Countryside Trinity Church Newsletter March 2020

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May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Message from Pastor Brant



Lent; An Invitation to Enter into the Light

Lent, the season of 40 days of preparation for the celebration of Easter, has begun. It began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word "Lent" comes from the Anglo–Saxon word Lencten, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of "spring." In this season there is an intentional effort to enter into the darker part of our lives, trusting that the "Light of the World" will bring healing and wholeness. Lent is a Christian season of practice, celebrated by some Christians though not all. It's not a prescription for holiness, but an invitation to relationship. During Lent the Scriptures remind us of God's expectations for Israel, Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and his journey to the cross. Our Journey through Lent traditionally focuses on the spiritual disciplines explored in Matthew 6, but have been expanded to include additional acts towards mercy and justice.

Prayer and Meditation

"Prayer," says Richard Foster in his book A Celebration of Discipline "is the central avenue God uses to transform us.... In prayer, real prayer, we begin to think God's thoughts after God: to desire the things God desires, to love the things God loves, to will the things God wills. Progressively, we are taught to see things from God's point of view." Lent is an opportunity to begin a regular prayer time in which you and trusted friends share specific needs and concerns and then spend time in prayer. As Presbyterians, who tend to be suspicious of public displays of piety ("Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Mt. 6.1), we are hesitant to be too public with our prayer concerns. Trusting a few people with our most sacred and deep hopes, fears, and concerns however, can be a life transforming experience, and can encourage us to use the gift of prayer more fully in our lives.

Fasting & Abstinence

These two disciplines can transform not only our lives, but also the vitality of the larger community. They are to voluntarily give up food or other items or experiences which might keep us from seeking and relying only on the consolation and comfort of the grace of God. They call to mind the fourth beatitude: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall be satisfied. We fast from food as a sign of our longing for the bread of heaven, while acknowledging our unity with those who hunger and thirst for food and water, and for justice in this world. With Jesus we share in the sufferings of those who are in need, and are sent out to serve them and one another. We might also choose to fast from experiences through which we insulate ourselves from our deeper needs, i.e. TV, Computers, Social Media, allowing ourselves to become more aware of our emptiness, that we might bring this sadness and despair to Christ.

Almsgiving

The money we save from our fasting and abstinence can be collected and given to a ministry that is important to you. Banks from the One Great Hour of Sharing are available in the back of the church for those who choose to participate in this. Almsgiving can also take the form of acts of kindness, compassion, and beauty. It is to take the opportunity to participate in actions of service for people in our community in a way that communicates the love and concern of Jesus Christ.

I invite you to discern how and when you would like to participate in this season, trusting that God longs for you to have a deeper relationship through which God can fill you with the blessings of life.

Lenten Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer, March 1st-March 29th

We know the Lord's Prayer by heart, but Jesus didn't present it to us only to memorize it, but also to present us with a thematic way of understanding our relationship with God and how to strengthen that relationship through our prayer life. During this season of Lent we will explore the different petitions that are a part of the Lord's Prayer that we might understand each more fully and incorporate these aspects more intentionally and consistently into our prayer lives.

March 1st: Hallowed Be Thy Name

March 8th: Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done

March 15th: Give us This Day Our Daily Bread

March 22nd: Forgive us Our Debts, As We Forgive our Debtors

March 29th: And Lead Us Not into Temptation

As part of this series, there is a prayer guide located in the back of the sanctuary as well as in the fellowship hall that uses the format presented in the Lord's Prayer to guide your prayer time during both the season of Lent and after.

Included on the back of this bookmark sized sheet is a Bible Study Process, The R3 Desktop Devotions, from William Tenny-Brittian. It provides you with a format for guiding you through a 3 step devotional approach to the scriptures; Reading, Reflect, and Respond. I am inviting you to spend time in the Gospel of Matthew since it will be the main source of our lectionary scriptures this year. It will be introduced in greater detail during the Lenten Suppers.

Lenten Soup Suppers will explore the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents us with new understandings of how we are to perceive some of the struggles of life. During our Lenten Suppers we will explore some of these, the first being *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*. Along with a simple meal, we will share our understandings and worship God through prayers and a hymn.

Because of the depth of songs to sing throughout the Lenten Season, there will be no hymn of the month in March or April.

There will be a prayer vigil held in the sanctuary on Good Friday, April 10th, from 9-12. There will be a sign-up sheet for half hour time slots, though you are invited to participate at any time. There will be several stations for prayer so that you can either say your own prayers or use a resource to guide you through your time of prayer.

2020 CTC Lenten Schedule

3/04/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Spiritual Life

3/11/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Choir

3/18/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Session

3/25/20 6:00 pm Soup & Bread Supper hosted by Spiritual Life

4/09/20 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

4/10/20 9:00 am to 12:00 pm - Prayer Vigil

4/10/20 1:00 pm Good Friday Service

All of these events will take place at Countryside Trinity Church.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Bess Daugharty
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 12 Richard Foote
- 14 Andy Smith
- 16 Shirley Roof
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte
- 30 Robert Furlo



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker (1993)
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez (2009)

HELP!! We like to recognize everyone's birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletters and also for our "Cake Days" during the coffee hours. So, please be sure to let Kathy in the office know your birthday and anniversary so we will be sure to recognize you and your family. You can tell her on Sundays - or call at 989 793-0125 Tues-Fri from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Thank you.

RECURRING EVENTS AT COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

Book Club - Meets in the Lounge Most Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm (Bring lunch or a snack if desired)

Bible Study - Meets in Lounge Most Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 pm. Will resume April 22nd

Choir Practice meets in Choir Room on Sunday mornings @ 9:15 am. All are welcome to join!

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall -Sunday mornings following worship. Please sign up to host when you are available. **Deacons Meeting** are scheduled as needed.

Session Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Lounge.

Spiritual Life Committee meetings are on the second Sunday of the month following Worship unless otherwise scheduled.



Marcia Lacker wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns and loving care.

Spring Bazaar

The Countryside Trinity Church Women's Association conducts several fund raisers and events throughout the year to raise money for our Missions and sometimes to help with projects and repairs around the Church that need to be done. The Spring Flea Market and Craft Sale will be taking place on Saturday, March 21st.

Please mark your calendars and plan to come out and help where you can to make this day a success! We will need help with set-up and clean-up, workers throughout the day, donations of craft items and/or flea market items to be sold in our Attic Treasures Room. We will also have a Bake Sale and will need donations of homemade cookies, candies, pies, cakes, brownies, etc. to sell. You could also rent a space at a cost of \$25.00 and an additional \$5.00 if you need to rent a table. Spaces are filling up fast - so if you want to rent a spot, you need to get your registration in quickly.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall - please do your part and help wherever you can. Thank you.



The mission of the month is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This mission is 70 years old. Our two denominations are part of 8 protestant denominations sharing the mission.

In a world of disasters, hunger and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

PCUSA focuses on three programs: Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program and Self Development of People.

UCC also has three focus areas: Building Sustainable Communities (in 80 nations around the world), Responding to Disasters (one every 2.5 days) and Ministering to Refugees (30 million at any given time.)

Joining together we are able to do more. Safety, sustenance and hope are provided by these programs in the USA and around the world.

Easter Food Baskets: We are collecting for the Easter Food Baskets. As always, the last Sunday of the month is designated for food donations, but you can bring it anytime. The items needed will be announced during Worship services - but if you want more information, please contact Judi Westendorf.

The CTC Women's Association has scheduled our 2020 Baby Shower. It will be held on Thursday, April 16th starting at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This year the Baby Shower will benefit both the Baby Pantry and The Underground Railroad. Clothing sizes requested at from newborn to toddler size 5. You might want to start shopping now as there are lots of great sales going on! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. There will be desserts and prizes and fun to be had by all!



Bavarian Comfort Care	Swanhaven Manor			
Bessie Daugherty	Fern Evon Little			
New Hope Valley Independent	Wellspring Assisted Living			
Dorothy Gray, Virginia "Ginny" Jarvi	Shirley Roof, Carol Williamson, Bob & Marie Lemmer, Lila Neumeyer			
St. Francis Home	Wellspring Independent Living			
Judith Lorenz	Helen Reynolds			
In Hospital or Private Homes	Health Source			
Dawn Curtis, Eleanor Farnum, Betty Hauk, Floyd & Lois Krzak, Ruth Marsh, Elaine Miner, Fran	Norma Meacham			
Preuter, Kathy Williamson, Betty Burr and Joan Comstock	Saginaw Senior Care & Rehab			
Comstock	Mary Young			

16th Annual FREE Health Fair "The Doctor is In!"

Date: 3/14/2020

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Horizons Conference Center

6200 State Street Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: 989 790-3590

Event Descirption: FREE to the public! 16th Annual Saginaw County Medical Society Health Fair "**The Doctor is In!**" to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Horizons Conference Center. Free health screenings, information on various health conditions & providers. **MEDICATION TAKE-BACK** (bring your old unused medications for safe disposal), physicians to answer your questions and more.

THE THREE MEN AND A TENOR SHOW

Date: 3/26/2020

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: Zehnder's of Frankenmuth

730 S. Main Street

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Phone: 866 838-1778

Event Description: Zehnder's is proud to include "Three Men and a Tenor" in their 2020 Dinner Show Series. Enjoy a great Zehnder's Luncheon or Dinner and then sit back and enjoy a unique show with pop vocal music, quick-witted humor, and overall likeability. This group has a national touring schedule and has opened for national legends like Jay Leno, Chuck Berry, The Beach Boys and have had its own national PBS-TV special show across the country from LA to Nashville. This is a show that is enjoyed by all ages and will leave you begging for more. Dinner Show is March 26th only starting at 6 p.m. and is \$53 per person. Reservations required, call (866) 838-1778 for reservations or for more information.

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of February 18, 2020 that you may find helpful:

Opening: Reflection on Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is now 128 with removal of Frank & Pat Gnandt per their request and the death of Elaine Kranzlein. Communion was served on February 2, 2020 to 62 parishioners. During the worship service on February 9, 2020 of Elder Kitty Blehm and Deacons Avis Leach and Scott Jacob, all of class of 2022, were installed. *Motion sustained to call a congregational meeting on 3-1-20 for the purpose of ratifying the addendum action taken during lunch following the annual congregational meeting on January 26, 2020 to elect two more people to the nominating committee for 2020.* Clerk's statistical report for General Assembly was approved to be submitted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brant gave his report on his service to the congregation, the community, and the denomination. He included the multiple hospital and home visits and his meetings with various study groups and committees, both at Countryside Trinity and community that he serves on.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds: R. Scovill gave the report of the committee. *Motion sustained to move forward with the sale of the manse and to spend the \$1000.00 for the survey work and the \$500.00 for the building inspection which are needed in preparation for the sale.* The church's insurance/liability has been changed to Brotherhood Mutual which specializes in insuring churches. *Motion sustained to allow the Building & Grounds committee to renovate the men & the women's restrooms at the west end of the building within the budgeted amount for maintenance and without the approval of the session for any purchase over the \$150.00 restriction limit.*

Finance & Stewardship: Sixty-four people have paid their per capita. The goals set forth by the moderator of this committee were reviewed.

Christian Outreach: K. Blehm, moderator, reported on various missions supported in February.

Nominating Committee: *Motion sustained to elect Darren Woodke as moderator of this committee.*

Spiritual Life: Darren Woodke, moderator, reported the planned events for the Lenten series with the special worship services to be included. Elders volunteered to serve communion.

Women's Association: K. Loviska reported that \$640.00 has been collected for rental fees for the spring bazaar. On March 21, 2020. Bakery items will be needed.

New business: Countryside folks have been invited to participate in a bowling event sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church to raise money for the Weiss School Elementary School Backpack program on March 15 at LeFevre Bowing Alley on State Street.

Submitted for your information, Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session

McCABE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Applications are now being accepted for the McCable Charitable Foundation. This scholarship program is administred by Scholarship America[®]. Scholarship America is the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals.

Applicants must:

- Be Jewish or Presbyterian students from Bay, Saginaw or Midland County, MI
- Show financial need
- Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at Delta Community College or Saginaw Valley State University for the netire 2020-2021 academic year



Apply now!

March 16, 2020 is the application postmark deadline to apply for the 2020-2021 academic year.

QUESTIONS?

Call 507-931-1682 and ask for the McCabe Charitable Foundation

Visit http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/pnc
For the complete program guidelines and your application!



We haven't received Amazon's donation yet for the past quarter. It should be arriving shortly. If you aren't already doing so, and if you shop on Amazon.com, please make sure you designate our church as your supported charity. Costs you **NOTHING** but gives a cash donation to our church for all purchases you make. You need to go to smile.amazon.com and designate Countryside as your charity. If you would like assistance, see Kathy Loviska. After that you simply sign on to smile.amazon.com when you shop that is all you need to do. Your participation is greatly appreciated!



For the quarter November, 2019 thru January, 2020 we have earned \$51.64 in donations from the Kroger Community Rewards Program. We currently have 25 households participating in the program. If you haven't signed up yet and need assistance, see Kathy Loviska.



The new 2020 Church Directory is located at the back of the sanctuary on the table. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If you would like us to mail you a Directory, please call Kathy in Church office, Tues-Friday between 8:30 am & 12:30 pm to let her know.

989 793-0125

BE COUNTED MICHIGAN 2020

- For every person not counted, there is a potential of losing \$1,800.00 in tax dollars;
- Over the ten year period between now and taking the next Census that is a loss of \$18,000.00 to our County for each person not counted;
- Do everything you can to ensure you and all your family members are counted.



All You Can Eat!

Friday, March 20, 2020 from 4:30-6:30 pm

Adults-\$11; Children 5-11-\$5.00; Under 5-Free; Take Outs-\$10.00

Fried Fish (Alaskan Pollock)
Potatoes - Coleslaw
Bread - Dessert
Beverage

Career and Technical Education Programs
Saginaw Career Complex
For 11th and 12th graders-Free of Charge

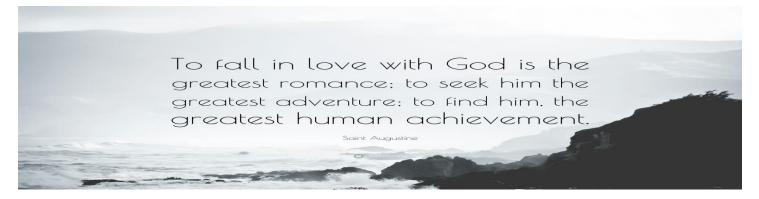
"High school juniors and seniors throughout Saginaw County can **EXPERIENCE THEIR** FUTURE at the Saginaw Career Complex! With a variety of career programs to choose from, students at SCC experience real world, hands-on training for half of every school day. Students gain skills and confidence using state-of-theindustry equipment and technology and may earn professional certifications to jumpstart their future! They also may earn college credit, experience immersive work-based learning within area businesses, have the opportunity to compete in co-curricular student technical organizations and so much more! So what's your career plan? Contact your high school counselor for more information today!"

THE SIXTEEN COMMANDMENTS OF GROWING OLD



TO ALL THE SENIORS OUT THERE, AND THOSE WHO HOPE TO GET THERE:

- #1 Talk to yourself, because there are times you need expert advice.
- #2 Consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.
- #3 You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- #4 Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- #5 The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- #6 You have days when your life is just a tent away from a circus.
- #7 These days, "on time" is when you get there.
- #8 Even duct tape can't fix stupid but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #9 Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
- #10 Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- #11 "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why you're there.
- #12 When you were a child, you thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini vacation.
- #13 Some days you have no idea what you're doing out of bed.
- #14 You thought growing old would take longer.
- #15 Aging sure has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- #16 You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.



Join the READ Association in celebrating National Reading Month at the 15th annual



Saturday March 14, 2020

9am-11:30am

Serving Pancakes until 11:15 am

Sponsored by the READ Association

Location: The Hunger Solution Center - Home of Hidden Harvest & East Side Soup Kitchen

940 E. Genesee -between Janes and Thompson St.

\$3.00 per person (under one yr. free)
Tickets available at the door

Admission includes a pancake breakfast and literacy activities to encourage and promote family reading time:

- ◆ ALL You Can Eat Pancakes
- ◆ Free New Book for Every Child
- Costume Characters
- Storytelling
- ◆ Literacy Activities presented by: Mid-Michigan Children's Museum Public Libraries of Saginaw READ Association SPSD Birth to 5 Program Children's Grief Center

of the Great Lakes Bay Region

- * Bring a canned goods donation and receive one raffle ticket for each can for a chance to win great books!
- Donations benefit Hidden Harvest and the East Side Soup Kitchen



Special Appearance by

Miss Michigan Mallory Rivard!

Free Cape for each child thanks to Kiwanis Club of Saginaw

Featured visit from
DELANEY DINOSAUR
and book series
Author and Illustrator
Jen and Delaney Kehres!





This event is presented by the READ Association of Saginaw County with support from the Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation.

The READ Association of Saginaw County is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to help students improve their reading skills and discover the joy of reading. Ph: (989)755-8402 www.READinSaginaw.org www.facebook.com/READinSaginaw

READ Poster Contest Prizes Sponsored in part by:



BOWLING FUNDRAISER To Benefit WEISS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter in Saginaw, in an effort to raise the funds needed for the Weiss Elementary School Weekend Backpack Program, (\$2,400), will be hosting a Bowling Fundraiser event on March 15, 2020 at LeFevre Bowling. This event will also include a raffle and this is where they are asking for our help. They are asking local businesses and churches to consider making a donation of an item or service that they can use as a raffle prize and/or to make a cash donation to support the fundraising efforts.

They ask that you would thoughtfully consider this request and assist them in this worthwhile project. Food insecurity is a real issue in our community and this is an effort, on the part of some local churches, to help students and support our neighborhood school. They are looking for bowlers to attend the event (a sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall) and for monetary donations. There is also a letter on the shelf under the Bulletin Board to be given to local businesses asking for raffle donations. Please feel free to take one or more to businesses you frequent and ask for their donation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mary Wegner at 989 274-6627. Thank You.

Information regarding Fundraiser

LeFevre Family Bowl 6220 State Street - Saginaw, MI

Cost: \$15/3 Games

RAFFLE BAKE SALE



Hosted by:

Our Saviour Lutheran Church 2525 Hemmeter Saginaw, MI



2020	MARCH		SUNDAY	Countryside Trinity Church		
CALENDAR YEAR	CALENDAR MONTH		FIRST DAY OF WEEK	4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603 Email: Countryside@ctcsaginaw.com Phone: 989-793-0125		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service with Communion and Two-Coins a Meal Offering; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour 4:00 City of God		1:00 PM Craft group Fellowship Hall	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:00 pm Lenten Program Soup Supper			Private Party in Fellowship Hall (Pat Denno)
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am Coffee Hour; 11:45 am		1:00 PM Craft group Fellowship Hall	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:00 pm Lenten Program Soup Supper			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am - Worship Service; 11:30 am Coffee Hour; 11:45 am		1:00 PM Craft group in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Session Council Meeting in Lounge	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:00 pm Lenten Program Soup Supper	First Day of Spring		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am- Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour; 11:30 am 4:00 City of God	Presidents Day	1:00 PM Craft group in Fellowship Hall Deadline for April Newsletter 6:30 pm Bead Club	1:00 pm Book Club meets 6:00 pm Lenten Program Soup Supper			
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
10:25 am-Announcements in Sanctuary; 10:30 am- Worship Service; 11:30 am - Coffee Hour 11:45 am - Building & Grounds Meeting in Lounge		1:00 PM Craft group Fellowship Hall	1:00 pm Book Club meets	Office Hours: Mon- Fri 8:30 a.m 12:30 p.m.	Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	Commit your way to the LORD ; trust in him, and he will act.

Countryside Trinity Church 4690 Weiss Street Saginaw, MI 48603



