

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran
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March 2025 Newsletter

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Homebound and Shut-Ins

Nancy Elser
Evergreen Manor
924 Charlie's Way
Montpelier, OH 43543

Serving in Worship during March

Sign-up sheet is passed around during worship!

Acolytes

- 2: Grace Saneholtz
- 5: 7:30 pm Rowen Saneholtz
- 9: Kolbee Thomas
- 12: 7:30 pm Rowen Saneholtz
- 16: Gia Fiser
- 19: 7:30 pm Addy Hendricks
- 23: Braxton Henry
- 26: 7:30 pm Charlotte Johnson
- 30: 7:30 pm Grace Saneholtz

Lay Readers

- 2: Jeanne Willson
- 9: open
- 16: open
- 23: open
- 30: open

Greeters

- 2: Sue Dewire
- 9: open
- 16: open
- 23: open
- 30: open



March Birthdays

1 – Dennis Steinke
1 – Grant Hake
5 – Brandon Shoup
9 – Harrison Rose
11 – Sophie Brancheau
11 – Hallie Henry
11 – Malorie Rose
11 – Sharon Tarr
11 – Olivia Thompson
12 – David Clark
12 – Dave Deetz
17 – Joel Saneholtz
18 – Betty Rjngs

19 - Vonda Henry
20 - Ann Perkey
24 - Mike Esterline
24 - Cory Luke
25 - Kim Wright
26 - Kim Bumb
16- Gavin Jaessing
27 - Nora Brancheau
27 – Becky Kunkel
28 – Jennifer Clark
28 - Nancy Elser
29 - Abbie Henry
31 - Tim Henry

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

7 – Mike and Lexy Robson
29 – Corey and Julie Steinke

From the Pastor's Desk

“Is Lent about Life or Death?”

When is the end the beginning? Think about that before reading on. The simplest answer is a circle but even it has a beginning and an ending. While Dr. Hawkings has proposed a cyclic universe theory, the Word of God teaches us that creation has one beginning and one ending. We love to argue about beginnings. Take the age-old problem of which came first; the chicken or the egg? The Pro-choice movement argues about when life begins after conception while others want to right to end life on the day of their choosing.

We argue about how life began in Eden and with the advances in medical technology and the farming of human organs we are exploring how to extend life, making every effort to avoid our endings and cheat death. But death, which is the end of life, is an unavoidable reality. Life begins with birth and ends with death. The season of Lent is about this journey.

The Lenten journey can be a hopeless and difficult time when we ponder our beginning and ending without God by our side. Hundreds of years before Jesus walked the earth, the psalmist wrote “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ...*” (Psalm 22:1ff.), which Jesus recited in its entirety with his dying breath from the cross. These words of lament are appropriate considering Jesus’s Lenten journey while we might miss the message of hope when we don’t pray through the entire psalm. Psalm 22 is a prayer for help as the psalmist was experiencing a bad situation in his life and felt abandoned by God.

We can relate to the psalmist’s plea of anguish when we

walk through the valley of the shadow, when we feel alone, abandoned, and weighed down. The pain of death makes us want to avoid it. Unlike our beginning, we don't like talking about our ending. We don't like talking about death. Although science has made great strides in reducing pain and suffering, the reality of being born is that all living things eventually die.

As liturgical Christians, we take a long hard look at our ending during the season of Lent. We begin with Ash Wednesday when we receive an ash cross on our foreheads, reminding us that our fate is sealed as we are born to die. From the beginning death was pronounced as the judgement for the disobedience of humanity. We are under the penalty of sin as God decrees, "*you are dust and to dust you shall return*" (Gen. 3:19). There is no avoiding it. We are all guilty of sin against God and we are all condemned to death.

In the incarnation God becomes human. In this way God is able to deal with human sin by being fully human. God must experience everything mortal while "emptying himself" (Philippians 2:6-7) and putting aside his divinity. On the night before his death, we find him in anguish, praying "*Father, not my will but yours be done*" (Luke 22:42). God was about to change our ending into a beginning. In the beginning, God had given us hope that our end is not "the end." Our trust in God lies completely in the ashen image traced unto our foreheads in the shape of His cross. On Good Friday, we hear the One who is without sin, suffer and die for us - a death that is absolute, utter, and totally desolate of God.

While Psalm 22 begins as a lament, the psalmist was confident of God's divine care for him and his trust in God's promises. God had always been actively involved in his life. Jesus knew this when he hung dying on the cross reciting the words of the psalm. The truth is revealed three days later

on Easter as Jesus is no longer dead—but alive. Death is the beginning of our new life in Christ. *“The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). The ash cross is always a reminder that the end of our mortal existence is the beginning of life without end because of His sacrifice for us on the cross.

Our Christian Sympathy

It is with deep sorrow and joy in the hope of resurrection in Christ Jesus that we announce the passing of Micheal Vogel. Mike died Saturday, March 22. Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife, Linda, his daughters Jennifer and Ashley, and grandchildren. Family and friends are invited to a funeral service today March 2 at 1:30 pm, here at St. John’s.

More hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of William (Bill) Clum who passed away Monday, February 24 at 94 years old. He was the father of Dan and Deb Clum. Services and visitation will be Monday, March 3 at Clear Lake Lutheran Church, Fremont, IN.

SHROVE TUESDAY / FAT TUESDAY / MARDI GRAS TUESDAY PARTY

Whatever name you want to call it is going to be a day we will celebrate together here at St. John’s on Tuesday, March 4 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Our talented catechism kids will serve pancakes and fruit to anyone from the congregation that attends and then we will play games. Bring your favorite board or card game. Let’s celebrate with a fun family night together! Let Megan know if you can attend.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Evening Services

Wednesday, March 5 is Ash Wednesday. We will have communion and the imposition of ashes during this 7:30 p.m. service. Join us to start the season of Lent. Only this Wednesday night 6:30 pm. class activities for the youth will NOT take place so come as a family to worship together at 7:30 p.m. Wed. Lenten services will continue thru April 9.

Lenten Meals Sign-Up Sheet

Lenten meals will be offered every Wednesday evening from March 12 through April 9 for food and fellowship starting at 6 p.m. until Lenten Services at 7:30 p.m. If you or your group would like to prepare a Lenten meal on Wednesday nights. **March 12, 19, and April 9** are still available to sign up on the Lenten Meals sheet on the office bulletin board and note your menu if possible.

Easter Flower Sign-up Clipboard Sheet

There is a clipboard being passed around to sign-up for Easter flowers with orders and payments due Sunday, March 30. They are the same choices as last year. Just mark how many you wish at \$ 18.95 a flower. There will be a manilla envelope in the church office to put your payment in. Checks can be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church. Put cash in the "old" white windowed envelopes with your name and amount written on it. If you choose to donate the extra \$1.05, from a \$20 dollar bill, please mark that also.



Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 9, is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clock ahead one hour Saturday, March 10 so you can be on time for worship on Sunday.



March is Soap Month

The WOTC are collecting soap this month to help with the NALC Disaster Response. You can donate new bars of soap and place them in the white wooden bins at each door.



WOTC Board Meeting February 9, 2025

Present: Brenda Athy, Janice Thompson, Lexy Robson, Julie Carlson, Bev Purny & Stacy DeMara

Devotions were done by Brenda.

Treasurer's Balances: Checking \$5,425.00 Funeral Fund \$2,446.72

President – A thank you was received from Life Wise. Discussion was held on the Lenten Services. Brenda received a packet from the NALC Disaster Relief. They would like volunteers to come & help.

Vice President – Janice has the CD to give to Jeanne for in the safe. Discussion was held on cleaning the kitchen.

Secretary of Mission –

Lexy purchased the items for 20 kitchen kits - \$563.35. Lexy advised that her husband's church is also collecting kitchen kits to send down. We are going to be purchasing \$1,000 in gift cards. The ladies currently have 21 quilts to send to the NALC Disaster Relief warehouse. Lexy & Mike will be taking the kits & quilts down to the NALC warehouse at the end of February.

Secretary of Community –

Bev said that Jean Cohrs will be speaking at both services on February 16th. We will give her \$50 for speaking. Discussion was held on when to have the Women's General Meeting, September 13th or 20th.

Old Business

At the end of the meeting, we set up cookies, fruit, fruit pizza, Danish, coffee & juice for after Pastor Marc's installation.

Next meeting will be March 9, 2025. Janice will do devotions.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, February 2, 2025

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President Nate Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. on February 2, 2025. (Following the worship service in the church sanctuary.)

Opening prayer was led by Pastor Marc Lapointe

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous 2024 Congregational meetings February 11, 2024 and November 17, 2024 made by Ryan Burt and seconded by Bill Hill. Motion approved.

President Nate commented on Pastor Marc's Report which tells a little bit of the history of how Pastor Marc and Mary came to be here at St. John's.

President Nate pointed out some things on the budget comparing 2023 to 2024 and how we ended up with an excess due to not having a full-time pastor. He commented that some money has been moved around in the Contingency Fund and the Building Fund so we could invest the extra money into CD's to earn interest. President Nate did want to

bring to your attention the moving expenses for Pastor Marc and Mary which were not budgeted will probably show up in the month of March 2025.

The Deacons' Year End Summary listed Mike Timbrook, Ric Clark, Al Henry, and Doran DeMara for 2024. President Nate thanked and stated how much we appreciate what they do.

President Nate talked about the how the Elders Matthew Luke, Ann Kidston, Marilyn Parrish, and Jeanne Willson had a lot on their plate this past year, organizing speakers, running the services and doing a lot for this church. He thanked and gave his appreciation to them for all that they did. President Nate also talked about how they reached out with personal phone calls to members who have not been attending and shut-ins to see if their needs were being met.

In the Parish Ed. Report, President Nate expressed how Megan Hill, Director, Kati Burt, Sara Luke, Riki Timbrook, and Robin Willson plus all the volunteers who help with the kids did an outstanding job with our youth on Wednesdays and Sundays. He pointed out how Megan was very busy with VBS in the summer, had to figure out how to Zoom Pastor Marc with the catechism kids, started a Praise and Worship singing time with all the kids on Wednesday nights before classes, and the Christmas Program. President Nate also commented how we appreciate all that she does.

Pastor Marc announced First Communion classes should be starting soon and how Megan is working with him to try getting the youth more involved and participating with the church. He talked about the new activity that the kids will be serving a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

For the Trustees Report, President Nate commented how Nathan Baker, Dale Gearhart, Jason Luke, Bill Hill, and Matt Sloan replaced more windows and hired Dave Mollett as custodian, who is doing a nice job. Other new projects completed are the flag poles, lighting downstairs, and remodeling Pastor Marc's office.

President Nate commented how Glenview Apartments has been in existence since 1967 provides low rentals for senior citizens and are good stewards of the community.

During the WOTC Report, President Nate pointed out these ladies provide for our needs not only in the church, but in the community and beyond. He pointed out their treasurer's report shows all the projects they support and especially for NALC Disaster Response.

President Nate wanted to do a "shout out" to the recent Call Committee and for all the work that both call committees did with an appreciation for the work involved getting Pastor Marc and Mary here.

Finally, President Nate called Nathan Baker from the Trustees to talk about the Building Project which has been put on hold. Nathan spoke that one goal this year is to revitalize the Building Project. They are going to talk to the builder to see how much the cost has gone up and how we can get this project going. If anyone on the previous Building Committees would like to step up or even give thoughts and opinions on how we can move forward, let Nathan know. Nathan also answered Janice Thompson's comment of "don't forget the kitchen", in that we will have to see how much the kitchen south wall will be affected by the new elevator during the Building Project and then we'll tackle it.

Motion to approve the 2024 Annual Reports made by Al Henry and seconded by Dale Gearhart. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Howard Parrish and seconded by Ed Kidston. Motion approved.

The meeting closed with everyone saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Willson



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting**

The February Church Council
meeting was cancelled
due to the weather.

