

Zion News

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The church in the heart of Penn Hills that is the heart of Penn Hills



“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.” John 20:18

Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The lilies and tulips have appeared. The Alleluias are being sung. Even the increased daylight in the evening seems to put an extra pep in our step. The shroud of cold days and dark winter nights seems to be passing, and in its place bursts forth sunlight, warmer temperatures, and dare I say, springtime!

For my husband and me, the month of April allows us the opportunity to give thanks for the gift of life in the form of our son’s birthday. Given that this year will be his 1-year birthday, my mind and emotions have been a bit all over the board. To remember back to those early, early days of the newborn phase as we wandered the wilderness that is being a first-time parent. We drove home from the hospital, a mix of sheer terror and excitement for this new chapter that had been ushered in for us. And for all of the messy diapers and crying and not sleeping well (for anyone) there were glimpses of life in each snuggle and stare at what to us was the most perfect creature that God had ever created before.

Akin to all of this, the texts from Scripture that we will read and hear this month will continue to speak to us the proclamation of new life and resurrection that alone comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. And who can’t relate to at least one of the scenarios in our texts?

Perhaps in life you are like Mary and the other women who go to the tomb after Jesus’ death. You show up; expecting to put down some flowers, pretty things up a bit, make sure everything is in order. Instead you find out from an angel that the tomb is empty! Jesus is in fact not dead but has been raised! Or even when you do encounter the crucified and risen Lord, you do not recognize it to be him until he calls you by name. For as Scripture has always promised us, you shall never be lost to him.

Or perhaps in life you are like the disciples who hide out in the Upper Room after Jesus’ death. Their grief leaves them with fear and feelings of abandonment, and so they retreat to a place that is familiar to them. Instead, they find out from Jesus himself that their Lord has not abandoned them but rather is in their very midst, resurrected from the dead, wounds and all. Bringing peace and forgiveness with them and even asking them for something to eat. And if you don’t believe it to be true? Stick your fingers in the marks in his hand and in his side.

And no matter if it was Mary and the women or even the disciples, this news that out of death comes resurrection brought both terror and amazement. And yet, Jesus doesn’t leave them in fear. Just as God did not leave my husband and me alone to navigate the peaks and valleys of parenthood. Instead, he comes to each of them to proclaim this good news in both words and in deeds. He shows them his hands and feet. He tells them not to be afraid. To not doubt but *to believe*. God provides to each of us our own little village to navigate the joys and sorrows of this life. Those people who come in the form of dear family and friends, yes, but also brothers and sisters in Christ of Zion Lutheran church. *(continued next page)*

Yes! The risen Lord Christ has not abandoned them, and he has not abandoned you, either even as Spring emerges before our very eyes. In both times of joy or sorrow, Christ is with you, filling you with whatever you may need and making you bear for others the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

May this season of Easter fill you with all hope, joy, and peace and may the Holy Spirit give you the words to speak and the hands and feet to proclaim the good news that Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Peace,
Pastor Martha



Registration for Lutherlyn summer camp is now open. The 7-week schedule and the programs offered each week is posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. Kathy Gaberson will be one of the camp nurses for Week 4, and she would love to see some Zion kids there that week! Lutherlyn never turns a child away because of the family's inability to pay the registration fee, so if you need help paying for camp, consider applying for a Lutherlyn campership; Pastor McCreight has the application forms. Zion also has budgeted an amount for congregation-sponsored camperships; see Pastor McCreight for information.

Graham Standish Zion Consult in March: The working group met this past Wednesday, March 6th, at 7pm to discuss the Netflix movie "The Jesus Revolution", to discuss the book "Switch" by Chip Heath and Dan Heath, and to continue to work on a new vision statement for Zion. This statement will ultimately be approved by council after it is finished and presented to them. You are also welcome to read these books and watch these movies on your own for your own edification and discernment. The committee will meet next on Wednesday April 3rd at Zion.

Please continue to keep these monthly consult sessions and members of the working group in your prayers. The members of the working group are: Tom Felmley, Andrew Sabol, Kathy Gaberson, Sue Clydesdale, Reid Wolfe, Lauren Fitzroy, and Pastor Martha. If you have further questions about the group, please see one of them. Thank you!

Grant Funds

Food Pantry Grant: Several weeks ago, the Food Pantry applied for a grant from the Southwestern PA Synod's Ethel L. Verney Fund. We are pleased and excited to announce that the pantry is the recipient of \$16,000.

Woohoo and thanks be to God for this gift that allows us to gift our neighbors with food.



Volunteers to Serve as Hospitality Hosts: We continue to be in need of volunteers to serve a Sunday and be in charge of the hospitality hour. What does this mean? You (or you and a friend) provide a treat for after worship on a Sunday that works for you as well as help with set-up and cleanup afterwards. (The coffee and beverages will already be taken care of). For more questions or info, please see the Parish Life co-chairs: Charlotte Murray and Joe Balaban. Thank you!



Thank you to all who helped to prepare for and serve at the Food Pantry last month! We ended up serving over 100 household clients through drive-through and it was thanks to all of your efforts setting up, serving, and cleaning up that it all happened!

Our next pantry meets on **Saturday, April 13th** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, April 12th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 10th from 8:30am-12:00pm, that would be most appreciated!

Thank you again for all of your time, efforts, prayers and support towards making a difference in our local community and beyond!



We all want to save money when we go to the store. Buying extra for someone else would mean spending a little more. But if you can, put that food pantry item in your cart. You'll have less money in your wallet, but you'll have shown the love in your heart.

All cleaning and toiletry items accepted in the bin by the coat rack in the Gathering Space.

Thank you!



Nominations for Synod Assembly in June: We are seeking 2 individuals (or a couple) to serve as the voting representatives of Zion for the SWPA ELCA synod assembly this summer. The Synod Assembly will be held at California University June 14 & 15. If interested, please see Pastor. We will vote on names received after worship at a special congregational meeting on April 28th.



Zion Pickup Choir on Sunday April 21st: The next opportunity to sing with the pickup choir will be for worship on Sunday April 21st. This is a very low-commitment way to sing as part of a choir for worship that morning. Simply show up that morning and you will be plugged in! If you have interest or further questions, please reach out to Andrew Sabol.



Annual Congregation Meeting: Our annual Congregation meeting will be on Sunday, June 2nd immediately after worship. All names of nominees to serve on council should be given to the Nominating Committee – Marc Schuler, Chris Dippold and Rhonda Pope prior to that date. Thank you in advance for your consideration in serving at Zion in this way.

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fires of Freedom and Cloud of Witnesses

Sunday, April 7: 4 PM

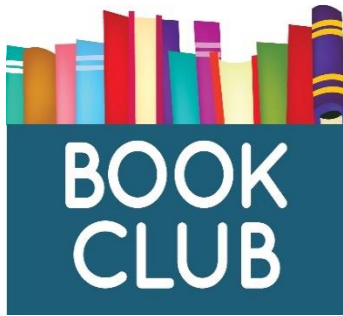
House of Prayer Lutheran Church (2100 W Irwin St, Aliquippa)

Our synod's annual commemoration of Dr. King and call for anti-racist action will highlight stories of the people, especially women, who kindled the fires of freedom in the Civil Rights Movement. The day includes a panel discussion, youth activity, dinner, and service of Holy Communion where Rev. CeCee Mills of the North Carolina Synod will preach.

Zion Book Club

Zion Book Club continues to meet approximately 10 years after its inception, reading and discussing a wide range of books. This year's selections include:

April 15:	Wild Horses of the Summer Sun by Tory Bilski
May 20:	Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelly Van Pelt
June 17:	Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
July 15:	Lucy by the Sea by Elizabeth Strout
August 19:	Oath and Honor by Liz Cheney
September 16:	The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende
October 21:	All the Lonely People by Mike Gayle
November 18:	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride
December 16:	Book selection potluck



We meet the third Monday of the month at 1 PM. The remainder of the year we have a hybrid meeting via Zoom or in-person in the Gerhard Lounge. We invite you to join us, either on a regular or occasional basis. If you, and maybe even a friend, are interested, please speak with Rhonda Pope.



ZION LIBRARY NEWS:

Several new books have been added to the library recently.

LILY'S PROMISE by Lily Ebert: a life-affirming memoir of the resistance and resilience of a Holocaust survivor

FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON by Dr. Clarisse Hairston Ottley: a guide to find solace and move forward to survive the death of a spouse

ADVENT by Tish Harrison Warren: explore Advent with its traditions, prayers, Scriptures, and rituals pertaining to Christ

THE GOD OF THE GARDEN by Andrew Peterson: memoir of a singer-songwriter and author including an attempt to awaken readers to the glory of God through His Creation

GRACE by Philip Yancey: a visual edition of his book *What's So Amazing About Grace*.

In addition to these books, the materials used by the Graham Standish church consult working group are also available to be checked out for those interested in reading/watching and following along.



Newsletter Deadline: Do you have an idea for an article, update on a project, or a photo from a Zion event or a shout-out or thank you? We would love to have it! All articles are due by the 20th of each month. Please send them via e-mail to: julie@zionpennhills.org.



HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 4 | Nicholas Albrecht | 22 | Elijah Raible |
| 5 | Tom Felmley | | Diane Marburger |
| 6 | Edward Hanssen | 23 | Avary Stover |
| 7 | Matthew Kalkstein | 29 | John Carter |
| 8 | Bob Houghtelin | 30 | George Dippold, Jr. |
| 11 | Curt Baumann | | |
| 13 | Matt Stiffler | | |
| 14 | Ed Pope | | |
| 15 | Bill Fabrizi | | |
| | Beth Rall | | |
| 16 | Logan Hendershot | | |

HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 4/25/1970 | Randall & Diane Marburger |
| 4/20/2004 | Caryn & Dan Price |
| 4/12/1980 | Carol & Robert Dugan |
| 4/27/2019 | Joshua & Katie Hoback |



Sunday, April 07, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, April 14, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, April 21, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, April 28, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, May 05, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 12, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, May 19, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, June 02, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, June 09, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, June 16, 2024	Mike Patchen	Tony Lamorte
Sunday, June 23, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Ray Rall
Sunday, June 30, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Please encourage the kids to assist:		
Ask their parents if their kids want to hand out Bulletins		
Or assist with the Offering.		