



**Seminary Church**  
285 N Seminary Street | Roanoke, Indiana 46783

260.672.3167 | [www.seminaryumc.org](http://www.seminaryumc.org)  
[assistant.seminaryumc@gmail.com](mailto:assistant.seminaryumc@gmail.com)

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

February  
2021



**Pastor**  
**Keith Schreffler**

**Sunday Service**  
**10AM**  
**In SANCTUARY**  
**And live-streamed**  
**on Facebook**

**Pastor**  
**260.450.1809**

**Office phone**  
**260.672.3167**  
**Cell**  
**260.433.5758**

[assistant.seminaryumc@gmail.com](mailto:assistant.seminaryumc@gmail.com)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, we survived! The year 2020 is at long last gone, but for many reasons will not soon be forgotten. How would you describe it? Change? Trials? Challenges? Longing? Pain? Fear? Uncertainty? Go ahead, add in all the negative stuff you've been hanging on to...Anger? Bitterness? Holding on to it will only cause you pain and anguish! I encourage you to let it go! Surrender it to God; Lay it all at the foot of the cross!

But was the year 2020 all doom and gloom for you? NO! In the midst of 2020 I'm sure there were times of Celebration, Opportunity, Blessings, Joy, Grace, Closeness, Growth, Support? Go ahead, what else might you be able to add to the more positive list of events in your year of 2020?

I hope you will take a few moments to pause for some honest reflection. Oh, yes, I will be the first to admit 2020 was certainly a year of challenges, and while we all came through with our own personal memories, battle wounds and perhaps some scars, but 2020 is gone and the new year has begun.

Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13b-14: *"But one thing I do: '...Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"* Sounds like great advice! Forget what is behind you and instead focus on the making things better in the new year! Perhaps a good way to start, would be to ask what you learned in 2020? What did you learned about yourself and even more importantly what did you learn about God?

Jeremiah 29:11-12 says: *"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."* Humm, *God knows the plans "He" has for you!* We all had our own plans entering into 2020, but for most us, those plans got altered along the way and didn't quite come out the way he had hoped. However, God's plans for us didn't change and He provided a way for you and me to make it through the hardships. God knows the plans he has for you; have you turned to Him? Have you called upon Him and prayed to Him...when you do, He will hear you! Yes, 2020 had its challenges, but by the grace of God you made it through! I'm a firm believer in the fact the new year will be no better unless you and I choose to make it better. What will you do to make your life better? I urge you, turn to Him and Give God all the honor and praise!

Blessing to you and to your Family,

Pastor Keith



Lupercalia survived the initial rise of [Christianity](#) but was outlawed—as it was deemed “un-Christian”—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine’s Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds’ mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine’s Day should be a day for romance. The English poet [Geoffrey Chaucer](#) was the first to record St. Valentine’s Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem “Parliament of Fowles,” writing, ““For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne’s day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.” Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine’s didn’t begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the [Tower of London](#) following his capture at the [Battle of Agincourt](#). (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King [Henry V](#) hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.



*Wishing you all a very Happy Valentine's Day*



# Food Pantry



In this age of struggles and challenges one young man has found a way to shine a little goodness for those in need in Roanoke.

Luke Metzler, a fourteen year old from rural Roanoke, wanted to do something productive and good for the community so for his birthday party last weekend decided instead of birthday gifts he'd ask his friends to bring food items for the Food Pantry at Seminary Church in Roanoke. The pantry, managed by Claudia Houck, is a community effort with contributions from the local churches and contributors in the area.

Fifteen 8th graders, all from Blackhawk Christian's basketball team, attended the party at the Metzler home and provided a car full of groceries and supplies which were appreciatively received at the church on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. We wish Luke and his friends long, happy and healthy lives for their efforts to help others.





**February Memory Verse**  
**LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND. IT**  
**DOES NOT ENVY, IT DOES NOT**  
**BOAST, IT IS NOT PROUD.**  
**1 Corinthians 13:4**

## Notes to/or from the Congregation

Thank you to Pat and Lynn Swaidner who annually have decorated the sanctuary with poinsettias; although this Christmas season we as members did not purchase plants they did not fail to adorn the church for our livestream. It was greatly appreciated and beautiful as always.

.....  
Thanks to everyone for their cards and prayers for my hip replacement surgery on December 18th. They must have worked because I am doing very well! I appreciate the support you've shown me during this time.

Sincerely,

*Steve Eisenhut.....*

.....  
Sincere thanks to all for the prayer concerns and comforts following the loss of Jerry's father in January. We are sure he was embraced immediately...one of the best men I ever knew.

*Terri Bartrom Brumbaugh*

.....  
Many thanks to Polly and Connie for their many weekly musical talents.



As Chairperson of the Staff Pastor Parish Committee (SPRC) for Seminary Church, I want to share an update on the status of our search for a pastor effective July 1, 2021. First, we were surprised to learn that Pastor Tom Utnage was appointed to another United Methodist Church in the northern conference, however we certainly wish him the best in his future pastoral career. Then a few weeks ago Pastor Keith announced his retirement effective in June 2021. (Pastor Keith came out of retirement to serve our church.) Both Pastor Tom and Pastor Keith have had such a positive impact on our church and we are thankful for their spiritual leadership for the last year and a half. The Seminary Administrative Board considered many factors about the future of our church and ultimately voted to pursue a fulltime pastoral appointment from the conference. This will be a financial stretch for us, however Seminary has such great potential for the future. The Board's vote for a fulltime appointment reflects their belief and commitment to provide the necessary supports for Seminary to reach more people with our ministries. The SPRC is already working with the Conference Superintendent to inform him of our desires and expectations for a new pastor. As we learn more about a new pastoral appointment we will keep you informed.

*Vicky Eisenhut*

## A Job or a Ministry?

If you're doing it because no one else will, it's a job. If you're doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry. If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job. If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry. If you will only do it as long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you are committed to staying with it, even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it's a job. If you stay with it, even when no one notices, it's a ministry. If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done, it's a job. If you do it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry. An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people involved in ministry. If God calls you to a ministry, for heaven's sake, don't treat it like a job.

If you have a job in the church, give it up, and find a ministry! God doesn't want us feeling stuck in a job, but excited, fulfilled, and faithful to Christ in a special ministry.  
(by Ed Charlton)

## Do We Have as Much Sense as A Goose?

On the premise that by observing God's hand in nature, we can gain some basic truths for ourselves:

This spring when you see geese heading back north for the summer flying in a "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what scientists have discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an up-lift for the bird immediately following.

By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

**BASIC TRUTH #1 -- PEOPLE WHO SHARE A COMMON DIRECTION AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY CAN GET WHERE THEY WANT TO GO QUICKER AND EASIER BY TRAVELING ON THE TRUST OF ONE ANOTHER.**

When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. **BASIC TRUTH #2 -IF WE HAVE AS MUCH SENSE AS A GOOSE, WE WILL STAY IN FORMATION WITH THOSE WHO ARE HEADED THE SAME WAY WE ARE GOING.**

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. **Basic truth # 3- IT PAYS TO TAKE TURNS DOING HARD JOBS, WITH PEOPLE OR WITH GEESE FLYING NORTH.**

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. **BASIC TRUTH #4--IF WE WANT HELP FROM THOSE OUT IN FRONT OF US, WE WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO KEEP DOING A GOOD JOB WHILE BEING CAREFUL WHAT WE HONK FROM BEHIND!**

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group.

**BASIC TRUTH #4 -- GREAT THINGS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHEN WE WORK WITH AND HELP ONE ANOTHER.**

## The Food Pantry



Happy New Year!

It's been a long time since we have been together. I thought I would let you know the food pantry has been helping local residents.

During the outbreak of Covid-19 we had no requests for assistance I think greatly due to the unlimited "offerings" that were available for the asking. The last month has found us quite busy.

Just before Thanksgiving we had 5 full turkey dinners donated from a couple that attends St. Joe Catholic Church –Roanoke. These were shared with 5 families from Roanoke school, feeding at least 9 adults and 23 children.

We received large food donations from Faith Lutheran Daycare and from the Shop Small Establishments in Roanoke Food Drive.

We received monetary donations from Roanoke Lions Club, Seminary Methodist Women of Faith, Shop Small Establishments in Roanoke Saturday Sales, Amicitia Extension Homemakers Club, and over \$200 in other donations.

For Christmas the food pantry helped multiple families with food provisions. The THANK-YOUS were overwhelming.

Pleasant Chapel Church and the food pantry have helped a homeless gentleman in great need.

We have helped several families with utility bills to prevent disconnection due to unemployment.

As churches open to normal services, I would like to do mini food drives at each of our churches for the pantry:

- January-March paper products like toilet paper, paper towels, dinner napkins, foil, sandwich bags

- April-June Cleaning supplies like dish soap, face soap, hand soap, Windex, bleach, laundry detergent, Mr.Clean

- July-September canned fruit and condiments

- October- December baking supplies and cereal

Thank-You for all you do to help others.

Stay safe and stay healthy

*Claudia Houck*





I am delighted that we are restarting our Newsletter to keep us informed and connected to our church.

The WOF have not met since October but we have dispersed monies from our mission fund to the following: Food Pantry - \$200, Place of Grace—\$100, Associated Church's (School Bible Trailers)- \$100, Remnant Ministry- \$100, David Ward (house fire) -\$100, and Lucille Raines -\$100. These were all local ministry except the later

I do not see meeting for many more months or until all our membership have received the Covid vaccine. Also because of Covid I am sorry to say that again the Mother-Daughter event has been cancelled along with any fund-raisers in the foreseeable future. We had discussed at the last meeting that I would put out a Prayer & Self Denial Calendar for February. I have decided against it because from March 2020 until the present that is all we have done. We must continue our prayers for our Church, families, Nation and our neighbors.

I am asking our members to send in dues money. Give from the heart and any amount is welcome. We have never set an amount for dues. It is strictly between you and the Lord. We have not been able to do our bake sale or cookie sales at Christmas that both fills our coffers that enable us to do our missions. Send to Patty Swaidner at 1161 N Main Street. Roanoke In 46783.

In closing, I miss you all !! Those of you who are basking in the sun- have a safe trip home.

Carol Johnson  
President, Women of Faith



February  
21 Gary Houck  
22 Noah Fleischman  
27 Margaret Johnson



Kroger Corporation notified Seminary that we will be receiving a check for \$114.60 for the last quarter of 2020, Oct - Dec. We had 44 households who linked their Kroger Rewards Cards to Seminary Church. If you shop at Kroger, please link your rewards card to Seminary Church. You can help by asking your neighbors and other family members to link their rewards card to Seminary too! We are grateful to Kroger Corporation for their generosity to our church and other not-for-profit organizations in our communities. Proceeds from this program support our vacation bible school.

## ANNIVERSARIES

None until March

*Vicky Eisenhut*



Reach for the SON



And don't forget to purchase gift cards at the church.

Scrip.com gives us back rebates on every card purchased. The purchaser gets 100% of purchase price and we get a percentage back. The amount varies per retailer. Examples would be KFC-8%, Macy's -10%, O'Charley's-13%, PizzaHut 8%, Subway -6% and so on. There are hundreds of participating retailers.

Shopwithscrip.com for more listing or contact Vicky Eisenhut or Jenny Gross.

*Scrip*

# February 2021

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

<i>Sunday Service</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>10am</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>10am Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17 <i>Ash Wednesday – no service</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>10am 1st Lent Sunday</i>	22 <i>Adv Bd 6:30pm</i>	23	24	25	26 <i>Purim</i>	27
28 <i>10am</i>						

Seminary Church  
P.O. Box 40  
Roanoke, IN 46783



The Editor requests material from **ANY** of the congregation. Share news, history, talents, or even questions please. Next Deadline: February 19th.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our Seminary followers. May February 14 and every day bring your loved ones closer together loving God.

