**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.





**Fear in the Face of the Resurrection**

**Mark 16:6-8 -- “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.**

This last year the world has lived with a great deal of fear. Fear over the virus. Fear over the racial tensions that have erupted throughout our country. Fear as rioters stormed the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

But we’ve also faced many personal fears. “Do I have enough money to make ends meet?” “What happens if I get sick?” “What happens if my health deteriorates?” “What can I do to help my loved ones who are facing issues of addiction, depression, loneliness, despair?”

Sometimes we find ourselves “frozen in fear.” Like deer in the headlights. We find ourselves so inundated with fear that we can’t move. We can’t process the things going on around us. And we shut down. We turn inward and block out the world around us.

This must have been how the disciples felt that first Sunday morning of Easter. Two days beforehand, Jesus had been crucified and killed outside the city of Jerusalem. His lifeless body had been placed in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Since then, the eleven disciples were hiding in their homes, fearful that the Romans, who killed Jesus, would be looking for them next.

On that first Easter morning, three women - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome - were the only ones brave enough to venture to the tomb. They brought with them spices, meant to finish anointing Jesus’ body for burial. His burial was done with such haste on Good Friday that they didn’t have to to properly anoint His body before the Sabbath began. Now the Sabbath was over, and they could finally fulfill their task.

It was early Sunday morning, the sun had just come up as they made their way to the tomb. On the way, they asked one another who could roll away the massive stone from the entrance of the tomb. But when they got there, they saw a young man sitting on the right side of the tomb, dressed in a white robe.

Now the women are afraid. Who was this strange man? Had something happened to Jesus’ body? Had it been removed or put elsewhere before He could be properly prepared for burial?

But the young man, an angelic messenger, tells them, **“Don’t be alarmed.” Don’t be afraid.**  Why? The young man answers, **“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here!”**

Now added to their fear is a mixture of emotions: astonishment, amazement, wonder. What could have happened? They go into the tomb and it’s just as the young man said. Jesus is gone!

Note their reaction: “And they fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

The women didn’t quite listen to the young man. He told them not to be alarmed or afraid. And yet, they were. Fear had taken over their lives.

But there was something powerful happening that first Easter morning, something that would conquer over their fears forever more. Jesus was not in His tomb! He had risen!

Christ’s resurrection is all about conquering over fear - fear of sin, fear of evil, fear of death.

We need not fear our sin, because Christ has paid the price for our sins with His cross and with His empty tomb.

We need not fear evil, because Christ’s resurrection offers us hope and peace and joy in the midst of this evil, sin-filled world.

We need not fear death, Christ’s resurrection offers to us the sure and certain promise of eternal life. Nothing in this life can take the promise of the resurrection away from us.

While this world can be a scary and fear-filled place, remember what Christ has done for you at Easter. Remember that no matter what happens in this life, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**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



It’s so hard to believe that a year has gone by that we have been dealing with the Covid Pandemic. Our kids have lost out on so many functions! We didn’t have any family orientated parties, including the big Christmas Program we always put together. No ‘Party with My Peeps’’ No singing in SOTR church, No family night. We are still working on Play Day,

Kindergarten Field Trip and Promotion Days. Right now, it’s all up in the air. 

 Mrs. D. is getting ready for Dinosaur Devotion Week for the Pre-K Class. Yep, we even dress up as a dinosaur to greet the kids. (Don’t tell them, it’s a surprise.)

 We are gearing up for a popcorn sale. ALL proceeds will go towards the Promotion Programs for the kids. The staff wants to really pull out all the stops for the end of the year. We are very excited about this fund raiser!

 One of our students (Lily Kmiecik/Pre-K) has been nominated for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as their Woman/Man of the Year! We are promoting it as: ‘Let’s Help Our Lily’. We couldn’t be prouder of Lily! Here is a portion of Lily’s mom’s letter to us.

Mrs. Deb,

 Thank you so much. From the bottom of my heart your school and parish have been so amazing to us. I am so emotional about this whole thing and you accepting us with open arms has been amazing. Thank you for supporting and taking such good care of my Lily.

Her Facebook post announcing her candidacy from [**The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Northern Ohio Chapter**](https://www.facebook.com/llsnoh/)will be Friday morning. I can't wait to tell the whole world I am so proud of her!

Thank you again,

 Lexy Kmiecik

It is always so amazing to hear such positive accolades for our school. Lily’s sister is on the church’s prayer list, too.

 *Today's forecast: the Son shines and the Lord reigns!*



Taken and submitted by Deb Noga March 13, 2021

Members Present: Pastor, Wendy Burson (absent), Lisa Hanes, David Chase, Deb Noga, Glenna Greenwald, Barry Glass, Gayle Schoerverth, Marsha Glass, and Denise Manke.

**Opening Devotion by Pastor:**

* Pastor opened the meeting with devotion for Lent titled “Named”. This was followed by a prayer.

**Review of Minutes from last meeting:**

* The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed prior to the meeting by all present. T Lisa motioned to accept these and they were seconded by David. These were approved by all present

***Agenda items:***

**Urgent Issues/Previous Agenda:**

**President:**

* Church directory- Lisa will work with Gayle and Pastor to work on the directory. Denise feels that Pastor should not have to work on this other than the write up that pastor has to approve due to his other duties. Lisa and Gayle will set up a time to meet with the representative from the company to be able to finish this.
* Organizational chart/job descriptions- this was decided to be tabled until the next meeting.
* Marcia will be the point of contact for Karen. We need to make sure that the office is covered during our normal hours and not to rely on pastor to handle these duties when Karen is on vacation or is out sick.

**Vice President:**

* Joint church council meeting-Pastor will act as the facilitator. We usually discuss the upcoming holidays, salary for pastor, and how the partnership between the two churches is working. Pastor will set the agenda for the meeting. We usually meet in November but due to COVID we did not meet like usual.

**Secretary:**

* Nothing

**Financial Secretary:**

* Hope billing payment procedure- Hope owes us for the February 26, invoice $4891.21. For the March 9 invoice we are still owed $4, 838.24. The next bill will be for the beginning of April and will include pastor’s salary, housing, and Concordia plan along with any utilities for March.
* Denise asked members of council to do the research and have the information so that we can make an informed vote for the congregation. We need to make sure that Karen and DMS are informed if we are changing things that involve them.
* WIX- we have no tech support for this program. Along with this is the email situation. We need to have Tech support and we need to have our vendors in mind as well as the emails that supply information for our bills.
* Music renewal- Denise spent time on the phone finding out about the music program and discovered that we were paying for things that we did not need to have or pay for. These non necessary items were cancelled and we will be refunded the money that was spent on them.
* Things need to be presented to the entire council rather than just the pastor when people feel that things are needed.
* It was stressed that communication needs to improve with things that are occurring.
* We do not want to have 3 hour meetings. A Topic should have a reasonable time for discussion of 15 minutes and then can be voted on. If it takes longer then we will table it until the next meeting.

**Treasurer:**

* David presented the P& L statements and said that he was glad that we ended the month with $ 2,502.71.
* We have received the second PPP Loan for $13,030.00. Neither David nor Karen had received a notice that we were approved for this. We need a copy of this for our church records. David will try to find out from Huntington about this. Glenna, Denise and Marsha will try to handle the issue on the forgiveness of the first loan.

**Council Advisor:**

* Nothing

**Director of Church Ministries/DCM:**

* There has been a steady 5 people in the bible study each week. She is hopeful that the numbers will increase in the future as more people are vaccinated.

**Business Manager:**

* Landscaper- came out to look at the yard and gave us an estimate of $1,266.00 that will go to her insurance company for payment.
* John repaired the sign for the church is the front yard. Barry needs the amount that John spent for posts and the cost for our preschool sign. David is going to get the information to Barry about the sign. The cost of this will also be covered by her insurance company.
* The ladies restroom in the basement has a slow running drain. There is something that is stuck between the drains that seems to be preventing it from draining correctly.
* Barry is going to get estimates for the parsonage roof, the rotten window, the ceiling damage and the back stairs to the porch. Barry is going to handle the back stairs and the cost of the replacement. Barry and David are also going to work on taking the tree down alongside the house that needs to come down. Both of them are going to work on getting a screen door on the back door.
* Windowsill in Ash’s room that they could use an epoxy to fix it temporarily, but it needs to be done eventually-sooner than later.

**Preschool:**

* Deb's replacement- We are hoping to get Carly Jones for her replacement. The state would like a degree in education to be the director.
* Teacher's pay- Deb Stibich was shorted in pay. She would like $500.00 to be donated to the church.
* Graduation-Graduation would be the 3 separate days. They want to have a fundraiser to do a picnic for them in the pavilion. They were requesting permission to do so. They were given permission to do this.
* One of the kids is pre-K has a sister who has had cancer. The parents are doing something for this little girl and wondered if they could notify the congregation about this. Council voted to allow this.
* Ads will be in the newspaper for a preschool registration.

**Elders:**

* Nothing

**Pastor:**

* Pastor stated that he officiated at the funeral for a former member Donna Krasula this past week.
* He also informed all that Pat Houser passed away last night.

**Next Meeting/Agenda:**

* Joint council meeting with Hope at SOTR Sunday, March 21@3:00 PM
* Council meeting April 17 @ 9:00 AM. It was decided to change the time to 9:00AM. Dar and Karen will be notified

**Closing Prayer**

* Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

  

April 2-Jessica Heck

April 9-Barry Glass

April 13-Pat Houser

April 14-Darla Baumbick

April 14-Susan Quisenberry

April 14-Theodore Jones

April 16-Paul Durisek

April 16-Darla Baumbick

April 18-Ron Russell

April 20-Aaron Thompson

April 21-Lois Wildauer

April 21-Debbie Chase

April 26-Jill Chapman

April 26-Dakota Jones

None this month!



**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Maundy Thursday - April 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 2nd at 6:00 p.m.



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday 3 PM** | Ladies Bible Study | Cancelled until further notice | Whitman House-Elyria, OH |
| **Sunday 9:30 AM** | Gayle Schoerverth | Overview of the Bible | Church Conference Room |
| **Wed. 10:30 AM** | Sharon Oberhaus | Cancelled until further notice | Church Conference Room |
| **Thurs. 10:00 AM** | Pastor Pater | Re-start April 15, 2021 | Church Conference Room |



**As of March 28, 2021**

**Sick or Hospitalized:**

Those affected by COVID-19, including Chris (Greg’s friend) and Wendy Burson

Those struggling with anxiety and depression

Archie - Donna’s Dad - broken nose

Barb O’Brien - Nancy (our preschool teacher’s) mom

Bev - Lisa’s Mom - thanksgiving for successful surgery, praying for recovery

Dusti - Carol Bridges’ daughter in Tennessee - stroke

Chuck - friend of Jones’ family - cancer

Dave Hanes

Debbie Chase

Garrett Chase - wife of Alo’s friend - cancer treatment

Greg Manke

Janice - back pain

Jeff - family relation of Pastor Paul - needs a heart transplant

John Carter (from Hope)

Larry Larsen - friend of Dave Hanes - ALS

Linda - daughter of Pat Wunderlich - 9/27

Matilda Schoerverth - recovery from neck surgery 3/22

Parker - Sharon Oberhaus’ grandson - 9/27

Pastor Paul Pater - migraines

Paul Durisek and Durisek family

Richard - Carol Pennington’s brother - needs a kidney transplant

Ron Russell

Ruth - Carol Pennington’s sister - surgery

Ryan Suder - friend of Glenna - brain tumor and stroke

Sharon Oberhaus

Stephanie - cousin of Mary Beth Toddy - health issues - 9/6

Tom Householder

Wendy Burson

**For our preschool; for our administrator, Deb; for our teachers, Nancy and Darla**

**Preschool kids:**

Lily Kmiecik's big sister - remission leukemia

Colin Encizo's dad - kidney transplant list

Aria’s grandma - two stints in heart

**For those separated from loved ones**

**For our Country:**

For peace and justice in our land

Those in authority over us

**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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
| April Images, Stock Photos & Vectors | Shutterstock | Maundy Thursday — RMUMC**1** **Service @ 6 p.m.****White**  | **2****Service @ 6 p.m.****Black**  | **3**Library of holy saturday jpg freeuse download png files ▻▻▻ Clipart Art 2019 |
| Easter-Sunday-clip-art-crosses-tomb - Central Schwenkfelder Church**4 EASTER****SUNDAY****White** | **5** | **6**  | **7**  | **8** | **9** | **10** |
| **11** **Second****Sunday of Easter****White** | **12** | **13**  | **14**  | Free 2014 Tax Day Cliparts, Download Free Clip Art, Free Clip Art on Clipart  Library**15****Extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021** | **16** | **17**Administrative Council Meeting: September 22, 2020 » FUMC Alvord**9 a.m.** |
| **18** **Third****Sunday of Easter****White** | **19**  | **20**  | Library of clipart freeuse administrative professionals day png files ▻▻▻  Clipart Art 2019**21**  | Let It Begin With Me | What's New in Eco-Materials**22** | **23** | **24** |
| **25 Fourth****Sunday of Easter****White** | **26** | **27**  | **28**  | **29** | Free Arbor Day Cliparts, Download Free Clip Art, Free Clip Art on Clipart  Library**30** |   |

**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**