

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

When you receive this, we will be well into the season of Epiphany. So, let's think about Candlemas, February 2, an Epiphany holiday. The day is celebrated as a day of renewal, hope, and purification. According to Jewish custom, a woman who gives birth to a child will be unclean and homebound for a certain number of days after the birth.

February 2nd is 40 days after the birth of Jesus and Scripture tells us that on this day that Mary, along with Joseph, brought Jesus to the Temple. Jesus was presented to the Lord in the Temple on this day. During this time, an elderly holy man named Simeon was staying in Jerusalem. Simeon was told by the Holy Spirit that his death would not come until he saw the Messiah. When Simeon held the baby Jesus, he knew that Jesus had come for the salvation of all. Simeon stated that Jesus was "A light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of thy people of Israel." The church calls this the Nunc Dimittis.

In many traditions, it is the custom to bless candles for the year. Sayings about Candlemas include: "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again."

Continued on page 2.

A Word from the Pastor for the Season of Epiphany, con't.

"If Candlemas Day be damp and black, It will carry cold winter away on its back.
If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, There'll be two winters in the year."

In Epiphany, we see Jesus at the beginning of His ministry. He is baptized. He calls his disciples. He preaches the Sermon on the Mount. With each gospel text, we see Jesus being unveiled to us and at the end of the month, we will experience a "mountaintop" experience like no other. And then, it will be on to Lent.

Pastor V.

LOST & FOUND

Have you been here at St. John's, arrived home and realized you left something behind? If so, check our Lost and Found cabinet in the Foyer. It is under the credenza next to the Guest Book stand.

If you find items left behind around our complex, please place them in that cabinet. Please do not leave them lying where you found them.

Items of value are kept in the church office.

Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.

Ladies Aid and Women of the ELCA

All is quiet on the church front for the next month or so from these groups. Our winter break is still on since we have a few snow birds in our midst to wait for to complete our group. Of course that doesn't mean we are not going about the work we do. Our shut ins and those in need of a card or special thought will still be taken care of. Preparations for the upcoming meetings will be handled as well as anything else that needs to be done before we meet again.

So, watch for the next meeting dates and feel free to join us. We have short meetings but lots of fellowship, good programs and good refreshments too.

Since the new year is still fairly fresh, the thought for the month is still a timely one:

Looking back, may I be filled with gratitude:
Looking forward, may I be filled with hope:
Looking upward, may I be aware of strength;
Looking inward, may I find peace.

-unknown

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Birthday and Anniversary Form

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed, fill out this form, bring or send to church and put in the bag on the counter or email the information to church and Amy will get it to the right person.

Name _____

Birthday (month and day only) _____

Name _____

Anniversary date including year _____



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.

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 Makey) or talk to Mark Koepfel 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

Needed for February are tuna fish, canned chicken, jelly, peanut butter and cereal.

As always, paper products are useful as well.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

2/1 Richard Fredericks
2/3 Denise Brady
2/3 Chris Czachorowski
2/4 Sue Koeppel
2/4 Bonnie Marciniak
2/4 Vito Napierala
2/6 Kris Hicks
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:

2/6/1988 Daniel & Mary Ann Leary
2/12 Keith & Alexis Lang
2/14/2000 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

**ANYONE ENJOY
DOING JIGSAW PUZZLES?**

- WHAT:** A Puzzle Library
WHERE: The bookcase between the Fellowship Room and the Parish Hall
WHEN: Whenever you would like to borrow one... just for fun.
HOW: Look at those available and select the one that you like best. When you have completed the puzzle, please place the pieces in a zip lock bag, return it to the shelves and take another.
NOTE: If you find that pieces are missing, please mark the box.

ENJOY!!!



Note from property:

In recent weeks, doors to the building have been left unlocked after hours. In some cases the door locks have been modified with the use of an allen wrench to hold the door lock in the open position.

Please, if you have a key to the building, it is your responsibility to see that the door you entered through is locked after leaving. In no case should a door lock be modified to remain in an open position.

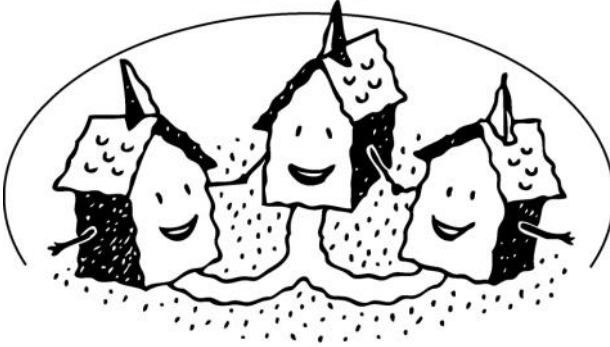
Thank you for your cooperation.

Rick
Building & Property manager

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 AM	10:45 AM
February 2	Al Kerner	Adam Wolff
February 9	Jim Steiner	Caroline Rackl
February 16	Pat Lipka	Evelyn Hicks
February 23	Nathan Setlock	Nancy Kessler

Lenten



Journey

Ash Wednesday is February 26th

Look for the Lenten Journey schedule in March's
Crossbeam

ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

Invites you to join us:

WHEN: FEBRUARY 27 - Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: RODNEY'S ON THE LAKE

PRICES: \$ 12.95 & up entrees + appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers.

DIRECTIONS: 4179 Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg
Corner of LaSalle St.

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.

RESTAURNT REVIEW: coming next month.

How will we choose our next restaurant? A list of prospective restaurants is passed around and everyone places an X under their choice. The restaurant with the most Xs is the one we visit next. Here is your chance to try new restaurants, visit old favorites, meet new people and enjoy good company. All members of St. John's, your family and friends are always welcome to join us.

Submitted by Carolly Huth

Altar Guild

Nothing to report at the present time, but we want to Thank everyone who purchased poinsettias for Christmas. The church looked absolutely beautiful and we appreciate your continued support.

Taking care of the Altar Preparations in Feb. are Karen Maier and Kathy Moody.

Our first meeting of 2020 will be held on Sunday, March 1st. at 9:30 A.M. in the copy room. We would love to have some new faces join us. Please consider stopping in and see what our group is all about!!

March Altar Preparations will be done by Danese Dick and other helpers.

At the March meeting, hostesses will be Danese D. and Karen Maier.

This year, choose to do everything that God has put within reach—your hands and your heart, and then leave the rest to Him. Choose to look ahead with faith, confidence, joy, and a smile!

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Monthly Community Dinner

February's dinner is on 02/28/20 and we will be serving a cheese ravioli bake for Lent.

We will offer drinks and dessert with the meal.

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

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.

Bible study continues as in February, we will look at the Sermon on the Mount, one chapter at a time:

February 6th: Matthew 5
February 13th: Matthew 6
February 20th: Matthew 7

News from the Pews

Pre-School is looking for a substitute aide in our 3&4 yr old class.

For information on requirements and an interview contact Sandy Haase at 668-3584 or 674-8109.



Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new Members who joined on 1/12:

Dianne Adams

Julie, Isabella & Gianna Marrano

Jack & Janet Zahlhas

Kenneth Klopfer

Dwayne, Amanda, Katelyn, Heidi & Dwayne Jr.

Guerin

Alexander, Kathy & Gabriella Will

Just a reminder that the recycling "rules" have changed a bit in West Seneca. Recycling will now be picked up every other week and while most everything we have previously recycled is the same, please note that ONLY NUMBERS 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled. Please make every effort to do this along with only other items that can be recycled since our containers fill up rapidly some weeks and having items in there that do not belong takes away from what we can properly recycle.

Items that can be recycled include: newspaper, office paper, phone books, paper bags, and junk mail. Also, paperboard, magazines and catalogs, cardboard and pizza boxes, jugs and bottles with small top openings(#1 and #2) only along with clear bottles and jars, aluminum cans, metal cookware and steel and tin cans.

Check out the list by the recycling bin in the kitchen for the list of what cannot be recycled. Thanks for doing your share to help out!

Fellowship Hour needs your help. It is so good to have so many share the time between worship services in the parish hall. This has posed a good problem to have. In order for the coffee hour clean up people to get to church on time, we need you to clean up your table space. Wipes are available or even your napkin will do as long as the table is cleaned up and ready for the next week.

Hospitality Committee

NO MORE SIGN UP SHEETS!

We are asking for team leaders and individuals who would be interested in becoming a team. For this to be successful, we need 10 to 12 teams (or more). Coffee hour is an important gathering for our church family. It gives us a chance to share news and concerns with each other. Please contact BethAnn Hintzman 668-0833 or Diane Molnar 675-2481 if you wish to help.

Thank you, Hospitality

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

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **March** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **February 9th**. 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.

Usher Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
February 2	Don Denzel Lee Delaney	Ron Wirth Keith Lang
February 9	Brian Napierala Tom Mudd	Sue Koepfel Rick Wolf
February 16	Lee Delaney Brian Napierala	Lowell Rothenberger Jeff Kline
February 23	Jim Ridley Susan Ridley	Charlie Arnold Rick Wolf

Greeter Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
February 2	Diane Molnar Connie Arnold	Chris Charnock Wayne Charnock
February 9	Carol Delaney Maxine Steiner	Marie Ramie Janet Hender
February 16	Diana Kalinowski Diane Molnar	Chris Charnock Wayne Charnock
February 23	Connie Arnold Charlie Arnold	Janet Mcleod Marie Ramey

INDEX

Assisting Ministers	8
Altar Guild	10
A Word from Pastor Valerie	1-2
Bible Study	11
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Community Dinner	11
Dining Out Club	9
Food Pantry	5
Greeters	15
Ladies Aid	3
Lost and Found	2
News from the pews	12
Ushers	15
WELCA	3