

April, 2019

Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? (Mt. 26:53)



**"Holy Days"**  
*A Great Big Welcome*  
*"This Is My Body"*  
*One Dark Afternoon*  
*The Bright New Morning!*

Holy Week is coming. In April we wind up our Lenten journey and, within the darkness of a Saturday night (read that 'Saturday' as Sunday, according to the Hebrew tradition of the new day starting at the sun's setting) a new light shines! The day beginning at sundown means we start every day with only just the hope of new light, in fresh memory of the old sun of the previous day, and we begin the next in need of faith, to believe and trust that it, the light, shall indeed return new, again, each morning.

By that reckoning sun-up is at the core, now, of every single day, and not noon's height, the apex. Bask in this light reserved for the late day, saving the icing for last, as, with sunset the day, quite literally, closes. While the sun disappears on the horizon, so does the day. It comes to a close, giving rise to new hopes for a new day born out of colorful skies, the sun's memory, and the emerging stars (come to church for many points of light during Holy Week).

This is the Easter Vigil. Light the fire for the Christ candle so that it may be lit up again. Under cover of darkness the women of Galilee find the tomb empty. Dare they believe what the angels had said? The good news, which is the resurrection, precedes the sun itself, just as faith preforms in you the hope of salvation, a new life in Christ, by God's grace, according to the Holy Spirit's gift. When you go to bed it is already the Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

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Throughout the season of Lent we look at Jesus in the shadow of the cross, vulnerable, determined, yet gracious, humble, railroaded, even victimized by the state and the powers that be, and finally through the lens of the tomb. So we come to see everyone else by that same light of Christ, which would be revealed out of these darkest of places, where humanity in its inhumanity sent him. When we see God as a human being, come for our salvation, we come to see others as God's beloved children for whom he also suffered, bled, and died.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

– 2 Corinthians 5:16-19.

Come back to the church, your Church, created by the Holy Spirit with you in mind, in these seasons of Lent and Easter. Whether it has been a week, a year, or a whole decade since you've been to St. Paul's or any other church, or even if you have never been, Christ Jesus stretches those arms out for just you.

Seasonal Blessings All,  
– **Rev. Paul Downing**

**St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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(St. Paul's is a congregation in the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Visit our website: [www.StPaulsLCPJS.org](http://www.StPaulsLCPJS.org) and learn more about our wider church at [www.mnys.org](http://www.mnys.org) and [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)).

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## DEACON'S CORNER

Just a few things to write about this month. I, along with two of Hope's Stephen Leaders, just finished teaching 50 hours (6 months) Stephen Minister Training to five wonderful people (our own Ann Mitromaras included). This was a wonderful time of learning how to have caring relationships for people who are hurting in some way. This is only the end of the beginning. We will be commissioned at Hope Lutheran on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> and then will be assigned a care receiver. Even though we will be the caregiver, God is always the cure giver. We will also be participating in monthly Supervision groups as well as Continuing Education for as long as we have a care receiver. I am fortunate that as well as being a Stephen Leader and I can also now become a Stephen Minister (a dream I have had for a long time). Please keep our group in your prayers for support, for guidance and for inspiration that we will always be in touch with Jesus and that the Holy Spirit will be able to use our training, knowledge, faith, love and skills to God's glory.

Secondly, Dottie (alternate lay delegate for Synod Assembly), Stu and I (lay delegates) attended a diaconate study with Pastor O'Hara to talk about the upcoming Synod Assembly and responsibilities of a Synod Bishop. The responsibilities are numerous and they are something we needed to look at to help us when voting in May. There are, at this point, 15 pre-identified Pastors. (Other names can be brought to the Assembly that weekend). Their names are on the Metro NY Synod website with their biographical information and responses to the document, "Listening for Leadership." So as delegates, along with the power of the Holy Spirit, we have much homework to do. So please keep all delegates in your prayers so that our new Bishop will help our Synod grow in faith.

Thirdly, Hope Lutheran is planning a trip to **Sight and Sound** in Pennsylvania June 29<sup>th</sup>. The presentation is "JESUS". If you don't know anything about Sight and Sound, they have wonderful performances, musical, live performers, etc. I know of many people who have attended these and come home with rave reviews. This JESUS takes on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person ever to walk the earth and the everyday people whose lives He changed forever. We meet at Hope at 6:30am to board a Hampton Jitney Motor Coach. At 12:30 there is an all you can eat full grand smorgasbord at the Hersey Farm Restaurant. The performance goes on at 3 and the estimated time of departure is 6 pm. (There will be a rest/dinner stop en route). Estimated time of return to Hope is 11:30. The cost is \$181 for adults and children 12 and under is \$122. This includes everything (bus, theater, lunch). I plan on going and hope that some of our St. Paul's people will join me. Please let me know so that I can add your name to the list at Hope Lutheran.

Blessings for a wonderful Easter,

**Deacon Gale**

## From the Treasurer's Desk April 1, 2019

We have completed the first quarter of our fiscal year. We continue to be slightly behind in our projections to meet our budget projections. We have had several large bills come due this month—property insurance and workers' compensation—these come quarterly. We have not been able to send any of our mission support (benevolence) payments yet this year. I hope that with the special offerings during Easter that we will be able to remedy this situation.

During March, our two special dinners—Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's—produced \$1,400 to support our youth programs and the 40 Days of Sharing and Caring. Thanks to everyone who supported these programs.

First quarter statements will be sent out by April 15. If you are behind in your projection of giving, please try to catch up. If you are current, thank you for your continued support. Please remember that the work of St. Paul's continues every week—even if you are away. Now might be a good time to reevaluate signing up for automated contributions. Talk to me if you are interested.

Best wishes for a joyous Easter. We can soon shout Alleluia again.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Deacon Stuart Meade**  
Congregation Treasurer

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## KEEPING IT GREEN (with Dottie Meade)

### DAFFODOWNDILLY

*She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,  
She wore her greenest gown,  
She turned to the south wind  
And curtsied up and down.  
She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head,  
And whispered to her neighbor,  
"Winter is dead."*

By A. A. Milni

Take time to wave to the beautiful daffodils and crocuses which are nodding their heads to us. Brookhaven looks so beautiful decked in yellows and greens. Spring has sprung at last!

LIPA trustees recently approved an \$84 million, 20 year contract to buy power from a groundbreaking facility planned in Yaphank by American Organic Energy, which plans to convert 180,000 tons of food scraps annually to bio-gas to fuel a 6 megawatt power plant, with its vehicles and equipment. It should be operational by December 2020 at a cost of 10 cents per month to residential ratepayers. (Let's hold them to that.)

Mushrooms! Who would have think that mushrooms could help our brain? A new study found that people who ate more than two servings of fresh mushrooms per week were found to have 50 percent reduced odds of developing MCI (mild cognitive impairment). Any variety of mushrooms will do. Mushrooms have a high concentration of ergothioneine which is the protective agent that boosts mental health. Since it is an antioxidant, it could also help reduce inflammation. Eat mushrooms!

TIP – Reduce plastic bag usage for produce with cloth bags.

Coming up---

Cornell's Gardening School – Saturday, April 13 – Adv. Registration

Seed Starting Workshop – Saturday, April 13 – 10-11:30 – Middle Country Library – Adv. Registration

Earth Day – Monday, April 22 – do something to enhance the Environment

Port Jeff Farmers Market – every Sunday – Village Center



Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

– Dottie Meade

## Stewardship Thought for April, 2019 (from Deacon Stu)

Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. By itself, it is neither good nor evil. But when it is viewed wrongly, it becomes the root or the source of all sorts of evil.

Paul gave an admonition to Timothy in I Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." Notice that Paul didn't say that money is evil, or that having money is evil. He simply instructed Timothy that loving money is the root of all kinds of evil.

When we view money in an incorrect manner, it is usually in one of two areas. First, we view it as something that belongs to us. Money is something that God has entrusted to us. It all belongs to God. We are simply managers and stewards of what is rightfully his.

Second, we view money incorrectly when we trust in it, when we place our hope and confidence in it. When we have a consuming desire to get rich, when we are obsessed with money so that it becomes the focus of our time and attention, then we make it the number one priority in our lives. In that spot, it replaces everything, including God. We begin to find our security in money, not in God.

However, when our view of God is right and our view of money is right, we will realize that money cannot buy security; money cannot purchase happiness; money cannot guarantee peace or joy or contentment. God alone can provide these essentials as we "seek first His kingdom and his righteousness."

In his book, "The Gift of Giving", Wayne Watts said this: "God always lovingly instructs us in the path that is in our best interest and which will bring us the greatest happiness in life. Therefore, for our good, God instructs us to put Him first in all things, and this includes how we use our money."

How do you view money? Is it at the center of your life, thereby replacing God's rightful role? And equally important, are you using the money God has given you to advance His kingdom and His righteousness?

**Deacon Stu**



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## SERMONS FOR APRIL, 2019

(Some of these dates may have passed, but Sunday Sermons can be viewed via links on our web-site! Or search "Pastor Paul Downing" on YouTube.com.)

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lenten Meditation number 4 of 5: Quiet time, hymns, readings, and prayer centering on *God restoring our fortunes*.

April 7<sup>th</sup> – In John 12:1-8 Mary lavishes upon Jesus' feet a whole jar of costly perfume, fragrantly filling the room. Judas, the disciple who would betray Jesus, is quick to point out the money for its sale could have helped the poor, though as treasurer (keeper of the purse) he would more likely have helped himself to it. Pastor Downing's sermon for this Fifth Sunday in Lent is "WHO'S IT REALLY FOR?" We have only so many breaths to breathe. So, live and love those whom God has placed in your path.

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Meditation number 5 of 5: Quiet time, hymns, readings, and prayer centering on the *Victory for God's anointed*.

April 14<sup>th</sup> – A Great Big Welcome. "WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER?" This is Rev. Paul's sermon, before we read the Passion of Jesus Christ from Luke's Gospel account, 22:14—23:56. The message draws from the processional Gospel reading of Luke 19:28-40 on this Palm and Passion Sunday. Could the very same people crying out "Hosanna to the son of David" so quickly turn to shouts of "crucify him"? Forget only that which is worth forgetting!

April 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday of Holy Week we gather for a service focusing on an Individual Absolution and Anointing with Oil. We will sing and serve together, in Christ, for one another "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Come hear words of grace just for you.

April 16<sup>th</sup> – The 14 Stations of the Cross will be visited around our sanctuary this evening, Tuesday of Holy Week, with time to reflect and hymns to recall. Come walk with your sisters and brothers in the faith and see and hear what Christ has done for you.

April 17<sup>th</sup> – For a Mid-Holy Week Lenten Meditation wrap-up, we will have quiet time, Taizé hymns, readings, and prayer, centered on *Enduring under Adversity and Betrayal*, contemplating Jesus' last days with the appointed texts for the Wednesday of Holy Week.

April 18<sup>th</sup> – "This Is My Body." It's Holy "Do This" Thursday! Maundy Thursday is named for the new commandment, or mandate (the same Latin root we get Maundy from), Jesus gives to his disciples in the Gospel reading, John 13:1-17, 31b-35. "Love one another as I have loved you." Between that, the foot washing, and the practice of Holy Communion described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, we get Pastor Paul's sermon title, "DO THIS TO REMEMBER".

April 19<sup>th</sup> – One Dark Afternoon. In the Passion of Christ, the Word of God, John's Gospel 18:1—19:42, we see Jesus "MOVING TOWARD DEATH". Why the nighttime arrest in the garden? Why the run around to different high priests' homes? Why does Pilate ask "What is truth?" Does he even care? Why release Barabbas and not Jesus? Why? Why? Why? Rev. Downing's homily looks at the long and winding road to the cross and the many and various ways we get pulled, emotionally if not physically, along the way.

April 20<sup>th</sup> – During the Vigil of Easter we begin outside, to light the new fire and bring it into the darkened church. As we read readings spanning the life of Israel, God's chosen people, the lights are brought up and we celebrate Holy Communion for the resurrection of our Jewish Lord and Savior.

April 21<sup>st</sup> – The bright new morn is upon us! It's Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, alleluia! This is the day which redefines worship for us, setting the first day of the week for a Sabbath to the risen Lord. "REST, REMEMBER, & BELIEVE!" is Pastor Paul's sermon based on the Easter proclamation in Luke 23:55—24:12. Just because we remember something doesn't mean we believe it, or trust it. Faith is resurrection every day!

April 28<sup>th</sup> – The Second Sunday of Easter "LOOK AT YOUR HANDS – WHAT DO YOU SEE?" Thomas (I always say) gets a bad rap for his comment about not believing the resurrection until he sees the Lord's wounded hands. Deacon Gale Capone's message is based on the day's readings, including that Gospel of John 20:19-31. As she and Deacon Stu Meade lead services of healing on this day, perhaps we can see signs of resurrection in our own lives?

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Photos – 2018 Year in Review – Christmas – Pastor Paul and Colleagues at Bible Study



The Annual \*ADLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative service took place on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Jehu's Table in Brooklyn. \*African Descent Lutheran Association.



<< **HELP WANTED** >> Looking for an **Outreach Coordinator** to assist in all aspects of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Port Jefferson Station's community and member outreach by facilitating communication, information management, and marketing. This will include church bulletins, newsletters, publicity, and social media. This is a part-time, hourly position with a flexible schedule. Contact [pastorpauldowning@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorpauldowning@yahoo.com).

April, 2019

## St. Paul's Regular Weekly Schedule:

- Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- Weekly Bible Study Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School during 10:30 a.m. Services.
- Love Lunch Welcome Friends 1 p.m. Sun.
- Welcome Friends Supper 5:45 p.m. Wed.
- Power of Prayer Group Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

## April 2019 Calendar

- Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wed. 4/3 at Dunkin' across the street (Mark 15:33-37).
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 4/3.
- Soup Supper at 6:15 p.m. & Lenten Mediation service (4of5) from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wed. 4/3.
- Choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday 4/3.
- Funeral service for Pastor Estelle Lloyd at Hope Lutheran Church in Selden 11 a.m. Thursday 4/4.
- Peconic Conference Clergy monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Thursday 4/4 to discuss Bishop's call.
- Quilters meet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday 4/4.
- Annual Peconic meeting Clergy & Lay Delegates 3 p.m. Sun. 4/7 Incarnation L.C. Bridgehampton.
- Mary Martha Bible Study begins Deuteronomy (Chap. 1 to 6) from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tue. 4/9.
- Make Palm Crosses and put together Holy Week invitations from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tue. 4/9.
- Church Council meeting 7:30 p.m. Tuesday 4/9.
- Pt. Jeff. Ecumen. Clergy 12:15 p.m. Wed. 4/10.
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 4/10.
- Soup Supper at 6:15 p.m. & Lenten Mediation service(5of5) from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wed. 4/10.
- Choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday 4/10.
- Craft Holy Week invitations 7:30 p.m. Wed. 4/10.
- Children's Easter Egg Coloring and Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday 4/13.
- Movie Night 6:30 p.m. for snacks & film "Queen of Katwe" (2016) starting at 7 p.m. Sat. 4/13.
- Palm/Passion Sunday 4/14 Holy Week begins Procession with Palms & Reading of the Passion at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Communion services.
- Port Jefferson Annual Ecumenical Palm Sunday Procession 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. up Main Street (gather 9:15 a.m. in municipal lot behind Gap).
- Ind. Absolution & Anointing 7:30 p.m. Mon. 4/15.
- Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday 4/16.
- (No Men's Bible Study Wednesday 4/17 & No Confirmation Class due to Holy Week).
- Choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday 4/17.
- Mid-Week Lenten Meditation Wrap-Up at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 4/17
- Maundy or Holy "Do This" Thursday 4/18 Holy Communion at 12 noon and at 7:30 p.m. with First Communion for Emma Shea & the stripping of the altar signifying Jesus' betrayal and arrest.
- Good Friday 4/19 with Tenebrae services of darkness at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

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- Decorate for Easter 9:30 a.m. Saturday 4/20.
- Great Vigil of Easter with Holy Communion and the new fire at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday 4/20.
- Resurrection of Our Lord 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. 4/21 Easter Pot-Luck Breakfast in between. (No Confirmation Class Wed. 4/24 spring break).
- Quilters meet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thu. 4/25.
- Services of Healing led by Deacons Gale & Stu 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. on Sunday 4/28.
- Sunday School meeting after service Sun. 4/28.
- Worship & Music committee 7:30 p.m. Tue. 4/30.

## Looking into May & June...

- Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wed. 5/1 at Dunkin' across the street (Luke 9:28-36).
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 5/1.
- Peconic Conference monthly clergy meeting 10 a.m. Thursday 5/2 at Our Savior Patchogue.
- LYO (Lutheran Youth Org.) Annual Assembly Lock-in Holy Trinity Bellerose Fri. 5/3 to Sat. 5/4.
- "Ringin' Singin' Dancin'" Peconic Conf. Choir Concert 4 p.m. Sun. 5/5 St. Andrew's Smithtown.
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 5/8.
- Pt. Jeff. Ecumenical Clergy 12:15 p.m. Thu. 5/9.
- Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) annual meeting 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat. 5/11 at Grace Malverne.
- Mary Martha Bible Study on Deuteronomy (Chapter 7 to?) 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tue. 5/14.
- Pastor Paul teaching Diakonia Visitation Course (5 weeks) 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. beginning Tue. 5/14.
- Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wed. 5/15 at Dunkin' across the street (Luke 17:5-6).
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 5/15.
- 2019 Metropolitan NY Synod Annual Assembly Thu. 5/16 to Sat. 5/18 at Westchester Marriott.
- The Holy Baptisms of Valentina and Angelina Favorite at the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday 5/19.
- Church Council meeting 7:30 p.m. Tuesday 5/21.
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 5/22.
- Sunday School meeting after services Sun. 5/26.
- Confirmation Class 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wed. 5/29.
- Ascension Dinner Church 6:30 p.m. Thu. 5/30.
- Holy Baptism Tobias Robar 10:30 a.m. Sun. 6/2.



## QR Code for giving to St. Paul's:

St. Paul's is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Metropolitan NY Synod. The ELCA Mission Statement: "Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world." [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) & [www.mnys.org](http://www.mnys.org)

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