



# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

"All God's Children Joyfully Celebrating God's Transforming Grace"

Established 1852

915 Federal Av. Saginaw, MI 48607

989.754.0489

## SPIRIT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 02

Dear Friends in Christ:

February has traditionally been the month when we celebrate love, due to Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

All the more so, we remember God's love with Ash Wednesday on February 10<sup>th</sup> and the season of Lent beginning. For it is God's love in Jesus Christ that takes us down the Lenten journey to the example of the greatest love of all, Jesus' innocent suffering and death for our sins! No greater love exists!

Please join us for worship on **Ash Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, at either 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.** as we remember our mortality and Jesus' forgiving love for us. **The evening service will be preceded by a light soup supper at 6:00 p.m.**

Since **Valentine's Day** so rarely falls on a Sunday, and it does this year, we thought it would be fun to have a **red-themed potluck following the worship service**. With a little creativity, I think every food could have some red or a shade of red in it. But you definitely are welcome to bring whatever. Please sign up on the bulletin board to aid in planning.

**Then beginning Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, we will host the shared Lenten services at 7:00 p.m. and light suppers at 6:00 p.m.** We will be joined by Resurrection Lutheran Church and Our Saviour Lutheran Church folks. Invite your friends as well! The theme will be "Open Our Lives, Lord." We will gather in Knauer Hall for supper and move to the sanctuary for the services. You will see all the Lenten services listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Recently when I mentioned Valentine's Day, someone poo-pooed it as another of those "Hallmark holidays." Well, I kept my mouth shut

but wanted to say that Valentine's Day greetings were sent long before Hallmark was started and life is too short not to take every opportunity to show our love to others, be it romantic love or not. I treasure a box of my parents' Valentine's and other cards sent to each other and their letters sent back and forth across the Atlantic during World War II.

Hard to imagine that the first written Valentine's greeting goes back to the 1400's. And by 1840 Valentine's were mass produced. Today it is the second largest card sending holiday (over one billion), with Christmas being first, with 2.6 billion cards sent. But considering who poo-pooed Valentine's, I had to chuckle when I read that women send 85% of Valentine's.

And as for the name of the day, St. Valentine is "shrouded in mystery" . . . that means no one knows for sure who this St. Valentine was! The Roman Catholic Church honors three St. Valentines, or St. Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One such person is believed to have written to his beloved, signing "From Your Valentine," an expression still used today.

Hope to see you in worship throughout February as we celebrate God's love for us in Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love,

*Pr. Connie  
Pissanella*

For God so loVed the world  
That He gAve  
His onLy  
Be gottEn  
SoN  
T hat whosoever  
Believeth I n Him  
Should N ot perish,  
But have E verlasting life.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
915 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607

*Pr. Connie Sassanella*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 a.m.**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**PASTOR'S TELEPHONE**

Preferred (c) 330-692-6194 (h) 989-401-2283

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Secretary: Barb Socia*

**CHURCH'S TELEPHONE**

Office: 989-754-0489

Fax: 989-754-4029

**E-MAIL**

Office: sjc915@sbcglobal.net

Pastor: csassanella@yahoo.com

**WEBSITE**

StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com

**FACEBOOK**

St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw

**NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month**



**Please Remember Care Facility Members:**

**Please Remember At Home Members:**

**They would love a card or visit from you!**



## Church Updates

**Donations:** Roger & Pauline Winterstein (Summer Day Camp), Ronald & Yvonne Schmidt (Breakfast for Hungry), George Pike (Thrivent Choice Dollars),

**Hospitalized Since Last Month:** John Balderas.

## Lent and Easter at St. John - 2016



**Come Worship with Us  
All Are Welcome to  
Get Ready for Easter!**

**February 10 - Ash Wednesday - Worship at 7:00 p.m.**  
(Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.)

**Wednesday Services at 7:00 p.m.**  
(Soup Supper 6:00 p.m.)



**Feb. 17 – “Open My Eyes, Lord” – led by St. John**

**Feb. 24 – “Open My Hands, Lord” – led by Resurrection**

**March 2 – “Open My Ears, Lord” – led by St. John**

**March 9 – “Open My Heart, Lord” – led by Resurrection**

**March 16 – “Open My Life, Lord” – led by St. John**



**March 24 – Maundy Thursday**

Worship Services: 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (12 p.m. Lunch)

Stripping of the Altar

**March 25 – Good Friday**

Worship Services: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service



**March 27 – The Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection**

Easter Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.



## Valentine's Day Potluck Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>



Valentine's Day is on **Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Share God's love for us and our love for each other by attending a “red-themed” potluck that day after the worship service. (Dishes that don't have something red in them are also permitted.) Sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office for what dish you would like to bring so we have a head count for set up. Invite a friend to worship and this potluck too!

## St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
1/3/16	46	\$3,686.00
1/10/16	26	\$3,252.00
1/17/16	49	\$1,303.15
1/24/16	53	\$1,022.50

### Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – January 24, 2016

General Fund	\$	50.00
Altar Flowers	\$	128.00
Music & Organ	\$	0
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$	100.00
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$	25.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$	0
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$	0
Congregational Life	\$	0
Luther League	\$	0
Heating Fund	\$	0
Stamps	\$	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>303.00</b>



## February Birthdays

- February 2 Tara Alverson, Aubrey Aven
- February 3 Gary Roenicke
- February 4 Todd Wendland
- February 5 Rose King
- February 6 Ashlee Glave, Jack Temple
- February 7 Shannon Waters
- February 9 Pamela Aven
- February 11 Matthew Oswald
- February 13 Robert Blohm
- February 14 Linda Mclnerney
- February 15 Jerry Lemmer
- February 16 Yvonne Miree
- February 17 Andrew Bell, Wayne Marcet Jr.
- February 19 John Balderas
- February 20 Marie Laeding
- February 21 Alice Morgan
- February 23 Robert Brown, Susan Young
- February 24 Ashley Cooper, Dennis Vollmer
- February 25 Eric Crane
- February 27 Ginger Reed
- February 28 Elizabeth Quackenbush



## February Anniversaries

none



## Free Community Dinners

Our **Free Community Dinners** are on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner served from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Our next dinner is on February 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office for workers to setup, cook, and cleanup. Contributions to fund the Free Community Dinners here at St. John can be made with checks payable to: Messiah Lutheran Church, "St. John Evening Dinners" and we can forward your check to them. If you have any questions about the dinners, please contact Dewey Burke at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com. Thank you for your help in providing for those less fortunate and your generous donations!



## SMM Food Pantry

The Saginaw Metro Ministries Food Pantry is in need of your help with unloading the food from trucks and stocking shelves here at St. John. Truck unloads are at 7:00 a.m. every two weeks. The next unload days are Wednesday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. There are jobs for everyone to do and it's not hard work! Please contact Dewey Burke at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com.

## Thrivent Members

Any undirected 2015 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2016. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend our church for some of Thrivent Financial charitable outreach funds. If you have any questions, please contact a customer care person at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. You can also email them at: fraternal@thrivent.com. There is also a Thrivent Choice Dollars Direction Form in the church office to mail.

## Twice As Sweet

On Valentine's Day, we show our love;  
We express our deep affections.  
Those who are important to us  
Get cards and sweet confections.

But Christian love is not just for  
The ones we hold most dear;  
Jesus said, "Love everyone;"  
He made that very clear.

For Christians, it is every day  
We should care and love and serve  
Everyone we meet in life,  
Whether they do or don't deserve.

Let's follow Jesus' good command  
To love everyone we meet.  
Valentine's Day every day  
Will make life twice as sweet.

by Joanna Fuchs

