zane Silvius



4/14 Jennifer Hallman
4/15 Pr Dave Heckler
4/17 Ken Fly
4/20 Norman Diehl
4/22 Bill Shaeffer
4/23 Emily Bryan



And Happy Baptismal Birthday As Well!

We celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly? So **Happy Baptismal Birthday** this month to *Rich & Jacob Baringer, Annastasia & Mervyn Brumbach, Mariana & Raymond Constable, Christopher Hallman, William Hansen, Stephen Heckler, Kelly & Madison Reiss, Alexandra & John Schnabel, and Jen Westervelt.*

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LOVE
LOUDER**



<https://www.speaklovelouder.com>

"The Hand of God Shall Hold You..."

One of the great blessings of life in union with Christ is that the risen Christ binds us in holy and eternal communion with all His people who've *died*, enabling us to grieve in the freedom born of knowing that our loved ones are gone from our sight and for a time, but still joined with us in the body of Christ and alive in Him in far more than memory alone. Since Thanksgiving, we've also said farewell (for now) to *Dennis Silvius, Kelsey Shaak, Kenny Fly, Bill Schumacher Jr., Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner, Ann Marie Heidgerd, Frank Lennard Sr., David Morrison, Mary Johnson, Joan Bilger, Kevin Scholl, and Pr. Andrew Carlsson*. Please keep their grieving families and friends in your prayers in these days ahead, that they may come through the dark night of their grief into the resurrection joy born of their Baptismal union with Christ Jesus our risen Lord.



At the Cross, There's Really No Escaping the Truth:



God Loves You with a Passion!

Come join us
at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville
(in person or online:
www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live)
as we behold God's defiant love for us
in Christ Jesus our Lord!

- + April 13, 9:00 AM
**Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday Eucharist**
- + April 14-16, 12:00 PM
Holy Week Daily Prayer online
- + April 16, 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross
at St Isidore's Church, Quakertown
(Pumping Station Road)
- + April 17, 7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Eucharist
with footwashing rite
- + April 18, 7:00 PM
Good Friday Tenebrae
at Christ UCC, Trumbauersville
- + April 19, 7:00 PM
The Great Vigil of Easter
at St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Dill St., Perkasio
- + April 20, 6:00 AM
Easter Sunrise Eucharist
at Lake Nockamixon Marina
- + April 20, 9:00 AM
**The Resurrection of Our Lord:
Easter Day Eucharist**







BC GRANDFAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP

Run by grandparents/professionals for grandparents and others, raising the children of loved ones regardless of personal beliefs. We build support, discuss topics related to challenges, celebrate successes, broaden knowledge, educate others through lived experiences. Resources and speakers offered. We serve beyond Bucks County.

LOCATIONS

Upper, Central and Lower Bucks Support Group Meetings

<p>Lower Bucks Acts of Grace Church The Woodbourne Office Campus 1609 Woodbourne Rd, Levittown Suite 403B (Back of Complex) (Use Levittown for GPS) Located between the Hindu Temple & Self Storage http://www.actsofgracecommunitychurch.com</p>	
<p>Upper Bucks Calvary Church- Souderton 820 route 113- Door # 5 Souderton, PA 18962 http://www.calvarychurch.org</p>	<p>Central Bucks Lenape Valley Church 371 V.L. Butler Ave (At Union Road) For GPS Use Doylestown, PA 18041 https://lenapevalleychurch.org</p>
<p> Childcare and dinner provided at no cost to families</p>	<p> Meetings available virtually - email day of meeting for link</p>
<p> Registration required by noon on meeting date. Include number of children (with ages) and adults attending</p>	<p> Speakers will be in person or virtual at all meetings</p>

Childcare by: Along the Way <http://www.alongthewaypa.org>

 **bcgrandfamilies@gmail.com**



This project is made possible through Bucks County Opioid Settlement Funds www.bcdac.org

Lenape Valley Church



Welcome • Inspire • Nurture • Serve
<https://lenapevalleychurch.org/>

2/25



MEETING DATES & TOPICS
6:00 - 7:30 PM

March 3
Community Service Foundation & Buxmont Academy
Family Group Decision Making
Amber Doundas

<http://www.csfbuxmont.org>

March 17
Support Group

April 7
Access Services LIFE Program
Amy Kunkle and Denise Hooper

<http://www.accessservices.org/services/buckslife>

April 21
Support Group

May 19
Support Group

May 5
Support Group

Follow us on Facebook @
facebook.com/BCGrandfamilies!