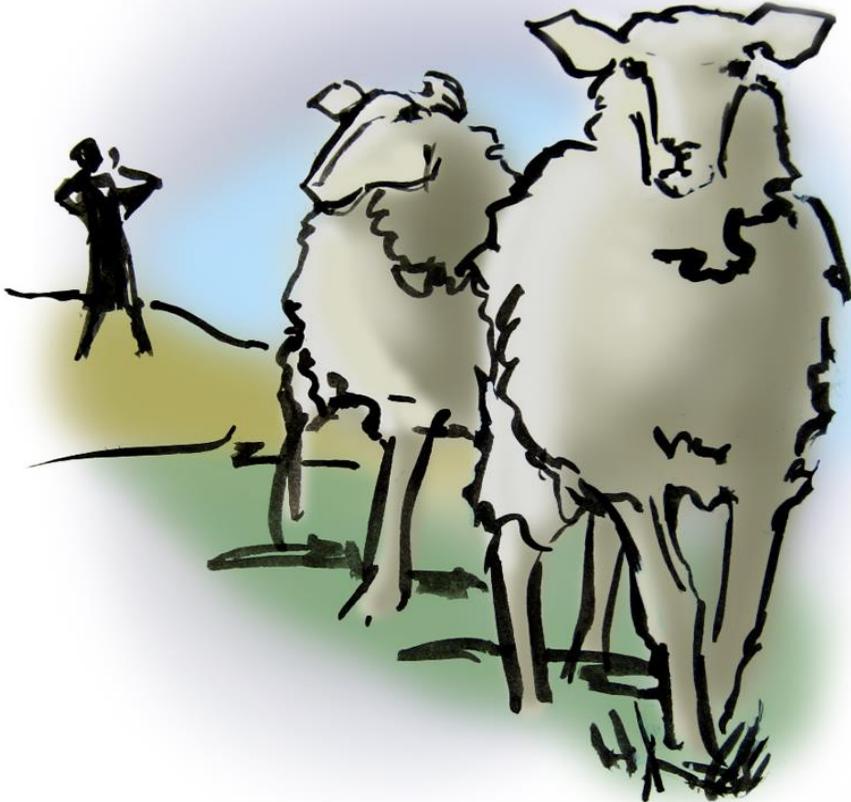


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2022
WORSHIP SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION 11:30AM



MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4201 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road

Reading, Pa. 19605

Church Office 610-926-4201

Email: gselc4201@gmail.com Website: goodshepherdelc.org

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to receiving God’s profound love through Christ and being called to be His people, the mission of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church is to be a family of faith, at work in the midst of a growing community, which through worship, learning, witness and outreach, touches both members and non-members with a continuing challenge to commitment, that brings God into the center of daily life.

Our Reader today is Kristin Simons
Designated Pastor Rev. Lauren Blatt, from Calvary Lutheran

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Denotes Congregation Stands, if you are able

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL – Calling all to worship
ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

P: Christ the Lord is risen today!

C: He has risen indeed, Alleluia!

PRELUDE The King of Love My Shepherd Is, Tune: St Columba

*CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over
from death to life with Jesus Christ,

C: and we are a new creation.

P: For this saving mystery, and for this water,
let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Alleluia! Amen.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely
from your throne:

through the earth,

through the city,

through every living thing.

C: Amen

P: You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever.

C: You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

P: In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out.

C: In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.

P: Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more.

C: Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

P: To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN # 385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing**

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God of peace,

C: you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 9: 36-43

Reader: ³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

R: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

READING OF THE PSALM 23

R: ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**C: ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

R: ³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**C: ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.**

R: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**C: ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING Revelation 7: 9-17

Reader: ⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on
the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the
elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces
before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these,
robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him,
“Sir, you are the one that knows.”

Then he said to me,
“These are they who have come out of the
great ordeal; they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will
shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the
sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their
shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the
water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes.”

R: Word of God, word of life

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10: 21-30**

P: The holy Gospel according to St John, the 10th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY # 789 Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation as we lift their names to you aloud or in our hearts. . . Set people in their path who can



bles-sing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



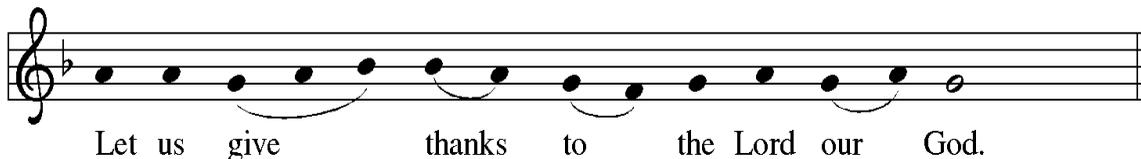
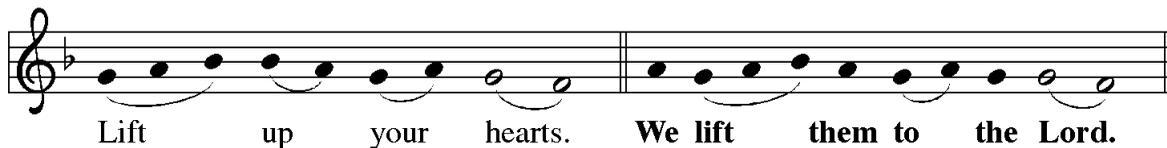
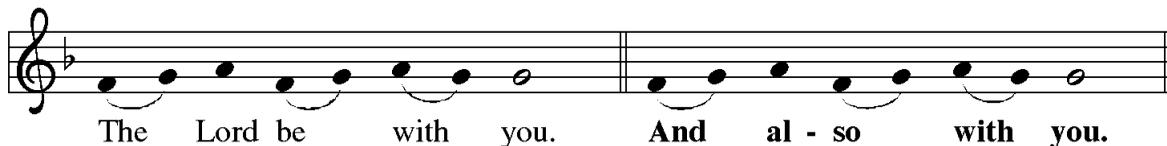
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Living God,

C: **you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover
From death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

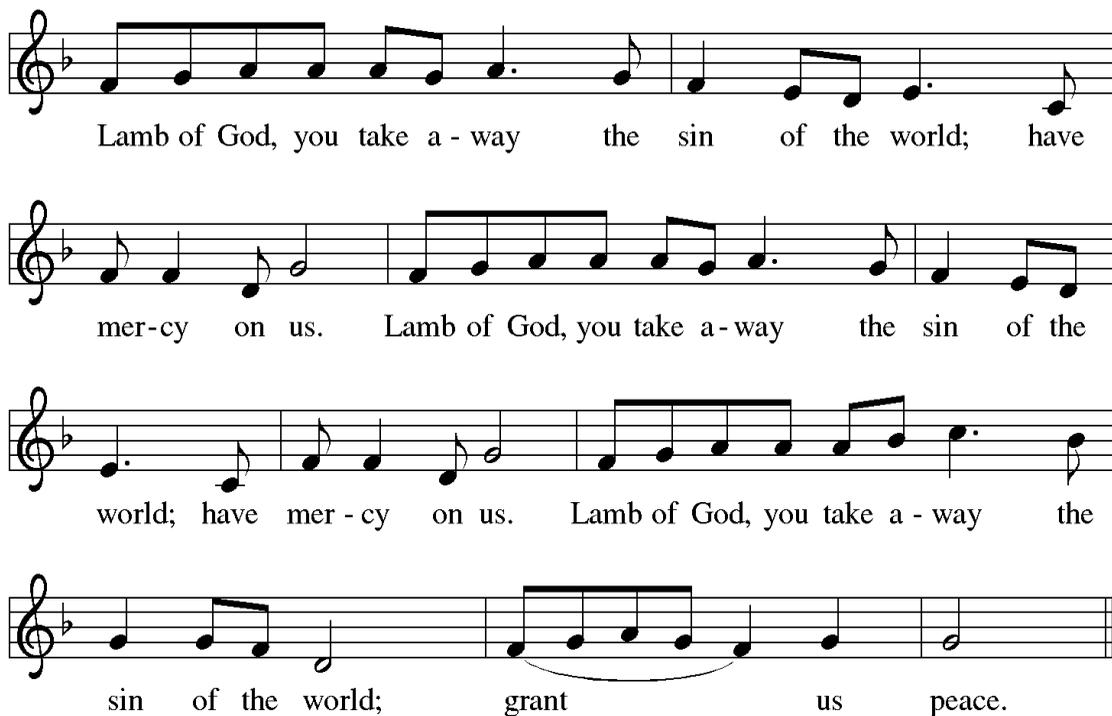
**** All are welcome** to the Lord's Supper where Christ is present in the bread and wine. Please follow those directing you to come forward in the center aisle.

As you pass the table, the cups in the center of the hold grape juice, the empty cups are for wine. Receive the wafer from the Pastor. The wine will be poured by the assistant. Please dispose of your used cups in the plastic containers at the end of the pews. We have both regular wafers and gluten free wafers. Tell the pastor if you need the gluten option.

You should return to your seats by the side aisles. If you would like a blessing instead of communion, let the pastor know when you reach the front of the line.

If you remain in your seats to use the communion kits, you may take communion at the end as the Pastor instructs you.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Thank the Lord**



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

***SENDING BLESSING**

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,

✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN # 854 Blessing and Honor

*THE DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE My Shepherd, You Supply My Need, Tune: Resignation

Today's Podcast/Streaming was broadcast under Good Shepherd's Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SB121391 and the account with ONE LICENSE, License # 739070-A



We extend a hearty welcome to our visitors today. Please fill out a Pew card with your contact information. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please inform us. There are also Visitor Packets available. Please see one of the people at the Gathering Table if you are interested in learning more about us.

News of the Church

Activities

Sunday School

Adults / Youth / Young Adult

at **10 AM Bible Study** in the Fellowship Hall

Children Age 3 to Grade 6 - Sunday School at **10:30 AM**

Please dress casually, masks are recommended

Bible stories, games, songs in the Kids Korner

WORSHIP SERVICE – 11:30 AM Service with Communion.

Please remember the following in your prayers:

(not shown because this is a public posting)

W/ELCA – Welcome to our Meetings –

Tuesday May 10, 2022, Lunch is at 12 Noon. Our Meeting is an “Everybody’s Birthday Party”. Please bring a \$10 gift (wrapped with a bow) to exchange. There will be games and fun.

June’s meeting on the 14th, will be our Picnic. Not outside, but at Margherita’s Restaurant. This will be a fun time, with games and prizes, and the last meeting of the season.

Our meetings will **start up in September**. Watch for the announcements. Contact Sandra Oesterling if you have questions.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY Interested in what happens at the Assembly? We can arrange for you to be part of the assembly from the Sanctuary of Good Shepherd. **MAKE IT A PARTY!** The Assembly will be online again this year. Dates June 10-11, 2022. No TRAVEL involved. See what your church body is planning and get to meet others on line.

LAY LEADERS – WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT is having the next planning meeting on Saturday May 21st at 10 AM, at Grace Lutheran in Shillington. Let Jo Anne know if you plan to attend so she can contact Dawn.

Council Members for 2022

James Culley

Helenna Lutz

Gary O'Brien

Rodney Haupt

Cathy Meck

Lynn Shollenberger

Carolyn Heffner

Duane Maurer

Allyn Swavely

Duane Kring

Betty Nelson

Harry Walters

Please see the **Gathering Bulletin Board** for the Council Meeting Reports and Business conducted.

FUND RAISER Pretzel City Chorus and Friendly's West Lawn (Penn Ave)

May 16, 2022 from 5 PM to 9 PM

Order off the menu.

10% of your tab is donated to the chorus.



Note: The chorus will be singing June 14th at the Reading Phils baseball game; 7 PM game start, the National Anthem will be presented by Pretzel City Chorus.

COMBINED CHURCH PICNIC MAY 22, 2022

We will be having an outdoor Service with a picnic at Jim Dietrich Park on Sunday May 22. This will be a combined church event. We celebrate our anniversary as Good Shepherd churches, existing for 177 years, worshiping in the Tuckerton area, serving our community. If you plan to attend, please sign up on one of the sheets. We are placing our lunch order - **Deadline to sign up is TODAY May 8th.**

Food Pantry

Thursday May 19th

The Muhlenberg Churches collaborative food distribution ministry is held here at Good Shepherd Lutheran on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Dry goods and canned food donations from members of the local churches and civic organizations are needed to augment the food that is received from Helping Harvest. Please support this collaborative ministry by bringing in your donations and place them on the white stand in the Gathering Area.

Thank you for responding to God's call to "feed my sheep."

Lutheran WORLD RELIEF to Ukraine/Eastern Europe

Your gifts to Lutheran World Relief can be made online at lwr.org/match Or mail to:

Lutheran World Relief

P.O. Box 17061

Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Deadline for matched gifts is over, but you may still donate. Write "Ukraine Match" on the memo line of your check or giving online.

Do you shop at Redner's ?

tapes are still accepted by Witness. Please see Harry.

SYNOD - Stewardship Extravaganza 2022

This meeting will be June 18, 2022 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. This is an event organized by SEPA and NEPA Synods. More information will be posted as the meeting time gets closer.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: Printed copies of the May Newsletter are on the table in the Gathering space.

Reminder – our summer Newsletter will combine June and July so when you are sending information to Rebecca Heffner, she will be looking for two months of news.

Receive an email copy of the newsletter. Send a request by email to the church at gselc4201@gmail.com) or put your information on a pew card.

If an email copy is not your preference, a copy can be mailed to you.

Interested in sponsoring a bulletin on Sundays?

Sign-up in the book on the lectern in the Gathering area. Please enter your information in the appropriate month and week. You may use a pew envelope to submit your \$15 donation for this sponsorship.

SENIORS – There are notices on the Gathering Board regarding IN-HOME care programs. If you or someone you know needs a little or a lot of help in order to stay in their home, one of these programs may be the answer to the need. Remember, Pennsylvania promotes the concept of seniors remaining in their homes instead of going into Assisted Living or Retirement centers. As the costs of these centers are rising so high, many seniors cannot afford to move. The In-Home programs are tailored to provide the care without the high cost associated with the centers because there is limited overhead.

TABS – helping those with Cancer Don't forget to save your aluminum tabs. They are greatly appreciated. We have the container on the Gathering Table for your donations.

Answers to the Survey Questions 1 – 27 responses (15%) to date

Communion – Weekly 9, Bi-weekly 9, Once a Month 9

Ring Bell - 15 mins 2, 10 mins 2, 5 mins 23

Offering Plates – at Gathering 11, bring to Altar 10, pass cong. 6

Stand at altar – keep moving 14, side table 4, center table 7,
Keep kits 1, No opinion 1

Bonus – Answer to the Candle question, read Page 267 (Vigil of Easter) in the Hymnal. Winner was Chris Weaver.

