



**Important Dates:**

- **Easter Weekend Events**, April 9– April 12.
- **Annual 5 & 10K Walk/Run**, Memorial Day May 25
- **Stoneridge Preschool Bakes Sale**, Memorial Day May 25
- **Vacation Bible School**, June 22– 26

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WWW.STONERIDGECC.ORG

*Bridging the Gap between Christ,  
the Church,  
and the Community*

THE STONERIDGE CHURCH

# The Stoneridge Bridge

## Easter Weekend Events

### Seder/Passover Meal

On *Maundy Thursday*, Stoneridge Church will be hosting a *Seder/Passover Meal*. The meal will be a combination of the reenactment of the *Last Supper* as well as a traditional Jewish Passover observation. Various Passover foods will be served, with a narrative text offered by Pastor John and others from the church.

Please call the church office if you are interested in attending. The *Seder* is open to the public. The date will be Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

### Good Friday

An "Open Sanctuary" will be available on Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, here at Stoneridge, with quiet reflection and Holy Communion offered. From 7 – 8:30 p.m., you are welcome to come to reflect upon what Christ has done for us. Please enter and exit the sanctuary with quiet reverence. Pastor John will be offering Communion every 15 minutes.

### Stoneridge Egg Hunt



The Annual Stoneridge Egg Hunt will once again take place on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. Parents are invited to call the church office to register your child(ren). There is no cost. A brief song fest will take place in the sanctuary at 1 p.m., to be followed by the Egg Hunt and cookie decorating.

The community is welcome to attend. Please bring your own egg baskets or bags.

### Easter Morning Opportunities

Easter morning at Stoneridge Church begins with an outdoor resurrection service at 8:45 a.m. It will be held, weather permitting, in the outdoor sanctuary behind the church. Easter Breakfast is scheduled from between 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in Schogren Hall. Finally, Easter Worship Service is 10:30 a.m., with a special Easter presentation by our Sunday School classes, a message on the Hope of the Resurrection, and the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus to conclude the service. All are welcome, especially if you do not presently attend a church.

## Pastor's Paragraphs:

## "Easter Hope Amid Tough Times"



To experience *tough times* is a fact of life. We can't avoid them. We can complain about our *tough times* to someone, thinking it may help us feel better, but doing so doesn't make them go away. We can even try to run from *tough times*. However, doing so only avoids the inevitable. The fact is this: we face *tough times* and it can really take a toll on us!

Living in today's world requires us to handle *tough times* in a way that allows us to get through them. Whether it be economic difficulties, relational challenges, family issues, or work-related trials and tribulations, *tough times* can be conquered with the peace and hope that God provides. While it can be guaranteed that everyone will experience *tough times* of various kinds, God's peace and hope also comes with a guarantee, for this peace and hope is guaranteed through the resurrection of Christ!

What the Easter story and Christ's resurrection secures for us are the following: PEACE OF MIND, for we know that what we experience in *this* world is only temporary; HOPE BEYOND TOMMORROW, for God can turn *any* hopeless situation around; PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE, just as the literal *presence* of Christ among the troubled disciples gave them the promise of prophecy fulfilled; and ETERNAL GLORY, for the Apostle Paul tells us that our present troubles will not even compare to the glory of heaven secured for us by Christ.

I Corinthians 15 tells us that if the resurrection of Christ did not happen, then our *faith is futile* and we are to be pitied. Any hope beyond our present *tough times* would be gone. Our eternal perspective on life would evaporate like drops of water on a hot skillet. But Christ DID rise again, thus giving us a perspective of heaven.

So let us celebrate the *Easter hope* we can each find in Christ. If you haven't received Christ personally into your life as the sole source of peace and hope, don't delay. This Easter Season would be a great time to invite Him into your life!

With Easter hope and promise,

Pastor John



## Stoneridge Flea Market/Yard Sale

Stoneridge Church is holding a Flea Market/Yard Sale on Friday-Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Times will be Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Items will also be available for purchase during Friday night's movie night (prior to the movie at 6:30 and following the movie at 8:30 p.m.)

## Adult Spiritual Formation News!

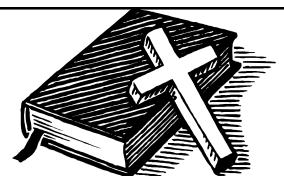
Stoneridge Church welcomes you to join us each Sunday at 9:15 for Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation classes. A class is provided for every age. A newly-restructured Sunday School time for kids is already underway, providing an exciting and fun experience for kids to learn about God.

Also, two Adult classes will be offered after Easter as well. One will be: "*Basics of Faith and Practice, Part 1.*" This class will provide an overview of the Old Testament by using the Bible to explore Biblical stories. Beginning from the book of Genesis, the class will inspire insight and practical growth.

The second adult class will be: "Searching for Home: How the Gospel helps us find our way to a sense of 'home' in God, in our relationships, and in this world while we are here." The sessions will include the following topics:

- March 29: Sharing & discussion related to the concept of "home" and when, if ever, we have experienced it
- April 5: "Homeless: Lost in the search for a good place"
- April 19: "What is Home? A place with Father, Son, and Spirit"
- April 26: "How our culture tends to make us meandering nomads (even if we stay in the same house for decades), and why that's not good"
- May 3: "Finding the road home, and staying on it"
- May 10: "Forks in the road: It's not about our choices, but God's"
- May 17: "The blessings of home: Why heaven makes a world of difference"
- May 24: "The end of our yearning: Communing with home along the way"

## Upcoming Preaching Series: "Thinking Christian"



Much can be said about the person who is able to "*think Christian*" in a world that is becoming less Christian every day. Just how does a Christian live and flourish in a culture where Christian values and God's truth are challenged? Following Easter, Pastor John will begin a teaching series entitled, "*Thinking Christian.*" The series will include a close-up look from God's Word how the believer in Christ can live out his/her Christian faith in the world in which we live.

## "Friendship" Weekend

A "Friendship Weekend" is planned for Thursday-Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> here at Stoneridge. Special events will be scheduled for kids and adults of all ages. Steve Evans from NY will be sharing an encouraging and uplifting spiritual talk at each of the events. Stay tuned for the schedule of events. You won't want to miss these community events where lots of fun will be enjoyed, friendships will be shared, and hearts will be encouraged! The church family at Stoneridge looks forward to sharing our friendship with you, the Stoneridge community!

## Get Ready to Rock the Dock!

**VBS June 22-26**

**9 am-12 noon all week!**

**SHARING GOD'S WORD! \* FOOD! \* CRAFTS!**  
**MUSIC! \* FRIENDS! \* and FUN!**

**We still have openings for volunteers!**

**Sign-up sheets at the back of the church!**

**Pre-register for Preschool while there are still openings!**

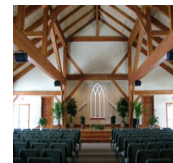
**Questions? Contact: Stacy- (412)-492-9163**

**or Jennifer- (412)-767-4837**



## Summer Camp at Mission Meadows

Camp Mission Meadows is located on beautiful Lake Chautauqua, in New York state, just north of Erie. The camp is owned and operated by the Great Lakes Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Kids and families from Stoneridge LOVE Mission Meadows! With the help of a well-trained and talented staff, a week at camp is the ultimate summer experience for kids and youth. Weeks are available for children entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through high school youth. Each week includes traditional camp activities, daily chapels and spontaneous fun, while specific schedules and activities vary by the age of the campers. Most of all, Mission Meadows encourages campers to seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Consider joining the fun! On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Karen Yeversky, camp director, will join our worship service to share more about attending summer camp at Mission Meadows. We invite you to join us and find out more. Camp brochures are available at the church and you can check out the camp website and the summer schedule at [www.missionmeadows.org](http://www.missionmeadows.org). We join the camp in desiring that this wonderful experience available for all children. Financial assistance is available.



New chapel at Mission Meadows

## Movie Nights

On each 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, Schogren Hall is usually filled with kids, moms and dads, and grandparents for "Movie Night." Movies are projected on the wall, with great stereo sound, pop, and popcorn. Movie Nights are free and are open to the community. The next Movie Nights will be Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 5<sup>th</sup> (outdoor, weather permitting). Call the church office for the movie title (since we can't publish the title publically or on the web site). It's most always a new DVD release that everyone will enjoy!



## Youth News:

The high school Bible Study group meets at the Panera Bread on Route 8 every Monday night at 7:30pm. All students 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome! We will continue meeting until the end of the school year.

Junior high Youth Group meets every Sunday evening from 6-8pm. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome. (We will not be meeting April 12 or May 10 for Easter and Mother's Day.)

## Special Events:

April 24-25 we will be participating in WorldVision's 30 Hour Famine program. The problem of world hunger is huge, but the solution is not. Just \$30 a month -roughly \$1 a day - can help feed and care for a child in most developing countries. Our students are choosing to take action. As students go 30 hours without food, they'll get a taste of what it's like to be hungry, all the while reaching out to others in need. And as they do that, their compassion will grow: for people around the world, and right here at home. A lock in is planned for the event, details TBA.

All high school students are invited to a bonfire on May 9<sup>th</sup> behind Stoneridge Church. 7-9pm. Hotdogs, drinks, and s'mores will be provided. Bring a friend!

This year, our Vacation Bible School is June 22-26. Youth volunteers are essential to the success of this event. At the close of the week, we will be hosting a lock-in for all teens who participated in VBS. Join us on Friday evening, June 26 at 8pm to Saturday morning at 9am. If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Wendy!

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*Our Mission:*

*To Glorify Christ and Share  
His Love With Our World*

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## Stoneridge Preschool Bake Sale

Please join us for a bake sale during the Memorial Day 5 & 10K race, to support Stoneridge Preschool.



## Stoneridge Preschool Registration

Registration is now open for the 2009-10 school year for 4 and 5 year olds. Both 2 and 3 day programs continue to be offered here at Stoneridge. Please call the church office (412-486-7778) to register and reserve your spot for your child!

## 5 & 10 K Race

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 5 & 10 K Walk/Run takes place on Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m.



Registration forms can be found in the church office or on the church web site, [www.stoneridgecc.org](http://www.stoneridgecc.org). The race will once again be co-sponsored by Shaler Township and Running Wild from Hampton. Trophies for overall winners, age-division winners will be awarded. Finishing trophies will be given to every 12 and younger participant. A great assortment of free raffle prizes, race shirt, and food are all part of the Stoneridge race experience! Come and join us!