

## A Note from the Pastor

Greetings to you all in the name of Christ our Lord. March 1 begins our season of Lent as we gather under the ashes of last year's Holy Week. Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday was the day that all fat and leaven and lard was removed from the households as the season of fasting began. And then we walk into Ash Wednesday, a day we remember whose we are and where we will return. A day when we remember the promise and covenant of God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We hear these words at funerals as well. This begins our 40 days of vulnerability to our Lord, and even more, God's vulnerability with us.

Psalm 23 takes us into the valley of shadow of darkness where we will fear no evil because the Lord is with us... What gets in our way of hearing those words against fear and even against hope? What is it in our lives that causes us to build walls instead of bridges? What is it in our lives that causes us to turn from God, to turn from the family of God? What is it that causes us to think that we are more important and safer alone than in relationship with the Triune God? Often we give up things like chocolate or soda or alcohol during this time of Lent. Generations after generations have done the same. And while that is a great tradition and ritual that helps us to focus on health and time and relationships, I would challenge us all to take a new step... how about giving up hate or walls or judgment or racism or xenophias or exclusivism? How about adding

something like another service this church year or a volunteer activity that reaches beyond our own needs? Or what about spending intentional time with someone who holds different opinions or values as you do? These are rituals that build not only our relationship with our Lord, but also build healing relationships with community and world.

This Lenten journey reminds us that we are all so very different and we need one another so very much... in all of our uniqueness and weirdnesses! We need each other. We need each other in the valley of the shadow of death into the green pastures... we need to see God through the lens of others and not just our own. We are called to love one another, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to act with justice, and to walk humbly with God. And that is a tough call. A really tough one when we put our own agenda in front of God's.

So, these next 40 days I invite you to give up something that is in the way of vulnerability, justice, understanding. I invite you into the quiet during these 40 days to sit and watch and learn and love all over again... in ways that grow church, community and family... and I'm not talking about numbers. Use the catechism for prayers. Call one another and pray together, meet someone you know for coffee and add a friend. Randomly open Scripture or the hymnal or poetry and read about this wonderful world

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Month at a Glance

### Noisy Offering:

Food for the Poor

3/5 and 3/19

### Paper Pantry:

5-7 PM 3/9 (prep @ 3:30 PM)

9-11 AM 3/23 (prep @ 3:30 PM 3/22)

### Soup Kitchen:

4/13 and 4/27

### Due to office:

Hard Copy Newsletter submissions:

March 10th

E-submissions for Newsletter:

March 15th

Unavailable to serve in MAY:

March 15th

### Committee Meetings:

Management: 7 PM 3/6

Worship & Music: 9:00 AM 3/13

Council: 7 PM 3/20

### Useful Info:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, mailboxes will NOT be re-alphabetized this year after all.

Time again for the periodic reminder that the office is not a reliable location to leave items/notes for our church secretary. Please use the secretary mailbox (bottom right corner box) and be sure to sign the note. Thank you!

## Pastor's Letter (cont'd)

created by an incredible God who loves us in all of who we have been created to be... and who we create ourselves to be... enrich your lives with something new... and sure, give up soda or chocolate or the internet or alcohol, these are good things to do... but then fill that space with something that allows space for God.

The journey is long and challenging. Walk humbly with God. Amen

## Readings for the Month

### Ash Wednesday

#### March 1st

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1-16, 16-21

#### Lent 1

#### March 5th

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

#### Lent 2

#### March 12th

Genesis 12:1-4a

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

#### Lent 3

#### March 19th

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

#### Lent 4

#### March 26th

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

## Ministry Information

**Bible Studies Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448**

### Monday Night Study

6—7 PM Mondays

We will meet at Susan Hoffman's home on Lincoln right above our church! We are studying Paul's letter to the Corinthians beginning in the second letter. Come and join us. We meet each Monday from 6-7pm for study and fellowship. Everyone is welcome... EVERYONE!

### Ladies' Bible Study

Women's Bible study is cancelled for March due to conflicts with Wednesday worship opportunities. Members are encouraged to attend the Community Mid-week Service and luncheon hosted by 1st Christian Church at noon on Wednesdays.

### Elderberries

**President: Norm Cutshall 487-1707 Secretary: Cyndi Yingling 525-8950**

Date: Fri. March 10th

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Perry

RSVP: Norm Cutshall 487-1707

All interested retired individuals are invited to join us for lunch at the Perry and some fantastic fellowship and fun!

### CONFIRMATION Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

#### MARCH AND APRIL CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Bring your confirmation books and pencil or pen! See you then...please let Pastor Sherry know if you will not be in attendance.

- ◇ Sunday, March 12: 11:30-1
- ◇ Sunday, March 19: 11:30-1
- ◇ Sunday, March 26 & April 2: SPRING BREAK (no confirmation)
- ◇ Sunday, April 9: 11:30-1

### Youth Groups Contact: Pastor Sherry 347-5448

#### **ALL YOUTH**

**Date:** Sun. Mar. 26

**Time:** Noon—Swim

1—3 PM Activities too

**Where:** Crooked Tree Inn

**What:** Jr & Sr High Youth will host a swim party for our elementary youth on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Crooked Tree Inn in Alanson. Swimming opens at noon; breakfast room will be open for shared lunch and activities 1-3 PM. The Jr & Sr High will lead games and fun...

Lunch will be provided. The cost will be \$5 per person, but there is also scholarship available. Please contact Pastor Sherry at [pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorsherry@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 231-881-1212.

Help is needed for this event. Please sign up to attend (and/or to volunteer) in the MAGENTA binder. The back of the sign-up sheet also has a list of needed items.

## CAMP FUNDRAISERS

CAMP FUNDRAISERS are found all over the upper level fellowship hall. Lots going on to help send our youth to our Lutheran Camp, Stony Lake. The fundraising opportunities will end March 26th. Because we do not have a budget item for camp and we have a very small budget item for our youth, we are fundraising! In the upper level fellowship area you will see a board with envelopes taped to it with numbers in dollar signs ranging from \$1-\$100! Some of those envelopes have already been adopted by folks... from our congregation and the community. Our goal is to get all of these envelopes filled so take as many as you want! This is all camp scholarship and nothing else!

The can drive is over for our youth... thank you to all who donated!

AND there is a PENNY WAR going on as well...this is a war between the youth and adults! Pennies and paper dollars are point towards the youth... if they win, then they will receive a prize... and the same for the adults, pennies and paper dollars help the adults win... SOOOO what about all of those silver coins? Well, they subtract points from the jar in which they are placed... and that team loses points... so the war has begun... look for the jars in the upper level fellowship area and thank you so much for joining and supporting our wonderful youth on their journey... camp costs about \$400 per child. Families pay the deposit and then the church picks up the rest... that is our goal... again, Thank you for this incredible opportunity.

## STEWARDSHIP

You can see that things are happening throughout the sanctuary... the paraments get changed for the season, banners are put up to help us understand and experience the scriptures through art, the lights are on and fixed so that in this dark season we can see... music is provided by our musicians and led by Julie Pierpont... bulletins are prepared by the church secretary, Tricia Rodgers, with volunteers who fold them and prepare the sanctuary. There are volunteers who lector and sing and ring and usher and count and acolyte and preach and teach... and there are folks who show up... tired, worn, happy, energetic... there are children who laugh and talk and cry... this is why we are here in Petoskey Michigan...

we come together as a community in Christ to give thanks to God in worship and we are sent out of the sanctuary to be the church... that is a lot. It is beautiful and it is often exhausting... we have so many opportunities to share in the love of Christ that surpasses all understanding... through volunteerism... through sharing the story... through offerings...through kindness and justice and standing in solidarity with our neighbors... we are called to be caregivers of one another... this is stewardship... and not just making sure that everyone is feeling ok... we are called to do to others as we do as we gather... make sure that there is light, and a meal...to make sure that there is a time of sharing God's peace and

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **Worship and Music**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY, March 1st:**

Community Service @ Noon at First Christian Church located on Monroe.  
Shared Service @ 7 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

### **COMMUNITY WORSHIP:**

Each Wednesday during Lent, we meet at First Christian Church at noon for half an hour worship followed by a wonderful soup and sandwich luncheon. Worship is led by different clergy in our area for the entire month of Lent. Pastor Sherry will be preaching and imposing ashes on March 1.

### **SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER**

Wednesday nights during Lent (March 8th - April 5th) from 5:15 - 6:15 PM there will be soup and bread followed by a time of worship. Please sign up in the TURQUOISE binder to bring soup and/or bread. Soup will need to arrive between Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Pastor Sherry will be heating them up so that they are ready at 5:15 PM. Looking forward to worship and reflection as well as breaking bread... Let's invite in the community! The more, the merrier!

### **HOLY WEEK:**

**Palm Sunday**, April 9th: Two services, please gather in the fellowship area outside the sanctuary doors to receive palms and form the processional.

**Maundy Thursday**, April 13th: 7 PM service with various stations including foot washing

**Good Friday**, April 14th: 7 PM service. If you wish to observe and worship earlier in the day, Emmanuel Episcopal will have a service in the early afternoon.

**Easter Sunday**, April 16th: Two services, Easter Egg Hunt.

## **500 YEARS OF REFORMATION**

We remember that we are always a church and a people who are reforming... always... evolving in our relationship with our Creator and with one another. This month, and into Easter, we are looking at the gift of scripture and the catechism. I do pray that you come to the Wednesday worship time... there is always something new!

## **WANTED: NURSERY ATTENDANT**

We are still in need of a reliable nursery attendant (paid position). Must be able to pass a background check and either be CPR/1st Aid certified or willing to become so. If you know of anyone who you think would be a good fit for the position, pass our information along or his/hers to Pastor.

## **STEWARDSHIP (cont'd)**

fellowship... to make sure that EVERYONE is treated as a human being and nothing less... that is a lot of work... so, during this season of Lent... as we leave the church, let us BE the church... loving, inclusive, building up of relationships in the presence of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**HELP NEEDED!**

**TRANSPORTATION NEEDED:**

A resident in Independence Village wishes to attend our worship services.

Transportation is needed to get her back and forth.

Anyone interested in helping out (on a regular schedule or even just on occasional Sundays) - please contact the church office for her name and contact information.

**SEMINARY SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER**

Pastor Sherry McGuffin is looking for volunteers to help with our seminary spaghetti dinner. It is time to help with the scholarship fund. We will create a committee and donate the noisy offering as well as proceeds from the dinner to our seminary student, Elliott Drake. We have promised \$1,000 per year.

**FROM ELLIOTT DRAKE!**

Dear Cross of Christ,

Thanks to all of you. One thousand dollars just arrived to my school account, this is a rare gift for anyone! I hope that things are going well with you there. It was very nice to see many of you over the Holidays.

Here is an update on from seminary in Chicago: When I returned to campus, I recommenced work as a prep-cook at our school refectory. Some of you may remember I liked to do experiments in the kitchen. A string of home and commercial cooking has brought me here now, and our Chef even left me in charge of the lasagna for our main yesterday. Like at Luther College, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago offers January Term courses, both thru itself and at the other seven seminaries in our Chicago consortium. I was blessed with a class from Dr. Cheryl Pero and about 22 other students, studying the Bible from Multicultural Perspectives. We did Greek exegetes every other day from John 4 (the Woman at the Well). We read from a study of many pairing of groups (about 15-20 in number) of people.

Each group came from a different culture around the world and exchanged their methods and

thoughts of John 4; the differences in understandings were great and revelatory about many of the different ethnographical contexts of Christians. Since our own class was diverse, we had our fair share of insightful perspectives offered in conversation during the course of this three week intensive. I have begun writing the final paper for the course, based mostly on readings from a beautiful piece of literature called 'Native and Christian', edited by James Treat, at our instructor's encouragement to pursue my love of/for nature further. The Spring Semester is arriving soon, and I'm excited to be enrolled the following classes, which I am glad to share with you:

'Jesus within Judaism' taught by a lively professor who answered the Standing Rock clergy call 'Grace Incarnate: The Lutheran Confessional Heritage' (a friend chose this school partly for sitting in on a class with this professor. We will study the Book of Concord among other pieces here) 'Narratives of Resistance' in the Bible. 'Spiritual Formation 1' taught by a black Third Order Secular Franciscan woman at the Catholic seminary, I love you all and wish you merry tidings in all.

Sincerely, Elliott

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2017

March	ASH WED	5th		12th		19th		26th	
	1st 7 PM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM	8:30 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Greeter</b>	Stan Smith	Karie Jeisel	Jean Smith	Sue Finley	Mike Smith	Stan Smith	Carolyn Matzinger	Meyer family	Manker family
<b>Usher</b>	Meyer family	Marilynn Smith	Carolyn Matzinger	Meyer family	Dean Tahtinen	Meyer family	Mike & Jean Smith	Sue Finley	Bryan Young
<b>Lector</b>	Robert Varnam	Sue Finley	Robert Varnam	Marilynn Smith	Bryan Young	Mary Michelsen	Dean Tahtinen	JoAnn Wilder	Mary Michelsen
<b>Acolyte</b>	Bryan Young	head usher	Josie Poquette	head usher	Bryan Young	head usher	head usher	head usher	head usher
<b>Cantor</b>	choir	**	choir	**	choir	choir	**	**	Mary Michelsen
<b>Head Usher</b>	Marilynn Smith	Wayne Meyer	Bryan Young	Sue Finley	Jen LaLonde	Marilynn Smith	Mike Smith	Wayne Meyer	Carolyn Matzinger
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Jean Smith	**	Mary Michelsen	**	Carolyn Matzinger	Sue Finley	Jean Smith	**	Rodgers, T
<b>Coffee Hour</b> (2 per service)	**	Meyer family	Poquette family	Engel, G&B	Cone family	Meyer family	LaLonde family	Cox family	Matzinger/ Marshall family
	**	Finley/Honaker family	Wilder/Manges family	MaryKay O'Donnell	Ebert family	Towns family	Meckstroth family	Olsen family	Brown family
<b>10 AM Nursery</b>	**								
<b>Counters</b>	Carolyn Matzinger Mike Smith	Gary Engel MaryKay O'Donnell		Bryan Young Trudy Day		Toni Cone Carolyn Matzinger		Jen LaLonde Dean Tahtinen	
<b>Baker</b>	Carolyn Matzinger	Carolyn Matzinger							
<b>Recycling</b>	Carolyn Matzinger	Carolyn Matzinger							
<b>Tech. Asst.</b>	Bryan Young	Rodgers, T							

*We use our time and talent sheets to assign our worship volunteers and we are always willing to add new folks!*  
**Let the office know if you would like to be added as a volunteer or if you have had to change your volunteer duties with someone.**  
**You can call the office at 347-5448 or email at [crossofc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crossofc@sbcglobal.net)**

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

<b>APRIL: 2017</b>	<b>April 2nd 8:30 AM</b>	<b>April 2nd 10 AM</b>	<b>April 9th Palm Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	<b>April 9th Palm Sunday 10 AM</b>	<b>April 13th Maundy Thurs. 7 PM</b>	<b>April 13th 25 Good Fri. 7 PM</b>	<b>April 16th EASTER 8:30 AM</b>	<b>April 16th EASTER 10 AM</b>	<b>April 23rd 8:30 AM</b>	<b>April 23rd 10 AM</b>	<b>April 30th 10 AM</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	Sue Finley	Dean Tahtinen	Scott family	Donna Smith	Sue Finley	Scott family	Smith, M&S	Dean Tahtinen	Scott family	Bill Drake	Manker family
<b>Usher</b>	Scott family	Bill Drake	Smith, M&S	Ron & Carolyn	Scott family	Sue Finley	Meyer family	Bill Drake	Smith, M&S	Dean Tahtinen	Meyer family
<b>Lector</b>	Mary Michelsen	Janece Clark	Bryan Young	JoAnn Wilder	Carolyn Matzinger	Carolyn Matzinger	Sharon Scott	Robert Varnam	Mary Michelsen	Carolyn Matzinger	Dean Tahtinen
<b>Acolyte</b>	Head Usher	Head Usher	Head Usher	Josie Poquette	Head Usher	Head Usher	Head Usher	Head Usher	Head Usher	Head Usher	Head Usher
<b>Cantor</b>	choir	**	choir	choir	choir	special	choir	choir	choir	**	choir
<b>Head Usher</b>	Trudy Day	Ron Marshall	Wayne Meyer	Bill Drake	Wayne Meyer	Wayne Meyer	Trudy Day	Dean Tahtinen	MaryKay O'Donnell	Toni Cone	Bill Drake
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Sue Finley	Dean Tahtinen	Robert Varnam	Bryan Young	Robert Varnam	Robert Varnam	Bryan Young	Mary Michelsen	Sue Finley	Carolyn Matzinger	Rodgers
<b>Coffee Hour</b> (2 per service)	Engdahl Gauthier	Janece Clark Norton	Day Morford	Young, S Drake			see below	see below	Smith, M&S Yingling	Tahtinen Engel, M&H	Lind-Ryan King
<b>Counters</b>	MaryKay O'Donnell		Carolyn Matzinger		Bryan	Young	Bryan Young		Jen LaLonde		Gary Engel
	Dean Tahtinen		Bill Drake		Carolyn	Matzinger	Dean Tahtinen		Toni Cone		Trudy Day
<b>EASTER COFFEE HOURS</b>	Scott family, Meyer family, Olsen family   Donna Smith, Kloss family, Melissa Hansen										
<b>Baker</b>	Manker family										
<b>Recycling</b>	Manker family										
<b>Tech</b>	Rodgers										



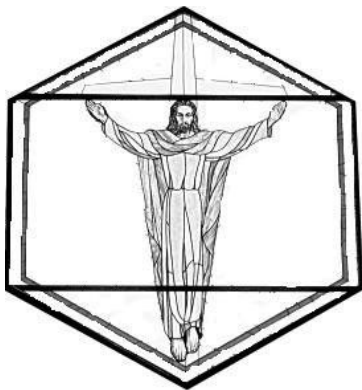
NOISY OFFERING: FOOD FOR THE POOR

March 2017							April 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
12	13	14	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	8
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30													

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Feb 26 - Mar 4				12:00pm Community Ash Wed 3:30pm Brownie Mtg (DW) 6:15pm choir @ EEC 7:00pm Ash Wed service @ Emm. Epis.	6:00pm Voices without Borders	7:00pm Craft Night	
	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Mar 5 - 11	Noisy Offering 8:30am Holy Communion 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Holy Communion	6:00pm N. Mich Chorale 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Management Team	5:30pm Yoga (CM)	3:30pm Daisies/5:45 Brownies 5:15pm Lenten Mid-Week Gathering 6:30pm Chimes 7:15pm choir	3:30pm Pantry Prep 5:00pm Paper Pantry 6:00pm Voices without Borders	8:00am NL Subs Due (hard copy) 12:30pm Elderberries	
	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Mar 12 - 18	8:30am Holy Communion 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Holy Communion 11:30am Confirmation	9:00am W&M 6:00pm N. Mich Chorale 6:00pm Bible Study	5:30pm Yoga (CM) 5:30pm Advocacy Mtg @ Noggin	12:00pm E-subscribers due for NL 3:30pm Brownie Mtg (DW) 5:15pm Lenten Mid-Week Gathering 7:15pm choir	6:00pm Voices without Borders	7:00pm Craft Night	9:30am Recorder Society (UL)
	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Mar 19 - 25	Noisy Offering 8:30am Holy Communion 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Holy Communion 11:30am Confirmation	6:00pm N. Mich Chorale 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Council 7:00pm Manna (offsite)	5:30pm Yoga (CM) 6:00pm Girl Scout Leaders	3:30pm Pantry Prep 5:15pm Lenten Mid-Week Gathering	9:00am Paper Pantry 6:00pm Voices without Borders		
	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Apr 1</b>
Mar 26 - Apr 1	8:30am Holy Communion 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Holy Communion 12:00pm Youth Swim 1:00pm Youth Activities & Swi	6:00pm N. Mich Chorale 6:00pm Bible Study	5:30pm Yoga (CM)	5:15pm Lenten Mid-Week Gathering 6:30pm Chimes 7:15pm choir	6:00pm Voices without Borders		

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
1450 E. Mitchell  
Petoskey, MI 49770



***Empowered by the  
Grace of God to Love,  
Lead, and Serve***

**Check out [ELCA.ORG](http://ELCA.ORG) for updates on advocacy, worship,  
the Bishop's Letter, and other Church Wide information.**



***ELCA Advocacy Team*** will meet on Tuesday, March 14 at 5:30 in the Noggin Room for dinner and meeting. We will take a look at the advocacy sponsored by the ELCA and how we can participate and maybe even visit their office in Washington D.C.! Everyone is invited. Bring friends or other folks interested in Christian advocacy... this group will focus on that being presented to us through the ELCA so that there are no legal conflicts of interest.

***EASTER FLOWER ORDERS  
ARE DUE BY APRIL 3rd.  
SEE DISPLAY AT SIGN UP CENTRAL!***