

Sharon Lutheran Church's Monthly News: March 2014

Pastor's Notes

As I prepare for the Lenten season, Wednesday evening gatherings, and Holy Week, my mind is full of possibilities for ways to make this a meaningful and enriching journey for all of us. I encourage you to set aside time for worship; to set aside additional offering for our Lenten appeal that will benefit the Selinsgrove Area Council of Churches and the ELCA's Malaria Eradication Campaign; and to find simple ways to be of service or practice acts of random kindness.

Wednesday Lenten Series

Rob Bell, founder of Mars Hill Bible church in Michigan, developed a series of short films under the title, Nooma. Each film is a blend of everyday life and discussions about God. We will be using these as a way to explore themes of confession, forgiveness, grace, and discipleship. We will meet in the sanctuary after dinner from 6:30-7:30 pm. The Nooma presentations will take place during this time on each Wednesday and will be framed with music, hymns, and prayer. The first presentation, "Breathe," will be shared as part of Ash Wednesday worship at noon and 7 pm. Some of the films will be shown in parts with time for discussion and reflection in between segments while others will be shown straight through and will be followed by discussion and reflection. You will be invited to journal during worship as well, so have a place to jot down thoughts or images that stand out. These journal notes may be shared or just kept as part of your own experience of your Lenten journey.

The films that we will view are as follows:

March 5	Breathe (Ash Wednesday, noon and 7 pm)
March 12	Lump
March 16	Rain (Community Lenten worship at 6 pm)
March 19	Rain (Same film but a different approach than Sunday's)
March 26	Bullhorn
April 2	Rhythm



Palm Sunday

I am working on a dramatic presentation that will be shared at 10:30 am worship on Palm Sunday. I am looking for youth and adults who would be willing to be part of this "Living stations of the cross." If I have not been in touch with you and you would like to help, please contact me.

I look forward to traveling through this season of Lent and to our conversations of faith and life that you are invited to take part in throughout the month.

God's Peace,

Pastor Doll

From Vicar Rick

Perhaps, it is appropriate that the title of my final seminary course is *Interpreting the Passion Narratives*. Jesus' passion in many ways is the culmination of his ministry and in the gospel accounts serves as the literary culmination of the writers' individual works. Each of the them, Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, relate the story with different a emphasis or theme. Mark's account and John's account are so different we can wonder if they followed the same Jesus! It is interesting to read each account to see how the authors weave the theological with the earthly, Jewish law with Roman politics.



Mark and Matthew's Jesus dies abandoned by friends and family crying out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Luke's Jesus offers meaning in the suffering on the cross by forgiving the people who crucify him. John's Jesus is always in control; suffering and evil have no power over him. No one takes his life, he gives it freely as the Passover Lamb of God.

As we enter Lent and walk toward the passion of Christ, these individual themes will speak to you in different ways depending on the current circumstances of your life. Perhaps, you are feeling abandoned by friends or family. You may be feeling an urgent need for forgiveness or to forgive someone who has wronged you. Perhaps, you are in the midst of an ordeal in which the knowledge that suffering and evil have no power over Jesus offers you comfort. While the gospel accounts differ, each of them offers glimpse of the character of the person who is God's son.

In his book, *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week*, Raymond Brown writes that we "should not be upset by the contrast of the different passion accounts nor ask which view of Jesus is more correct." Rather, he encourages us to embrace them. "To choose one portrayal of the crucified Jesus in a manner that would exclude the other portrayals or to harmonize all the Gospel portrayals into one would deprive the cross of much of its meaning," he writes. "It is important that some be able to see the head bowed in dejection, while others observe the arms outstretched in forgiveness, and still others perceive in the title on the cross the proclamation of a reigning king."

Good Grief!?!?

Adult Discussion Group Sundays, March 23, 30 & April 6 @ 9am

Vicar Rick and Robin Kunkel are partnering to lead an adult group discussion during Lent. The topic is on grief. People grieve for many reasons: death, divorce, job loss, declining health or moving. The format will be informal with large group and small group discussions. They will approach the topic from many aspects, such as, understanding that grief is an individual journey and how are we present with those who are grieving. We will meet for three consecutive Sundays, March 23, 30 & April 6 at 9am in the What's Brewin' room. Please sign up on the Christian Ed bulletin board to enable them to plan for the sessions.



MINISTRIES for CHILDREN, YOUTH & TEENS

Director Family & Youth Ministry: Robin Kunkel 374-8444 robinkunkel@gmail.com
Visit our Website at sharonlc.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Let's Learn the Liturgy

The Sunday school children have been following Vicar Rick downstairs to the Nave to learn more about the liturgy. What's the liturgy, you ask? Liturgy means, "the people's work." It is also a term Lutheran's use for the worship service. We broke the lessons into three parts: Gathering, Word and Sending. Each Sunday the children had their picture taken as a group and individually at key areas in the sanctuary. They had the opportunity to practice the song, *We Are An Offering* as Jacob and Stacy Koch added hand movements to the piece. Dr. Hegberg allowed the children to become more familiar with the organ and how she leads the musical part of worship. The children and adults were truly excited and thankful for this experience.

Senior High: Failure & Forgiveness

"Failure is NOT an option!" How many of you have heard that statement? Does it 'stress you out'? Or make you afraid to try new things? The topic of Failure & Forgiveness, written by Colleen Windham-Huges, was discussed in our Senior High Sunday school group. They sat together and looked at two scripture verses that gave examples of personal failure and social failure. The group collectively agreed that failing is a way to learn, and a time to ask for forgiveness and to forgive. It was reinforced that God does love us through our failures and forgives us. It is a thought that should be shared daily instead of sparingly.

9th Graders FAITH PRESENTATION MARCH 16 @ 9am

On Sunday, March 16 at 9:00am, the ninth grade confirmation students will share their faith journeys with the confirmation and senior high classes. They have spent many years preparing for this moment. It is a great joy to watch and listen to each youth tell their individual story of faith formation. Good luck Jessica Beaver, Raechel Councill, Sarah Fedder, Megan Keeney, Kyle Kemberling, Drew Nickler, Markie Reiland and Aaron Weirick.

CHICKEN & WAFFLES DETROIT FUNDRAISER

April 27 between Celebrate Life Musical

The students committed to going to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering and their families are partnering with the Fellowship Team to offer a luncheon fundraiser between the *Celebrate Life* musical performances. Nancy Martin has chosen the menu of chicken and waffles! You have the option of a show and dinner for the 3:00pm performance or dinner and a show for the 7:00pm performance. All donations will help to offset the trip to Detroit.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

April 19 @ 1pm

Did you know that eggs, bunnies and chicks are signs of new birth?



Sharon is celebrating the Easter story by hosting a community egg hunt on Saturday, April 19 at 1:00pm. The event will begin in Sharon church fellowship hall and continue outdoors for the egg hunt.

Nancy Martin is looking for young children and a parent or guardian to help dye eggs on Friday, April 18 at 9:00am in the fellowship hall. Please contact Nancy at 570 374 6388 if you can help.

M&M FUNDRAISER: Begins April 20

The youth will kick-off another FUNdraiser on April 20! Mini M&M containers will be given out before and after worship by the youth going to Detroit in 2015. If you missed seeing a youth, there will be a basket in the lobby filled with mini M&M containers. Please take a container, enjoy the contents and then fill them with quarters and return them to the church office or Robin Kunkel. After the initial kick-off there will be a basket in the lobby with empty containers to refill. Last time we successfully raised \$1,500 for the New Orleans trip! Let's try to beat that number!

**ALTAR GUILD
HELP NEEDED**

The Altar Guild is in need of 2 additional helpers for cleanup after the late service. Please contact the church office, 374-8444 or Alma Pauling 743-7677 to be added to this very important ministry rotation.



**AUDIT TEAM
ASSISTANCE**

Council has asked the Finance Team to set up an Audit Team to review the financial activity of the congregation for 2013. Would you be willing to assist? You need not be an accountant – just someone with a nose for numbers! The Audit will be done at a date to be determined. Typically, the Audit takes about three hours. Please express your interest to Jim Black at 570-374-7313 or jblack@ptd.net.



**COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS
Approved:**

a Resolution authorizing access to the Sharon Northumberland National Bank Trust Fund to the Congregational Council President, Vice President, Treasurer and Finance Team Chairman.

Approved:

a recommendation from the Social Ministry Team that the Lenten offerings be donated to the Selinsgrove Area Christian Council and the ELCA Malaria Elimination Program.

We Remember in Prayer

Douglas App, Neil Aucker, Terry Beaver, Doris Berry, Pat Bertinet, Barb Blakley, Paul Botteron, Mary Bottiger, Don Bower, Frances Bowersox, Amy Bush, Arline Callahan, Elizabeth Campbell, Ellie Dinsmore, Eleanor Dinius, Larry Forrey, Wade Ganns, Jim Gautsch Jr., Grace Greiner, Suah Harris, Jeremy Hoffman, Grace Hollenbach, David Holmes, Jr., Valerie Holmes, Martha Hummel, Paul Kerstetter, Harvey Kreamer, Jr., Keith Landis, Brynn Lauver, Dale Morse, Susan Mull, Elwood Partica, Len Pierson, Scott Reinard, Rita Regel, David Rishell, Mike S., Bill Starr, Wendy Stauffer, Robert Stetler, Molly Walker, Erma Weirick, Ken and Chris Whitebread, Gary Wydell



Dagle, Evan	3/2
Soper, Jerry	3/2
Partica, Elwood	3/5
Fisher, Thelma	3/7
Savidge, Dalton	3/10
Young, Richard	3/11
Frymoyer, Dale	3/13
Hoke, Abigale	3/14
Pennay, Jeffrey	3/14
Renninger, Dorine	3/14
Gautsch, Jim	3/15
Barborek, Emily	3/16
Bonsall, Bradley	3/19
Bowen, Karen	3/20
Keeney, Kathryn	3/20
Savidge, Marjorie	3/20
Bowersox, Frances	3/21
Keeney, Michael	3/21
Dagle, Sean	3/23
Beaver, Beverly	3/24
Bordner, Debbie	3/24
Whitman, Jeffrey	3/25
Remaley, William	3/26
Bohm, William	3/29
Heuer, Mark	3/29
Goundie, Donna	3/30
Marziale, Ella	3/30



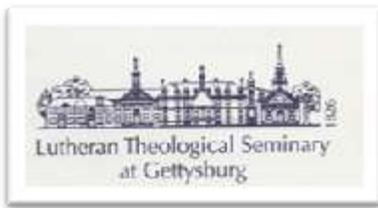
Dear friends of Sharon,

Thank you very much for the many get well wishes, prayers, food, visits and the beautiful flowers. Your many kindnesses are greatly appreciated.

Shirley Mayo

To the Welcoming Team: Thanks so much for the card. It was much appreciated.

Rita Regel



The Ridge

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg,
Carol Black, ALWL

So many varied topics greet the reader of the Seminary's newspaper, The Daily Redactor. Seminarians can consider a study tour to Turkey in January 2015, led by the Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens or jump at the opportunity to learn Ancient Egyptian taught by Dr. B. Bohleke in the Fall of 2014. Then there's the chance to engage in Hispanic Ministry courses in the Southwest offered in Austin, Texas this summer for ELCA candidates. A Luther celebration event in Baltimore, launching the Gritsch Memorial Fund designed to support Luther research, and a Faith-Forgiveness event at Nickel Mines, PA also attract attention. By the time this Newsletter is read, the Regional Assignment announcements for Seniors will have been made. Prayer vigils were held for involved Seminarians, and many of my friends and so many others have stayed in so many of our prayers. A Gender-Inclusive Forum was held recently, and "On Eagle's Wings" Bible Camp volunteering options were publicized. Yes, there is much going on at all our Seminaries of the ELCA. Let's not forget to remember in prayer all personnel associated with these special centers of God's Grace.



2014 Lenten Appeal

Offerings given to this year's Lenten appeal will be divided equally between SACC (Selinsgrove Area Christian Council) and the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Please use the Lenten offering envelopes included with your offering packets to support these needs.

Locally, SACC provides boxes of food to area families in need at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. These boxes include hams or turkeys as well as canned and fresh foods. In recent years the need has continued to increase. The cost to provide these gifts of food is about \$3,000 each time.

SACC also provides help to needy transients who are in emergency need of gas or transport, a meal or overnight accommodation.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign was approved at the ELCA Assembly in 2011. The goal is to raise \$15 million by 2015 in an effort to end deaths caused by malaria. By 2013, \$10 million has been raised.

The focus is in 11 African nations where Lutheran churches can help reach communities hard hit by the disease. This includes Liberia where the Upper Susquehanna Synod is partnered with the Lutheran Church in Liberia. In Africa, malaria claims the life of a child every minute. In Liberia, malaria accounts for 30 percent of all deaths in hospitals.

The church is well positioned to carry out preventive needs and educate the population in their communities. Mosquito nets, medicine, and vital information will reach the people in rural areas especially. Liberia has two well-respected hospitals, Curran and Phebe, as well as many church related schools can educate people to recognize the symptoms and seek treatment.

January Financial Snapshot

Actual Congregation Income \$26,429

Actual Expenses \$32,668



Selinsgrove Ministerium Community Lenten Worship:

6 pm each Sunday evening

March 9

All Saints Episcopal

March 16

Sharon Lutheran

March 23

Christ United Methodist

March 30

St. Matthew's Lutheran

April 6

St Peter's, Freeburg

April 13

St. Pius Seder meal 1pm
Reservations required:
Call 570-374-4113

April 18

Community Good Friday
worship, Church of the
Nazarene, noon – 3 pm

March Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
March 2	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Terry + Judy Kissinger		Alma Pauling	Jack + Kay Spigelmyer	Lowell Leitzel	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Don + Grace Housley	Sarah Fedder Sarah Pennay	Harley Freed	Bob + Vi Soper	Theresa Kuster Alex Pennay Curtis Pennay	Vi Soper Shirley Rowe
March 9	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Jack + Kay Spigelmyer	Courtney Kemberling	John Pendley	John + Roseann Stetler	Maureen Ries	Roseann Stetler (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Tim + Teresa Berger	Jessica Beaver Madison Snyder	Carol Harrison	Toby Skinner Sue Starr	Bob Bradford Art Bowen Dave Deckard	Mary Hummel Audrey Deckard
March 16	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Donna + Donovan Goundie	Megan Keeney	Kay Spigelmyer	Jim + Carol Black	Sue Pennay	Maureen Ries (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Harvey + Nancy Murray	Olivia Dunkle	Tammy Hassinger	Bill +Pat Pinkowski	Casey Reiland Markie Reiland Madison Weirick	Carol Harrison Nancy Martin
March 23	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Don + Aundrea Weirick	Aaron Weirick	Roseann Stetler	Paul Culbertson Brian Pauling	Lowell Leitzel	Linda McMillin (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Kermit + Darlene Ritter	Emma + Anna Kalcich	Don Housley	Todd + Laura Aungst	Hannah Doll Eva Kalcich Tina Kalcich	Karen Bowen Grace Housley
March 30	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Gary Aucker Don Bottiger	Vance + Wyatt Metzger	Jim Black	Bill + Barb Remaley	Carol Black	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Shirley Rowe Eric Rowe	Hannah Doll Raechel Councill	Kirk Hanson	Tim + Teresa Berger	Dawn Doll Don Housley Doug Hassinger	Shirley Walter