

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
4897 Old Oneida Road
Verona, NY 13478

Worship Services:
Sunday 9 & 11:15 am
Sunday School 10:15 am

"Forward Service Requested"
Time Dated Material

U.S. Postage Paid

Non-Profit

Permit #2

Verona, NY 13478



**THE CHURCH
CHATTER
March, 2018**

St. Peter's Lutheran
Church, Verona, NY

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
4897 Old Oneida Road
Verona, NY 13478 315-363-5211

Pastor Katie Yahns

www.stpetersverona.org

pastor@stpetersverona.org office@stpetersverona.org

*(Our Mission is to provide spiritual growth through
worship, learning, fellowship and service in the name of the Lord.)*

Worship Services

Sunday 9:00 and 11:15 am, Sunday School 10:15 am

Hymn Sing the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Staff

Rev. Katie Yahns, Pastor
Kathy Piemonte, Church Administrator
Marie Sayles, Sexton
Anthony Dangler and Scott Stewart, Musicians
Anthony Dangler, Choir Director
Betty Browell, Christian Education Coordinator
Linda Hartman, Nursery School Director

Deacons

Janet Fiacco	315-361-4443	Deacon for Worship, Youth, and Visitation
Kathy Haldenwang	315-336-4698	Deacon for Worship, Visitation, and Education
Shirley Netzband	315-334-2279	Deacon for Prayer, Caring Outreach, and Mission Outreach
Deb Rafte	315-264-3589	Deacon for Mission Outreach, Worship, and Youth
Nan Richard	315-337-7230	Deacon for Worship, Mission Outreach, and Visitation

St. Peter's deacons are people who have completed a course of theological training and are commissioned to perform specific tasks within our congregation's pastoral ministry. If you feel God is calling you to this type of service, please see Pastor Katie or any one of the deacons.

Church Council Officers

President:	Lillian White	315-363-3749
Vice President:	Jeanette Burke	315-361-1134
Secretary:	Jennifer Rossi	315-366-3462
Treasurer:	Sherri Brown	315-363-4552
Financial Secretary:	Paula Bishop	315-363-8016

Church Council Members

Jeanette Burke	315-361-1134	Lance Comfort	315-225-2338
Patrick Gerwig	315-271-9478	MaryAnn Hilts	315-336-9174
MaryAnn Hilts	315-336-9174	Ellen Masi	315-256-5024
Howard Regner	315-762-8353	Jennifer Rossi	315-366-3462
Lisa Sandefer	315-337-0534	Sandy Spies	315-363-4523
Julie Steele	315-280-4100		



THE CHURCH CHATTER

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315-363-5211

Our Mission is to provide spiritual growth through worship, learning, fellowship and service in the name of the Lord

From the Pastor: Saving Our Souls

[Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?" Mark 8:34-37

*"If you back away from risk when you can give yourself for others, you've already lost what it means to be human."
--the Rev. Delmer Chilton*

Dear friends in Christ,

This passage was part of the gospel reading on Sunday, February 25. I had planned to preach on the first reading that day, the story of Abram being renamed Abraham by God and once again receiving the promise that he would one day have many descendants. I love that Abraham story and it fit perfectly into the *Covenant in the Wilderness* theme I have been pondering this Lent, complete with our own little "wilderness corner" in the sanctuary that grows each week.

However, I read this paragraph of Scripture in the days after the truly horrible school shooting on February 14th in Parkland, Florida and I got a very eerie feeling. Because some people that day did lose their life for the sake of others—a teacher who opened his classroom so students could hide inside, a coach who shielded students with his own body, a JROTC student holding doors for others to escape. And while Scot Peterson, the armed school resource officer on campus, has attempted to explain why he did not enter the school that day when he heard gunshots, the court of public opinion (as well as his boss and even bigger names than that) have already ruled. Whether it was warranted or not, in the end, he ran the other way while people inside were being shot. He saved his life, but at what cost?

I say this not to "get political," but simply to reflect on how giving your life for the sake of others is the highest ideal for humanity. It speaks to the deepest parts of what it means to be human, maybe because it is so counter to what we might expect.

Thanks to the reptilian brain that we all still possess, human beings can be (and often are) self-centered, focused only on their survival at all cost, paranoid about others who might threaten them, even willing to inflict suffering on others in order to avoid it. I don't mean to make us sound like monsters—we all do these things at various times, not to be cruel but simply because we are incapable of being perfect.

But perhaps being made in the image of God means we have a part of our brains that can overrule these powerful survival instincts. Being human is about more than just survival. It's about having the ability to give our lives for others. I am convinced that we don't choose this purely on our own—but through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what leads us to the place where we might actually give our lives for others, for the sake of Jesus and the sake of the gospel.

I hope I would act in the same way as those brave souls who sacrificed themselves for their fellow human beings. After all, we follow Christ, who calls us to do just this. But I wonder sometimes. Would I follow the Spirit's lead? Or would I take the low road, the safe road, settling for survival rather than truly living? How have I already been doing that and not even realizing that I am in danger of losing my own soul because I've been too focused on saving my life or preserving my own happiness? *(Side note: the Greek word translated "life" in the passage from Mark can also be translated as "soul"--which makes a lot more sense to me.)*

Pretty deep stuff for a newsletter article, I know. Maybe Lent is a good time for digging deep. I'd love to hear your ponderings if you want to share them. What's on your mind as we wrestle with serious questions, both in the world and in the pew?

Together in Christ,
Pastor Katie Yahns

Council Corner

Here we share with you a simple list of the business conducted at the last Council meeting and notable things accomplished or adopted. **If you ever have questions about something noted here, feel free to ask any member of Council or request a copy of the minutes from the office.**

We elected new officers for 2018. They are: President—Lillian White; Vice President—Jeanette Burke; Secretary—Julie Steele; Treasurer—Sherri Brown; Financial Secretary—Paula Bishop. We also welcomed those members of Council who were just elected to their first term: Lillian White, Jennifer Rossi, Lisa Sandefer, and Julie Steele.

We also elected Jennifer Rossi to serve another term on the Nursery School Board.

We heard reports on various projects including the Blessing Box at the Verona Fire Department. Mike Jaquays wrote an article for the Oneida Dispatch that covered the dedication on February 10 which featured the Boy Scouts who built it.

We heard the news that Confirmation camp is seeking a new location for the 2018 summer program. At this time the camp planners feel their vision and goals for the program would be best served at a different site. Once again the financial reports made us all a little nervous. While it looks like we have money in the bank, our total is dangerously below what it takes to make payroll each month. We continue to closely monitor all spending.

Our online giving through Vanco made use of a special promotion where the \$10 monthly fee was waived for the first year of use. That year ends at the end of March, and unfortunately we have not seen enough people use the system to justify continuing that expense. We agreed to end online giving as of March 31 for the time being and will continue looking for a more cost-effective way to offer this service. (If you are reading this and have recurring donations set up online, first—thank you for using the service! However, we do recommend you log in and stop recurring donations before the service concludes.) Please see Patrick's online giving notice elsewhere in this copy of the Chatter.

Blessing Box Officially Open!

The Boy Scouts have constructed a Blessing Box (also known as a “Little Free Pantry”) for installation at the Verona Fire Department. **What is a Blessing Box? It's a small box on a post with a door and shelves that empowers the community to directly help people in need.** The idea is that members of the community leave something inside—food items, toiletries, even school supplies. Anybody who needs it can come and take it at any time. It can be summed up with the phrase **“Give what you can—take what you need.”**

So! What can you do to help make the Blessing Box a success?

Spread the word that it exists by posting a flyer (found on the Welcome Table) in the community, or taking some of the smaller sheets with Blessing Box info to hand out as needed.

Donate appropriate items in the box as you are able. In freezing temperatures, the contents could include ramen noodles, granola bars, paper products, hygiene products, and similar items (please no cans or liquids in the winter).

Check on the box to make sure nothing dangerous, expired or inappropriate is in there, and if there is, take it out and throw it away (or give to the food pantry if that's the right place for it). The various churches of Verona will be taking turns checking on the box too, but volunteers are still welcome.

The Blessing Box is a cooperative effort of the Verona churches, Boy Scout Troop 25 Verona, and the Verona Fire Department. Thank you to all parties for making the box a success. For more info, please contact Pastor Katie or any member of the Community Relations Team (Paula Bishop, Marie Sayles, Linda Rogowski, or Deb Rafté). For more information about the concept itself, visit littlefreepantry.org.

Snow Cancellation Policy

REMEMBER! The St. Peter's weather cancellation policy is thus:

- * If VVS schools are cancelled, the church office is closed and all activities and classes at St. Peter's are cancelled.
- * If VVS schools are delayed in the morning, the church office will open later and all morning activities are cancelled (including nursery school)
- * If VVS after-school activities are cancelled, all afternoon and evening activities and classes at St. Peter's are cancelled

As for Sundays—if we decide to cancel worship services due to weather concerns, we will do the following:

- * Email to the whole congregation announcing the cancellation (if we don't have your email, please submit it to Kathy in the office at office@stpetersverona.org)
- * Posts on the church Facebook page (we may also post material from worship on Facebook for those who wish to have private or family devotions that day)
- * Cancellation announcements on the local TV news
- * We may also do limited calling of folks who do not have computers.

Remember, if it is not safe for you to be out, don't risk your life to come to church!

Do you have experience with WordPress? Russ Brookins is putting together a new website for St. Peter's using this online platform. He is searching for someone to assist with testing and monitoring the new site. You would not have to do any coding—just learn the platform. Contact Russ at webmaster@stpetersverona.org or 315-600-8363.



When the English Fall

By David Williams

Book review written by Kathy Haldenwang

I admit it. I am a fan of hard science fiction and also of dystopian fiction. *When the English Fall* by David Williams falls under both genres. I am fascinated by the different ways in which humans can react to "end of the world" scenarios. In this novel there is some type of huge solar event which leaves all the United States at least without any type of electrical power. Solar panels are destroyed and electrical and magnetic parts of machinery are destroyed as well.

The narrator of the tale is an Amish man writing in his journal. The language is simple - befitting the source. Within this book you will get a glimpse of two quite different Amish communities which I thought was interesting in and of itself. But the main points of interest for me involved how people of faith react to an overwhelming crisis. What do Christians do when society falls apart and they are forced to make difficult decisions which test their faith?

When the English Fall is a quick read of only 225 pages. It was published in 2017 by Algonquin Books. It is widely available. I read the Kindle edition so there is not a copy in the church library. But if you have a compatible device I am allowed to share each book once and to each email address once. Let me know if you are interested.

March Mission of the Month: VERONA FOOD PANTRY

Community food drives are plentiful at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but people still need help even in the spring. Every time we hear a report from the food pantry at a VACC (Verona Area Council of Churches) meeting, the number of families served has increased. The food pantry also serves as the centralized place folks can find help or get connected to what they need.

Did you know that food from the Food Bank of Central NY is not free? The Verona Food Pantry purchases it from them at low cost. This means that every food item we donate is one item they do not need to purchase. And every dollar we donate goes to purchase items they do not or cannot receive as donations. They receive donations from area churches, the Verona Area Council of Churches, individuals, and local businesses.

The Verona Food Pantry is located at the town barn on Germany Road, and is open Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 pm and Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 pm. They welcome volunteers—if you are interested, please contact Linda Finnerty at 315-816-3477 or Indfinnerty@yahoo.com.

Through monetary donations or donations of food or time, please remember to support the Verona Food Pantry as our March mission of the month. Thank you!

Coming this Year: JAM FEST

Monday Ministry is an outreach to new people who come to worship at St. Peter's. Currently a loaf of bread and a letter written by Pastor Katie are delivered to guests that sign our guestbook or the pew pads. We have decided to try a different approach this year. We would like to give small jars of homemade jam. We are in need of small canning jars, lids, and anyone who would like to spend some time in the spring or summer making jam. We have volunteers that have made jam before to help teach. This way we can give new visitors a jar of jam with a letter before they leave. We are also looking for a catchy phrase...something like "Try God when you are in a jam." Please see any of the Deacons with questions.

WANTED: Volunteers for Funeral Dinners

Our coordinator is Betty Browell, ably assisted by Sandy Spies. Janet Zimmerman makes the calls to request dishes when they are needed. We could really use a few more volunteers both to cook or bake something and to work in the kitchen. Janet tries to rotate her requests so that nobody is asked over and over again. This ministry only works when we take turns and help each other out.

If you would like to add your name to the list of volunteers, please contact Betty Browell (315) 420-1657. Thank you!

Weekly Email Newsletter Now in Business!

We hope that you love the Chatter. But let's face it...sometimes it's easy to lose your copy of the Chatter, or misplace it during the month. Sometimes it's daunting to read everything and you get behind. Well, we now have a weekly mini-newsletter that is sent out only by email, reminding you of what's coming up this week, who's serving at church the following Sunday, any major news, and any other tidbits about happenings at church.

If you are not already receiving this email weekly and would like to, please contact Pastor Katie (pastor@stpetersverona.org) to be put on the list.

What's On Tap for Worship

from the Worship and Music Team

First off: Please note that on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25th, we will have one blended worship service at 10:00 am. We'll gather beforehand for a potluck breakfast/brunch at 9:00 am. Come begin Holy Week in worship alongside your brothers and sisters from both services!

To mark the different seasons of the church year, we have made plans to use some of the liturgical settings we already know this spring and summer, in addition to learning a new one.

At 9:00, we have started to learn parts of **Setting 9** for the season of Lent. We will use a simple Lenten hymn (#602) in place of the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise, then shift to Setting 9 for the rest of the service.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, we will mark the change of season by changing to **Setting 4** and returning to "This is the feast" for the Hymn of Praise. This was Setting 2 in the "old green book" and will be a familiar tune and words for many.

After the season of Easter concludes, we'll shift on Sunday, May 27 to use **Setting 3** for the first portion of the Season after Pentecost. This was Setting 1 in the green book and will also be familiar to many. More favorite settings will be returning during the summer months.

While 11:15 doesn't have a liturgical "setting" so to speak, the Scripture Song and prayer texts will continue shifting to mark the various seasons. For Lent the Scripture song is #618, "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer."

Upcoming 10:00 am Blended Worship Opportunities:

Sunday, March 25, 2018 (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, July 1, 2018 (Sunday nearest Fourth of July)

Sunday, September 2, 2018 (Sunday before Labor Day)

Sunday, October 28, 2018 (Reformation Sunday)

Sunday, December 16, 2018??? (Children's Christmas Pageant)

Sunday, December 30, 2018 (Sunday after Christmas Day)

YOU CAN PLEASE SOME OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME...Some people didn't like announcements at the beginning of the service. Some people don't like the announcements at the end of the service. Some people don't like the announcements to be anywhere within the service since it seems to disrupt the flow of worship. Some people just don't like announcements at all. Some people don't read the bulletin insert and would rather hear the announcements.

Starting **April 8th** you will see a new clipboard next to the one where you write the names of people you would like included in the prayers that Sunday. It will be clearly marked : ANNOUNCEMENTS. Write your announcement on the sheet and include the name of the contact person where appropriate. The assisting deacon for that day will read all the announcements beginning at 8:55. The service will then begin at 9:00 and continue without interruption. We're going to keep working on this issue until we please most of the people most of the time!

Reminder about Worship on Facebook Live

from the Worship and Music Team

A number of you have already discovered that when weather or sickness keep you from getting to church, you can tune into our Facebook page at approximately 9:30-9:40 and hear that morning's sermon. Thank you for listening! The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Remember, in recognition of privacy concerns, we have decided to limit the streaming of worship to the sermon only. This way we do not need to worry about copyright permissions for music or for showing children during the children's sermon.

The camera (Russ' phone) is mounted on the pole that you see in the sound booth. Russ zooms in from that location on the pulpit for the sermon. So while there is a tiny chance that the back of your head may be shown briefly on Facebook, we will not be broadcasting anybody's face.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to know more, please speak to Julie Steele, chair of Worship and Music, Russ Brookins, Pastor Katie, or anybody on the team.

Save the Date—Coming this Spring and Beyond

Saturday, March 10	Bishop's Convocation at Zion, New Hartford on Faith Formation
Sunday, March 25	Palm / Passion Sunday: Breakfast 9:00 am, Worship 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm VACC Community Worship 6:30 pm at Beacon Light Baptist
Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm
Friday, March 30	Good Friday Worship 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 31	Easter Vigil Worship 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:15 am
Sunday, April 15	VACC Progressive Dinner 4:00 pm (at area churches)
Saturday, April 28	Spring Conference Assembly 9:00 am History of Lutherans in the Mohawk Valley, 2:00 pm at Zion
Sunday, May 20	Day of Pentecost / Global Companion Synod Sunday
Sunday, June 3-Tuesday, June 5	Synod Assembly in Rochester
Sunday, June 10	Graduate Recognition Sunday

Are you looking to sell some real estate? We have become aware of a woman originally from this area who is looking to move back after a brief retirement in North Carolina. Her children live in this area and her husband passed away suddenly after they moved there for retirement a few years ago. She is searching for a small home on an acre of land (or perhaps land where she could put a home). If you know of anyone who might be a good connection for this person, please let Pastor Katie know and she will pass the information along.

SISTERS OF THE FAITH

Please note that Sisters of the Faith generally meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. However, the group is checking in to decide if they are meeting. So before venturing out, please call or text either Sherri Brown at 315-264-6042 or Linda Rogowski at 315-796-5152 to see if they are meeting.

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Altar Guild needs a few more volunteers for altar preparation. Man or Woman! Help is really needed. Just one month a year and only takes 30-60 minutes to set up. Can't you give an hour a week for a month to God? Please call or talk to Sandy Spies or Marie Sayles as soon as possible.

Thank you and God Bless.



Volunteers Needed to mow the lawn and trim at church this summer, either on a weekly basis or monthly basis. If questions, please contact Howard Regner on his cell phone at 315-763-8353.



CHURCH FAITH LIBRARY

The church Faith Library is good to go! If you have a book that you feel would be a benefit to our faith journey and would like to donate it there is a basket for that. When you borrow a book and then return it, there is a basket for that, too. Here is just a sampling of what is available: *Christ the Lord*, *All of the Women of the Bible*, *Fire Gospel*, *Great Lion of God*, *Sarah*, *Martha*, *Delilah*, *My Heart for His Glory*, *Cup of Comfort for Christmas*, *The Beginner's Guide to Intercession*, *The Desire of Ages*, *God's Solutions for Your Life* and many books by Max Lucado. There are also quite a few DVDs which will soon be organized and shelved.

Techies Welcome

Do you enjoy fiddling with technology and gadgets? Are you looking for a new way to give back to the church and help out in worship? Do you prefer serving behind the scenes?

If any of these are true, you might be interested in learning how to run the sound system at church for either the 9:00 or 11:15 worship services. The upgrades to our system are being installed (new speakers and a new processor). Once everything is installed and calibrated, we could really use a few more people to help out with running the sound system during worship. John Puleo of Professional Technologies will be holding an orientation to the new system. This is a great opportunity to learn how to do this job. (Previously we have not had someone running sound at 11:15—but if we did, that would be wonderful!)

If you are interested, please let Pastor Katie know so she can set up a date and time with John that works. This might be just right for you!

Youth Corner



Seek and ye shall find.....

We are planning an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Sunday, March 25th and need your help. We are asking for donations of candy, face paint and Easter/Spring like prizes for games and activities. If anyone has any fun ideas, please let me know. I will have a box for these items in the Narthex.

Thank you so much in advance for your continued generosity and support.

Janet Fiacco

2018 Youth Gathering

As the time nears for the Youth Gathering in Houston this summer, it's also time to prepare for the youth gathering's special offering to benefit the people of Houston. The offering is called "Blast Off For Books" to lift up the need for greater literacy among kids in Houston schools.

3 in 5 Houston children lack reading readiness skills when entering kindergarten

1 in 4 Houston children do not meet minimum literacy standards at grade 3

2 in 5 Houston youth fail reading and writing exams required for graduation on their first try

1 in 5 Houston adults are functionally illiterate

Kids whose parents cannot or will not provide books in their home are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to learning reading skills. So the Youth Gathering folks will be providing a list of suggested books to bring to Houston. As part of the service component of the gathering, teens will be sorting books, taking them to book fairs throughout Houston, interacting with young kids in Houston with games to teach them reading skills, and sending them home with books.

Watch for the book list in a future issue of the Chatter! We'll share more about how you can help out. We can send books with our youth who are attending the gathering, Kaylee-Ann Zimmerman and Meghan O'Dell.

Ongoing Can and Bottle Drive

Thank you to a handful of devoted volunteers, the cans and bottles left in our shed are redeemed on a regular basis and the proceeds go into the youth account. These funds go to help our youth attend Youth Gatherings as well as give seed money for fundraisers and funds for fun activities.

However! In order to redeem your cans and bottles, we need YOU to separate them from your other recycling and your garbage. Thank you for taking the time to separate your cans and bottles and bring them to the shed. We appreciate your support. Those nickels really add up!

Financial Secretary's Report

Income for current expenses through January, 2018

2018	8,239.66	4 weeks
2017	<u>15,863.00</u>	5 weeks
	7,623.34	Decrease

Benevolence Income

2018	218.00	
2017	<u>906.00</u>	
	688.00	Decrease

Special Mission Giving in 2018	241.73
Lent & Self Denial Mission Giving	00.00
Capital Fund (plus fund raisers)	50.00
Sunday School	0.00

Budget Giving During January

January 7	2,677.64	
January 14	1,799.76	
January 21	2,823.00	
January 28	1,645.99	
On line	<u>775.59</u>	
	9,721.98	Income
	<u>11,432.73</u>	Expenses
	1,710.75	Under

Year to Date	9,721.98	Income
	<u>11,432.73</u>	Expenses
	1,710.75	Under

Other Income	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Online giving	775.59	775.59
Thrivent	21.00	21.00



Online Giving - Ends March 2018

Submitted by: Patrick Gerwig

First - Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of St. Peter's ministries through online giving!

The free trial period is ending by the end of the month and it isn't efficient enough to offer this service any longer. If you are set up on an automatic payment you will want to go in and cancel at your earliest convenience.

We are looking for an alternative option and will keep you posted when we have found one.

Thank you again for your support!

Any questions, feel free to see Pastor Katie, Sherri Brown or Patrick Gerwig

Learning a New Language—Families Together

from Deb Rafta

This program teaching English to refugees and their families has begun for the spring. We meet on Fridays from 9-12 at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Syracuse. This is the same program that ran in the fall of 2017. We have SU students and community people that volunteer through the STEP Center to make this program happen. We can always use help, so please think about this mission opportunity.

I (Deb) will be taking any clothes that you may not need to help support the needs of the people in Syracuse. We can use both child and adult clothing. I can pick these up at church if you let me know. The program runs through Friday, April 13, 2018. If anyone would like to make a donation of snack or supplies, please let me know (315-264-3589). We can always use help and welcome visitors!

Thank You Thrivent Members

Several members of St. Peter's who are also Thrivent members have directed their Choice Dollars to our congregation in past years. We thank you for supporting St. Peter's in this way! All 2017 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2018. If you have not already directed your Choice Dollars to St. Peter's, please consider doing so now or in the future. Go to "Promote Thrivent Choice" at thrivent.com to learn more. Every little bit helps and we thank you!

Drama...The Good Kind

We are looking for people who would be interested in reading some dramatic parts during Holy Week (specifically on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil). Easter Vigil in particular is an opportunity to get creative and have fun with some classic Bible stories, while the stories of Palm Sunday and Good Friday are much more serious but just as important. Scripts are available if you would like to look them over and decide. This is a great way to tell the stories of our faith in a way that really makes them come alive today! Please see Pastor Katie or Julie Steele or any Worship & Music team members if you are interested.

VACC (Verona Area Council of Churches) Report

VACC Progressive Dinner

This fundraiser for the Verona Food Pantry will take place Sunday, April 15, 2018. Dinner will be served at Verona United Methodist Church, including ham and scalloped potatoes, salad, veggies and applesauce. First Presbyterian and Our Lady of Good Counsel will be doing appetizers and Seventh Day and Beacon Light will be doing dessert. St. Peter's will be helping with the main meal, doing salad and vegetables.

Blessing Box

We decided at the February VACC meeting that each church will check the Blessing Box on the same month as they do Stone Soup. People will put things in as well as taking out any food that has expired. Hopefully the food will get to people in need. We will put flyers in the Verona Food Pantry to let their patrons know about it.

Monthly Area Calendar

We will also be sending out a monthly calendar to the Religious Release Time children on the first of every month letting them know what we have happening in our churches. We will also mention the Blessing Box on the calendar. If anyone would like to add an event, please send the information to Pastor Pat Hubman at phubman2@hotmail.com by the 15th of each month. April will be our first calendar.



PRAYER VENTURES

MARCH 2018

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 Pray for the work, advocacy and networks of ELCA Disability Ministry and that our congregations and ministries work together to invite, embrace and include people living with disabilities in the life of the church – without hesitation or preconceptions.

2 Remember in prayer our 65 synod bishops, ELCA presiding bishop and secretary gathered for the Conference of Bishops in Chicago. Give thanks for their service to the church and pray their times of worship, study, sharing and business strengthen their faith and leadership and guide the mission of our church.

3 Give thanks for music in our lives and worship, a gift that lifts our spirits, draws people together, gives expression to our emotions and thoughts, helps us reflect on our faith and Scripture, and expresses our praise and thanksgiving to God.

4 The church is not immune from the temptations of commercialization, profit and consumption. Pray we keep Jesus Christ at the center of all we do, strive to be and witness to; ask God to help us be mindful of the teachings of Jesus commending generosity, simplicity and attentiveness to the needs and circumstances of our neighbor and the world.

5 Remember in prayer communities nervously anticipating potential spring storms and severe weather. Pray their preparations, if needed, help preserve life and property, and give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response, first responders, volunteers and members of the military who stand ready to assist.

6 Pray our personal reflections during Lent, as discomfiting and disheartening as they may be, do not lose sight of the promise that we are not worthless, lost or alone – God knows us, loves us, draws us close and graciously claims us.

7 In a time when we bicker over power, superiority and influence, give thanks that through the humility, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus we experience a different understanding and use of power and authority – God's unrivaled power and sacrificial love for the sake of the world, especially our neighbors who are oppressed, hungry, poor, ignored, suffering and long for hope.

8 Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers preparing for planting crops, managing animals and livestock, and the hard work that comes with every spring, that the world may be fed and nourished through their bountiful harvests and endeavors.

9 Give thanks for our ELCA seminaries and lay schools for ministry. Ask God to bless their work and efforts in identifying, inviting, preparing, renewing and encouraging women and men for ministry in diverse contexts and communities.

10 Remember in prayer the service and witness of the 10 young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Madagascar; the Rev. Kirsten Laderach, YAGM country coordinator; and the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela, regional representatives for Madagascar, West and Central Africa.

11 We ask God to help us be thoughtful and articulate in our witness and interactions with others, that we are comfortable in using our own words and imagery to respond to questions about our faith, describe God's love and activity in the world, and talk about Jesus.

12 We remember in prayer Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA, ministries that strengthen the faith of Lutheran men and women of all ages, encourage bold lives of faith and service, cultivate leaders, and attend to needs of men and women.

13 Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the Presbyterian Church (USA), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

14 "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." In every danger, illness, uncertainty and difficult circumstance, turn to God in prayer asking for God's loving attention, mercy, direction and healing.

15 Pray the Spirit will help us focus on the cross throughout Lent, seeing with greater clarity and richness its symbolism and meaning for the world as a daily reminder of the gift we have in Jesus Christ, a gift that gives newness, hope, purpose and direction for daily life.

16 By grace we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ – a wonderful, undeserved gift from God. Praise God!

17 Pray the leaders of our nations are moved to heal old and new rifts, work together for justice and peace, and share resources for the well-being and prosperity of all people.

18 In baptism our old, flawed self is washed away – and dies – revealing a new life and identity we have together in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pray we each remember our baptism and the promise of God’s daily, enduring gift of forgiveness and love.

19 Make Psalm 51 a frequent prayer during Lent: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.”

20 Pray for our continuing generosity in response to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*; give thanks for its impact, including the support of 11 Global Ministry Projects helping strengthen, support and empower our companion churches in building new congregations, outreach to youth, training pastors and evangelists, and much more.

21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.

22 We remember in our prayers people who travel frequently for work, spending time away from their home, family, social networks and congregation. Pray they remain connected and can find opportunities for worship and renewal when away from home.

23 God’s word and ways are written on our hearts, part of our very being and existence as baptized children of God. Ask God to help us be attentive in daily life to the spirit within us that gives our lives purpose, inspires us to be just and merciful, and helps us make decisions that please God and consider the needs of our neighbor.

24 Remembering the life, witness and advocacy of Óscar Romero (1917-1980), bishop of El Salvador, we recognize and give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ who work against oppression, defend the rights of the poor and risk their lives for peace in Central America and elsewhere in the world.

25 Palm Sunday Drawn into the passion story in the Gospels, we pray the vulnerability, sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ stirs our faith and instructs and emboldens us as followers, servants, leaders, citizens and bearers of the good news.

26 Ask God to strengthen us as servants who are given new life and freedom in Christ and are called and endowed with the Spirit to help bring peace, justice, hope and light to the world.

27 Pray our Holy Week and Easter traditions, worship and family activities are grounded in God’s word and the gospel and not distracted or diminished by the commercialization or popularization of this time of anticipation, reflection and celebration of Jesus Christ – our salvation and hope.

28 Whenever we gather as the people of God to celebrate Holy Communion, we come together to receive God’s grace and to be nourished and sustained for sharing our faith, serving our neighbor and growing the church. Give thanks and praise to God for the presence of Jesus Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion through the power of the Holy Spirit.

29 Maundy Thursday Pray we, as modern-day disciples, are not afraid to draw close to one another and our neighbor to better understand and serve each other with humility, empathy, compassion and courage.

30 Good Friday At the foot of the cross and remembering the suffering and death of Jesus on our behalf, we reaffirm that, although we are not strangers to sin, darkness and death, we also live in the reality of God’s mercy, grace and new life given to us through the risen Jesus. With both humility and joy, raise up prayers of thanks and praise to God.

31 Vigil of Easter In the midst of the joy and thankfulness bound up in the good news of Easter and Jesus’ resurrection, we confess we sometimes have questions and skepticisms we keep to ourselves. Ask God to create in us hearts and minds receptive to the wonderful gift and mystery of our salvation, place people in our lives who encourage our faith, and help us be alert to signs of God’s redemptive presence and work in the world.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

March

- 1 Wanda Murling
- 2 Wendy Myers
- 3 Carl Finch
- 3 Megan Hornyak
- 4 Jimmy Candee
- 5 Laura Godkin
- 6 Dawn Jaeger
- 7 Willard Lewis, Jr.
- 7 Kaylee-Ann Zimmerman
- 8 Sammy Benedict
- 8 Violet Bice
- 9 Bret Wandell
- 9 Dustin Miller
- 11 Ashley Rogowski
- 12 Justin Schmalz
- 14 Andy Hyatt
- 17 Grace Candee
- 17 Florence Bentley
- 17 Patricia McElhinney
- 17 Catherine Kretser
- 20 Kate Regner
- 22 Frank Welker
- 23 Diane Potts
- 23 Austin Stagnitti

April*

- 1 Jared Fiacco
- 3 Michael McElhinney
- 5 Jennie Wendt
- 7 Bryan Joanis
- 7 Ann Sharpe
- 9 Pastor Katie Yahns

(*This is just a partial list of April)

**If you want to be included or removed from the Birthday/
Anniversary List - please contact Kathy Piemonte at (315)
363-5211 or email office@stpetersverona.org**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March

- 5 Dennis & Mona Olejniuk

April*

- 4 David & Kathy Haldenwang
- 9 Henry & Lisa Sandefer
- 20 Henry & Bonnie Gerwig
- 21 Jim & Janet Fiacco
- 28 Tom & Peg Dreyer

(*This is just a partial list of April)

**If you want to be included or removed from the
Birthday/Anniversary List - please contact Kathy
Piemonte at (315) 363-5211 or email**



Prayer:

I've got to talk to somebody, God. I'm worried. I'm unhappy. I feel inadequate so often -- hopeless, defeated, afraid.

Or else I am so filled with delight I want to run into the street and shout, "Stop, world! Listen! Hear this wonderful thing!"

But nobody pauses to listen out there or here -- here in my own home, my own church. Even those closest to me are so busy, so absorbed in their own concerns.

But with you, Lord, there are no walls. You, who made me, know my deepest emotions, my most secret thoughts. You know the good of me and the bad of me. You already understand.

I turn to you because as I talk to you my disappointments are eased and my joys are enhanced. I find solutions to my problems or the strength to endure what I must. From your perfect understanding I receive understanding for my own life's needs.

Thank you, God. for being there always ready to listen and always ready to love me.

Happenings Around the Area....

Helping Families
Touching Lives



The
Good News Center

Announcing a New Support Group

The Good News Center is sponsoring a new support group: **PAL – Parents of Addicted Loved Ones**. The primary goal is to provide hope through education and support for parents dealing with addicted loved ones by offering confidential peer support. Other family members of addicted loved ones are also welcome to attend. Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) is a national organization founded in Arizona by a Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor. The group will be led by Michelle Holliday, who has been trained by PAL. **Meetings are 6:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M. every other Monday here at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, Utica. Upcoming meeting is March 19th** For more information contact The Good News Center at 315-735-6210, e-mail info@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us online at www.thegoodnewscenter.org.

Separated & Divorced Support Group

Meets every other Sunday, 5:00-6:30 pm; upcoming meetings March 4th, March 18th and April 8th at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica. The group meets in a warm, caring, **confidential** environment designed to help you learn skills and practical information that will guide you in rebuilding your life after your separation or divorce. Free and open to all. For more information contact Judy at **315-735-6210**, judy@thegoodnewscenter.org, or visit us at www.thegoodnewscenter.org.

The Third Option

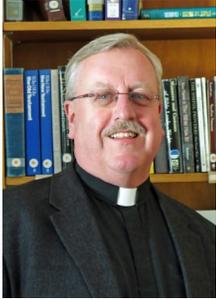
Meets every other Sunday; upcoming meetings March 4th, March 18th and April 8th, 6:30-8:30 pm at The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica. WISH YOU HAD A BETTER MARRIAGE? Learn to handle anger more constructively, resolve conflicts, and communicate better. Hear couples share how they overcame problems in their marriages. The Third Option support group for married couples. For more information and to register call 315-735-6210, melissa@thegoodnewscenter.org or visit us online www.thegoodnewscenter.org.

Bible Study: Wisdom – God’s Vision for Life In this eight part series, Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith examine biblical wisdom as it relates to daily life. Drawing on the wisdom literature of the Bible; Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach and Ecclesiastes, Wisdom will teach you how to actively seek out sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life. Please join us at **The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, Utica, Wednesdays, January 3rd through February 28th, from 10:00 am-12:00 or 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. \$20.00 per person. To register call 315-735-6210 or email mjones@thegoodnewscenter.org**

Parent Effectiveness Training (PET) will be held at **The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, Utica on Thursdays, March 15th - May 10th from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm.** James Davis, Ed.D, LMHC will be facilitating this 8 week program that is educational and experiential to help parents build skills to more effectively communicate with their children and resolve conflicts. Space is limited, **call 315-724-5173** to learn more and reserve a seat. **Cost is \$50.00.**

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful.

A message for Lent by Bishop John Macholz



I was recently at an Apple Store for battery replacement in my phone. As the young man finished filling out a form on his iPad he passed it off to me, asking me to sign. I asked him what I was signing and he said that basically what I was signing was a document that said Apple was not responsible for any lost data while doing the work required. I paused for a moment and, giving it second thought, said nothing, signed my name, turned over my phone and left the store. As I walked away I asked myself "Then who is responsible?" and I began to think of all those places and signs where people or companies abrogate responsibility. Cars in parking lots and garages (not responsible for items lost or stolen), locker rooms, (not responsible for items lost or stolen) insert a few of your own in this space. And then, I thought about Lent.

Lent calls us to understand our responsibility in the arena of sin. Joel shouts out that we should "rend your hearts and not your clothing." Recognize what's within, what we've done and what we've left undone. What we are responsible for in our lives.

In the Gospel for Ash Wednesday Jesus calls us to practice our piety carefully and without fanfare, to pray without making a big deal out of it and to fast in a way that doesn't make it a public event. Finally he encourages us to consider our treasures and where they are, where we have placed them and to look at what is of ultimate importance in this life and the life to come.

All of these involve a level of responsibility on our part. The responsibility of understanding that we are by nature sinful and unclean and under the wrath of God. The responsibility of naming the sins we carry with us and commit on an ongoing basis. The responsibility of recognizing that left to our own devices we can do nothing.

And yet, into that mix enters God's responsibility, in the words of Jesus, "your Father who sees in secret, will reward you." Perhaps we understand this most clearly in the words of Joel on this high and holy day filled with images of ashes and confession; "Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing."

Even in the face of my lack of responsibility God follows through on God's responsibility. God forgives. God rewards. God, in Christ, takes on the responsibility of the sins of this world, carries it to a cross, and in his death and resurrection gives to us new life and hope and promise.

In this holy season, join with me in more clearly understanding what this responsibility is all about. Join me in confessing sins and receiving absolution. Join me in the journey to the last meal with disciples, the trial, the crucifixion and the silence of the moment. Then, and only then, when we've made that journey and seen firsthand our God's response to our sinfulness, can we celebrate with reckless abandon and deep joy the gifts that are ours in Christ Jesus.

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful. God waits for you. May you encounter God in new and intriguing ways in these days of Lent. Mostly, may you encounter God's endless, deep and abiding love on the way. It's all we need and it's everything we need.

News Around the ELCA / Upstate New York Synod

Bishop's Convocation—Church as “Wonder”-Land

Transforming faith communities from a place to go expecting quick answers to a place to be with God, each other (across generations), and big questions

This annual gathering for learning, fellowship and worship takes place on Saturday, March 10 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in New Hartford. In the morning session, Pastor Lori Kochanski, assistant to the bishop for faith formation of the Upstate New York Synod, will lead us in learning how we can continue the transforming work of discipleship as we engage wonder and curiosity as key ingredients in cross+generational faith formation. In the afternoon we will use scripture, art, song, prayer, current events, silence and story to further explore the relationship between wonder and our call as believers of Jesus' message & mandate of love. This group experience will provide opportunity to plan possible ways you can help bring wonder to the center of your personal and communal faith life. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Registration is available at upstatenysynod.org/upcoming-events. This is a great opportunity to attend a synod-wide event that is basically in our backyard!

Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice available for review

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice has released a draft of a social statement that examines the big picture of sexism and patriarchy in church and society. The task force invites you to study the document and provide feedback. Hearing your input is an essential part of the process to ensure that the draft speaks for and to ELCA members. The comment period for the draft is open until Sept. 30, 2018. The social statement is available as a download (at www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Draft) or you may order a print copy.

Draft Policy Statement on Interfaith Relations available for review

From now until the end of June, individuals and groups across the ELCA are invited to participate in reading, reviewing and responding to the draft ELCA policy statement entitled, “A Declaration of Our Inter-Religious Commitment.” The draft statement is available on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Draft-Policy-Statement.

ELCA Publications Available at Church

Curious about what churches across the ELCA are up to? The complimentary publications *Living Lutheran* and *Stories of Faith in Action* are available in the narthex, in the wall-mounted document rack. Other publications are there for the taking as well. Browse for a few minutes and see what you find. Exciting things are happening all across the church!

Follow us!

Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, events, pictures and video across many platforms. We're on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans); [@ELCA on Twitter](https://twitter.com/ELCA); [@ELCA on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ELCA) and [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/ELCA). Also, the Upstate New York Synod is on Facebook at [facebook.com/upstatenysynod](https://www.facebook.com/upstatenysynod) and sends out a bi-weekly email newsletter called the Upstate Update (visit upstatenysynod.org to sign up). Join the online community of Lutherans!

LCM/STEP Center March News

Written By Pastor Gail Riina, chaplain for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Syracuse University

This month I would like to share with you about our Success Saturdays' programs. This effort funded by the We Raise Foundation (formerly Wheat Ridge Foundation) has enabled Lutheran Campus Ministry/STEP Center to develop young adult leaders in a cross-cultural tutoring program since 2016. Most Saturday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30 about 18 middle and high school students and 12 college students meet in the fireside room of St. Stephens. The tutors help the younger peers with homework; they use the computers for research, vocabulary definitions and online tutorials. The students are very eager to learn. The tutors learn just as much, if not more by extending themselves to help. The grant we received is an emerging leader grant designed to encourage young adults to put their faith into action. The tutors share their own career goals and develop workshops around skills needed in college for the student participants. In this way, they gain experience and test their own vocational choices. Last week, one freshman tutor working with a 10th grader told me he learned material he needed for his own algebra class in the process of helping with homework. The grant also provided resources for field trips to expand students' knowledge and motivation. Below are some pictures including our recent field trip to SUNY-Environmental Science and Forestry campus.

The Success Saturday grant will be completed in June, 2018. The college student tutors are working hard to find alternative ways to fund the program so that they can continue. This is part of their leadership training. We are looking into other Foundations as well as fundraising opportunities and finding volunteers to provide the healthy lunch that was funded by the grant in the past. If you have any suggestions please contact us, myself and our student coordinator Alicia Bateman, will be very grateful for your help.

To close, I will share one Success Saturdays' success story. A junior student preparing for her biology regent test was very discouraged and told one of our tutors she was thinking of dropping out of school. He worked with her that day and told her not to give up. He promised he would work with her the next week and the next until the time of the test. After the test, she stopped coming to tutoring regularly but about a month later she returned and told the tutor she had passed thanking him and telling him she could not have done it without him.

It is really a blessing to know your efforts are making a difference. But as a pastor I tell all the students that we never know how far our efforts to help go, but we can be assured that the Holy Spirit carries the love we share far and wide.





Don't forget the Verona Food Pantry!

Open Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 pm and
Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 pm
Located at the Verona Town Hall (water dept.
building), 6600 Germany Road

**Donations especially needed: pasta, peanut butter,
canned tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, soup, and
canned pasta**

To volunteer, call Linda Finnerty at 315-813-3477
Please put donations in the box in the narthex at
St. Peter's

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

- You or a family member is sick or in the hospital.
- You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event—to place it on the church calendar.
- A baby is expected in your family.
- You want to arrange for a baptism or wedding.
- A family member has passed away.
- Your telephone number or address has changed.
- You are planning to move, locally or out of town.
- You feel the church can help you in any way.

Church Chatter via Email



Go Green: If you prefer to receive the church chatter via email, please email Kathy Piemonte at **office@stpetersverona.org** and she will email you the Chatter.



Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before bedtime on Saturday, March 10

Leave a Legacy

Nobody likes to think about what will happen when they die, but one of the ways you can make an impact on generations to come and share the light of Christ with future generations is to make a legacy gift to the church.

There are several ways to do this. The ELCA church-wide organization has a campaign called "Always Being Made New" that supports efforts to fight malaria and hunger, launches new congregations, provides seminary scholarships, and reaches out to youth and people with disabilities. You can choose to make a one-time gift to that campaign or to any entity you want to support (i.e. the Upstate New York Synod, Vanderkamp, one or more of our seminaries, etc.). You also have the option of setting up a fund at St. Peter's to support future ministry in whatever capacity you desire.

Please speak with Pastor Katie or someone on the Investment Committee (Jeff White, Jeanette Burke, Kevin Angell) to find out more.



If you are a Facebook user and you haven't already "liked" our page, please do so! We currently have 263 likes and 267 people have checked in at St. Peter's (checking in on Sunday is an easy way to share your faith with others). Search for "St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Verona N.Y." and click on "like" to add us to your news feed. We are now also on Twitter and you can follow us at @StPetersVerona. Remember, even if we don't show up in your news feed, we may be posting important information, so the best way to see what we're up to is to go directly to our Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who has RSVPed to an event, liked a post, or shared a post with your friends—you are helping make St. Peter's a wonderful and welcoming place!



KEEP IN TOUCH!

Help us keep our mailing and phone contacts up to date.

**MOVED? CHANGED A PHONE NUMBER?
GONE OFF TO SCHOOL?**

Call, write, or email us your changes so we can keep the office records up to date.

315-363-5211

4897 Old Oneida Road, Verona, NY 13440
office@stpetersverona.org



HOW DO I ASK FOR PRAYER?

We have several ways to request prayer:
For emergencies: Contact Marie Sayles (msayles2@twc.com, 315-337-8758) to

begin the Prayer Chain

For ongoing prayer done privately: Fill out a green form from the pew racks and put in the offering plate OR leave a note in the Prayer Ministry mailbox in the entryway

For prayer in Sunday worship: Write it on the clipboard in the narthex

For a prayer shawl: Contact Leigh Ann Gilladette at 315-280-4100



MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Team is to support the ministry of St. Peter's and deal with any concerns which may arise among the partners in ministry, i.e. the congregation, pastor, and staff. The team will meet quarterly or more often as the need arises.

Steps to be taken when there is a concern:

- A concern is brought to the attention of a team member.
- Discussion takes place within the team on how best to address the concern.
- The team will offer guidance and support to all parties involved in addressing the concern.

Note: While all concerns will be shared with the entire team (including the pastor), confidentiality will be maintained within the team as appropriate.

MMT Members:

Jerry Burke 361-1134(h); 339-2954(c)

Kathy Haldenwang 336-4698(h); 264-3419(c)

ALTAR GUILD

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar or have the sanctuary candle lit on a particular Sunday in memory or honor of someone, please sign up for your desired Sunday on the bulletin board outside the sacristy and choir room (*same hallway as the restrooms*). For flowers, you are free to shop for flower arrangements or plants and bring them to the altar before 8:30 on Sunday morning. After the 11:15 service concludes, you may take them home or leave them to brighten the church space.

For the candle, please speak to Diane Angell, Phone 315-363-6249, to make arrangements.



Just a reminder! We collect can tabs YEAR ROUND! That includes tabs on soup cans, pet food cans, and tuna fish cans in addition to your standard soda can tabs. Place them in the plastic jar on the Welcome Table and we will bring them to Synod Assembly in the spring for that year's ministry opportunity.

MISCELLANOUS COMMUNITY INFORMATION...

You are invited.....

Lutheran Adult Mission Trip



May 7 - 11, 2018
to
Mar-Lu-Ridge
Conference & Retreat Center
3200 Mar-Lu-Ridge Road
Jefferson, Maryland

COST: \$325 per person

Cost includes, 4 nights lodging, 7 meals
and a day trip to Gettysburg led by Tom Henry

Possible Mission Sites:

Lutheran World Relief
Windsor, Maryland

Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp
Jefferson, Maryland

Martha's Table
Washington DC

If you would like more information, please call
Bonny McCabe (Good Shepherd, Fayetteville) 315-877-3945
or
Tom Henry (St. Mark's, Baldwinsville) 315-706-6393

**A maximum of just 20 people can be accommodated
at Mar-Lu-Ridge, so to hold your spot
please send your \$100 deposit by 1/31/18
(Checks payable to *Central Crossroads Conference*)
to Bonny McCabe
14 Shriver Drive, Baldwinsville, NY 13027**

Hope you will join us!!



BEING FINANCIALLY PREPARED AND LIVING GENEROUSLY GO HAND IN HAND

At Thrivent Financial, we guide people to be wise with money and live generously. We help our members support the causes they care about by putting their faith into action.

How would you like to share your:



Time and talents? We offer many opportunities to help your church, your community and the causes you care about.



Treasures? We can help you make smart choices about charitable giving options so your contributions go farther and you can enjoy potential tax benefits.

You can live a balanced and generous life by giving of your time, talents and treasures. And we're here to help.

Kyle F Mumpton, CFP®, FIC
Wealth Advisor
7897 Oswego Rd
Liverpool, NY 13090
315-451-0252
kyle.mumpton@thrivent.com

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ in the U.S.

Thrivent Financial and its representatives and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative and, as appropriate, your attorney and tax professional for additional information.

Thrivent Financial representatives are licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. They are also registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55415. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836 25062B R4-17



Attention Married Couples:

Have you signed up for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Plants and grass need tending to grow healthy and strong, and so does your marriage!

Following are the scheduled Northeast US spring

Weekends:

* **March 16-18, 2018** at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. A newly-renovated hotel, home of the unique treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

* **April 6-8, 2018** at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College PA. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of PA.

Registrations are also being accepted for the fall Weekends: **September 14-16, 2018** at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA; **October 19-21, 2018** at Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA; and **November 9-11, 2018** at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish to help cover expenses and ensure the continuation of the program.

To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up TODAY. Simply go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, choose the Weekend desired, and pay the \$100 registration fee with your credit card, or mark the option to mail a check. For questions, please contact Northeast US Contacts for Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

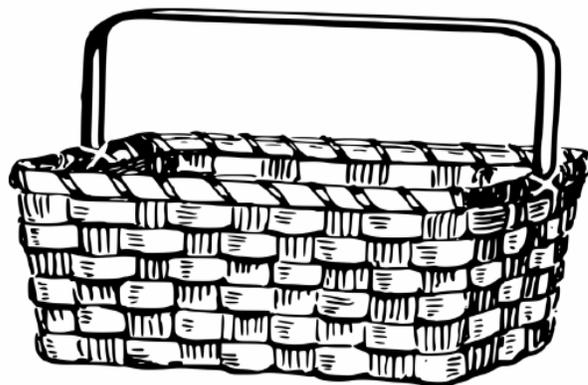
SAVE THE DATE!

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL AND THEMED AUCTION

SUNDAY APRIL 22ND

PLEASE FILL A BASKET!



Calling for Skills, treasures and talents!
Contact griina@syr.edu, 315-251-4739.

Ham and Scalloped Potatoes

March 10, 2018

4:00pm to 6:30pm

Vernon United Methodist Church

Route 5, Vernon, NY



Take outs available
Call -315-829-3535



\$10.00 for adults

\$4.00 for kids 6-11

Free for kids 5 and under

Ham and Scalloped Potatoes, Rolls,

Vegetables, Homemade Pies

Handicap accessible

10% of proceeds to go to a mission

Irish Buffet

Verona United Methodist Church

Main Street, Verona

March 10, 2018 4:00-6:00



Corned Beef and Cabbage

Shepherds Pie

Guinness Stew

Colcannon

Root Vegetable Trio

Scones and Clotted Cream

Irish Soda Bread

Green Deserts and Beverage

adults: \$9.00 children: \$5.00



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Easter Plants

The Altar Guild is now taking orders for lilies, hydrangeas, and azaleas. You may order a plant to take with you after Easter services or make a donation towards those that will be adorning the altar. Each potted plant is 6 inches.

You must place your order on or before **Sunday, March 11, 2018**. The price for each plant is noted below.

To PURCHASE a plant, Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

Lily _____ @ \$8.00 = _____

Hydrangea _____ @ \$12.00 = _____

Azalea _____ @ \$12.00 = _____

_____ To make a DONATION (any amount), Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

Please be sure your Easter plant orders and donations are given to
Sandy Spies or Marie Sayles (or turned into the church office)
by **Sunday, March 11, 2018**



MARCH 2018 & EASTER SUNDAY (4/1/2018)

9:00 am

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES
3/4/2018* 3 rd Sunday in Lent	Beverly Noble, Cheri Schmalz, Anna Rossi, Marie Sayles	Kathy Haldenwang	Karen Yerka David Hyatt	Melanie Angell	Dale White Philip White	Carter DePasquale Dylan DePasquale
3/11/2018* 4 th Sunday in Lent	Deb Rafte, Peter Makarchuk, Lilly White, Volunteer Needed	Deb Rafte	Betty Browell Kaylee Ann Zimmerman	Carol Noble	Jerry Burke Wayne Wood	Logan Sherwood Kelsey Richmond
3/18/2018* 5 th Sunday in Lent	Jeanette Burke, Jerry Burke, Sheila Hoffman, Caleb Decker	Janet Fiacco	Susan Regner Kathy Haldenwang	Anna Welker	Ken Regner Aaron Dust	Jack Makarchuk Peter Makarchuk
4/1/2018* Easter	Diane Angell, Wayne Wood, Marie Sayles, Anna Rossi	Kathy Haldenwang	Diane Angell Marie Sayles Dave Hyatt Karen Yerka	Deb Rafte	Ken Regner Marge VanSlyke	Konrad Thurston Kaitlyn O'Dell

11:15 am

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHER	ACOLYTE
3/4/2018* 3 rd Sunday in Lent	Lisa Sandefer Ellen Masi			Lance Comfort	Terry Fike	Camryn Klepadlo
3/11/2018* 4 th Sunday in Lent	Terry Fike Chris Crill			Terry Fike	Lance Comfort	Liesl Froschauer
3/18/2018* 5 th Sunday in Lent	Linda Rogowski Ashley Rogowski			Chris Crill	Marvin Perkosky	Carissa Klepadlo
4/1/2018* Easter	Lisa Sandefer Ellen Masi			Ellen Masi	Terry Fike	Grace Candee

Palm Sunday – Blended 10 am

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES CRUCIFER
3/25/18* Palm Sunday	Heather Pritchard, Meghan O'Dell, David Hyatt, Cheri Schmalz	Kathy Haldenwang	David Hyatt	Jennifer Rossi	Tom Thurston Konrad Thurston	Caleb Decker Matt Rossi Crucifer:

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (2)	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTE (1)
3/29/2018*	Julie Steele, Anna Rossi	Kathy Haldenwang		Sandy Spies	Howard Regner Jerry Burke	Jordyn Steele

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 noon

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR (3)	USHERS	ACOLYTES
3/30/2018		Janet Fiacco				

7:00 pm

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR (3)	USHERS	ACOLYTES
3/30/2018		Kathy Haldenwang			Jerry Burke Bob Bibik	

EASTER VIGIL - 7:00 pm

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (2)	MINISTER ASSISTING	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ACOLYTES (2)
3/31/2018*	Marie Sayles, Volunteer Needed	Deb Rafte	Volunteer Needed	Volunteers	Jeff White Dean Hilts	Violetta Hilts Kelsey Richmond

* Communion

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please make attempts to find a replacement.

If you are unsuccessful, please call or email the office. Thank you!

March 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
"Spring Forward" at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 11 Easter Sunday April 1 - worship with communion at 9 am and 11:15 am				1 9:15 am Nursery School 6:00 pm Sisters of the Faith	2 5:00 – 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	3 9 am – 5 pm Fellowship Hall in Use
4 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion 1:30 pm Confirmation Class	5 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	6 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	7 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 11:30 am Lunch 12:00 pm Worship	8 9:15 am Nursery School	9	10 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Fellowship Hall in Use  Spring Forward – set clocks one hour ahead before bedtime
11 4 th Sunday in Lent Flower Orders Due 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion	12 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study 7:00 pm Church Council	14 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 11:30 am Lunch 12:00 pm Worship	15 9:15 am Nursery School 6:00 pm Sisters of the Faith	16	17 12 – 4 pm Fellowship Hall in Use
18 5 th Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Worship with Communion 1:30 pm Confirmation Class	19 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	20 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	21 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School 11:30 am Lunch 12:00 pm Worship 1:00 pm Deacons' Meeting	22	23	24
25 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 am Breakfast 10:00 am Blended Worship with Communion and Baptism 1:00 – 3:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt 7:00 pm VACC Community Worship – location TBA	26 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	27 8:00 am Breakfast with the Bible 9:15 am Nursery School 2:00 pm Pastors' Sermon Study	28 9:00 am Community Christian Seniors Group 9:15 am Nursery School	29 Maundy Thursday 9:15 am Nursery School 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	30 Good Friday 12:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship	31 Easter Vigil 7:00 pm Worship with Communion

Revised: 2/26/18