



# Faith Journeys

## Faith Lutheran Church -- ELCA

February 2015

### Pastor Joy's Message

#### A Focused Lent

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Ash Wednesday (Back Cover)	

It seems that I say this every year, but it is hard for me to believe that with the start of February, we are nearing the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of season, falls on February 18th this year.

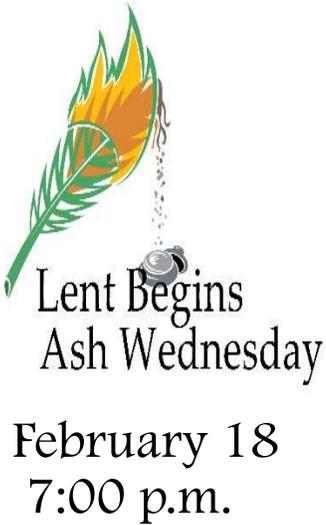
Lent is a penitential season where we take time to reflect and confess. We take time to prepare our hearts, minds, and lives for Jesus Christ. We remember Jesus' journey to the cross, and finally gather to celebrate his glorious resurrection on Easter morning.

Often, in order to do these things, this season will bring with it some adjustments to our behavior - changes to the choices that we are making. One of the things that become rather common practice during the season of Lent is "giving up" something. It may be a certain food or drink. Perhaps it is an activity. In some cases, it is something that you would like to change about yourself anyway, and this season gives the extra boost you need to get started. If this practice helps you to focus your time and energy on Jesus, then by all means, go for it.

I also tend to encourage people to find things that they can add to their life or ways that they can alter their day-to-day happenings. Perhaps for the season you add a daily exercise commitment, or a dedicated prayer time (perhaps the two could even be at the same time). You may decide to focus on a specific book that you would like to read or maybe a selection of scripture that with which you can spend your time. Maybe you want to reconnect with a friend or add focused time for family activities. There are many options, and it is really quite powerful to embrace one. Let it be your focus and help to guide you through the holy season.

At church, we will focus ourselves on this season as well. We will begin the season together with worship on Ash Wednesday – February 18th at 7:00 p.m. Then, during the season of Lent, we will gather on Wednesday evenings for a simple soup supper at 6:00 p.m. (watch for sign-up information in the fellowship hall if you are willing to bring soup) and Holden Evening Prayer worship at 7:00 p.m. Perhaps attendance on these Wednesday evenings is how you choose to focus yourself this season? Set aside this time to come to church for fellowship over a bowl of soup and/or join us for worship as we sing our way through the evening prayer service.

Whatever way you choose to spend your time this Lenten season, it is my prayer that you may grow in your relationship with God and take time to focus on all that Jesus Christ was, is, and will be for you and for this world.



## From Your Youth & Family Coordinator

Every month I attend a North Central Conference Youth Leaders meeting where a few of us leaders get together to talk about what's happening in our ministries, a time when we can talk about our struggles and share good advice with each other. At the end of this one particular meeting after much discussion about our struggles with getting high school students more involved in youth group, our leader closed with a prayer in which he prayed for the health and God's guidance of our ministries and for the faith life of our youth and their families beyond the pews. Now the last few words-beyond the pews-caught a couple of our ears in the room and right away we asked our fellow youth leader if we could "borrow" those three words for our newsletters in which he replied "certainly".

Praying for you "beyond the pew", what does that mean? I believe in the context of the conclusion of our leaders meeting was that we were praying for our youth and their families' lives beyond Sunday mornings. We were praying that our youth and their families would continue to grow in their faith and be inspired to do God's work outside the church's walls. We were praying for our youth to know that it's okay if you mess up, get a bad grade at school, get into a fight with your friend, or all around have a bad day because God is with you through all the bad times. We were praying that they know that they are a child of God, marked with the sign of the cross, and that nothing can come between them and God's love. There was a lot of power packed into those three words!

I also think that "beyond the pew" can be posed as a question that you can ask yourself, "What does God want me to be doing beyond the pew (beyond sitting in church) every day?" Yes, going to church and worshipping God on Sunday morning is a very important aspect of being a Christian. At church we come together as a community to worship, to give thanks and praise for all that we have, to ask for and receive forgiveness, to pray for one another during our trials, to celebrate baptisms and new lives in Christ, to give back to God in response to what He has given to us, to be humbled and receive the body and blood of Jesus through Holy Communion, and to rejoice in fellowship with each other. But what is God asking us to do "beyond the pew", beyond Sunday morning worship?

How do we discern what God is asking us to do "beyond the pew"? We can look up scriptures and meditate on them- "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29: 11-13.

Continued on next page



## Birthdays, Anniversaries & News

### Birthdays

02/06	Gene Bialas Steve Liezert Edna Papke
02/10	Tara Schmitt
02/11	Vivian Carlson Erin Rittschof
02/13	Robert Daub Matthew Malaker
02/14	Linda Good Cherryl Sparks
02/15	Nicole Williams
02/17	Paula Albers
02/25	Shirley Frahm
02/26	Betty Letheby
02/27	Emily Duthie David Brad Dyer



### Sympathies

The congregation wishes to extend their deepest sympathies to the following families:

Katherine Case and family at the loss of her grandfather Keith Dinda.

Susie Wittwer at the loss of her brother-in-law Carl Cutshaw.

Dottie Bungler & family at the loss of her husband Jerry.

Jennifer Valentine & family at the loss of her grandmother Verna Hruska.

John, Jamie, and Joe Arntzen at the loss of their Grandfather James Wotjiziak.

Tawnya Liezert and family at the loss of her grandmother, Pat Carson.

### Baptisms

On December 28, 2014 Charley Mykel Stombaugh was received through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Her parents are Michael & Jamie Stombaugh. Her sponsors are Kelli Rogers & Ryan Wilken.

January 4th, 2015 Elizabeth Austin Haws was received through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Her parents are Nick & Angela Haws and her older sister, Lily. Sponsors are Rose Rogde, Dylan Kemmerer and Jon & Ashley Haws. Elizabeth's grandparents are Shelley & Gary Haws, Pam & Gary Rogde. Great grandmother is Diane Ruggerio. We welcome both Charley & Elizabeth to our family here at Faith.

### Births

Mike, Tara & Alexa Schmitt welcomed Karsen Joy on December 30, 2014. Congratulations!

### First Communion Class

We will be offering a First Communion class for anyone who thinks that their child is ready to participate in the Holy Sacrament. If you have questions or are wondering if your child is ready, you may talk to Pastor Joy anytime. Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you are interested in the parent/child class and then we will set a date for class.

## Calendar

# Lay Ministry

## Prayer Ministry

**Members:** Lois Rewerts, Diane Ruggerio

**Friends & Family:**

Josh Byrd (grandson of Harold & Pat Gosse),  
 Carol Burdette (mother of Holli Duthie),  
 Marilyn Casey (sister-in-law of Nedra Knapp)  
 Alberta Dummer (friend of Gail Rogers)  
 Cheryl Eich (friend of Nedra Knapp)  
 Connie Hansen (mother of Angie Primrose)  
 Claudia Ingardona (cousin of Jennifer Valentine)  
 Golda Jolly (friend of Joy VonSeggern),  
 Kevin Larimore (friend of Doug & April Moorehead),  
 Deb Roberts (friend of Gloria Tyler),  
 Mike Rogers (brother of Mark Rogers),  
 Tammy Svela,  
 Jim Valentine (father of Mike Valentine),  
 Janice (cousin of Barb Harms)  
 Kathy (step daughter of Nedra Knapp)  
 Marguerite (mother of Margo Wilkinson)  
 Peggy (sister-in-law of Alice Arjes)  
 Geri Wojtysiak, (Grandmother of John, Jamie  
 & Joey Arntzen.



March Newsletter items are due to  
 the office by February 15:  
[office@faithlcrochelle.org](mailto:office@faithlcrochelle.org)  
 \*\* Please send items to office so  
 they are all in one place.  
 THANK YOU!

Shawn e-mail: [office@faithlcrochelle.org](mailto:office@faithlcrochelle.org)  
 Pastor e-mail: [Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org](mailto:Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org)  
 Michelle e-mail:  
[Yandf@faithlcrochelle.org](mailto:Yandf@faithlcrochelle.org)  
 815-562-7575

## Letter from Bishop Wollersheim

### Prayer and Ice Fishing

Every year after Christmas I go ice fishing in northern Minnesota. Polly took this picture of me and my trusty hand auger on Turtle Lake. (picture omitted here—see below).

I do not have a big, warm, and fancy fish house. I'd rather sit outside on a white bucket on the lake so I can see the grand sights.

While sitting on the ice I have witnessed a lone wolf cross the bay, an eagle eating its prey (a fish caught from the creek where the ice doesn't form), and in the evening the Northern Lights dance across the sky in shades of blue and green.

Sometimes I catch fish and sometimes I don't, but it doesn't really matter, because what is important to me is that it is a quiet place on the ice. No cell phone, tv, or computer. It is a time to "be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Prayer to me, over the years, has shifted from a time of asking and speaking to a time of listening. God knows what we want and need. Our job is to listen to what God is calling us to be and to do. I know that ice fishing is not a spiritual retreat for most people, but I hope you can find one that suits you. Seek a quiet place. A place of beauty. A place where you can pray. A place which helps you listen to God. And God does speak to us: through the Scriptures, in our hearts and minds, through nature and music, through other people, and much more.

In the next several newsletters of *Making Christ Known*, we will highlight the seven faith practices of the Church: pray, worship, give, invite, study, serve, and encourage. It is my prayer that this will be an encouragement to you as you make Christ known in your family, to friends, at work, at school, with your neighbors, through your congregation, and in the synod and the ELCA.

Thank you for your partnership in God's work. In Christ,  
Bishop Gary Wollersheim

-From the Jan./Feb. issue of *Making Christ Known*

(A publication of the Northern Illinois Synod)

You can view the publication, (and past issues) and see the ice fishing photo online:

<http://www.nisynod.org/>

## Thanks, Lent and Outreach

We extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the congregation for the generous Christmas gift! We are so thankful for your kindness, prayers, and support throughout the year. We hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas and is enjoying the start of 2015. We look forward to another faithful year of ministry and service together. Thank you again for your generosity!



*-Pastor Joy, Michelle, & Shawn*

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**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18th , 7:00 p.m.**

During the season of Lent, we will gather on Wednesday evenings for a simple soup supper at 6:00 p.m. and Holden Evening Prayer worship at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you'd like to bring soup.



**OUTREACH MISSION FOR FAITH:  
Rochelle Food Pantry**  
**February Items:** Cleaning Supplies & paper towels. Monetary donations are always welcome.

**Faith Lutheran Church --ELCA  
14206 Flagg Rd  
Rochelle, IL 61068**

Return Service Requested

Phone: 815-562-7575

Fax: 815-561-9166

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