



THE April 2023 ECHO

ST. JOSEPH'S (HILL) LUTHERAN CHURCH
610-369-0990

Will You Be Here?

A hymn that is often sung during Holy Week is “Were You There?” The African American spiritual asks if we were present when Jesus was nailed to the tree, when his side was pierced, he died, and was laid in the tomb. It is a somber reminder of the great pain and sorrow that Jesus experienced as he hung on the cross and died out of great love for us.

Now we ask...Have you been at St. Joseph’s recently? Have you worshipped with your church family, praised God for his great love for you, and shared in the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ? If so, we are so thankful to see you. If not, we ask, “Why not?” What is keeping you from your spiritual journey with your brothers and sisters at St. Joseph’s?

Pastor Jeff has moved on. Pastor Kim has moved on. We at St. Joseph’s are moving on. Worship has been planned with great care. Guest pastors have shared powerful messages. Members of our congregation have led worship and have read the scriptures and prayers for the day. One Sunday, a young fifth grader volunteered to read the lessons and prayers for the day. Anthems and hymns have been sung that lift up the theme of the day and season. Communion has been shared two times each month. We have dipped our toes into the realm of a hybrid church by sharing live services on ZOOM and then putting the recorded services on our Facebook page. People have stepped up to ensure that worship at St. Joseph’s is meaningful for all.

Finally, we ask...Will you be here at St. Joseph’s during Holy Week and throughout the Easter season? Will you come on Palm Sunday when we worship under the shadows of the palms? Will you worship on Maundy Thursday when the altar and the nave are stripped and Psalm 22 is powerfully read; “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Will you worship in the darkened sanctuary on Good Friday when we pray and hear the words of Jesus from the cross as He prays to His Father, forgives the sinner on the cross next to him, and speaks to “the disciple whom He loved”? Will you come and celebrate the risen Christ on Easter morning and on the following Sundays throughout and May?

**Will you be here? Will you come and worship?
We hope so!**

April Worship Opportunities

- April 2 Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday – Rev. Richard Bardo
8 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion
9 AM Sunday Church School
10 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion
- April 6 Maundy Thursday/Stripping of the Altar Rev. Shussett
7:00 PM Worship Service, Holy Communion & Zoom
- April 7 Good Friday
7 PM Worship Service & Zoom
- April 9 Easter Sunday – Rev. Shussett
8 AM Outside Service (weather permitting)
9 AM Sunday Church School
10 Am Worship Service & Zoom
- April 16 2nd Sunday after Easter – Rev. Rowe
8 AM Worship Service & Holy Communion
9 AM Sunday Church School
10 Am Worship Service & Zoom
- April 23 3rd Sunday after Easter – Rev. Carl Filer
8 AM Worship Service
9 AM Sunday Church School via Zoom
10 AM Worship Service
- April 30 4th Sunday after Easter
8 AM Worship Service
9 AM Sunday Church School via Zoom
10 AM Worship Service

The April edition of the ECHO is not sponsored. We mail 53 ECHO's to congregational members who cannot access the internet. To sponsor an ECHO in honor or memory of a loved one, the of cost \$35. Please consider sponsoring the ECHO to offset costs.

Sunday School is available for anyone from kindergarten through adult. We start classes at 9:00am and end at 9:45am. Children from kindergarten through grade 6 will be in one classroom using “One Room Sunday School” materials. There will also be a Jr/Sr High class and an adult class. If there is an interest in preschoolers attending Sunday School we may also add a preschool class. If there is anyone interested in teaching Sunday School for any age group, please contact Lucy Hartman.

The Sunday School benevolence project this year will be a food drive held from April 2 to April 30. This project will benefit the Boyertown Area Multi-Service Food Pantry. We are asking Sunday School members, church members and the Daycare to help us with our drive. We also have \$250 from a Thrivent Action Team to use towards our donations. If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Hartman. The high need items at this time are: *Snacks, *Instant Potatoes, *Laundry Detergent, *Hand Soap, *Paper Towels, *Dish Soap, *Shampoo & Conditioner *Any other food donations are greatly appreciated

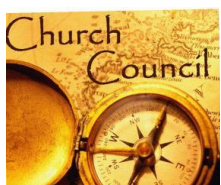


The annual “Music & Art Show” was held on March 30th and the children had a wonderful time of “showing off” with song and creative art. The church pews were overflowing with friends and family rejoicing in the evening. “IT WAS AMAZING!”

Our Easter Party will be April 4th as we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus. We will have a wonderful celebration with lots of egg hunts in our classrooms and a special visit with bunnies from Zimmer’s Pet Shop.

“Week of the Young Child” is April 10-14th and the center celebrates childhood. We will be having special snacks, special music, special activities, children’s carnival and prizes.

We thank all church members who have participated in the Corbi’s pizza sale. Profits will continue to go towards the new playground.



We Welcome Drusilla Spaid and Karen Neumaier to the church council team. Thank you for your service to your church. The new council installation will be held on April 16th. Your council team is working hard to make good decisions for the whole of the church. Would you like to be involved, we surely welcome your input. Please contact Linda Kowalski, Council President, to join. No experience necessary. Your Council team is Linda Kowalski, President, Crystal Schwenk, Vice President, Ben Reichert, Assistant Treasurer, Chirs Kline, Secretary, Mark Robertson, Dennis Weller, Vicki Bentz, Robin Schmale, Drusilla Spaid and Karen Neumaier.

April Anniversaries

Aaron & Jennifer Bollard
Curtis & Betty Seyler
Todd & Cathy Lorah
Brad & Kim Reinboth
Joseph Mckown & Alixandra Kleinschmidt
Mark & Denise Robertson
Randy & Tammy Benfield
Ken & Marcia Kurtz

April Birthdays

Kay Youse

Gretel Witkowski

Kyle Mayberry

Pamela Steele
Nadine Thees

Richard Tracy, Jr.

Brandon Rhode

Richard Tracy, Jr.

Ingrid Weil

Weston Bieber

Kathryn Reinert

Carol Seyler
Michael Steffy
Brittney Parrish

Travis Selfinger

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Michael Steffy
Matthew Cotellese

Inky Albrecht
Lucy Hartman
Ryan Weller
Deborah Eck
Isla Robertson
Alayna Bialek
John Renninger
Lucille Steffy
Elsa Breitreutz
Matthew Suchodolski

Eric Hauck

Linda Kowalski
Leslie Leh
Vicki Bentz

Join Us: June 1-3 2023 at Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos We're going beyond death to life! We are planning plenary sessions full of both essential business AND helpful content that will teach you something new and innovative about your own ministry. Small breakouts are back! We're featuring dynamic small group leaders who will expand on a specialty like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, and

more! Our assembly will feature vibrant worship led by David Scherer AKA Agape and Joe Davis, a spoken word poet! We'll work together to assemble a group art project AND a group mission project that can be taken home to your congregations for further mission in our communities! There's so much to interact with, so many people to network with, and so much fun to be had! We promise, you won't be disappointed! Call Jill to volunteer.

Summer Service begins on June 4th at 9 AM.

The Staff at St. Joseph's (Hill) Lutheran Church
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610-369-0990

Mrs. Linda Kowalski, Council President
Mrs. Jill Savory, Parish Secretary
Office Hours: Mon through Fri., 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
Mrs. Susy Yerger, Volunteer Coordinator
Mr. Blaise Miller, Sexton
Mr. Ethan Dierolf, Grounds Keeper
Mrs. Carol Barton, Organist
Mrs. Marcia Kurtz, Music Director
Mrs. Robin Schmale, Daycare Director



As you pray, please lift up these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Nate, Kathee Rhodes grandson. **Noah**, Lucy Hartman's grandson. **Lizinette & Tim**, friends of Linda Kowalski, **Marguerite Holbert** long standing church member, **Arlene McCaffrey** having health issues, **Barbara**, Matt Neumaier's mother, **Roberta**, Faye's Gehris's sister, **Gene**, a friend of Joanne Bieber and **Pat P.**, a friend of Susy Yerger. *Please help keep this list current. To add your friends or family members,*

please contact Jill at 610-369-0990.

