



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

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February 2021

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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 Bill Nienstedt

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he said would bring upon them; and he did not do it. Jonah 3:10

I always take comfort in the stories from scripture which remind us of God's mercy and grace. As we prepare to enter the time of Lent, the gospel acclamation reminds us to "return to God, who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

God is always inviting us to repentance. Repentance is not a frightening appearance before an angry God, but a homecoming to one who longs to save us in the midst of our trials and fears.

The past year has been challenging to say the least. We have endured many trials and fears. As I write this letter, more than 400,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 and over 25 million cases have been reported. Franklin County has not been spared as we have one of the highest positivity rates in Pennsylvania. Virtually all of us have been affected by this terrible virus.

Clearly, we are in desperate need of God's help and salvation. This year, I invite you to focus on the three Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving with a focus on sharing God's grace and mercy with others who are in need or struggling.

Pray for families and individuals in need of healing from the virus. Pray for health care workers, emergency responders, front-line employees and all those who work or live in lifecare communities. Pray also for government officials, scientists and all those who are working on solutions to the pandemic and the struggling economy.

Fasting is a way to help you focus on the needs of others rather than yourself. Be intentional about being a good steward of your body, mind, and spirit, as well as God's marvelous creation. What are ways you might consume less resources so that future generations will enjoy God's abundance?

Finally, consider ways you can give to organizations or families which have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. If you received a stimulus payment and you are able, give to a charity of your choice. Maintain or increase your giving to Solomon's Lutheran Church. Support a non-profit organization such as SpiriTrust Lutheran as they face serious budget shortfalls. Purchase single-serve food items for the Power Pack meals for hungry children at New Franklin Elementary School. Help a young family in need or seniors who are challenged with staying healthy during this time.

In all these ways, you align your ways with God's mercy and love and become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today. With repentant hearts, let us look forward to the 40 days of Lent and the good news of Easter to come. I look forward to when we will once again all gather in worship to give thanks and praise to God.

Peace and joy in Christ, Pastor Bill

Lenten Worship Opportunities



Mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday on February 17, which is the beginning of Lent. We plan to have a worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. That service will be uploaded to YouTube later that evening. Pastor Bill will also provide an Ash Wednesday home worship service for Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Bill plans to lead a weekly Zoom meeting for Lenten midweek devotions and prayers, beginning February 24, at 6:30 p.m. Stay-tuned for details to come.

News from the Church Council

2021 Officers Elected—At the January meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve for the coming year: Margie Dale, President; Barbara Aldrich, Vice-President; Bonney Coldsmith, Secretary; and Edna Harris, Treasurer. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

Congregational Meeting - The agenda for the congregational meeting tentatively scheduled for February 28th includes the presentation of the 2020 annual report. The meeting will be held immediately following the morning worship service.

News from Social Ministry

Power Pack Meals--Our church is one of three New Franklin congregations, along with the New Franklin Ruritan, that continues to be part of a project called Power Packs. The goal is to provide nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need over the weekend days. Solomon's has been asked to collect individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. If possible, please try to donate items in plastic containers rather than metal cans. Thank you for your continued generous support of this project. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please speak with Pastor Bill.

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 13th
Youth Outreach Project



Ice cream sundaes, pretzels, and chips will be served.

Parents are welcome to attend and work with the youth. Please contact Janice at 717 264-3702 if you are planning on attending.

Friendly Reminders

Weather-Related Cancellation Notification--In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon's Facebook page, Solomon's Website, via REMIND text/email message, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. Cancellation notice of other activities will be sent via REMIND text/email message and MAY be posted to other platforms depending on the activity. And of course, always use your own judgment about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

REMIND Text Messaging App--If you have not yet signed up to be a part of the Remind text/email notification group and would like to have your contact information added, please contact Kristy Nienstedt.

Glossy magazines

The magazine recycling company's processing equipment for the Ronald McDonald House has been damaged and is in need of repair.

Due to the pandemic, the repair is not possible for the foreseeable future; therefore, we are not collecting glossy magazines at this time.



Have an item for the March newsletter?! Deadline is **February 15th**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.

Stewardship Bouquets

Thank you to our Church Council for their preparations in advance of our annual Congregational meeting.

Thank you to the various committee chairs and church leaders who so thoughtfully put together their annual reports. Special thanks to Sally Gayman for compiling it all and distributing it!

Thank you to the Finance Committee and specifically Janice McEntire for preparing each member's end of year financial statements.

Our Homebound Members

This year **Valentine's Day is Sunday, 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.

Harold "Bud" Armstrong
Connie Bikle
Ginny Detwiler
Esther Gift
Genny Grant
Bonnie Hudson

Frances Kramer
Becky McCleary
Marjorie McMullin
Linda Russ
Clayton Schwartz
Ina Shreiner



Passages

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Edna and Bernie Harris. Edna's sister, Lucy "Carrell" Saunier passed away on January 6, 2021 in Martinsburg, WV. A celebration of Carrell's life was held on January 13, 2021. May God comfort Edna and Bernie with the hope of a blessed reunion in heaven.



Celebrating a Birthday in February....

2/2	Terry Fell	2/20	Lois Kanagy
2/3	John Martin	2/22	Linda Wepking
2/8	Karin Huber	2/23	Charlie Taylor
2/9	Melinda Gross	2/25	Leah Wolfinger
2/11	Tonya Reichard	2/26	Wayne Dale
2/12	Phyllis Brehm	2/26	Beth Floyd
2/14	Susie Henicle	2/27	Willy Huber
2/15	Becky Pecha	2/28	Brenda Helman
2/16	Patsy Wildeson		
2/16	Becky Mull		

Belated birthday wishes go out to Carole Locke who celebrated her 80th birthday on January 17th. Her name was inadvertently left off the January birthday list. Apologies! We hope she had a great day and congratulations on this special milestone birthday Carole!!



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 for Worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

OR check us out on *YouTube!*

Links are listed on our website.

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"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)