

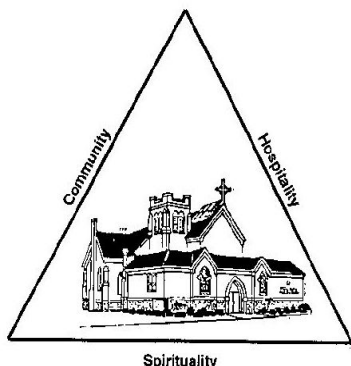
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807
419-339-3801
officeesp@gmail.com

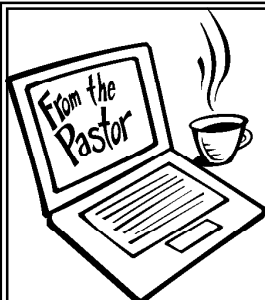
Rev. Paul Scannell
419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984
pastorespc@gmail.com
4pastorpaul@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Elida Area Comm. center	4
Eyeglass Mission	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
In The News	8
Church History	9
Remember When...	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
April Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16



Easter is nearly upon us and we are continuing the sermon series about eye witnesses to the crucifixion of Jesus. If you have not been a part of this series it is not too late. Come hear the stories of people who are witnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We are looking at each person's perspective in the narrative of the resurrection story and seeing if we can relate to their story with our own story. Also, the choir will be providing us with a cantata on Easter morning at the 10am service, so bring the family early, have breakfast and hear the story of Easter from the people who were eyewitnesses.

Every once in a while maintenance is required for many of the things we own or are a part of. In our society today we sometimes have a "throw it away" attitude about the things we own because it is cheaper to just replace them. But I am the type of person who believes we can keep the really good things and just do maintenance on them or modify them to fit the new parameter. The Prayer Chain is something that every church should have for the health and well being of our community. Yes, I know some of you think it is a glorified gossip machine, and it can be if we allow it to. But it is also a way for us to help each other, support each other and to stay connected as a community of faith. We are keeping the phone call chain and updating information, but we are also seeing if there is a group of you who may be interested in creating a text alert that would go out to the group when there is a prayer concern. So when the clip board is passed around, please consider being a part of our community who lifts each other up in prayer.

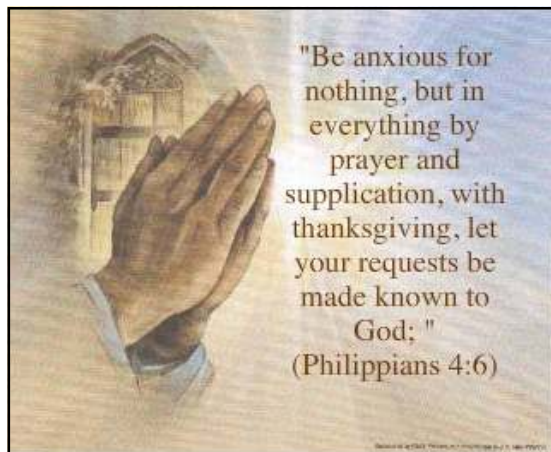
Last but not least, it is nearly Chicken Dinner time. By the time you read this there may already be tickets for sale. Even if you are not part of the group of people putting this together you are invited to sign up to work cleanup, cook, or serve. We want you. This is also a chance to invite a friend to church in a non-threatening way.

Pray, eat and witness what good things to get from a newsletter article. See you around church.

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:
The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears.
—Native American proverb



Prayer Chain Notification of Urgent Prayer

We are reorganizing the prayer chain list, possibly having a text list and a call list to better serve those in need of urgent prayers.

If you are interested in being a part of this process, or are already on the list, please notify the church office which list you would like to be on and the text number or phone number you wish to be notified on. There will also be a sign up sheet passed, during worship, throughout the month of April.



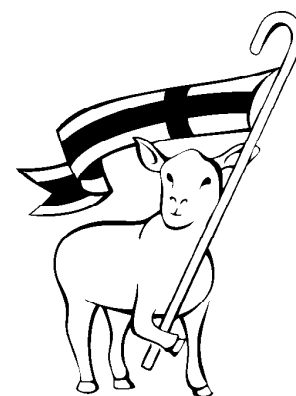
Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Seniors Day Out
Tuesday April 18
12:00 Noon
All seniors welcome!

Christian Symbol

Agnus Dei

This image is known as the Agnus Dei, Latin for "Lamb of God." When pictured standing and with a banner, it represents the risen Christ, victorious over death. John the Baptist, seeing Jesus approach, famously declared, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV). In Revelation, too, Jesus is portrayed as a lamb who was slain but now reigns triumphant.




Newsletter
 deadline:
 the **16th**
 of each month

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Newsletter:	Jone Lane
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian:	Dave Decker

'Coins for Communion'
April 2
 to benefit the
Five Loaves Food pantry
 (at the Church at Allentown)

The Special Easter offering
 will be divided between the United
 Methodist Miracle Offering and
 Camp Sierra Linda Campers
 Sponsorship.

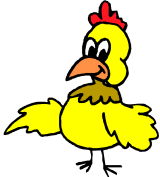



Koinonia Chicken Barbeque
April 22
5:00 to 7:00 PM
Tickets are \$8.00

Menu:
1/2 Chicken (Harlan's),
homemade potato salad, applesauce,
roll and homemade dessert

Walk-in, dine-in, or carry-out

Tickets available from Koinonia
members or from the church office.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Palm Sunday
April 9
10:00 AM




Easter Worship
10:00 AM

Cantata

"Easter Trilogy"
 A Cantata in
 Three Suites
 By Benjamin Harlan

Holy Thursday
April 13
7:00 PM

Easter Early Service
April 16
8:00 AM

Breakfast to follow
 Prepared by the
 Nurture Committee




Elida Area Community Center (EACC)

Elida Area Community Center (EACC) News

One day a number of years ago, our church neighbor, Doug Anthony, was out jogging and felt God telling him that Elida needed a place for families, students and seniors of the Elida community to meet together. He stopped at Pastor Ruth Solo's to tell her. She listened to him and said that God had been telling her the same thing. Thus began the Elida Area Community Center (EACC) organization.

After looking at purchasing the old grocery store in town and deciding the time was not right, the board (which included Dan Best and Art Holman among others) talked about how to bring this vision to others in the community. From those conversations came the idea to begin the type of programs that would be held in a community center and grow into a central place. Thus, the Elida After School Youth (EASY) program, now in its fourth year, was begun.

In January, a new EACC board was elected. Marla Scannell is the president. Mary Early is secretary. Art Holman is treasurer. Jamie Wyant is a member-at-large, as is Heather Harvey and Jennifer Newline, parents of EASY students. This new board will look at where they would like the EACC to spend its efforts and money in service of our Elida Community.

We continue to seek input from the local churches by attending meetings of the Elida Ministerial Association but we are also working on reaching those who will be using our programs and services the most: the people of our village.

There will be a public meeting on April 26 at 5:00 p.m. here at St. Paul Church. This will be the last day of this year's EASY program. All are welcome to attend EASY for an end-of-the-year celebration and to be part of the future of the EACC.

Expanding Our View of Service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other "least of these" members of society — serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, "For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it" — or "My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it." Then the King will say, ... "Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).



Eyeglass Mission

Lions International Eyeglass Mission 2017

By Corinne Piper

While Ohio was enjoying a week of glorious spring weather in February, Tim and I headed to Manzanilla, Mexico, which was having weather just a tad warmer. We had another wonderful week of service.

Thirty people traveled with the Alabama Lions Mission to Mexico organization to the west coast of Mexico and stayed in Santiago, a suburb of Manzanilla. On Sunday, we set up the clinic in the activity center of a community arts college. Clinics start on Monday and run through Thursday with plans to evaluate around 500 people per day. We ended up evaluating 2,044 members of the community.

The motto of the International Lions Clubs is: We Serve. Those of us who have had the opportunity to serve in any capacity often say we receive so much more than we give. Several times during the week I was overwhelmed with generosity. I would comment on the lovely shawls women were wearing to the clinic. Two women took them off and handed them to me as gifts for being there. A man and his young daughter gave my high school interpreter and I three homemade popcorn balls as a thank you present. Another woman came back to me to show me her new glasses and give me a hug.

The local Lions' organization took this motto to heart. By soliciting community, their community and businesses give support to the clinic and to the missionaries. This support allowed all those coming to the clinic to do so for free. A local high school gave students time off to come and act as interpreters. Local people set up an impromptu childcare center and entertained several busloads of young children with music and art while they waited for several hours to complete evaluations. Businesses provided food for us for lunch. One restaurant even closed for an evening so we could be served supper after a long clinic day. We found out later, the wait staff decided they would donate their time and serve us for free that night. The students were inspired by our gifts and asked why we would pay to come and help their people. The wonderful thing to me was that a few of those who donated their time and service said it was the first time they had ever done such a thing for their community. One young man has become interested in starting a Leo club, a high school chapter of Lions. A waiter said he felt he needed to give more to his community now that he had experienced the need and the gift. A café owner who provided our lunch one day told me how glad he was to be able to contribute.

Gifts of service help those in need. Gifts of service help those who are giving. Gifts of service also reach those who are watching. God never wastes what we have to offer and we never know how it will be used. We are only asked to give.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
March 1, 2017 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	39
March 5, 2017	109
March 12, 2017	97
March 19, 2017	98

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
March 5, 2017	\$5,641.10
March 12, 2017	\$4,238.00
March 19, 2017	\$3,805.00

Sunday School Attendance	
March 5, 2017	15
March 12, 2017	8
March 19, 2017	15

Greeters	
April, 2, 2017	Margie Best & Jone Lane
April 9, 2017	OPEN
April 16, 2017	Jerry & Becky Bean
April 23, 2017	Marty & Kathy White
April 30, 2017	Rudy & Lavonne Segovia

Flower Calendar	
April 2, 2017	Martha Vazquez
April 9, 2017	Bill & Esther McKinney
April 16, 2017	Easter Lilies
April 23, 2017	Jerry Crates
April 30, 2017	Gary & Janet Grigg

Hospitality Cart	
April 2, 2017	Steve & Tracy Sdao
April 9, 2017	Cari Metzger, Julie Bok & Becky Ellinger
April 16, 2017	Cody & Emma Scannell
April 23, 2017	Choir
April 30, 2017	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 4/1
 Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
 Jeremiah 20:7-11
 Romans 3:19-31, John 7:1-13

Sunday 4/2
 Psalm 34, 93, 96, Jeremiah 6:9-15
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 Mark 5:1-20

Monday 4/3
 Psalm 77, 79, 80, Jeremiah 7:1-15
 Romans 4:1-12, John 7:14-36

Tuesday 4/4
 Psalm 78, Jeremiah 7:21-34
 Romans 4:13-25, John 7:37-52

Wednesday 4/5
 Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
 Jeremiah 8:18-9:6
 Romans 5:1-11, John 8:12-20

Thursday 4/6
 Psalm 83, 85, 86
 Jeremiah 17:19-27
 Romans 5:12-21, John 8:21-32

Friday 4/7
 Psalm 88, 91, 92
 Jeremiah 11:1-20
 Romans 6:1-11, John 8:33-47

Saturday 4/8
 Psalm 87, 90, 136
 Jeremiah 13:1-11
 Romans 6:12-23, John 8:47-59

Easter Holy Week:

Sunday 4/9
 Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
 Jeremiah 14:1-22
 Galatians 4:21-5:1, Mark 8:11-21

Monday 4/10
 Psalm 51, 69:1-23
 Jeremiah 12:1-16
 Philippians 3:1-14, John 12:9-19

Tuesday 4/11
 Psalm 6, 12, 94,
 Jeremiah 15:10-21
 Philippians 3:15-21
 John 12:20-26

Wednesday 4/12
 Psalm 55, 74
 Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-17
 Philippians 4:1-13, John 12:27-36

Thursday 4/13
 Psalm 102, 142, 143
 Jeremiah 20:7-11
 1 Corinthians 10:14-17, 11:27-32
 John 17:1-11 (12-26)

Friday 4/14
 Psalm 22, 45, 54
 1 Peter 1:10-20
 John 13:36-38

Saturday 4/15
 Psalm 27, 88, Job 19:21-27a
 Hebrews 4:1-16, Romans 8:1-11

Sunday 4/16 Easter
 Psalm 118, 148, 149, 150
 Exodus 12:1-14
 Luke 24:13-35

Monday 4/17
 Psalm 89, Jeremiah 16:10-21
 Romans 7:1-12, John 6:1-15

Tuesday 4/18
 Psalm 94, 97, 99
 Jeremiah 7:19-27
 Romans 7:13-25, John 6:16-27

Wednesday 4/19
 Psalm 101, 119:121-144
 Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Romans 8:1-11, John 6:27-40

Thursday 4/20
 Psalm 69, 73, Jeremiah 22:13-32
 Romans 8:12-27, John 6:41-51

Friday 4/21
 Psalm 102, 107:1-32
 Jeremiah 23:1-8
 Romans 8:28-39, John 6:52-59

Saturday 4/22
 Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
 Jeremiah 23:9-15
 Romans 9:1-18, John 6:60-71

Sunday 4/23
 Psalm 118, 145, Jeremiah 23:16-32
 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
 Mark 8:31-9:1

Monday 4/24
 Psalm 31, 35, Jeremiah 24:1-10
 Romans 9:19-33, John 9:1-17

Tuesday 4/25
 Psalm 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126
 Jeremiah 25:8-17
 Romans 10:1-13, John 9:18-41

Wednesday 4/26
 Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
 Jeremiah 25:30-38
 Romans 10:14-21, John 10:1-18

Thursday 4/27
 Psalm 131, 132, 140, 142
 Jeremiah 26:1-16
 Romans 11:1-12, John 10:19-42

Friday 4/28
 Psalm 131, 132, 140, 142
 Jeremiah 26:1-16
 Romans 11:1-12, John 10:19-42

Saturday 4/29
 Psalm 42, 43, 137, 144
 Jeremiah 31:27-34
 Romans 11:25-36
 John 11:28-44 or 12:37-50

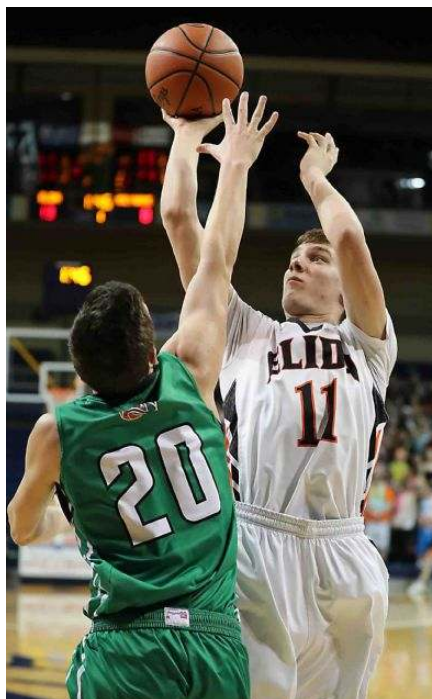
Sunday 4/30
 Psalm 118, 145
 Exodus 3:16-4:12
 Romans 12:1-21
 John 8:46-59



In The News

Congratulations

Great season for our Elida Dawgs Boys Basketball! After winning Sectional and District Titles, beating the No. 1 & 5 ranked teams in the state, knocking off a 23-4 Parma Heights team and coming from 10 points down to Wauseon (25-1) to take the game to overtime, Elida finally ran out of gas but finished as Regional Runners-up! Congrats to Coach Denny Thompson and Isaac McAdams for a great season! Great season Dawgs!



Church History

In March, 1990, Rev. Puffenberger sent a letter to the people of St. Paul's telling us that he would be appointed as pastor at Christ Church in Wauseon, Ohio, effective at Annual Conference. He told us that Elida has been truly home for him and his family. He and Martha have lived longer in Elida than any other community since they have been married. We helped their children grow up. We will be notified as soon as Bishop Ammons and the cabinet determines our next pastoral appointment.

The young children of the Cherub Choir sang at least 3 times during 1990: February, April and December. The Koinonia Chicken Barbeque was again held in April, 1990.

In June, 1990, the people of St. Paul's said good-bye to the Puffenberger family. A carry-in dinner was held in the fellowship hall. The Joy Singers sang and a beautiful cake shaped like a church was made by Myrna Metzger. Each member of the Puffenberger family spoke to the people in attendance. A model of the church parsonage, made by Carole Grapner's sister, Marjorie Morris, was presented to the Puffenbergers as a good-by gift.

Rev. Eric McGlade was appointed to St. Paul United Methodist at the West Ohio Annual Conference in June, 1990. A welcome dinner was held after the church service for Rev. McGlade, his wife, Susan, and young daughter, Caitlin.

The Koinonia Class had a new adventure in 1990: a Scavenger Hunt. The members were sent looking for a variety of items. Fun was had by all.

The Confirmation Class took a trip to Cincinnati in 1991. Rev. McGlade and Gene and Linda Craft accompanied the students. Zach Broshes, Nate Craft, Jennifer Gossard, Jaime Koch, Roger Matlock and Christie Steiner made the trip.

The spring of 1991 found the Koinonia Class hosting another chicken barbeque. Many people in the congregation help with this event by donating desserts and buying and selling tickets. This is a major fundraiser for the class and the church.

The Confirmation Class was confirmed on May 19, 1991. Members of the class were Zach Broshes, Nathan Craft, Jennifer Gossard, Jaime Koch, Roger Matlock, Mande Massay and Christie Steiner.

1991
Koinonia Chicken BBQ



1991
Confirmation Class Trip



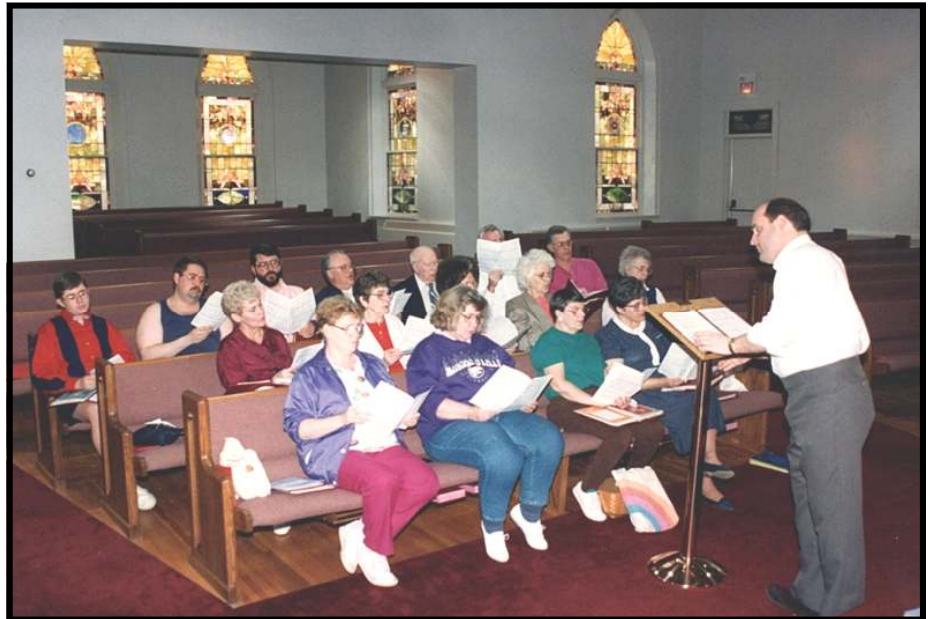
Remember When...



April, 1990
Koinonia Chicken BBQ



April, 1992
Chancel Choir Practice
With Todd Hanes



April, 1994
Dedication of new Howard piano,
a gift of Candance Van Horn
(with nephew, W. E. Allman)



shutterstock · 49159915

Connecting With ...



Our Sympathy to Janna and Denny Thompson and family on the death of Janna's mother, Marjorie Saxton who passed away on March 7th. Funeral was held at Middle Creek United Methodist Church in Grover Hill where Marjorie was organist and pianist for many years. Cards may reach Denny and Janna at 1050 Buckskin Trl. Elida, OH 45807

Happy 95th Birthday to Carol Lee

Carol was born March 13, 1922, on the family farm in Cridersville, Ohio. The family had a birthday celebration and open house. Carol's daughters are Linda (Gene) Craft and Nancy (Rodney) Gesler. Belated birthday cards may reach Carol at 2685 Yoakam Rd. Lima, OH 45806



Congratulations to Roger and Jackie Henderson on the birth of their granddaughter, Mia Belle Antonucci.



Congratulations to Brent Crawford who was baptized Sunday, March 19. We welcome Brent as a part of the St. Paul's family.



Emma Scannell is busy preparing for her ballet performance as Wendy in "Peter Pan, 2nd Star to the Right" April 7 and 8 at Knickerbocker Theatre in Holland, Michigan. Tickets may be purchased through Hope College at 616-395-7222; ask for ticket office. Any questions see Marla Scannell.

The People of St. Paul's

*To St. Paul's Church Family,
Thank you for the beautiful
chimes that were sent in
memory of my mother. Also
thank you to all the ladies of
the church for the delicious
meal following the funeral. A
special thank you to Pastor
Paul for a beautiful sermon
and for your many visits to
the hospital.*

*God's Blessings,
Dwain and Myrna Metzger
and Family*

THANKS from the HEART

*To my Church Family,
Thank you so much for the
lovely flowers and thanks to
Pastor Paul for his visit to
the hospital. I am much
better now but will stay
away from all of you for
another week , so as not to
bring my problems to all
of you.*

Dillon Staas

*We deeply appreciate the
cards and expressions of
sympathy on the passing of
my mom, Marjorie Saxton.
It was so kind to have the
support of our church family
at this time of sorrow.*

Janna and Denny Thompson



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Fran Hall

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Ruth Hardy
John Holmes

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Fran Hall
Glenna Kohli

In the Military & Missions

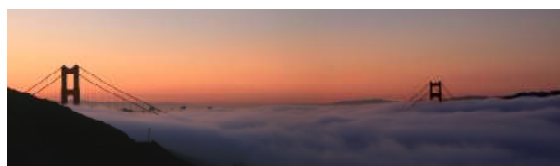
Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart

Easter Lifts the Fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg



Meetings

April 3, 2017
PPR...7:00 PM

April 4, 2017
Trustees...7:00 PM

April 5, 2017
Worship Mtg..6:00 PM

April 10, 2017
Finance...7:00 PM

No Ad Council Mtg.

April 20, 2017
Missions...7:00 PM

Sundays
Prayer...8:45 AM
Sunday sch...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

April 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3 Demi DeRose David Scannell	4 Lynda Evans Madelyn Thomas	5	6	7 Dan Best	8
9	10 Pam Lozano	11 Brittany Scannell	12	13	14	15
16 Denise Thomas	17 Doug Guess	18 Paul Scannell	19 Maedene Holmes Thaddeous Strauch	20 Kelly DeRose Lori Motzer Aaron Piper	21 Krista Slemmons	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Gerald Strayer
30						

 **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

Carl & Lois Rabley
April 4
53 years

Ray & Phyllis Trigg
April 15
57 years

John & Joy Fletcher
April 17
35 years

Robert & Jacquie Bice
April 19

Featured Recipes

from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Burger and Veggie Foil Packs

Served at Seniors Day Out

Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb.	Ground beef (extra lean) or chicken	Heat oven to 450 degrees. Cut four 18x12 inch sheets of aluminum foil. Mix beef, Worcestershire sauce, 1 teaspoon garlic-pepper blend, onion powder and salt. Shape mixture into 4 patties, about 1/4 inch thick. Place 1 patty on each foil sheet about 2 inches from 12 inch side. Divide remaining 1/2 teaspoon garlic-pepper blend among vegetables. Bring 2 sides of foil so edges meet. Seal edges, making tight 1/2 inch fold; fold again, allowing space for heat circulation and expansion. Fold other sides to seal. Place packets on large cookie sheet. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until meat thermometer inserted in patty reads 160 degrees. Place packets on plates. To serve, cut large X across top of each packet; carefully fold back foil.
1 Tbs.	Worcestershire sauce	
1 tsp.	Garlic-Pepper blend	
1/2 tsp.	Onion powder	
1/4 tsp.	Salt	
5	Carrots per pack (mini)	
1	Small red potato per pack	
1	Thick slice of onion	
1/2 tsp	Garlic pepper blend	

Crunchy Cabbage

Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
1 pkg.	Chopped cabbage slaw or broccoli slaw (or same amount chopped)	Mix vegetables and chopped Ramon noodles. Add dressing before serving and stir until well blended. Mix together: seasoning packet from Roman noodles chopped green onions almond slivers (optional) and sunflower seeds (optional).
1 pkg.	Ramen noodles– chicken flavored dressing	
1/4 cup	Oil	
1/4 cup	Vinegar	
1/2 cup	Sugar	

KIDZ KORNER

JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.

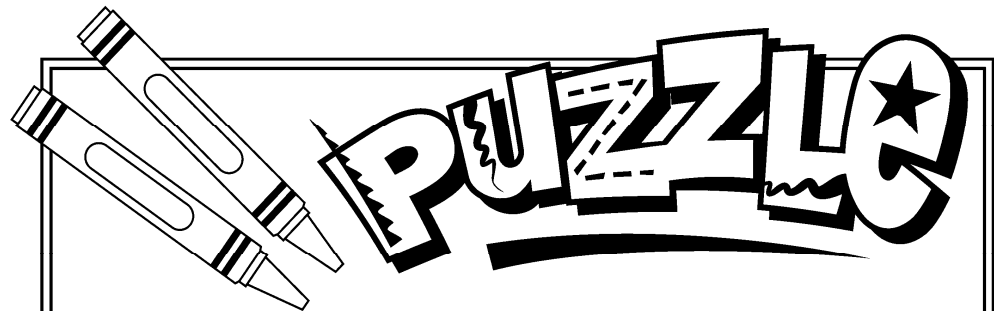
What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

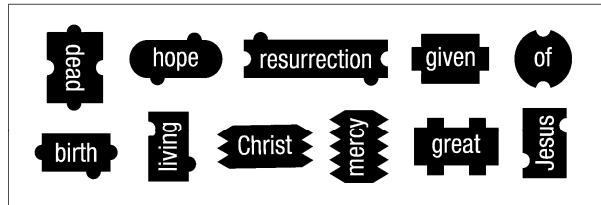
1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.

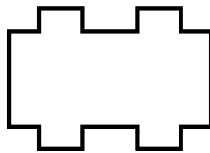


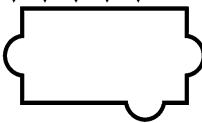
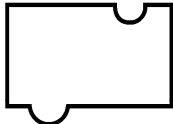
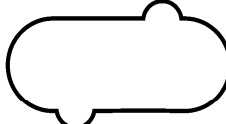
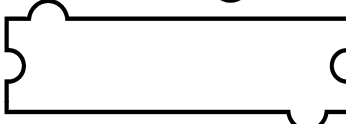
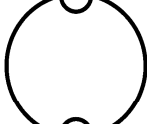
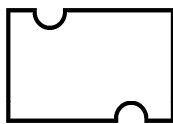

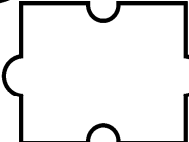


> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



In his   he has
 us new  into a
  through the
  
 from the .

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elida, OH
45807
Permit No. 71

*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

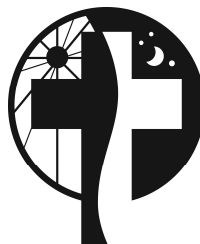
Easter's Dawn

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool, not of the evening but of the dawn.

—G.K. Chesterton



The Role of the Cross



If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be "saved" requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*