

A Word from the Pastor for the Epiphany Season...

The following illustration says it all, about who we are and whose we are.

The Emperor Franz Josef, who died in 1916, was the last of the great Hapsburg rulers. He lay in state in his magnificent palace in Vienna, surrounded by exquisite floral arrangements, sumptuous fabrics, jewels and gold. On the day of the funeral, his body was taken to the church in an exquisite hearse drawn by magnificent matched horses. The pallbearers removed the casket from the hearse, and brought it to the locked doors of the church.

One of the emperor's attendants knocked loudly on the door, and a voice came from within: "Who goes there?"

"His Majesty Franz Josef Emmanuel Hans, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, Head of the Hapsburgs."
Came the reply from within: "We do not know him."

A second time the emperor's attendant knocked loudly on the door, and a voice came from within: "Who goes there?"

"His Majesty Franz Josef Emmanuel Hans, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, Head of the Hapsburgs."
Came the reply from within: "We do not know him."

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A Word from the Pastor for the Epiphany Season (continued)...

A third time the emperor's attendant knocked loudly on the door, and a voice came from within: "Who goes there?"

The answer this time was much softer and simpler: "It is Franz, a child of God." Soon, there was a loud noise as the massive bolts were drawn back, the doors were opened wide, and the interior of the magnificent church was made visible.

The doorkeeper then said, "The Lord welcomes Franz, a child of God. Him we know."

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

(published in January 2004, *Trinity Church Web Site*, trinitystaunton.org).

Submitted by Pastor Valerie

Lenten Journey
 "O for a closer walk with God"
 Join us each week in Lent at selected area churches
 listed below for Lenten Worship, Guest Preaching and
 Fellowship
 ALL Lenten Services begin at 7 PM
 EACH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

DATE	CHURCH	ADDRESS	PREACHER
Mar 13	Queen of Heaven RCC Church	4220 Seneca Street West Seneca	Mr. Michael Johnson Catholic Seminarian
Mar 20	Saint Peter's UCC Church	1475 Orchard Park Rd West Seneca	Msgr. William Gallagher Pastor at TBD
Mar 27	Saint John Vianny RCC Church	2950 Southwestern Orchard Park	Very Rev. Edward Idhe Rector—Saint Nicholas
Apr 3	Saint Nicholas	539 Main Street West Seneca	The Rev. Al Robinson Pastor—Spirit of Truth
Apr 10	New Hope UMC Church	2846 Seneca Street West Seneca	TBD

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE—'SEVEN LAST WORDS'
Noon to 3 PM

Saint David's Episcopal Church—3951 Seneca Street—
 West Seneca
 Sponsored by the West Seneca Community of Churches

Monthly Community Dinner February 22, 2019

**This month we will be serving a Roast
Beef Sandwich, German Potato Salad
and Chicken Wing Soup**

Dinner is served 4pm—6:30pm or until we run out,
whichever comes first.

We will offer drinks and dessert with the meal.

The meal is provided for ANYONE in need of food, fellowship or
fun... As always, the food, the seat and the smiles are FREE but
good will offerings are always accepted.

Annual Soup Cook Off

February 10, 2019 1—4 pm

**\$5 admission includes 1 sample of each of
the 12 entries**

**Vote for your 2 favorites—the winner goes
home with the golden ladle award**

Beverages and desserts will be available

Altar Guild

We hope everyone had a great holiday season. It doesn't seem possible that it's time for the Feb. article already!

The Guild wishes to thank everyone for your poinsettias orders and for all your support through 2018. We also appreciate your continued support in purchasing our weekly altar bouquets and flowers for other special occasions.

Taking care of the Altar Preparations for the month of Feb. are Kathy Moody and Karen Maier. Our next meeting will be on March 3rd. so mark your calendars now!!! Danese D. and Karen M. Will be our hostesses.

On a light note, Do you think Adam ever said to Eve "Watch it! There are plenty more ribs where you came from!!"



Submitted by Nancy Weber

Remember to add your name to the birthday list if you have not done so and would like to. There is cake to be shared the first Sunday of the month during fellowship time between services. All are invited to come each Sunday for fellowship and a shared treat.

Volunteers are needed to bring in a "goodie" each week. It can be bought or made. Fruit, Cheese and Crackers, Brownies, Doughnuts- whatever you might like to donate would be welcomed and enjoyed. The sign up sheet is on the counter by the coffee. Just ask Diane Molnar if you have any questions about this ministry.

Community Nights!

St. John's is proud to present our new monthly Community Nights. These nights will be filled with family friendly events that seek to foster a deeper sense of community within St. John's. All of the events are after our monthly Community Dinners unless otherwise noted. So come on out eat some good food and then stay for a fun time!

Below is a list of the upcoming Community Nights along with their tentative dates. As we get closer to each event more information will become available.

Feb 22nd - SKATING

Mar 29th - MOVIE NIGHT

Apr 26th - BOARD GAME NIGHT

May 31st - MUSEUM NIGHT

Jun 28th - OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Jul (TBA) - BISON'S GAME

Submitted by: Megan Marrano
(marrano92@gmail.com)

WHAT IS A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM?

Thrivent Action Teams are groups of volunteers who donate time and effort to help a charitable cause of their choice. As a **Thrivent** Financial benefit or associate member, **Thrivent** Financial will arm you with \$250 of seed money for your project.

If you want to learn more you can contact your Thrivent representative (Brian Mackey) or talk to Mark Koeppel or Nancy Kessler.

The funds can be used to help pay for a Community dinner, a Youth event, an Outreach program and more.

You can learn more by checking out the web site below.

https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA_Conversation_Guide.pdf

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

We have been asked to try something a little different starting this month. The West Seneca food pantry has asked us to donate Soup, Soup and more Soup. It can be canned, ramen noodles, cup o noodles, etc. We are also looking for paper products, beans, jello, peanut butter and jelly.



Women of the ELCA

Our next meeting will not take place until March when we will get together again for a Bible Study presented by Sylvia and refreshments from Nancy and Leah. As always, all are welcome to join us at any and all meetings at 7PM on the second Tuesday.

You might like to mark your calendar to come to the World Day of Prayer celebration on March 1. Because the weather caused this event to be cancelled last year, the ladies at the Orchard Park United Methodist Church will host it again using the same program from last year. Watch the bulletin for more information and hopefully you will have the time to attend this meaningful and informative service and enjoy the community fellowship which follows.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Thought for the month: (this rerun is worth repeating)

GOD SAID NO

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said NO.

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said NO.

His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said NO.

Patience is a byproduct of tribulations: it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said NO.

I give you blessings; happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said NO.

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said NO.

You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said NO.

I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said Ahhh,

Finally you have the idea.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

2/1 Richard Fredericks
2/3 Denise Brady
2/4 Sue Koeppel
2/4 Bonnie Marciniak
2/6 Kris Hicks
2/6 Ruth Jacobs
2/7 Sandy Marzahn
2/9 Mark Koeppel
2/10 Arline Semlitsch
2/13 Pastor Valerie
2/16 Rhonda Drezek
2/17 Leah Leipler
2/18 Donna Heine
2/18 Mike Woodard
2/19 Robert Wolf
2/20 Sandy Gordon
2/20 Gerald Szalanski Sr.
2/23 Devon Brady
2/23 Megan Molnar
2/24 Hunter Sherer
2/25 Ruth Merckel
2/26 Charlie Arnold
2/26 Kirsten Brady



HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY TO:

2/12 Keith & Alexis Lang
2/14 Bernie & Sandy Perillo
2/17/1968 John & Lynn Boldt
2/19/1972 Jeff & Felicia Kline
2/21/2015 Patrick & Melissa Mudd
2/24 Keith & Linda Altman

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
February 3	Pat Lipka	Nancy Kessler
February 10	Dawn Corliss	Karen Rothenberger
February 17	Al Kerner	Adam Wolff
February 24	Jim Steiner	Caroline Rackl



Welcome New Members

Brian, Natalie, Vito and Gino Napierala
Judy Tolsma
Marilyn Wagner
Craig and Edythann Sims
Nancy Jolley
Harris and Vicky Wienke
Timothy Then
Heather Thauer & Kayla, Lena and Mavis Patrick
Joyce Marzullo

ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

invites you to join us:

WHEN: FEBRUARY 28 - Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: J. P. FITZGERALD'S

PRICES: \$ 9.99 & up entrees + appetizers, soups, salads, wraps, sandwiches.

DIRECTIONS: Clark St., Hamburg, NY - east of South Park Ave.

PLEASE CAR POOL AND MEET AT THE RESTAURANT.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DUE TO THE SIZE OF OUR GROUP. PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER AND NAME WHO YOU ARE RIDING WITH.

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

We did not dine out in November & December.

We choose our next restaurant from a sheet that is passed around at each dinner. The restaurant with the most Xs is where we go next. Sometimes a favorite is included on the list and we go there again. This is a chance to visit a restaurant you wouldn't normally go to and get to know your fellow members of St. John's. Your family and friends are always welcome. Please call Carolly Huth at 826-0506 should you have questions or suggestions.

Submitted by Carolly Huth

Hands and Hearts Ministry

The members of the Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join our small but dedicated group. We knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for those in need of healing warmth and christening caps to welcome newly baptized infant members. Throughout the year we also make items of outerwear for donation to groups in the community that pass them along to their clients.

We welcome everyone from those wishing to learn the craft to the expert. The first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Room is our new meeting time. We have a small stock of tools to get new members started and look forward to welcoming you with a quiet evening of companionable conversation and needlework.

If interested please contact Linda Wetzler (716)512-8106. Thank you.



Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **March** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **February 10th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel (sekoeppe@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

LOST & FOUND

If you find items around our complex, please place them in the lower cabinet in the Foyer, next to the Guest Book stand. Please do not leave them lying where you found them.

If you lose something please look in that cabinet first.

Items of value are kept in the church office.

If you bring in goodies for our many receptions during the year, please take your dishes home. Those left in the kitchen will be placed on the pew next to the Classified Ads bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

We do thank everyone who brings in goodies but we just don't have room to store the dishes left behind. Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.

Coffee Hour

We have the following members to thank for setting up the coffee from September - May for your fellowship time between services. They are Diane Molnar, Maxine and Jim Steiner, Peggy Cramer, Ruth and Norm Merckel, Dick and Edie Fischer and Charlie and Connie Arnold.

The following members are thanked for cleaning up: Mark and Sue Koepfel, Janet Hender, Linda Wetzler, Bethann Hintzman, and Danese Dick.

We are so thankful to these folks and would love to have more members volunteer since it is only 10-15 minutes of your time either before the early service to set up or around 10:20 to clean up before the second service. As of now, each team is on every 5- 6 weeks, but if we get more volunteers, the spread would be greater. Please see or contact Connie 674-2409 or kaketop@aol.com if you would like more information or to volunteer.

Also, Diane Molnar is in charge of making sure her sign up sheet for refreshments is filled each week during fellowship time. Pastries, fruit, donuts, cookies, cheese and crackers are just some ideas of what can be brought in so don't be intimidated thinking you cannot contribute. We Lutherans love whatever is there to share and thankful for your contribution to the fellowship time.

The sign up sheet is on the kitchen counter, you cannot miss it! Just ask Diane if you have any questions, 675-2481.

Art Supplies Needed...

A young person in West Seneca, Rachel, has started a group called LaRussa's Legacy of Love. This group sends hand made cards with inspirational messages to nursing home residents, shut ins, people who are ill and those in need of a pick-me-up. Rachel is currently making 200 cards a month and she can use the following:

Construction paper

Stickers (smiley faces, hearts, etc.)

Colored envelopes

If you have supplies you would like to donate please place them in the box in the foyer labeled Legacy of Love. I will deliver them on St' John's behalf.

Thank you, Rick Lipka

WANTED: coupons from The Buffalo News Sunday paper. These coupons are mailed to Fort Bragg where our military personnel and their families can use them at their PX up to six months after the expiration date. Just drop them in the box on the counter in the Narthex and Sandy Stango will take it from there. Another way to support our troops and their families. Thanks, Sandy Stango

Job Opening

There are 2 openings for Financial Secretaries for St. John's. Duties include counting and recording the weekly offerings and creating the year end statements. Please contact Mike Woodard for more details.

Ladies Aid

We are taking the winter off so watch the Crossbeam to see when we will be meeting again. Special thanks to Sue Koepfel and all of the people who help put the Crossbeam together so that we can have this avenue of communication along with all of the other ones we use.

One final thought: If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

Submitted by Connie Arnold



This is the QR code for the St John's website. If you're not familiar, a QR code will take a mobile device directly to our web site, just by taking a picture of it.

Thank You!

The guests of the Ladies Aid Christmas Party on 12-02-18 donated \$260 in gift cards to the Kathleen Mary House:

"Thank You Thank You Thank You for making the Kathleen Mary House Christmas a holiday to remember for years to come. Your generosity and continued support are both humbling and overwhelming! Your thoughtful gift cards put smiles on all who reside at the Kathleen Mary House.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity you have given our families for a special treat. Outings such as Tim Hortons, McDonald's and Burger King are rare occurrences. But now thanks to all you wonderful women in the Ladies Aid Society our families can go out and make warm and fun memories together. May God bless each and every one of you for the good work you do throughout our community.

We hope 2019 is chock full of good health and abundant blessings for all!!

Warmest Regards, Donna Braunscheidel"

These items were made by Sandy Stango and Marge Barth:

"Thank you for your generous donation of hats and gloves for our families. We are truly grateful for the gift of your time and talent.

Our families will be toasty this year all due to your kindness and generosity.

We appreciate your support and belief in our mission.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday and happy healthy New Year!!

Warm Regards, Donna Braunscheidel, Assistant Director"

Annual Valentine Dinner
St John's Fellowship Group
Italian Village Restaurant

6354 Transit Rd, Depew, NY 14043

Sunday February 17th 2019—1 PM

Entrees: Roast Beef with Gravy, Haddock
Milanese, Chicken Marsala

Dinners Include: Salad, Vegetables—Potatoes,
Ice Cream Sundae, Coffee or Tea

Cost: All Dinners are \$19.25 which includes tax
and tip.

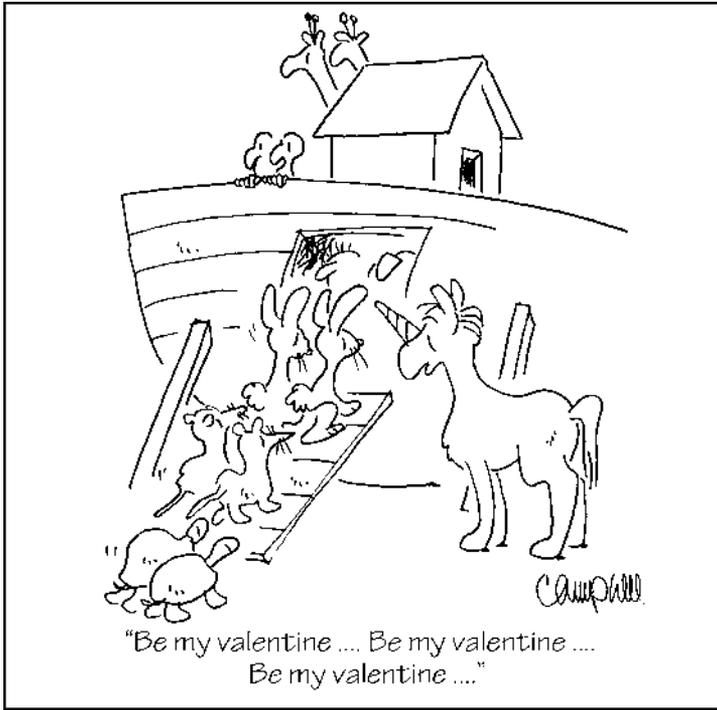
All are welcome to join in the food and
fellowship.

Please use envelopes and cards provided for
your names and entrée selections and give
along with cash or check to Jean Stankowski
by February 3rd.

Thank you,

Ron Wirth





Pastor Valerie's Bible Study for February:

Feb. 7: Isaiah 6: 1-8, Luke 5: 1-11

Feb 14: Jeremiah 17: 5-10, Luke 6: 17-26

Feb 21: Genesis 45: 3-11, Luke 6: 27-38

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