

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

I found these saying for Lent and once again, couldn't resist passing them on.

It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees.
What part of "Thou Shalt Not" don't you understand?
A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.
Never give the devil a ride. He always wants to drive.
Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.
To belittle is to be little.

Don't let the littleness in others bring out the littleness
in you.

God answers knee-mail.

Try Jesus. If you don't like him, the devil will always take
you back.

All jesting aside, these sayings give us something to think
about as we begin and continue our own Lenten journey.

Historically, what we call Lent was the final period of
preparation for those preparing for Baptism. It was a time
of prayer and fasting, discipline and almsgiving. As
Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, the
early church decided to continue the practice each year as
they prepared for the Paschal Feast of Easter.

The Christian church has been practicing this tradition for
centuries. This forty-day period, roughly a tenth of the
year, is something we should look forward to as a time for
prayer and the strengthening of our own spiritual life. So,
jump in, and take this time and make it your own. If you want
to "give up" something, then do so, or perhaps you may want
to "take something" on. Whatever the choice, let it draw you
closer to God and what He has done and is doing in Jesus.

Pastor V.

Women of the ELCA

It is time to get back to having a meeting. The date is Tuesday, March 10, 7 PM in the fellowship room. Everyone should be back and hopefully healthy. We will be having our usual business meeting, devotions by Sylvia, refreshments compliments of Marie and our program. We will be making new bookmarks for the church hymnals. Why you may ask? Well, even though the hymnals do not get the used as much as they could, they are still out and the bookmarks are in need of refreshing so that is how that came about.

We thank Sylvia for suggesting and arranging this. All are welcome. Many hands make light work!

Also, please mark your calendar for the first Friday in March, March 6. At 2 PM we will be hosting the annual World Day of Prayer 2020 here at St John's. Every year, churches around the world gather on this date using the service prepared by women of different countries. This year, the women from Zimbabwe have written the service. You may recall that a few years ago we were visited by Pastor Precious from Zimbabwe. The bulletin board in the parish hall still reflects the "twinning" we did with them.

The service is titled Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!. These worship services are always well done and give us a reflection of the countries culture and music. So, if you have an hour to spare, it will be time well spent worshiping and celebrating fellowship with other community churches here. Pastor Roger will be there to greet us and help with the songs and computer. We thank him very much for this. Refreshments will include some favorite foods from this country.

We look forward to welcoming you then along with any one else you would like to join you.

Thoughts for the month:

Most of us hope for a long life- but hate to grow old to achieve it.

It's your attitude, not aptitude, that determines your altitude in life.

A person must be big enough to admit their mistakes, smart enough to benefit from them and strong enough to correct them.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Needed for March are jelly, cereal, paper towels and toilet paper.

As always, paper products are useful as well.



Ladies Aid

It is time for another meeting but please note the **CHANGE OF DAY AND DATE**. We will be meeting at Sandy's home on Wednesday, April 8, at 6:30. We will continue the discussions from the last meeting and enjoy a lot of laughs and fellowship. See you then.

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.

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 Napierala
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//22 Nancy Shearer
3/26 Andy Shearer
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
3/30 Janet Michels



HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARY TO:

3/15/1970 Joe and Diane Molnar

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 AM	10:45 AM
March 1	Al Kerner	Adam Wolff
March 8	Jim Steiner	Caroline Rackl
March 15	Pat Lipka	Evelyn Hicks
March 22	Nathan Setlock	Nancy Kessler
March 29	Dawn Corless	Karen Rothenberger

Spring Fling

March 19th—May 10th

Time to clean out ALL items and turn them into cash for our building fund and youth group. Taking ALL items you no longer want, need or use

Leave in or near closets in the narthex or call Beth for pickup at your home 668-0833
I do mean ALL items

Happy Spring
Happy Cleaning

ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: MANDY'S CAFE - cash only

MENU: \$ 8.95 & up entrees + appetizers, soups, salads
burgers, sandwiches, wraps.

DIRECTIONS: 3796 Clinton St. West Seneca
Between Maplewood & Northwood.

**PARKING IS LIMITED SO PLEASE CAR POOL FROM OUR
CHURHC PARKING LOT 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: Elma Towne Grille - 15 of us
enjoyed the food, company and a friendly wait staff in this
rustic restaurant. Portions were large, soups and salad bar
available and Reubens were popular. Dinners arrived
promptly...how did they do that?

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. Our contact person is
Carolly Huth 826-0506.

Submitted by Carolly Huth

Altar Guild

Taking care of the Altar Preparations in March are Danese Dick. and Marilyn Klein.

Our next meeting will be March 1st. Hostesses will be Danese Dick and Karen Maier.

Watch for information in the bulletins for the Easter flowers.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **April** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **March 8th**. 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.

Monthly Community Dinner

March's dinner is on 03/27/20 and we will be serving grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup.

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.

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

Bible study continues in March:

March 5: Genesis 12: 1-4a and John 3: 1-17

March 12: Exodus 17: 1-7 and John 4: 5-42

March 19: I Samuel 16: 1-13 and John 9: 1-41

Lenten



Journey

Worship with sermons by guest preachers begins at 7 pm according to this schedule

March 4

Community in the Cross: LOVE
7 pm Fourteen Holy Helpers RC Church
1350 Indian Church Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224
Rev. Roger Griffiths

March 11

Community in the Cross: RESPECT
Trinity Lutheran Church
146 Reserve Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224
Rev. Dennis Krueger

March 18

Community in the Cross: TRUST
St. Nicholas Anglican Church
639 Main St., West Seneca, NY 14224
Pastor Rebecca Allis

March 25

Community in the Cross: MISSION/TEAMWORK
Ebenezer United Church of Christ
630 Main St., West Seneca, NY 14224
Rev. Paula Gustafson

April 1

Community in the Cross: UNITY
St. John's Lutheran
3512 Clinton St., West Seneca, NY 14224
Fr. Luke Uebler

Usher Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
March 1	Don Denzel Lee Delaney	Keith Lang Ron Wirth
March 8	Brian Napierala Tom Mudd	Sue Koeppel Jeff Kline
March 15	Lee Delaney Rick Wolf	Lowell Rothenberger Charlie Arnold
March 22	Brian Napierala Norm Merkel	Jeff Kline Lowell Rothenberger
March 29	Rick Wolf Tom Mudd	Charlie Arnold Sue Koeppel

Greeter Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
March 1	Maxine Steiner Diane Molnar	Marie Ramey Janet Hender
March 8	Connie Arnold Carol Delaney	Chris Charnock Wayne Charnock
March 15	Diana Kalinowski Maxine Steiner	Janet Mcleod Marie Ramey
March 22	Diane Molnar Connie Arnold	Chris Charnock Wayne Charnock
March 29	Carol Delaney Diana Kalinowski	Janet Hender Janet Mcleod



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed

**Take what you need.
Leave what you are able.
May the things that are here
Bless your Table**

Dear Friends and Family of St. John's Lutheran Church

We are inviting you to help and participate in a new ministry. Who doesn't love fresh fruits and Veggies. I know that I do and at times it can be difficult for some to get out to the store, purchase the quantity they may need or want, or even have access to these life changing foods.

We would like to institute a "free will" Market stand for those who are in these and many other situations. Maybe you don't need a 5 lb. bag of potatoes because you live alone, don't cook that often or other reasons, if you can take 1 or 2 from the Market Table instead, that is great!

We are calling for ALL gardeners, novice or seasoned to help out with this project. If you plant a veggie garden, have fruit trees that produce an abundance, or simple travel to the farmers market and get a great deal and would like to share in the Ministry we would love to have you on our team!!!

Please call me at (716) 207-0390 and let me know you are interested. We will set up a brief meeting for those who would like to share ideas and ways to build this new program.

God Bless and thank you for thinking of others ahead of our growing season.

Eddie Sims

INDEX

Assisting Ministers	5
Altar Guild	7
A Word from Pastor Valerie	1
Bible Study	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Community Dinner	8
Dining Out Club	6
Food Pantry	3
Greeters	10
Ladies Aid	3
Lenten Journey	9
Ushers	10
WELCA	2