

A Word from the Pastor for Lent...

This year, in our Lenten devotional, we focused on the seven deadly sins, which we paired with the seven virtues. Now, the church defines a virtue as: "a habitual and firm disposition to do good." This brings me to a story.

"A conversation between a father and his 10-year-old son, reported in the newspaper, illustrates the problem in our attitude toward Lent. The father was attempting to explain to his young son the necessity for giving up something for Lent. In fact, the father went beyond the nondirective method of parenting to suggest that the lad give up candy. Quizzed by the boy about this kind of religiosity and what it would bring, the father replied that 'It will improve your character. You'll be a better person on Easter Sunday if you give up candy. After all, your mother and I have given up liquor for Lent.'

The boy then said: "'That's funny Dad. I saw you and mother having a drink before dinner last night.' The father replied, 'That was wine. We gave up hard liquor.'

The lad countered, 'Oh, that's good. I'll give up hard candy.'"

So, my challenge to you this Lenten season is to work on doing good rather than giving up something. Work on the virtues. Now, if you would like to give something up for Lent, YES! Go for it. But remember, if all you can think about is the next time you get to do what you have given up, it's probably not the best exercise. I remember keeping to a meatless Lent. The first year went well, but the second year...well, let's just say that all I could think of was the next time I would be able to have a hamburger.

Lent is indeed a time of discipline, but that doesn't mean it has to be dull. Take something on this season, and by Easter, you will have even more to celebrate.

Pastor V.

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 March 29, 2019

**This month we will be serving a
Mexican Cheesy Pasta Bake with a
side.**

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.

This month's meal will be a Thrivent action team event. ANYONE that wants to know about the Thrivent action teams OR anything else having to do with Thrivent is welcome to ask Mark or Sue Koepfel and we will try to help

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

If you are a **Thrivent Financial member**, you may have "**Thrivent Dollars**" from 2018 that need to be donated to a charitable organization by mid-March 2019. You may select any non-profit organization that you prefer. If you choose St. John's, it is listed as **St. John Lutheran Church of West Seneca**. You may donate online or by calling Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836. Questions regarding this process...feel free to contact Nancy Kessler @ 997-6012 for assistance.

THANK YOU!

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.

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)



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 Mackey) 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

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.



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

- 3/1 Marilyn Mohr
- 3/3 Judy McGill
- 3/3 Evie Voit
- 3/4 Sandy Perillo
- 3/4 Dakota Ward
- 3/8 Kristy Kozanecki
- 3/8 Angel Moody
- 3/9 Nicholas Woodard
- 3/10 Lori Helmbrecht
- 3/12 Daniella Dunphy
- 3/12 Nancy Kessler
- 3/13 Ryan Woodard
- 3/14 Autumn Brown
- 3/14 Brooke Delaney
- 3/16 Alan Lumb
- 3/18 Brian Napieralo
- 3/18 Beth Vosseler
- 3/18 Kyle Whelan
- 3/19 Joe Brady
- 3/21 Pastor Jack Printzenhoff
- 3/21 Jordan Storch
- 3/22 Michael Marciniak
- 3/22 Travis Hintzman
- 3/27 Rob Coder
- 3/27 Pam Gorman
- 3/27 Alexis Lang
- 3/27 Addison Grace Poole
- 3/29 Albert Gulas
- 3/29 Alysia Gordon
- 3/29 Nancy Wright



HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARY TO:

3/15/1970 Joe and Diane Molnar

PS we missed Vito Napierala birthday on 2/4

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
March 3	Pat Lipka	Evelyn Hicks
March 10	Dawn Corliss	Nancy Kessler
March 17	Al Kerner	Karen Rothenberger
March 24	Jim Steiner	Adam Wolff
March 31	Pat Lipka	Caroline Rackl

Women of the ELCA

It will be time to meet again in March. March 12 is the date at 7PM in the Fellowship room. All are welcome to join us for a short meeting and a Bible Study presented by Sylvia. Nancy and Leah will be supplying the refreshments. We always welcome new faces and smiles!

Remember, World Day of Prayer is March 1. Check the Crossbeam, bulletin and bulletin boards for more information on this special service that is celebrated world wide on this day.

Thought for the month:

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 28 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: TONY'S PIZZA & PASTA

MENU: \$ 13.00 & up entrees + appetizers, soups, salads and salad bar, subs, burgers, calzones, wraps, pizza, wings

DIRECTIONS: 2770 Union Rd. north of William St. next to the closed Friendly's restaurant.

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, INDICATE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DRIVE, RIDING WITH SOMEONE OR MEETING US AT THE RESTAURANT.

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Due to unusual weather conditions, we did not dine out in January. We rescheduled our visit to Tony's for March as it is one of our favorites.

How do we choose our restaurants? A list of prospective restaurants is passed around and each diner places an "X" underneath their choice. The restaurant with the most Xs is the one we dine at next. During the nice weather, we try those restaurants farther away and during the winter months, we stay closer to home.

Here is your chance to try new restaurants, visit your old favorites, meet new people and enjoy good company. All members of St. John's, your family and friends are always welcome.

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.

Ladies Aid

Spring is fast approaching and so will our next meeting, Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 4, at 7PM and join us for a short meeting and a lot of fellowship. The Officers will supply the refreshments that evening.

Hope to see you then!

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Altar Guild

As I sit here writing my report it is 23 with a wind chill that makes it feel like 11 degrees. However, on a brighter note it is only 29 days till spring. HOORAY!!!! So, just hang on a little bit longer and soon the birds will start chirping and the grass will be getting green and need mowing.

With that in mind, it's time to start thinking about Easter.

Our next meeting will be on Sun. March 10th at 9:30am. NOTICE THE DATE, it was changed!!! At this meeting we will be making plans for purchasing our flowers and the breakfast, so PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.

Hostesses are Danese D. & Karen M.

Caring for the Altar in March are Danese Dick & Marilyn Klein

Church blooper: The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

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

Spring Fling

Clean out your closet and bag up
the items you no longer want;
We can turn them into cash!

Bring clothing, bed/bath/shoes
and household items into church
or call for your items to be
picked up. (13gal.bag)

Call Bethann Hintzman 668-
0833

Please support our building fund.

Collecting starts April 1st -May
31st

Let's beat last year's total of
4130 lbs!
We raised \$1000.70

Sunday Church School

Spring is almost here! Thank you for bringing your child all winter long!

Notable dates:

- March 3rd: Brief teachers/aides meeting @ 10:15
- March 24th: Lord's Prayer Sunday as we celebrate with our Kindergarten & 1st grade classes, the achievement of memorizing the prayer that unites all Christians, at the 9am service.

Looking ahead:

- April 7th : First Communion Sunday
- April 21st: Easter Sunday, no classes, see you in church!
- May 19th: Last day of classroom Sunday School classes/Strawberry Social
- June 9th: Confirmation Sunday

It's cool to be in Sunday School!

Submitted by Kathy Moody

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

You are invited to join fellow Christians at the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, March 1 at 1 PM at the Orchard Park United Methodist Church, 3700 N. Buffalo Street in Orchard Park.

The women of Suriname have prepared this year's service which will focus on Genesis 1, "All God's Creation in Very Good". This service is celebrated worldwide in more than 170 countries. The services begin at sunrise in the Pacific and follow the sun across the globe on what is truly a world day of prayer.

Parish Social Life

Parish Social Life will be meeting on Sunday, March 24th, after the 2nd service to plan out the remainder of 2019 and begin on 2020. We would love to have you join us!

Pastor Valerie's Bible Study for March:

March 7: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 and Luke 4: 1-13

March 14: Genesis 15: 1-12 and Luke 13: 31-35

March 21: Isaiah 55: 1-9 and Luke 13: 1-9

Crossbeam Deadline

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

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