**Shepherd of the Ridge Lutheran Church and Preschool**

**34555 Center Ridge Road**

**North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039**

**Church:** 440-327-7321

[www.shepherdoftheridge.org](http://www.shepherdoftheridge.org)

**Preschool:**  440-327-1032

<https://www.preschoolshepherdoftheridge.com>

**Worship Schedule:** Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

**Spiritual Growth:** Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

**MARCH**

**2021**



**Palm Branches - The Symbol of God’s Victory For Our Sake**

**Mark 11:7-10 -- And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.  And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.  And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”**

At the end of March, Christians throughout the world will be celebrating the start of Holy Week with Palm Sunday.

As we look at Palm Sunday in Mark’s Gospel, we see a sort of impromptu parade as Jesus rides into Jerusalem in the days before His death and resurrection.  The people spread their cloaks on the road before Him, giving them “the red carpet treatment” as it were.  Others cut palm branches from the fields and wave them in celebration.

The palm branch is an important symbol for the Jewish people.  When Israel’s armies came home victorious from battle, the people would wave palm branches as symbols of their victory over the enemy.  (Much like soldiers today are greeted by people waving flags when they return from war.)

Palm trees are abundant in the land of Israel and have been mentioned in the Bible multiple times.  For example, one of Israel’s judges, Deborah conducted court meetings under the shade of Palm branches (Judges 4:5), and King Solomon had carved the walls of the temple, both inner and outer sanctuaries with figures of palm trees, cherubim, and open flowers (1 Kings 6:29).  The practice of associating palm branches to structures and customs originates from the celebration of God’s victory in the Book of Leviticus.

The palm tree is an important symbol of victory for Israel after God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.  After Israel got out of Egypt, the Lord commanded that they celebrate a feast in honor of the freedom they had from the hands of their captors who enslaved them for hundreds of years.  From then on, the people of Israel celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles which took place for seven days.  (Throughout this period, the Israelites dwell in booths made of palm branches, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; Leviticus 23: 40-43).

In ancient Greece, palm branches were also often awarded to victorious athletes.

The palm branch is a symbol of victory, triumph, and peace.

The Christian Church today distributes palm branches to their members on Palm Sunday, to symbolize Christ’s victory over sin and death.  Christ’s victory over sin and death is made personal on Palm Sunday.  Jesus has conquered over your sin and your death by His own death and resurrection.  As you leave church on Palm Sunday, you carry that symbol of victory, triumph, and peace with you out into the world!

Interestingly enough, the ashes for Ash Wednesday are made from the leftover palm branches from the year before.  The palm branches’ symbol of victory is burned to ashes, and with those ashes, we make the sign of the cross on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday.  We place Christ’s victory on the cross upon our own foreheads to mark us as those redeemed by Christ’s cross.

The last place we see palm branches used in the Scriptures is in the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 7:9-10 says, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

The saints in heaven have palm branches in their hands to symbolize Christ’s victory over sin and death.  One day, you will be one of those saints, clutching your palm branch with great joy and eternal peace, because Christ has conquered over your sin and your death.

Thanks be to God for Christ’s victory over sin, death, and grave for our sake!  In Jesus’ name.  Amen.

**Again, A Word of Encouragement**

We want to continue to offer hope and support to our members.  We know that some will continue to worship online, and we will continue to offer the online services as well.

We pray that you continue to remain safe and pray God’s blessings upon you as you worship from afar.  With the availability of vaccines coming in the next few months, we pray that we would soon see each other face-to-face in the near future.

**If you would like to receive private communion**, please contact me by phone (1-920-296-9630) or email me at pastor.pater@gmail.com.  I would love to set up a private communion time (15 minutes) to share God’s Word with you, so you can safely receive the Sacrament.

**Please continue to mail in or drop off your church offerings.**  Many have done this, and we are grateful for your support.  The work of the church continues on and your support is still needed, so keep it up!  Many have even increased their giving, thanks be to God!  If you don’t feel comfortable sending a check in the mail, you can call me and I will meet with you to receive your offering.

**If you are in need of prayer and support,** please contact me.  Even if it’s just, “Pastor, I’m having a rough day.”  I’m here for you and would love to pray with you and encourage you.

God bless!

In Christ’s name, Pastor Paul

**Please note that the preschool will be holding parent/teacher conferences in the conference room on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, March 22-24. Please do not schedule anything on those dates. Thanks!**



The kids are having so much fun at preschool! You can see lots of pictures on our website: [www.preschoolshepherdoftheridge.com](http://www.preschoolshepherdoftheridge.com) Take some time and check it out.

Most of our kids received ashes for the first time on Ash Wednesday. Pastor was not able to be at school, but we did the next best thing….Mrs. Deb distributed the ashes while repeating the sign of the cross. You should have seen the ‘munchkins’ with their ashes….it was pretty amazing.

Since we are not taking donations for the NR Community Center, the preschool is donating a monetary donation on Chapel Days. This is proven to be very successful. The kids are putting the donations in the church that Mrs. D.’s dad made. They love it.

A big shout of thanks goes out to Miss Nancy and Mrs. D. for being sharp about calling 911 when one of our 3 year olds grandma suffered a heart attack at pick up time. God works in strange ways, had the grandma been at home she would have been alone! Grandma is recovering from surgery, but please keeps her in her prayers.

A mom recently emailed to thank us for the job we are doing. “I just wanted to thank you for all you have done for Hayden, we have been so happy with your program!  I wanted to share this with you. Today I tucked her little sister in for her nap and then went to Hayden's room to tuck her in for her quiet time.  As I approached her room I found her kneeling on her bed with her hands in a prayer pose.  I waited until she was done and then asked her what she was doing.  She responded "Praying, cause I love Jesus.  He died on the cross for us" and then she did the sign of the cross.

It melt my heart and I was sooooo proud of her.  Thank you for all the school has done to help my daughter.  We appreciate you.”

That made our day!

Keep a Dream in Your Heart!



At the present time the church is not collecting for Community Care due to their being open at odd hours. If you wish to donate food and/or monetarily, please note their address, phone number and hours below.

34015 Center Ridge Rd.
North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039
Phone: 440-353-9716

Monday and Tuesday  9:30 am -1:30 pm
Thursday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

They are closed in observance of U.S. holidays and when North Ridgeville schools are closed due to inclement weather.



**February 20, 2021**

**Members Present**:

Pastor, Wendy Burson, Lisa Hanes, David Chase, Deb Noga, Glenna Greenwald, Barry Glass, Gayle Schoerverth, Marsha Glass, and Denise Manke.

**Opening Devotion by Pastor:**

The meeting was opened by pastor with a reading from Psalm 51. He gave an explanation of this psalm and then offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

**Review of Minutes from last meeting:**

Everyone was given a copy of the minutes to review at the beginning of the meeting. Wendy asked everyone to review these and then the motion to approve these was made by Denise and this was seconded by Marsha.

**Agenda items*:***

**Urgent Issues/Previous Agenda:**

* None

**President:**

CCL/Song Renewal- It is the copy-write to the contemporary music in the church. It is expensive and is about $335.00/ year and will allow us to sing the songs and have hard copies of the music. Wendy discussed this with pastor and it was decided that we would try to do this. If we do not renew it, we would have to destroy all copies of the music. Denise and Barry questioned if we could afford this. Denise asked if we could put off renewing this due o our current financial situation. Wendy explained that she would have to get rid of many year’s worth of music and some is not available any longer. Everyone was understanding that this is a problem. Denise and David said that they will cover this expense.

**Voter's Meeting agenda**

Pastor explained that the Synodical convention and our district convention will also be pushed back a year from when it was to be held.

**WIX domain transfer/emails**

Wendy and Pastor are continuing to work on the website. Transferring the domain and emails are very tricky. They need to dump their current emails into outlook. Karen said that she knows how to do this. It is a very intricate process to complete. Pastor said that transferring the domain was very time consuming and that he thinks that he has it all situated at the moment. It will take a long time to transfer the emails these because of Karen having a great deal and they are currently not sure how many the preschool still have. They are hopeful that this will be completed by the end of March.

**Organizational chart/job descriptions continued**

Wendy gave everyone a copy of what was completed at the last meeting. This was discussed and changes were made to what we have at this time. It was decided that Pastor and the church council are directly responsible to one another. Pastor suggested in putting god’s word above all positions. It was discussed as to where the committees needed to be placed. Positions within the staff were also discussed. Wendy wants to determine who the person who is the point of contact for each area and so people know who to go to if they have a question or a problem with something.

**Joint Church Council Meeting**

We need to have a meeting with Hope.

**Vice President:**

None

**Secretary:**

Change in Council meeting to 2nd week of the month. We will be moving the council meetings to the second Saturday of the month to help to have the minutes available to Karen on time for the newsletter, since she needs them by the 20th day of each month.

**Financial Secretary:**

Hope Billing- Wendy and Denise spoke with Harold from Hope and explained that we cannot operate the way that it has been and we cannot continue that way. After this phone call, which went well, we still did not receive our payment. We got a check in January for November. They are still 2 and ½ months behind. Bills are being sent electronically and physically to them. They were billed January 21st and we still have not yet received anything from them. We have taken care of Pastor’s salary and Concordia plan without any help from Hope at this time. We have not been getting paid from Hope for several months and we cannot seem to get the money from them without hounding them constantly to try and get the money. Wendy is going to call them and we would like to meet with their council as soon as possible.

**Treasurer:**

* P&L-The budget is balanced to the penny and the congregation will get it at the voter’s meeting tomorrow. January was okay due to a very substantial contribution from a member that helped to give us additional income for the month.
* PPP Loan status new and existing- The paper work for this is done and Huntington did most of this for it and the second loan is up for review. The first loan we received the paperwork to complete for the forgiveness of this loan. There are a few forms that are still needed that we need to make sure get turned in.
* DMS status- David has not yet given them a formal letter. Tina is obligated to uphold her contract with them until we can have her take over the books for us. It was decided that we would stay with DMS until Tina is legally able to handle the books for us.
* Budget finalization for Voter's meeting- It is balanced and will be presented to the congregation tomorrow.

**Council Advisor:**

Church Secretary Vacation/coverage-That will be discussed next meeting when we meet.

**Director of Church Ministries/DCM:**

None

**Business Manager:**

* Church property damage from car accident- The accident report has not yet been filed, due to an investigation, by the police department. The insurance agent has taken pictures. We cannot assess the damage correctly due to the snow. We want to wait on until the snow melts so that we actually know the extent of the damage that was done.
* Doors Main entrance- They are still not working correctly. The door is not always latching. You need to pull the handle to get it to latch properly. The door needs to be taken down to fix the handle properly.
* Parsonage, we need to wait until the weather breaks. We have people lined up to work on this who are reputable, but they need to be able to see what needs to be fixed when it is clearly visible and in a manner that is safe for them.
* Pastor reported that he has an animal under the building near pastor’s office. The exterminator has been called.

**Preschool:**

Preschool staffing 2021/2022 school year- We need a new director for the preschool, because Deb is leaving due to a planned move out of the state. We also need an aide for the classrooms.

**Elders:**

They are trying to meet again soon

**Pastor:**

* Update District/Synod Conventions- See pastor's previous comments under the president's report.
* Parsonage snow removal issues- When the snow removal man plows, pastor has a hard time backing out of his driveway due to the way the driveway is plowed. The snow is not being moved back far enough to allow them to back out of their driveway.
* Screen door parsonage- Pastor would like to have a screen door on the back door of the parsonage. David and Barry will take care of it.

**Next Meeting/Agenda:**

* Voter's meeting Sunday February 21, 2021
* Council Meeting Saturday March 13, 2021 11:30 AM
* Agenda items for that meeting

 Finalize Website to present at next Voter's Meeting

 Finalize Organizational Chart

 Begin Job descriptions

 Church Secretary vacation/coverage

**Closing Prayer**

* Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.



**February 21, 2021**

The meeting was held following the service and began with a prayer by Pastor.

Pastor explained that both the Synodical and District Conventions will be moved back a year from when they were originally were to be held due to precautions due to the COVID pandemic.

The balanced budget was presented to the congregation by David Chase. Pastor asked David to go over this budget will everyone present. Wendy asked if there were any questions concerning the budget and Barb Cahill asked if there was money that was set aside for worker's compensation in case someone gets hurt that we are covered. She asked if we have a certain percentage that has been set aside for this. Denise explained that we received a refund from the state (approximately $2,700.00) and that this should cover the expense. David also reassured everyone that there currently is enough money in the checking account to cover this. In addition, she also questioned if we had been receiving the money from Hope. Wendy explained that this has been addressed with Harold from Hope and that it will be addressed by our council when we meet with the council from Hope. Denise explained to those present that Hope is consistently 2 and 1/2 months behind in their payments to us. They being billed both by having the bill emailed to them with copies of the bills attached and are receiving a hard copy of these via the US Postal Service mail. The bills sent to them are marked due upon receipt. Denise also reassured everyone that we are working on this situation. Greg stated that they get behind and then get caught up and that the council is doing this gingerly and will work through the issue the best that we can. Hope needs to be more forthcoming with when they cannot pay the bill and give us a solid reason why they cannot pay it on time. Wendy said that we will meet to see if we can come up with a way to pay this. It was suggested that they get an electronic bill from Huntington, but it would cost them $7.00 for each transfer to do this.

The discussion of the budget ended and Wendy asked if anyone had any more questions concerning the budget. When no one did, she moved that we accept the budget. This was seconded by Barry Glass. Those present voted to approve the budget as it is.

Wendy announced to the congregation that she will be taking a leave of absence from the presidency due to her illness. She is having a very difficult time currently and stated that there is not currently any treatment that will work for her. She is continuing to meet with her doctors. She asked for everyone's prayers and thanked them for their support. Lisa Hanes, our Vice-President will be taking over for her during this time.

Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.



March 5-Lisa Hanes

March 8-Rebecca Dias

March 11-Pat Wunderlich

March 25-Don Baldwin

March 26-Melissa Palmquist

March 27-David Hanes

March 31-Elizabeth Hanes



None this month!



The next council meeting will be on March 13th at 11:30 a.m.



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| **Sunday 3 PM** | Ladies Bible Study | Last Sunday of/month | Whitman House-Elyria, OH |
| **Sunday 9:30 AM** | Gayle Schoerverth | Overview of the Bible | Church Conference Room |
| **Tuesday 10:00 AM** | Pastor Georgi |  | St. John Lutheran Church, Elyria |
| **Wed. 10:30 AM** | Sharon Oberhaus |  | Church Conference Room |
| **Thurs. 10:00 AM** | Pastor Pater |  | Church Conference Room |

**Pastor Paul Pater** **1-920-296-****9630** **pastor.pater@gmail.com**

**SHEPHERD OF THE RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

34555 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

Church phone: 440-327-7321 Preschool phone: 440-327-1032

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| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
| Image result for march |   |  |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3Sharon Oberhaus Bible Study - 10:30 in Church Conference Room | 4Pastor Bible Study 10 am in Church Conference Room | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Third Sunday in Lent**Purple** | 8 | 9 | 10Sharon Oberhaus Bible Study - 10:30 in Church Conference Room | 11Pastor Bible Study 10 am in Church Conference Room | 12 | 13 Council Mtng 11:30 a.m.Image result for spring forwrd |
| 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent**Purple** | 15 | 16 | 17 C:\Users\SOTR\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\D6521A84.tmp | 18 Pastor Bible Study 10 am in Church Conference Room | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent**Purple** | 22**Preschool conferences in conference room** | 23**Preschool conferences in conference room** | 24**Preschool conferences in conference room** | 25Pastor Bible Study 10 am in Church Conference Room | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Palm SundayImage result for palm sunday **Red** | Image result for national vietnam war veterans day 202129 |

**Our vision statement: Connecting people in our community to Christ’s love through compassionate kindness**

**Email:** **secretary@shepherdoftheridge.org** **Pastor Paul Pater** **1-920-296-****9630** **pastor.pater@gmail.com**