

**31. NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS** are urgently needed in June. Do you love the game of golf, or doing something meaningful with a group of friends? NHCO urgently needs volunteers to register to help in our assigned concessions tent at the Men's US Open golf tournament, June 13-19, at Oakmont Country Club. The Open donates funds for each NHCO volunteer hour served. This is a huge fundraising opportunity for us, but we need your help! Before or after finishing your eight-hour shift in the Open's only air-conditioned concessions tent, you can watch golf's greatest athletes in action. Please contact Harriet with questions at [hzigbbs@nhco.org](mailto:hzigbbs@nhco.org) or 412-408-3830 x 3204. Or register directly at [volunteerspot.com/login/entry/679052588051](http://volunteerspot.com/login/entry/679052588051)  
*Please note: This opportunity involves a considerable amount of standing and walking. Volunteers 17 & younger must be accompanied by a volunteer 18 or older.*

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE 3-27-16**

**TODAY** (3-27-16) 7:00 AM – Worship Service – CH  
8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA  
9:45 AM – Sunday School

**MONDAY** Church Office Closed for Easter Monday  
2:00 PM – Boy Scout Hoagie Pick Up – KIT  
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act One – CE  
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts – FH

**TUESDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting – KL  
1:00 PM – Caring Hands – FH  
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Act One – CE  
6:30 PM – Weigh to Lose

**WEDNESDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Jr. High Girls' Bible Study @Harbaughs

**THURSDAY** 7:00 AM – Men's Bible Study – PS  
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Women's Bible Study – YH  
6:00 PM – 7:15 PM – Praise Team – SA  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Movie Night – YH  
7:00 PM – Bear Den 157 – TR

**FRIDAY** 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Preschool – CE  
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Mom & Me – PR, TR  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Den 8 Wolf Cub Scouts – PR  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Cadet Girl Scouts – PR

**SATURDAY** 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – CLC – FH  
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Act One – CE

**SUNDAY** (4-3-16) 8:30 AM & 11:10 AM – Worship Services – SA  
9:45 AM – Sunday School  
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM – Inquirers' Class – PR  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Cantata Rehearsal – All Parts – SA  
3:00 PM - Mark Spondike's Students Recital – UGR  
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – God and Life  
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – Jr. High Club – YH  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Sr. High Club – YH  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – God and Church

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

**THE ELDER OF THE WEEK** is Ann Ritter.

**HEARING ENHANCING EQUIPMENT:** If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please let one of the ushers know prior to the service, and you'll be given a hearing enhancer to use during the service.

**8:30 AM USHERS**

Paul Braddock  
Max Smith  
Kim Szymoniak  
Bob Szymoniak  
Ron Tiedeman

**11:10 AM USHERS**

Mel Stoker  
Jennifer Muszynski  
Janell Haygood  
Patti Zahnhausen  
Dorothy Thompson

**SOUND TECHNICIANS**

8:30 AM – Marge Cain  
11:10 AM – Jerry Nist

**UPCOMING SERVICE**

Sunday, April 3, 2016  
Dr. Dirk Lesnett preaching

**CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY**

**Birth – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

*For more information on these ministries, please contact Emily Cooper, Director of Children and Family Ministries at: [emily@elfinwildchurch.org](mailto:emily@elfinwildchurch.org) or call 412-486-5400*

**1. CRADLE ROLL ROOM FOR AGES BIRTH THROUGH**

**2 1/2.** The Cradle Roll room is located past the church offices and choir room. The **TODDLER/PRESCHOOL ROOM** is open during the Sunday School time and the 11:10 worship hour. This is a class for children who are 2 ½ to 4yrs. of age.

**2. SUNDAY SCHOOL** –Our classes will begin at 9:45 and end at 10:45 AM.

Children 4 years old (Pre-K) through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet in the GREEN room of the C.E. for Kids of the Kingdom Music to start class at 9:45. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> will meet in their classrooms.

**3. YOUNG CHILD IN WORSHIP** – For ages Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade during the

11:10 service. This week's lesson will be *Easter- Jesus is Risen* and will be taught by Linda Barto, Barb Harms, Nicole Graco and Carolyn Hervey.

**4. CALLING ALL KIDS—Grades 3-5! M&ms: Messiah & me Youth Group**

Get ready for fun, games, growing and serving in Jesus Christ. Join the fun! On Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will have a movie night at the Youth House from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

**MUSIC MINISTRIES**

*For more information on these ministries, please contact Ron Bernhardt at [ron@elfinwildchurch.org](mailto:ron@elfinwildchurch.org) or call 412-486-5400.*

**6. CHANCEL CHOIR** will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM and is open to anyone high school age and older.

**7. PRAISE TEAM** will meet on Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM. If you play an instrument or sing, please help us to lead the congregation in songs of praise at least 2-3 times per month.

**Please use this form to register for church events. After filling it out, you may tear it off and place into the offering plate. Thank you!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Registrants: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

**8. HANDBELLS** will meet on Tuesdays from 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Join us in ringing God's praises each Tuesday. We will try to ring during worship at least once or twice every month. Open to anyone high school age or older.

**9. KIDS CHOIR** will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM. All kids in grades 1 – 5 are welcome to join us. We will be singing songs, playing hand chimes and krystal bells, playing drums and percussion and much, much more! We will be participating in worship once or twice every month.

**10. SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS** will meet on Sundays from 9:45 AM – 10:00 AM. Kids in pre-k through 2nd grade will learn “Sunday School” songs and share their songs with the congregation on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

**11. CANTATA REHEARSALS** are as follows:

Sunday, Apr. 3 1:00-2:30 All Parts SATB  
Wednesday, Apr. 6 7:00-8:30 All Parts SATB Dress Rehearsal  
Cantata - Sunday, April 10 8:30 & 11:10

### **STUDENT MINISTRIES, Grades 6-12**

*For more information on these ministries, please contact*

*Rev. Jason Rea at*

*jason@elfinwildchurch.org or call 412-486-5400.*

**12. JR. & SR. HIGH CLUB** – Jr. High (grades 6-8) from 4:30 – 6:00 PM and Sr. High (grades 9-12) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Sundays. This club is a wonderful time for fellowship with other students. We play different games, have some good food and spend time in worship and study together.

**13. ELFINWILD CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND** – The Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund annually grants scholarships to students enrolled in a college or other post-high school education program. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of service to the Church, financial need and community service/extracurricular activities. Applications are available in the Church office or from Jason, and the deadline for submission is Friday, April 15, 2016. For information about applying for a scholarship or about making contributions to the Scholarship Fund, please contact Jason or the Church office.

**14. DINNER AND PIE AUCTION: APRIL 9TH!** We are excited to do something new this year for the Pie Auction. Instead of a simple auction we are stepping up our game to include a nice dinner served by our students. We will begin the evening in the Upper Gathering room with hors d'oeuvres and silent auction items. We will then move to Fellowship Hall for a nice meal and then the live portion of our Auction. If you would like to donate an item for the auction please contact Kyle Pinta or Nancy Kriek ASAP. Tickets for this new event will be sold ahead of time during March. Watch for our ticket sale tables in the hall!

**15. JR. AND SR. HIGH SPRING RETREAT TO FAITH RANCH** –

May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Cost: \$65

Join us for our annual spring retreat to Faith Ranch! Both Jr. and Sr. High will travel to Faith Ranch in Ohio for an overnight retreat. We will leave at 5:45 PM on Friday night and return around 9 PM on Saturday night. Activities will include a hayride, horseback riding and a barn dance. The cost includes all meals on Saturday. There won't be a meal on Friday so students should eat prior to leaving although we will have snacks that night. We think this will be another fun and great retreat for all. Spots are limited so you can register by turning in a \$25 deposit to Jason. Registration dead-line will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information about Faith Ranch the facility, you can check out their website: [www.faithranch.org/](http://www.faithranch.org/)

For more information about how the retreat will flow, registration questions or what we will talk about contact Jason. Hope to see you all at the Ranch!

## **ELFINWILD CHURCH NEWS**

**16. 2016 CHANCEL FLOWERS** – Flowers for the Chancel are \$47 per week for two vases, or \$25 per week for a single table arrangement. Please call the church office to place an order or sign up on the flower chart in the back narthex.

**If a table arrangement is desired, you MUST notify the church office prior to the week you have chosen** as the weekly standing flower order is for two vases.

**17. DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER?** Come to the Wednesday Night Prayer Gatherings, where we pray for the needs and concerns of our church family! We meet in our beautiful new chapel on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 7 to 8 PM. Our next gathering will be Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and we will meet again on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We meet regularly to lift up concerns within the church family and for friends of Elfinwild. Please come and share in this powerful ministry! Everyone is welcome to come and join us in prayer or come to submit a prayer request. If you have any questions or would like to request prayer, please call or text Kris Shideler at 412-480-8466.

**18. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – All women are welcome to join a time of Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11AM in the Library. This spring, we will be using the study, "Because you were Made for More" by Jennie Allen. Together we can seek God's direction and encourage one another to be faithful with Him. Contact Bethany with any questions at 724-822-6550.

**19. RECALIBRATING THE CHURCH FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY** –

Sponsored by World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Alan Hirsch will be the keynote speaker. Join with hundreds of other mission leaders in our region to share ideas, encouragement, and connections! Browse through the mission fair to connect with organizations that are participating in God's mission as we are sent into the world. Professional mission leaders will be hosting workshops to equip you for God's mission in your neighborhood and beyond. For more information, call: 412-924-1449.

**20. CARING HANDS** which was scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> has been changed to March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please note the change in the date.

**21. ELFINWILD'S "THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING" DAY** will be on May 15<sup>th</sup>. During that day there will be a variety of activities and service projects that everyone will have the opportunity to sign up for beginning in April. These projects will include but not be limited to, planting flowers, picking up trash, conducting bingo at a local nursing home, child care and providing a meal for all of the volunteers. If anyone knows of any needs in the community, please get in touch with Becky Winek at [rswinek@gmail.com](mailto:rswinek@gmail.com) or (412) 443-3419.

**22. WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP TEA, HOSTED BY THE WOMEN'S**

**MINISTRY TEAM** – Save the Date! April 23, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Tickets are \$8.00. If you would like to host a table or attend, please call the church office.

**23. LIGONIER CAMP HAPPENINGS!** Registration for Summer Camps are open! Head to the mountains for a wonderful time of faith, fun and fellowship! Campers experience the love of Jesus first hand at LCCC! Many camp options are available! <http://www.ligoniercamp.org/summer-camp-registration> There is family camp, too! <http://www.ligoniercamp.org/family-camp-registration> Because camp Scholarships are available, there is a fund raising dinner AT camp!!! Sunday, April 3 from 4-7pm brings a delicious spaghetti dinner! Why not

enjoy a drive to the mountains and a lovely venue for a fun dinner?!!

<http://www.ligoniercamp.org/spaghetti-dinner-information>

Questions? Call the church office!

**24. ELFINWILD HOME MEALS MINISTRY** – The Meals Ministry serves over 70 clients each day with nutritious, well-balanced meals. Volunteers are needed for this important ministry everyday either to assist in the delivery of the meals to our clients or to assist in the preparation of the meals. If you have any time during the hours of 8:30 AM - 12 noon to assist, please contact Marian Berberich at 412-486-8000.

**25. BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY** – The Bread of Life Food Pantry is located at Calvert Memorial Presbyterian Church in Etna, PA. The pantry is open the first three Wednesdays of each month - with stocking of the shelves the 1st three Tuesdays. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with stocking, sorting and assisting our clients with shopping. Bread of Life serves over 120 families each month. If you or any group to which you belong are interested in the outreach ministry of Calvert (supported by Elfinwild and our neighboring churches at Glenshaw, Parkwood, Fox Chapel and Glenshaw Valley), please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Vickey Trader at 412-782-5742 for more information.

**26. INQUIRERS' CLASS** - If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith, what it means to follow Christ, or how to become a member of Elfinwild Presbyterian Church, this class is for you. We will meet for six weeks at 10:00 AM, during the Sunday school hour, in the Peach Room. Classes begin on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. While being present for each session is most helpful, we understand that schedules may not permit your attendance at every session. Please call the church office with any questions. 412-486-5400.

**27. SACRED PARENTING** – What if one of God's intentions for you as a parent isn't about successfully raising perfect children, but about you becoming more holy? When we think of parenting, we often think of how parents form and shape the lives of children. But God often transforms lessons in raising children into opportunities for us, as parents, to grow in the image of Christ. Please join us for 6 weeks beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45 in the library as we talk about how God shapes our souls through parenting.

**28. LITURGISTS WANTED** – If you have any interest in being a liturgist for Sunday morning worship, please call the Church Office.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**29. ATTENTION SENIORS** – The Senior Center North located at Nativity Lutheran Church in Allison Park is looking for seniors to come out and join other seniors looking for fun and companionship Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Come enjoy bingo, crafts, Wii bowling, cards, trips to the grocery store and mall and lunch for a \$1.00 donation. Have a cup of coffee and good conversation. Please call Meg at 412-486-6426 for more information. Hope to see you soon!

**30. ELFINWILD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** is in need of new members. If you're looking for a way to give something back to the community, this is a great opportunity! All training and equipment are provided either in-house or through local fire academies and schools. By making a commitment to the fire service, you can earn a FREE college degree through the FireVest program of the Community College of Allegheny County. For degrees offered or for more details, call 412-931-3158, ext. 5. Stop by the fire hall at 2807 Mt. Royal Blvd. on any Monday evening at 7:30 PM or call Dan at 412-377-5986.

**ELFINWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS**

**SESSION**

Moderator – Dr. Dirk M. Lesnett  
Clerk of Session – Mr. Mark Riethmuller

**2016**

Bethann Dolan  
Steve Heere  
Nancy Kriek  
Bob Lindeman  
Patty Robinson  
Becky Winek

**2017**

Mark Feris  
Amy Meyer  
Dwight Pearson  
Kyle Pinta  
Ann Ritter  
Bob Wegner

**2018**

Wendy Boody  
Kristin Coco  
Mark Connelly  
John Hart  
Bob Siar  
Kelly Simile

**DEACONS**

President – Mr. Ron Park  
Secretary – Mrs. Robyn Smith

**2016**

Linda Barto  
Pat Graham  
Ron Park  
Robyn Smith

**2017**

Jenny Dayton  
Linda Kaiser  
Beth Meyer  
Dr. Jim Thompson  
Patti Zahnhausen

**2018**

Sue Anderson  
Bev Feris  
Bev Friedline  
Dick Friedline  
Dorothy Thompson  
Penny Young

**TRUSTEES**

President – Mr. Bob Anderson  
Secretary – Mr. Jim Giel

**2016**

Bob Anderson  
Janell Haygood  
Pam McKern  
Peggy McNeil

**2017**

Len Colaizzi  
Mike Gaydos  
Jim Giel  
Tim Keenan  
Don Pritchard  
Matt Schlegel  
Bev Weber

**2018**

Doug Boody  
Dorothy Winter  
Steve Coco

**STAFF**

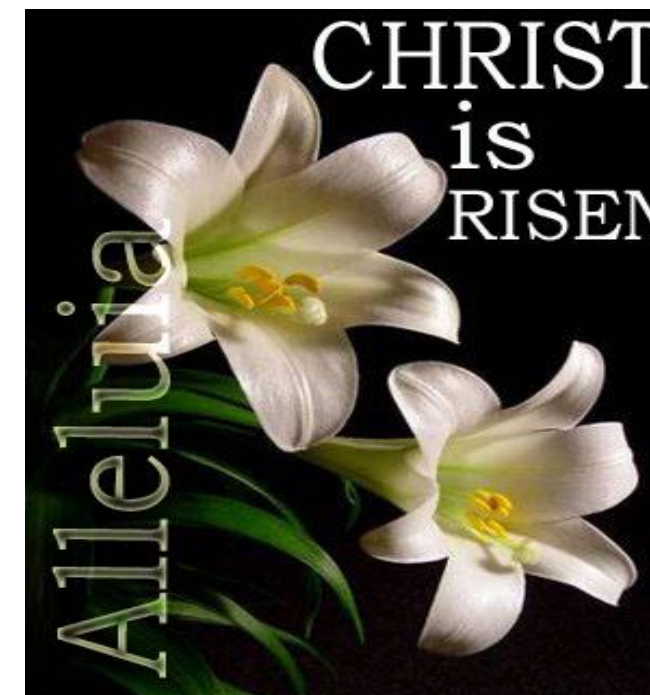
Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett –  
dirk@elfinwildchurch.org  
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Jason Rea –  
jason@elfinwildchurch.org  
Director of Children and Family Ministries: Emily Cooper –  
emily@elfinwildchurch.org  
Director of Music: Ron Bernhardt – ron@elfinwildchurch.org  
Office Manager: Cindy Neil – cindy@elfinwildchurch.org  
Business Manager/Treasurer: Karen Dorsey – karen@elfinwildchurch.org  
Sextons: John Steinmiller, Bob Slahtovsky, Javier Rodriguez, Karl Ringler  
Financial Secretary: Peg McNeil – pmcneil@hatch.ca  
Web Page and CALL Editor: Amanda Gaydos –  
amandaga@consolidated.net  
Parish Associate: The Rev. Bethany Harbaugh –  
harbaugh.bl1@gmail.com

**MINISTRIES**

**Elfinwild Home Meals Ministry**  
Marian Berberich - 412-486-8000

**Elfinwild Church Preschool**  
Carolyn Hervey, Director  
Telephone – 412-486-2322

3200 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania 15116  
Telephone 412-486-5400 Fax 412-486-7080  
Email: epchurch@elfinwildchurch.org



**WELCOME TO  
ELFINWILD  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*We offer a warm welcome to every worshiper,  
and a way to serve for all who are willing.*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
THE LORD'S DAY**

**Easter Sunday**

**March 27, 2016**

**8:30 & 11:10 AM Worship**

*You are invited to use Scripture for reflection  
or the following prayer as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

**“Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll,  
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock  
forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will  
stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my  
flesh will I see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes-I, and not  
another. How my heart yearns within me!” Job 19:23-27**

**PRELUDE**

8:30	“Christ is Risen” Praise Team	Matt Maher
11:10	“Joyful Rhythm” Handbells	Kevin McChesney

Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Financial Statement February 29, 2016		
Actual Tithes & Gifts Given		\$119,405
Total Expenses	(Y.T.D.)	\$130,798
Unfavorable	(Y.T.D.)	-\$11,393

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign the blue Friendship Pad in the pew near the center aisle.

INTROIT

11:10 "Let All the People Say Amen" Pepper Choplin  
Chancel Choir  
Eric Dudgeon, percussion

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Peter 1:3-5

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
People: **He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.**  
Leader: God has claimed us as his own.  
People: **He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.**  
Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 123 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

(11:10) ANTHEM "We Believe" John Purifoy  
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Colossians 2:13-15

Leader: When you were dead in trespasses, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our debts, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.  
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

8:30 "Because He Lives" Matt Maher  
Praise Team  
11:10 "Empty Now" Joseph M. Martin  
Chancel Choir

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him all creatures here below!  
Oh praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
Oh sing we Alleluia! O sing we Alleluia! Alleluia!.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 24:1-12  
(page 989 in the pew Bible)

SERMON "The Wonder of the Empty Tomb" Dr. Dirk Lesnett

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Words of Invitation  
Prayer of Consecration  
Words of Institution  
Receiving the Bread+  
Receiving the Cup+  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

*\*Gluten free wafers will be available in the bowl in the center of the plate  
+(please hold each element until all are served to partake together)*

(8:30) \*SONG OF COMMITMENT "In Christ Alone" please see insert

(11:10) \*HYMN OF COMMITMENT "Victory in Jesus" please see insert

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Resurrection Joy"

Gregg Sewell

*Special thanks to our instrumentalists:*

*Todd Obidowski – Trumpet  
Steve Heere – Trumpet  
Matt Harbaugh – Trumpet  
Len Lavelle – Trombone*

***I was thinking ...*** about the joy of Easter! It is such a wonderful Sunday when people re-member the central act of our Lord Jesus and attend worship to sing of His resurrection and hear the familiar story of the empty tomb and promise of life that is everlasting. We don't often consider eternity. We are so busy living for today that we don't generally think about our death or what is beyond this life.  
Today is a good day to reflect on that reality. Some of us are grieving a recent death of a loved one. Today may be hard as you remember your loss and the pain of not being with that person. Others are grieving a death that happened years ago, maybe many years ago. That empty place in your heart is a reminder of what you don't have in this life. Still others of us can rejoice in the hope that there is the promise from God that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ leads us to know that there exists something beyond this life and we are told that it is good! Revelation 21 says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, ...I saw the *Holy City*, coming down out of heaven from God, ...He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."  
This is the way John imagined what is to come. How do you imagine it? Have you paused to think about what will be and how it will be? I believe that living life today with a picture of what eternal life will be gives us a great freedom to live with a purpose that has no end. I believe that is why Easter is full of joy. It gives us the opportunity to re-member what is most important, to re-order our lives and re-focus them on those things that matter and will last. I am so glad that you here to worship God and consider what matters most.  
I hope that today you will experience the joy of Easter again! That you will know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ, not even death. The Father's love is greater, love wins! Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed.  
What a joy to see you this morning. I will hope to see you next Sunday, same time, same place!

Because God loves us all,  
