

Steeple Notes

Central Church, Huntington, NY
Where Jesus Is Lord and All Are Loved
April – May 2025

Jesus' Resurrection and God's Divine Promises Within



“He is Risen!” is the ancient and familiar cry we exclaim on Resurrection Sunday morning! Central will join to make this same proclamation 7am at Bay Hills Beach! We will then make that very same claim later that morning (after a nice breakfast) at 10 a.m. at Central Church’s sanctuary! And we will continue to make this case for Christ throughout 2025! He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

In the past, I’ve focused mostly on the external evidence for Jesus’ resurrection, and how we are at the point in even critical scholarship that serious (no, not YouTube self-proclaimed experts but the degreed PhD types) non-Christian and atheist scholars now admit that Jesus historically lived and that he was killed and the tomb was empty—and from the very first, Christians always professed Jesus’ resurrection!

So today, I want to explore what Jesus’ resurrection means internally (a preview of sorts of my Resurrection Sunday message).

1. Jesus’ resurrection makes the Old Testament understandable to us.

All the laws, prophecies and even the history in the OT coalesces into a coherent narrative of divine love and justice in the person and reality of Jesus. For instance, consider God’s faithful servant Job. One of the most astonishing exclamations in Job is his declaration:

*For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!* (Job 19:25-27)

This is what Jesus makes sense of because when he, the Second Person of the Divine Trinity, came to live as one of us, he opened the way for us to see God, and in his resurrection, and the promise of return, opened the way for faithful people like Job to one day in their resurrection also see God with their own eyes! What wonderfully good news! And we cling to this same promise!

2. The resurrection reveals God's divinely persistent love for us!

Think of WHY God chooses resurrection. To me, it speaks of his dogged love for us—that rather than simply wiping us out as he could have, the Lord insists on rescuing and rehabilitating us (think about God choosing Noah and his family). Yes, death is the price of sin, and all who have sinned have fallen short of God's glory. But as Paul continues, "**and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**" (Romans 3:24). To me, I find God's unwavering commitment to save us come alive in the reality and the promise of the resurrection. That He is for us, not against us, and he will persistently keep us in his loving hand (more on this on Resurrection Sunday morning)!

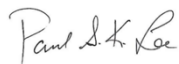
3. The resurrection transforms our current experience.

Anyone who has ever traveled probably has a drawer or a cup where you keep the old currencies that you brought back. Some may still be useful, while most are not—their only real value being keepsakes. My sister left Francs, some Deutsche Marks and maybe even some other coins that no longer are even in currency. In the same way, we know that in Christ, we are all headed to a divine economy someday. For now, we do need to deal with the realities of our world. But some day, Jesus will redeem us—that portion that is desired by the Lord—while the rest fall away as dross. Which transforms our current experience in the way the reality of resurrection frees us in the same way that a traveler, knowing he is three days from going home, will not worry too much about keeping the local currency on hand, more than what he might need to eat, pay his bills and perhaps tip the people he meets along the way. That is how the resurrection transforms even our current experience!

So join us this Holy week, starting at 12 noon on Good Friday, April 18th. Then 7 a.m. at Bay Hills Beach! Then for breakfast at Central, starting at 8:30 a.m. And of course, 10 a.m. for our Resurrection Sunday worship and celebration!

For He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

Blessings,



Pastor Paul Lee





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Min Yao
- 02 Amanda Poupis
- 04 Bill Hyer
- 07 Martha Grill
- 07 Brad Kramer
- 09 Kevin Fernandez
- 10 Janice Bradley
- 15 Linda Tengelsen
- 16 Terrish McCoy
- 17 Kennedy Chapman
- 17 Brianna Jones
- 22 Freeman McNeil
- 23 Derek Novinski
- 24 Ladaisha Jones
- 26 Eton Yoon
- 29 Micah Cummings

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 27 Martha & Bob Grill

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 05 Jamie A. Clous
- 05 Thomas Swanson
- 06 Malia Bundt
- 08 Cole Fischer
- 14 Fred Brodbeck
- 14 George Bundt
- 17 Sean White
- 19 Gladys Paulsen
- 24 Annabelle Novinski
- 24 Vivian Ford
- 25 Carolyn Thuro
- 27 Anastasia Novinski
- 27 Deborah Whitfield
- 28 Kurt Roman

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Jim & Leslie Sutherland
- 19 Ken & Sandy Chin
- 23 Phil & Janet Byler
- 30 Tommy & Lori McLaughlin
- 31 George & Fran Bundt

April at a Glance

Tuesday – April 1

10:00 am – Board Meeting

Tuesday – April 8

11:00 am – Circle Lunch: Social & Game Day

Looking Ahead to May

Tuesday – May 6

10:00 am – Board Meeting

Tuesday – May 13

10:00 am – Circle Meeting

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins!



Vacation Bible School 2025

VBS will be Monday, July 28th, through Friday, August 1st, 9am to 12pm each day, for ages 3 through completing 7th grade. The theme verse is Psalm 34:3, *“Proclaim the Lord’s greatness with me; let us exalt his name together.”*

Registration is now on our [website](#). If you have questions, please call the office at 631-421-3663 ~ and please pray for another great VBS!



Dear Central Friends,

Thank you all for the many beautiful cards and calls on my 100 years birthday. It's so good to be remembered by friends I haven't seen in such a long time because I can't be with you. I even heard from Pastor Dave and Sarah Aldrich which was a blessing. And of course, a special thanks and blessings on my Hannah Circle friends for their faithful cards and prayer list every month.

My family had a wonderful luncheon for me. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren, some of whom I haven't seen since before Covid, flew in from all over. It was quite a day!

Thank you all for being a part of it. When I think back on days gone by, I remember Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to number our days," and I'm thankful for the past and the days to come because I know God is in control of every day. Thank you all again, and may God bless each one of you for your love and faithfulness.

*With love,
Lois Cowie*



Richard Douglas Paulsen of Huntington Station, NY, passed away on February 12, 2025, at the age of 75. He was the beloved husband of Gladys Paulsen and the loving father of Marleny Paulsen, Jeanine (Peter) Stuyvesant, Cody (Kelly) Paulsen, and Timothy (HeeJu) Paulsen; cherished grandfather of Melissa, Jayden, Richard, Silas, and Henry; and loved brother of

Pat Paulsen, Joe Paulsen, and Robert (Laura) Paulsen. He was predeceased by his sister, Linda (Richard) Carlberg.

Richie was born 11/25/1949 in Far Rockaway, Queens (in the same hospital in which his future wife was born three and a half years later). His early years were spent in Brooklyn, NY, as anyone who met up with him could easily tell from his "How ya doin"? When he was 17, he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service as a mail clerk. From 1969-1971 he was in the Army assigned as a postal clerk.

In 1975 Richie met Gladys, the love of his life, in a Barracini coffee shop, near to where they both worked in Rego Park. Three years later, they were married. Richie was always courageous and wise, traveling to Honduras alone to prepare for Marleny's adoption and returning there several months later, again alone, to bring his two-year-old daughter home. Three months later, he traveled solo to Columbia to bring one-year-old Jeanine home. After another three months, Cody was born and he was the father of 3 under 3. Seven years later, Timothy arrived and Richie was again the father of a newborn. He and Gladys bought their first and only home in Huntington Station, taking on a mortgage when he was 44 years old. In 2005, Richie retired from the Post Office and took a job with the New York State DMV in Amityville / Massapequa. He retired for good in 2018.

Richie was a kind, gentle, and happy man. He loved his family, running, the beach, the Yankees, working out, South Carolina, and hot tubs. He was very funny and loved music and holiday celebrations. He also loved working with the children at Vacation Bible School and children's programs at church.

Throughout his life, Richie had an easy laugh and a welcoming way about him. As he courageously lived with his frontotemporal degeneration for nine years, he never lost that smile and gentle way. He was a light in the world, a light that shone on so many people in so many places. His life deeply touched and enriched all of ours. He is greatly missed; even so, we rejoice that he is healed and at peace.



Janet Schroeder, 67, passed away early Wednesday morning, March 26, 2025, due to kidney failure. She was a woman who cared much and gave much all of her life.

Janet was born in Rockville Centre, New York, on August 9, 1957, to Allan and Ruth Swanson, joining brother Richard and sister Carol. The family moved from their home in Uniondale, Long Island, to Melville, where she grew up. She attended and graduated from Walt Whitman High School.

Janet was a hard worker and accomplished everything she put her mind to. She worked her way through Suffolk County Community College and then Dowling College, receiving a bachelor's degree in business. She worked the floor at Martin's Department Store until joining the Long Island Lighting Company in 1979, rising from file clerk to project manager during her 16-year career and earning a master's degree from Dowling, too.

After meeting her husband, Michael (she was one of the few who used his formal name), at the Central Presbyterian Church Sunday School, they married in 1988. They were wed 36 years, including moves back and forth across the country, many job changes and other adventures. Her first move to northern California led her to a new career of service. A volunteer position with a church school grew to running its business operations, as well as fill-in tasks helping children and residents.

When they returned to the East, Janet continued her education to become an administrator. She took jobs as business director at charter schools in Roosevelt and the South Bronx, finding her biggest joy in helping kids -- sometimes traveling six-hour round trips via train and subway to do it. She would launder their clothes if they needed cleaning or bring them special gifts, kneeling with encouragement when she noticed tears or frowns.

Janet joined the family newspaper business as controller and human resources director in Boston, Connecticut and New York. She kept things on track, organized as always. At the same time, she kept an immaculate home -- despite her husband.

All the while she integrated her faith into her work, and served as an elder and volunteer as a member of Central Church.

She retired in 2023, only to devote her time to volunteering at the Helping Hand Rescue Mission in Huntington Station, where you could see her talking to anyone she saw who needed a good word or a warm coat.

Janet is survived her husband, brother Richard Swanson (Claire), sister Carol Christensen (Philip); nephews Thomas (Margaret Ellen) and Jon Christensen, and Mark Swanson (Rachel), and niece Anna Finegan (Sean). She was especially close to friends Steve and Sylvia Ruinsky and their daughters Tai and Mollie.

Janet will be missed tremendously.



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Our email prayer chain continues. If you have any prayer concerns you'd like Central members and friends to pray for, contact

Linda Tengelsen, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at lteng@optonline.net, and she will be happy to send out your prayer concerns and requests to the group. Please also remember to update us on your prayer concerns as well.




Benefit Concert for New Life Children's Home



Many thanks to the amazing students of Suzanne Valerio and colleagues ~ who raised funds for New Life on March 23rd through their musical offerings. Praise God!



APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 central church <small>HUNTINGTON, NY</small>	OFFICE HOURS: TUES TO FRIDAY, 8:30 AM TO 1 PM	1 WCC BOARD MTG 10:00 AM	2 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	3	4	5 NA GROUP 9:00 AM CELEBRATION OF LIFE: JANET SCHROEDER 10:00 AM
6 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	7 <i>THE CHOSEN:</i> <i>LAST SUPPER PT 2</i> 6:00 PM SHOW @ HUNTINGTON SQ, E. NORTHPORT	8 WCC CIRCLE LUNCH & GAME DAY 10:00 AM DEACONS 7:00 PM WORSHIP COMM 7:30 PM	9 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM TRUSTEES 7:30 PM	10 KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM	11	12 CLEAN-UP DAY 8:30 AM NA GROUP 9:00 AM
13 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	14 <i>THE CHOSEN:</i> <i>LAST SUPPER PT 3</i> 6:00 PM SHOW @ HUNTINGTON SQ, E. NORTHPORT	15	16 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	17	18 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> <i>SERVICE AND</i> <i>LUNCH 12 PM</i>	19 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
20 BAY HILLS BEACH 7 AM BREAKFAST 8:30 10 AM ~ EASTER CELEBRATION NA GROUP 7 PM	21	22 SESSION MEETING 7:00 PM	23 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	24 KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM	25	26 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
27 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	28	29	30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM			

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>central church HUNTINGTON, NY</p>	OFFICE HOURS: TUES TO FRIDAY, 8:30 AM TO 1 PM			1 KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 – 6:00 PM (LAST GATHERING THIS SEMESTER)	2	3 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
4 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	5 OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAYS	6 WCC BOARD MTG 10:00 AM DEACONS MTG 7:00 PM	7 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	8	9	10 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
11 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 NA GROUP 7 PM MOTHER'S DAY	12	13 WCC CIRCLE 10:00 AM WORSHIP COMM 7:30 PM	14 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	15 STEEPLE NOTES ARTICLES DEADLINE	16	17 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
18 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	19	20	21 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	22	23	24 NA GROUP 9:00 AM
25 WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27 SESSION MEETING 7:00 PM	28 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	29	30	31 NA GROUP 9:00 AM