

APRIL 2025

THE BRICK BULLETIN



St. John Lutheran "Brick" Church
196 Brick Church Road
Montgomery, PA 17752

(570)-547-6423
Email: stjohnbrick@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnbrick.org

From Jim's Desk

Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris, I wounder were the pozies is. This is a little ditty that a gentleman I worked with for 35 + years said every spring. It was always said with joy in his voice and in his heart.

Spring; the season of new birth, new growth, new beginnings. What you and I need to remember is as children of God "everyday is a new beginning". As we continue through the season of Lent and move forward to Holy Week and onward to the Easter season, I ask you to slow down and enjoy all the new growth of spring and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

During the Easter season we will be having weekly communion. I have told some of you that I don't feel the worship is complete without partaking of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a article else where in this newsletter about communion, I encourage each of you to read it and follow up with a council member with your thoughts about weekly communion. I don't want you to say "WE HAVE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE."

As you and I continue using our God given talents and abilities to service this church and God's people, think of different ways you could be answering God's call. What ideas do you have and what would you be willing to be a part of. God is always calling each of us to serve his church and his people. Too often we don't want to listen to him or we hear his call we don't pay attention. The word no is high on our vocabulary list. As the hymn goes "Listen, Listen God is calling, through the word inviting, offering Forgiveness, Comfort, an Joy.

In closing I ask you to continue lifting up our churches, councils, and worship leaders in your prayers.

Your servant in Christ

S A M Jim

ATTENDANCE:

	Avg. '24	Avg. '25
Jan	43	38
Feb	43	38
Ash Wed.	36	22
Mar	41	
Maun. Thur	42	
Easter	- /76	
April	45	
May	41	
June	43*	
July	45*	
Aug	38	
Sept	37	
Oct	38	
Nov	41	
Dec	39	
Christmas Eve	76	

• Did not take into average count the Sunday we were closed



Lenten/Easter Worship Schedule

April 2nd, 6:30pm – Midweek Lenten Service @Gordner's Unityville (refreshments to follow after the service)

April 6, 8:30am – Fifth Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

April 9th, 6:30pm – Midweek Lenten Service @Mt. Zion (refreshments to follow after the service)

April 13th, 8:30am – Sunday of the Passion ~ Palm Sunday, Holy Communion

April 17th, 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Service, Holy Communion

April 18th, 7:00pm – Good Friday Service, @ Messiah Clarkstown

April 20th, 6:30am – Easter Sunrise Service, with Holy Communion
8:30am – Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Service, Holy Communion

April 27th, 8:30am – Second Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion

Worship Notes:

Communion, where to start. The question is always how often should we be participating in Communion. Largely the fear is that if we receive communion too often that it becomes too common and thus not as special anymore. I am going to urge you to please continue reading this article and bear with me a little and in the end if you don't look at communion a little differently that is fine, but just at least hear me out.

Does Jesus serving us his body and blood each week make it

ordinary? People typically didn't and don't view His healings and His other miracles as too common. In fact, they seemed to, in Jesus' day, want more of that from Him. So why do WE then want less of what is given to us through the sacrament of Holy Communion?

Psalm 105:4-5

“Seek the LORD and his strength;
 Seek his presence continually.
 Remember the wonderful works he has done,
 His miracles and the judgements he has uttered.”

Through Holy communion Jesus exchanges His perfection for our sin, His righteousness for our unrighteousness. He gave His body and His blood to set us free from sin. One would think for this sacrifice we would want to draw closer to him thru communion; thru the elements, His Body, His Blood shed for YOU, for ME, for ALL GOD'S PEOPLE by partaking in it more often not less often.

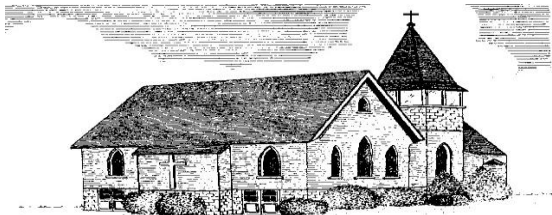
The argument that communion every week makes it somehow less “special” is somewhat invalid if you put it in a slightly different perspective. How many times a week do you tell your spouse/significant other or even your kids for that matter that you love them? Now think about how special those words “I love you” are. If you treat this like you treat communion you should only be telling your loved ones that you love them once or twice a month, otherwise those words lose their meaning, their shininess, their specialness. Now tell me how something so important as Jesus laying down His life for your sins becomes any less important the more, we take part in communion. How does God's grace and forgiveness mean less just because we are doing it each and every week?

In closing, it's the body and the blood of Christ it strengthens us and gives us God's grace, how could it ever lose its specialness no matter how often we take it. We are always in need of Him and should always be seeking Him in everything we do. Sunday morning should be no different.

If you made it the end of this article, I thank you, truly, and hope that it gave you something to think about the next time you take communion. May God bless you and shine favor upon you always.

~M.Temple

It was requested that I write an article on this subject this month because of how passionate I am about communion, it's meaning and its importance in our life as followers of Christ and his teachings.





Communion & Altar Committee



April 2025

Linda Metzger and Nancy Eck



St. John "Brick" Church will continue to live stream our Worship Service every Sunday morning on our Facebook page AND continue to upload every Sunday Service to the church's webpage on the same day.



It is important to remember that the ministry and the mission of St. John continues on a year-round basis. While it may not be possible for all members of the congregation to maintain their previous stewardship practices during these uncertain times, the church strives to meet its obligations to the greater church and the local benevolence programs which rely on our support.

Tithes and offerings can be mailed to the Church at 196 Brick Church Road, Montgomery, PA 17752. The continuing support of our mission hallmark of St. John's tradition of faithfulness. Even in uncertain times, are church for the world, and, these days, we need each other, just as world needs us.



Altar Flowers

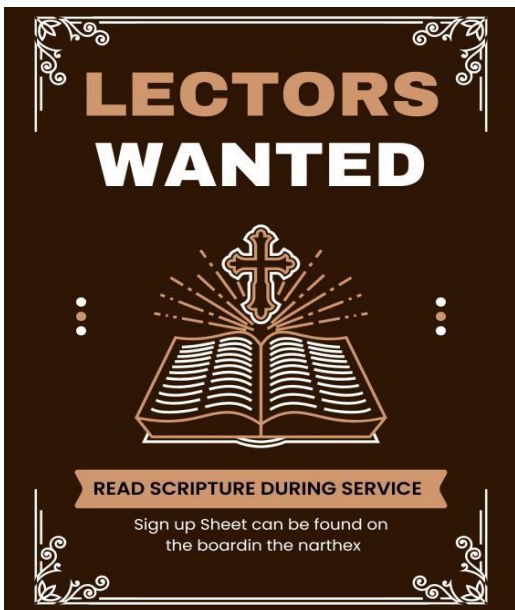
2025 Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for sponsoring altar flowers and Sunday bulletins. If you would like to sponsor flowers or bulletins and cannot come to the church, please call the church office (570-547-6423) to reserve the date you would like. Altar flowers are (2) vases for \$37.00 or (1) vase for 18.50 and bulletins are \$10.00 per Sunday.



Bulletins

The following Sundays are currently available:

Flowers:	Bulletins:
April 27th	May 18th
May 4th	May 25th
May 18th	June 1st
May 25th	June 8th
June 1st	June 15th



Please support our church by buying Weis cards.

They are available on Sunday mornings before Worship Service. You may also buy them at the church office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8:30am to 1:00pm.



GREETERS WANTED

What better way to spread the LOVE of God then to welcome his people to His House each Sunday!

Please see the sign up sheet on the board in the narthex.

Footprints Food Pantry 71 Bower St Ext food distribution dates and times

10-2 & 5:30-6:30 the 2nd Thursday

10-12 the 4th Thursday

*** please bring in proof of residency as we begin our new year***

If unable to pick up food during distribution hours *your appointed proxy will need to do your pick up during the distribution hours and can be arranged @ the desk. We are available after hours for emergency situation food only. Thank you for understanding.



AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WE HAVE PRAYED FOR THIS PAST MONTH

THIS PAST MONTH'S PRAYERS:

Prayer
Requests



If there are any prayer requests for today's service, the prayer request book is found on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Intercessions: Kennedy Edkin, Fred Fisher, Jean Ulmer, Carl Richart, Family of Howard Worthington, Bonnie Ridell, John & Anna Murray, Donna Watts, Jodi Ellis, Trey Gresh, Dawn H, Dave Doran, Tracy Boyer, Erin Fox, and please pray for those afflicted with the COVID 19 virus and their families, and residents and staff of long term and assisted living facilities. Finally, pray for the members of St. John's church family and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Military Prayers: CPT Jacob Umpstead US Airforce, Airman Jayce Heckman, Sheppard Air Force Base (Deployed to England)(nephew of Dave & Shirley Doran), Sergeant Eric Bennett Stationed at Camp Pendleton California, SPC Carter Temple based out of Carlisle Pennsylvania

Please call the church office (570-547-6423) or email: stjohnbrick@gmail.com if you have names to add to the prayer list.

Names written in the Prayer Request book will be printed in the bulletin for two weeks. If after two weeks they need to be kept on the prayer list, please write their names in again.

St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

Here at St John Lutheran Church, we commonly refer to the St. Pauly Textile, Inc. as St. Pauly shed which is **located in the back of the parking lot across from the parsonage garage**. Donations of good used clothing can be placed in the shed at any time. It is available to not only the people of St. John, but also to anyone who would like to donate. The church is paid so much per pound for the clothing. St. Pauly thanks you so much for partnering with them. They truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program!

****At times the clothing donations pile up in front of the drop-off window and need to be moved. A big thank you to Paul Pentz for overseeing this.**



We are looking for two Church members to attend Synod Assembly June 13 & 14. This year the event will take place at Camp Mt. Luther. If you are interested please see Jim. These members would also be highly encouraged to attend the West Branch Conference meeting prior to Assembly. That meeting will take place at Messiah in South Williamsport on March 30th at 2PM.

Early Registration Deadline

APRIL 15

Register for summer programs by midnight 4/15 and get an exclusive T-shirt



campaumluther.org



Upper Susquehanna

**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY**

June 13-14, 2025

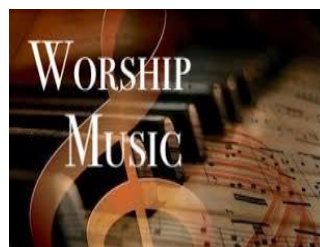
Times to be announced

NOW AT CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

The priorities of the assembly are worship, edification, and the business of the synod.

LEARN MORE

www.uss-elca.org/assembly



The hymn selection committee will meet Friday, April 4 at 10 am at Brick. Anyone interested in helping select the hymns for the next three months is most welcome to join us!



COUNCIL
C
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Council Corner: March 2025

Council met on Monday, March 24.

Current council members are:

- Stephen Puzio, President (570-974-3183) Suzanne Burkholder, Vice -President (570-244-7627)
- Deborah Books, Secretary (570-323-8398) Kenneth Blessing (570-772-3350)
- Julie Bennett (570-279-1647) Michelle Smith (570 -772-1823)
- Carolyn Girard (570- 916-6887) SAM Mr. James Girven (570-419-4993)

The next meeting is April 21st.

Cemetary Clean up Deadline

Notice
St. John's Lutheran (Brick) Cemetery Lot Owners Spring Clean-up
Please remove any artificial decorations you wish to retain prior to April 1st, 2025
Thank you for your cooperation.




We just booked the next Angel Studios release, "The King of Kings," based on Charles Dicken's "The Life of our Lord," and it opens on Friday, April 11! We do have early

showings on April 10 as well.
THE DISTRICT DIPSON THEATRES
965 Lycoming Mall Circle, Pennsdale



ALL FLOWER ORDERS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY APRIL 7TH
All Flowers are \$9

Name _____

Daffodils: Quantity: _____

Hyacinths: Quantity: _____
● Blue ● Pink

Tulips: Quantity: _____
● Red ● Orange ● Yellow ● Bi-Color

Lilies: Quantity: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

Office Use Only
● PAID ● RECORDED



Music Notes – April 2025

April is going to be a very busy month! That's what happens when the tail end of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, The Three Days (the Triduum), the Resurrection, and the glorious celebrations that continue after Easter all occur within the same calendar month!

The choir at Messiah has been working very hard preparing some very beautiful music for our services. We will be singing some older anthems (obtained from the former St. Luke Lutheran in Sunbury), a newer anthem that was freshly ordered, and others that have been re-worked especially for our choir. ALL of them are wonderful and we hope that you both enjoy them and find them meaningful. (Does anyone hear bongo drums?)

As always, **singers from both churches are invited to join the choir for Palm Sunday**, when we'll be singing "Draw Nigh to Jerusalem" by David Williams, **and on Easter**, when we'll be presenting "Hallelujah! Jesus is Risen" by David L. Ray at the Sunrise Service at Brick and the 10:15 service at Messiah. Just see Jeff for more information! We'd love to have you join us!

Church Music is chosen very carefully. It's both a prayerful and joyful task to plan music for our services. For anthems, the lyrics of the piece are extremely important, for we try to align the text of the anthem with at least some of the text from the lectionary appointed for the day. Other things that must be considered are the singability, tone, and the texture of the selection. For the prelude and postlude, it's again helpful if the pieces emphasize the theme for the day. In "ordinary time," this is less important for preludes and postludes, but for the seasons of the church year, for festivals and for feast days, it's something that's incredibly important.

Holy Week is an amazing time! We start with a break in the somber purple as it changes to brilliant red, which is premonition of the bloody sacrifice yet to come. As "Passion Sunday" unfolds, it shows the agonies of betrayal that will occur on Maundy Thursday. Regal purple returns as we are reminded to "Love one another, even as I have loved you," when the King Himself becomes our servant and washes our feet in the lowliest of tasks. On Good Friday, the church is bare of all ornamentation, and black is the color of the day, the color of mourning. We depart in silence as we wonder . . . ponder . . . and pray . . .

On Easter Morning, we start off silently until the Resurrection is proclaimed: "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" The paraments are white and gold, the church is full of light, there are flowers everywhere, the Tomb is empty, "Alleluia" returns in abundance, and the music is bold and joyful. The promise has been fulfilled! Jesus has Risen! Death is swallowed up in victory!

Christ has died! Christ is Risen! Christ will come again!

.. *Jeff Harvey*



Dear Members of St. John's Brick Church Thank you for your donation to Footprints of Montgomery. Your support enables us to continue providing food to families in need.

Sincerely,
Footprints of Montgomery

Thank you for all the cards and prayers ~Jeanne Ulmer

Thank you to all the folks who sent cards to Jeanne Ulmer. They are greatly appreciated. - Connie Batdorf



April Birthdays

Katherine Gruver	2
Joshua Ellis	3
Taylor Bennett	12
Adam Zarr	13
John Murray	14
Jodi Ellis	15
McKenzie Bitler	17
John Kaichner III	17
Anna Murray	24
Tami Mausteller	28
Dorlan Books	28



April Anniversaries

Paul & Carol Pentz 20

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all! If there are any additions or corrections to the birthday or anniversary lists, please contact the church office (547-6423) with the information so it can be added or corrected.

From the Secretary's Desk

Happy April! Spring is coming fast; I am so excited. Not only do we have Lent leading into Easter but we have cold weather turning to warm and color popping out of the ground. God's beauty never ceases to amaze me. This season of making all things new both Spring and Easter. To have the love of God who would send down his Son, Jesus Christ, to make us new again what a blessing. To be given GRACE as beautiful as a tulip blooming in spring. To be given MERCY as abundant as the spring rains which makes all things grow. To be given FORGIVENESS as warm as the rays of the sun; Jesus outstretched his arms on the cross so that we could be taken into the warm embrace of Him and His Heavenly Father. He gave his last breath to set us free, the ultimate gift given to us this spring; the love and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior. So I challenge you to take a moment each day as they get warmer and find the beauty in what we have been given in this world God has so graciously created for us.

UPCOMING OFFICE NOTES FOR APRIL and MAY:

April seems to be a slow month for appointments, praise be to God. However, I will not get too excited about this as to not upset the balance of things.

May 6th – I have an appointment first thing in the morning and will be in the office as soon as it is done.

May 8th – I will be off due to Jeremy having appointments most of that day. So I will be picking up some office hours on Wednesday and Thursday of that week.

Please be sure to check the weekly bulletin for any updates to my weekly hours.



From the Church Cookbook!

Brunch Special

By: Louise Feigles

(I chose this recipe this month due to us hosting Easter Sunrise Service. For those families that participate in this service I thought this was an appropriate recipe as a Brunch Special might be just what is needed after an early, early service. I hope that some of you will give this one a try. I know my family will be using for Easter Sunday as a breakfast before our Easter Worship.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 slices bread, buttered and cubed | 1/2 tsp. dry mustard |
| 5 eggs, slightly beaten | 1/2 c. grated cheddar cheese |
| 2 c. Milk | |
| Fillings: | |
| Cooked ham | Mushrooms |
| Sausage, cooked | Bacon, cooked |

Mix all ingredients, except filling. Store in the refrigerator overnight (covered). In the morning, add filling and stir well. Pour into greased 1 1/2 quart casserole. Bake at 375° for 75 minutes, or until knife comes out clean. (Check before 75 minutes)

If you would like to have one of your recipes included in an upcoming newsletter, please email it to the church office or stop by and drop it off during regular office hours.

St. John's and Messiah
HOLY WEEK
Schedule

Maunder Thursday ST. JOHN'S APRIL 17	Good Friday MESSIAH APRIL 18
Sunrise Service 6:30AM ST. JOHN'S APRIL 20	
Easter Service 8:30AM ST. JOHN'S APRIL 20	Easter Service 10:15AM MESSIAH APRIL 20

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

- 3/12 Trinity Hughesville
- 3/19 Messiah Clarkstown
- 3/26 St. John's Brick Montgomery
- 4/2 Gordner's Unityville
- 4/9 Mt. Zion Hughesville

All Mid Week Services will start at 6:30PM with refreshments after the service.

A Variety of Gifts!

Join us for a day of learning and fellowship!

Saturday, May 3, 2025

9:30am-3pm
(lunch included)

Milton Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning Street
Milton, PA

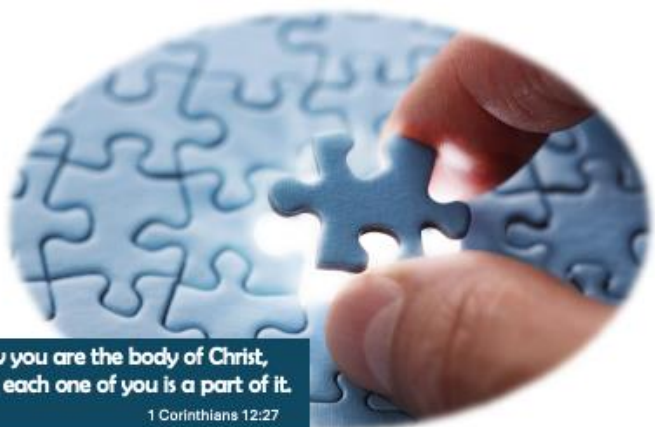
Keynote: Congregational Communications

Workshops include:

Children's Messages
Ministry Beyond the Walls

Reading for Public Consumption
Heart of Lutheran Theology

Worship Service to Commission our new Authorized Lay Worship Leaders at 1:45 pm in the sanctuary.



Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Cost is \$10 per person to cover cost of meal.

Pre-register by contacting the Synod Office at (570) 524-9778 by 4/26/24.



**DEADLINE FOR THE
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS
APRIL 24TH.**

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am-2:00pm Office hours	2 6:30pm Mid-week Lenten Service at Gordner's Unityville	3 9:00am-2:00pm Office hours	4	5 Funeral at the Church
6 8:30am Worship w/ Communion The Fifth Sunday in Lent	7 9:00am-1:00pm Office Hours	8 9:00am-2:00pm Office hours	9 6:30pm Mid-week Lenten Service at Mt. Zion	10 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	11	12
13 8:30am Worship Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday	14 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	15 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	16	17 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service at "Brick"	18 7:00pm Good Friday Service at Messiah	19
20 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service 8:30am Worship w/ Communion The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter!	21	22 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	23	24 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	25	26
27 8:30am Worship Second Sunday of Easter	28 9:00am-1:00pm Office Hours	29 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	30			

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