



Pastor's Article

LENT...A TRUE JOURNEY!

LENT

Originally, in the early Christian Church, Lent was an extended period of time when those anticipating baptism during Easter completed their final preparations and examinations, "Scrutinies" as they were called. Jerusalem Bishop Cyril is known to have described it as "Forty Days of repentance."

In the passing decades, this period of preparation became associated with Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. And it was expanded to apply to all Christians. So devout Christians discipline themselves with prayer and fasting, as Jesus did, during this period to properly prepare themselves to celebrate God's redemptive act in Jesus' death and resurrection.

A favorite Lenten prayer comes from Psalm 51, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin."

The resurrection is still acknowledged on each Sunday during the period so Sundays are not counted in the 40 days. Lent actually runs 46 days, from Ash Wednesday (the 7th Wednesday before Easter) through the day before Easter itself.

Lent has become my favorite season of the Church Year. Why? Because it gives me a chance to reflect on the importance of Christ's life & death in my daily life. Each Lent we come together to remember. It is a great time for Christians to hopefully think about the importance of Christ in their daily lives.

Won't you join me this year as we Worship our Lord and Reflect on his love to us sinful people!!

I invite you to Soup Suppers and Worship that began on February 24 & continue through March 24th.

I am leading a Lenten Bible Study entitled, "Quiet: Meeting God in Quiet." The study will only be offered on Thursday Mornings unless it is requested for an evening.

May we be a witness to one another and all people this Lenten Season!

-Pastor Matlack

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Holy Spirit Congregational Council and Staff

2010 Council Members:

Shelly Holtquist , President

Jean Butler , Vice President

John Dziuba , Secretary

Nancy Green, Recording Secretary

Fellowship: Jean Butler

Worship and Music: Barb Kunkel

Evangelism: Tammi Engleman

Property: Andy Meyer

Stewardship and Finance: John Dziuba

Church in Society: Petra Mattern

Christian Education: Joyce Washington

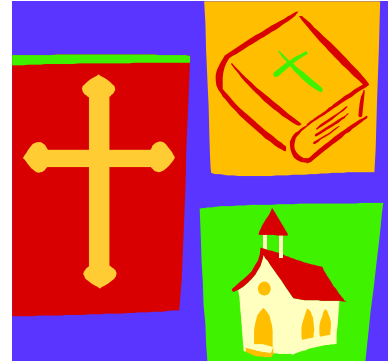
Staff Members:

Bill Matlack, Pastor

Ann Elliott, Administrative Assistant

Bonnie Sweda, Music Director (lead)

Sheila Stephenson, Music Director



We encourage you to call the Church office when... a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified : either you home phone number, address or email has changed so that our records can be updated; you are planning to move, either out-of-town or locally; a new baby arrives in your family; a new family moves into your neighborhood; or you feel the Church can assist you in any way. Thank you.

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

As you pray throughout your day, include:
For health and healing: our shut ins, Pastor Freed.

For those who grieve: The Eliason family on the death of Ann Isbrandt (Lorraine's sister-in-law).

For Bishop Stephen Marsh and the Southeast Michigan synod staff; for the people of Haiti

For the congregation and Pastor Bill;
For the end of war, and for peace and justice throughout the world; for the unemployed.

For families in crisis; and for all God's children who are hungry, homeless, ill and lonely.



Office Corner

April Newsletter Deadline: Please turn information into the office no later than March 15, 2009.

Please submit weekly bulletin and newsletter information to Ann Elliott by Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m. Ann's office hours are: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:30- 1:30.

Book Club



The book club will meet on Thursday, March 11th at 7pm to discuss the book, The True and Outstanding Adventures of the Hunt Sisters by Elisabeth Robinson. There are books available in the office to check out. Look for announcements as to the next literary selection and date of discussion.

Revisioning God's Mission in the Southeast Michigan Synod

Introduction to the Strategic Planning Process

We Get the Basics

Faithful and meaningful life in Word and Sacrament Ministry.

God shows up when we gather for worship.

People are fed, equipped.

God gives us everything that is needed for life and mission.

How we live that out is the challenge before us.

The Old Ways Don't Work Like They Used to

Traditional parachute drop mission starts. We have not had lots of success.

Traditional redevelopments don't work so well in a changed world.

Congregations increasingly are challenged to connect with changing communities.

Synod Staff & Mission Directors as "experts with the answers" while at times helpful just don't have and perhaps should not have the answers "that work."

That people are eager to become engaged in what God wants us to do

That we want to do what really matters

And we believe deeply

That God has a dream for Southeast Michigan

That we are invited to live out that dream with God in the world

That God is already giving eyes to see, ears to hear and hands to act

God is calling us

To do this together

To learn from one another

To discover the resources, insights, passions and capacities that we have.

The Time is Now.....

The Synod, Congregations

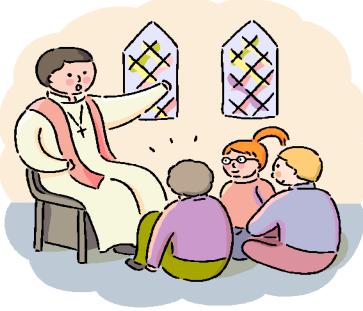
and all of us will ask key questions.

What in the world is God up to?

What is our role in that work?

What is God's purpose for us?

For more information go to www.semisynod.com & click on Mission Strategy box.



Sunday School will start after communion at the 10:00 service.

March 7th: God raised Jesus from the dead.

March 14th: When God raised Jesus on that first Easter, we were changed forever.

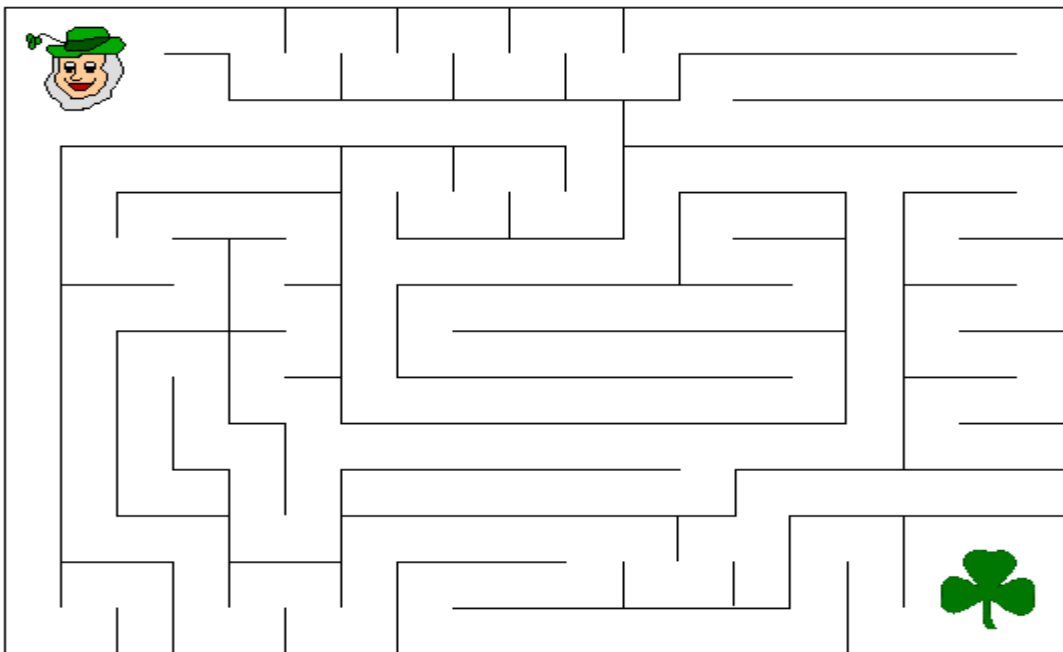
March 21st: Jesus' love gives us power.

March 28th: Jesus' death and resurrection gives us hope.



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt for all the children will take Place on Easter Morning prior to the 10:00 service. Starting time will be 9:00am and it will outside weather permitting. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to take part in it.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!



March Birthdays:

1- Arlyn Reed
 2- Thomas Butler
 5- Nick Casagrande
 7- Jean Butler
 Ken Casagrande
 Barb Church
 Mary Freed
 8- Kay Grabenstein



16- Thomas Paulsen
 Barb Eliason
 Jessica Varana
 17- John Johnsen
 Kristin Stratton
 19- Ryan Barratt
 20- Thomas Kuljurgis
 24- Tim Sweda

March Anniversaries:

27 - George & Chris Kuljurgis



March Worship Assistants

Date	Acolyte	Counters	Greeter(s)	Lector
March 7	Chris Chiaravalli	Thomas & Jean Butler Tom Sweda	Cindy Ward	Cindy Ward
March 14	Grant Engleman	Loraine Eliason Nancy Green	Terry & Marian Rowland	Terry Rowland
March 21	Jacinda Green	Mary Martin Janet Martin	Mary & Janet Martin	Doug Opthoff
March 28	Danielle Lemmer	Stan Samuelson Ken Casagrande	Bob & Trudi Burns	Cory Casagrande



Soup Supper: The soup supper will be here at Holy Spirit on Wednesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up to make soup, dessert, bread or to do set up and clean up.

Thank you to all who have signed up and hosted a coffee hour. A coffee hour sign up sheet is on the bulletin board with future available dates. Please consider hosting a coffee hour with another person or a group.



Mark Your Calenders



The Annual Spring Fashion Show will be on Thursday, April 22. Tickets for this sell out event will be going on sale soon.

The next WELCA meeting will be at Barb Kunkel's home on Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited to attend. We will be finalizing plans for the fashion show. Thank you to Ruth Dziuba for hosting the February meeting. Those who attended enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Ruth and fellowship

Information Regarding the Census From the Better Business Bureau

The BBB advises people to be cooperative but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud. If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and badge before answering questions.

Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information, even if they claim they need it for the census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** Any one asking for your SSN, Credit card numbers or banking information is not with the Census Bureau, nor will employees solicit donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by phone, mail, or in person at home. However, the **Census Bureau will not contact you by Email**, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.



March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: Worship & Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice 8:45a.m. Sunday School	1	2 Prayer Shawl 10:00 am Men's Group 6:30 pm	3 Bell Choir 6:30 pm Soup Supper at COOS 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	4	5 AA 7:30 pm	6
7 Choir Practice Worship Sunday School	8	9 Prayer Shawl 7:00 p.m.	10 Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper at United Method- ist 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	11 Book Club 7:00 p.m.	12 AA 7:30 pm	13
14 Choir Practice Worship Sunday School	15 Finance Committee 7:00 p.m.	16 Prayer Shawl 10:00 am Council 7:00 p.m.	17 Bell Choir 6:30 pm Soup Supper at Pine Hill 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	18	19 AA, 7:30 pm	20 .
21 Choir Practice Worship Sunday School	22	23 Prayer Shawl 7:00 pm	24 Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper at Holy Spirit 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	25 WELCA 6:30 p.m.	26 AA, 7:30 pm	27
28 Choir Practice Worship Sunday School .						



Soup Suppers

Soup suppers will be held on Wednesdays starting the week after Ash Wednesday. Starting time is 6:30 pm. and the participating churches are listed below.

March 3rd - COOS

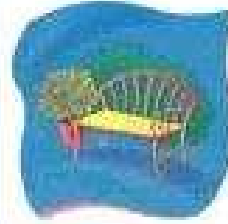
March 10th - United Methodist

March 17th - Pine Hill Congregational

March 24th - Holy Spirit Lutheran

QUIET

MEETING
GOD IN
QUIET



Beth Goering

Lenten Study begins
Thursday, March 4 @
10am.

Please let Pastor Know if
you are interested in
joining the study.

Materials will be distrib-
uted at the First Study

Here's a little about this study: "For some of us Quiet is scary and Unpleasant. For others Quiet is inviting. This study is an invitation to draw away from the noise of our culture and our own hearts and into the shelter of God's peace. As we allow the Scriptures to soak in and as we begin to receive his quietness, we are able to hear the still small voice of God."

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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10:00 a.m. Worship

Communion every Sunday

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.