



# St. Daniel's

March / April 2021

*News &  
Notes*

## PASTOR'S *thoughts...*

The Pastor's Thoughts,

There is a story about W.C. Fields, the famous vaudeville comedian, who was a notorious atheist. One evening before a performance, an assistant came into Field's dressing room and caught Fields reading the Bible. Embarrassed, Fields slammed the Bible shut and said, "Just looking for loopholes!"

Many years ago, Billy Graham held a rally in Central Park of New York, and on the day of the rally, a full-page ad appeared in the New York Times with these large letters:

**LIFE.  
YOU'RE BORN.  
YOU SUFFER.  
YOU DIE.**

**(But there's a loophole!)**

The loophole is Jesus Christ.

The Easter story tells of this ultimate loophole.

I invite you to worship often during the Three Days and experience the never-ending faithfulness of God as revealed by Christ Jesus. On Maundy Thursday (April 1) hear of Jesus' dramatic signs in his commandment to love one another enacted in the washing of the disciples feet and in the meal of bread and wine, given and shed for you. On Good Friday (April 2) hear of the hidden-ness of God's glory in the rejection, pain, and humiliation Jesus suffered on the cross. And on Easter morning (April 4) hear of an empty tomb that reveals God's victory over death.

Yes, the crucified and risen Christ is the story of the God's ultimate loophole for us - God's love overcomes our brokenness. A "rerun" heard year after year that never gets old. May you experience this love and grow in faith during these Three Days. Tune in (or come safely), be nourished, go and serve others.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Bob*

# Worship Schedule

03/07 9:00am Online and In-Person

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent – Service of Word

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1  
Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

03/14 9:00am Online and In-Person

11:00am Parking Lot Holy  
Communion

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Service of Word

Readings: Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-  
22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

03/21 9:00am Online and In-Person

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Service of Word

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12,  
Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

03/28 9:00am Online and In-Person

Palm Sunday – Service of Word

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16,  
Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1--15:47

*For those worshipping online on Palm Sunday,  
Palms will be available for your pick up between  
11:00 AM and Noon on Saturday, March 27.*

04/01 7:00pm Online Only

Maundy Thursday – Service of Word

Readings: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14, Psalm  
116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John  
13:1-17, 31b-35

04/02 7:00pm Online Only

Good Friday – Service of Word

Readings: Isaiah 52:13--53:12, Psalm 22,  
Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1--19:42

04/04 7:00am Easter Dawn Parking Lot

9:00am Online and In-Person

(Both Services celebrating Holy Communion)

Readings: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

04/11 9:00am Online and In-Person

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Service of Word

Readings: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1--  
2:2, John 20:19-31

04/18 9:00am Online and In-Person

11:00am Parking Lot

(Both Services celebrating Holy Communion)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7,  
Luke 24:36b-48

04/25 9:00am Online and In-Person

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Service of Word

Readings: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24,  
John 10:11-18

*We will be offering  
indoor services once  
again beginning  
on March 7<sup>th</sup>!*



## Serve & Support

Please click on the link below to  
support or volunteer for that area

[Alter Flowers](#) [Lector](#)

[Newsletter](#) [Usher](#)



Susanne Zerbe	03/01	Robert Shartle	03/21	Steven Miller	04/08
Brittany Heffelfinger	03/03	Jane Louise Coombs	03/23	Joel Boyer	04/14
Johanna Adams	03/04	Carol Lutz	03/24	Cheryl Moody	04/17
Donna Boyer	03/04	Joy Kline	03/25	Michael Zerbe	04/18
William Heffelfinger	03/04	Donald Bright	03/26	Ella Sweigart	04/20
Megan Bright	03/05	Terry Ellefson	03/30	Robert Shartle	04/22
Carole Schmehl	03/08	Benjamin Small	04/01	Betty Bashore	04/24
Dennis Zerbe	03/08	John Schittler	04/02	Frederick Davis	04/27
Scott Speicher	03/12	Terry Williams	04/03	Robert Gordon	04/27
Stewart Wenrich	03/17	Allyson Yoder	04/04	Bonnie Duffin	04/28
Patricia Bright	03/21	Grace Schittler	04/06		

## Happy Anniversary

03/04	Clifford & Diane Heistand	04/03	Gerry & Linda Zeiber	04/19	Darwin Evangelista & Jane
03/20	Steven & Amy Bright	04/05	Donald & Phyllis Koch		Louise Coombs
03/29	Carl & Johanna Adams	04/14	Brian & Mary Feeg	04/27	Brian & Suzette Yoh
04/01	Pastor Robert & Carolyn Kramer	04/19	Harold & Elaine Schappell	04/28	Barry & Pearl Wust

## Annual Congregation Report

*The Annual Congregation Report for the year 2020 is now available. Thank you to all who provided the information for the report. And thank you to Beverly for compiling that information and creating the report. Please contact Beverly if you would like a copy that could either be picked it up at the church at a specific time or mailed to your home.*

*In more normal years, there would be an Annual Meeting within weeks after the report is published in which the contents could be discussed among everyone. Since at this point it is suggested that large gatherings do not take place due to the pandemic, the Annual Congregation Meeting has been postponed to a later time when we can safely gather.*



January	2020 vs 2021	YTD 2021 vs YTD 2020
General Contributions	\$14,612 : ↑13.6%	\$14,612 : ↑13.6%
Benevolence Contributions	\$1,271 : ↑1.2%	\$1,271 : ↑1.2%
Building Contributions	\$2,239 : ↓28.4%	\$2,239 : ↓28.4%
General Expenses	\$11,473 : ↓31.6%	\$11,473 : ↓31.6%



We will resume meeting in person since the church building has now reopened.

Please join us in the social hall with properly social distancing guidelines in place on

**Tuesday 3/23 & Tuesday 4/27 at 10am.**

If you would like to join us via Zoom instead, please let Joy know so that the link may be emailing to you.



Soup and Sandwich Sale this Spring!  
Keep a look out for upcoming dates.



**St. Patrick Theme  
Bingo**

**When: March 18th**

**Time: 11:00am**

**Where: Parking Lot**

!!! Prizes !!!

Disposable Bingo Cards  
Winners Honk Your Horn

**Fun, Fellowship, &  
Safe!**

Numbers will be announced through your car radio, 87.9fm.

Contact Joy with any questions



### **DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

Do you have Thrivent Financial products?

Through the Choice Program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable fund annually.

In 2020 St. Daniel's received \$530.00 from the Choice program. This is a

Free and easy way to donate money for the charity of your choice

and only takes a few minutes. Don't let it go to waste! Call

1-800-Thrivent and state "Thrivent Choice" or go to

Thrivent.com/thrivent.choice.

**ACT NOW-YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE ON MARCH 31!**

### **Easter Flowers Order Form**

Flowers to be displayed during the Easter worship service can now be ordered.

The deadline is March 21<sup>st</sup>.

[Order Easter Flowers Here](#)



## [Click Here to Update Your Information](#)

### **In Person Worship Returns**

At the Feb. 16 Council Meeting, Pastor Bob gave an overview of the Covid Risk Level for Berks County as found at this website: [www.covidactnow.org/us/pennsylvania-pa/county/berks\\_county/?s=1592532](http://www.covidactnow.org/us/pennsylvania-pa/county/berks_county/?s=1592532). Berks County was shown to be in the High Risk category. The specific indicators that are used to determine that risk are trending lower and they are lower than what they were when in-person worship was suspended on Nov. 12. The CDC recommendations at this time include that gatherings should be limited to a maximum of 25 people with a physical distance maintained and masks are mandated for all indoor activities and should be worn whenever outside of the home. When taking into account that worshipers followed the safe practice guidelines well while in-person worship was offered in the July to November period and that the attendance exceeded 25 only one time, the congregation council decided to offer in-person worship on Sundays at 9:00 AM beginning on March 7. The same safety guidelines used for the July-November period will be in effect. These worship services will continue to be streamed online. Monthly Parking Lot Services with Holy Communion will also continue to be offered. Please do not interpret this action to mean that it is safe for everyone to come to in-person worship. Individuals are encouraged to make that decision based on their own health conditions, recommendations from their Primary Care Physicians, and a concern for others who are gathering to worship.

### **Home Visitations**

Pastor Bob on February 19 received his second dose of the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine. He is now willing to make home visits including the offering of Holy Communion. He will be making only one visit per day, limiting the length of the visit to 30 minutes, using proper hygiene and physical distancing and wearing a face mask. If you would like a visit, please contact the church office to arrange a time for it.

### **Welcome to the Family!**

Welcome to Patricia (Pat) Nettling who had her church membership transferred from St. Mark's Lutheran church, Harrisburg to St. Daniel's. Pat lives in the Phoebe Berks Retirement Community, is the mother of Gretchen Patti, and has been a frequent worshiper at St. Daniel's. Cards of welcome can be sent to: 1 Reading Drive, Apartment 153, Wernersville PA 19656.

### **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – January/February 2021**

- Council elected these members to serve as officers in 2021: President – Jane Coombs; Vice-President – Dustin Jacobs; Treasurer- Ron O'Brien; Secretary – Rita Henning
- Council has advised Synod that we are ready to begin the Call Process. Congregation members who are thought to have the gifts to serve on the Call Committee were suggested by council members. Thirty-eight people were suggested for the seven



openings. The process to contact people to see if they are willing to serve will begin shortly.

- Worship in the sanctuary will begin on Sunday, March 7. All necessary safety procedures will be followed. Online streaming of the worship service will continue. Parking Lot Communion will continue to be held on the third Sunday of the month.
- A Digital Engagement Team has been formed to address how best to communicate with those who do not have internet access.
- Vernon Bright has retired from the Heidelberg Cemetery Board. We need a new person for this position which requires quarterly meetings. If you can serve, please contact any member of council, the church office or Pastor Bob.
- The Medical Clinic is offering telephone visits only at this time.
- Council affirmed that any congregation member is welcome to speak at a council meeting to share concerns or thanksgivings. Participants are to contact President Jane Coombs at 484-794-8441 to be placed on the agenda. Speaking time will be allotted at the beginning of the meeting and will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.
- There was considerable discussion about the amount of support that should be given to the St. Daniel's Preschool in the congregation's ministry.

### **ACTIVE MINISTRY NEWS**

Despite the restrictions the Covid-19 pandemic has placed on us, Active Ministry has been able to continue our outreach to our members, the community and around the world.

We keep in touch with our homebound members with cards and phone calls. Twenty fruit baskets were delivered as Christmas gifts to these special people.

We have been highlighting some of our ministries at our Parking Lot services. The 'Reverse Advent Calendar' in December brought in a wonderful amount of baby items for Mercy Crisis Pregnancy Center. In addition, a total of \$1525.00 was received and presented to Mercy. On Souper Bowl Sunday in January many cans of soup were donated along with the following monetary donations: \$682.47 World Hunger, \$280.00 Conrad Weiser Pantry, \$40.00 Helping Harvest

**Thank You to all for your contributions!**

#### **MARCH**

##### **Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief**

We will collect the following items for the kits. Please donate only the items shown. It is important that each kit contain ONLY these items because of strict customs regulations:

- Lightweight Bath Towel: 20"x40" or 27"x52". Dark colors preferred.
  - Please DO NOT donate heavy, thick towels as they take too long to dry
- Bath size soap – 3oz. or 5oz. bars in original wrapping
- Toothbrush in original wrapping
- *Combs and nail clippers will be purchased with a Thrivent Financial Grant at bulk rates.*

##### **Potato Project**

The Potato Project brings together volunteers to plant, tend, harvest and help provide food to neighbors who find themselves in need. The harvest is then given to local food pantries.

For several years St. Daniel's members and friends have traveled to Fleetwood to cut seed potatoes for planting. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, this was not done in 2020 and will not be done in 2021.

To support this very worthwhile ministry we will be collecting monetary donations in April. This money is needed for farm equipment, local land, and financial stewardship.

## APRIL

Make a donation to the Potato Project and take home a “Bake at Home” Potato kit!

We are extremely grateful for your overwhelming generosity in supporting these projects.

You have touched the lives of many!

Quilts for Lutheran World Relief continue to be sewn and knotted in individual homes. We look forward to the day when we can all join together to complete the quilts.

## *Happy Birthday Stew!*

Stewart Wenrich will celebrate his 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday on March 17, 2021.

He is a proud veteran of World War II. He was drafted into the US Army in 1943. Following basic training in Texas and time spent in San Francisco, he was sent to the South Pacific where he was involved in combat on the French Island of New Caladonia. After the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan he was sent to Japan to aid in the reconstruction of that country. Stew was discharged in 1946 and happy to return to peaceful Robesonia!

*We salute you Stewart and offer our thanks and Appreciation for your service to our Country!*

If you would like to send best wishes to Stew – here is the address: Stewart Wenrich, 811 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

## Communications through Mailing

Would you like to receive a weekly mailing that includes Sunday's bulletin, a copy of the sermon, St. Dan's Friday email, and announcements? If so, please call Beverly in the office to be placed on the mailing list.

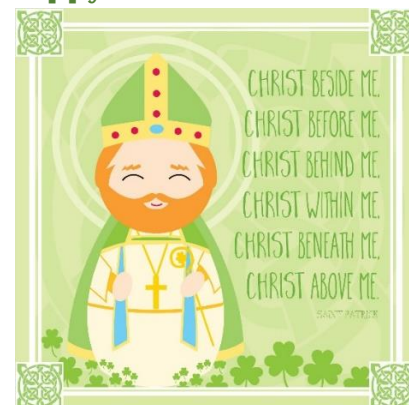


### HELP NEEDED

Are you a Mr. Fix-it? If so, your talents are needed. The Property Committee is in need of a Chairman and additional members to help

keep our church building and grounds in excellent condition. If you can help, please contact David Bright at 610-698-3488. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

## Happy Saint Patrick's Day



## *Congratulations Gavin Jacobs!*

Gavin Jacobs, son of Eileen and David Jacobs, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, Gavin built bat houses and installed them around the pond at St. Daniel's.

He is a member of Troop 423, sponsored by St. John's Hains Church, where he has been senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and scribe. He has earned 32 merit badges.

Gavin is a senior at Wilson High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. He also attends Berks Career and Technology Center.

# Preschool Registration NOW OPEN



## St. Daniel's Preschool

St. Daniel's Preschool will begin enrolling students for the 2021/22 School-Year starting in March. Enrollment activities will continue until classes are full.

The Preschool offers classes for 3-5 year old children. If you, or someone you know, would like information on what is offered at St. Daniel's Preschool visit our website [www.stdaniels.com/preschool](http://www.stdaniels.com/preschool); contact us by email at [stdaniels.preschool@gmail.com](mailto:stdaniels.preschool@gmail.com); or call us at 610-693-5145.

The **Preschool Open House, Registration, Art Show**, normally held in early March, has been postponed until April/May. This was done to avoid a large gathering while COVID-19 transmission rates may still be a concern. More information will be available after we finalize plans for the Spring.

### Schedule a Tour or Enroll

1. Tour Preschool - - schedule a visit by emailing or calling us.
2. Enroll in Preschool - -
  - By Mail - Email or Call to request a Registration Form; complete the Form and return it with the Registration Fee to the Preschool.
  - From the Website - Download a Registration Form; complete the Form and return it with the Registration Fee to the Preschool.
  - On the Website - Complete the Registration Form online and mail the Registration Fee to the Preschool.

Register before June 1st, and the registration fee is credited to your first month's tuition.

St. Daniel's Preschool offers scholarships that are based on economic need to help families with tuition payments.

Everyone that enrolls a student is encouraged to apply for a scholarship by submitting an Application Form. Application Forms are provided when families enroll a student.

### ST. DANIEL'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church is to provide a caring and joyful community shaped by the love of God in Jesus Christ committed to nurturing people's faith in God and sharing His gifts of hope and love with the world around us.



### **Song of Solomon 2:11-13**

*For behold, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The blossoms have already appeared in the land; the time as arrived for pruning the vines, and the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land. The fig tree has ripened its fruit, and the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance.*