

April 2025

The “Good News” Letter

St. John's Lutheran Church

203 W. South St., PO BOX 786

McComb, Ohio 45858-0786



Established 1865

419-293-3445

sjlcmmccomb@gmail.com

Worship 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

2025: Year of Listening!

THE 'GOOD NEWS' LETTER

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2025



A MESSAGE FROM SAM PAUL BROOKS

Spring..... Here we are full of anticipation and expectation. Spring, My mind works some different than many, so when I think of spring I see a coiled steel device. I see a flat piece in a vee that is wide at one end and very narrow at the other that can be pressed down. Both of these when compressed, sit waiting, in anticipation, in stillness, ready to burst forth with their stored energy. The release of all that energy causes an action, a motion. And you wonder where in the world is he going with this?

I love trees, almost all of them and in very early spring I really like sugar maples. They too are like a spring, in the spring, with all that stored energy in their roots. When the sun shines brightly during the day and it dips below freezing at night, their energy is released, the sap flows and can be collected. Maple syrup holds a special place in my heart. The tree just stands there, waiting patiently for its maker to signal another cycle, it is still. The bounty of the land and all it holds always amazes me, its just there. Kinda like gods love, its just there.

As we find ourselves in another season of spring, another season of lent, another season of stored energy waiting to burst forth on to the landscape, What will be the result of our released energy? What work will it do? Will it be Gods will or ours? Will it be for lasting results or of a more temporal nature. Can we be still and listen for Gods breath to signal us to burst forth with our stored energy and spread Gods love to everyone and everything we come in contact with? Wanna talk more about this or any other concerns you may have, give me a call and we can arrange a time, to tap into your sap and bring forth the sweet syrup that lies within us all.





ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
March 12, 2025

Members Present: David Sharninghouse, Jerry McCullough, Carol Cary, Michele Robles, Carol Yeager and Linda Ross.

Devotions: Led by Carol Cary on silence leading to being a better listener. Jerry will lead April 9 devotions.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and discussed. Carol Y moved and Jerry seconded to accept this report. All agreed and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and discussed. Jerry moved and Michele seconded to accept this report. All agreed and motion passed.

Old Business: Carol C did verify our snow removal agreement with Lovell's that they will do so in our parking lot when it snows 2 in. or more. They will be doing it on early Sunday mornings. They will bill us annually.

2) Plans for 2025 Adult Vacation Bible School (AVBS) were discussed. SAM Paul Brooks was excited to lead a program for us on a topic he is developing. Possible date discussed was July 6-10, Sunday through Thursday from 6 pm-8 pm. Further plans will be decided soon. Linda shared local offerings for the community enrichment section that she has researched.

3) Easter Breakfast is scheduled April 20th after the 8 am church service. The menu is as listed: Breakfast casserole, sausage gravy and biscuits, coffee, milk, juices, fruit, cereal, jelly beans, and donuts, all to be served on paper products. All are welcomed to share food and fellowship. A free will offering will be collected.

4) Our congregation baked 70 dozen chocolate chip cookies to donate to the Kairos Prison Ministry effort that Robin Kershner supports. He was notified of these being prepared for that weekend event.

New Business: Carol C reports she did send our Congregational Annual Report required by Synod.

2) Linda shares information from the Tuesday Staff meeting that there is a contract being formed for SAM Paul Brooks to serve as our leader for 1 year. David will review this when he receives it and then sign it as long as we all agree on the contents.

Council Minutes cont'd

3) Holy Week church services are being formed. SAM Paul suggested having one service at St. Luke's on Maundy Thursday but including a second part for Good Friday in that service. Many St. John council members wanted a Maundy Thursday service at our church. This will be requested in a conversation with SAM Paul. Carol C. will reach out to see if a Community Good Friday Service is planned.


Carol C. moved and Carol Y. seconded to adjourn the meeting. All agreed and motion passed. The meeting closed by all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Ross, Secretary

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SAM (Synod Approved Minister)

We have had the blessing of a couple of SAMs (Synod Approved Ministers) during our search for a pastor. These lay people have taken training and classes and have been given the right to do baptisms, funerals, communion, and weddings, even though they are not ordained ministers. Paul Brooks recently was recognized as a SAM and is coming to St. Luke's and St. John's under a yearlong contract that was approved by both Church Councils. His contract was approved during the March Council meeting. Not only will he be preaching 3 of 4 Sundays each month, he will also be ministering to the sick, having office hours to meet with members, and creating Bible Studies and other church activities. On the 3rd Sunday of each month when Paul is away, Ken Pollitz, an interim part-time minister at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in BG, will fill in. We are pleased to officially welcome Paul as our SAM at a special service which is being scheduled. Having a SAM does not mean that we are not still looking for a Pastor. The Call Committee is still waiting for the right candidate but we are pleased that Paul Brooks has been sent to us.



Easter says you can put truth in a
grave, but it won't stay there.
~Clarence W. Hall

In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Mary Shroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers, Bobby, Ari, and Josh. Pray also for the victim of natural disasters, our shut-ins, all who grieve and all others with special needs.



Christ In Our Home devotionals for the months of April, May and June are available at the back of the church. Pick up your copy for a daily picker-upper!

Food Pantry Update: There will be at least 40 happy families with cake as their Easter dinner dessert! Thank you for your donations!! Also brought in were 20+ cans of frosting, cookie mixes and 10 other assorted food items for CHOPIN Hall and the Blessing Basket at St. John's, Findlay. Request for the month of April are canned fruit and vegetables. Thank you again for helping these two groups serve the people in Hancock County.



OPERATION TRASH BASH!

WHO: All residents of McComb

WHAT: A FREE opportunity to dispose of your junk, trash, mattresses, couches, etc. You may drop your items off anytime at the listed dumpster locations. For those who need an extra hand or have no way to haul your trash/junk we will be offering free pick-up on May 2 and May 3. To schedule pick-up, please contact the Village Office at 419-293-4300 on or before April 11.

WHEN: April 18-May 3, 2025

WHERE: Three dumpsters will be located throughout the Village

- Parking lot in front of pool
- VFW parking lot by Panther Pizza
- Village Garage – 444 Maple Street

WHY: Now is the time to make McComb shine!!!

*** Chance to win some **CASH** for cleaning up your **TRASH!** ***

Submit a before and after clean-up picture to the Village Office.

1st- \$100, 2nd- \$75, 3rd- \$50.

Grant funding provided by Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation



EASTER OPPORTUNITIES



Palm Sunday Worship

April 13 at 8:00 am

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Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17 at 5:00 pm

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Community Good Friday Worship

April 18 at 7:00pm

McComb United Methodist Church

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Easter Sunday Worship

April 20 at 8:00 am

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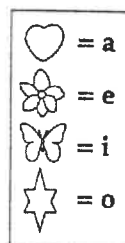


Easter Breakfast following Worship

Christ is risen! Smile!

Jesus' Prayer

While he was hanging on the cross, Jesus prayed to God. Use this symbol key to fill in the missing letters in the message.



F_th_r f_rg v_th_m; f_r th_y d_
 n_t kn_w wh_t th_y r_d_ng.

Luke 23:34

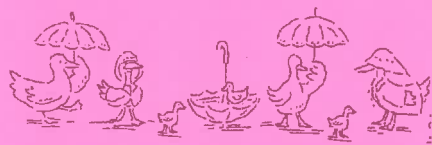
Answer: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

April Birthdays

8 – Paul Maki
12 – Matt Johns
22 – Heidi Lyn McDaniel

April Anniversary

30 – David and Carol Cary



God's Helpers for April:

Readers:

April 6 – Dave Sharninghouse
April 13 – Lori McDaniel
April 17 – Carol Cary
April 20 – Linda Ross
April 27 – Carol Cary

Altar Care:

Lori McDaniel

Be faithful in small things because it
is in them that your strength lies.

-Mother Theresa

The day the Lord created hope was
probably the same day he created
spring.

-Bern Williams

We live and die; Christ died and lived!

-John Stott

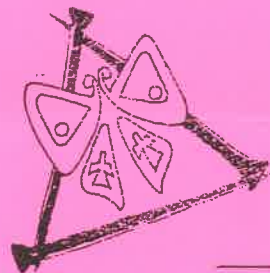
The Resurrection of Jesus is a fact of
history that demands a response of
faith.

Calendar of Events

April 8 – Lions Dinner @6:30 pm
April 9 – Church Council Mtg @ 5 pm
April 13 – PALM SUNDAY
April 17 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
Service @ 5 pm
April 18 – GOOD FRIDAY, Service
7 pm at UMethodist
April 20 – EASTER SUNDAY –
HE IS RISEN!
April 22 – Earth Day
April 24 – Newsletter Deadline

Looking Ahead:

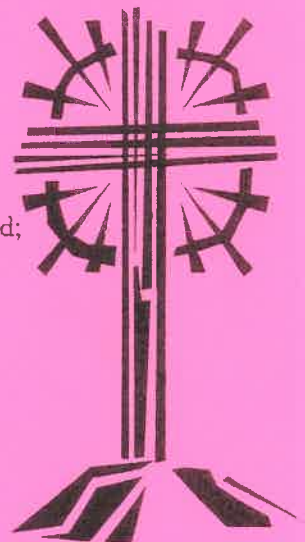
May 1 – National Day of Prayer
May 3 – Women of ELCA Gathering



A prayer for Easter

Lord,

Thank you for spending 33 years with us:
for announcing Love
from the high heavens;
for introducing Love in an
obscure manger setting;
for living Love in a family
framework;
for sharing Love with the poor
and deprived and diseased;
for showing Love to the
unlovable and unloving;
for letting little children
feel Love in your arms;
for suffering on a cross
because of Love;
for loosing Love upon the
world to take up
residence in us;
for your Love that will
not let us go. Amen.



—Forrest Nees