

ELIAS COMMUNICATOR

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

February/March 2024



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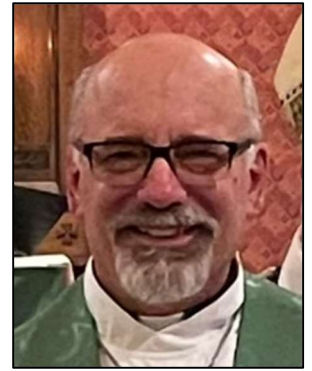


From the **PASTOR**

Grace and peace to you - in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year! To me, the most wonderful thing about celebrating a New Year is that we get to start with a clean slate – a clean palette if you will. The previous year is gone. The new one has arrived.

For my wife Linda, the New Year will start with a new knee. She is having knee replacement surgery January 24th. Please pray that all goes well with her surgery and that she gets the care she deserves and needs from her caregiver (me) while she recovers.



Here in 2024, I pray that we enter into this year with anticipation for what God has in store for us. We are blessed to be placed into a community with the privilege to reflect the love and goodness that Jesus shares with us. Elias Lutheran Church has a long and rich history of reaching beyond the four walls of the sanctuary and out to our neighbors. I lovingly refer to this reaching out as being the hands and feet of Christ. I give thanks to God for the many servant leaders of this church. It is in your serving that you bear witness to Jesus Christ and reflect his love.

As we say goodbye to the Season of Epiphany and say hello to Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season, I have something to ask of you. For many, the forty days of Lent is a time of spiritual self-reflection and preparation for Easter Sunday and the celebration of our risen Lord. This Lent, I am asking you to partner with me in praying for God's vision for Elias and God's vision for you in 2024.

In Revelation 21:5 Jesus says "*Behold, I make all things new.*" I believe that this is a call to face the world with optimism. I am optimistic and trusting that there are better days ahead of us and that God will continue to bless us as we strive to love our neighbors as ourselves, to take care of the poor, and to take care of each other.

May we continue in the New Year to be receptive to new things, and may God continue to bless you with the gifts of faith, hope and love.

In Christ,

- Pastor Joe

HOLY WEEK



AT ELIAS

Palm Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 AM

The Passion of Christ, with holy communion. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children after the service.

Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 PM

Jesus showed us the supreme example of humility: if the Master willingly served his disciples as a servant, how much more should we serve one another in the Body of Christ? Holy Communion is served, then the altar is stripped of its decorative artifacts, a sign of our Lord's humiliation and suffering.

Good Friday – Service of Tenebrae, March 29 at 7:00 PM

Through the Holy Scriptures we learn of the prophesied plan of Salvation – that “One man should die in place of all.” Jesus fulfills what was spoken by the Prophets. “He was bruised for our iniquities, and...by His stripes (from lashings) we are healed. The service takes us from light into the darkness, abandonment and death of Jesus upon the Cross.

Sunrise Service at The National Shrine Grotto of Lourds Chapel, March 31 at 6:30 AM

Come and join the ecumenical gathering sponsored by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches. Service filled with singing, including the Emmitsburg Community Chorus.

ELIAS EASTER SERVICE "He Is Risen!" March 31 at 10:30 AM

We celebrate our Lord's Rising from the dead! Let us Rejoice and Be Glad for the announcement that Jesus is no longer dead – but “HE IS ALIVE!HE IS RISEN!”

Coming Events

Yard Sale/Soup 'n' Sandwich Sale

The next yard sale/bake sale/soup 'n' sandwich sale will be held on March 14, 15, and 16. Hours are from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM each day.

Donations for the yard sale can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings, or at other times by contacting Connie Fisher. Please, no electronics, no large furniture, and no cribs, strollers, or car seats. (A complete list of items accepted and not accepted appears on page 7.) If you would like to help with the yard sale or donate items for the bake sale, please contact Connie.

The soup 'n' sandwich sale will feature homemade soups by the quart, plus chicken salad, ham salad, and ham-and-cheese sandwiches. If you would like to help with the soup 'n' sandwich sale, please contact Deb Zimmerman.

Prayer Hotline

For anonymous prayer support, call the Mother Seton Prayer Line: 866-202-4934.

Food 4 Kids

Food 4 Kids is available on the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9:30 AM - 12 noon, in the big Sunday School room. You may get a FREE bag of food consisting of 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 snacks and 4 drinks for each child up to 18 years old. Please share this information with anyone you think would benefit from this program. See Connie Fisher if you have questions.

W/ELCA

The ladies will meet on February 20 and March 19 in the dining room. Bible study begins at 10:15, followed by a luncheon at 11:30 and then Bingo. Please bring a friend, your Bible if coming to the Bible study, and a prize for Bingo.

Ash Wednesday

February 14 is not only St. Valentine's Day (listen up, gentlemen!) but it is also Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate the beginning of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes at the regular Wednesday morning service at 9:30 AM, and also at a special service beginning at 7:00 PM. Please join us for the beginning of the forty days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.



Corner

Council On January 28 we held our annual congregation meeting and election of Congregation Council members. Deb Zimmerman was re-elected to the council for her third term, and Jeff Davis and Renata Provance were elected to their first terms. Thanks to all three for volunteering to serve Elias in this important function. Thanks also to Judy Manahan, who stepped down after eight years on the council.

We also approved the expense budget for 2024, and tried to elect members of the nominating committee for next year's election. Our constitution states that the nominating committee shall consist of the council members whose terms are expiring, plus at least two members elected from the congregation at large. Unfortunately, no one volunteered for this position. Hopefully someone will step up by next fall when the nomination process begins. (Hint: it's a good way to keep yourself from being nominated for the council!)

Frank Schmearsal

Council for 2024: Jeff Davis, Nina Dolly, Bob Hampson, Matt Provance, Renata Provance, Cindy Rohrbaugh, Nita Shank, Shaun Shriner, Deb Zimmerman

Called to *Serve*

HEAD DEACONS

February – TBA

March – TBA

ALTAR CHAIRPERSONS

February – Harriet Buhrman

March – Renata Provance

LECTORS

February 4 – Deb Zimmerman

February 11 – Nina Dolly

February 18 – Paul Harner

February 25 – Matt Provance

March 3 – Renata Provance

March 10 – Frank Schmearsal

March 17 – Nita Shank

March 24 – Deb Zimmerman

March 31 – Nina Dolly

April 7 – Paul Harner

Of Valentines and Kitties

With February comes Valentine's Day, the day when most people get and give cards and one, five, or ten-pound boxes of candy. However, that's also the time when I got one of my black kitties with a white spot on her chest. I named her Lady Sunshine, as she had a regal air about her. Lady Sunshine and I are about the same age now. She is 18 years old, and that is really, really old in cat years. Well, I have just decided that I am not going to think of my age in cat years.

Speaking of age, my mother used peoples' pet dogs to help her to decide upon her age at that moment. She was always younger if the askers had their very helpful, wonderful, dedicated, much-loved Seeing Eye Dog along. God gives us these marvelous pets for different reasons.

I remember that my student, Carlos, also had a black and white pet. His Great Uncle Calvin had given it to him. However, my pet had a white spot on it, and Carlos' pet had a white stripe that went all the way down its back. "No, Carlos!" I almost screamed when he asked, "You may not bring your hamster to school!"

Anyway, Lady Sunshine is one of the 19 kitties I have had in my home over the years. They have all had their rooms in the three floors of my home, and the only fighting has happened when I have had to stop a kitty from trying to eat my dinner – never my breakfast! I love all my kitties, perhaps some more than others. (I'm sorry about that, God.) When I lose a kitty, it is a very sad time for me, but it has helped me to create a Kitty Hospice at my local veterinarian's. Invariably God helps me through difficult times, as He usually sends one or two stray kitties to my home! I love kitties, and people have called me the Cat Lady. I have an idea as to what people might call me if I loved trees – such as walnuts, Brazil nuts, and chestnuts!! You guessed it: they would say I'm nuts! That's all right. God gives us all different things to love, even ourselves!

Mary-Elizabeth Buckham

Elias Yard Sale

Items Accepted

Clothing (adult & children)
Shoes & boots (adult & children)
Jewelry, accessories
Handbags, purses
Curtains, bedspreads, linens, blankets,
Rugs
Small furniture
NEW hygiene items
Housewares, collectibles
Arts & crafts supplies
Sports memorabilia
Collectibles & antiques
Small tools

Items NOT Accepted

Beds, bedframes
Mattresses, air mattresses
Anything political
Guns, ammunition.
Anything hazardous or flammable
Hardwired electrical items
Baby cribs, strollers, car seats, bouncers
large, heavy furniture
Medical equipment & supplies
Typewriters, computers, printers, fax
machines

On the Lighter Side:



Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report

Facts and Figures



Attendance	2024
Total Sunday attendance through Jan. 28, 2024	80
Average Sunday attendance (3 services)	27
Total Wednesday attendance through Jan. 24, 2024	25
Average Wednesday attendance (3 services)	9
Average weekly attendance	36

Pastor Joe's Schedule

Pastor Joe's schedule is as follows:

Monday – Elias home visits

Tuesday – at St. John, Thurmont

Wednesday – at Elias, Emmitsburg

Thursday – at Elias or working from home

Friday – off

Saturday – sermon preparation (at home)

Sunday – services at St. John and Elias, then off

He can be reached by the church phone at 301-447-6239, by his cell phone at 443-255-5229, or by email at jherb1@yahoo.com.

Deadline for the April/May issue is
Sunday, March 17

Elias Communicator

is a bi-monthly newsletter of
Elias Lutheran Church.

Services: **Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.**
Sunday School – 11:45 a.m.
Wednesday Worship – 9:30 a.m.

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

We are located at
100 West North Ave.,
(P.O. Box 465)
Emmitsburg, MD
(301) 447 – 6239

E-mail: eliasluth@gmail.com

Website: www.eliaslutheranchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Joe Herb



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:

Elwood Carney, Baby Cohen, Brenda George, Linda Herb, Monroe Hewitt, Fred Hoff, Joe Krenisky, Grant Lambert, Hayden McKenny, Greg Reaver, Helen and Ed Reaver, Mary Rohrbaugh, Donna Sanders, Julie Sweeney, Taylor Wiles, Dustin Winfield, and Sharon Winfield.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Nancy Andrew, Erma Bechtol, Alan Brauer, Harriet Buhrman, Brent Cluster, Rex Davis, Annie Eyler, Rosie Eyler, Dani Fink, Dick Fisher, Bev Frushour, Bob Frushour, Kathe Givler, Judy Hale, Paul Hoffman, Betty Leatherman, Dave Little, Dolly Long, Bobby Moser, Ronda Buhrman Olsen, Matthew (Pete) Shank, Linda Shields, Diane Shockey, Ernie Shriver, Kenny Slick, Richard Smith, and John Wilhelm.

For those serving in the Military:

Logan Councillor, Jacob Fannin, Jimmy Hoffman, Nathan Jeffcoat, Noretta Kime, Lucas Mort, Austin Schaeffer, Ashley Shank, Gretal Shank, Kevin Shank, Sally Shank, Sam Shank, and Kailey Williams.



Prayer shawls and blankets are available!

If you know anyone, on this prayer list or not, who would benefit from a prayer shawl or prayer blanket, please contact Deb Zimmerman (717-334-8318).

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Altar Committee – Harriet Buhrman Head Deacon - TBA				1	2	3
					8:00 pm – AA	8:00 pm – AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Deb Zimmerman 11:45 – Sunday School		CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm	9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA		8:00 pm – AA	8:00 pm – AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Nina Dolly 11:45 – Sunday School			ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am – Holy Communion 7:00 pm – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA		8:00 pm – AA	8:00 pm – AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Paul Harner 11:45 – Sunday School		10:15 am – Ladies’ Bible study, lunch, and Bingo	9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA		8:00 pm – AA	8:00 pm – AA
25	26	27	28	29		
10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Matt Provance 11:45 – Sunday School			9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA			

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Altar Committee – Renata Provance Head Deacon - TBA					1 8:00 pm – AA	2 8:00 pm – AA
3 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Renata Provance 11:45 – Sunday School	4	5 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm	6 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	7	8 8:00 pm – AA	9 8:00 pm – AA
10 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Frank Schmersal 11:45 – Sunday School	11	12	13 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	14 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Yard Sale, Soup’n’ Sandwich Sale	15 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Yard Sale, Soup’n’ Sandwich Sale 8:00 pm – AA	16 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Yard Sale, Soup’n’ Sandwich Sale 8:00 pm – AA
17 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Nita Shank 11:45 – Sunday School <i>Communicator</i> deadline	18	19 10:15 am – Ladies’ Bible study, lunch, and Bingo	20 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm – Holy Communion	22 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 pm – Office of Tenebrae 8:00 pm – AA	23 8:00 pm – AA
24 PALM SUNDAY 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Deb Zimmerman 11:45 – Sunday School	25	26	27 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	28	29 8:00 pm – AA	30 8:00 pm – AA
31 EASTER 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Nina Dolly 11:45 – Sunday School						



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

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Elías Communicator
P.O. Box 465
Emmitsburg, MD 21727