



FROM OUR REGIONAL PASTOR

THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

What is your favorite story of the Lord's resurrection? Hands down, mine is the one in *Luke 24* where two of the Lord's disciples are walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, and the Lord joins them as they walk. But they don't recognize Him! Despite having lived with Him, day and night, for three years, they didn't recognize Him!

Now this is remarkable for a bunch of reasons, not least that they thought He was dead and gone, so they didn't expect to see Him. Despite His having predicted His crucifixion and resurrection – repeatedly – they didn't get it. And then, what is even more remarkable, even though, “beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself,” they *still* didn't get it. Neither their own direct experience of Him nor His detailed, rational explanations of His life were sufficient to convince them of the amazing miracle of His resurrection.

This is reminiscent of the story in *Luke 16*, at the end, where a rich man, tormented in hell, begged Abraham to go and warn his still living brothers to repent so they could avoid his fate. Abraham then referred him to the Scriptures, but they said, “No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” But he said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.”

How, then, is the story resolved in *Luke 24*? The three men stopped at an inn and got supper. There the Lord “took bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. *Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him.*”

The point here (at v. 32) is that this experience finally touched their *hearts*. Something about the way the Lord handled that bread, and gave it to them, must have

reminded them of the many times they had shared bread with Him during His ministry, including the miracles where He multiplied a few loaves to feed thousands. And so, being nourished by *the bread of life* (*John 6: 38, 45, 51*), the goodness of love, at last they understood, and immediately went back to Jerusalem to share the amazing news with the other disciples.

THE LORD RAISED UP AGAIN

Now here's where it gets really interesting FOR US, today. I believe we are taught, in effect, that the Lord has been raised up again – from a natural understanding of His life to a spiritual understanding – in the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church. But who, besides the few of us, believe it? And how deeply does it really affect us? Are we amazed and grateful for this new vision of the Lord? Does it touch our hearts as it touched the original disciples' hearts? Do we want to go right away and share this Good News? Why or why not?

Here, in the New Church, the Lord has once again “expounded to us in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself,” and yet many of us still don't get it. We think, “Oh, yeah, that's interesting,” but do we really feel the Lord's presence? Do we recognize Him and understand what a BIG DEAL this is? Maybe not, until we break bread with Him, that is, until we experience the goodness of love in all that He has shared with us, and really take that in.

This Easter, let's think about how we can more deeply appreciate the Lord's Second Coming, not just in paper and ink (His natural body of teachings), but in the Spirit of Truth that can lead us into all truth and real conjunction with Him. In short, let's see if we can relive the experience of the first disciples on that first Easter Sunday.

—Mike Gladish (mgladish@gmail.com)

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Holy Supper - April 2nd at 7 pm

Please join us for this annual celebration of the Lord's Last Supper with His disciples, and His establishment of the Holy Supper. ALL are welcome.

Easter Sunday Worship, April 5th



11 am: As per our tradition, Easter Sunday will be a family service with a single talk suitable for all ages. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item that will be distributed to our local food bank. There will be a processional to bring food and flower offerings forward at the beginning of the service.

Society Annual Meeting Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ 10 AM

The annual Meeting of Members of the Freeport Society of the General Church is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. at the church.

This is an essential annual gathering in which we elect members of the Board, review our budget, and discuss the state of the congregation and what we might focus on moving forward.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has put forth the following slate of society members to fill open positions on the 2026-2027 Board of Trustees:

- Bill Kronen, Sr for Treasurer
- Ian Heilman for Secretary
- Al Lindsay to begin his second 3-year term
- Trish Lindsay to begin her second 3-year term

Any member wishing to serve or nominate someone for board membership should contact Glenn Heilman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, a minimum of seven days prior to the Annual Meeting on April 18, 2026. Any nominations made by someone on behalf of another individual must be made with knowledge and permission of the nominee. Nominations from the floor are not permitted.

Respectfully submitted
Glenn Heilman, Chair, Carol Kronen, & Sally Lindsay

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-26

Rev. Mike Gladish, Regional Pastor

Miriam Heilman, Chair

Ian Heilman, Secretary

Bill Kronen Sr., Treasurer

Trish Lindsay

Al Lindsay

Chris Bown

Mike Brown

Glenn Heilman

❖ WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE ❖

At the Committee of the Whole meeting held February 28th, it was decided to change the time of our weekly worship service to 10:30 am **beginning April 12th** (the Sunday *after* Easter Sunday).

LIFE OF THE LORD BIBLE STUDY

The Kids' Life of the Lord Bible Study will meet on **April 16th at 4 PM** at Trish Lindsay's home. The kids are asked to bring their Bibles and their copy of *The Life of the Lord* to the meeting. Please call if you have any questions. Trish Lindsay (724-584-6515)



APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tue, Apr 2: 7 PM - Maundy Thursday Holy Supper
- Sun, Apr 5: Rev. Nathan Cole - Easter
- Sun, Apr 12: Rev. Dan Calvo
- Tue, Apr 14: 1 PM - Bible Study @ A&M Browns'
7 PM - Board of Trustees
- Thur, Apr 16: 4 PM - Kid's Bible Study @ Trish Lindsay's
- Sat, Apr 18: 10 AM - Annual Society Meeting
- Sun, Apr 19: Rev. Mike Gladish
- Tue, Apr 21: 1 PM - Bible Study @ A&M Browns'
- Sun, Apr 26: Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
- Tue, Apr 28: 1 PM - Bible Study @ A&M Browns'





Calling Willing Nursery Attendants!

What a lovely use! We finally have a toddler who loves the nursery more than the sermon. Please consider this wonderful use.

Anna has so much to show you, and already knows her way around upstairs. It could not be easier.

Yes, clearances are needed for volunteers over 16. Many of us already have them. Those who don't, call me – Miriam at 724-584-1562 – and I will come to you and get you all cleared up!

The more of us willing to fill this need, the fewer the times we'll each miss a sermon. Please call me and tell me you can help!
– Miriam 724-584-1562

MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY PICNIC

Join friends of the Pittsburgh New Church for a Memorial Day Picnic at North Park.

The church will provide burgers and dogs—the side dishes and desserts are up to you!

Bring your favorite side, sips*, or desserts, and join us for a fun-filled day of outdoor activity and relaxation. **This is an alcohol-free event.*

- Date:** Memorial Day, May 25, 2026
- Where:** North Park Gold Star Shelter, Lake Shore Dr, McCandless Township, PA 15101
- What to bring:** Side dishes, salads, fruit, and desserts, camping chairs, outdoor games
- When:** 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

North Park offers a covered pavilion with picnic tables and benches. If you prefer more comfortable seating, please bring your favorite camping chair. The area surrounding the pavilion is a grassy open field with large shade trees. Bathroom facilities equipped with running water are within walking distance of the pavilion. There is a playground for younger kids, and plenty of room to set up and play games/sports. Please bring any sports equipment that you would like to share with the group (corn hole, volleyball, badminton, lawn darts, Frisbee, etc.).

Keep your eyes open for an evite with RSVP and pot-luck list in your email inbox.

If you have questions or would like to help set up or clean up, please give Barry Smith a call or send a text to 412-951-6180.

We hope to see you there!

SPRING & SUMMER CAMPS

CAMP TIONESTA

April 10-12 for grades 3-6, April 17-19 for grades 7-10.

Hey kids, come out to the great outdoors this year for our annual trip to the lodge in Tionesta! Enjoy a weekend with old friends and make some new ones playing games, hiking with a cookout, and plain old fun.

Chaperones are needed to help with transportation.

Contact Rob Alden to register at:
rmaiden1461@icloud.com, 724-647-8809

MIDWEST REGIONAL YOUTH RETREAT

This year's retreat is set for April 30 - May 3, 2026. The brochure and registration forms are attached to the email this Courier came in. There will be a handful of brochures already printed at the church.

ANC SUMMER CAMP 2026

July 6-11, Bryn Athyn, PA

Registration is open for all current 8th & 9th graders.

Go to: www.ancss.org/summercamp or follow the QR code:



FROM NEWCHURCH.ORG: CAMPS & RETREATS

LAUREL FAMILY CAMP is a summer church camp with activities, worship, and instruction based on the Lord's Word and the Writings of [Emanuel Swedenborg](http://EmanuelSwedenborg). The focus of this camp is to draw people together and build a true sense of spiritual community. Several sessions (one week each) are held in Laurel Hill State Park, Pennsylvania, in July and August of each year. Visit www.laurelcamp.org for more information and registration forms.



Keep going; still more on the next page!

JACOB'S CREEK FAMILY RETREAT is a summer church retreat held in the mountains of Western Pennsylvania. Besides daily worship, the retreat includes instruction and activities revolving around the Lord's Word and the Heavenly Doctrine as revealed through Emanuel Swedenborg. The focus of this retreat is to assist participants in building a strong foundation of doctrinal understanding for spiritual growth. Visit jacobs creekfamilyretreat.org for more information.

MAPLE LEAF ACADEMY is a teen church camp in Palgrave, Ontario in Canada. The campers are mentored towards spiritual growth in an environment filled with music, worship, prayer, and wholesome fun. There's plenty of social interaction ranging from small group exercises to communal activities. Visit their website at www.maplecamp.com or contact gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com to learn more.

TOOLS 4 LIFE is a career and life skills camp held in Bryn Athyn PA designed to help teenagers who have completed grades 10 and 11 develop the tools and confidence needed to make choices about their path after high school. The camp offers 6 days of activities and workshops under the mentorship of skilled counselors. Visit Tools for Life Summer Camp or email tools4life@brynathyn.edu to learn more.

Check out NewChurch.org for more camp and retreat opportunities.

The Country Courier

THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

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