



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

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March 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Letter & Gospel Readings.....1-2
 Serving in March/Lenten Worship Opportunity.....3
 News from Committees.....4-5
 Miscellaneous & Reminders.....6
 Luther Ridge Craft Fair.....7
 Birthdays & Anniversaries.....8

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 and Friends of Solomon's Faith Community,

The season of Lent began in a flurry with Ash Wednesday followed quickly with the first Sunday of Lent. The real "flurry" for me is how the scripture readings jump off the pages into our lives at the beginning of this 40-day journey toward Holy Week and Easter. I want to take us back!

On Ash Wednesday we heard, *"Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return."* Only four days later, we hear of Jesus' Baptism and his 40-day sojourn into the wilderness. What often gets lost on that First Sunday of Lent is the reading from the Book of Genesis—the beautiful story of how the flood comes to an end and God puts a stunning rainbow into the sky as a promise of God's unending love and caring protection!

As I shared in my sermon on the First Sunday in Lent, the wilderness experience for Jesus in Mark's Gospel is literally two sentences. That's it. Two sentences. This abbreviated version is matched with the story of God promising a rainbow as a sign that God would not destroy the earth again by water. We moved quickly from ashes to rainbows. It seems like a head-spinning transition—the sacred struggle.

The theological truths of ashes and rainbows stand together: *Even in the most overwhelming floods and the emptiest of deserts, amid the most frightening wastes of our lives, God promises and pledges love, companionship, and protection.* Those ashes are a sign of our finitude, our mortality. **But there is something else:** a proclamation of everlasting fidelity, of belovedness. The vow. The sign in the clouds that *God will remember God's own promises to us.* Death and life are bound up together. No matter what the circumstance, God never forgets God's promises. God can't. I love that the rainbow *reminds God* of the promise God made, even as it *reminds us.*

Sometimes we get caught up in a gloomy Lenten theology, believing this season is solely about "*remember your death.*" Each morning the news reports how we are surrounded by doom and our fear of the end of everything. Horror piles upon horror. We live in truly challenging times with great threats on all sides. Ashes are easy. But here's the other part that I hope we have been living into these past weeks. We are asked to remember the opposite: "***remember to live.***" Look to the skies after the rain! You are beloved of God! *Remember to live!* That's the everlasting covenant, the promise that brings us through the wilderness of our lives. Yes, YES, YES!

We humans get fixated staring at our dusty, wilderness-weary feet. I hope this Lent has also been a time for you to look up. The Bible beckons us to trust in rainbows even when covered with ash. *Remember your life. Remember your neighbor's life. Remember you are alive. Here. Now.*

Blessings & love,

~pastor mike



Gospel Readings for MARCH:

- Sunday, March 3 - John 2:13-22
- Sunday, March 10 - John 3:14-21
- Sunday, March 17 - John 12:20-33
- Sunday, March 24 - Mark 11:1-11
- Sunday, March 31 - Mark 16:1-8

Lenten Worship Opportunity

LENT 2024 THEME: Drawing Nearer to God

Date /Time: 7:00	Name of Jesus	Location	Preacher
March 6	Rabbi	Trinity Episcopal 58 S 2nd St Chambersburg 17201 <u>(717) 264-6351</u>	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. Checks may be made payable to LARC.

Serving in March

	3/3/24	3/10/24	3/17/24	3/24/24	3/31/24
Head Usher	Marjorie Dale				
Lector	Terry Fell	Patricia Yetter	Kathy Bowen	Bonney Coldsmith	Rich McEntire
Acolyte	Sam Mull	TBD	Sarah Aldrich	TBD	TBD
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	Becky Mull & Linda Berberich	Ron Coldsmith & Linda Berberich	TBD	TBD	TBD
Communion Bread	Janice McEntire				
Securing Offering	Marjorie Dale & Tana Vance				
Coffee Fellowship	TBD				

Evangelism



Last month I asked the question, what is Evangelism?

Evangelism – Proclaiming the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who is to do this work? We are called to be Evangelists, to carry out the great commission Christ has commanded. The word Evangelist is used three times in the Bible. In (Acts 21:8) Philip is named as an Evangelist, (2 Timothy 4:5) Paul exhorts Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. In (Ephesians 4:11-13) Paul says Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, pastors and teachers (the job) to equip His people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. The office of evangelist will be needed until the church reaches the maturity of Christ Himself (Ephesians 4:13). The good news is meat to be shared, and we have the best news of all, Jesus died and rose again and saves all who will call on Him (Romans 10:9-13).

News from Social Ministry

A GREAT BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Souper Bowl. We collected 88 cans of soup for Maranatha Food Pantry. Maranatha will be very appreciative to receive our contributions.



San Francisco WON THE SOUPER BOWL!!!!
San Francisco 50 cans of soup - Kansas City 38 cans of soup



Bowling & Pizza

All members are welcome to join us at Nellie Fox Bowling Alley for bowling and pizza to follow at Vinnie's in Marion. A sign-up sheet will be in the Sunday School room. Bring your friends and family for a fun fellowship day. More details to follow.



Miscellaneous



Qigong/Tai Chi Class will be starting **April 3rd, Wednesdays at 7:00pm** at Solomon's Church main Sunday school room. This is an open class. If you can walk independently, you will survive the class. All exercises are mild. For more information contact: Colleen Johnson.



Save the Date

2024 Relay for Life will be held Friday, May 17, 2024, at Greencastle Antrim High School. Event starts at 4 pm! More details to follow! If you haven't already signed up for our team or the Survivors gathering, please visit the website to register. All registration is completed online on their website at: [Relay For Life.org](https://www.relayforlife.org)



Please Be Aware: We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call the church office to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.

Friendly Reminders

If you would like to sign up for **altar flowers** the following Sundays in April and May are still available: 4/21, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, and 5/26.

Have an item for the April newsletter?! Deadline is **March 20**. Email Kimberly at office@solomonslutheran.org.



LUTHER RIDGE AUXILIARY

Celebrate the
Spirit of Spring

CRAFT
FAIR



SATURDAY, MARCH 23

9 AM - 2 PM

LUTHER RIDGE FLECK CENTER

2998 LUTHER DRIVE, CHAMBERSBURG PA

PEG HERBERT, 717-263-5219, MLHERBERT1@COMCAST.NET

ALI NOLL, 717-267-1665, ANOLL@SPIRITRUSTLUTHERAN.ORG

LOCAL VENDORS, BAKED GOODS, & SILENT AUCTION!
SEASONAL DECOR, POTTERY, JEWELRY, WOOD ITEMS, GOATS MILK LOTIONS,
SOAPS, FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, EASTER CANDY, & MUCH MORE! LUNCH AVAILABLE!

Celebrating a Birthday in March....



3/1 Larry Socks
3/7 Martie Veilleux
3/9 Lilly Chiado
3/12 Tyler Kuykendall
3/14 Jean Jackson
3/16 Garrett Mull

3/19 Curtis Reichard
3/20 Riley Garner
3/26 Tammy Helman
3/27 Joyce Skelly
3/30 Kipten Parr
3/31 Emma Schultz



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in March...

3/18 Norm & Nan Kuykendall
3/20 Joe & Karen Wolfinger
3/24 Sam & Becky Mull

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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)