

# The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
February 2018



*Valentine's Day*



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

**Gathered to Go . . .**to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.

## ***From Pastor Jonathan***

February 14 is Valentine's Day... and it's also Ash Wednesday. (I doubt many people will be attending worship as a romantic way to celebrate!) Valentine's Day is all about love and sweet thoughts and warm feelings. Ash Wednesday is about penitence, death, and mortality. Yet let's use Valentine's Day to understand Ash Wednesday. Many people will give flowers or candy for Valentine's Day as an expression of love. Yet we know those gifts don't last. Flowers wilt. Candy gets eaten. (Though I suppose if the candy goes to your waist it'll have a lasting effect!) Even for those who go the expensive route for Valentine's Day thinking, "diamonds are forever," really haven't given something that lasts. Love, true love, is something that lasts forever - beyond the lifespan of the whole universe. St. Paul writes about that in 1 Corinthians 13.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of the depth of that love. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," are the words of Ash Wednesday. Dust is worthless stuff. When I dump out my vacuum it's that gray collection of who-knows-what that pours into the garbage. It's disgusting. Have you ever gone to a store and bought a bag of dust? Nope, you haven't.

We are nothing more than dust. And yet we are dust that God has breathed the breath of life into. We are dust that God loves so much that he came to be born into in the form of Jesus. We are the dust that our Lord Jesus loved so much he died to save. Now that's true love! That's enduring love.

May you feel loved by God this Valentine's Day. The cross of ashes (dust) upon your forehead is the way God will be saying, "I love you."

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

## *Council President's Message*

Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the second month of 2018, I'm still trying to wrap my head around what we're facing here at St. Paul's: transition, change, adjustment. We're getting ready to begin the process of calling a new pastor and I'm sure there are a lot of questions about where we're going, what we want/need and what's next for our faith community.

Now is the time to have open and honest conversations with one another and most importantly the elected leaders of St. Paul's about our desires for the future. Now is the time for dreaming big and being part of planning for our collective future. As we move through this process, there will be opportunities to come together to share ideas, hopes and concerns about where we see St. Paul's in the future. Please plan to participate in these opportunities!

As Jay Beach wrote in "The Church Song": "The church is not a business, a committee or a board; it's not a corporation for the business of the Lord. The church, it is the people living out their lives; called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ".

In His Peace,

*Whitney*

*Ash*   
*Wednesday* **WORSHIP**

Wednesday February 14  
7:00pm

## *From Our Social Ministry Deacon*

Dear Friends,

We look to the season of Lent with open hearts. It is a time to reflect, apologize, forgive, accept, and extend ourselves. We will collect dry goods and non-perishable foods for the Living Well and Hope Center (Keuka Food Pantry) during the Lenten season. Like last year, calendars will be on the table in the narthex which list one item per day from February 14<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. The donations will be sorted and delivered the week after Easter. You do not have to follow the calendar specifically, but many people enjoyed following a script last year.

As always, may each of you be blessed!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Covert; Social Ministry Deacon



### *Funeral Reception* **FOOD COORDINATOR**

The Parish Life Committee is looking for a food coordinator who could make telephone calls for food items in the event of a funeral reception at St. Paul's. The position entails someone who is usually available during some day and/or night time. It is not difficult work; the committee will assist you. This is a very valuable service we offer to our St. Paul families. Please contact Sallie, Sheila, Wanda, Linda or Barb S. for more information. Thank you for your consideration!

## *From our Worship Deacon*

Dear Friends of St. Paul's,

Another month has come and gone. The weather has been a challenge with the snow and with the unreasonably cold temperatures. But, we all have survived and things have continued, not only in our personal lives, but also in the life of the church.

Lori Nickoloff has been with us leading worship which has offered stability during transition. Pastor Jonathan has been in the office, made home visits, and has helped us through emergencies which has given us stability during transition. Church services, social ministry projects, and fellowship all have continued, offering us stability during transition. Your faithfulness to St. Paul's has given us stability during transition. God has been ever present during the last two months, providing for our stability during transition. We are a blessed congregation! Thanks be to God!

We are now entering the season of LENT which is our forty day journey leading us to the cross and to Easter. We will begin our Lenten journey together on **Wednesday February 14 which is Ash Wednesday**. Many of us have already commented that Wednesday February 14 is Valentine's Day.... the day when *Hallmark* cards help us tell others of our friendship and love for each other. What better day to attend church, gather at the altar, receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads made with ashes, and then receive the meal reminding us of the great love that Jesus Christ has for all of us....the love that HE showed by giving HIS LIFE for us and offering us LIFE ETERNAL.

During the season of Lent, our service will be one of meditative nature. Our paraments will be purple; there will be more spoken liturgy; we will not sing hymns during communion; we will not hear the alleluias we are so familiar with; and there will be times of silence for personal reflection. May these help you on your Lenten journey.

The words of one of the many Lenten hymns we know goes like this:

“O Lord throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin and free us from our past. Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heavenly praise.” ELW Hymn 319

God will be with us as we travel together through Lent. Thanks be to God for His faithfulness. Amen

Elaine Gleason, Worship Deacon



A big **thank you** to all who generously contributed to my bag of Christmas gifts this year. I enjoyed each one. *Eva Jensen*

Elaine Stefanik and Family express their deepest appreciation for your constant support, prayers, visits, cards and donations in Stan's memory. The luncheon following Stan's funeral service was beautifully done and delicious. Rev. Deibler was there for us every step of the way. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family! *Elaine*

Thank you from the Yates Christmas Program to all who rang the bell at Tops. A total of \$11,600 was collected.

## **February 2018 News from the Pews**

**Sunday February 4...** 8:00 and 10:45 Worship

Last Sunday in Epiphany....Color Green

World and Local Hunger Offering

Reading: John 4:1-42..The Woman at the Well

**Sunday February 11....**Transfiguration

Color: White

8:00 and 10:45 Worship

Reading: John 9:1-41..Man Born Blind

**Wednesday February 14....**Ash Wednesday

Color: Purple

Worship at 7:00 PM with imposition of Ashes

**Sunday February 18...** 8:00 and 10:45 Worship

First Sunday in Lent...Color Purple

Reading: John 11: 1-44...Jesus Raises Lazarus

**Sunday February 25...**Community Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Second Sunday in Lent: Color Purple

Reading: John 12:1-17...Jesus Washes Feet

At this time, Lori Nickoloff will be with us for all of the above services. Things can change, but for now this is our schedule.

# 2018 Lenten Luncheons

## *"Growing Closer to God and Each Other"*

**Thursday, February 15**

**"Gratitude"**

Paul Malles, First Presbyterian  
Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, California Blend Veggies,  
Roll & Fruit Cup  
*First Presbyterian Church serving*

**Thursday, February 22**

**"Hospitality"**

Stephen Sanden, First Baptist  
Chicken and Biscuits, Mixed Vegetables, Tossed Salad & Applesauce  
*Milo Center UMC, Dresden UMC and Second Milo Baptist Church serving*

**Thursday, March 1**

**"Prayer and Devotion"**

Dan Burner, St. Mark's Episcopal  
Ziti, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Fruited Jell-O  
*St. Mark's and St. Luke's Episcopal Churches serving*

**Thursday, March 8**

**"Peace and Justice"**

Sandi Perl, Bluff Point UMC  
Sloppy Joes, Corn, Tossed Salad & Fruit Cup  
*St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Bluff Point UMC serving*

**Thursday, March 15**

**"Service"**

Leo Reinhardt, Our Lady of the Lakes  
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll & Fruit Cup  
*Our Lady of the Lakes (St. Michael's) Catholic Church serving*

**Thursday, March 22**

**"Evangelism"**

Marilyn Wood, Dresden and Dundee UMC  
Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Roll & Fruit Cup  
*Penn Yan UMC and Benton UMC serving*

Lunches begin at 12:00pm; First Baptist Church, 224 Main Street  
\$7.00 per person — Meals are being prepared by the Wagner  
Restaurant with area churches serving and providing the desserts

**Our day to help is March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Wanda Wood if  
you are able to help that day.**

## Memorials

### **For Stan Stefanik**

Frieda Bachowski

Charles & Geraldine Christensen

Russ & Judi Scheel

Greg & Sheila Disbrow

Virginia Wagner

Carl & Sandy Knitter

Jan & Bill Brueckner

Les & Wanda Wood

### **For Bob Stillwell**

Arlene Stillwell

### **For May McFetridge**

Eva Jensen

Philip & Ruth Newlander

Barbara & Bill Shaffer

Carol Cole

Charles & Geraldine Christensen

Evelyn Wood

Peter Newlander

Dave & Janice Williams

Mark & Leaf Christensen

## ANNIVERSARIES

1-Tom & Sherry Morse (44)

11-Dave & Mickie Christiansen (29)

12 – Terry & Sallie Jensen (24)

22-Terry & Chris Orr (43)

**Treasurer's Report  
Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2017  
Operating Account**

**Total Income** **\$193,730**

Selected Items:

General Donations	134,604
Facility Rental	2,075
Building Fund	32,890
Local Hunger	3,172
World Hunger	5,177
Special donations	2,887
Memorials	3,161
Youth monies	50
HOPE	2,951

**Total Outlays** **\$190,232**

Selected Items:

Employee Compensation	86,997
Property (insurance, utilities, etc)	14,571
Mission Commitment (Upstate NY)	19,142
Mortgage payments	30,000
Outreach Programs	14,242
Office expenses	6,711
Church programs	5,284
Supply Pastors	1,727

**Net** **\$ 3,498**

**Building Fund**

Mortgage with Lyons National Bank

**Total Income** **2017** **32,901**

Contributions 32,890

Interest 11

**Total Outlays** **2017** **30,000**

Loan Interest 4,277

Principal Payments 25,723

**Loan Balance (at Dec 31, 2017) = \$57,532**

**Savings Acnt Bal at Lyons NB = \$ 9,619**

**Prayer from our worship hymnal:** “God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us wisdom to use our blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind. Amen.”

Thank you all for your participation with time, talent, and treasure in 2017. We stayed close to our planned budget and provided significant resources to Penn Yan ministries and to the wider church.

Another period of transition in 2018 faces us. God will provide the pastoral leadership in time. In the meantime, we continue to use our blessings in God’s work.

Les Wood  
Treasurer



## **BIRTHDAYS**

1-Daniel Christensen  
3 – Rachel Poblete  
9 – Rose Poblete

11-Derek Christensen  
16-Chris Bergman  
20-Laurie Jensen  
21-Eileen Jensen, Brian Foster  
23-Jenna Christensen, Karen Fitzpatrick  
24-Jennie Snyder  
25-Sheila Disbrow  
28-Patti Barto

## **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

135 Hamilton Street

(315)536-8165

stpaulspyny@gmail.com

[www.stpaulspenny.org](http://www.stpaulspenny.org)

### **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:**

Rev. Jonathan Deibler— Transitional Pastor 585-924-5192

Charlene Nielsen - Admin. Assist. 315-536-8935

Jason Riley – Choir Director 315-719-8586

Carole Cummings – Organist 315-536-6947

Cathy Booth - Sexton 607-522-4821

### **CHURCH COUNCIL:**

Whitney Booth— President 607-220-8702

Elaine Gleason – Vice President 315-536-8870

Sallie Jensen – Secretary 315-536-8602

Les Wood – Treasurer 315-536-5604

#### **Youth Rep.**

Cathy Booth— Worship/music 607-522-4821

Pam Dubbs - Parish Life 610-967-5728

Charlene Nielsen— Christian Ed. 315-536-8935

Linda Shaw— Finance 315-536-6288

Carl Ekdahl— Property 315-694-6698

Dorothy Oswald - Social Ministry 585-526-5083