

# THE BRICK BULLETIN



**March 2025**

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

(570)-547-6423  
Email: [stjohnbrick@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbrick@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnbrick.org](http://www.stjohnbrick.org)

**From Jim's Desk**

Greetings to each of you from the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

My, I can't believe how time flies. Here we are in March and the Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 5th. There will be a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at Brick Church at 3 PM, and at Messiah at 7 PM that day

As we travel through the Lenten Season and continue to look at Luke's Gospel, I would remind you there is no better time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the Gift of God's Grace, to believe with the heart and confess the wonder of God's Love in Jesus, and resist temptation at every turn. This is no small task on which each of us embark. It is the struggle Jesus knew. It is the struggle Jesus shares with us during this Lenten season. The nearness of the Lord in the Bread and Wine; the Water and the Word, will uphold and sustain us through this journey we call life. To often we resist God's desire to protect us. God will never give up on us. Often, we quit trying, we don't have the trust in God that was given to us when we became a Child of God at our Baptism. God continues to be persistent. God will never abandon you. His Grace and Mercy are given to us with no strings attached, unconditional love is the only kind of love he knows. Each of us should be thanking God every day for not giving up on us, and for being such a loving and caring God. I often wonder why God puts up with some of the things we do (myself being one who sometimes tries to second guess what God wants me to do). As I said God's love is unconditional and his Grace and Mercy are something we can't earn, they are GIFTS FROM GOD. Everything God does is an act of love for us and for his creation.

Again, this year we will be having Midweek Lenten Services at our five churches within the Co-op. You will find the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you to attend these services, if you don't like to drive at night call someone and you can ride with them.

As I close, I want to touch base on something that bugs me a little sometimes and a lot at other times. It involves folks who are having a rough time in their lives. Call them, go to see them, take them for coffee or take them to lunch. Believe me, I hear about it when someone cares enough to call or visit people. As of this writing there are 6 people from Brick Church and 2 people from Messiah who are in assisted living or nursing homes. If this number is incorrect, please let me know of others who are in Nursing or assisted living facilities. Please continue to pray for all the care givers and family members who are involved in their care.

Please contact me with Pastoral needs you are aware of; it frustrates me when I find out after the fact that someone was hospitalized or sick at home.

May God continue to Bless each of you and every person that you touch in your daily life.

Your servant in Christ

*S A M Jim*

### ATTENDANCE:

	Avg. '24	Avg. '25
Jan	43	38
Feb	43	
Ash Wed.	36	
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 Worship Schedule

**March 2nd, 8:30am** – Transfiguration of Our Lord, Holy Communion

**March 5th, 3:00pm** – Ash Wednesday Service, Holy Communion @ Brick Church

**7:00pm** – Ash Wednesday Service, Holy Communion @ Messiah Clarkstown

**March 9th, 8:30am** – First Sunday in Lent

**March 12th, 6:30pm** – Midweek Lenten Service @Trinity (refreshments to follow after the service)

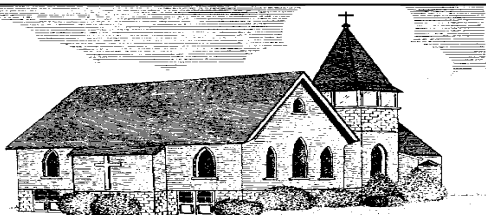
**March 16th, 8:30am** – Second Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

**March 19th, 6:30pm** – Midweek Lenten Service @ Messiah Clarkstown (refreshments to follow after the service)

**March 23rd, 8:30am** – Third Sunday in Lent

**March 26th, 6:30pm** – Midweek Lenten Service @ St. John's Brick (refreshments to follow after the service)

**March 30th, 8:30am** – Fourth Sunday in Lent



### Worship Notes:

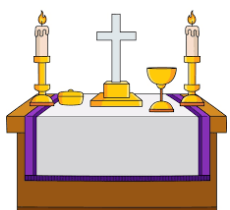
This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Composed in the year 325 in the city of Nicea (in modern Turkey) and later revised in the second ecumenical council held in Constantinople, this creed is held among Christians as an expression of our faith into which we baptize and from which we teach. The creed expresses our common belief in God who has become known to us in the three persons of the Trinity.

The primary focus of this creed is in the second and longest article: "We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ...". When we recite these, we remind one another that the God who has created all things became incarnate, taking on human flesh and bearing our sins on the cross. This incarnation means that our God became truly human, experiencing life as we experience it, with all our joys and sorrows, even the agony of torture and death, for us. In the person of Jesus Christ, then, human flesh was raised into the Trinity, thus breaking the barrier that sin had erected between God and creation. The Holy Spirit, which once spoke through the prophets, now, by the forgiveness of sins, proceeds to create the "one holy catholic and apostolic church," that is "the communion of saints". In this church, we proclaim the promise of resurrection to life everlasting as our flesh also is welcomed into the Trinity.

*(This excerpt was taken from the USS ARK February 2025 ~ The monthly printable publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod with news highlights from the digital Headwaters newsletter and uss-elca.org)*



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.



### Communion & Altar Committee

**March 2025**  
**Peg Bryan and Diane Bryan**





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.



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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 Sunday are currently available:**

<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>Bulletins:</b>
March 2nd	March 2nd
April 27th	March 9th
May 4th	March 16th
May 18th	March 23rd
May 25th	May 18th

# LECTORS WANTED



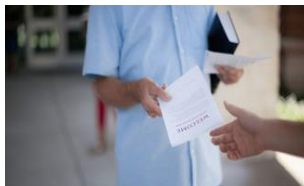
READ SCRIPTURE DURING SERVICE

Sign up Sheet can be found on the board in the narthex



**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.



**Soup and a Movie Rescheduled for March 15th starting at 5PM. Soup and sandwiches provided by Messiah. Movie -" I heard the Bells**



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

**Intercessions: Terry Boyer, Emily Alleman, Carl Richart, Family of Terrance Klemick, Family of Nancy Kahler, Bonnie Ridell, John and Anna Murray, Christian Harvey, Brynn Wajda, Howard Worthington, 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 from Sheppard Air Force Base (Deployed to England)(nephew of Dave & Shirley Doran), Seargent Eric Bennett stationed at Camp Pendleton California (Now back from deployment), SPC Carter Temple (Now back state-side from deployment)**

Please call the church office (570-547-6423) or email: [stjohnbrick@gmail.com](mailto: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 or call the church office (570-547-6423).

## 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.**

### St. John's Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

**Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year...**

- 21,091 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2024**
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 3,885 people all over the world**
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$844**

**Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!**

Sincerely,

The Team at

St. Pauly Textile, Inc



**Just wanted to let you all know about this exciting new title we have coming to our theater on March 14! Tickets are on sale now for "The Last Supper" now at The District Dipson Theaters Muncy, PA**

<https://thedistrict.dipsontheatres.com/movie/The%5FLast%5FSupper>



## COUNCIL

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### Council Corner: March 2025

Council met on Monday, February 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 Ash Wednesday Service, March 5, will be held at St John Brick at 4 PM. The special envelope donations for Ash Wednesday, Easter and Christmas Eve will be divided 50/50 to Son-Light House and Footprints.

The 5 churches currently in the Co-Op will be rotating services for the mid-week Lenten services again this year. Services will begin at 6:30 with refreshments after the services. St. John Brick will host the March 26<sup>th</sup> service. There will be no communion and no monetary collection at this service.

Due to in-climate weather, church was cancelled on February 9. The notice was placed on our Facebook page the night before and the council call chain was activated for the notification. If you did not receive a call/text message, please contact Melissa in the church office to be added to the list.

The fellowship hall floor was stripped, waxed, and polished in early February. If you have time, walk up to the hall to check it out.

The church's Facebook page currently has 299 followers. In the last 28 days our FB page had 2,056 views (*number of times our content was played or displayed*) and 67 interactions (*the number of likes, reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on our content*). On Sunday, February 23 we had 133 views of the bulletin and 104 views of the service and on Sunday, February 16 we had had 233 views of the bulletin and 173 views of the service. The FB page has been a great outreach of our church. If you have any announcements/information you would like to be placed on the FB page, please let Kelly Puzio know.

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m.

**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.**

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](http://www.uss-elca.org/assembly)

## Early Registration Deadline

**APRIL 15**

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

[campaumluther.org](http://campaumluther.org)



# MUSIC News



Music Notes March 2025

At long last, the Holy Season of Lent is upon us! The word “Lent” comes from the English word “Lenten,” which refers to the lengthening of days that is characteristic of late winter and early spring. Traditionally, there are forty days in Lent, not counting Sundays. Going from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, there are forty days inclusive, which we’re reminded of in several of our hymns, such as “Forty Days and Forty Nights,” “The Glory of these Forty Days,” and “O Lord, throughout these Forty Days.”

There’s obviously something special about the number 40. It can symbolize a period of trial, tribulation, transformation, and new life. For example, rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights during the Great Flood. Moses spent 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the desert. He also spent 40 days on Mount Sinai twice. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. Many Biblical kings ruled for 40 years, including David, Solomon, and Saul. Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days after His baptism. He also appeared to His apostles for 40 days after his resurrection. Goliath challenged the Israelites for 40 days before David defeated him. Jonah spent 40 days in Ninevah.

During these Forty Days, we remember Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness, where He fasted, prayed, and strove to fight off the devil. Through self-denial, prayer, and reflection, we are able to catch a glimpse of what Christ did for us before He suffered and died on our behalf. It’s more than appropriate that we restructure our worship services to reflect this as well.

We are well acquainted with the fact that there are three cycles of lessons in the church year, years A, B, and C. During Year A, which coincided with my first year with you, the preludes and postludes consisted of arrangements of well-known Lenten hymns. Year B featured the music of famous classical composers for the preludes and postludes. During this year, Year C, the preludes will be drawn from music that will be less familiar, yet appropriate for the season. The postludes will be soft reflections of the final hymn, fitting for the closure of a somber service. There will be no rejoicing, and no “Alleluias” until Easter.

The choir at Messiah is preparing some very nice anthems for Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Palm Sunday’s anthem will be the famous “Draw Nigh to Jerusalem” by Williams, and on Easter, we will be singing a new work by David H. Ray, “Hallelujah! Jesus is Risen!” We always welcome extra singers, and would like to cordially invite anyone from either Brick or Messiah to join us, especially for the anthems planned for Palm Sunday and Easter. All you need to do is speak with Jeff for more information at [faithsbrotherjeff@gmail.com](mailto:faithsbrotherjeff@gmail.com) or 272-202-8477.

I look forward to contemplative and Holy Lent with you all . . . . . *Jeff Harvey*

## 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.



*Ash Wednesday  
Services*

March 5, 2025

4:00PM @ Brick Church

7:00PM @ Messiah

\*Both Service times will include Ashes and Communion Service



**Easter Flower order forms should be available in the next few weeks. Please be sure to check the weekly announcements for dates!**





*Thank you to my church family for all their cards and prayers during this sad time in our lives. Also thank you to the gals that served our luncheon. As always, they did a great job. The Klemick Family*



### March Birthdays

Doug Engleman	2
Connie Batdorf	3
Julie Bennett	4
Nathan Jarrett	6
Jo Ann Murray	13
Mark Ellis	16
Nancy Kahler	16
John Knight	23
Jasper Wise	25
Eric Bennett	29
Morgan Strieby	29



### March Anniversaries

If you know of a couple with a March Anniversary please let the Church office know.

*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

Hello friends, another busy month has passed in the office. I feel this was more to my up and down schedule than there actually be an overload of work in the office. However, there are always things to be done at the office, don't get me wrong. Now we start into the Lenten Season! This will certainly keep me busy. I am looking forward to sharing yet another year of Lent with you all from Ash Wednesday to Mid-week Lenten services to Palm Sunday which kicks off Holy Week leads us into Easter! Please note I have personal shopping trip scheduled to Hobby Lobby to decorate the window for the season so in a few weeks I hope you can pop down and take a glance.

#### UPCOMING OFFICE NOTES FOR MARCH:

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** due to my own appts. I will only be in the office till noon that day. I will be **adding Wednesday afternoon March 5<sup>th</sup>** as an office day from noon till 2pm.

**Besides this change to my March hours** there will also be a day I may not be in due to Jeremy (my husband) starting his injections in his neck. He will not be able to drive home from these appt. however I do not have those dates and times yet. **Please be sure to check the weekly bulletin for any updates to my weekly hours.**



## From the Church Cookbook!

### Pennsylvania Dutch Salad with Hot Bacon Dressing

By: Genevieve Voneida

3 slices bacon  
1 egg, well beaten  
1 ½ TBSP. flour  
1 cup milk

¼ cup vinegar  
¼ cup sugar  
½ tsp. salt  
1 qt. salad greens

Chop bacon and fry until crisp. Remove bacon and add to the greens. Add all other ingredients to the beaten eggs and pour into hot bacon fat. Cook until thickened. Pour at once over the dry, crisp greens (lettuce, endive, dandelion, or spinach). A little chopped onion may be added to greens, if desired. Yield: 4-6 servings.

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.

Fundraiser runs + + +

**New Deadline is Mid-March**



# MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fundraiser

We are teaming up with Cody Sones Pottery for our winter fundraiser! Choose from a hand crafted mug, mini crock, or large crock. All proceeds go to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.



If anyone is interested in purchasing this pottery from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church please contact Jess McCoy (570)220-5414 or Ann Milheim (570)560-0587 There is also an order form posted in the narthex at St. John's.



**Mug - \$35**



**Mini Crock - \$40**



**Large Crock - \$60**

To order: Please see any Mt. Zion member, send a message to the Mt. Zion Facebook page, or attend worship any Sunday at 8am!  
Pickup/Delivery will be late March.

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The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23:1





**NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY  
NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 20TH.**

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:30am Worship w/ Communion Transfiguration of Our Lord	<b>3</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	<b>4</b> 9:00am-Noon Office hours  <b>Fastnacht Dinner at Trinity</b>	<b>5</b> Noon-2:00pm Office Hours  4:00pm Ash Wednesday Service Brick  7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service Messiah	<b>6</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30am Worship First Sunday in Lent	<b>10</b> 9:00am-1:00pm Office Hours	<b>11</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Mid-week Lenten Service at Trinity Hughesville  Raise the Region →	<b>13</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours  For Camp Mt. Luther	<b>14</b> The Last Supper Movie at Dispon Theaters Muncy	<b>15</b> 5:00pm Soup and a Movie @ Messiah
<b>16</b> 8:30am Worship w/ Communion Second Sunday in Lent	<b>17</b> 9:00am-1:00pm Office Hours  6:00pm Chruch Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Mid-week Lenten Service at Messiah Clarkstown	<b>20</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 12:00 pm - Winter Pot Luck Dinner
<b>23</b> 8:30am Worship Third Sunday in Lent *Baptism will take place this Sunday	<b>24</b> 9:00am-1:00pm Office Hours	<b>25</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours  3:00pm Bible Study at Messiah	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Mid-week Lenten Service at St. John's Brick Church	<b>27</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Office Hours	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30am Worship Third Sunday in Lent	<b>31</b> 9:00am-1:00pm Office Hours					

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*March*  
*Newsletter*