

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

eBlast

April 1, 2021



Service Schedule

7:00 p.m.—**Maundy Thursday** St. John Lutheran Church <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnLutheranChurchInSayrePa/> [We'll also stream it to our Facebook page & website.]
or www.sjlcsayrepa.org/links and click on the Facebook icon.

12:00 noon **Good Friday** Outdoor Stations of the Cross at Epiphany School

7:00 p.m.— **Good Friday** Church of the Redeemer <https://www.redeemersayre.org/>
or <https://www.facebook.com/redeemersayre/> [We'll also livestream it to SJLC]

NO SEPARATE EASTER SERVICE ON SATURDAY AT CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

9:00 a.m.—Easter St. John Lutheran Church see links above Also FM 93.3 from parking lot

11:00 a.m.— Easter Church of the Redeemer see links above Also FM 93.3 from our parking lot

A note about last Sunday: Palm Sunday's parking lot worship was less than ideal, as was the online service. Both the livestream on Facebook and the FM radio station are dependent upon wi-fi. The wi-fi signal was interrupted several times. We seem to have this issue crop up with more frequency when it precipitates. We can put this theory to the test on Easter—as the weather outlook is sunny with a high near 60. Communion will be brought to you in the parking lot after the service. For those watching at home, the clergy will be here at least 15 minutes after the conclusion of the service to provide you with communion should you care to drive in. We deeply regret the poor reception last week.

Father Arthur Jones' Farewell Letter



All good things must come to an end.” Chaucer stated that quote way back in 1374; and it’s a saying that certainly applies for me on this eve of Maundy Thursday in 2021.

My tenure at both the Church of the Redeemer in Sayre and St. John Lutheran Church officially comes to an end on this Easter Sunday. It’s unbelievable how quickly five months can pass.

Before I continue any further, I would be remiss if I didn’t take this opportunity to offer my sincerest thanks to Pastor Melinda Artman for her leadership, her wisdom, and her willingness to serve as my Mentor over these past several months. I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to watch how she leads the Sayre churches; how she builds meaningful partnerships with local organizations and leaders; and how she teaches and preaches God’s Word with power, purpose, and passion. Pastor Melinda, thank you for consistently challenging me to be bigger and better in terms of serving God’s people.

I need to also express my deep appreciation to each and every one of the congregants at St. John and at Redeemer. You welcomed a stranger into your church homes last Fall and extended to me love, patience, joy, and peace. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming to me. Please know that I love you, I will keep you in my prayers, and that I will miss you and your families.

Thank you, Geraldine “Jerry” Evans for being an amazing Parish Administrator. To say that you made my life easier over the past several months would be a vast understatement. I will miss your grace and your smile.

In closing, both Sayre churches are very special to me – and will continue to be the source of warm memories. Wherever God takes me next, please know that I will carry you with me.

Again, thank you. May the Lord be with you. May the Lord be with us all.

Yours in Christ,

Arthur+

REOPENING NEWS:

As you may have read in last week's eBlast, The Bishop, Standing Committee and Council of the Diocese of Bethlehem issued a letter that provides guidance in re-opening our parish buildings. The two page letter can be found here:

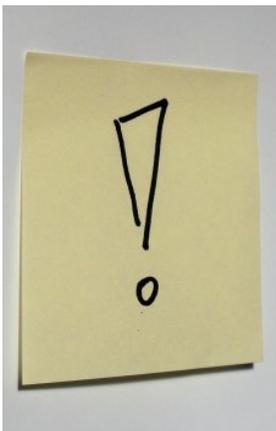
[DioBeth-IndoorGathering-031821.pdf](#)

Unfortunately, Bradford County no longer meets the criteria for reopening our building. Specifically our new cases per 100,000 population have been over 25 for two consecutive weeks. This means that we may not reopen our building until we achieve two weeks at 25 cases or less per 100,000. Reopening will still be a topic of conversation at our next Vestry meeting on April 13th. The Vestry will also offer its advice on whether and how to resume singing and spoken responses. Once our infection rate improves and returns to an acceptable level, the Vestry and the priest must be in agreement to reopen and we must then inform the Bishop of our desire to return to in-person worship.

I appreciate that it is frustrating to see other local churches open and offering full throated praise of God, especially during Holy Week and Easter. I know that we all long to be back in community with one another. Being an Episcopalian means we are part of a greater whole (in our case, a diocese) and the decisions to remain closed are being made in light of the most vulnerable among us. I know our Bishop has consulted with public health experts here in the Commonwealth as well as his fellow Bishops in neighboring dioceses.

As the weather improves, I will be exploring with the Vestry whether and how to conduct worship outdoors. Outdoor worship is safer (although not without risk) and has its own positives and negatives. No doubt it will not be the same as coming together inside the Nave. Please let me or another Vestry member know of your thoughts regarding outdoor worship and how it can be made manageable.

Pastor Melinda



Elsewhere in this eBlast you will see an announcement of a blood drive on Easter Monday at St. John Lutheran Church. As our two parishes share both clergy and secretary, and as interaction with folks outside our household is still a risk factor, we are changing our office hours for Easter Monday and Tuesday. Jerry Evans will be in the office Monday AFTERNOON instead of Monday morning and all day Tuesday to minimize her risk of exposure to the virus. Jerry will be able to accomplish St. John related tasks while working here at Redeemer. Melinda plans to be at St. John most of Monday and at Redeemer Tuesday afternoon.



Daye Moreno 3/30

Zachary Murrelle 4/3



Reflection questions for the lessons appointed Easter Sunday: When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty. Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him? Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him? How would you know?



Robert Packer Hospital and the American Red Cross team up once again to offer a blood drive on Monday April 5 from noon until 5:00 P.M. and Tuesday, April 6 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in our South Wing. You can register for an appointment time at redcrossblood.org Walk Ins are welcome, however, appointments are preferred.



Resurrection



Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
John 20:1 (NIV)

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