

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
68 Eagle Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

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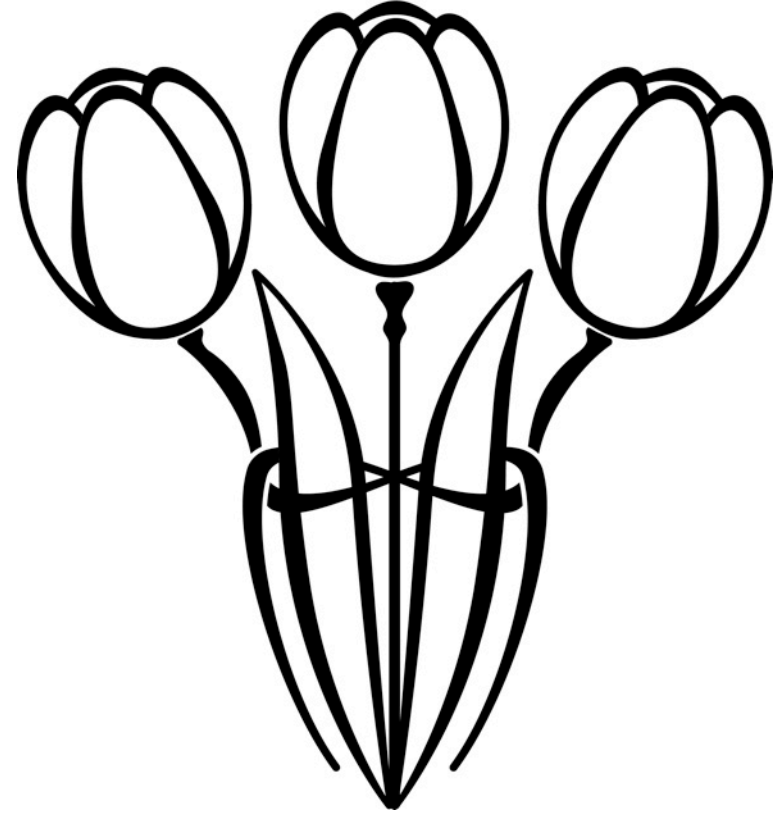
68 Eagle Street
Williamsville, NY
716-634-2330

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE
VOICE

May 2011

JESUS IS OUR FOUNDATION - HIS SPIRIT, OUR WINGS.



Christians are like the several flowers in a garden that have each of them the dew of Heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other.

- John Bunyan



The Holy Shrug of Easter

Have you ever wondered what life must have been like for Jesus' disciples after Easter? He appears to Mary in the garden on Easter morn. She goes back and tells the disciples "I have seen the Lord." Did she really see him. The Holy Shrug. "I don't know." Jesus appears to

his apostles on Easter night, and breathes on them. He tells them they have the Holy Spirit's power to forgive or to retain sins. Then he's gone. What do we do now, they must have asked themselves. The Holy Shrug. "I don't know." When someone we love dies. We know what to do. We grieve, then we get on with our lives the best we can. But when that loved one rises from the grave and walks among us still, and we never know when he'll put in an appearance, what do we do next? We give a Holy Shrug.

For forty days, the apostles lived with the risen Lord walking among them. Can you guess how many questions they had? Can you imagine how many times they gave the Holy Shrug to each other? One day Jesus leads them out of the city up a mountain. There the questions continued: "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait there for the Holy Spirit. Then he was lifted up and a cloud took him from their sight. Where did he go? A Holy Shrug. When will he return? A Holy Shrug. How long are we to wait? A Holy Shrug.

Are you a shrugger by nature? How often, in response to a question, do you shrug your shoulders? A shrug can be an honest expression of doubt or ignorance. If someone asked you, "When are you going to die?" You might give a shrug, for who can know the day or the hour? But a shrug can also mean a refusal to communicate, or a refusal to think through an answer. Just ask a teenager: "What did you do last night?" Shrug. "What are your plans for the weekend?" Shrug.

There is a time to shrug and a time to act. Easter is the time for the Holy Shrug, as we ask ourselves the question: "What do I do now?" But Easter gives way to Pentecost, to the Spirit, and to the

(continued on page 3)

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St. Paul's Staff & Volunteer Leadership

Pastor Timothy Madsen 632-5048
 Pastor Wendy Buckley Email – buckleymadsen1@prodigy.net

Church Secretary – Mrs. Sharon Gorczyca 634-2330
 Email – stpaulwilliamsville@roadrunner.com Fax 634-9252
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 Handbells Director Mrs. Marilyn Pfisterer 634-5288
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 Ladies Aid Mrs. Donna Welton 689-0150
 Scholarship Comm. Chair Mr. David Johnston 874-9382
 Custodian Mr. Robert Germain 833-4783
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 WELCA Web address – www.elca.org/wo/
 Email – womnelca@elca.org
 Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center 743-9117
 Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center 1-386-4125
 North Park Lutheran Church, Starin and Wingate Ave. 836-2785

2011 Church Council

President Mr. David Johnston 874-9382
 Vice-President Mr. Wayne Pachioli 636-9786
 Secretary Mrs. Emily Dufrene 217- 377-6200
 Treasurer Mr. Wayne Pachioli 636-9786
 Financial Secretary Mrs. Kimberly Brown 636-0480

Church Council Committee Assignments


Building & Grounds Mr. Al Weisser 632-8966
 Mr. John Doerfler 688-8588
 Christian Education Mrs. Kim Retallack 631-5929
 Finance Mr. Wayne Pachioli 636-9786
 Music & Worship Ms. Patricia Walker 908-2335
 Social Ministry Mr. Robert Pim 626-0674
 Ms. Delores (Dee) Marinov 549-2382
 Congregational Care Mrs. Deborah Waldrop 568-1474
 Stewardship Mr. Ray Hopkins
 Youth Mrs. Cathy Lambert 632-1047

"The Voice" is the monthly newsletter of
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 68 Eagle Street, Williamsville, NY 14221-5551
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STUDY THE WORD

Daily Lectionary

M	Psalm 100 Ezekiel 34:17-23 1 Peter 5:1-5	W	Psalm 102:1-17 Proverbs 3:13-18 John 8:31-38
Tu	Psalm 100 Ezekiel 34:23-31 Hebrews 13:20-21	Th	Psalm 66:8-20 Genesis 6:5-22 Acts 27:1-12
W	Psalm 100 Jeremiah 23:1-8 Matthew 20:17-28	F	Psalm 66:8-20 Genesis 7:1-24 Acts 27:13-38
Th	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Genesis 12:1-3 Acts 6:8-15	Sa	Psalm 66:8-20 Genesis 8:13-19 John 14:27-29
F	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Exodus 3:1-12 Acts 7:1-16	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
Sa	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Jeremiah 26:20-24 John 8:48-59	Su	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
Fifth Sunday of Easter		M	Psalm 93 Genesis 9:8-17 Acts 27:39-44
Su	Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Tu	Psalm 93 Deuteronomy 5:22-33 1 Peter 3:8-12
M	Psalm 102:1-17 Exodus 13:17-22 Acts 7:17-40		
Tu	Psalm 102:1-17 Proverbs 3:5-12 Acts 7:44-56		

(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

courage to go past the shrug to action. Do you think the church would ever have gotten out of Jerusalem if they met every question with a holy shrug?

Live in the power of the Spirit of God. BE the presence of Christ in the world.

Pastors Wendy and Tim



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Let your light shine!

What a wonderful Easter Sunday we had! The music at both services was outstanding and the brunch in between the services was delicious. Thanks to our Ladies'Aid under the direction of Lynn Jones for a wonderful spread of pastries, fruit, donuts, coffee cakes ,... The Social Hall was decorated for EASTER.

The children received living plants at the end of the service to remind them of Christ's Resurrection. This was a tradition that our members from Friendship brought with them and wanted to share with all the children.

The children also enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt while their parents enjoyed the brunch.

Thanks to all the ladies who baked and to all who helped make our Easter Sunday Special!

Our Ladies'Aid sent off 75 quilts to Lutheran World Relief . They do some wonderful work. The quilts are collected and then distributed as needed all over the world.

On behalf of Judy Toone, thank you for all your donations. With the funds from Thrivent we will be able to give her \$2000 toward her medical expenses.

(Social Ministry continued on page 4)



Visit & recommend to friends St. Paul's Website
www.stpaulswilliamsville.org

During the month of May we will be collecting money for World Hunger so start collecting all your loose change to drop into the milk cartons on Sunday mornings. Following the regular collection, the ushers will return with milk cartons. Checks are also accepted and should be made out to St. Paul's and earmarked for Lutheran World Relief. Check under your car seats, couch cushions, and laundry for loose change!

The Parkside food pantry is always in need so don't forget to bring in can goods. We need someone to volunteer to take the foodstuff over to Parkside when the bin in the Social Hall is full. If you can volunteer let the pastors know or call the office. Gary and Nancy Rasmusson transported it for several years . (As many of you know Gary suffered a massive stroke last month and is slowly recovering. Keep Gary and Nancy in your prayers.)

The boxes for stamps, soup labels, cell phones, old glasses, and just about anything you are getting rid of, can be brought to the Social Hall.

While you're cleaning out your closets, remember to save your old sneakers and sandals for Nicaragua and your used summer clothing for Friends of Night.

A note from Marianne Marbach & family

We would like to thank everyone at St. Paul's for their support and prayers during Roger's illness. A special "thank you" to all who helped bake, set-up, and serve the delicious desserts and punch after the Memorial Service. Everything was very much appreciated.

Dear Friends:

"Thank you" for all the prayers you have said for me over the last year. I really appreciate your concern.

It is 13 weeks since my corneal transplant and I am just now seeing some progress. The doctor has cut back on my medicines but unfortunately I still cannot see the eye chart. It's been a trying time. Thanks again.

- Gail Olson

31 Pray for young people who are bullied. Pray that parents, teachers and church leaders respond quickly and with compassion to those who live in fear.

STUDY THE WORD

Daily Lectionary

Second Sunday of Easter			1 Peter 1:17-23
Su	Acts 2:14, 22-32		Luke 24:13-35
	Psalm 16	M	Psalm 134
	1 Peter 1:3-9		Genesis 18:1-14
	John 20:19-31		1 Peter 1:23-25
M	Psalm 114	Tu	Psalm 134
	Judges 6:36-40		Proverbs 8:32-9:6
	1 Corinthians 15:12-20		1 Peter 2:1-3
Tu	Psalm 114	W	Psalm 134
	Jonah 1:1-17		Exodus 24:1-11
	1 Corinthians 15:19-28		John 21:1-14
W	Psalm 114	Th	Psalm 23
	Jonah 2:1-10		Exodus 2:15-25
	Matthew 12:38-42		1 Peter 2:9-12
Th	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	F	Psalm 23
	Isaiah 25:1-5		Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20
	1 Peter 1:8-12		1 Peter 2:13-17
F	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Sa	Psalm 23
	Isaiah 26:1-4		Ezekiel 34:1-16
	1 Peter 1:13-16		Luke 15:1-7
Sa	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19		
	Isaiah 25:6-9		Fourth Sunday of Easter
	Luke 14:12-14		Su Acts 2:42-47
			Psalm 23
			1 Peter 2:19-25
			John 10:1-10
Third Sunday of Easter			
Su	Acts 2:14, 36-41		
	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19		

21 Pray for Bishop Ambrose Moyo who serves as consultant and liaison person to ELCA Global Mission facilitating the ELCA's accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe, emerging Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches in their capacity building, peace building and institutional and leadership development programs.

22 Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God, look with mercy upon the people of Zimbabwe, as Zimbabwe struggles with economic and political uncertainty. May the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and the ELCA Upstate New York Synod be a source of solace and encouragement.

23 Pray for an end to the exploitation of women and children that leads to human trafficking and sexual violence.

24 Pray for greater protection of human rights throughout the world and world leaders who work for justice, reconciliation and peace.

25 Give thanks for the work of Linda Gawthorne serving among the indigenous Kogi people of Colombia who are displaced from their land in the Santa Marta Mountains by violence. Linda provides spiritual nurturing and helps translate the Bible into Kogi.

26 Give thanks for all who graduate from educational institutions this spring. Pray that graduates and others seeking employment will find fulfilling and sustainable work.

27 Pray for Joseph and the Rev. Deborah Troester and family, serving in Baboua, Central African Republic. Joe serves as water resource manager and Deborah serves as theological school instructor and communications representative for ELCA companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

28 Pray for the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service as they offer shelter and support to displaced peoples.

29 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, we give you thanks for showering your Spirit upon the people of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. May they find continued strength to engage the social, economic and political challenges within which they witness.

30 Give thanks for veterans and all who gave their lives in military service. Pray for all who currently serve in the military and risk their lives in service to their country.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

During the month of April we learned about all the symbols of Easter. We read the stories of Holy Week and the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We had a dozen plastic eggs containing objects like bread, a nail, a cross, purple cloth, a crown of thorns,... Each week we opened 4 eggs and talked about them. The most surprising egg was #12 which was empty!

In May we will continue the Easter story ending with the Ascension of Jesus and the Arrival of the Holy Spirit. The children will make Resurrection Biscuits on May 1st which they will share at the Coffee Hour.

Our last Sunday School session will be June 5th so we only have 5 weeks left!

A note from Judy Toone

Matthew 25:35-40 says.... *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

These are the words that keep coming to mind when I think of the hospitality and love that was bestowed upon me last Sunday by your wonderful congregation. When I was struggling with medical complications and expenses, my dear friend and colleague, Nancy Noble, instantly stepped forward to offer help. Pastors Wendy and Tim offered prayers, hugs and their church home to assist and the entire congregation welcomed me with open arms, open hearts, and a delicious breakfast. My heart is so deeply, humbly and gratefully blessed forever by the outpouring of love and kindness I have received from you all. From the bottom of my heart I thank you!



From the Parish Register

All memorials go into the Memorial Fund unless otherwise indicated.

Deaths: Arline M. Muhr, died March 24, 2011
Funeral Service at St. Paul's on March 28, 2011

In Memory of Arline M. Muhr

Barbara Paulson - the children of St. Paul's
William & Dorothy Shaver - Endowment Fund
Ed Plato Mr. & Mrs Arthur Keller
Earl Plato Glen & Marilyn Pfisterer
Geraldine Harris Huchstine Marck Group - OES #879
New Horizons, c/o Francis Wilson
(her friends in Pinochle club)
Pearl Doster

In Memory of Roger A. Marbach

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Keller

In Memory of Sylvie Torkelson

Eva F. Paulson - Organ Fund

In Memory of James E. Metz

Marilyn, Glenn, Jacob & Nathan Pfisterer
and Marge Metz - Music Fund

In Memory of Michael Kolb

Marilyn & Glenn Pfisterer



Are You a Senior Needing Help at Home? The Total Aging in Place Program can help you, a family member of a neighbor that is living on a fixed or limited income and is in need of assistance to stay independent. Our program is designed to help you to continue to live safely in your home, apartment, or apartment at the Weinberg Campus. We provide and coordinate needed health care services that participants can receive in their home or our Day Center. Please call us today at 716-250-3100 for more information.

11 Pray for those who are recovering from natural disasters, especially the people of Haiti, Japan and Indonesia.

12 Give thanks to God for the Rev. Arden Strasser, who serves in leadership development in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia.

13 Pray for the Northern Great Lakes, Rocky Mountain, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Washington, Southeast Michigan, Southwestern Washington, Sierra Pacific, Eastern North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, and Southwestern Texas synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly this week.

14 Thank God for the Rev. Joshua and Susan Magyar, who are serving in the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Josh is the coordinator for Theological Education by Extension in the diocese and Susan teaches part-time at a local pre-school in Morogoro.

15 Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, as the churches of Malawi and Zambia struggle in a cycle of drought and flood, give them strength and wisdom to feed the hungry and announce the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

16 Blessings upon the many young people participating in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. Pray for Joshua Busacker, Bethany Danielson, Christine Doidge, Jessica Fairfax, Michael Lengel and Heather Nelson who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in South Africa.

17 Pray for the president of the United States and the Congress that the Holy Spirit will guide them to remember those most vulnerable in our nation.

18 Pray for people in areas where individuals struggle daily with malaria and HIV and AIDS.

19 Pray for Ruth Goehle, who is beginning her service as the ELCA consultant to the medical services rehabilitation and anti-malaria initiative in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe.

20 Pray for the Pacifica, South Carolina, Northwestern Ohio, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Iowa, Southern Ohio, Southwest California, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and North/West Lower Michigan synods of the ELCA as they meet in assembly this week.



**May
2011**

1 First Sunday of Easter

God of wisdom, we lift up to you the leaders and people of Sudan and Uganda. May peace accords and reconciliation efforts bring restoration to the hearts and lives of those who have suffered for so long.

2 Pray for Christians who serve in areas of the world where Christians are persecuted or exists as a minority.

3 Pray for Aaron Schutte, Global Mission Volunteer who teaches at Kibeta English Medium Primary School in Bukoba in the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

4 Pray for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they continue to seek solutions for the security, peace and justice of all people there.

5 Praise God for Erin Ostroski and Isaac Smith who are serving in Uruguay this year through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

6 Pray for the Florida-Bahamas, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Minnesota and Southeastern Pennsylvania synods of the ELCA as they gather for assembly this week.

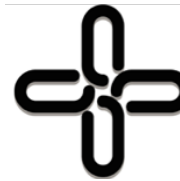
7 Pray for those who suffer from the fallout of nuclear disaster.

8 Second Sunday of Easter

Living God, we praise you for the witness and joy the churches of Kenya and Tanzania bring to the world. Let us join our voices in rejoicing. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

9 Pray for the work of the ELCA World Hunger program that addresses the root causes of hunger and poverty through relief, development, education and advocacy.

10 Give thanks for those who volunteer to teach at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas, and Tisovec, Slovakia. Pray for Jennifer Christen, Alicia Cooke, Jonathan Covel, Heidi Hartwig, Benjamin Leeney and Rachel Liptak who will return to the United States in summer 2011.



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

May 2011 Prayer List



June Atkins

Dee Marinov

George Dodd

Gail Olson

Marion Dodd

Maryann Pavel

Caroline Edwards

Bob Pim

Donna Edwards, Bflo General

Joanne Plant

Dick Edwards

Gary Rasmussen, MF Gates

Elizabeth Gentz

Carl Roeser

Susan Grau

Betty Rubins, Glenwood

Phyllis Hallock, Sister's Hops.

Katherine Senn

Pearl Kibler

Pat Valentine

The Kolb Family

Ray Valentine, Sr.

George Lorenz



Blood Pressure checks will be done Sunday, May 22nd. (Not May 15 as previously advertised)



BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet Friday, May 27 at 7:30pm in the Friendship Room with hostess Julia Levy to discuss *Room* by Emma Donoghue. All are welcome. Questions? Call Ellen Pachouli at 636-9786.



Deadline for the June 2011 issue of **THE VOICE** May 23rd

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING

August 8 - 12 "Shake It Up"

We are still looking for pringle cans. Walmart sells the regular cans of pringles for \$1.00 . We are using them to make banks at VBS.

The aprons have all been passed out for sewing. Thanks to all who volunteered. When you finish them, there is a box in the Social Hall for them. Cross off your name so I can keep track of them. I would like them back by the end of June so I can sort them by size and get them ready for VBS.

VBS will be at Williamsville Methodist Church this year, August 8 - 12th, 6 - 8:30pm. We will be seeking volunteers for crafts, recreation, discovery time(science) and kitchen help! "Shake it Up" programming is planned for children 3 yrs through sixth grade. Older children are needed to help with the groups! We're planning for 125 children so we will need a lot of help!

First Lutheran Church, Albany, NY

Dear Friends:

The Reverend Vernon Victorson is retiring on July 1, 2011 and his last Sunday with us will be June 26, 2011, which also happens to be the 40th anniversary of his ordination.

We at First Lutheran would like to present Pastor with a memory book of letters of commendation on his work here in the Capital District over the last eleven years, congratulations on his retirement and the anniversary of his ordination. We know you have had contact and/or worked with Pastor Victorson during this time and thought you would enjoy sharing some of your thoughts to become a part of this book of remembrances.

If you would like to contribute to the memory book, please mail your letter, no later than May 1, 2011, directly to Barbara Shafarzek at 126 Consaul Road, Albany, NY 12205. Please do not mail your letter to the church as sometimes Pastor sorts the mail.

Dominic Colafati, Lay President

From St. Paul's Church Librarian Lynn Jones:

Pastors Tim and Wendy have been gifted with two books: "The Empty Chair" and "The Still Empty Chair". These books are in St. Paul's Church Library so that others may share in the "Reflections of Love and Loss in the Wake of Flight 3407".

Also, the books Pastor Tim used for Wednesday Evening Lenten Services, "Where There Is Love, There Is God" (A Path to Closer Union with God and Greater Love for Others) and "In the Heart of the World" (Thoughts, Stories & Prayers), both by Mother Teresa, are also now in our Church Library.

Also, "thank you" to Raquel Shay for her recent donations to St. Paul's Church Library."



Chuck and Elaine Wolffer and their family are hosting a Walk for their 9 year old grand-daughter, Leanne, who suffers from the incurable genetic disease, Cystic

Fibrosis. Research has added years to her life and hopefully a cure is around the corner.

It would be so appreciated if you could help by joining us for the walk: Sat., May 21, 10am, Veteran's Park, shelter #2 (Tonawanda). Call 691-8964 for registration information. If you cannot join us and would like to support our endeavor you can make out a check to: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and give it to either Chuck or Elaine, or send it to: Charles Wolffer, 103 Jeffrey Dr., Amherst, NY 14228. Thank you so much for your caring and support.

Benefit for Gerri Kolb

Chinese Auction, 50/50 Raffle, DJ Music, and Buffet

May 14, 2011 between 4:00 and 8:00pm

The Valley of Buffalo Banquet Hall

2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY

\$20/ adult includes dinner and beverages

(Ages 5-10: \$10 each; Ages 4 and under: free)

For tickets contact Michael's sisters Diane (634-4122) or Holly (685-2390); or contact Michael's cousin Tammy (896-8458)

Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated!

Annual Women's Retreat a great success!

With the theme "Women of God" the annual retreat was held at the Indigo Hotel on March 25 & 26, 2011. A planning team headed by Lois Gibbons and consisting of women from St. Paul's and North Park planned the retreat. Over forty women participated. Pastor Wendy led the closing Communion Service.



EASTER AT ST. PAUL'S

Our Easter celebration was punctuated by the Chancel Choir accompanied by Kettle Drums and a Brass Ensemble. The foundation of our faith, the risen and triumphant Lord, Jesus Christ gave the congregation good reason to sing with enthusiasm!



St. Paul's Chancel Choir and the Bells of St. Paul's will participate in a joint concert at First Presbyterian Church, 21 Church St., Lockport on Sat. May 7th, at 7:30pm. The concert will feature choirs, handbells and brass.