



Alleluia

April, 2011
Christ is risen!

Jesus' Resurrection: Hope for Humanity
Luke 24:1-12

REMEMBER is a key word in the Bible. To remember the covenant is to keep it; to forget it is to break it. To remember what God has done is to have an identity; to forget that identity is to lose it. At Easter we remember the resurrection of Jesus in order to find hope.

Luke uses "remember" in his version of the resurrection story. For him the followers of Jesus should have known not to "look for the living among the dead." Had they understood what Jesus told them, they would have anticipated the resurrection. On Easter morning the two men in dazzling clothes urged the terrified women at the tomb to "remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." They remembered his words and were able to return to the others and tell them what had happened.

The remembering that Luke has in mind stretches beyond the message of these two men, for throughout his' two-volume work he reminds Christians to recollect how their faith came into being. In that remembering they will find new life and hope. Peter calls upon his hearers to remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. From such remembering, he concludes, comes the conviction that "everyone who believes in him receives the forgiveness of sins through his name."

In 1 Corinthians Paul also reminds his readers to remember "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day." The recollection is crucial, because Christian hope is based on the resurrection. If Christ has not been raised, "we are of all people most to be pitied," because our hope will turn out to have been a delusion. Better not to hope at all than to hope and have hope dashed.

The resurrection of Jesus is a penultimate event, the beginning of a conquest which is yet to be completed. Were it not begun, we would be left with despair and pessimism. Were it finished, we could claim optimism. In the interim we are given the confidence that the present struggle has meaning. Life has a goal after all.

The risen Christ is at work, defeating "all his enemies," "every ruler and every authority and power." Amid the dashed optimism of this blood-stained century, we remember the resurrection of Jesus and find hope.

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

April 3

I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 10

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

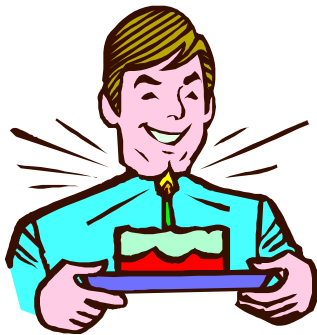
April 17

Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 14:26-27:66

April 24

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

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HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Michael Curtin</i>	10	
<i>Kelly Curtin</i>	13	
<i>Vivienne Merrill</i>	17	
<i>Kathleen Curtin</i>	19	
<i>Allison Klett</i>	20	
<i>Louise Beyer</i>	23	
<i>Norman Carhart</i>		25
<i>Sharon Lutz</i>	25	
<i>John Stamer</i>	28	
<i>Carl Michael Stamer</i>	29	
<i>Doris Stamer</i>	30	

.....and many, many more!!!

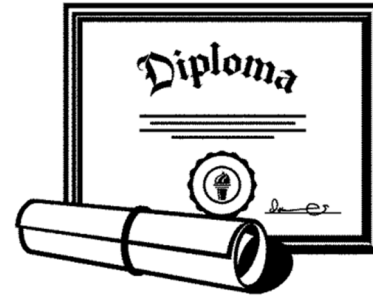
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FOUND IN A SUNDAY BULLETIN.....

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

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JUST A REMINDER!

The deadline for filling out a scholarship application is April 30th. As had been announced last year when the scholarship was presented to Bertina Bradford, the interest rate for the money re-invested was only 1%. Although the scholarship this year will be a lot less than other years, we still would like to present it to one of our youth. You can apply if you are graduating from High School this year, or if you are already in college. Previous recipients can also apply. It is also available for any type of continuing education following your graduation from 12th grade. Applications for the Dianne Fleming Long, Gregg Carhart and William Steinger scholarships are available in the church office. Please speak to Doris Henel and she will see that you receive one. We hope that some of our young people have also applied for a few of the scholarship listed in the Messenger last month.

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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. RAMOS

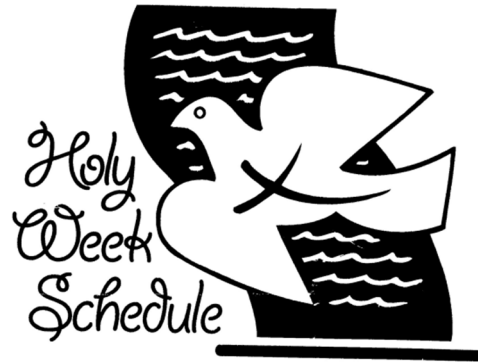
The weekly Bible Study that is usually held on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room is not being held until after Easter. When the last study was completed it was decided to attend the Lenten Bible Study on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. in Aldersate Hall sponsored by the Interfaith Council. Our regular study group will start again after Easter and will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

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OUR EASTER CELEBRATION

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Sunday – April 3, 10, 17 at 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in Aldersgate Hall sponsored by the Interfaith Council. Various pastors will lead the Bible Study each week. All are welcome!



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 24

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 17

Our Palm Sunday service will be in our sanctuary with El Redentor at 10:30 a.m. .Come join us!



HOLY THURSDAY – SOUP SUPPER - COMMUNION

APRIL 21

AT 6:30 p.m. we will gather together in Aldersgate Hall with El Redentor to enjoy our supper of soup bread and beverage. Our members will make the soup and we know how delicious it always is. Following the supper, we will have communion around the tables.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Last year, the Good Friday Service was held in our church. This year, it will be at The Reformed Church of Linden and we are invited to attend. The service will be at 7:30 p.m. and it is always very meaningful to worship together with our friends at the Reformed Church. Come join us.

8:00 A.M. – Early morning worship in our Memorial Garden. El Redentor is invited to join us.

8:30 A.M.- Breakfast in Aldersgate Hall for our members and members of El Redentor Reservation can be made by calling Lorraine Carhart, 925-4865. or filling out a reservation slip at our Sunday church service. You will have an opportunity to give a free-will offering for breakfast just to cover expenses.

19:30 A.M. Following the breakfast, our members will move to the sanctuary for our Easter worship service. El Redentor will have their Easter service at their regular time.



DID YOU ORDER YOUR EASTER LILY IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF A LOVED ONE? CALL GERTRUDE BALDWIN, 908-862-9473 OR SEND HER THE ORDER AND \$7.50 TO 609 WEST ELM ST., LINDEN, N. J. 07036

BITS AND PIECES

Gertrude Baldwin had a full house recently ; Water and Sue and son, Bob, and the Zahorbenski's, Steven and Sue and daughters all joined Gertrude and NancyJane as they celebrated Walter's birthday. There was good food and lots of laughter as they sat around the dining room table. Those birthdays seem to come around pretty fast.

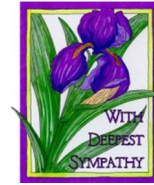
Heard from Rev. Jane Bechle recently. She was out minister quite a long time ago, when her daughter "Tweet" was only about 3 years old. She is now graduated from Columbia earning her MSW, and is no longer "Tweet" but Jenn. She works and lives in New York City with her husband and has been married almost a year. Jane is ministering in the 1st Unitarian Universal Church in Springfield, Mo. and sends her love to all of us.

It was recently announced by the Bishop that he has replaced Rev. Dr. Robert Costello , as District Superintendent of the Gateway North district (which is our church district) with Rev. Jisun Kwak as of July 1, 2011. Rev. Costello will take over the position as District Superintendent of the Gateway South District.

Gertrude Kiely announced recently that the water that did damage to their apartments building has been cleaned up and she and Mickey were able to move back again. It was a happy day when they could return to their home although they appreciated the time they spent with their daughter.

We were so happy to see Ida Peralta back home and in our choir again. She and members of her family drove to California in some of the really bad winter weather, and they flew back home. We are thankful that they all made the trip safely and hope they won't have to do that again!

After such a terrible winter, we are pleased to have some nice, warmer weather again. Spring is coming, and aren't we glad!!!



Mary Donnelly, was a long time member of our church. She moved in 1996 to Toms River with her husband who died a number of years ago. For the last year, her Messenger was returned and we had not been successful in finding her. Recently her obituary was in the Star Ledger. Mary was 86 years old, and died February 18, 2011. Services were held in the Silverton Memorial Funeral Home and burial was in the Brigadier Gen. Wm. C. Boyle Cemetery in Wrightstown, N. J. She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen, Angel and Robin and their families; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary's family and friends.

A lot of things get done around the church, but do you know who is responsible for it? Communion is set up and cleaned up by Carolyn Franz and Mildred Ebert and Mildred also makes sure we have flowers on our altar every Sunday. Gertrude Baldwin takes care of flowers for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and special occasions. Carolyn Franz also takes care of the bulletin boards in front of the church. Vera Horsch takes our bills home to daughter, Kathie, so she can pay them, and Ruth Schulte makes sure the offering on Sunday is counted and deposited. Mary Barnes and MaryJane Koslosky take care of investing our scholarship money so that the interest can be used for our young people. Lorraine Carhart gets our Lay Readers and she and Bob attend our Annual Conference each spring representing our church. Telephone calls to the sick and homebound are made by Marie Dziamba, and Charles Ettel takes care of ushering each Sunday. NancyJane Baldwin makes sure the needy have food.

We can't name all those that serve as lay readers and on committees, sing in the choir, serve coffee hours, and do all the things that need doing. We thank everyone for your commitment and caring.

RUMMAGE SALE

DATE? Friday, April 15
 Saturday, April 16

TIME? Friday – 9 to 1 p.m.
 Saturday – 9 to 12 noon

WHERE? Epworth Hall (downstairs)

Can you help us set up the Rummage Sale? Our regular time for setting up is Thursday, April 15th at 9:30 a.m. We will be there and hope some of our members will be able to give us a hand. It is too much for the women of the United Methodist Women to do alone. If you can't make it on that date, just pick one of the days that week and we will see that someone is there to work with you. Contact Gertrude Baldwin, 863-9473 to help on a day other than Thursday, April 15th.

You can bring women, men or children's clothing, linens, shoes, jewelry, softcover books, purses, toys and white elephant items. Please do not bring items left-over from other sales – if it didn't sell for you, it won't sell for us! And only bring white elephant items that are in good condition and would be something you might buy at a sale. We appreciate all the help we usually get and we count on your support. Thank you!!



Setting up for one of our previous rummage sales! It's not hard work – just takes time! We hope you will give us a little of your time!

INTERFAITH COUNCIL CROP WALK

The money raised by the CROP WALK totaled \$5,225. A special thank you to all those people from seven churches that walked and to those who supported them with their money. All money received was turned over to Church World Service to help those in need.

The money received at the Thanksgiving Worship Service this year, held at our church, totaled \$176. This amount was turned over to LINC'S to help with the food that is distributed to Linden residents in need.

A Christian Education Dinner will be held on April 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church, Orchard Terrace, Linden. The cost will be \$12.00. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carolyn Franz, 486-3792.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer was held this year, at the Reformed Church of Linden, on Friday, March 4th. Women from various churches in Linden took part in the service and also sang in the choir. It was a lovely service and the refreshments served following it were very special. Women had brought all kinds of different breads and delicious things to spread on it. We thank all those women who planned this special service and took part in it.



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

UMCOR has established a fund to help provide emergency relief and long-term recovery support for disaster affected communities in the Pacific Emergency. Please make a check out to the UMC of Linden and mark the check Advance #3021317. All donations received will go directly to this specific need with no Conference expenses deducted. Please mail your gift to the church and we will see that it is received by UMCOR. This is our opportunity to help those devastated by the earthquake and tsunami.

NEWS ABOUT THE LANE & BERSEY FAMILY

Recently we met Ann Bersey Lane at a church program and caught up with events in the life of her family. Since all the members of the Bersey family were baptized in our church and always active here, we knew there would still be people here that would be interested in them. She and Jim are both retired and spent months traveling in their motor home around the USA and Canada . They agreed – this is a beautiful country and they loved seeing everything and also visiting with family and friends on the way. They managed to find time for a cruise to the Caribbean with sister Flo and husband, and brother Ken and wife. They came home to help plan the wedding of their daughter, Alison, in August. She will be graduating from Kean University in May. Their son, Matthew has been in the Navy for 11 years, and has been serving on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is now stationed in Seattle, Washington. The rest of the Bersey family – Ken had cancer but is doing well and living in Linden. Debbie divorced and is remarried and lives in Berkeley Heights. Flo, who also had cancer, and her husband are fine and living in West Virginia. Fred lives in Tennessee and Jim is in Georgia. Marietta is in Michigan and Taylor in Wall Township. As Ann said, the Bersey family is doing fine, although they really miss their mother, Beatrice, as we all do also. Our thanks to Ann, for keeping us posted!!

TO ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE MESSENGER VIA THE INTERNET

As you can see, the Easter letter is part of the April Messenger and those members, who receive the Messenger in the mail, will have the offering envelope attached to the letter. Since that is impossible to do for those getting the Messenger via the Internet, we will be mailing the envelope directly to you. Since the offerings we receive at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving are part of the receipts

we count on toward our yearly budget, we hope you will contribute by returning the envelope with your donation. We thank you for your support.



STEWARDSHIP

Each year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22; which comes during Holy Week this year. Therefore, we will celebrate in our church on April 10th. The goal of Earth Day organization is to bring about awareness of what is happening to our planet and what we can do to help stop the abuse of our resources. As Methodists, we are called to be stewards of everything God has given to us, including our time, our talents, and the entire planet on which we live. Each month we will have a stewardship moment in which we will present an area of concern and what we can do to help. As children we learned the 3 R's – Reading, Riting, Rithmatic. Now as adults we have a new set of 3 R's – Recycle, Reuse, Remake. Let's all get to work; remember Psalm 24:1 "THE EARTH IS THE LORDS AND EVERY THING IN IT; THE WORLD, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT." Gertrude Baldwin, Chairperson and the Stewardship Committee



APRIL 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
3 9 --Choir Rehearsal 10:30 – Worship Service 3 PM INTERFAITH COUNCIL BIBLE STUDY –our church	4 7-Board of Trustees (D.Beyer,T.Henel, W.Hanns,J.Stamer C.Ettel,G.Baldwin F.Losyk) 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	.5 11:30 – United Meth. Women-All welcome 4:30-6:30 -Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	6 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	7 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	8	9 9:30-1:30 – Fencing School in gym
10 9 AM - Choir 10:30-Worship Service 3 PM INTERFAITH COUNCIL BIBLE STUDY – our church	11 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	12 SET UP RUMMAGE 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	13 SET UP RUMMAGE 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	14 SET UP RUMMAGE 4:30-9:30-Fenc.Sch	15 9 – 1 PM RUMMAGE SALE	16 9 – NOON RUMMAGE SALE 9:30-1:30- Fencing School in gym
17 PALM SUNDAY 00 AM Choir Rehearal 10:30 -Worship Service 3:30 INTERFAITH COUNCIL BIBLE STUDY – our church	18 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	19 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	20 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	21 HOLY THURSDAY 6:30-SOUP SUPPER 7:30-COMMUNION 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	22 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30-WORSHIP AT REFORMED CHURCH ALL WELCOME	23 9:30-1:30- Fencing Sch
24 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 - Choir 10:30 Worship Service 8 AM-Worship in Memorial Garden 8:30-Breakfast 10:30-Easter Service	25 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	26 4:30 – 6:30 Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	27 4:30-6:30- Weoght Watchers in Aldersgate Hall. 4:30 – 6:30-Fencing School	28 4:30-6:30 Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-6:30-Fencing Sch	29	30 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch.