

ELIAS COMMUNICATOR

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

April/May 2024



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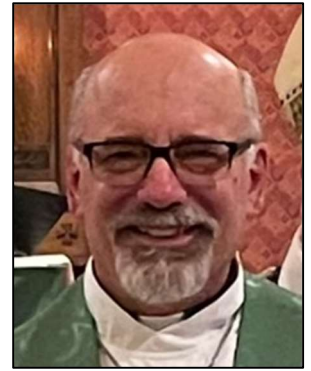
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From the **PASTOR**

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

One of my favorite things to do is to sit with what I call the “Seasoned Saints” of Elias and listen to the stories about the history of the church. As a history buff myself, I’ve always enjoyed a good tale about what life was like back in the day. I especially appreciate the stories about Elias’s rich history and the days when the pews were so full that folding chairs had to be placed in the aisles to accommodate worshippers.



I’m not one to use the word “never,” especially when it relates to the church, but the days of putting folding chairs in the aisles may be over. Unfortunately, the world has changed and it seems that gathering for church services is no longer a priority for many families. So, where does that leave us? It’s no secret that our attendance is not what it used to be. And, in all honesty, our attendance is not what it should be. I’m not pointing fingers. I’m just stating the obvious. And I can promise you that even though our numbers on Sunday mornings are not what I would like to see, I’m as enthusiastic as I was the very first Sunday morning I walked into Elias as your pastor.

My enthusiasm comes from God’s word – specifically from the Book of Zechariah. Chapter four describes the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem and the impatience of the Jewish people regarding how long it is taking to rebuild it. God gives the writer of Zechariah a vision in chapter four to address those that were impatient. The Message Bible sums this up perfectly *“Does anyone dare despise this day of small beginnings? They’ll change their tune when they see Zerubbabel setting the last stone in place!”* This verse discourages despising small beginnings and anticipates the joy of the completed task of building the Temple.

My siblings in Christ, our attendance did not reduce overnight and it will not increase overnight. However, be encouraged that God has called us for such a time as this to stay true to the mission of this church: *“Called by Christ, we live our faith in Word and Deed.”* I truly believe that we are at the very beginning of something very special in the life of this congregation. My prayer is that we keep moving forward, trusting that God is guiding us and walking with us while turning small beginnings into something bigger for His Glory!

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

Ascension Day

We will celebrate the Ascension of the Risen Lord on Thursday, May 9, with a service beginning at 7:00 PM.

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 April 16 and May 21 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.

Yard Sale/Soup 'n' Sandwich Sale

The Spring yard sale/soup 'n' sandwich sale was a great success, with preliminary receipts of \$2292.50 for the yard sale, \$597 for the bake sale, and 1531.05 for the soup 'n' sandwich sale. (Where did that five cents come from?) for a preliminary grand total of \$4420.55! This does not take into account sales after Saturday, March 16. As always, a great deal of thanks is due to Connie Fisher and her yard sale helpers, Deb Zimmerman and her soup 'n' sandwich sale helpers, and the folks who baked items for the bake sale.

The next sale will be sometime in July or August; exact dates have not been set. It's not too soon to begin setting aside items to be brought in for the sale, but give Connie and her helpers a little time to recover before you start bring things in, please!

Corner

Council At the March council meeting we looked to address the somewhat overwhelming list of 14 different committees that have previously been defined for us at Elias. Very few are actually in the constitution and a limited quantity of the 14 are even functional. It became quickly evident that we didn't even actually know what most of them were supposed to be doing. In April, after some brief education by email, we will resume the discussion and be looking at combining committees and creating a better support network for a long-term growth pattern to develop for the congregation.

Moving forward, we would like to encourage the congregation to follow our lead in redeveloping the social community of Elias to better support not only the congregation but also the leadership of the church in new and innovative ways or even just putting the best practices back in place. An ongoing theme for the coming months will be making changes to provide a better foundation for future growth and not stagnating on how it has always been done. We would be delighted to hear ideas on how to better accommodate busy lifestyles to create new involvement with the community of Elias and to take the life of our church beyond its physical walls.

Renata Provance
Council President

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

President: Renata Provance

Vice-president: Cindy Rohrbaugh

Secretary: Deb Zimmerman

Treasurer: Cortney Wiles

Springtime in Zora

Doctors! Doctors! Doctors! I drink lots of water, and I eat lots of fiber, fruits, cheese, etc., but my doctor always finds something wrong with me!!! This time I have carpal tunnel in both hands, of course.

My very good friend, Connie Fisher, said that she would be happy to take me for my surgery. Perhaps it was I who added the word happy. Anyway, Connie took me, and my left hand was “fixed.” I could still remember what all I went through to have this local surgery done without anesthesia, so when my right hand was ready a month later, I was *not* ready. However, my appointment had been set up, so I merely had to find out if Connie would be happy to take me again. She wasn’t!! Connie had to take her husband, Dick, to the doctor’s for Cataract Surgery. My problems began and began and began.

Firstly, the driver that Connie found to replace her could not go at the last minute, because her son had to be hospitalized. Luckily, Pastor Joe volunteered to drive me, but he lived an hour away from me. This would be a two-hour trip for him, so it was really, really nice of him to volunteer.

Then I watched the Weather Channel. I always do that whenever I must leave home, and what to my shining eyes should appear, but a gigantic storm was coming. It was to hit us on my surgery day! Flooding was possible in the area we were going to. I immediately thought, “Is God warning me not to go?” It certainly seemed that way, and besides, my right hand did not ever hurt.

Finally, when the nursing staff called me the night before the surgery to give me my really, really early arrival time, rather than the 9:15 a.m. time I was expecting, I knew that God was most definitely telling me not to go. Besides the fact that Pastor Joe would have to eat his Pop Tarts in the dark, I would have to feed the deer, squirrels, birds, chipmunks, groundhogs, etc., in the dark, too, and I would not be able to see if The Three Bears had come out of the woods. (Actually, if I were a blonde, I might feel like Goldilocks.) The bears would also be coming out to eat - - - maybe me (Mary-Elizabeth)!

Difficulties kept coming and coming, and I just knew that God was desperately trying to tell me not to go. I canceled my appointment!! Later, when my left hand continued to hurt, I realized that I would have had an extremely difficult time doing any kind of jobs, if I would have had my right hand “fixed” too. I need to do things such as pulling weeds from the flower beds, especially since June is busing out all over! Thank you, God, for having me wait for my second surgery, and I think that You do not like to have weeds growing among the flowers either. I am sorry, God that you had such a difficult time with me. Sometimes, God. I just do not heed Your warnings, but I will try to do much better. I feel we all will!

Mary-Elizabeth Buckham

Called to *Serve*

HEAD DEACONS

April – Cindy Rohrbaugh

May – Shaun Shriner

ALTAR CHAIRPERSONS

April – Judy Manahan

May – Nita Shank

LECTORS

April 7 – Paul Harner

April 14 – Matt Provance

April 21 – Renata Provance

April 28 – Frank Schmersal

May 5 – Nita Shank

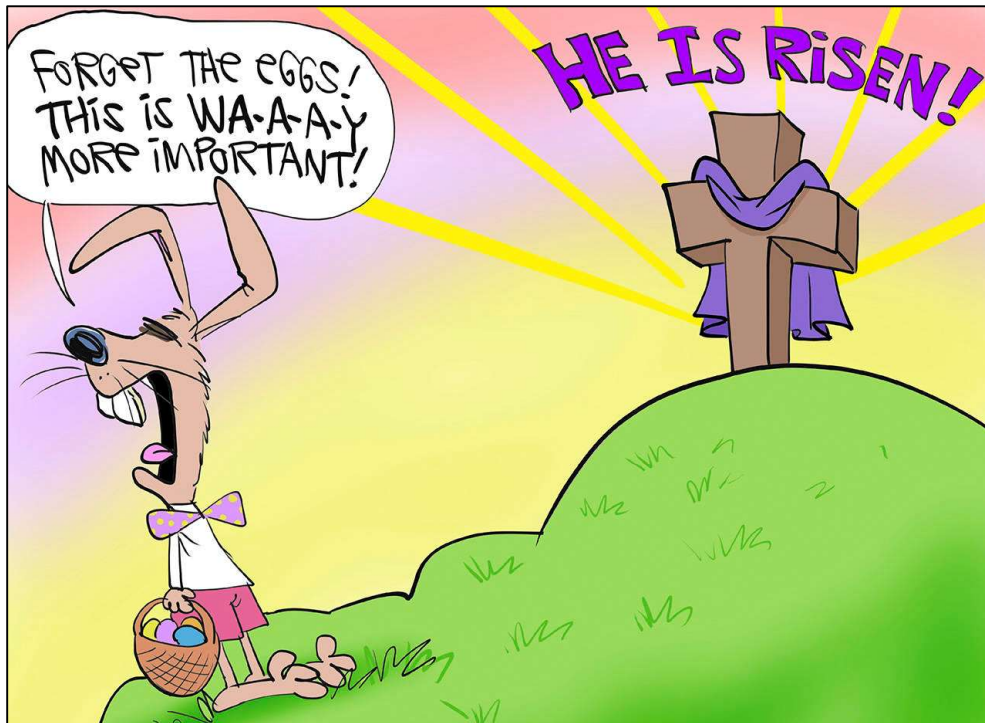
May 12 – Deb Zimmerman

May 19 – Nina Dolly

May 26 – Paul Harner

June 2 – Matt Provance

On the Lighter Side:



Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report

Facts and Figures



Attendance	2024
Total Sunday attendance through March 17, 2024	305
Average Sunday attendance (10 services)	31
Total Wednesday attendance through March 20, 2024	89
Average Wednesday attendance (9 services)	10
Average weekly attendance	41

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 June/July issue is
Sunday, May 19

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:

Cheryl Grimes, Bobby Harne, Linda Herb, Monroe Hewitt, Fred Hoff, Joe Krenisky, Grant Lambert, Annabelle Moffett, 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, Bob Hampson, Paul Hoffman, Betty Leatherman, Dave Little, Dolly Long, Bobby Moser, Ronda Buhrman Olsen, Helen Reaver, 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, Greta 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).

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm	3 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	4	5 8:00 pm – AA	6 8:00 pm – AA
7 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Paul Harner 11:45 – Sunday School	8	9	10 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	11	12 8:00 pm – AA	13 8:00 pm – AA
14 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Matthew Provance 11:45 – Sunday School	15	16 10:15 am – Ladies’ Bible study, lunch, and Bingo	17 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	18	19 8:00 pm – AA	20 8:00 pm – AA
21 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Renata Provance 11:45 – Sunday School	22	23	24 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	25	26 8:00 pm – AA	27 8:00 pm – AA
28 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Frank Schmersal 11:45 – Sunday School	29	30				

May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	2	3 8:00 pm – AA	4 8:00 pm – AA
5 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Nita Shank 11:45 – Sunday School	6	7 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm	8 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	9 Ascension Day 7:00 pm – Holy Communion	10 8:00 pm – AA	11 8:00 pm – AA
12 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Deb Zimmerman 11:45 – Sunday School	13	14	15 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	16	17 8:00 pm – AA	18 8:00 pm – AA
19 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Nina Dolly 11:45 – Sunday School	20	21 10:15 am – Ladies’ Bible study, lunch, and Bingo	22 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	23	24 8:00 pm – AA	25 8:00 pm – AA
26 10:30 – Holy Communion Lector: Paul Harner 11:45 – Sunday School	27	28	29 9:30 am – Holy Communion 8:00 pm – AA	30	31 8:00 pm – AA	



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