



**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRINDSTONE HILL**

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February 2024

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Solomon's Says

A Newsletter from the Faith Community of Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

Pastoral Letter – Pastor Michael Allwein

Dear Members of Solomon's faith community,

It doesn't happen very often, but it is happening this year. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day. At first glance this seems really incongruent. After all, Valentine's Day is associated with hearts and chocolates. Ash Wednesday is associated with fasting and spiritual scrutiny. I would like to suggest how there may be more of an intermingling of these two than one might expect, on first glance. The two have some deep connections.

Both of these share love stories at their finest! Lent is an invitation to bear our souls, to take our layered defense systems offline, to give God consent to look deeply within us. Lent encourages the action we take to acknowledge and repair harm. While it is important to act to repair the harms that we know we've caused in our relationships and communities, the Christian tradition also recognizes that we are all part of sinful systems.

The feast of St. Valentine honors a third-century bishop who defied the Roman emperor and married young couples in secret. He is associated with courtly love. Because he defied Roman Law by marrying couples, he was imprisoned and later executed, for which he is remembered as the patron saint of love.

Lent is much more associated with desert spirituality, remembering the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert wilderness as God formed them into the Chosen People, as well as Jesus' forty days in the desert following his baptism. It is a season of walking into the wild, a 40-day journey with wild beasts, with love, beauties, challenges, gifts and visions. It is a journey that begins with ashes and ends with joy! A journey that follows Jesus down into the wilderness, and up to resurrection and new life.

Here at Solomons, on the Wednesdays of Lent, we will once again join the LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) faith communities of the Chambersburg area in mid-week meal and worship (see accompanying article in this newsletter). The theme this year is *"Drawing Nearer to Jesus."* This could be a Valentine's Day theme/challenge.

I hope this Lenten season can be a time when we worship together, both on Sundays and Wednesdays. On the final Wednesday March 20, we will be here at Solomons.

Lent is a season for reclaiming our identities as free people liberated by God, not because we are perfect, but because God called us and we followed. This Lent let's support each other in prayer. Such is the calling of love.

Happy, loving Lent to each of you!

~pastor mike



Gospel Readings for FEBRUARY:

Sunday, February 4 - Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 11 - Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14 - Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Sunday, February 18 - Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25 - Mark 8:31-38



There will be two Ash Wednesday services on February 14: Noon and 7:00PM. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Ash Wednesday begins Lent. The ashes are made from the palms we wave on Palm Sunday. Wearing the ashes reminds us of our mortality and focuses our hearts on our need for repentance.

Lenten Worship Opportunity

LENT 2024 THEME: Drawing Nearer to God

We will be having Wednesday Lenten services at the Lutheran, Anglican (Episcopalian), and Roman Catholic Churches (LARC Churches) February 21 through March 20 at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to stay for a time of conversation following worship.

Date /Time: 7:00	Name of Jesus	Location	Preacher
February 21	Emmanuel	Corpus Christi Catholic 320 Philadelphia Ave Chambersburg 17201 (717) 264-6317	Pastor Mike Allwein
February 28	Beloved Son	Trinity Lutheran 431 Philadelphia Ave Chambersburg 17201 (717) 263-8156	Pastor Jane Nicholson
March 6	Rabbi	Trinity Episcopal 58 S 2nd St Chambersburg 17201 (717) 264-6351	Pastor Barb Barry
March 13	Suffering Servant	First Lutheran 43 W Washington St Chambersburg 17201 717-264-2015	Mother Pat Dickson
March 20	Lamb of God	Solomon's Lutheran 4856 Wayne Rd Chambersburg 17202 717-267-2266	Father Allan Wolfe

LENT SOUP SUPPERS A soup and bread supper will be held each Wednesday evening at 5:30 **AT THE CHURCH WHERE WORSHIP WILL BE HELD.**

LENTEN OFFERINGS The LARC Lenten offerings will be donated to NETWork Ministry. NETWork Ministry is an urban youth ministry for children and teens in Chambersburg. Since 1993, they have been committed to sharing in the love of Christ with those who are most vulnerable in our community. Their desire is to minister to the whole person with the gospel of Jesus. They especially seek to equip children and young adults with the skills necessary for these four areas of focus: spiritual growth, academic achievement, life management, and Christian leadership. This is accomplished through a variety of after school and summer opportunities for youth. Checks may be made payable to LARC.

News from Social Ministry



Souper Bowl time is here - The Super Bowl is February 11. We will have two boxes in the Sunday school room, one for the Chiefs and one for the 49er's. Place a can of soup in the box of your choice. Based on the number of items in each box, we will determine Solomon's Souper Bowl winner.



Empower • Educate • Feed

Power Pack Meals - the Power Pack Ministry is now packing meals for 20 students at New Franklin School. The program covers three meals a day for the weekend, that's 150 meals that are being packed each week. The need is GREAT. Please consider doing what you can to help. Food can be placed in the tote in the Sunday school room. Monetary donations can be put in the offering, clearly mark your check "Power Pack". Your response in the past has been great. THANK YOU!!!

News from the Church Council

There will be a Congregation Meeting on February 25th after the worship service to approve the 2023 annual report.

2024 Officers Elected - At the January council meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve for the coming year: Ron Coldsmith, *President*; Larry Socks, *Vice-President*; Frances Reichard, *Secretary*; Janice McEntire, *Financial Secretary* and Marjorie Dale, *Treasurer*. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

VALENTINE LUNCHEON



Sunday, February 18 in the Fellowship Center
following worship
Sponsored by Crusaders for Christ



Please join us for lunch, games, and fellowship! Chicken will be provided, and each family is asked to bring either a salad, side dish or dessert. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Sunday School room. Please come and enjoy a fun Valentine's celebration.

News around Solomon's



Cancellation Notification. In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce that our worship services are cancelled by sending an email to the entire membership who have email addresses. Also, the phone message on the office phone at the church (717-267-2266), will announce when services are cancelled. **On a weekend, this will be done by 4:00pm Saturday.** If you receive an email notifying you of a cancellation and if you know a friend who does not have email, please contact them. **If the church office does not have your current email address, please let**

Kimberly in the church office know this as soon as possible, so it can be updated! Above all, safety is our most important concern, so please do not take any unnecessary chances.

Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for 2 volunteers to attend our Synod Assembly on June 1 at Trinity Lutheran Camp Hill. Please call Ron Coldsmith if interested.

Serving in February

	2/4/24	2/11/24	2/14/24 (wed)	2/18/24	2/25/24
Head Usher	Larry Socks				
Lector	Rich McEntire	Patricia Yetter	TBD	Terry Fell	Bonney Coldsmith
Acolyte	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney	Ilona & Jerry Laney
Communion Assists	Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Janice McEntire	Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire	Ron Coldsmith & Janice McEntire
Communion Bread	Colleen Johnson				
Securing Offering	Rich McEntire & Ron Coldsmith				
Coffee Fellowship	Colleen Johnson & Linda Berberich				

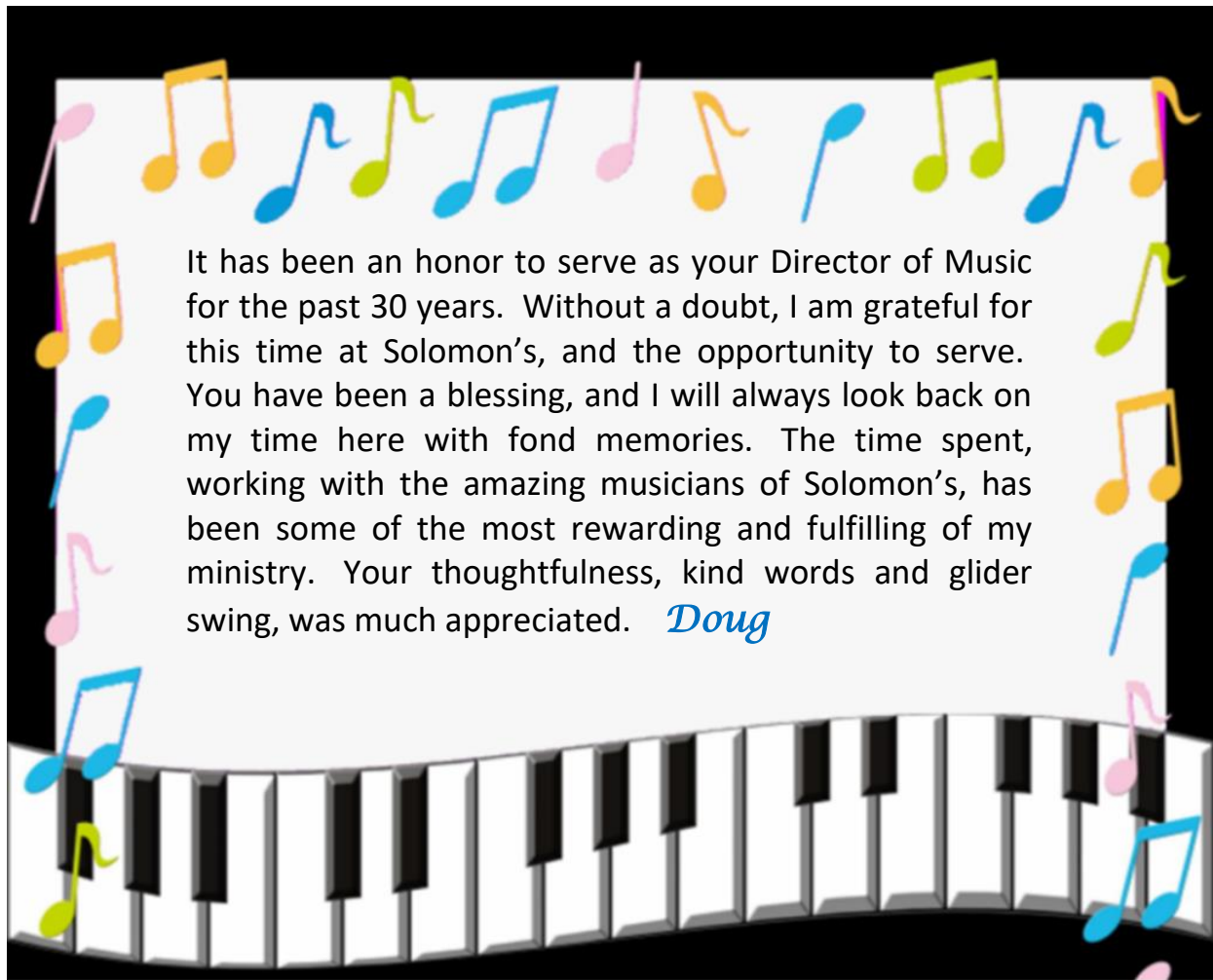


Evangelism is a Greek word, meaning Good News. The word has the same root as angels, messengers who announce good news.

When you think of evangelism, what comes to mind? That is evangelism? And what is our roll or duty as a Christian? How does it apply to you and me?

As I see it, evangelism is taking Christ's great commission and telling of this good news. What is this good news? That Christ was crucified, died, was buried, was raised from the dead, resurrected after three days. Why did he die? Why did he rise from the grave? Those are some questions that we need to know the answer to as we answer the call to evangelize.

In the next months we will look into these questions. As we create a new urgency to carry our the great commission, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15.



Friendly Reminders



Please consider signing up for altar flowers for the 2024 calendar year.
There are a lot of available Sundays.

If you would like to sign up for **altar flowers** the following Sundays in February and March are still available: 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24.

Have an item for the March newsletter?! Deadline is **February 19th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.

Our Homebound Members

Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14th

For those of you who enjoy sending out **Valentine cards**, consider adding our homebound members to your list. Receiving a card would undoubtedly brighten their day! Their addresses may be found in our church directory.

Betty Amt
Bill & Jane Brindle
Genevieve Grant
Jean Jackson
Joe Mock
Frances Kramer

Carol Locke
Marjorie McMullin
Linda Russ
Ina Shreiner
Marty Wenger



Happy
Valentine's
Day



Celebrating a Birthday in February....

2/2	Terry Fell	2/16	Patsy Wildeson
2/3	John Martin	2/16	Becky Mull
2/9	Melinda Willsie	2/22	Linda Wepking
2/11	Tonya Reichard	2/23	Charlie Taylor
2/11	Pastor Mike Allwein	2/25	Leah Wolfinger
2/12	Phyllis Brehm	2/26	Wayne Dale
2/14	Susie Henicle	2/26	Beth Floyd
2/15	Becky Pecha	2/28	Brenda Helman



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in February...

2/15	Ray & Terry Fell
2/15	Glenn & Susan Henicle
2/20	Mark & Trudy Kuykendall
2/23	Bill & Bonnie Hudson

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Join us Sunday mornings!

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

OR check us out on *YouTube!*
Links are listed on our website.

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Pastor Michael Allwein

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."

Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)