

## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, March 23**

9:30 am Worship/Communion

9:30 am Sunday School

### **Monday, March 24**

6:00 pm Sit Happens

6:15 pm Life Long Faith Formation

7:00 pm Property Committee

### **Tuesday, March 25**

### **Wednesday, March 26**

6:30 pm Lenten Vespers/Bible Study

### **Thursday, March 27**

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing

6:30 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Choir

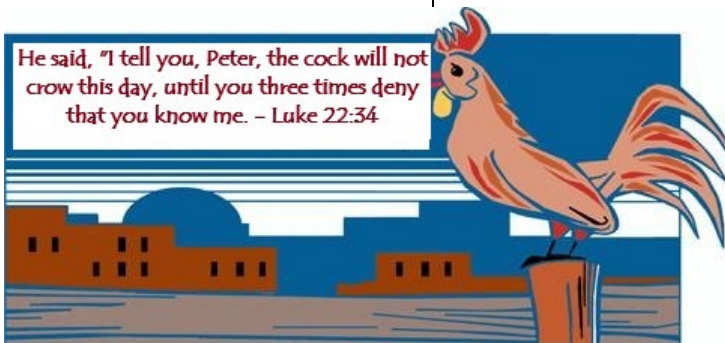
7:30 pm NA

### **Friday, March 28**

### **Saturday, March 29**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

KIM Lenten Activities/ Service Project



### **MESSIAH MESSENGER USPS 342-060**

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March 19, 2025

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# The Path of Jesus

## *Understanding the Stations of the Cross*

By [Cory Driver](#) April 14, 2022

The writer's son tries to help Jesus carry the cross at the Shrine of Christ's Passion, a Stations of the Cross attraction in St. John, Ind.



When I lived in Jerusalem, I dipped into the Old City a few times a week to visit my favorite falafel stand. Frequently I would encounter a human traffic jam behind a group of people working together to carry a cross. I had no idea what the Christian pilgrims were doing.

Once, while stuck behind a particularly slow group, I took a chance and asked one of the participants what they were doing. The older Polish woman was incredulous that I had never heard of the [Via Dolorosa](#)—the path that pilgrims have walked through the Old City for centuries to reenact Jesus' crucifixion journey. She explained that after a lifetime of meditating on the Stations of the Cross, it was her dream to come to Jerusalem to walk in the steps of Jesus.

My next question truly revealed my ignorance to her: "What are the Stations of the Cross?"

Historically, Christians have sought to have a bodily experience of Jesus' last moments prior to his resurrection. For hundreds of years, the only way to physically walk through Jesus' passion journey was to make the difficult, expensive and dangerous trip to Jerusalem. During the Crusades, as Christians and Muslims fought over possession of the Holy Land, the journey became even more challenging.

To help Christians who couldn't risk their lives nor spend months or years traveling to experience the path of suffering that Jesus chose to submit himself to on their behalf, churches in Europe began to construct images or statues that would help people imagine the journey from Pilate's courtroom to the tomb. The Stations of the Cross became a mini-pilgrimage that one could take in their own church building.

At roughly the same time that Martin Luther was preaching about God's accessibility to all Christians and the priesthood of all believers, Franciscans worked to erect Stations of the Cross across Christendom so that all Christians would have access to physical models of Jesus' salvific suffering and death.

*(Continued on inside)*

*(The Path of Jesus - continued from cover)*

Christian practices around the Stations of the Cross have developed and multiplied. When my eldest son was still very young, he kept seeing billboards advertising the “Shrine of Christ’s Passion” as we drove by St. John, Ind. I could only ignore him saying “Daddy, I want to go see Jesus!” so many times before we made a special trip.

A collection of life-size statues helped my son and me process Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection in ways we never had previously. At a particularly poignant moment, at the station where Jesus stumbled and Simon of Cyrene was forced to help him, my 2-year-old tried to pick up a large wooden cross, saying, “I want to help Jesus too.” That sort of physical identification with Jesus’ struggle just isn’t possible without models that children can see and touch.

During a Lenten practice at another congregation, people took turns running booths that explained the Stations of the Cross and gave everyone who stopped by a memento of Jesus’ experience. When hearing about how Jesus was condemned to death, participants were given a single thorn. When people heard about how Jesus was given his cross, they were presented with a tiny cross.

At the end of the process, participants had physical reminders of every step of Jesus’ journey to Calvary. Interestingly, some people didn’t visit all of the booths in one visit. Many came on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout Lent to visit one or two stations each time so they could meditate separately on each part of Jesus’ passion.

The story, as we read it during Holy Week, can be overwhelming. By having time to decompress the details and experience them over weeks, participants were able to slowly contemplate how Jesus poured himself out on our behalf.

One of the most visceral expressions of the Stations of the Cross is a “Living Passion,” similar to a “Living Nativity.” Passion plays in which actors portray the narrative are well-known, but Living Passions, in my experience, don’t involve speaking actors or a stationary audience. Instead, participants journey from station to station and behold humans silently portraying Jesus’ mistreatment at the hands of the Romans—and his love and grace for those he encountered along the journey.

In whichever way congregations and individual Christians choose to portray the Stations of the Cross, the slow, intentional meditation on the material reality of Jesus’ journey from life to death—and then death to life—has been a profound blessing to Christians for centuries. Consider how your congregation might help others experience the physicality of Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection—all because of his love and grace for the world.



March 23, 2025

**Service Assistants**

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, Susan Christ, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker

**Lay Assistant:** Kim Brofee; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Brennen Hess

**Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower; **Greeters/Presenters:** Don and Mary Ellen

Rosenbaum; **Cantor:** Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Marilyn Winter

**March 9, 2025:** Attendance: *In Church:* 82; *Online:* 11; Offering: \$2,993.50

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones from Sylvia.

**Bible Readings**

**Sunday, March 23:** *Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9*

**Monday, March 24:** *Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11*

**Tuesday, March 25:** *Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16*

**Wednesday, March 26:** *Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21*

**Thursday, March 27:** *Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5*

**Friday, March 28:** *Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15*

**Saturday, March 29:** *Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10*



**Pastoral Care Number:** Please call (570) 326-9171. (Available 24 hours a day) During work hours the office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.

**Reminder:** *Articles for the Messenger and Bulletin are due in the office by Monday at noon.*



**Food Pantry Most Needed Items This Week:** canned green beans, peas, & mixed veggies (we have enough corn), brownie mixes, jelly, crackers. We are *completely out of pudding cups* (a favorite with the children). Even if all you can give is one can or jar, *all* help is appreciated – no donation is too small. *Thank you to all who help to keep our food pantry open!*



**Order your Easter Flowers now;** several varieties of flowers are available. More information can be found on the order form. Pick one up from Ushers' table in the back of the Sanctuary. The flowers may be picked up immediately after Worship on April 20<sup>th</sup>. **PLEASE RETURN THE ORDER FORM BY SUNDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>.** Call the church office 570-326-9171 if you have any questions.

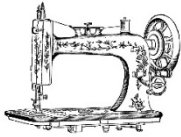


**If you would like to help get the palms** ready for Palm Sunday Worship, please join us Saturday morning, April 12 at 9:00 am.



**Calling all pie makers!!** If you like to bake, especially pies, please share your favorite pie with us at our **pie social**. The fellowship committee will be hosting a pie social on April 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship and would love to see how many pies we can get. If you would be willing to make a pie for our social, please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. The fellowship committee will provide the beverages and cool whip; we just need the pies.

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**Lutheran World Relief School Kits 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Sew-A-Sack”  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 ~ 9:00 a.m.-???**

Our sew-a-thon was such a big hit last year that we have decided to hold another marathon sewing event again this year. Come on out and enjoy a morning of fellowship as we work together to sew the backpacks needed for the school kits.

**Can’t sew, or don’t have a machine? *No problem!*** We can put you to work marking fabric, cutting, pinning, pressing casings (it’s easy and we’ll show you how), or helping in other ways. At noon, we will share conversation over a light lunch. *Can’t stay for the whole day? Come when you can, leave when you must!*

**A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex.** We will need the use of some sewing tools if you’ve any to share (or to bring for your own use). If you can attend, please sign up and let us know if you are staying for lunch and which items you can bring. *Join us for a fun time ... we guarantee “we will keep you in stitches!”*

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**For our Home Sew-ers: *Volunteers are needed to do a little sewing on their own in advance of the Sew-A-Sack.*** The task consists of merely turning under the edges of the fabric and doing a zig-zag stitch all the way around – that’s all! This simple preparation will make it easier for us to get off to a productive start the morning of the sew-a-thon. ***Please note:*** *Those who may not be able to attend the sew-a-thon but would still like to make complete backpacks at home are more than welcome to do so!*

**Fabric pieces and instructions may be picked up in the narthex or at the church office.** Remember to add your name to the sign-out sheet as well as the number of pieces you take home (and also be sure to indicate on the sheet that you have returned them when you bring them back!) so that we can keep track of the number of backpacks and where they are.

**Questions?? Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802.**

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**Lenten Vespers and Bible study** are Wednesday evenings during Lent. Vespers will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel followed by a brief Bible study. Please make a commitment to join us for Wednesday prayer and the study of God’s Word this Lent.

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**Copies of the Lenten Devotional Booklets and the Lenten Self-Denial Folders are available in the Narthex and in the office.**



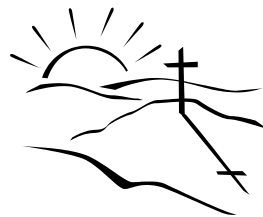
**Kids in Mission: Lenten Activities/Service Project**  
**Saturday, March 29, 9 A.M. - 12 Noon**

Age 4 through Grade 6

*Join us on a Lenten journey to Easter:*



**Story Time**  
**Pretzel baking**  
**Story Time**  
**Crafts and Games**



Contact the church office at 570-326-9171 with any questions or to register. Registration forms can be acquired on our website.

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**The Library Corner – Highlighted Books**



Children/family - **DVD - The Story of Easter** - The story of Jesus' resurrection comes alive for children in this animated video. Based on the award winning Spark Story Bible, The Story of Easter will captivate children as they learn about God's love for the world through the miraculous life and ministry of Jesus. This DVD is in the Easter Holiday Section of our library.

Adult - **Journeying through Lent with Luke - Daily Meditations** - Vivid word pictures, crisp retelling of text and creative allegory spark delight in the beauty of Luke's Gospel and a desire to follow Christ. Each of the 47 devotions is free standing, but themes--such as prayer, healing, forgiveness and teaching--link groups of devotions together, lending depth and continuity to them. Each meditation focuses on a key point from the reading in Luke and offers excellent questions for individual reflection. A prayer for each day draws readers closer to the Gospel. Book in the Easter Holiday Section of our library.

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**⌘ Scholarship Available to the Pennsylvania State University**

The Jane Elizabeth Newlin and Everett Mason Batschelet Memorial Scholarship is offered annually to an incoming first year student who will be enrolled at any campus of the Pennsylvania State University *including the Pennsylvania College of Technology*. To qualify for the Newlin-Batschelet scholarship, an applicant must be a public high school graduate or prospective graduate. The recipient will be nominated by a committee appointed by our Congregation Council. Nominees will be submitted to the Pennsylvania State University in order to verify the nominee's financial eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Approved candidates will be informed by Penn State and will receive an annual scholarship of \$5,000.00 for a maximum of four years, as long as they are enrolled as a full-time student on a Penn State campus, remain eligible, and funds are available.

Applications for this scholarship may be obtained by calling the church office. **All applications are due in the church office by Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.** Because references, SAT scores, and transcripts must also be filed, applicants should obtain an application as soon as possible.