

# April Tidings 2017

St. Paul's Reformed Church  
158 Phelps Lane, North Babylon, NY 11703  
631- 661-5562  
stpaulsreformed@optonline.net  
www.stpaulsrefchurch.com  
Follow us on Facebook



## Pastor's Musings

Outside my backdoor there is a planter, a very large one since it is one in which I grow summer vegetables. In the fall I decided to plant some spring bulbs in it, so that as I walked from the backdoor to the car each day I could watch the arrival of spring. And that is what I have been doing these past weeks. Little by little the green leaves have been pushing their way up through the soil, stretching towards the sun.

But with each cold snap, and the few light snows, I have worried about those plants emerging from the warmth of the soil. Yet each time, as the snow covering them has melted, or the cold winds buffeting them have stopped, they are still green, glowing with life. Yes, a few have a little bit of brown on the edges from the harshness they endured, but they are survivors.

In looking at them one morning, I started thinking about Easter - I guess because some of them are hyacinths whose fragrance always reminds me of a church on Easter morning. Seeing these plants, enduring through the hardships of a crazy weather spring, reminded me that we humans face our individual and cooperate hardships throughout life, and that when we share in Christ's victory over the forces that would hurt or destroy us, we too continue to live - maybe a little battered around the edges, but still manage to live on though buffeted by the chill winds of life at times.

Easter celebrates the glorious news that God in Christ has overcome all that would hurt or destroy us. It proclaims the good news that even out of the darkest tomb, that which held the body of Jesus - the beloved Son of God - the Light has shined forth.

The good news continues, as we participate in Christ's victory through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and world. Easter assures us that God is always there to uphold us, especially when bright, sunny days become cloudy and winds pick up and maybe even some rain or snow falls.

As we behold the risen Christ, we find our hope renewed, our hope that is grounded in the knowledge that our life is in God's hands - and that there are no better hands to be in. I look forward to celebrating the glorious news with you and others around the world, that Christ is risen!



### **Holy Week / Easter Services**

April 13

Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7:30pm

April 14

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:30pm

April 16

Easter Dawn Service at 6:30am at the Babylon Village Gazebo, Argyle Park  
(south side of Montauk Highway)  
Followed by a Dutch-Treat Breakfast

Traditional Easter Service at 10:00am  
Followed by an Easter Brunch

### **Book and Bagels**

On Sunday, April 23 at 11:00am, over coffee/tea and bagels, Pastor will lead a discussion on Mitch Albom's latest book, the magic strings of frankie presto. One reviewer described the book as "a Forrest Gump-like epic about one man's journey to discover what truly matters and the power of talent to change our lives."

### **April Sunday Worship Service Scripture Readings:**

2: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45

9: Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11

16: Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10

23: 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

30: 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35



**St. Paul's Reformed Church**  
**Highlights of February Consistory Meeting**

**Pastor's Report:**

For those who attended the movie "The Shack" due to fire drill, we received free passes for a movie. Thank you dinner by The Jesus Witness Way of Holiness Church has to be changed possibly to May 13, 2017. Book and Bagels- April 23- Magic Strings of Frankie Presto by Mitch Albom. Looking into possible retreat in fall to be held on Long Island.

**Finance: (Pastor Strauch)**

Pastor met with Classis on our financial situation. They are very concerned. We need to take a good look at our finances and our future plans. Classis does not want to close our building.

**Worship: (C. Lavorata)**

Church cleanup-Sat. April 8 9AM-12PM. Holy Week services-Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday-730 PM, Tenebrae Good Friday-730 PM, Easter-630 AM at Gazebo, 10 AM Church. Fundraisers-Bake Sale and Easter Egg Hunt-Sat. 4/5. Looking into other fundraisers. Still interest in forming Knitting Group.

**Property: (J. Altieri)**

School sign being repaired. Receiving donations of plants for garden. Work being started on garden. John will not need church property to store boat. Scouts using our building in April and May.

**Preschool: (B. Milligan)**

School had several concerns. Pastor has spoken with school and all is well. Preschool really working hard on registration for new year. They will need 40 students registered to have school and cover cost of custodian. Activities for children lined up for the spring. Graduation is June 16.

**Family Care: (D. Olsen)**

No report

**Christian Education: (C. Lento)**

Attendance has been good. Teacher still needed for September. April 9 children will be singing in church. No Sunday School on Easter.

**Mission: (D. Miller)**

No report

**Stewardship: (B. Walters)**

No report



**WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Cindy Lavorata, Worship Chair**



**Holy Week Services:**

Palm Sunday	4/9/17
Maundy Thursday	4/13/17 7:30 PM
Good Friday, Tenebrae	4/14/17 7:30 PM
Easter Sunday	4/16/17 Dawn service 6:30am Argyle Gazebo Worship Service at 10 am

Flowers will be given to everyone at the 10am service to decorate the cross.

In preparation for Easter, there will be a clean-up to clean the inside of the Church on April 8 from 9-12. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



There will be an Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 15 from 10-2. Please sign up on the sheet by the Kitchen if you can bake an item or two for the sale and if you are able to help that day.



As an outreach to our family, friends, neighbors and pre-school, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. We hope this will be a draw to bring people to St. Paul's for the bake sale. The Egg Hunt will be for children 10 and under and will take place at 12:00. We are looking for help with that event as well. We will be filling the eggs after service on Palm Sunday; any help is much appreciated! See Cindy if you have any questions.





### APRIL USHERS AND COMMUNION SERVERS

04/02

04/09 Palm Sunday

04/13 Maundy Thursday

04/14 Good Friday

04/16 Easter

04/23

04/30

#### USHERS

Pam & Jane

Edie & Denise

Roseann & Cindy

Pam & Jeananne

Rich & Denise

Jeananne & Furman

Jane & Rosanne

#### COMMUNION SERVERS

Cindy & Denise

Cheryl & Cindy

Cindy, Betty, Denise, Pam



### FINANCE COMMITTEE

First I want to apologize for not submitting anything to Tidings last month. The due date was during my work break and it slipped my mind so I am sorry. Second, I would like to thank Rich for nominating me for this committee. I appreciate being asked and am honored that I was voted in. It is my privilege to serve St. Paul's.

As we all know our church's finances are not in a good place. There will be many tough discussions and decisions in the near future. Please support the consistory however you can. Thank you!

Caryn Galante



2	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
8	9.00am	Church Cleanup
9	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service: Palm Sunday
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
13	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
14	7.30pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
15	10.00am	Bake Sale
16	6.30am	Easter Dawn Service
	10.00am	Worship Service: Easter
	11.00am	Easter Brunch
19	7.30pm	Consistory Meeting
23	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.30am	Book and Bagels
30	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5