

## **A Word from the Pastor for March...**

We have arrived at Lent once again. Yes, the forty days is upon us. Lent has always been that time to think about what God has done in Christ, and what God is doing in our lives now.

While Lent is known for "giving something up..." perhaps a better plan might be to take a few minutes each day to prioritize. The article that follows hit me hard and has given me much to think about.

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

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## **A Word from the Pastor for March... continued**

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete."

Yes, a lot to take in and sobering. And while we can't conquer every ill in our lives, we can start with one or two. Lent calls us to slow down, and walk with Jesus to the cross. Yes, it can be overwhelming, but what comes at the end is worth it! A blessed Lenten season as we walk together.

Pastor V.

Our Baby is sick. Baby Grand Piano that is. It needs to be repaired at a cost ranging from \$2000 to \$2700.

If we all can add just a little in an envelope and mark it "Help our Baby" it would be much appreciated.

Rick Lipka  
Property Manager  
Church Coordinator

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(3512 Clinton Street @ Union Rd, West Seneca)

Presents:

## **Our Monthly Community Dinner**

Date: .....3/31/17

Time: .....4pm – 6:30pm or until we  
run out- Whichever comes  
first

*We will be serving:*

A Lenten Soup & Salad

We will also have Desserts & Drinks

*\*\* Menu subject to change \*\**

This dinner is provided for anyone that needs a meal  
**AND** it is family friendly event...

The meal is **FREE** but we will take any free will donations  
that anyone wishes to make...

Lenten Journey  
Theme—"On The Way To The Cross"  
Wednesdays at 7 pm

March 8th—Queen of Heaven  
March 15th—Ebenezer United Church of Christ  
March 22nd—St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
March 29th—New Hope United Methodist Church  
April 5th—St. John Vianney

April 14th—Good Friday Service Noon until 3 pm at Covenant  
United Methodist Church

The sign up sheet is on the kitchen counter for Sunday refreshments. We are looking for about four plates each week. Sometimes it's easier if you work with another family.

Thank you  
Membership



## Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Items needed for March are paper products (especially toilet paper) and toiletries such as toothpaste and soap.

**Happy March Birthday to:**

- 3/1 Marilyn Mohr
- 3/3 Judy McGill
- 3 /4 Sandy Perillo
- 3/4 Dakota Ward
- 3/8 Angel Moody
- 3/9 Nicholas Woodard
- 3/10 Lori Miller
- 3/13 Ryan Woodard
- 3/14 Autumn Brown
- 3/16 Alan Lumb
- 3/18 Beth Vossler
- 3/19 Joe Brady
- 3/21 Pastor Jack Printzenhoff
- 3/21 Jordan Storch
- 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



**Happy March Anniversary to:**

Joe and Diane Molnar 3/15/1970

## *Women of the ELCA*

We enjoyed the hospitality of Sandy Marzahn at her home, the delicious refreshments from Denise and the Angel Bookmark project led by Sylvia back in February. Now, the residents of Greenfield Manor will receive those bookmarks and will know we are thinking of them. Thank you Sandy H. for delivering them.

Marie R. had an appropriate devotion for the Lenten season. It was a story taken from the book *SOMETIMES GOD HAS A KID'S FACE*, written by Sister Mary Rose McGeady who ran Covenant House. " She was the Mother Theresa of street children, a holy tornado of determination and compassion. She lived and died every day with the successes and failures of our kids...and she saw God in the tired faces of beautiful, forgotten kids."

Marie read us chapter 6 which was titled "My Dad says it 'cause I'm stupid". It is about a homeless boy she finds and takes in. She is convinced that every year God sends her an extra special child to remind her of what Lent is all about. She says that since Lent is all about self-examination and the things we must ask ourselves. Then looking in the mirror to see if we like what is staring back at us, she expresses the fact that she really does not like Lent at all. She says "it is a time to reflect on how we use the goods of the world, and how we deal with our relationships. It's a time to think back if we're really trying to live a life of love, a time to look under the hood of our souls to make sure everything's running all right and see where the defects are."

Lent can be a painful time but this is why we have those 40 days to prepare for the glory of Easter. There are many out there who may wonder if their Easter will ever come. We all have to keep praying, supporting and listening so that when we look in the mirror, we remember that we are a reflection of God's love every day.

All are welcome to the next meeting in the fellowship room on Tuesday, March 14 at 7 PM when we will go over some more Worship Q & A's and enjoy refreshments from Barbara K.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## Power Point Schedule

	Preparer	9 am Presenter	10:45 am Presenter
March 5	Rick Lipka	Rick Lipka	Matthew & Autumn Brown
March 12	Nancy Kessler	Rick Lipka	Trevor Godus
March 19	Bob Coder	Rick Lipka	Linda Altman
March 26	Linda Jean Budd	Rick Lipka	Jean Stankowski

## Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
March 5	Pat Lipka	Caroline Rackl
March 12	Sandy Gordon	Evelyn Hicks
March 19	Jim Steiner	Nancy Kessler
March 26	Sue Springer	Karen Rothenberger

We have been missing communicating information about congregation member's sicknesses and deaths to fellow members and feel horrible.

Your church family wants to hear if you have suffered a death in your family or have fallen ill. We cannot post anything without your permission.

If you would like prayers from the congregation please let the office or Pastor know that you would like to do so. We constantly pray for the health of our congregation but also want to pray for those special circumstances in your life.

Thank you.

St. John's communication team



### ***Crossbeam Deadline***

Articles for the **April** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel ([sekoeppe@gmail.com](mailto:sekoeppe@gmail.com)) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.



## *Ladies Aid*

There was not too much to discuss as we gathered around Sandy's kitchen table but we had an enjoyable evening catching up and taking care of a little business. Sandy told us that because of the generosity of the gang that attended the Christmas luncheon, over \$350 in gift cards were given to the Kathleen Mary House for the residents there. Needless to say, they were overwhelmed with the blessings of those gifts. Speaking of blessings, Nancy Weber shared some lovely thoughts with us from a special book given to her by a dear friend. A couple of thoughts to ponder are "write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year" and "discover the blessings blooming all around you". Our next meeting will be April 6.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## Book Club

Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>, RULES OF PREY by John Sandford  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, THE JUDAS GOAT by Robert B. Parker  
Jul. 18<sup>th</sup>, ONE MISSED STEP by Barbara Morris.

We meet in the church fellowship room at 6:30 pm  
**WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR DISCUSSION,  
REFRESHMENTS, AND FELLOWSHIP?**

Submitted by Jim Steiner

## Altar Guild

Nothing special to report at this time, but just a reminder that our meeting is on Sunday, March 5th at 9:30 am. Please make every effort to attend as Easter plans will be discussed. Hostesses are Connie Arnold and Judy Kelly.

Taking care of the altar for the month of March is Danese Dick and various helpers.

New faces are always welcomed, please come and join us!

Submitted by Nancy Weber

"A good book is like a personal trainer for your mind. It gives your imagination a workout, stretches your vocabulary, and strengthens your focus and concentration. The best book of all—THE BIBLE—does even more: it nourishes your soul and enlightens your spirit with God's life-giving word. Every day, spend time in the company of books that are worth your time and attention."

## *News From the Pews*

### **Baptism**

Ryan and Easton Molnar - January 22, 2017 parents Russell and Joyce Molnar

### **Funerals**

George Kessler - February 7, 2017

### **In The Hospital**

George Kessler

Gail Pahl

Craig Cooley

"A great big thank you for the love, support, cards and good wishes before and after Bernie's passing. It was also an honor to have the Monday work group (Art, Charlie & Bob) serve as pall bearers, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am so blessed to have you all in my life". Love, **Sue Springer**

"I just want to thank all the people who expressed their love and kindness through cards and visits when I had my little accident—friends, relatives and health aides were so wonderful and uplifting. I guess when you're down and out is when your real friends come through—Bless everyone of you. I may not be 100% but I'm hanging in there. I guess the Lord tests our faith and makes us realize how great life is!" Love, **Arline Semlitsch**

Ravioli Dinner  
Sunday, March 5, 2017  
3—6 pm

Includes cheese raviolis, homemade sauce, salad, drink  
and dessert

Tickets \$8.00 presale, \$10.00 at the door

Door Prize: ERIE COUNTY FAIR basket... In it are 2  
Cups, 2 Shirts, 2 Pins, 1 Key chain ring AND 2 (12) Day  
Passes for the 2017 Erie County Fair.. Everyone that  
attends the dinner will be eligible to win this prize and  
additional chances will be available for \$2 each

ALSO

TV and Game System Raffle  
(over \$1000 value)

55 inch E series Home Theater Display 4K Ultra HD TV  
XBOX 1S 2 Terabyte Gears of War

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00



## LOST & FOUND

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

If you lose something please look in the cabinet in the Foyer 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.



## *Sunday Church School*

Spring is almost here!

The Kindergarten class is collecting broken crayons for a small project. If you have a few broken crayons around the house, please drop them off in the K class room. Please drop off no later than March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Teachers and Assistants: We will have a brief meeting immediately following Sunday School on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor triple room.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders celebrate their First Holy Communion on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2<sup>nd</sup> service! Please join us in celebrating this once in a lifetime event with them!

Our Sunday School Children (all ages) are rehearsing a song or two just for you! The children will perform on Easter Sunday at the 9am service. Please mark the date and time on the calendar so your child can participate! We look forward to singing for you!

Reminder: No classes on Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School Children will perform at the 9am service.

Have kid's meal toys from the fast food restaurants? We can use them! New, unopened toys from the kid's meals can be dropped off in the Sunday Church School office or in the Kindergarten class room. We use these toys for prizes when we play Noah's ark bingo and during other occasions during the year. Thank you!

See you in Sunday School !

Submitted by Kathy Moody

## DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, MARCH 30 AT 6:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** PEGASUS RESTAURANT

**MENU:** \$ 11.99 entrees + appetizers, soups, salads, wraps, burgers, sandwiches, Senior Menu w/smaller portions.

**DIRECTIONS:** East side of South Park Ave. between Quinby Dr. and Hamburg Fair Grounds.

**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:**

**Bravo Café & Catering:** 14 of us dined in this small restaurant in Elma. The homemade soups and desserts were delicious, everyone found something to their liking and a good time was had by all.

**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.



## *"A Celebration of Reformation"*

**WHAT:** a choral presentation by  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Adult Choir to celebrate  
500 years of the Lutheran Reformation

**DATE:** Sunday, April 30, 2017

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**BENEFIT:** a free-will offering to benefit  
the Mortgage Reduction Fund

**NOTE:** refreshments and fellowship  
to follow





## For the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation...

Bible Study will be held each Thursday and we will be studying the Small Catechism. Don't worry if you cannot find yours, as I will be supplying them.

This is a true gift for the church and so let's have some good and even fun time together.

We will begin at 6 and conclude by 7. And yes, there will be refreshments!

March 9: The 10 Commandments

March 16: The Creed

March 23: The Lord's Prayer

March 30: Holy Baptism

April 6: Holy Communion

And on the topic of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a number of people have asked for good biographies on Luther:

**Luther the Reformer:** The Story of the Man and His Career by James M. Kittelson

**Here I Stand:** Roland H. Bainton (Considered a classic)

And...

Also, we will be showing a DVD with Rick Steves: LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION. Dates and times to be announced later...

From the Membership/ Evangelism Committee. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to host Life Touch photo sessions, made a zillion calls to members to verify our roster information, and everyone who took the time to have their photo taken so it would be in our new directory this Spring. Special thanks to Appointment co-ordinator Sue Springer and Hospitality co-ordinator Bethann Hintzman. Jim Steiner

USHERS AND GREETERS - We are always looking for members willing to usher or greet at Sunday services. A few more additions would mean everyone would be scheduled once per month, I don't think that's too much to hope for.

WATCH FOR A SIGN UP SHEET FOR THE EASTER SERVICES..... Thanks, Jim Steiner

### **Worship and Music**

Lent begins late this year, with Ash Wednesday on March 1. As usual, we will have Ash Wednesday services with imposition of ashes at 11 am and 7 pm. A potluck lunch follows the 11 am service.

During Lent, we will use the liturgy and music from Setting 5 of With One Voice.

The Worship & Music Committee is always open to new members. We usually meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm Our next meeting is March 8.

Submitted by Adam Wolff

# 4th-8th Grade Winter Retreat

## March 3-5, 2017

Come enjoy a weekend of faith, friends, and fun while we explore what it means to be a person of faith.

### **The Winter Retreat will also include:**

- \*Powerful worships and devotions
- \*Reconnecting with old camp friends and making new ones
- \*Campfires
- \*Camp Games and activities
- \*Sledding and fun in the snow

**WHEN:** 7:00 PM Friday through 11:00 AM Sunday

**WHERE:** The Retreat Center at LCLC

**COST:** \$95 (Includes meals, lodging, and program)  
\$25 of which is a non-refundable deposit  
The registration deadline is 2/27/17.

call [716-386-4125](tel:716-386-4125) for more information.

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran  
Center, 5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, NY 14712

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