



# The Beacon

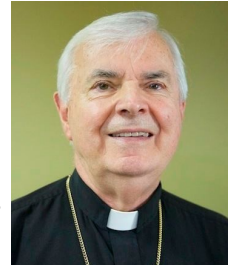
April 2017

Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Scituate, MA

[www.clc-scituate.org](http://www.clc-scituate.org)

781-545-5271

## *From Our Interim Pastor Robert Schipul*



On that First Easter the family, friends, and Disciples of Jesus of Nazareth were the first to hear and to process the mind-boggling events of that week-end. Wanting to believe that the Rabbi from Nazareth was more than just another religious fanatic turned into BELIEVING without a doubt that THEIR rabbi was The Messiah, long-awaited, longed for; and THEY were eyewitnesses. With their own eyes they saw Him die and be buried and they saw Him alive and well and eating with them and loving them and encouraging them. They had a simple story to tell. All they had to do was tell others what they had witnessed. That's all. But "THAT" could get them arrested, jailed, killed! No one in power wanted to hear that news. It was not Good News; it was bad news for too many. You see, that news intruded into everyone's lives. That news changed their whole value system. Whether it meant they had been doing the wrong thing all these years or that they had been wrong and there really was a Savior, The Messiah. Or if it meant they had been trusting in their own pursuit of perfection or had given up hope that "anyone" would reconcile them with an angry God. But, this Jesus Christ of Nazareth had healed and blessed and restored and fed thousands and they were witnesses.

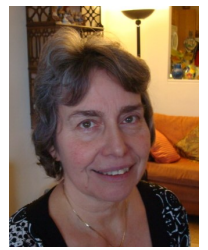
So are you and I! In much of the world we can still share all this with others who do not know or know and refuse to believe or just don't care anymore. Because we are eye-witnesses to His love and reconciliation, we just cannot walk by and tell them to shift for themselves. We can't because we know the Good News! "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!" And they need to hear it. Sometimes it takes a golden dog to soften them up. Sometimes it takes a kind word. Always it takes engagement on our part.

Blessed Easter  
Pastor Schipul



# Parish Nurse

SPRING IS HERE!



The worst of the weather is past. Buds and crocus are daring to smile on us. But the flu lingers. Some of us got flu shots, some not. Some have had the flu-experience, others of us cared for flu sufferers and suffer for it. These viruses are virulent and exhausting. They take weeks to release their victims from symptoms and energy depletion. But guess what the doctor ordered – lots of warm drinks and a walk, along with the rest your body demands. If you actually get a superimposed bacterial bronchitis or pneumonia, antibiotics are required for your survival. However, anti-virals only shorten your event by a day and your best hope is warm drinks, walks and rest. (This is taking a long time to recover from, so we must be patient, drink our warm lemon juice and take a little walk – cough, cough...).

Meantime, March was MS Awareness Month. I missed that, sorry. But as an MS'er and as an advocate for those with the disease, I will tell you some things about MS that you may or may not know. About 2.5 million people across the globe have MS. The further you live from the equator, the greater your risk of the disease. It looks very different person to person and in a rather large percentage of the population can be invisible. I have had MS for 38 years.

Diagnosis includes what type of MS – exacerbating-remitting, primary progressive, or secondary progressive. Diagnosis is usually made around age 30, but sometimes is later because symptoms are so bizarre and not all physicians know what they are seeing. It is a disease of the brain and spinal cord. Primary progressive is vicious, quickly debilitating, and usually young people. Exacerbating – remitting is just that. You have an “attack” and then it remits. You regain most or some of what you just lost and are fine for a while. Secondary progressive disease is kind of a slow downward slope. You don't really see it happening. All of a sudden, it's just there! Only since 1992 have there been drugs specifically for MS available. Again, what works for one person does not work for another. And what works today may not work next week. There are no drugs for secondary progressive at this time, but a great deal of research is ongoing.

What is going on in the brain and spinal cord is this: the myelin sheath that coats all nerves and allows the electrical conduction of messages from the brain to all functions and sensations of the body, is damaged by the body attacking itself. The damaged tissue forms plaques, like scar tissue. Communication is disrupted at the point of these plaques and the effects may be sensory, motor or both. It also does ongoing brain damage which again has many forms and varies person to person depending on location of plaques.

The MS Society does a lot of fund raising for research and client support. The drugs are very expensive and the MS Society helps with those costs as well. If you ever notice an event, please consider supporting it. It is a tremendously strong advocate for MS'ers.

They have bike and walk events all over America. They have a Muck-fest in Massachusetts. If I ever get motivated to participate, I will ask for your support. So far, I just support those walking or biking. (Part of my disease-denial program). If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask me. I am (trying to) make peace with the reality of my body and am happy to share my discoveries.

Praying for your good health,

*Janet*

# *Elders*

## **40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY** **What on Earth are we here for?**

Some 15 years ago we, as a church community, joined in small groups to read and study Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven Life". It was the first time for me to participate in this kind of small group and I am left with the impression that many of us enjoyed that process and experience. The subject was personal, relevant, and meaningful in many ways. It is a pity that those small groups disbanded. Small groups offer a special opportunity to share and have one's faith restored. The good news is that we have another opportunity to join in small groups around Warren's "40 Days of Community" after Easter. The arrival of Obadiah is the perfect time to reconvene small groups at CLC. The success of Obadiah's ministry is dependent of each and every one of us! It is easy to say it is up to the handlers. But that is not so! You may not be a handler, an assistant handler, or ministry supporter, but by virtue of being a member you are responsible for some role "as yet to be determined", as Bruce would say.

"40 Days of Community" will deepen your understanding of how God uses other people – specifically others in your church family – for your good and your growth. It will also show you how God can use you to bless others. I have been asked to lead a group and am using the book for my Lenten meditation. Day 16 offers a good description of what can happen at Christ Lutheran and why we should be doing this small group exercise.

*"Let us agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other."* (Romans 14:19a MSG). This chapter says that community is built through commitment. And, committing to each other means: loving no matter what, being there for each other, and benefiting each other. This is so critical moving forward with Obadiah. It is also so critical to moving forward with the growth we say we want here.

Please prayerfully consider making a personal commitment to join a group after Easter. We will find a group that can meet your time requirements – just tell us you are interested and invested in your personal and church family growth – and when you would be available to participate. This is another step in the "rejuvenation" begun over a year ago - and a big part of the foundation blocks for the first 90 days in the "Long Range Thriving Church Plan" created in January. It supports "Comfort Dog", "Small Groups", and "Interactive Service". It will move us closer to our 1 year Top Priority of a vibrant comfort dog ministry and the 3 year goal of full-time and James 2:18 Ministry.

*'But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.'* (James 2:18 NIV)

We have much illness and disability in our family. Servants are fading for various reasons. There is much to be done and more help is needed. We need more volunteers in the kitchen, in the sanctuary, in the family. We need meals, we need prayers, we need servants, we need floor cleaners and bathroom cleaners. We need to care about each other and about the house we share. We need you to feel connected enough to share your energy and love. Plan to join a small group after Easter. We need you.

For the Elders,  
Janet

# Comfort Dog—Passing of the Leash



I know this sounds corny, but it really was a big thing for us. We are a church small in numbers, but we are a church with a big heart. Someone asked me in a public setting: "How can I get one of these dogs for myself?" I told her she could raise \$16,000.00 but Lutheran Church Charities would only entrust a Golden with a church community to use in it's ministry to people in need.

On Sunday, March 5, Four Trainers and 4 dogs plus 8 handlers and four dogs from MA. and CT. Comfort Dog

churches joined us and turned Obadiah's leash over to Bruce Buening, our "Top Dog" handler. He and his wife, Paddy are the Caretaker Family for Obadiah. What a blessing to have the dog from Newtown, CT. and the two from Danbury, CT. who have brought consolation to the survivors of the Sandy Hook Mas-



sacre and the Boston Marathon Bombing and Lydia

from our sister congregation at Lynnfield, MA. Obadiah got the blessing of our District President, Tim Yeadon and Deaconess Tiffany Manor along with a lot of other people. All eight dogs slept through the children's message.



How do you explain Obadiah (Comfort Dog)? You can start by saying he is not a Service Dog meant to serve one person and their personal needs. He is a trained dog intended to bring comfort in times of need, stress and where people desire deep conso-

lation. Those are the times which will define Obadiah's mission and our ministry. Pets change their owner's lives. Obadiah is not a pet but you can be sure he is already changing the lives of those who have become involved with him. Our understanding of how to reach out to people in need is changing all to the good. All we can say is "get involved." You don't have to be a handler, but you could be a visitor who goes along with the handler to dialog with the people Obadiah visits. You can help keep his supplies stocked. Most of all you can pray for this new aspect of our mission at CLC. WE/He needs our prayers so that the visits carry a blessing from you with them. Watch for posted suggestions on how YOU can help.





# ***Forty Days of Community Begins April 23 at Christ Lutheran***

A Decade ago a Christian pastor by the name of Rick Warren shook up the Christian church with a book entitled "The Purpose Driven Life". WE joined many other Christian communities and went through the month long focus on how we respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like many other process orientated studies "WE did it!" and it was nice and we learned so much and.....

So now comes "**40 Days of Community**". You can call it anything you want but I call it application. Once we have been entrusted with the Gospel (Good News), what do we do with it? A small pamphlet came out back then entitled, "What on earth am I here for?" Now a decade later, we find a new question: "What On Earth are WE Here For?" In these 40 days after Easter we will explore that question about our faith community.

April 23...What Matters Most  
April 30...Reaching Out Together  
May 7...Belonging Together  
May 14...Growing Together  
May 21...Serving Together  
May 28...Worshiping Together

Each family unit will receive a Devotional Journal to mark each day.

Sunday Mornings we will view a short message from the Author and discuss the theme for the week or you are invited to join a small group discussion at church or in a member's home. One of the most valued areas of growth our retreat brought out was our need to minister to our community. Obadiah is part of that but just a part. Come join us for some very frank and spirited and needed discussions about how we can accomplish this.





## *Scituate Food Pantry*

Even though the weather may be starting to warm up and spring is here, there is no lessening in the demand at our Food Pantry. There is a particular need for donations of meat or meat based items at this time. I would like for our focus to be on collecting 3 particular items this month: cans of corned beef hash, beef stew, and 1 pound non perishable canned hams.

I am hoping that as we go out and start buying our ingredients for our Easter dinners and spring celebrations that we will also think of our friends and neighbors who will be having very different type of meals and struggling to make their celebrations special and fun for their families or even just for their self.

Instead of having one Sunday designated for a Sunday School gathering during the Offering time this month, due in large part to the special aspects of two of the Sundays I propose a different idea. Although April is a busy month with school vacation week besides Palm Sunday and Easter - there are 5 Sundays which will give us all ample time to bring at least 1 donation with us when we come to church. Or better yet, how about we buy several cans on sale and every time we come to church we bring a can in to put into the collection basket!!! Can you even imagine the fun of seeing an overflowing basket with all of our donations! Even if there were only 40 people here each Sunday - if we each brought a can for 5 weeks - can you believe it - there would be 200 cans of meat to deliver to the Food Pantry. My smile is ear to ear just thinking about it!!! So, let's start watching those sale papers and stock up at least 5 cans to bring in during April and if we bring more than 1 can each - it is beyond imagining how awesome that would be. We will be talking to the children about this idea also so don't be surprised if you are reminded by your child about not forgetting to bring in your donation. Sharing is a wonderful principle that children learn at a very young age, sometimes we adults need to be reminded about sharing the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. Please help to make this an extraordinary April for the Scituate Food Pantry and all the people, families, and children it serves. Thank you in advance. :)

On another page of The Beacon you will see a save the date for the Scituate Food Pantry - Post Office Food Drive which will be on Saturday, May 13th. Please mark your calendars as we will be needing helpers on that day to sort and pack the collected food. More details will be coming and there will be a sign up sheet posted in the Narthex.

May is also CLC's turn to help out at the Food Pantry on Tuesdays from 10:00am-1:00pm. At least one person is needed, sometimes two - it will be designated on the sign-up sheet that will also be posted in the Narthex.

As you can see, the next 2 months we will be assisting the Food Pantry with donations and by physically helping them out working at the Pantry perhaps more so than in other months. All the churches in town take turns having a month to help out and they all donate as much as they are able to as well. Hopefully everyone in town will be very generous on the Post Office Drive day and the shelves and storage are will be filled to overflowing! Wouldn't that be wonderful??

Happy Easter from  
Barbara Stieglitz, Food Pantry Director and  
Barb Johnson, CLC Food Pantry Rep.

# *Notes and What's Happening*

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**April 9:** Palm Sunday Worship with procession of Palm Branches and singing by the children at 9:30am.

Coffee Hour followed by Sunday School and Bible Study.

**April 13:** Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 7pm.

**April 14:** Good Friday Service of Darkness at 7pm.

**April 16:** Easter Sunrise Service at the Scituate Lighthouse at 6am.

Easter Festival Service at 9:30am followed by a brunch for everyone and an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

**HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN IN DEED!**

**HALLELUJAH!**



## ***Birthdays in April***

- 1—Andrew Slekis
- 6—Daniel Hanafin
- 8—Mia Lanza
- 12—Kerstin Francis
- 12—Kenny Francis
- 17—Lorraine Billings
- 18—Matt Bain
- 18—Maia Zimonja
- 19—Holly Gay
- 22—Georgette Isbrandt
- 25—Stephen Thompson



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13**

Saturday, May 13  
Artisan Fair 2017  
See Holly (Hess) Gay  
for more information

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**SATURDAY, May 13**

### **Scituate Post Office Food Drive**

Volunteers age 15 and over are  
NEEDED to help sort and pack  
Donations.

Please call Barbara Stieglitz  
781-545-4639

Or see Barb Johnson  
For more information.

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# Defending the Faith

*Sometimes the Best Defense is a Good Defense.*



Part II. Is Christianity the only way to Heaven?

Last month, we talked about the idea that if Jesus' own words are to be believed, then Christianity really is the only way to heaven - as evidenced by these three verses (emphasis is mine):

John 14:6. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. **No one comes to the Father, except through Me.**

Acts 4:12. Salvation is found in no one else, for **there is no other name** under Heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

John 3:17-18. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

So that leaves us with our family, friends and loved ones who do not believe. What do we do?

I think the first step is prayer - as I have prayed constantly for my own non-believing son.

Next, gently engage the conversation - but remember what 1 Peter 3:15 says - "...do this with gentleness and respect."

That's hard to do sometimes. I want to grab my son by the lapels and say "If there is no God, then how the heck did consciousness "evolve" from the random action of molecules in motion?!?" That's what I want to say, but I know he'll react like the puppy who doesn't want to go for a walk. All four feet slammed into the dirt, resisting with all he has.

Instead, try asking questions and listening carefully to their answer - and this is where studying Christian apologetics can help. Here are a few conversation starters (with my thoughts on answers):

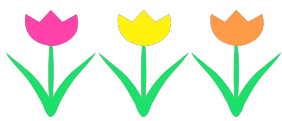
- How do you think the universe came into being? (a "big bang" needs a big banger")
- If the universe is "infinitely old", then why have all the stars not burned themselves out already?
- Who do you think Jesus was? (He never claimed to be a prophet - He claimed to be God Himself. Would a "good teacher" lie about such a thing?)
- How do you explain all the evil in the world? (God gave us free will, which entails the ability to do evil)
- Do you think those who commit moral crimes should be punished? Have you ever committed a moral crime? (There's a free pardon waiting for you in Jesus!)
- How do you suppose that life and consciousness arose from inanimate chemicals?
- Tell me about your prior experience with other churches. (Could be anything from the vile Westboro Baptist Church to no experience at all.)

What do you think the core message of Christianity is? (Let's be sure you're objecting to something that's not completely misconstrued)

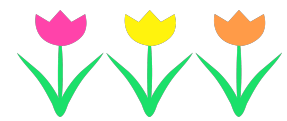
Try those ideas for getting a conversation going - and remember, our job isn't to save souls. That's for the Holy Spirit to do. We just need to be faithful servants.

- Charlie MacPherson, SDG





# April 2017



## Sunday, April 2

### 5th Sunday in Lent

Greeters: The Nuboer Family  
Ushers: Bruce Buening & Dick Johnson  
Lector: Bart Nuboer  
Comm. Asst: Joe Kelley & Cheryl Foote  
Altar Guild: Marybeth Francis  
Hostess: Michelle Berreth

## Sunday, April 2

Scrip orders due

## Thursday, April 6

Soup Supper at 6 pm  
Prayer Service at 7 pm

## Sunday, April 9

### Palm Sunday

Greeters: The Johnson Family  
Ushers: Larry Francis & Joe Kelley  
Lector:  
Comm. Asst: Bruce Billings & Charlie MacPherson  
Altar Guild: Annette Francis  
Hostess:

## Tuesday, April 11

Council Mtg. 7 pm

## Thursday, April 13

### Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm

Greeter: Milt Thompson  
Ushers: Doris Leshar & Cheryl Foote  
Lector: Charlie MacPherson & Bruce Billings  
Comm. Asst: Joe Kelley &  
Altar Guild: Elsa Ryberg

## Friday, April 14

### Good Friday Service @ 7 pm

Greeters: The Zimonja Family  
Ushers: Bart Nuboer & Dick Johnson  
Altar Guild: Karen Kelley

## Sunday, April 16

### Easter Sunday

### Easter Brunch

Greeters: The Johnson Family  
Ushers: Larry Francis & Cheryl Foote  
Lector: Bart Nuboer  
Comm. Asst: Joe Kelley & Andrea Hunt  
Altar Guild: Michelle Berreth  
Hostess: Janet Schmitz

## Thursday, April 20

May Beacon Articles Due

## Sunday, April 23

### 2nd Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Milt Thompson  
Ushers: Doris Leshar &  
Lector:  
Comm. Asst: Bruce Billings & Charlie MacPherson  
Altar Guild: Jill Howley  
Hostess:

## Sunday, April 30

### 3rd Sunday of Easter

Greeters: The Zimonja Family  
Ushers: Bart Nuboer & Joe Kelley  
Lector: Charlie MacPherson  
Comm. Asst: Milt Thompson & Cheryl Foote  
Altar Guild: Annette Francis  
Hostess: Marybeth Francis

## Weekly Events

**Zappolo Bible Study**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7 pm

**Weekly Prayer Service**  
Thursdays at 7 pm





# The Beacon

Christ Lutheran Church  
460 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy.  
Scituate, MA 02066  
[www.clc-scituate.org](http://www.clc-scituate.org)



*Save the Date*

FOR THE RUTH HOUSE  
**FASHIONING THE FUTURE  
LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW**

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

1 pm • Lombardo's, Randolph, MA

*Fashioning the Future*



Ruth House  
A Unit of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts