

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

March 2024
From SAM Jim's desk

Grace and Peace to each of you

As we continue through our Lenten Journey, I encourage you to come to our Midweek Lenten services. Each week worship is in one of our 5 churches that are part of the East Lycoming Cooperative Ministry Project. This year during these services we are learning about and discussing not only what Lament is but also the different types of Lament (No Lament is not getting mad at someone). Our Sunday Lenten Services will be hearing about Covenants that God made with his people, yes that includes each and every one of God's people of all generations. While looking at these covenants we will use them as lenses to look at Baptism. The first Week we looked at Noah and the great flood. God saved Noah and his family; he saves us through our Baptism. The second week we look at Abraham and Sarah, they received new names as a sign of the covenant, you and I received new identities in Baptism as a (Child of God). The third week we will look at the first of the ten Commandments, When God tells us "I your God am to be first in your daily life". In the fourth week we will hear the Bronze Serpent God told Moses to build. He was told to hang it on a pole so it could save the people when they looked at it. Jesus was lifted up on a cross so we could be saved. You are marked with the Cross of Christ forever when you are Baptized. On week Five we will discover a new covenant that will allow all people to know God by heart. Our Baptism draws us to God through Jesus and draws God's love into our hearts.

Holy Week services will be as Follows, Maundy Thursday at Brick Church at 7PM; Good Friday at Messiah at 7PM Easter Sunrise service at Messiah at 6:30 AM. Both churches will have regular services, Brick at 8:30 and Messiah at 10:15. **The Sunrise Service at Messiah is the only Sunrise scheduled in the five churches in the Co-op. Please let others know they are encouraged to come to Messiah for Sunrise service.**

Please keep the representatives from the five churches in your prayers as they continue to work diligently to discern the future of our churches and what the future will look like.

I pray God's Blessings on each of you as you continue to serve him and his people with the Talents and abilities God has graciously given you. Remember GOD will NEVER leave you alone to go through life's struggles.

Blessings to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

S A M Jim

ATTENDANCE:

	Avg. '23	Avg. '24
Jan	42	43
Feb	40	43
Ash Wed.	-	36
Mar	45	
April	45	
Maun. Thur		
Easter	19/60	- /
May	45	
June	41	
July	41	
Aug	44	
Sept	40	
Oct	41	
Nov	46	
Dec	46	
Christmas Eve	?	



LENTEN CALENDAR March

March 3rd, 8:30am - Third Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

March 6th, 7:00pm – Mid-Week Lenten Service at Messiah, Clarkstown

March 10th, 8:30am – Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 13th, 7:00pm – Mid-Week Lenten Service at St. John, Unityville

March 17th, 8:30am – Fifth Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

March 20th, 7:00pm – Mid-Week Lenten Service at Mt. Zion, Hughesville

March 24th, 8:30am – Palm Sunday, Holy Communion

March 28th, 7:00pm – Maundy-Thursday Service at St. John Brick, Montgomery

March 29th, 7:00pm – Good Friday Service, Messiah, Clarkstown

March 31st, 6:30 am – Sunrise Service Easter Sunday, Messiah, Clarkstown

March 31st, 8:30am – Easter Sunday Service, Holy Communion

Worship Notes:

Maundy Thursday: The liturgical color is either scarlet or white.

What does the name mean? The term “Maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum;” it is from a verb that means “to give” or “to order” — command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper and walked toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught them a new commandment — “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34).

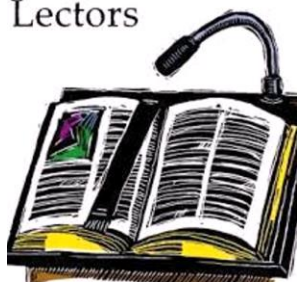
The Last Supper: On the first Maundy Thursday, after they had eaten, Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of their sins. Called Holy Communion or the Eucharist, Lutherans believe this to be one of two sacraments — gifts from God. Most worship services focus on the meal and communion as a way to commemorate this day.

Foot washing: The story of the Last Supper in John’s Gospel records a remarkable event that is not mentioned in the other Gospels — to illustrate humility, Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another. Some Lutheran congregations incorporate this act of humility into their Maundy Thursday services.

Stripping of the altar: After the Eucharist is celebrated it is customary to “strip the altar,” which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life. In many congregations Psalm 22 is read or sung while the paraments are being removed.

Excerpt from Living Lutheran April 5, 2013

Lectors



Lectors Wanted!

Lectors assist during the Service by reading the weekly scripture readings and leading the responsive reading of the psalm. If you would like to help with this ministry, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate the Sunday (or Sundays) you would like to help. If you would like the readings ahead of time to practice, please see the church office to pick up the readings for your Sunday.

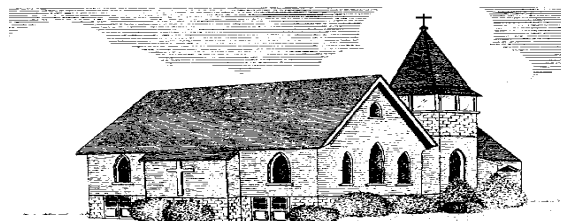


St. John “Brick” Church will continue to live stream our Worship Service every Sunday morning on our Facebook page AND continue to upload every Sunday Service to the church’s webpage on the same day.

In the past 2 months our online services have reached 678 people, had 3 new likes on our page and 3 new followers. We have been watched both here in the states and abroad including countries such as The Bahamas, Germany, and Italy! If you are Facebook please make sure to like, share and follow and the church’s Facebook page.

STEWARDSHIP:

It is important to remember that the ministry and the mission of St. John continue 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 is a hallmark of St. John’s tradition of faithfulness. Even in uncertain times, we are church for the world, and, these days, we need each other, just as the world needs us.



Altar Flowers

2024 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



Bulletins

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.

The following Sunday are currently available:

Flowers:	Bulletins:
April 7 th	March 3 rd
April 14 th	March 10 th
April 21 st	April 21 st
April 28 th	May 12 th
May 5 th	May 19 th

The 2024 Sign up Sheets are posted in the Narthex for both Flower and Bulletin sponsorships.

Please note that the bulletin sponsor sheet is filling up fast so don’t forget to sign up now!



Communion & Altar Committee

March 2024
Peg Bryan and Diane Bryan



COUNCIL

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Council met on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Kelly Puzio and Rae Ann Karichner, our representatives on 5 church co-op committee attended the meeting. They asked for input from council members regarding their vision of the future 5 church co-op.

Some mold has been found in the church basement. Members of Nancy Eck's Sunday School Class have taken on the project to clean out areas in the basement where the issues were found. They placed several books and puzzles on the tables in the Narthex that are free for the taking. Council thanks the members of the Sunday School Class for their hard work.

Dennis Gruver will be installing outdoor cameras for surveillance and safety of the church.

Council meetings have been changed to Monday night (the third Monday of each month) beginning at 6:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 18.

St John Lutheran Church Committees for 2024:

Worship and Music:

Carol Gratsy, Chairman
Robyn Schreiber
Barbara Danko
Connie Batdorf
Jeffery Harvey, Organist
James Girven, Sam, Council rep.

Service:

RaeAnn Karichner, Chairman
Nancy Eck
Suzanne Burkholder
Stephen Puzio, Council rep

Communications:

Dennis Gruver, Chairman
David Morningstar
Gregory Gruver
Donna Dershem, Council rep.

Property:

Gale Buck, Chairman
Kenneth Eck, Assistant Chairman
Dorlan Books
Deborah Books, Council rep.

Finance:

John Karichner, Chairman
Michelle Smith, Treasurer
S. Burkholder, Benev. Treasurer
Cathy Buck
Kenneth Blessing, Council rep

Altar Guild:

Nancy Eck, Chairman
Nancy Jarrett Margaret Bryan
Deborah Bierly Diane Bryan
Elizabeth Heilman Carolyn Girard
Esta Meisel Tami Mausteller
Linda Metzger
Julie Bennett, Council rep.

5 Church Co-op:

Rae Ann Karichner
Kelly Puzio

Parish Life

Executive Committee



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.



Church Closings and Delays



If church must be canceled due to in-climate weather, a call chain is in place for telephone calls or text messages to be placed around 7 am on the morning of the cancellation. Also an announcement will be placed on the church's Facebook page.

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

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

10-12 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

Prayer Requests:

Intercessions: Family of Tyler Morton, Jodi Ellis, Robert Krick, Mike Farer, Audrey Costill, Betty Moyer, Bill Miller, Dawn H, Family of Eileen Montgomery, Trey Gresh, Dave Doran, Tracy Boyer, Erin Fox, as well as 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 stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base(March 2024 deployment to UK)

Corporal Eric Bennett and the 1st LAR, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine aboard the USS Somersett (Deployed), Carter Temple and the 2nd-112th Infantry Regiment out of Lewistown, PA (Deployed to Africa)

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 or call the church office (570-547-6423).



NEW!

Prayers for our soldiers at home and abroad!

We have decided to add another section to our prayer list. This list will be for our military, both those serving here in the states and overseas. For those soldiers just starting out (going through their basic training and

schooling) and those who have dedicated many years to serving our great nation. *If you know someone who you would like added to this list, please contact the church office or add them to the prayer list book in the narthex.*

CLOTHES DONATION



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.

MUSIC News

A graphic featuring the word 'MUSIC' in a large, bold, serif font, with 'News' in a smaller, elegant script font below it. Below the text is a musical staff with a treble clef and several colorful notes (red, green, orange, blue) floating above it.

Music Notes for March 2024

Perhaps you have noticed that “Alleluia” or “Hallelujah” are missing from our worship services during Lent. These two words mean the same thing: “Praise the Lord!” We omit “Alleluia!” because Lent is a time for repentance from our sins and preparation for the GREAT “Alleluia” of Easter Day. “Alleluia” stems from Greek, while “Hallelujah!” comes from the Hebrew “Hallel” (meaning “praise”) and “Jah” or “Yah” (meaning “Lord/Yahweh”). Some churches hide a banner with “Alleluia” written on it during services on Ash Wednesday or the first Sunday of Lent and then have the children of the church bring it out on Easter.

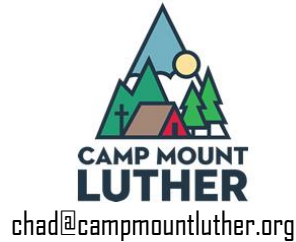
“Hosanna!” is much different. This word has its roots in a Hebrew phrase meaning “Pray, save us!” In the *Sanctus* of our liturgy, we sing “Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!” and acknowledge that Jesus is coming to us directly in the form of bread and wine. We know that as we receive Christ’s Body and Blood, we also receive forgiveness for our sins. This is the HIGH POINT of the Communion Service, where we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, just as the people of Jerusalem did when Jesus entered the Holy City in triumph some 2000 years ago.

“HOSANNAS” will abound on Palm Sunday this year. Messiah’s choir is preparing a new anthem, which promises to be both fun and inspirational. After the joy of Palm Sunday comes the somberness of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, Christ instituted the Lord’s Supper and gave us all a NEW commandment (“Mandatum”): “Love one another, even as I have loved you.” The joy and wonder of Maundy Thursday vanishes abruptly as Judas betrays Jesus by placing Him in the hands of those who would destroy Him. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are the two of most penitential and reflective days in the Christian calendar, making up two of the Three Days (the “Triduum”) before Easter. The music (and lack of music) reflects our human sorrow and contemplation. Purple disintegrates into black as our Lord suffers and dies for us. The non-believing think that it is all over

On Easter Day, we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord! “ALLELUIA” returns in full force as we sing praise to God for sending His Son to redeem us from our sins. We sing praise and thanks to Jesus for taking our sins upon Himself and dying on the cross for our sake. Just as God breathed new life back into Jesus, God breathes new life into us by means of the Holy Spirit. God has promised us eternity with Him – is there any BETTER reason to sing “ALLELUIA” – “PRAISE TO GOD?!”

HELP CAMP RAISE THE REGION

Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA's "Raise the Region" on March 13-14, 2024. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 p.m. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Camp Mount Luther will contribute to the Annual Fund unless a donor gets contacts the camp office to designate otherwise. To be part of Raise the Region, visit www.raisetheregion.org during the event and make an online donation to camp. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for eleven years and has garnered about \$206,345 in donations over the years. We hope you will help us to have another successful year!



SUMMER STAFF

Every summer, Camp Mount Luther depends on responsible young people to serve as role models for our campers. Whether serving as a counselor, lifeguard, or kitchen personnel, a job at camp can be an amazing and rewarding work experience. Please spread the word and help us find quality candidates for Summer 2024. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to



Lenten and Easter Schedule:

As a way of getting to know one another's churches and members, the 5-Church Committee has decided to hold joint services for Lent for 2024. Below is the mid-week Lenten services schedule:

March 6th – Mid-Week Lenten Service – Messiah, Clarkstown

March 13th – Mid-Week Lenten Service – St. John's, Unityville (Gordner's)

March 20th – Mid Week Lenten Service – Mt. Zion, Hughesville

At each church, a half-hour of fellowship will begin at 6:30 with coffee, tea and dessert-like refreshments. This will allow members from each of the churches to get to know one another. The Lenten Service will follow at 7 p.m., led by Jim Girven and Dianne Bubb. There will be no communion during the service.

March 28th – Maundy Thursday Service – St. John's Brick

March 29th – Good Friday Service – Messiah Clarkstown

March 31st – Easter Sunrise Service – Messiah Clarkstown

St. John's and Messiah will also hold their regular worship times on Easter Morning



Friday March 15th, 2024 12:30PM-5:00PM
Here at St. John's Brick Church

Thank you for your donation to our Montgomery Footprints



Thank you!

Your generosity is appreciated, and it is making a difference in people's lives.

Amount donated: \$127

Date of Donation: 12-31-23

Dear St. John Lutheran Brick Church

I give sincere thanks to God for laying upon your heart the ministry of the Shepherd of the Streets. We continue to serve our clients at their point of

need through your generous support. Today people in need in our Lycoming County community are receiving their medications and traveling to their medical appointments because of your gifts to the Shepherd ministry. Also, today some of our clients are able to see clearly through the glasses that we have helped them to purchase. Finally we have been able to provide many of our neighbors in need with the gift of various hygiene items, which help to promote their general health and personal care.

I pray that God will abundantly bless you as you continue to serve Him through your generous giving.

In Christian Love,

Rev. Mark D. Brumbach

Shepherd of the Streets

Let us love one another for love is from God! ~ 1 John 4:7

Happy Birthday!

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



Happy Anniversary!

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.

Some insight into why this month's recipe was chosen:

In Lutheranism

A *Handbook for the Discipline of Lent* delineates the following [Lutheran](#) fasting guidelines:

1. Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday with only one simple meal during the day, usually without meat.
2. **Refrain from eating meat (bloody foods) on all Fridays in Lent, substituting fish for example.**
3. Eliminate a food or food group for the entire season. Especially consider saving rich and fatty foods for Easter.
4. Consider not eating before receiving Communion in Lent.
5. Abstain from or limit a favorite activity (television, movies, etc.) for the entire season, and spend more time in prayer, Bible study, and reading devotional material.

It is the practice of many Lutherans to abstain from alcohol and meat on the Fridays of Lent; a [Black Fast](#) has been historically kept by Lutherans on [Good Friday](#).

From the secretary's desk: My family and I have observed #2 on this list for several years now. In fact, some of my children have come to love certain seafoods due to this particular practice we picked up. Although, I can say I find it is not a widely common practice for Lutherans in this area. At least not a lot of the ones I have been in contact with over the years. However, I hope you enjoy the recipe I chose for this month and the reason gives you contemplation on what next year's lent may look like for you.



From the Church Cookbook!

Salmon Loaf

By: Barbara Page

1 Large can Pink Salmon
1 tsp. salt
½ tps. Pepper
2 TBSP Lemon Juice

2 Egg Yolks
½ c. cracker crumbs
½ c. hot milk
3 Egg whites, beaten stiff

Remove skin and bones from salmon; mash fine. Add salt, pepper, lemon juice, beaten egg yolks, cracker crumbs and hot milk; mix together. Fold in egg whites. Pour into a large well-greased loaf pan. Bake 1 hour at 350°. Serve 4-5.

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.



DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 20TH.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30am Worship w/ Communion	4	5	6 6:30pm Fellowship Time prior to service 7:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Service at Messiah, Clarkstown	7 10-11:30am Bible Study @ Messiah	8	9
10 8:30am Worship	11	12	13 6:30pm Fellowship Time prior to service 7:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Service at St. John, Unityville	14 10-11:30am Bible Study @ Mesiah	15 12:30-5:00 Bloodmobile	16
17 8:30am Worship w/ Communion	18 6pm Council Meeting	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Fellowship Time prior to service 7:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Service at Mt. Zion, Hughesville	21 10-11:30am Bible Study @ Trinity	22	23
24 8:30am Worship w/ Communion	25	26	27	28 7:00pm Maundy- Thursday Service Brick Church	29 7:00pm Good Friday Service at Messiah, Clarkstown	30
31 8:30am Worship w/ Communion						

Coming in April:

4/7 – Finance Committee Meeting after service

4/8 – Worship and Music Committee Meeting @ 1:00pm

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