

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



The Shepherd's Staff

March, 2019
Monthly Newsletter

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
521 Cypress Street
Manistee, MI 49660
231.723.7161*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Like most everyone else, I have this routine that I follow each day as I prepare for the new day. Every so often, I recognize the sameness of what I am doing, and I try to do something a little different. The change is usually something simple; like perhaps the order in which I brush my teeth and comb my hair. Not anything grand per say, just something to break to mundaneness of what I do day in and day out. A few days ago, while during my morning routine, I quickly glanced in the side mirror at the bathroom sink. What I saw, so joggled me, that I took a double take; only this time, much closer. In that mirror on that day, for the first time, I saw my Dad staring back at me. Now I need to be clear about something. The idea of looking like my Dad was not unfamiliar to me. While growing up, I often heard it said. At my Mother's wake, it seemed everyone who walked through the door said it. "Jim, you look just like your Dad." In response, we both would smile and usually said something like, "I think that is the way it is supposed to work." Indeed, while it seems I had heard it a million times, this was the first time during my mundane morning ritual that I actually saw it for myself. In many ways, I have become the spitting image of him.

Change affects all of us in various kinds of ways. Sometimes it is the deliberate differences in how we do something. Some-

Real God, Real Presence, Real People

Our Mission:

To be followers of Jesus Christ by sharing God's grace and forgiveness through our loving witness and service to all.

Our Vision:

To be a congregation where God's grace and forgiveness are experienced, where all gather in love to serve the Lord, and where all witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.

Traditional Eucharist
Sundays at 9:30 am

Contemporary Eucharist
Saturdays at 5:30 pm

times it is the subtle rubbing away of time, like water over a rock that changes us. Either way, change happens.

Change is one of the reasons Jesus found himself in so much trouble. The Religious of His community wanted things to stay as they had always been. Jesus found himself declaring a better way. It was a way in which all . . . would be welcomed into the Father's presence. 2,000 plus years later, we still struggle with what it means to welcome all . . . into the Father's presence. We still have not mastered what it means to proclaim the Kingdom of God into a world that longs to experience God's change. Around the church we hear the Kingdom message a lot; but have we seen any change? When others look at us, do they see our Father's face? Are we truly willing to live lives of sacrifice so that we might be used of God to proclaim this hope that we find in Jesus? Are we willing to lay down our lives to live a life of freedom and truth in the Kingdom of God? If we are . . . then everything will change.

I pray for change. Change in my heart, change in my attitude, and change in my way of seeing others. Change happens; and I have decided that change is good. I have also decided that there is nothing wrong with looking like my Dad. I only pray that when others look upon my face, the reflection they receive . . . will be our Father's.

See you at one of our weekend services . . . and bring a friend!!

-Pr. Jim



glass windows will be professionally cleaned soon. Do you think they have been cleaned since they were installed some 100 years ago? New high efficiency lighting will go up, same fixtures, just more efficient bulbs. Lots of fun was had in January at the 'fun game night." It was truly intergenerational with "kids" of all ages playing plenty of games! St. Patrick's Day is an enchanting time... a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic...you've heard I suppose, long ago, how the snakes in a manner most antic, How St Patrick marched to the county Mayo, and trundled the snakes into the Atlantic. Oh, the music in the air! An' the joy that's everywhere. Shure, the whole blue vault of heaven is wan grand triumphal arch, An' the earth below is gay, wid its tender gren th'day, Fur the whole world is Irish on the 17th o March! (Please note that the preceding poem is spelled incorrectly, on purpose.) For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way.... Good Health, good luck and happiness for today and everyday. And may your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

And in closing, there are only two kinds of people in the world: The Irish and those who wish they were Irish.

'til next time,



Shep

Is this you? Attendance at church had been pretty slack recently. As we drove by one day, my daughter said, "Hey, there's the church we don't go to." YOU can change this.....See YOU in church.

PS from Shep:

Good Shepherd will be hosting **Safe Harbor from March 23-March 30**. You will find a sign up sheet for volunteers on the podium in the back of the Unity Room. Please pray for this very important ministry. I promise I will stay hidden while we host these guests. Chris Amor is also looking for help at the **Community Table on March 5**...can U help?

SHEP'S CORNER



Top of the morning to everyone....we have survived the snow, rain & freezing temps so far this winter. According to the Manistee County Road Commission's statistics, Manistee County has had 91 inches of snow this year compared to the 138 inches that fell in 2018. Not sure how many days of school were lost in MAPS but Big Rapids has lost 20 days.....that is a lot of make-up days. They may be in school thru the 4th of July For those of you wondering about when spring is coming, for you 'snow birds', can't say as to when it will be safe to come back to Michigan. Punxsutawney did NOT see his shadow so that means we should have an early spring....but Punxsutawney is only right about 40% of the time. (In the last 10 years he predicted 7 longer winter and 3 short winters.) Last month you may have read this column and learned about a lot of holidays in January. This month I decided to highlight only a few. Now read this carefully, March 1st is the first day of spring according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, but spring is on our regular calendar for March 20; the 10th is Daylight Saving Time, the 17th is St. Patrick's Day, March 5 is Mardi Gras and March 6 is Ash Wednesday. (Job 42: therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.) March 12 is National Napping Day and I will be sure to celebrate that day! The 20th is International Day of Happiness so start practicing being happy if you aren't already! The 21st is International Day of Forests and thought you should know this being we live in the National Forest.

Since my last column, a lot of work has been done at the church. It is painted and looks beautiful. The floors are down and look great. Please stop by and take a look...there is more work to be done, especially cleaning up, as we await the pews which are in Ohio being refurbished and recovered. The stained

THIS AND THAT FROM THE PASTOR

UPDATE ON THE BUILDING RENOVATIONS: The painters have left the building, the cleaning crew has been called to offer their skills, and we await the return of our pews. In all, things we are on schedule and there is an excitement in the air as we anticipate returning to the Nave for worship at the Easter Vigil. You are invited to peek in the Nave and see what has been done. All in all, it is absolutely beautiful. Hats off to our diligent Decorating Committee. Well done!

MAIN HALLWAY LIGHTING: All of our hall way chandeliers that were installed at the time of the 2002 addition have been retro fitted with new LED lighting. The difference is amazing and the hall has never shone so brightly. A special thank you to our faithful and fearless Property Committee who refused to believe that this change could not be done. The whole experience has been very, "*enlightening.*" Get it?? 😊

NEW MAIL BOXES: You may have already noticed but there is now a new mail box by each of the office doors down the Library Hall. This should make it easier to drop off things to the parish office, the finance office, and the pastor's study. Additionally, there is a mail box by the bulletin board located at our east entrance. This mail box will hold any and all information needed for the youth such as medical release forms, and/or permission slips. The Council mailboxes, the volunteer mailboxes, and the committee mail boxes are now at the south end of the Library Hall and are located on the same wall as before.

THE ROUND TABLES: The round tables that were in the Unity Room, are now being utilized in the dining hall downstairs. They make communication at our meals and meetings much more inviting as we can talk across the table with one another. All of this builds community and strengthens our relationships one with another. I know, another change. 😊

AROUND THE PARISH

COMMUNITY TABLE: Tuesday, March 5 at 5 PM.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Resumes on **Tuesday, March 5** at 6:30 PM. Luke 1-14:35 will be studied over the course of six lessons.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR JIM: Begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6 at 10:30 AM** and will continue on **Wednesdays until Holy Week.**

ASH WEDNESDAY: Two services are scheduled for **Wednesday, March 6, Ash Wednesday.** The first will be at **12:05 PM** and the second at **7 PM.** Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Eucharist.

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST: Resumes on **Wednesday March 13 at 12:05 PM until Holy Week.**

SOUP/FELLOWSHIP: There will be soup served with a side of fellowship on **Wednesdays beginning Wednesday, March 13** after Midweek Eucharist **until Holy Week.** A sign up sheet can be found on the podium in the Unity Room if you'd like to bring in soup, bread, or dessert. Questions? Call Beth Schlinkert at 231-887-4067 or Judy Pefley at 231-398-0634.

SPRINGHILL: Teen Winter Retreat In Ewart, MI, **March 8-10** for 7th—12th grade students. Springhill uses an intentional integration of faith & fun to engage students in large and small groups. There is a biblical speaker and a worship band to guide the participants toward a deeper relationship with God. The GSLC group will load up at **4 pm on Friday, March 8** and return on **Sunday, March 10 at approximately 2:30 PM.** Questions? Contact Chris Amor at 231-510-1272 or Paul & Lea Illig at 231-723-0047. You can also visit the Springhill website at <http://gotquestions.org/>

WORKSHOP FOR SERVICE VOLUNTEERS: The workshop for ushers,

ishes by pointing out our receiving of God's grace through scripture, prayer, and sacrament. When pondering Higgins questions, please know that God is with you. I am reminded of a reading from Luke 11, Jesus says, "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find."

For some reason, I have always considered Lent to be a "dark" time. Fortunately, it is followed by the "light" of Easter morning when we realize life through the risen Christ. Please consider how you can use your talents and gifts given through God's grace to support Good Shepherd's ministry in Manistee. Rephrasing the above verse from Luke, please "ask" what can I do, and please keep "searching" for ways to use your talents.

God's peace.

The Stewardship Committee



In 2019, the Lenten season starts with Ash Wednesday on March 6th and ends on Good Friday, April 19th. When we think of Lent, we often think in terms of giving something up, perhaps certain foods, drinks, activities, even TV! Or maybe not...

While researching the term “Lent”, I came across an article by Presbyterian minister, Craig Higgins, who gives a lengthy description of Lent including its history and how it is relevant to today. Basically, he points to the Lenten season as a time of repentance. He notes that Luther taught “the Christian life in its totality is a life of repentance. Beginning when we first trust Christ, and continuing throughout our lives, we are more and more turning away from sin and self-centeredness and more and more turning to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even though a repentant spirit should mark all we do, it is still appropriate that certain times be set aside for a particular focus on repentance.” Hence, the Christian church celebrates Lent.

Personally, I see Lent as a time for introspection that is looking inward and trying to assess my spiritual health. Higgins goes on to suggest that we ask, “What are my characteristic sins, and how can I pray for change? What idols have captured my imagination so that my love for the living God has grown cold? In what ways is my devotion to Christ and His church less than wholehearted?” I realize that these questions get pretty “heavy” and are kind of “downers”. Higgins writes much more on the meaning and celebration of the Lenten season, and fin-

readers, and Eucharistic Ministers scheduled for **Saturday, March 9** has been **postponed**. Doing so will enable Pastor Jim to spend the entire weekend at the Springhill youth retreat and will also enable returning snowbirds to attend the workshop. Stay tuned for a new date for the workshop.

SAFE HARBOR: Good Shepherd will be hosting the week of **March 23—March 30th**. A sign-up sheet is available on the podium in the Unity Room. Please consider donating food, transportation, pillows, blankets, socks, backpacks, and, most importantly, your time. The hours are tough but the experience is soul-stirring.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 13 at 5:30 PM

Sunday, April 14 at 9:30 AM

Services will be held in the Unity room

Maundy Thursday Service

April 18 at 7 PM in the Unity Room

Good Friday Service

April 19 at 7 PM in the Unity Room

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 20 at 9 PM

Will begin in the Unity Room

Easter Worship

Sunday April 21 at 9:30 AM

Feast of the Resurrection

In the Church Nave

Easter Brunch

In the Fellowship Hall after Easter Worship

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

Lent seems to come without warning!
Somehow it happens that way every year, though we promise to be ready next time.

We arrive at church as usual only to find the service “upside down” — the alleluias, gone; the up-beat opening songs, the joyful gathering hymn, gone; “Glory to God in the Highest,” gone. In their places, old chants with Greek words, Psalm tones without accompaniment, “Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World,” and silence.

It must be Lent!

And it lasts for forty days!

What to do now?

Well, there are always the mid-week service and the soup lunch. There is the decision about “what to give up.” There are the ashes on the first day and the palms near the end; and, beyond that, the meal on Thursday, the cross on Friday.

And none of these are gone. They are all ways in which Lutherans celebrate the season, and no one is suggesting we give them up.

But, wait. There is more — especially this year in our parish.

Lent offers special opportunities at Good Shepherd this year. Let’s take a closer look at the season.

Lent is not a “stand-alone app” as we say these days in digital jargon. Lent has no life of its own without the season that follows — Easter.

Perhaps it is time to look at the two seasons as really one — a long stretch of days beginning at Ash Wednesday and continuing all the way to Pentecost. On my calendar that adds up to 89 days not counting the six Sundays during Lent, which are technically not part of the season.

At the center stands the cross empty to the sky — the Resurrection of Our Lord — Easter.

Here is a way to look at Lent and Easter together.

Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we shout out (or sing): Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again! We call those words “the mystery of faith.” Were it not for these mysteries, we would have no salvation.

The apostle Paul writes in his first letter to the Thessalonians, “Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.” To the Christians at Corinth he writes that without this hope, “we are of all people most to be pitied.”

In that mystery we see Lent and Easter — one season — the celebration of what we believe!

Now let’s zero in on the center.

At the heart of that long season stands the Resurrection of Our Lord — Easter —



DARTBALL

SCHEDULE

March 7 at 7:30 PM at home vs Onekama #1

March 14 at 7:30 PM at home vs. Norwalk

March 21 at 7:30 PM at home vs. Onekama #2

PARISH ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

March 2 & 3	Transfiguration	Ann Ziehm
March 6, Ash Wednesday	Purple	Sharon Hayden, Ann Ziehm
March 9 & 10	Purple	Sharon Hayden, Micheal Amor
March 16 & 17	Purple	Mary Gossett, Dolores Widgren
March 23 & 24	Purple	Mary Gossett, Dolores Widgren
March 30 & 31	Purple	Jean Schwerin, Ann Ziehm

THANK YOU NOTE

We’d like to thank Pastor Jim for the beautiful “Celebration of Life” service for our sister, Susan Kukla, and Mark Steigenga for the special music. Also, thanks to the ladies who served cake and coffee after the service.

It really meant a lot to us.

Sincerely,

Sandy & Denny Mikula and Cindy and David Lokovich

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Rest in Peace

*"We have once again been reminded that
we have not here an abiding city."*

Anita Krumins

Mother of Ed Krumins

passed away in Lansing on January 3, 2019.

Services were held on January 26 at the University Lutheran Church
in East Lansing.

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Tom Mateer

Father of Coby Lange

passed away on February 23, 2019.

Service information was not available at the time of printing.

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Paul Geist

Grandfather of Jackie Harms

passed away on February 24, 2019.

A funeral mass will be held on March 1 at

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church in Grosse Point Park, Michigan.



"I am the resurrection and the Life"

with one service that is unlike any other all year round — the Great Vigil on Holy Saturday night.

There is fire. There are stories. There is water. There is food.

And this time around there is more.

At Good Shepherd, this year, the Easter Vigil is a "coming home."

After many weeks of waiting, we finally re-enter our renovated worship space, carrying the Paschal Candle, the Light of Christ, symbol of our risen Lord standing in our midst.

At the Vigil, we meet our Lord outside at the fire; we listen to the stories of generations who have met him down through the ages; we feel the sting of baptismal water; we follow as he leads us to his table. We proclaim, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

And now the challenge.

Entering the renovated church marks a beginning for Good Shepherd. For most of us, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. It could really be seen as a "coming home."

Perhaps we could use Lent, 2019 as a time to get ready by asking questions of ourselves.

What does re-entering our worship space symbolize for Good Shepherd?

What "renovations" might we ask the Holy Spirit to make in our hearts and our parish as we make our return?

How might we invite our friends and neighbors to return with us?

Many hands and much effort are needed to make a service as important as the Vigil of Easter come to life — especially this year at Good Shepherd.

Some of you may be asked to read lessons, some to act out a reading, others to assist in lighting candles, or pouring water, or lighting the fire, or creating art, or singing, or ringing bells, or assisting at the table or ministering to those who come to worship.

Those who are looking for the deepest experience will want to help plan the service. That happens at six each Wednesday evening during Lent. All are invited. You need not come every week.

I once worked with a pastor who told me, "We only do the Great Vigil of Easter once each year because it takes us six weeks to get ready and then seven weeks to recover!"

At Good Shepherd, especially this year, the Vigil of Easter is worth that effort.

"Coming Home" will take every one of us.

"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!"

Blessings,
MarkS

PARISH PRAYER CONCERNS

Manistee County Medical Care 1505 Parkdale Ave.
 Leona Amerell Doris Bowling Mary Kukla Bob Tobey

Green Acres Retirement Community 1835 12th Street
 Audrey Ann Amburgey Lois Rosenow Gary Hansen

Prayers for those in the military

Alana Bergstrom James Dutkavich Thomas Dutkavich III
 and all those who are serving or have served.



Prayers for Parish members, family, & friends

Audrey Ann Amburgey	Tammy Sue Metiva
Shirley Blakeslee	Phyllis Miller
Doris Bowling	Norm Olson
Keith Brown	Donna O'Rorke
Jackie Burmeister	Heather P.
Emma Carey	Vickee Sawhill
Aiden Chambers	Jane Reeves, daughter of
Diana Dutkavich	Bob & Ruth Skiera
Tom Dutkavich	Dale & Laura Shoemaker
Tom Dutkavich, Jr.	Randy Skiera
Marc Edmondson	Bill Smith
Jim Friesner, Sr.	Dale Sparks
Pat Garber	Laura Stefanski
Rick & Terry Guthridge	Mark Steigenga
Gary Hansen	Bob Tobey
Marion Hilliard	The family of Paul Geist
Lea Illig	The family of Richard Hansen
John K.	The family of Anita Krumins
Rick Kaminski	The family of Susan Kukla
Ed Knaffle	The family of Tom Mateer
Betty Lytle	The family of Barb Olson
Jon Madsen	The family of Rick Shively
Anthony Metiva	The family of Ruth Turk

PARISH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Shirley Jankowiak	15 Rose Funk
3 Deborah Ziehm	16 Dixie Lindroth
3 Brody Phare	18 Kaitlin Kubiskey
4 Margaret Kieszokski	18 Kylar Thomas
5 Sydney Linke	19 Patsy Callesen
5 Kevin Papes	19 Ron Nurnberger
Karsen Illig	20 Rebecca Illig
Bev Peralta	20 Betty Lytle
10 James Madsen	23 Lucas Zupin
11 David Bhaskaran	24 Kim Jankowiak
11 Phyllis Curtis	24 Jackie Burmeister
12 Ricky Baker	25 Marilyn Lague
12 Jim Hilliard	25 Christian Funk
12 Lea Illig	27 Drew Mendians
12 Alexis Zupin	30 Norman Olson
13 Ethan Illig	30 Jamie Antal
14 Sue LaPoint	31 Karl Hoadley
15 Mike Ennis	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Terry & Rose Pierson
 6 Tom & Dianna Dutkavich

