

# ELIAS COMMUNICATOR

*Called by Christ, we live our faith in Word and Deed*

*April/May 2018*



## *In this issue...*

From the Pastor.....	p 2
Coming Events.....	p 3
Council Corner.....	p 4
Paws to Pray.....	p 5
From the Talmudic Anthology.....	p 6
Music Notes.....	p 7
Dialog with the Savior .....	p 7
Let's Read .....	p 8
A Moment with Luther...	p 12
Servants of Christ .....	p 15
Stewardship Report.....	p 16
Prayers.....	p 17
Calendars.....	p 18





## *From the* **PASTOR**

*Grace and Peace to You through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

For the gardeners and farmers and property owners among us, or even if you're an apartment dweller, a vine can be a thing of beauty and delight. Vines help fill in bleak areas in our gardens, they produce flowers on fences, fruits in a vineyard or tomatoes in a cage. We also know that some vines can be a real pain, or *itch*, as the case may be! Vines can be aggressive growers, which is good if you have a steep hillside needing to be covered, but they can become a burden as they will take over everything, smother out desirable plants or literally

grow into your house causing damage to siding, utilities or shutters. A vine requires tending, because most of them have a tendency to grow and grow and grow out of control!

Recently I was inspired to see an evergreen vine that had wrapped itself around a cedar tree trunk in a nearby woods. The cedar tree was no longer alive, and in fact, was now leaning at a sharp angle, ready to fall down, but the evergreen vine made it appear as though it was still a growing tree! Cedar tree wood is rot-resistant, and makes excellent fence posts lasting 50 years or more. So this natural cedar trellis made a strong and lasting support for this wild growing vine back in the woods. Having a rigid framework enabled this vine to do what it wanted most – keep on growing and reaching for the sunlight!

A vine's growing tips will continue to reach out--far and away from the support wood to explore and touch other areas in the natural community. Hmmm, could this be a complimentary image of our church? We have the old wood supporting us, i.e., the faith of our spiritual grandparents, those who came to this land, long, long ago. Our ancestors' faith is like the massive chestnut beams that hold up Elias' sanctuary roof. Their faith was built on nothing less than "Jesus blood and righteousness" . . . founded upon the promises of God, which equated with words about giving them an inheritance, a positive future and freedom. Our forbears came here by Faith! They believed in God – and the Words of Jesus kept them reassured that they were living in God's grace, love and mercy. That's where the Elias congregation Vine got its beginning, and we are the continuation of those ancient green rooted shoots.

Our faith today keeps its tendrils wrapped around the Vine Master, who is Jesus Christ our Lord. The treasure we have is that we keep on growing from a common structure – the Gospel of Jesus. Yes, we have a beautiful building, but it is made of wood and stone and glass – finite materials. What we know is that the material world will one day pass away, but Jesus and his Word will remain forever. Our encouragement is to always cling to the eternal Word of God, for it is the solid rock upon which our faith grows. Like that cedar trunk is supporting my

*(continued on page 8)*

# Coming Events

## ***Upcoming Service Themes***

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 8) – Thomas Sees and Touches the Resurrected Christ. – John 20:19-31

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 15) – “A Revelation by Fish and Seeing is Believing!” – Luke 24:36b-48

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 22) – Good Shepherd Sunday – John 10:11-18

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 29) – The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch. – Acts 8:26-40

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (May 6) – If a Peter Preaches to the Gentiles. – Acts 10:44-48

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (May 13) – In the Son is Eternal Life – 1 John 5:9-13

PENTECOST Sunday (May 20) – John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Holy Trinity Sunday (May 27) – Who Will Speak for God? “Here I am – Send me” Isaiah 6:1-8

## ***WELCA***

There will be a short WELCA meeting immediately after church on Sunday, April 15. The dates for the next two Ladies’ Luncheons are Tuesday, April 17, at the Carriage House at 11:30 AM, and Tuesday, May 15, at Peking Palace at 11:30 AM.

There will be a Spring Meeting for the Women of the ELCA, Frederick Cluster, on Saturday, April 21. Registration begins at 8:30 AM; the meeting runs from 9:00 until Noon. Pastor Jon will present a Bible study, and Chaplain John Schuch will speak on “The Role of Prayer for Prisoners.”

## ***Council of Churches***

The next Emmitsburg Council of Churches Meeting will be held at the Mother Seton Shrine on Tuesday, May 15, beginning at 7:00 PM.

## ***April 8***

On April 8 Frank Schmersal will be leading worship and preaching at the 10 AM worship service. Pastor Jon will be away for a retirement party for his brother-in-law, Mike Kalnoske, retired U.S. Navy pilot and more recently UPS pilot.

# Council Corner

Well, Spring is here! *[Sure it is, Joe! There's 12 inches of snow on the ground as I lay out the newsletter! – ed.]* Hopefully we will see some nice weather soon and look forward to warm sunny days and getting out and about for some fresh air. I want to thank everybody that participated in the Spring supper/yard sale. We couldn't do it without our faithful crew! I feel we had a successful event considering that the windy days prior to the event may have kept some of the customers away. Hopefully we can continue to have the Suppers as they are a huge help for our church financially. I know our numbers are getting smaller as far as our congregation goes but I have faith we can grow again. If anybody has any suggestions please feel free to express your ideas to any of the council members or see me anytime you need to. Have a good spring!

Joe Hess  
Council President

---

## Paws to Pray *Elias Prayer Hotline!*

Pastor Jon shares a 2-minute Bible verse. Then we do our prayer time. Prayer can be for you, your family, friends, group members on the line, world situations, or whatever the Spirit lays on your heart (2 minutes or less to pray each).

Just dial **712-451-0767** enter Access Code **812928** then press #



Here are the dates for upcoming Paws to Pray sessions – mark your calendar today! Or just remember it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

April 10 and 24  
May 8 and 22  
June 12 and 26

July 10 and 24  
Aug. 14 and 28  
Sept. 11 and 25

Oct. 9 and 23  
Nov. 13 and 27  
Dec. 11

## **A Few Thoughts to Ponder—from: *The Talmudic Anthology***

### **On Poverty . . . and True Wealth**

“The wife of Rabbi Hanina ben Dosa could not endure her poverty any longer and so besought her husband to pray for something on account. A golden table-leg suddenly appeared in her room. Later the Rabbi’s wife had a dream that she was in Paradise. In Paradise [heaven], each righteous [Zaddik] household had a home equipped with furniture made of pure gold! Her husband’s table, however, was missing a leg. When the Rabbi’s wife awoke from her dream she begged that the golden table-leg be taken back!” **The Talmudic Anthology, 1966, p. 386.**



### **The Son of Pure Gold**

“Once Rabbi Abba declared in a discourse that everyone who studies the Torah obtains riches. A young man named Jose took his words to mean material riches. He came to Rabbi Abba saying: “I wish to study in order to obtain these riches.” After a lapse of time, Rabbi Abba was distressed to learn that this excellent student was motivated by ulterior considerations. He said to him: “Continue to study, and if you must have material riches, I shall do my best to give them to you.”

A wealthy youth entered the school and asked for Rabbi Abba, saying, “I have inherited great wealth. I appreciated the value of the study of Torah but my mind is not adapted to it. I wish to donate a vessel of pure gold to a fine student on the condition that I shall have a share in his Torah.” Rabbi Abba summoned Rabbi Jose and said to him: “Here is the first installment of your riches.”

Soon afterward, Rabbi Jose commenced to perceive the spiritual richness of the Torah, and he wept. “Why weepest thou” asked his Master. Rabbi Jose answered, “Because I have sold true for apparent riches.” Rabbi Abba rejoiced in his heart. He recalled the rich youth and said: “The student regrets having accepted your gold. I pray, take it back and distribute the money among the needy and orphans in the village, and it shall be accounted to you as if thou had studied Torah and done brilliantly as much as we! “Rabbi Jose was overjoyed to dispense with the “pure gold” and he received the name Ben Pazi, which means, “The Son of Pure Gold.” **The Talmudic Anthology, 1966, p. 387.**

***May we seek the to obtain the Gold of Christ’s Love for all people!***

## **Music Notes**

On Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 3:00 pm, Elias Lutheran Church will present its third annual program to bring awareness to the epidemic of hungry and homeless children in the Emmitsburg area. The concert, under the direction of Cheryl Carney, will feature several soloists from the Elias Church family, the Handbell and Vocal Choirs from Elias Lutheran Church, as well as other local artists. In addition to the music, information will be presented about the plight of local children who are in need and ways that we can all help. To borrow from the mission statement of the Boston-based group, Music for Food, "We believe both music and food are essential to human life and growth. Music has the power to call forth the best in us, inspiring awareness and action when artists and audiences work together to transform the ineffable into tangible and needed food resources." We hope our concert will help raise resources and awareness in the fight against hunger in our area. Monetary donations will gladly be accepted and all proceeds will benefit our local children in need.



We are in the process of planning the Stained Glass Music series for 2018. We are blessed to welcome Iris Rogers on June 17 and Forever Young ministries on November 4. The dates in between will be announced as soon as we have confirmation. If you have any suggestions or contact information for your favorite group, please give the information to Cheryl Carney as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Food for Thought:**

The greatest fulfillment is in doing God's will.

We do not have to do great things, only small things with great love.

We do not have to be extraordinary in any way.

I can do what you can't do, and you can do what I can't do

Together we can do something beautiful for God.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

# Let's Read

By Linda Knox



## A Wide Range of Topics From Which to Choose

Many problems in our society come down to the local officials and our government. But many more “begin at home” and ultimately are literally exploding in our communities. The question arises: where is the control to be found to get us back to our human foundations?

It is nearly impossible to read any newspaper in which you don't see the words opioids, drugs, and overdose. One book recently added to our Church Library seeks to investigate the handling of this huge modern challenge. How does anyone – and especially someone with Christian faith – bear the consequences of a family dilemma like that in **Beautiful Nate** by Dennis Mansfield, the parent of a 27-year-old son whose addiction killed him. To maintain their equilibrium meant finding a healing response that encouraged their possibility of continuing to be upbeat examples of survival. They wanted to put out some ideas and offer support to others in their situation.

The library has many books that allow you to pick the subject you want to examine more closely. *The Greatest Story: A Bible Introduction* provides guidance through each special part, book by book. Start anywhere you choose to enhance your understanding.

Another recent acquisition, *Last Chain on Billie* by Carol Bradley, may cause some to raise eyebrows and question why this book is in a church library. It will capture your interest as you gradually see the validity of its placement. After careful consideration of the information it brings the reader, you admit that Billie's story truthfully traces the greed of humankind. As an “animal person,” I felt the initial description of the story drew me into its historical bounds, but then I felt that the revealing details told another side of mankind. Our control and greed have brought us to a place for turning around – a place to treat our earth's creatures with kindness and to respect all segments of the environment. The technological discoveries can lead us to be better stewards of the earth as people of genuine compassion.

Why not check out our broad selection of subjects? You just may be intrigued by your discovery.

*Linda Knox*

## How Should We Live in Light of Jesus's Resurrection?

Here's a selection written by A Monk of the Eastern Church entitled: *Jesus: A Dialogue with the Savior*

"After his resurrection Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of his disciples. He does not linger over long reproaches on their infidelity and unbelief. And they do not waste time over long excuses or explanations of their poor conduct, [fearful running and abandonment]. Everything happens so simply, so familiarly: 'Have you here anything to eat?' They offered him a piece of broiled fish and a honey-comb. Life goes on again in normal conditions, at the very point where it had been interrupted. "When I have betrayed and abandoned Jesus, it is not necessary that I anxiously look for and prepare the conditions for my repentant encounter with the Master. I must only reintroduce Jesus into my daily life, put him in the present context, involve him in the difficulties and hopes of the moment. The gesture is sufficient, by which we offer Jesus his share of the fish and honey which are daily nourishment. Right away Jesus is going to resume his place at our table and share our life again. That will come about in an instant; but as far as we are concerned it must be done in humility and repentance. The exterior attitude will be simple and easy. Yet it must be characterized by an interior prostration.

**Prayer:** Come Lord Jesus and be our guest. Dine with your people, sinners though we are, please join us at the table and share with us Your Word that leads us to eternal life. Thank you, Lord Christ.

---

### From the Pastor (*continued*)

forest vine, God's eternal Word gives us life and hope and inspiration to keep reaching out to touch other lives with the Good News. Indeed, a vine is a beautiful example for us, since it is always growing – getting into things, or blooming with wonderful displays of flowers. (Climbing roses anyone?) Honestly, even the irritating vines, especially poison ivy, must be admired for their tenacity (birds and goats and deer love poison ivy!). So we should be tenacious vines as we seek to grow in faith and deeds. We want to grow the church wherever we can get a seed or a shoot rooted, be it in our household, here in the Emmitsburg community, or the outer places where the Holy Spirit sends us. Whatever is the type of your faith vine – keep yourself grafted to the Jesus vine – and tend it for the glory of God. Spring is almost here – it's time to grow, to bloom and to produce an abundance of fruit for the Kingdom of God. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost! Lord let us grow the Vine of the Gospel forever and ever. Amen!

*See you soon for worship and fellowship at Elias. Love in Christ,*  
*Pastor Jon*

## *More About Love – from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther*



*By the year 1520, Luther Emphasized the Personal Relationship with God. The easing of conscience by faith in Christ Alone . . . Living without guilt by Christ Alone, Service unto God through Christ Alone – Believing one is righteous and worthy before almighty God by . . . Faith Alone!*

In a Christian's personal relationship with God "the supreme good work is faith, and implicit acceptance of the Gospel that Christ died for the individual sinner and that there is no further need for human effort to effect reconciliation with God. All the accepted good works in the former Catholic system, such as pilgrimages, fastings, and special masses, were thus rendered superfluous and even positively sinful. Luther now realizes that such an approach to religion as he had held before assumed that *God must become reconciled through human effort*; for the first two steps in Penance do not suffice. Rather, *implicit faith in the Gospel converts the life of the reborn Christian into a life of constant good works.*

Whatever the Christian does, eating, sleeping, working, performing his daily tasks in all faithfulness, all these are accepted by God as good works when flowing from a life of faith. But only those who have this faith are capable of good works acceptable to God. The Christian's highest task is, therefore, his daily duty. The greatest sin is to doubt the Gospel, relying on human effort to save man rather than on Christ's supreme sacrifice for him on the Cross. Reliance on human effort rejects Christ by denying the efficacy of His atonement. . . . [on the other hand] Making one's daily duty God-pleasing *when flowing from faith*, a new dynamic system of Christian ethics was born which, when adhered to, made the believer the "Light of the World" and the "Salt of the Earth." In Lutheranism, therefore, a Christian's calling required that the Christian render daily faithful service in his divinely appointed place in life, by living in close companionship with Christ, the lowliest Christian transformed his/her daily service into good works pleasing to God. **Luther and His Times**, Schwiebert, E.G. 1950. p. 453-54.



**HEAD DEACONS:**

- ✚ April – Michael Shank and Sam Valentine
- ✚ May – Judy Manahan and Deb Zimmerman

**WELCOMERS:**

- Apr. 1 – Nita Shank (Easter!)
- Apr. 8 – Vickie and Jerry Smith
- Apr. 15 – Erma and Neil Bechtol
- Apr. 22 - Julia and Sandy Hartle
- Apr. 29 – Bryant Hoffman
  
- May 6 – Marta Hillis
- May 13 – Linda Knox
- May 20 – Pam Kemenyas
- May 27 – Dolly and Charles Long
  
- June 3 – Nita Shank

**ACOLYTES:**

- Apr. 1 – Molly Hess and Kevin Shank (Easter!)
- Apr. 8 – Molly and Natalie Hess
- Apr. 15 – Dennis and Gretal Shank
- Apr. 22 - Dennis and Kevin Shank
- Apr. 29 – Bryant Hoffman and Natalie Hess
  
- May 6 – Molly Hess and Dennis Shank
- May 13 – Bob Hampson and Bryant Hoffman
- May 20 – Natalie Hess and Gretal Shank
- May 27 – Molly Hess and Kevin Shank
  
- June 3 – Acolytes day off (picnic)

**LECTORS:**

- Apr. 1 – Betty Valentine
- Apr. 8 – Sharon Adams
- Apr. 15 – Paul Harner
- Apr. 22 - Linda Knox
- Apr. 29 – Matt Provance
  
- May 6 – Renata Provance
- May 13 – Frank Schmersal
- May 20 – Gretal Shank
- May 27 – Kevin Shank
  
- June 3 – Linda Shank (picnic)

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

- Apr. 1 – Annie Hess
- Apr. 8 – Frank Schmersal
- Apr. 15 – Nita Shank
- Apr. 22 - Annie Hess
- Apr. 29 – Frank Schmersal
  
- May 6 – Nita Shank
- May 13 – Annie Hess
- May 20 – Frank Schmersal
- May 27 – Nita Shank
  
- June 3 – Annie Hess (picnic)

April Altar Chairperson is Linda Knox.

May Altar Chairpersons are Linda Shriver and Bryant Hoffman.



# Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report



Attendance	2018
Total Sunday attendance through March 18, 2018	634
Average Sunday attendance	50
Total Wednesday attendance through March 21, 2018	111
Average Wednesday attendance	14
Average weekly attendance	64

### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Jon's schedule varies according to emergencies, visitation and unforeseen circumstances. Pastor can be reached by church phone 301-447-6239 or email. [jsgreenstone@verizon.net](mailto:jsgreenstone@verizon.net)

Monday - Off, Unless Emergency -- reach Pastor  
by cell 240-888-8861

Tuesday - Church Office 10 a.m. –12 Noon,  
Visitation, Meetings

Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Service, Visitation,  
Evening Music / Service Rehearsals

Thursday - Visitations, Church Office 2 - 4 p.m.

Friday - Service/Sermon Preparation, Evening Programs,

### *Elias Communicator*

is a bi-monthly newsletter of  
Elias Lutheran Church.

Services: **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**

All are welcome to attend  
and share God's word.

We are located at  
100 North Ave.,  
Emmitsburg, MD  
(301) 447 – 6239

E-mail: [eliasluth@gmail.com](mailto:eliasluth@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eliaslutheranchurch.org](http://www.eliaslutheranchurch.org)

Pastor: Rev. Jon R. Greenstone

**Deadline for the June/July issue is**  
**Sunday, May 20**



ELIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A PRAYING CONGREGATION. WE HOLD IN COMMUNAL PRAYER THE PEOPLE LISTED HERE AND THOSE IN OUR HOMES, WORKPLACES, AND COMMUNITIES.

**Prayers for Healing:**

Sis Boyd, Ruth Clark, Julie Eckenrode, Charles and Betty Eyler, Fred Fisher, Jim Galanie, Edward Hines, Lee and Betty Jones, Rick Kemenyas, Terri Kittinger, Kegan Krietz, Ann Marie, Elizabeth Prongas, Bonnie Royer, Sue Sanders, and Betty Smith (Fairfield).

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Nancy Andrew, Florence Bassler, Charles Bechtol, Rebecca Bechtol, Kathy Givler, Amanda Boyd George, Mary Johnson, Polly Kittinger, Linda Knox, Kathy Koslak, Ruth Slonaker, Joan Smith, Betty Valentine, Lucille Valentine, Dottie Wagerman, Dolores Wivell, and Virginia Wright.

**For those serving in the Military:**



Jason Ambrosini, Nathan Jeffcoat, Noretta Kime, Doug Murph, Dylan Perry, Sean Reaver, Ashley Shank, Tommy Shultz, and Jacob Whitney

## April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Betty Valentine	2	<b>3</b> <b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>4</b> <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b> 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	5	6 8:00 pm – AA	7 8:00 pm – AA
<b>8</b> 9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Sharon Adams	9	<b>10</b> 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray	<b>11</b> <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b> 6:00 pm – Nar-Anon 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	12	13 8:00 pm – AA	14 8:00 pm – AA
<b>15</b> 9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Paul Harner 11:15 – WELCA meeting	16	<b>17</b> Ladies' Luncheon – Carriage House, 11:30	<b>18</b> <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b> 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	19	20 8:00 pm – AA	<b>21</b> 8:30 am – WELCA Cluster Meeting 8:00 pm – AA
<b>22</b> 9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Linda Knox	23	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray	<b>25</b> <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b> 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	26	27 8:00 pm – AA	28 8:00 pm – AA
<b>29</b> 9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Matt Provance	30					

## May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1  <b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	2 <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b>  6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	3	4  8:00 pm – AA	5  8:00 pm – AA
6  9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Renata Provance  <b>3:00 – Choir Concert</b>	7	8  7:30 pm – Paws to Pray	9 <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b>  6:00 pm – Nar-Anon 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	10	11  8:00 pm – AA	12  8:00 pm – AA
13  9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Frank Schmersal	14	15 Ladies’ Luncheon – Peking Palace, 11:30  7:00 – Council of Churches at Seton Shrine	16 <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b>  6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	17	18  8:00 pm – AA	19  8:00 pm – AA
20  9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Gretal Shank	21	22  7:30 pm – Paws to Pray	23 <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b>  6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	24	25  8:00 pm – AA	26  8:00 pm – AA
27  9:00 – Sunday School <b>10:00 – Holy Communion</b> Lector: Kevin Shank	28 MEMORIAL DAY	29	30 <b>9:30 am - Holy Communion</b>  8:00 pm AA	31		



**SEE YOU AT ELIAS...IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE UNITED IN CHRIST OUR LORD**

+++++

*Elías Communicator*

P.O. Box 465

Emmitsburg, MD 21727