

St. John's Journal

2015

From the Pastors desk

Email us at stjohnsjournal@hotmail.com

MARCH/APRIL PAGE 1

The season of Lent is upon us, a season where we are called to search our hearts and be found by God in the wilderness of our thoughts. We walk through a time in which we "test" or question ourselves. Where are we in this journey that we walk with Christ? Where has God strengthened us and how can we be intentional about our faith? With the Spirits guidance we can be formed into a deeper faith and die to ourselves while being raised anew with Jesus this coming Easter morning. This same journey is shared by our church. We ask how we can serve God more faithfully. How can we be a welcoming people in Christ's name?

Bishop Eaton has asked that pastors review the church's document called, "The Use of the Means of Grace" some time ago and pastors have been in conversation about how we are welcoming and in particular, who is welcomed at the Lord's Table.

Traditionally, those who have joined the body of Christ in baptism have been invited to the table. Yet, one may ask, where in the scripture is this supported, as Luther surely would ask. The Lord instituted the meal on the night before his crucifixion. He instructed his Disciples, a word that means students, to do this every time that they gather. As Christ's church was formed in discernment, the body of Christ limited this meal to those believers only. That tradition has been upheld for years.

The question that is being asked of us now is, is this faithful to our understanding of what Christ did and what direction the church is being lead regarding this.

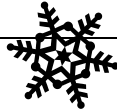
While this may be another reason for some to become concerned, it would be most helpful if we approach this in the spirit of Jesus Christ. What is it like to come into a church where this meal is central and be "left behind?" There are also people who come to a service with no knowledge of what Holy Baptism is. You could imagine their confusion as they read a bulletin stating the baptized are welcome at the table.

Finally, we know that we meet Christ in the meal and believe in the real presence of our Lord who meets us there. Thus, we can easily conclude that the meal is salvific, or that we find salvation where Christ meets us in this meal in a similar way of the other sacrament, baptism. So, I wanted to inform you of this conversation that is occurring. Where the conversation will lead, I simply do not know, but I do think it is important as we consider being the presence of Christ to others in this world. Perhaps you would contemplate upon this and include this in your prayers in the coming months that God will continue to lead Christ's church a direction that is faithful.

Blessings as we walk towards the cross, and a glorious Easter morning!

Pastor Faron

Snow...



You come to me as a blessing on a breeze riding upon the seas of time my wandering friend. Your course is charted by chance and opportunity as you travel here and there. Each breath of chance forms and molds you so that never plummeting towards your destination, but drifting and gliding you dance upon the wind till gently kissing my face as you melt. You have taught me that the joy of the destination is actually hidden within the journey itself. May the lesson you share, the joy of exploration be in every day in the coming gift of a new year as our spirits drift along together.

Pastor Faron, Dec. 31, 2014



I walk to the church this evening bathed in the light of the moon that warms my soul from the intense cold. And a sound drifts in the wind, a glorious sound of worship, voices lifted in song in the darkness. My Amish neighbors are gathered at the farm nearby and their song causes me to stop, instantly mesmerized by its beauty. I can't help but wonder if it has the same effect upon the Father who is enchanted by their praise. Were it summer, I would pause until the melody ceased, but I am blessed in hearing it at all. My thanks to the wind that carried your song that others might be blessed.

Pastor Faron, Jan. 1, 2015

As I journey through life I am met with the most pleasant array of experiences, encountering the gift of people along the way. Some remain a steadfast part of the canvas painting my life with joy. Others are here for only a short time sharing visions and wisdom that remains once they have departed. Each paints part of their spirit upon my soul. Looking back, my memories lie as so many leaves among the trees in a forest, a beautiful diversity. And on days such as this one the silence of a falling snow covers all our differences reminding me that if we see with the heart that we are truly all one blanketed in the pristine color of humanity

Pastor Faron Jan. 6, 2015



NOTE

Pastor Faron is conserving our church heat in the cold winter months by using the parsonage as his office. Very kind of him to do this and we appreciate it. Thank You.

Getting close to God while we are strong and Healthy prepare us to lean on Him

For support and hope when those difficult days "in life come"—

Daily Bread

Body piercing saved my life



1. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... The finance committee refuses to provide funds for the purchase of a chandelier because none of the members knows how to play one.
2. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... People ask, when they learn that Jesus fed the 5000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish, and what bait was used to catch 'em.
3. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... When the pastor says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering" and five guys and two women stand up.
4. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... Opening day of deer season is recognized as an official church holiday.
5. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... A member of the church requests to be buried in his 4-wheel-drive truck because "It ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get out of" (Love it!)
6. You know you're in a Redneck Church if.... The choir is known as the "OK Chorale".
7. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... In a congregation of 500 members, there are only seven last names in the church directory.
8. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... People think "rapture" is what you get when you lift something too heavy.
9. You know you're in a Redneck Church if.... The baptismal pool is a #2 galvanized " Wheeling " washtub.
10. You know you're in a Redneck Church if.... The choir robes were donated by (and embroidered with the logo from) Billy Bob's Barbecue.
11. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... The collection plates are really hubcaps from a '56 Chevy.
12. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... Instead of a bell you are called to service by a duck call.
13. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... The minister and his wife drive matching pickup trucks.
14. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... The communion wine is Boone's Farm "Tickled Pink".
15. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... "Thou shall not covet" applies to huntin' dogs, too.
16. You know you're in a Redneck Church if... The final words of the benediction are, "Y'all come back now, Ya hear". God Bless and don't fergit ta say yer prayers!

SPENDING TIME WITH GOD DAILY MAKES A GOOD SPIRITUAL DIET.

(Upper Room)

Annual Yard Sale and Chinese Auction

Saturday, March 21, 2015
8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Our Annual Yard Sale and Chinese Auction will be held Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tables are available for congregational members at \$5.00 a table. For more information and to register, see the bulletin boards downstairs or in the rear of the Fellowship Hall. **We are also looking for donations of baked goods and items for the Chinese Auction.** Baked goods can be brought to church Friday evening (March 20th) from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Chinese Auction items can be donated and brought to the church by Sunday, March 15th. You can either bring a prepared basket or bring items to create a basket and we will create the basket for you. Items can be placed to the rear of the Social Hall. A suggested value of a completed basket is \$25.00—30.00. For more details on the Chinese Auction, contact any Social Ministry Member.





DID YOU KNOW?

Lucille Cipriani became ill during church service, gave us a scare, taken to hospital and stayed several days. She is fine. Pastor Faron said prayer for her before communion, he handled it well for us.

Helen Ellsworth passed away Jan. 7, 2015

Linda Dentler passed away Jan. 21, 2015, sister of Ralph, Jay & Gary Heater. Our sympathy to the families.

Betty Mincemoyer was in hospital, now in Emmanuel Nursing Home, Danville, expecting to get home soon.

Carl, son of Helen and Gerry Appleman seriously ill in hospital.

Landon Kurtz, emergency surgery for appendicitis. Home several days and returned to ER, transferred to Geis. Surgery, and was in critical condition for several days. Home after 11 days in hospital. Doing better.

Francine Bishop in and out of hospital for surgery.

Elaine Klinger, several days in hospital.

We certainly miss Jean Crawford, who is unable to attend services now. Pastor Faron suggests that we visit the people who are not able to come.

Some of you may remember Mrs. Helsman, who was a school teacher, is now in Watontown Rehab. Her daughter is also there. I am writing of this because they enjoy reading St. John's newsletter, given to them by a friend.

We are concerned for all who are ill, or not able to come.

Candy making time, Jolly Helpers are taking orders for Easter Candy through March 1. \$7.50 a lb. Always welcome for your help to make it too.

An evening Bible Study will be starting in March, Thursdays 7:00 P.M.

There is a good start on the goal of 200 for the Project Linus. More on this later.

Church service was canceled Feb. 15th, due to bad roads from snow. On that note we certainly want to THANK CARL AND RALPH FOR THEIR FAITHFUL WORK ON PLOWING SNOW FROM THE CHURCH PROPERTY EVERY TIME IT SNOWS, AND BET YOU DID NOT KNOW THEY CHECK THE CHURCH EVERY DAY TO MAKE SURE ALL IS WELL. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO DOES WORK BEHIND THE SCENE.

Peace be with you. Ginny



A red rose bud was in our presence for the birth of
BRODY ALEXANDER SNYDER

Born Feb. 5, 2015

Son of Teresa and Drew Snyder

Grandson of Sandy & Harvey Snyder

Great grandson of Audrey & Max Beck

CONGRATULATIONS



Ken Crawford's mother, Gladys Crawford, was hospitalized middle of Dec. thru end of Jan. Very seriously ill. Home now and doing well.

Ralph Stahlnecker has been ill and under Doctor care. Feeling better

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Thank you to all committee members for doing a good job last year.

Ralph Heater

INVITE

Anyone interested in working on the committee planning our bicentennial celebration, sign-up. Ideas are being suggested already and we all should be helping and looking forward for things to happen in **2016.**

MARK YOUR CALANDERS

WORK DAY, SAT. MAY 2ND, 8:00 A.M.

CLEAN UP AND TAN BARK AT THE CHURCH.

Rain date May 9th.



NOTICE

THE ANNUAL DELAWARE RUN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING WILL BE HELD MAY 4TH 7:00 P.M. AT ST. JOHN'S. ALL LOT OWNERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS MARCH AND APRIL 2015

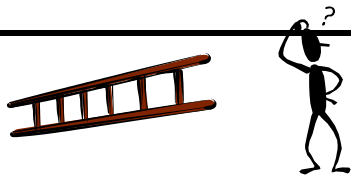
SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	TAPE MINISTRY	USHERS
March 1 st		Linda Salvatori & Sue Clinger	Ken Crawford	Martin Anspach Max Beck
March 8 th	Sarah Cotner	Max & Audrey Beck	Ginny Wertman	Emmett Reynolds Carl Snyder
March 15 th		John Beck & Jean Fleeger	Ken Crawford	Emmett Reynolds Carl Snyder
March 22 nd	Sarah Cotner	Brian & Tina Cotner	Ginny Wertman	Dave Roberts Ken Crawford
March 29 th		Gene & Mitzi Kurtz	Ken Crawford	Linda Salvatori Lowell Gay
April 5 th	Sarah Cotner	Barbara & Stanley Russell	Ginny Wertman	Glenn Wertman Gene Kurtz
April 12 th		Ralph & Deb Heater	Ken Crawford	Glenn Wertman Gene Kurtz
April 19 th	Sarah Cotner	Buddy Herr Roxann Emick	Ginny Wertman	Ralph Heater Mike Heater
April 26 th		Jeff & Lyn Reitz	Ken Crawford	Gerald Shambach Stanley Russell

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.
- *Lucille Ball*

On this special day, we wish you all the very best,
all the joy you can ever have and may you be
blessed abundantly today, tomorrow and the days
to come! May you have a fantastic birthday and
many more to come... **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!**

PASTOR FARON

(March 7th)



TRUE STORY (Behind the Scenes)

Monday, January 5, 2015 cold windy mid morning, Pastor Faron called Carl Snyder, saying there were several shingles loose on the car port roof, due to the windy weather. Carl leaves home for the church. Betty Snyder calls Glenn Wertman, would he be available to assist Carl in case the ladder fell down. Glenn arrives at church, climbs the ladder, gets on the roof, neither one had a rope to secure ladder, so of course, the ladder falls down, due to the wind. Two men on the roof, ladder on the ground. Pastor Faron had gone on a mission of visiting. Mitzi Kurtz came same time Glenn did, but went into the church. Carl was about to call the church office, out came Mitzi and she put the ladder back up for them. Mitzi felt proud as she rescued two men off the roof in subzero weather, as she did not accomplice what she wanted to do in the church office. Message from wives, do not climb a ladder without some one standing by.

Cherie Mincemoye writes

Well this will be minor dream come true for my niece- she is going to be a Kaya model in the Ronald McDonald House American Girl Fashion Show. If you know Sophia you know she will enjoy her time on the stage!

Viv writes. Yea for Sophie although I don't know what a Kaya model does

Cherie writes, Kaya is an American Girl Doll, so she will be that "character" in the fashion show...

Viv writes Thanks. Good character for her. When and where is the show?

Cherie writes, March 7 here in Wilmington. I've taken Sophia to it the last several years, so now she gets to be in it! The Ronald McDonald House puts it on to raise money. They have like 5 shows over the weekend-Sophia is in the one at 2 on Saturday...

Thanks Viv for the questions, now we know about a Kaya doll and Fashion Show. I am guessing a lot of us are not familiar with this. Good luck Sophia.



Wednesday Evening Services During Lent

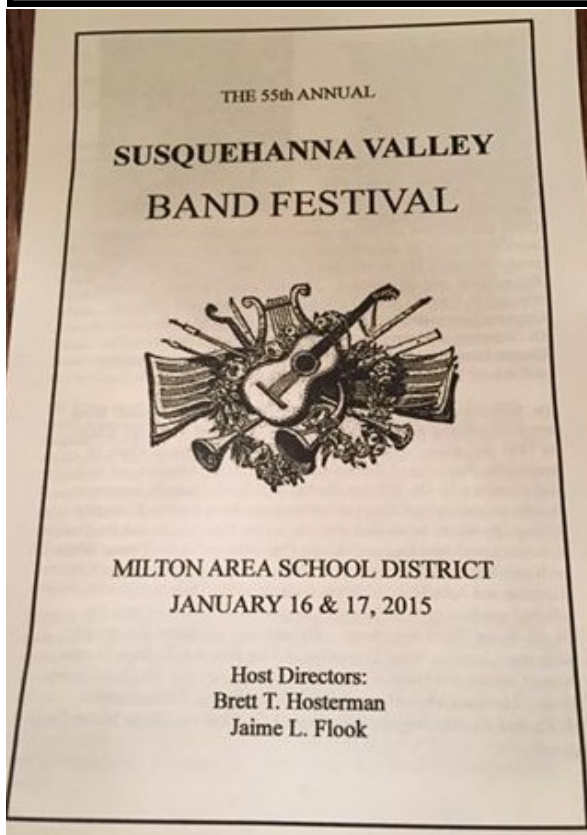
All Services begin at 7:00 p.m.

March 4th	The Brick Church Route 405, Montgomery
March 11th	St. James 1679 Lycoming Mall Rd, Pennsdale
March 18th	St. John's Delaware Run 6590 Musser Lane, Watsontown
March 25th	The Brick Church Route 405, Montgomery
April 2nd (Thursday)	St. James 1679 Lycoming Mall Rd, Pennsdale

S e r v i c e s
were held at
St. John's
Feb. 18th

And

S e r v i c e s
were held at
Messiah Lu-
theran Muncy
Feb. 25th



What a grand feeling it must have been for Sarah to be a part of this event. Parents and grandparents are so proud of her.



REMINDERS

EVERY SUNDAY- 9AM CHURCH & COMMUNION- SUNDAY SCHOOL TO FOLLOW

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life. S.D. Gordon

2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ralph Heater, President, Jack Mincemoyer, Vice President.
Lori Maneval, Secretary, Mitzi Kurtz, Financial Treasurer, Crystal Gutshall,
Dave Roberts, Carl Snyder, Sandy Mincemoyer, Linda Salvatori,
Jeff Reitz and Emmitt Reynolds

Please speak with any of the above at any time concerning the work and ministry of our congregation. Meetings are usually held the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. You are always welcome to attend meetings, as almost all of what we do is open to all members. Only elected council persons can vote though.

MARCH

Lyn & Jeff
Reitz

OFFERING COUNTERS

APRIL

Roxann Emick
Buddy Herr



<http://stjohnsriverchurch.org/>

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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