



BEAVER LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMENTARY



Vol. 34, No. 1

Sunday School — 9:00 a.m.

THE TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

www.beaverlutheranchurch.org

18207 Route 522, Beavertown, PA 17813

February/March 2020

Holy Communion — 10:15 a.m.

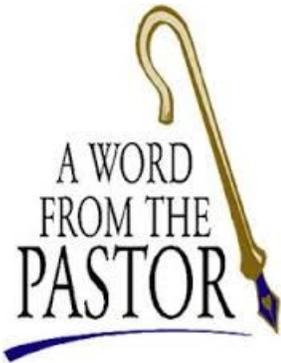
'No chocolate for me, thanks!'

By Pastor Jim

“What are you giving up for Lent?”

This perennial question springs up around this time every year.

I remember adopting this practice of fasting at an early age. Some years I gave up chocolate, others videogames or social media. One year I *tried* to give up biting my nails. I always tried to pick something that would take effort and presence of mind, but never anything that would really *hurt*. Like music. I was never able to bring myself to give up listening to music for Lent. I wanted to sacrifice a little something, but nothing too major. No need to get carried away.



Have you ever given something up for Lent?

Have you ever wondered why we do it?

Fasting during Lent is an ancient practice; it is rooted in scripture, in Matthew 4 where Jesus retreats to the desert for 40 days and fasts (that's also why Lent is 40 days long, minus Sundays). We take up the practice of fasting because that's what Jesus did. For thousands of years people have fasted to remind themselves of their dependence on God. We give up something we love to remind us that it is God who sustains us, not our material desires.

But this practice of fasting often portrays God as a buzzkill. After the holidays we start to feel as though we've been enjoying our lives a *little too much* and God doesn't like that; so we have to give up something we enjoy during Lent to appease God. We celebrate Mardi Gras the day before Ash Wednesday to “get it all out of our system,” so that we can be serious in Lent.

But such an understanding of fasting only leads to resentment. God is not a killjoy. Jesus' very first miracle keeps a wedding party pumping by turning water into 1,000 bottles of wine. God does not *need* us to fast at all, rather it is we who need us to fast. Fasting is not meant to breed resentment; it is meant to remove distractions and focus our attention on God. In short, we fast so that we can be disciples of Jesus.

So if you're going to give something up for Lent, give up something that you're really going to *feel*;

Continued on Page 2

Listen!



If you joined us on Christmas Eve you got to hear something that has been silent for quite a while. The Bells!!

Thanks to Albert Bickhart and Dave Pheasant the bells are now in working order. However after inspection of the timer by the bell stricker company, Strykers, and Linn Geist, it has been determined that a new timer is needed. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to listen to the sound of our bells every Sunday morning.



Bible and Brew ... Something New!



Join Pastor Jim on the third Thursday of the month (February 20 and March 19) at 7 p.m. at the Rusty Rail for Bible and Brew!

Bible and Brew is a chance to gather outside the church, enjoy a good beverage, and talk. Bring your big questions about Jesus, church, culture, the Christian life, anything! Come raise a glass of your favorite brew (beer, wine, scotch, soda, coffee, water, whatever) and dig into some of life's biggest questions!

Giving Statements



Your 2019 Giving Statements were mailed out this week. If you did not receive one and are due one, please contact the church office at 570-658-2001.

Most of you have picked up your 2020 Offering Envelopes. A few boxes remain at the church. If you are able to deliver a box to a shut-in or neighbor, please do so. If you did not find a box with your name on it, please notify the church office.

Altar Flowers Available

There are plenty of openings for those of you who wish to place the altar flowers in the church. The next available Sunday is February 2. March 22 is also available. If you are interested in placing flowers, you may simply sign-up on the Altar Flower Chart which is located in the narthex. You may also call the church office at 570-658-2001.



Cost of the flowers, which you may take home with you, is \$35. You may place the flowers in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, or in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, etc. Please make sure the secretary is informed of your wishes, so that it may be printed in the bulletin.

Helpers Needed

We are still in need of volunteers to help out with the Altar Guild. There are several months in which just one person is charge of preparing the altar for worship. If interested, please contact Bryon Beaver.



Ash Wednesday Service



The annual Ash Wednesday worship service will be held Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Troxelville.

Looking ahead, Holy Week will also see joint services with Messiah. Maundy Thursday services will be held at here at Beaver, while the Good Friday service will be held at Messiah.

Congregational Meeting



Congregational MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, December 8. Newly elected councilmembers include Faye Plummer and Sara Mattern.

At a reorganizational meeting on January 8 Bobbi Leister was re-elected Council President, while Mike Frye will again serve as Vice-President. Teresa Hoffman will continue as Council Secretary.

Elected to a term on the All Saints Committee on December 8 was Richard Mattern. Howard and Sharon Benner will serve as our representatives to the Synod Assembly.

Installation was held on January 12. Our current Church Council is:

- Class of 2020: Michael Frye, Teresa Hoffman, Bobbi Leister, Bryon Beaver
- Class of 2021: Linda Sassaman, Jean Melton, Joseph Fehrer, Albert Bickhart
- Class of 2022: Faye Plummer, Sara Mattern

All Saints Committee consists of: Richard Mattern, Carole Morgan, Erman Lepley and Council representative Joe Fehrer.

Wednesdays in Lent

Each Wednesday in Lent (beginning March 4) we will meet for a simple meal of Soup and Bread at 6 p.m. Following the meal, Night Prayer (or "Compline") will be held in the sanctuary at 7 p.m.



A sign-up sheet for Soup and Bread will be available sometime in February.

Bulletin of Reports

Deadline for committees and organizations of Beaver to submit reports of 2019 activities is Sunday, January 26. All reports should be submitted to the church office, typed and ready for printing.



The congregational meeting to review the 2019 Bulletin of Reports is scheduled for Sunday, February 23.

Join Us for Fellowship Time

You are invited to spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ following worship each Sunday morning. We invite you to sign-up to provide light refreshments each week.



The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

Happy
VALENTINE'S
DAY



Spreading Cheer — Members of the Youth Group traveled to Selinsgrove Center on Sunday, December 8 to spread some Christmas cheer to the same group of ladies various groups within the church have been visiting for years. The Youth Group has now taken them under their wing. The visit makes a great impression on the youth. If you would like to accompany the group next year, please contact Leslie Feehrer or Bryon Beaver, advisors.



Love Offering for Camp Mount Luther

On Sunday, February 23rd we will be taking a love offering for Camp Mount Luther. The churches of the Middlecreek conference have "adopted" a cabin and regularly take care of its maintenance. Proceeds from this love offering will go toward new mattresses, paint, and screens for our cabin. Thank you for your generosity with this important ministry!

St. Nicholas Pizza Party!

Members of the St. Nicholas Choir should plan on staying following rehearsal this Sunday, January 26. A generous anonymous donor will be supplying pizza for the group as a thank you for doing such a great job.



Thank You!



I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Church Council for their Christmas gift as well as their words of kindness and encouragement; and to members of the congregation who have shown their generosity to me during this season of love and giving.

Sara Mattern,
Parish Secretary

WAKE UP SLEEPYHEAD



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY.

Don't forget to turn your clocks AHEAD before going to bed on Saturday, March 7.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Members of this Family of God celebrating birthdays during the month of February are:

- Eric Fogel, Feb. 3
- Landen Thomas, Feb. 4
- Shanin Miller, Feb. 10
- Chloe Fegley, Feb. 13
- Douglas Mattern, Feb. 14
- Amber McCardle, Feb. 15
- Deidre Hockenberry, Feb. 19
- Timothy Benner, Feb. 23
- Chad Briggs, Joseph Feehrer Jr., Amber Furgison, Feb. 26
- Teresa Bishop, James Etzler, Henry Zerby, Feb. 28

February Anniversaries are:

- † Joseph Jr. & Leslie Feehrer, Feb. 8
- † Todd & Nicole Gesselman, Feb. 19
- † John & Sandra Kaufman, Feb. 22

Members of this Family of God celebrating birthdays during the month of March are:

- Craig Wagner, March 1
- Deborah Etzler and Aleah Shultz, March 2
- Todd Fegley, March 3
- David Fultz, March 5
- Loretta Bickhart and Avery Fegley, March 6
- Samantha Plummer and Margaret Shirey, March 9
- Mona Lou Gilbert, March 10
- Bobbie Goss, March 12
- Nathan Bickhart, March 13
- Anthony Shuck, March 14
- Vernon Zerby, March 15
- Albert Bickhart Jr., Jean Cory, Macy Williams, March 20
- Kristy Fegley, March 21
- Maycie Wray, March 22
- Jackson Denny, March 25
- Chloe Wagner, March 29
- Christine Bruner and Dustin Stringer, March 30

March Anniversaries are:

- † Matthew & Jessica Fegley, March 8
- † Michael & Beverly Frye, March 29
- † Todd & Sherry Fegley, March 31