



# Milton Lutheran Church

# NEWSLETTER

*Fostering community through faith, love and service.*

## Pastor Gary's April Message

APRIL 2022

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Church,

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to visit State College with my son. Our goal was to spend some quality time together, walk around town, find something good to eat, and enjoy some ice cream from the Creamery. We had a great time together!

I noticed while walking around town that the university had banners hanging up along the sidewalk listing the different types of people they serve with the phrase "lives matter". As you walked by you could read "Black Lives Matter, Latinx Lives Matter, LGBTQIA Lives Matter, Trans Lives Matter, You Matter, Young Lives Matter, Older Lives Matter" and the list goes on.

It caused me to pause and wonder why a university would feel the need to communicate such a message to people, not only within their university, but also to the community they serve. I think the harsh reality of the world that we live in today is that it's easy for people to focus on their own needs and forget the needs of others. This is especially the case for people who we have placed on the margins of our society for one reason or another.

The truth is that we all matter, to one another and to God. God has created each of us in God's image and has called us into the world to love one another despite our differences. At the same time it's important for us to recognize that the world is not perfect and for some people, they have not been treated with equity. This problem is something that has existed for thousands of years and it's the problem that Jesus fought so hard to expose and address during his ministry here on earth.

This month as we enter the season of Easter we are reminded of how God sent Jesus to be with us here on earth so that God could experience all of humanity. The good parts, the bad parts, and everything in between. Jesus came to earth to bring voice to the unfair treatment of people in the world. He came to show love to the people the rest of society deemed unlovable. He healed the sick, cared for the poor, challenged those in power, and demonstrated love for all people.

As we celebrate Easter this year let us remember what Jesus did, how Jesus challenged us, and the gift that is his resurrection. This gift freed us from sin, allowed us to experience unconditional love, and challenged us to love one another. Let us remember that each of us matters to God and to one another. Let us celebrate! Let us give joy! Let us experience hope!



Many Blessings,  
Gary Schaeffer,

## Caring for creation, one butterfly at a time

By Wendy Healy March 16, 2022

The people of Christ the King Lutheran Church in West Chester, Ohio, are ministering to pollinators—butterflies, to be specific.



When its youth group learned that butterflies, especially the iconic orange and black monarchs, were at risk, the teens planted a pollinator habitat as part of the congregation's care for creation ministry.

According to Youth for Monarchs, a service-learning program for youth groups that launched its pilot program at Christ the King, the monarch butterfly population has declined 80% in the past two decades, mostly because their habitats, including the milkweed that the caterpillars require, are

being destroyed. Now Christ the King has dedicated part of its 8-acre property to growing native plants that feed and attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

"When you walk through a restored wildlife habitat—even a small patch—you become a witness to the abundance of life and goodness in God's creation," said Donna Pellegrin, a 12-year member of the congregation who led the youth group's 2018 butterfly garden launch. "Every creature is in symphony, and you can't teach the creation story any better way. When we teach Genesis and creation in Sunday school, inside sitting around tables, it's not the same as being a witness. You cannot help but meet God in nature."

Pellegrin's daughter, Anna Lavin, now in college, initiated the garden at Christ the King. When Lavin found caterpillars suffering in the family's yard, she asked her mom if they could save them. They brought the caterpillars to an environmentalist, who explained that the insects needed to eat milkweed, so the mom and daughter got the plant and nursed the caterpillars back to health.



The butterfly project at Christ the King has not only aided the monarchs and other pollinators but has also benefited the community.

“The amazing thing about this focus of ministry is that butterflies are cross-generational, and they cross every spectrum,” said Matt Byrd, pastor of Christ the King. “Everyone can get behind butterflies, and this has been good for the congregation and the community. To see people unify around this when people are so divided right now is miraculous. The gift of our land and caring for creation became an opportunity to teach people.”

The community gathers in June for the congregation’s annual Monarch Fest, an event to teach about butterflies and pollinator gardens, distribute free milkweed plants, provide garden tours, sell plants and offer family activities.

Pellegrin also offers educational seminars throughout the year, including a “Sowing Seeds in Winter” class, which gives instruction on starting miniature greenhouses in milk containers to grow native perennial plants from seeds. Last winter, parishioners and supporters from the community grew 500 native plants from seeds, which were then given away during Monarch Fest.

*“The gift of our land and caring for creation became an opportunity to teach people.”*



The congregation has also cleared the woods behind the church building of honeysuckle, an invasive and nonnative plant. Pellegrin is earning a certificate in permaculture, a landscape design philosophy that focuses on natural ecosystems, and had learned from a fellow environmentalist that honeysuckle was detrimental to a pollinator garden.

“A monarch habitat is home for many creatures,” she said. “If you restore the habitat for monarchs, you restore it for many creatures, including bees, dragonflies, hover flies and an enormous list of pollinators and spiders. We’ve lost 1-in-4 birds globally as part of habitat loss, and it has a cascading effect. We’re losing more than 6,000 acres every day. We plow it, pave it, poison it and it’s gone. We’re trying to do our part to restore it.

“We’re all part of this same food web, and every time a piece of this web disappears, it affects the entire web. Every time we lose a butterfly it affects us. Those it affects first are those who can least afford it.”

While the congregation had no budget for the garden project, local grant money, donations from nurseries, and congregational and community response have helped to make the gardens flourish.

“This has been an amazing way to help us focus beyond our four walls to the community,” Byrd said. “We did congregational revitalization training through the Southern Ohio Synod, and this project helps us focus on the needs of the neighborhood. People are inspired to see that our church cares about creation.”

Byrd said it’s fun to hear reports from the neighbors about seeing the butterflies. “Five years ago, when I showed up here, creation care was nowhere on our radar,” he said. “It has become a focus of this congregation, and it’s amazing to see people’s passion grow.”



Wendy Healy is a freelance writer and member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Brewster, N.Y. She served as a communications director for Lutheran Disaster Response of New York following the 9/11 attacks.

## **Bolstered By Relationships – A story of Faith....**

Jesús Escamilla knows the power of relationships. Over 15 years, he’s seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

**“What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done,” said the pastor of San Gabriel Lutheran Church in Alvarado, Texas.**



Escamilla came to San Gabriel in 2006, when future congregants were holding Bible studies weekly in worshipers' homes. To worship, they drove more than 30 miles north to San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He joined the Bible studies, then became the faith community's official worship leader a year later, ministering in homes for both Bible study and worship. In time, the growing faith community needed a

building in Alvarado.

A deal with a local supporter allowed the congregation to begin renting a plot of land, where it worshiped outdoors and eventually built makeshift indoor worship space. "Everyone was dusty, but they didn't care because they had a place to worship — their own place," Escamilla said. They drove more than 30 miles north to San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He joined the Bible studies, then became the faith community's official worship leader a year later, ministering in homes for both Bible study and worship. In time, the growing faith community needed a building in Alvarado

Over time, partnerships with local congregations allowed San Gabriel to build a permanent church. Gifts from Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills allowed San Gabriel to put in flooring, and pews were donated by St. John Lutheran Church, a closing congregation in nearby Grand Prairie. Later, St. John's council gifted funds that helped San Gabriel take ownership of its land.



## Community during the pandemic



But like so many congregations, San Gabriel struggled to maintain a sense of community during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

The church closed and pivoted to virtual worship on Zoom and Facebook, with Escamilla, lay leaders and a small contingent of choir members recording services in person at the church.

**“It’s been a conjunction of**

**[congregations] working together to help a community that was struggling. We have this wonderful community that is working together to work with what the Lord wants us to do.”**

Jesús Escamilla

With virtual worship, collecting offerings became a challenge. Some congregants sent money through the digital-payment network Zelle or even left their offerings in the church mailbox, but many couldn’t contribute monetarily. So the church began hosting weekly food sales to raise needed funds and provide members with a way to give back.

Escamilla believes that San Gabriel has been built up by the generosity of others — church members, nearby ELCA congregations and, through Mission Support funds, the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

Since then, the church has grown, adding a fellowship hall that serves as a community hub for the area's largely Mexican immigrant population.

## Accompaniment in a time of crisis

### *Lutheran Disaster Response raises \$1.3 million for care efforts in Eastern Europe*

March 15, 2022

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, initiating a humanitarian crisis. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is accompanying ELCA companion churches and ecumenical partners in their efforts to provide support, supplies and care to people affected by the war. So far, LDR's Eastern Europe crisis response has raised \$1.3 million.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, more than 2 million people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries, including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees.



Russia has launched air strikes across Ukraine, including on the capital of Kyiv and other major cities. Airports are shut down, and few railway lines are operational. At least 636 civilians have been killed in the conflict to date, and damage to civilian infrastructure has left hundreds of thousands of people without water or electricity. Ukrainian men of military age (18-60) are forbidden to leave the country, so most of those fleeing the violence are women and children.

Through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), LDR is supporting member churches including the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia, the

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania.

*These churches are distributing basic necessities such as food, water and toiletries, as well as providing pastoral and psychological care.*

These churches are distributing basic necessities such as food, water and toiletries, as well as providing pastoral and psychological care and assisting members of Roma communities and foreign nationals. Additional responses through partners in these countries and others in the region are expected in the coming weeks and months.

A grant to some of these companion churches through the LWF was approved March 9. This grant will allow LWF over a six-month period to establish a coordination structure to support member churches in the response. Through it, the LWF will strengthen the capacity of member churches to fulfill the immediate and long-term needs of refugees and internally displaced people, and to report back to partners effectively.

“Covenant of the smaller Lutheran churches in central and Eastern Europe, ecumenical and other partners has long been a regional priority for the ELCA,” said Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, in a message. “In this time of crisis, we accompany our partners with concrete support for their humanitarian efforts through Lutheran Disaster Response.”

Eaton continued, “The ELCA is also accompanying those who are responding to the needs of foreign nationals who were in Ukraine when the fighting began and who are trying to cross the border to safety, as well as the partners who focused their ministry on providing holistic support for under-documented and undocumented individuals impacted by this violence in Ukraine.”

Gifts made toward LDR’s response are used in full to assist those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Please join us as we pray for our brothers and sisters who are running from conflict in Ukraine. We will continue to accompany them and work with our partners to provide assistance in the midst of this crisis. If you would like to help support Lutheran Disaster Response’s work to provide humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, please [visit https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse](https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse)





APRIL 17TH 6:30 A.M.

# EASTER

Sunrise Service  
Central Oak Heights  
75 Heritage Rd, West Milton, PA

Provided in partnership with  
Saint Paul's United Church of Christ  
United in Christ Lutheran Church  
Milton Lutheran Church



Games Hiking

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

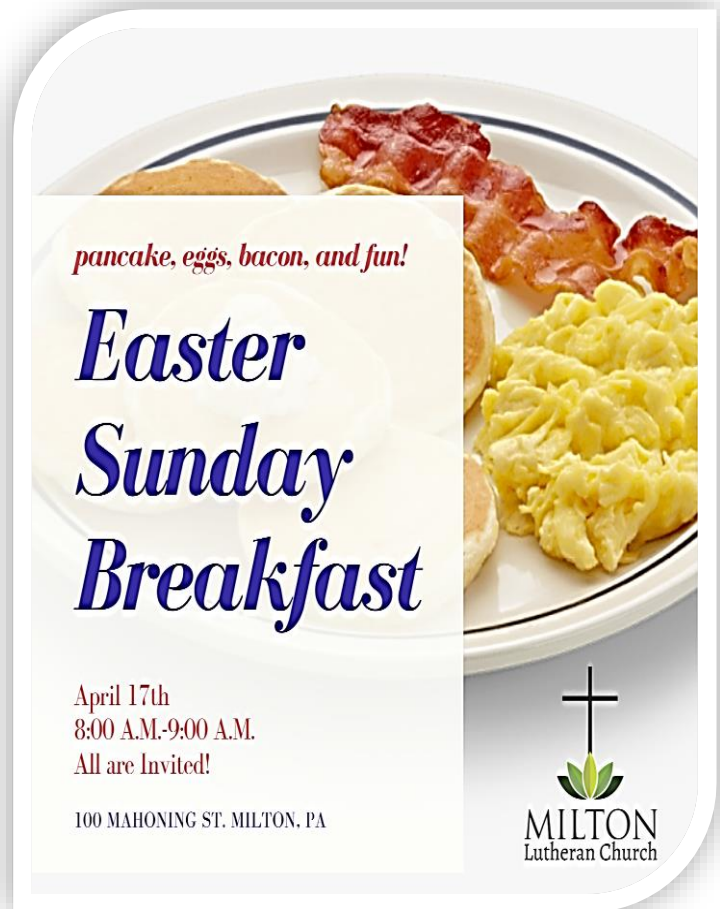
## Pincic & Chicken BBE



Sunday, May 22nd @ 4:00 P.M. (Rain or Shine)  
Camp Mount Luther  
355 Mount Luther Ln. Mifflinburg

Bring a Side-Dish Invite a Friend

RSVP BY MAY 15TH




*pancake, eggs, bacon, and fun!*

## Easter Sunday Breakfast

April 17th  
8:00 A.M.-9:00 A.M.  
All are Invited!

100 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA




### Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

We are  
looking for

people to help plan a Vacation Bible School for this upcoming summer. We will be partnering with United in Christ Lutheran Church and Camp Mount Luther to hold a VBS in July. If you have the gifts of working with kids, like to have lots of fun, and enjoy planning this is a meeting for you! People of all ages are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M. at United in Christ (1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA)**



# STUMP THE CHUMP!

STARTING APRIL 24TH CHILDREN IN OUR CONGREGATION  
ARE INVITED TO STUMP THE CHUMP (AKA PASTOR GARY)  
KIDS CAN SIGN UP TO BRING AN ITEM FROM HOME,  
PLACE IT IN THE CHUMP BAG AND PRESENT IT TO PASTOR GARY DURING WORSHIP.  
THE CHALLENGE WILL BE FOR HIM TO FIGURE OUT HOW THIS ITEM  
HELPS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE  
OF GOD'S LOVE WITH EVERYONE. KIDS MAY BRING THE BAG UP FRONT  
DURING WORSHIP OR PLACE IT ON THE ALTAR BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS.

If you are newer to our community volunteering is a great way to meet people and make memories with your new church family! If you would like to help, please contact the office or let Pastor Gary know.



**Easter Breakfast-** We are looking for volunteers to help cook breakfast on Easter Sunday. All of the food items will be supplied, we need people to set up the fellowship hall, cook food, and clean-up. If you can help, volunteers should plan to **arrive at the church by 7AM on Sunday morning, April 17<sup>th</sup>**. The clean-up crew can help clean up before or after worship.

**Church Picnic-** A planning meeting for the church picnic will take place online at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone wanting to help plan for the church picnic on May 22<sup>nd</sup> should attend. If you can help, please contact the office or let Pastor Gary know so we can send you a zoom link for the meeting. We are looking for people to help with cooking the chicken, organizing games, and helping with transportation if needed.



THANK YOU ALL!



Our Ministry Planning team is inviting everyone to attend four different meetings to discuss building a sustainable future for the Milton Lutheran Church.

We hope you will set aside some time to participate in these important conversations

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

New Mission Statement

April 24<sup>th</sup>

Creating a Vision Statement

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Establishing Core Values

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Setting Goals for the Future



## Recipes Old & New

This month we are taking a look at a very traditional dish for this time of year which is from the church cookbook. However we are also sharing a colorful and healthy spring salad just for a change of pace.



### Easy Crock Pot Ham

Shared by Laura Spangler

#### Ingredients:

3-to-4-pound Pre-cooked Ham

½ Cup. Brown Sugar

¼ Cup Coke (not diet)

1 Teaspoon Dry Mustard

1 Teaspoon Horseradish

**Instructions:** Thoroughly combine brown sugar, mustard and horseradish. Moisten with enough coke to make a smooth paste; reserve remaining coke. Rub entire ham with mixture. Place ham in crock pot and add remaining coke. Cover and cook on for 1 hour then turn to low for 6-7 hours. For a 5 pound ham cook 8 – 10 hours.

### Avocado Panzanella

By Lucy O'Reilly for [www.bbcgoodfood.com](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com)

2 Cups mixed color ripe cherry tomatoes  
1 garlic clove , crushed  
1½ tbsp capers , drained and rinsed (optional)  
1 ripe avocado , pitted, peeled and chopped  
1 small red onion , very thinly sliced  
1 loaf ciabatta or crusty loaf of bread  
4 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
2 Tbsp red wine vinegar  
small handful basil leaves

**Instructions:** Halve or roughly chop the tomatoes (depending on size) and put them in a bowl. Season well and add the garlic, capers, avocado and onion, and mix well. Set aside for 10 mins. Meanwhile, tear or slice the ciabatta into bite size chunks and place in a large serving bowl or on a platter. Drizzle with half the olive oil, half the vinegar and add some seasoning. When ready to serve, pour over the tomatoes and any juices. Scatter with the basil leaves and drizzle over the remaining oil and vinegar. Give it a final stir and serve immediately.



## *Please Join Us in Prayer For...*



Joanie Fisher  
Ken Gaugler  
Mae Jones  
Terry Deaner  
Mary Billhime  
Larry Mensch  
Ed Coup  
Laura Beck

Doris Heffelfinger  
Karen Smith  
Jim Seidel & Family  
Michael Finnerty  
Elwood Reiner  
Nancy Cochran & Family  
Kevin Eberhart  
Kay Dunn

Patsy & Jack Aunkst  
Mary Lou Benshoff  
Julie Benshoff  
Gerald Greenly  
Richard Handy  
Janet Smith

*Please let the office know of anyone who needs added or who can be removed from the monthly prayer list.*

## *Just a few more things....*



4/3 Jack Aunkst  
4/4 Charles Mitch  
4/4 Stephanie Strawser  
4/10 Steven Trapane  
4/10 Christine Ulmer  
4/11 Bonnie Heimbach  
4/13 Claire Weisner  
4/15 Linwood Hill

4/18 John Warfel  
4/22 Mindy Bartholomew  
4/22 Deb Owens  
4/23 Brent Mitch  
4/24 Katie Trapane  
4/48 James Seidel





**4/1 Jim & Joanne  
Seidel celebrating  
66 years together!**

**4/12 Norm & Lois  
Showers celebrating  
58 years together!**

**4/16 Joe & Krista Yaiko  
celebrating 41 years  
together!**

*Did we miss you on the birthday or anniversary list?*

*Please let us know! Please call the office, we will be happy to make any changes.*

## **Online Worship and Resources**



Have you checked out our Church website recently? If you haven't, we hope you will take some time to visit the site. You can find worship service links, weekly bible studies, the church calendar, pictures, and resources to deepen your spiritual life. Feel free to invite others to stop by the website as well!

<http://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

<b>Milton Lutheran Church Leadership Team</b>	
Pastor	Gary Schaeffer
Director of Music	John Warfel
Assistant Director of Music	Nancy Walters
Office Administrator	Robin A. McKean-Power
Digital Ministry Coordinator	Seth Reitz
Custodian	Chuck Stahl
Treasurer	Rose Deaner
Transitional Council	Kellie Brouse, Krista Yaiko, Don Fisher, Jeff Coup, Penny Ulmer, Crystal Gnidovec, Rose Deener, Seth Reitz
Worship Team	Jeff Coup, Kellie Brouse, Nancy Walters, Sue Warfel, John Warfel
Digital Ministry Team	Aaron Coup, Rick Coup, Seth Reitz, Gaven Russell, Garrett Russell, Ellie Schaeffer
Outreach Team	Connie Stover, Kay Dunn, Claire Weisner, Lynnette Weisner, Carol Yost, Linwood Hill, Krista Yaiko, Karen Martello, Peggy Fisher, Cindy Trapani
Ministry Planning Team	Penny Ulmer, Rose Handy, Lynnette Weisner, Ruth Scott, Joe Yaiko and Cindy Coup
Property Team	Don Fisher (point person for 1125 Mahoning St.) Chuck Stahl (point person for 100 Mahoning St.), Bob Greenly, Rusty Brouse, Helen Billhime, Bill Heimbach, Seth Reitz, Joe Yaiko

## Office Hours

Monday – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday – Noon to 5 p.m.

Thursday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday - Office Closed

## Pastoral Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Wed & Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please call the office to reserve time to speak with Pastor Gary.

## Office Location:

Milton Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847,

Phone : 570-742-4601

Office Administrator email: [office@miltonlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@miltonlutheranchurch.org)

Website: <https://miltonlutheranchurch.org>

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and our YouTube Channel to connect with us online.

Please feel free to Email or drop off bulletin announcements or newsletter articles.







### *Inspirational Thoughts:*

*The time is always right to do what is right.  
- Martin Luther King Jr.*

*Believe - a verb - to have confidence in the truth, the  
existence, or reliability of something, although without  
absolute proof that one is right in doing so.  
- Webster's Dictionary*

*Great things are done by a series of  
small things brought together.  
- Vincent Van Gogh*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
April 2022						
					1	2
					Happy Anniversary Jim & Joanne Seidel!	
Morning Prayer Service 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8 AM Sunday School - Led by Kellie Brouse in the Library & 9:30 AM Worship <b>5:00 PM Confirmation &amp; 6:00 PM Youth Group,</b> <b>at United in Christ Church</b> <i>Happy Birthday Jack Aunkst!</i>	<i>Happy Birthday Charles Mitch &amp; Stephanie Strawser!.</i>		<i>6:30 PM Lenten Meal &amp; Worship</i>			
Palm Sunday Service 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8 AM Sunday School - Led by Kellie Brouse in the Library & 9:30 AM <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Worship Service <i>Happy Birthday Steve Trapane &amp; Christine Ulmer!</i>	<i>Happy Birthday Bonnie Heimbach!</i>	Happy Anniversary Norm & Lois Showers!	<i>Happy Birthday Claire Weisner!</i>	<b>Maundy Thurs. Dinner Church at 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Good Friday Worship at 7:00 PM</b> <i>Happy Birthday Linwood Hill!</i>	Happy Anniversary Joe & Krista Yaiko!
Easter Service 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
6:30 AM <b>Sunrise Service at Central Oaks Heights</b> 8 AM <b>Easter Breakfast at MLC</b> 9:30 AM <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Worship Service			<b>7 PM - VBS Planning Meeting United in Christ 1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg</b>		<i>Happy Birthday Mindy Bartholomew &amp; Deb Owens!</i>	<i>Happy Birthday Brent Mitch!</i>
Contemporary Service 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8 AM Sunday School - Led by Kellie Brouse in the Library & 9:30 AM Worship <i>Happy Birthday Katie Trapane!</i>	<b>Online Church Picnic Planning Meeting 7 PM</b> Get link for meeting from office		<b>7:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor Gary</b>	<i>Happy Birthday James Seidel!</i>		