

Passion figures to give testimony

"Peter, the Forgiven Man" is the title of the first of the 7:30 Wednesday night Lenten services that begin next week in Christ Lutheran Church, Lehigh and Luzerne streets.

The Rev. Myrna Kysar, pastor at Christ Lutheran, said the entire series, "Persons in the Passion," comprises dramatic portrayals of five of the people involved in events of the last week before the crucifixion of Jesus.

Wednesday night the disciple Peter will be portrayed by the pastor's husband, Dr. Robert Kysar, who teaches at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg and

heads a continuing education program for clergy in northeast Pennsylvania.

Kysar, who has portrayed Peter in dramas in churches in New Haven, Conn., and St. Paul, Minn., said of the disciple:

"Peter was haunted by his guilt after he denied that he knew Jesus. Like so many of us, Peter had to discover the meaning of forgiveness and the positive element of guilt in our life."

At the Lenten service Wednesday, March 2, Mary Magdalene will be portrayed by Virginia Reese of 1 Heather Lane, Greenfields.

Mrs. Reese, who is president of Berks Grand Opera, said of her role as Mary: "Mary Magdalene is often overlooked as an important figure in the Passion story. Mary remained faithful to Jesus even when his disciples fled the scene."

Nativity pastor has anniversary

The 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Rodger A. Krause, pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church, was marked by 227 persons at a dinner in the fellowship hall following a recent Sunday worship service.

At the service the anthem and hymns used are the pastor's favorites. Gifts from the congregation were presented to Krause, and the Reading Liederkrantz Dancers entertained.

Among those attending was the Rev. Harold Weiss, secretary of the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod. A letter of congratulations was presented from the Rev. James Crumley, bishop of the Lutheran Church in America.

Persons to be portrayed on succeeding Wednesday evenings are "Pilate, the Responsible Man," on March 9, "Thomas, the Doubting Saint," March 16, and "Judas, the Blind Man," on March 23. Each service will involve contemporary worship, a dramatic presentation with supporting actors drawn from the congregation, and music by the junior and senior choirs of Christ Lutheran Church, Pastor Kysar said.

The pastor explained that the Lenten worship experiences of drama are for persons of all ages.



Dr. Robert Kysar, right, a teacher at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, will portray Peter, the forgiven man, in a Lenten drama Wednesday night at Christ Lutheran Church, Lehigh and Luzerne streets. Virginia Reese, left, 1 Heather Lane, Greenfields, will portray Mary Magdalene at the service on March 2.

Pastor in Lenten service

Pastor Myrna Kysar of Christ's United Lutheran Church will portray Mary Magdalene on Wednesday evening, March 5 at St. John's Chapel in Kimmel's Valley. "Mary, the Faithful Woman," is the title of the second of the Lenten Wednesday Night Services that begin at 7 p.m. The entire series, entitled, "Persons in the Passion," are dramatic portrayals of five of the persons involved in the last

week of Jesus' life.

"Mary, the Faithful Woman" deals with Mary's continued faithfulness amid the crisis in the last days of Jesus' life. Also involved in the drama, representing the twelve apostles are Jacob Bingaman and Todd Bingaman of Gordon, Malcolm Boyer of Ashland, Carl Johnson, Fred Marquardt and Jake Zak of Girardville, and Mark Hengen, John Hepler, Pastor Robert Kysar,

Darryl Reiner, Forrest Shadle and Jim Walter of Lavelle. The Apostles will be singing musical selections from Jesus Christ Superstar entitled "Everything's Alright" and "The Last Supper." "Peter's Denial," also from Jesus Christ Superstar, will be sung by Lois Urbon and Vicki Urbon of Gordon and Robert Kysar, Howard Mattern and Forrest Shadle of Lavelle. St. Peter's Junior Choir will be a speech choir for the drama.



Pastor Myrna Kysar

St. Paul's Junior Choir and St. Peter's Senior Choir will sing "Pontius Pilate" by C. H. Upshur. All choirs, St. Peter's Junior and Senior Choir of Lavelle, St. Paul's Junior Choir of Gordon, St. John's Choir of Kimmel's valley, and Zion Choir of Girardville will join in a resurrection finale entitled, "Jesus, Our Lord, is Risen Today!" by Gordon Young.

Pastor Kysar says of her role as Mary Magdalene, "Mary is often overlooked as an important figure in the Passion story. She remained faithful to Jesus, even when his disciples fled the scene. Her story helps us to understand our own call to be faithful to Christ in a world where some are fleeing from Him."

The public is cordially invited to this lenten experience entitled, "Mary, the Faithful Woman." There will be a social hour following the service.

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Pastor portrays Pilate in drama



Pastor Robert Kysar

Pastor Robert Kysar of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Gordon, will portray Pontius Pilate on Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Chapel, 216 E. Biddle St., Gordon.

"Persons in the Passion" is the title of a series of Lenten dramas that have been given at Christ's United Lutheran Church the past four Wednesday evenings. Those who have attend these worship services have filled the chapels and been moved by the message. The services have proved meaningful for persons of all ages.

The theme for this Wednesday evening service is "Pilate, the Responsible Man." Those in attendance will hear Pilate's own account of events and then be faced with such questions as: Would you have responded to the pressures of the crowd as Pilate? What does it mean to be responsible? To whom or what are we responsible?

Pilate, Robert Kysar, will sing "Pilate's Dream" from Jesus Christ Superstar. St. Peter's Senior Choir and St. Paul's Junior Choir will join in singing "Pontius Pilate" from Alleluia! Christ is Risen by C.H. Upshur and "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" by Roger C. Wilson. Ed Stepulitis Jr. of St. Paul's Junior Choir will sing a brief solo from "The Crucifixion" by C.H. Upshur.

The public is cordially invited to his lenten experience entitled, "Pilate, the Responsible Man" and to the social hour following the worship.

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