SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

THE EAGLE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
2150 CENTRE AVENUE BELLMORE NY 11710
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FEBRUARY 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

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2018 is an unusual year in terms of secular holidays and sacred celebrations. I'm sure it has happened in the past but I don't remember another year when Ash Wednesday is the same as Valentine's Day and Easter is known in popular culture as "April Fools' Day." Let's look at what might seem like a strange juxtaposition of the most solemn day of the church year and a secular celebration that is centered on "love." Unfortunately, in English we only have one word for love, whereas Koine Greek, the language of the New Testament, has several words for love depending on the nuance.

Although it probably shouldn't be, our first concern might involve food. Many of us fast on Ash Wednesday, to one degree or another, and many people also "feast" on Valentine's Day by going out to a restaurant or enjoying a special meal. In our tradition we do not have hard and fast rules about food, so we will have to make choices based on the strength of our religious traditions and our commitment to days that are considered especially holy and sacred in the church.

As faithful Christians, there really should be no conflict between the two, we are committed to observing Ash Wednesday as the beginning of the season of Lent, an important journey that brings us to the celebration the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter. In a very real way there is no conflict between a holiday that is centered on love and a holy day that reminds of our mortality and the powerful, unconditional love that God has for each one of us. We can focus on "agape," the love that God has for us and that we are called to have for one another.

Ash Wednesday begins the journey that brings us to the ultimate love of God given to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. This year in particular we might wonder about the imposition of ashes. The ELCA has created a guide on worship formation for Ash Wednesday, which answers our questions about the symbol of ashes:

Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin

Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used in ancient times in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday, the ashes are given in the form of the cross on our forehead, the same symbol placed there in our baptism with oil. Even in an ashen mark of death, we are anticipating the new life we receive in Easter.

Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, as we say when we place our ashes or body into the ground or a columbarium: "We commit this body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

SAINT JOHN MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a community of faith that is: gathered for worship and fellowship, empowered by Scripture and the Sacraments, strengthened for service and sent forth as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

STAFF AT SAINT JOHN:

- *Pastor: Rev. Laurie Cline*
- *Deacons:*
  Ms. Mary Barberio
  Ms. Charlene Drewes
- *Office Manager:*
  Mrs. Jeana Dwyer
- *Newsletter Editor:*
  Mrs. Jeana Dwyer
- *Congregational President:*
  Mrs. Lori Vanderwaren
- *Organist & Choir Director:*
  Ms. M. Quinn Anderson
- *Sexton: Mr. Nikolai Dovirak*

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WORSHIP HELP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

2/4
Acolyte: Nolan Mooney
Altar Guild: Christa Tuccillo & Renate Petschauer
Lector: Aidan Sargent
Ushers: Ira Bergman & Nicholas Dowling
Assisting Minister: Christa Tuccillo
Communion Assts: Margaret Neverka & Marion Schurade
Greeter: Bill Schurade
Coffee Hour: Karen & Tom Brucia

2/11
Acolyte: Melanie Bogen
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bergman & Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Lector: Nancy Kamps-Cook
Ushers: Sue Bogen & Ed Finn
Assisting Minister: Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Communion Asst Suzanne Ryan
Greeter: Ed Cline
Coffee Hour: Carol-Ann Kehrbaum & Renate Petschauer

2/14 (Ash Wednesday)
Acolyte: Sophie Orlich
Altar Guild: Nancy Dineen
Lector: Jennifer Cline Sargent
Ushers: Bill Schurade & Gail Tomasulo
Assisting Minister: Ira Bergman
Communion Asst: Danielle Branciforti
Greeter: Frank Branciforti
Coffee Hour: N/A

2/18 (prayer & anointing)
Acolyte: Hudson DiTuri
Altar Guild: Jennifer Bergman & Dcn. Charlene Drewes
Lector: Aidan Sargent
Ushers: Tom Sargent & Nicholas Dowling
Assisting Minister: Gail Tomasulo
Communion Asst: Danielle Branciforti
Greeter: Stephen Dowling
Coffee Hour: Sue Bogen & Tracey Schaeffer

2/25
Acolyte: Eric Sargent
Altar Guild: Danielle Branciforti
Lector: Carol-Ann Kehrbaum
Ushers: Ira Bergman & Corey Bogen
Assisting Minister: Dcn. Mary Barberio
Communion Asst: Tom Sargent
Greeter: Bill Schurade
Coffee Hour: Margaret & John Neverka

February Counting Schedule:
2/4 Jennifer Pagano & Jack Waldron
2/11 Dcn. Charlene Drewes & Lori Vanderwaren
2/14 TBD
2/18 Marion & Tony Elicati
2/25 Nancy Kamps-Cook & Lori Vanderwaren

THANK YOU

- To Pastor Cline and the council for providing lunch for the annual meeting. Thank you to Bob Altman, Frank Branciforti and Ed Cline for picking up the food. Thank you also to Bill Schurade for making the coffee.
- To the youth for teaching Sunday School so the teachers could attend the annual meeting.
- To Bob & Barbara Alstman, Deacon Charlene Drewes, Nancy Kamps-Cook, Bill Schurade, Pastor & Ed Cline and Nina Thilesen for taking down the Christmas decorations.
- To Christine Vogel, Barbara Waldron, Jeana Dwyer, Chris & Stephanie Kugler, Jennifer Cline Sargent & Tom Sargent and Pastor & Ed Cline for cleaning up after the annual meeting.

THANK YOU

to everyone who attended the annual meeting and helped to make plans for a successful 2018 here at Saint John.

We are still looking for another one to two council members.

If you think that you would like to be a part of council, please talk to a current or past member to see what it is all about.!!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Walter Fricke
6 Donna Boutet
7 Ira Bergman
7 Faith Dwyer
8 Danielle Kruger
17 Makayla Mooney
21 Nicholas Harper
27 Carol-Ann Kehrbaum
28 Samantha Block
28 AJ Orlich

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday in February. Please notify the office if your birthday was inadvertently left off

MEMORIALS

Garden item to raffle
Designated to youth:
In memory of:

Antonio Ferraro
By Gabrielle Fiscante

AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop at Amazon? Did you know that just by shopping on the website, Saint John can earn money?
If instead of going to Amazon.com, you simply go to

https://smile.amazon.com

0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to the church. The first time you visit this site and sign in you will be asked to choose a charitable organization before you begin shopping. Once you have selected Saint John Lutheran Church, it will be your charity of choice going forward.

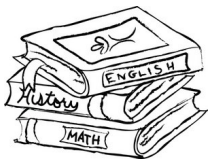
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, January 7 regular Sunday School classes resumed and Intergenerational Bible study and bagels will make its return on Sunday, February 4. Adult Bible study also resumed on Thursday afternoons. Everyone seems to be getting back into the swing of things nicely.

Ms. Quinn prepared the children to sing in church during worship on the day of the annual meeting. Be on the lookout for the next date the children will be singing in church.

There will be no Sunday School class on February 18 for President's Day weekend but there will be class on February 25.

Envelopes for Sunday School benevolence for the second half of the year have been prepared and can be picked up. If you have not received yours yet please ask your child's Sunday School teacher. Our benevolence is going to support Renatha's tuition this year.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONT.

Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins and return to God.

May we come together on Ash Wednesday surrounded by the love of God and the love we share, committed to our Lenten journey which begins with ashes and ends with the fire of the Easter Vigil.

Pastor Cline

Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday, February 14
11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is the most solemn day of the church year. It marks the beginning of our penitential discipline of Lent. We confess our sins together this evening and we continue to confess daily during the entire season of Lent, culminating in the absolution and peace which we will receive in the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

The ashes which you may choose to have imposed on you are a rich symbol - in addition to their powerful reminder of our own mortality, they traditionally suggest judgment, the condemnation of sin, our own human frailty and our total dependence on God for life and repentance. But ashes were once used for cleansing in the absence of soap, and so they also represent cleansing and renewal. The ashes not only lead us to repentance but also remind us of the cleansing and renewal of our baptism.

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
6:00 P.M.
GUY ANTHONY'S
2208 JERUSALEM AVENUE, MERRICK

CONTACT MARIE ORLICH TO RESERVE A SPOT
MARIEORLICH@AOL.COM OR
(516) 434-9283
BY MARCH 11

$45 Adults—$40 Seniors
$20 children 6 and under

~appetizer, salad, choice of 5 entrees, & dessert~

JOIN US FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP, RAFFLES AND DELICIOUS FOOD

*Beer, wine and mixed drinks will be available for an additional cost

All proceeds from the dinner will support travel, meal and accommodation expenses for the youth attending the national gathering

Thank you
Tracey Schaeffer
for hosting
an enjoyable evening of
wine tasting,
delicious appetizers
and an
opportunity for
fellowship !
We had a wonderful
time & are looking
forward to the
next wine & cheese
gathering

Chinese New Year celebration !

Saturday, February 10th
6:30 PM
Dinner in the Howe Room
($20)

RSVP
by Sun, Feb 4th
Charlene Drewes
snoflake41@aol.com

SOCIAL MINISTRY

I had an epiphany! Have you ever said or heard that comment? We have all had "a-ha" moments, right? I can remember a few, but many times, they seem to fade. We may remember having them, but can't always put them into words. Sometimes we can't even recall them!

But, thank God, Jesus blesses us with new ones now and then. Looking for and finding Jesus is part of our Christian walk. I often see Jesus in the eyes of patients I visit in the hospital. Sometimes it seems like the room becomes brightened. It feels like our souls have made a spiritual connection – that was 'electrical'.

Sometimes our epiphany moments can be seen in living the Christian life. Like when I go to the Howe Room and see stacks of Christmas gifts for the kids at the New Life Center, or when I see bundles of food packages, clothing, books, blankets, eye glasses, stamps etc. being collected for those in need. Jesus is apparent in all sorts of manner and places.

We give thanks that Saint John is blessed to have people who make Jesus apparent in and among us.

May we continue to seek and find Jesus and bring Him to others.

The Outreach/Social Ministry Committee

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Cooking for the I.N.N. is on Tuesday, February 13, starting at 5:30 pm. ***Helping hands are always welcome.***

Women's Bible Study is on Friday, February 23, starting at 10:00 am at Our Redeemer in Seaford. Pastor Klose will lead us in "Prepare the Way of the Lord" from the January/February issue of *Gather* magazine., Session 2.

REMINDER
Sunday, February 4
Please bring a can of soup with you to church for the Souper Bowl of Caring.
Thank you.

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 4—PLEASE BRING IN A CAN OF SOUP! Fifth				1 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Adult Bible study**	2 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	3
4 **5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Acolyte training following worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday School, Intergenerational Bible & bagels 11:00 a.m.**	5	6 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	7	8 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Adult Bible study Belair 2:00 p.m.**	9 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	10 **Chinese New Year Celebrations 6:30 p.m.**
11 **Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion, 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Council meeting**	12 *Eagle Deadline*	13 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. INN Cooking 5:30 p.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	14 **Ash Wednesday Services 11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.**	15 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Adult Bible study 2:00 p.m. Belair**	16 A.A. 7:30 p.m.	17
18 **1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion No Sunday School**	19**President's Day Office Closed**	20 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	21	22 **LWR Quilting 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Adult Bible study .**	23 **WELCA Bible study 10:00 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m.	24
25 **Second Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday School**	26 Merrick Garden Club 12:00 p.m.	27 **Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.** A.A. 7:30 p.m. **Choir 8:00 p.m.**	**28**			

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, February 4 – Intergenerational Bible & bagels 11:00 a.m.;
"Souper Bowl" Sunday"
Saturday, February 10 – Chinese New Year Celebration 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday services at 11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 11 – Council meeting following worship
Monday, February 19– Office Closed for President's Day; March Eagle deadline
Friday, February 24 – WELCA Bible study at Our Redeemer Seaford 10:00 a.m.

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DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE EAGLE IS FEBRUARY 20

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE