

# The Bell



Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2019



## LENTEN SERVICES

You are invited to join us this year as together we enter the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday and then worshipping together with our brothers and sisters in the North Lancaster Cluster.

This year's theme will be "The Five Solas". The Latin word *sola* literally translates "alone". Each Wednesday evening as we come together one of the five "solos" that represent a key belief in the Lutheran and Reformed traditions will be explored.

The offering from the cluster services will support the ministry of Ephrata Area Social Services. Refreshments will follow the cluster services. **The services will begin at 7:00 pm.** If there is a question about the service because of the weather, please contact the host church after 10 am on the day of the service and information will be provided.

The Lenten schedule will be as follows:

**Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** at Bergstrasse

**March 13<sup>th</sup> - Hosted by Faith United, Denver**, with Pastor Bob Kramer (Interim at Bergstrasse, Ephrata) preaching on *Sola Gratia* - Grace Alone.

**March 20<sup>th</sup> - Hosted by St. John Center, East Earl**, with Pastor Sandy Gideon (St. Paul's, Adamstown) preaching on *Sola Fide* - Faith Alone.

**March 27<sup>th</sup> - Hosted by Muddy Creek, Denver** with Pastor Newell Embley (Interim at Faith Denver) will be preaching on *Sola Scriptura* - Word Alone.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hosted by Bergstrasse, Ephrata** with Pastor Tim Craven (Mellingers, Schoeneck) preaching on *Sola Christus* - Christ Alone.

**April 10<sup>th</sup> - Hosted by Mellingers, Stevens (Schoeneck)**, with Pastor Tom Darr (St. John Center, East Earl) preaching *Sola Deo Gloria* - Glory to God Alone

### **NO HOLY WEDNESDAY CLUSTER SERVICE**

Included in the series is the Ascension Day service of Holy Communion which will be held Thursday evening May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Swamp Lutheran Church in Reinholds with Pastor Schwabe-Fry (Muddy Creek, Denver).





# FROM THE PASTOR

So what does Lent mean to you? I think the following excerpt from the Ash Wednesday liturgy wonderfully summarizes the gifts that an intentional Lenten journey offers us.

*Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.*

*We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.*

*As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.*

*I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.*

Indeed the time of Lent offers us an opportunity to explore the tension we live in. A tension of being “created to experience joy in communion with God” and the reality of who we are – “our sinful rebellion separates us from God.” It is a time for discipline in the midst of being drawn away from God. It is a time for self-examination, to acknowledge the reality of who we are. It is time for repentance, to turn from our foolish self-centeredness to God’s want for us. It is a time to deepen our devotions of prayer and fasting, to be intentional about including in our schedules time for conversation with God. It is a time for giving and loving, to be God’s hands to those in need. It is a time to be strengthened through worship, to experience God’s promises in community with one another.

Whatever ways in which you decide to engage the disciplines of Lent, may your journey bring a profound richness to your spiritual life as you “journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus death and resurrection.”

Blessings,  
Pastor Bob



The Bell is published monthly (except a combined July-August edition) by Bergstrasse Lutheran Church  
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Sunday Church School - 9:00 a.m.  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Robert Kramer, Interim Pastor  
717-405-0044 (cell)

Jean Wilhelm, newsletter editor

Due date for the **April** newsletter is  
**March 18.**

## March 6, 7:00 PM

The Lenten season begins March 6, Ash Wednesday. There will be a special service of Word and Sacrament at 7:00 PM at Bergstrasse on Ash Wednesday.

In addition to Holy Communion, this service will also include the Imposition of Ashes, an ancient rite among Christians on Ash Wednesday, when ashes are placed on each worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross with the sobering reminder: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Thus begins our forty day season of Lent, when we recall all that our Lord Jesus did for us, and commit ourselves to repentance, fasting, prayer, and deeds of love.



# Worship With Us

## March, 2019

### **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Transfiguration of Our Lord** – Word & Sacrament – Healing Prayers following Worship

Texts: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus will be unable to avoid reflecting that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see the glory of the Lord in the word and in the supper and who are being “transformed into the same image” by the Spirit of God.

### **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today’s readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God’s mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

Texts: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday in Lent**

Texts: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God’s grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God’s love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

### **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday in Lent**

Texts: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17--4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who “comes in the name of the Lord.”

### **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday in Lent**

Texts: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

### **Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Texts: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

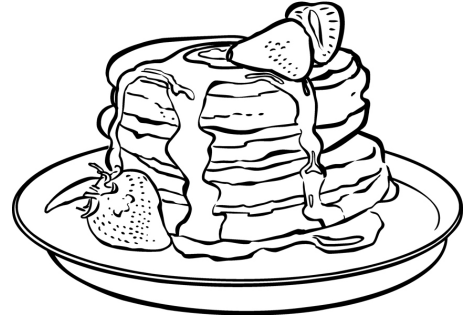
## CHUBBY SUNDAY, March 3 9:00 AM

Make room Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Fasnacht Day and Mardi Gras (which is French for "Fat Tuesday") for Chubby Sunday at Bergstrasse.

The custom of eating pancakes and fasnachts during the days before Ash Wednesday is rooted in the discipline of fasting during Lent. Traditionally they are a time to use up the rich foods that will be abstained during Lent. So join us at **9:00 AM on March 3** for a breakfast that will feature pancakes, sausage, and various breakfast drinks.

We will finish up in time for 10:30 AM worship. Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for planning this event. A game of Liturgical Seasons Jeopardy will be offered (not sure Alex Trebek will make it to be the host).

## Chubby Sunday



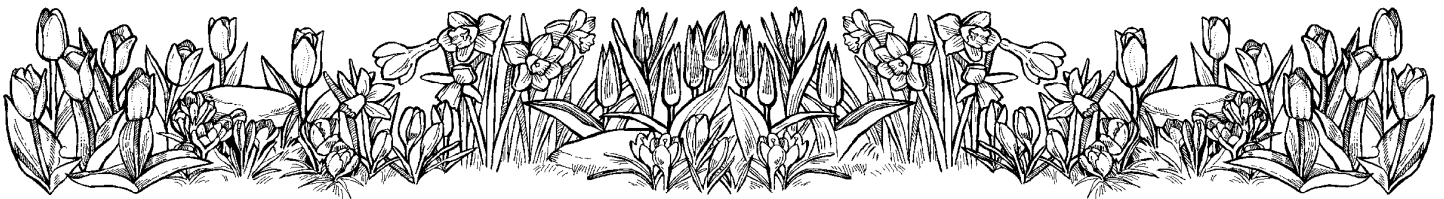
*Thank You!*

**AL MITTICK** expresses his thanks for the visitation by the Christmas Carolers and the gifts, cards, and thoughts received from the people of Bergstrasse during the Christmas season. It is heart-warming to be remembered in so many ways.

**THANK YOU** to the folks of Bergstrasse for your cards, prayers, thoughts, and flowers during the recent death of my father. It is a blessing to be a part of your community. Pastor Bob.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to the Vantage families and staff this holiday season and throughout the year. 2018 was a year of growth and positive change for our families and facility. We thank you for assisting us to provide the best possible service to our clients and their families.

**Tara Montgomery, CADC**  
**Program Director, Gaudenzia/Vantage**



# Worship participants for March

March	3	10	17	24	31
<b>Greeter</b>	Mabel Bolar	Mary Keisling	Evelyn Michael	Kathy Buck	Sandy Lausch
<b>Lector</b>	Cathy Feather	Peggy Rushton -Witmyer	Lisa Conway	Curt Hare	Selma Hainley
<b>Counters</b>	Bonnie Grater Mary Duing	Selma Hainley Cathy Feather	Selma Hainley Cathy Feather		Dave and Jean Wilhelm
<b>Flower Sponsors</b>	Carolyn Hibshman		Peggy Rushton- Witmyer		
<b>Bulletin Sponsors</b>				Pat Heisey	

**Ash Wednesday, March 6**

**Lector Bonnie Grater**

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Communion Ushers March 3, 6 (Ash Wed.)</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
March	Mary Keisling Kathy Buck	Cathy Feather	Jane Pittman

# Council highlights

## February 10, 2019

Cathy Feather and Lisa Conway attended a meeting at Holy Trinity led by Ephrata Police Chief Harvey on what to do should an intruder or shooter appear in church. Council is waiting to receive promised notes on the meeting.

Council has found there is no record of how many persons have (or have had and not returned) keys to the outside doors of the church. To prevent possible problems, it was proposed the locks be changed and thereafter a record be kept as to who has a key. Cathy Feather will get an estimate from a locksmith as to the cost of new locks and keys.

There is concern about deterioration of the angel in the parking lot. Deb Burkholder is speaking with the artist who created the angel on necessary future preservation, and whether the angel should be moved inside the church.

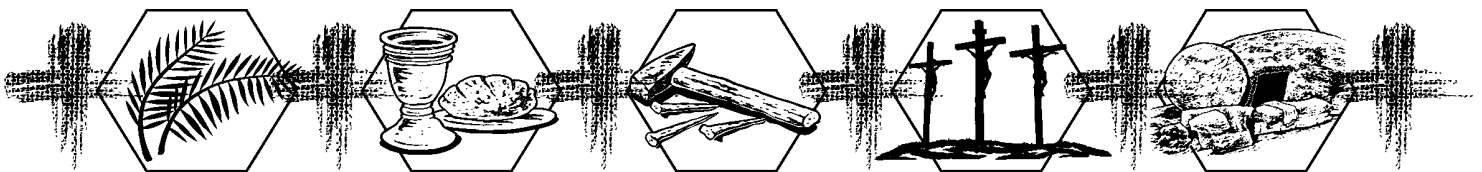
Parish Family Committee has announced the following planned church activities: March 3—Chubby Sunday Pancake Breakfast; April 3—refreshments after the Lenten Service at Bergstrasse; April 18—Maundy Thursday covered dish supper; and April 21—breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service.

**Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata**, is hosting a bus trip to Mount Vernon and Old Town Alexandria on Monday, May 13, 2019. The trip includes exploring the grounds of George Washington's home, lunch at Gadsby's Tavern and a driving historical tour of Alexandria with a local guide. Registrations are due April 12. To register or for more information, call Stephanie Frymyer.

## To God you shall return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we're always safe in God's love.



Mabel Bolar  
 Evelyn Coldren  
 Earl and Sandy Eshleman  
 Betty Evans  
 Polly Gunzenhauser  
 Carolyn Hibshman  
 Bill Irvine  
 DJ Keisling  
 Barry Kreider  
 Darlene Kreider  
 Shirley Martin  
 Kendall Mumma  
 Lawrence Rice  
 Phyllis Roberts  
 Ellie Root  
 Dennis Ruhl  
 Polly Schmuck  
 Erma Snader  
 Noah and Joan Stahl  
 Kathryn Sweigart  
 Nancy Sweigart  
 Ruth Troutman  
 Jane Adams (Irene Smith's daughter)  
 Barbara Alexander  
 Rev. LaVonne Althouse (Inez Hare's sister)  
 Tracy Bear (daughter of Deb Burkholder)  
 Tayler Bender  
 Kaye Biermann  
 Halley Bittle  
 Claire Brenner  
 Evanna Estes (friend of Mary Duing)  
 David Evans  
 Kevin Ferguson (friend of Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser)  
 Rick Gerhart  
 Elmer and Sheila Gockley  
 Harold and Norma Good  
 Earl Goshert (Jane Pittman's step-father)  
 Naomi Goshert (Jane Pittman's mother)  
 Ben Gunzenhauser, Jr. (Ben and Polly's son)  
 Seth Hamill (Selma Hainley's son)  
 Chris Horbey  
 Robert L. Hornberger (Polly Schmuck's brother)  
 Carolyn Houck (friend of Betty Evans)  
 Orion McMahon (niece's husband of Jane Pittman)  
 Kirk and Renee Meiskey (friend of Selma Hainley)  
 Caitlyn Mertz (family of Jane Pittman)  
 Mark Mertz (Jane Pittman's cousin)  
 Anna Mae Moyer (Pastor Bob's aunt)  
 George Rudisill  
 Dana Shoemaker (friend of Ben and Polly Gunzenhauser)  
 Jennifer Sikie (family of Jane Pittman)  
 Jared Snyder (Gail Smith's grandson)  
 Tom and June Stuber (Jane Pittman's sister and brother-in-law)  
 Joe Suprik (friend of Jane Pittman)  
 Diana Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's daughter-in-law)  
 Vernon Sweigart (Kathryn Sweigart's son)  
 Randy Walker (friend of Chad and Kathy Landis)  
 Miriam Wolf



*Remember in  
your thoughts  
and prayers...*

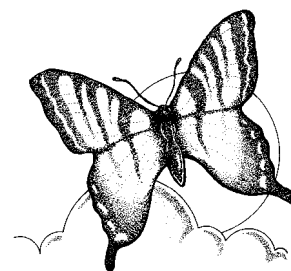


Congratulations to those with  
March birthdays:

- 18 Erma Snader
- 19 Kathryn Sweigart
- 21 Jaidyn Feather
- 22 Cleone Rudisill
- 23 Courtney Ressler
- 26 Bryan Redcay  
David Heisey

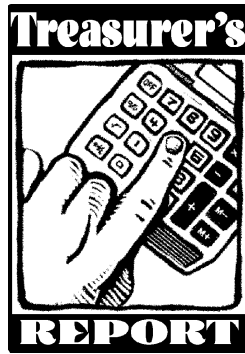
Please remember  
Erma Snader's birthday  
on March 18

*"Reach up as far as you can,  
and God will reach down  
all the rest of the way."  
—John Vincent*



**Balance as of 1/31/18**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 15,988.78</b>
<b>Improvement Fund</b>	<b>\$ 6,549.23</b>
<b>Mission Plus</b>	<b>\$79,811.01</b>
<b>Mission Plus 2</b>	<b>\$ 2,734.14</b>
<b>Parsonage Security Deposit/ Memorial Fund</b>	<b>\$11,232.78</b>



**Food bank**

Please bring the following food items during March:

- 3 toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, bath soap
- 10 cake mixes, cookie mixes, pancake syrup
- pancake mixes (preferably made with water)
- 17 canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juices
- 24 pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese
- 31 diapers, baby wipes, baby soap/shampoo

**Seed Money Received for Projects**

	Seed Money Collected	20% Congregation	Funds Still Needed	Project Cost
Paving Parking Lot (Church)	\$10,237	\$14,545	\$4,308	\$72,727

**Easter Flowers**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor / thanks / memory of \_\_\_\_\_

_____ Lily (5-6 bloom) \$7.25	\$ _____
_____ Tulip \$2.75	\$ _____
_____ Daffodil \$5.25	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____



Please return form by March 17, 2019.