



The Voice



March 2021

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 - Beth Humphrey | 11- Nick Hollopeter |
| 6 - Nancy Armstrong | 13- Nathan Davis |
| 7 - Betty McKibben | 19- Pam Allen |
| 8 - Jaiden Flory | 25- Samantha Reese |
| 9 - MaryAnn Hensler | 27- Lillian King |
| 11- Alice Larson | 31- Alexandra Schmidt |

Dear St. John's Family,

I wanted to take this time to thank all of you for the wonderful care package at Christmas. The care that was put into the making of the blanket did not go unnoticed, and that blanket has kept me warm during these cold days.

I also want to thank everyone who took the time to call, send cards, and personally wish me a Happy Birthday. I enjoyed receiving each and every card, and I received so many that it filled my table. I never imagined that I would live to see 100 years. The love that you shared with me on my special day filled my soul.

With love,
Elsie Smith

Member Spotlight: Debbie Dempsey



Debbie was born and raised in Troy, Ohio. She graduated from Troy High School in 1966. Debbie has one sister who now lives in Florida. She remembers attending the First Baptist Church in Troy as a child, but she doesn't remember going with her family. As a youth, Debbie was involved in "Block T", which was a group of girls who made a "T" for "Troy" and did some motions with the cheerleaders. She was also a member of the "Future Nurses Association".

Debbie met her future husband, David, when they were children aged ten or twelve. They played together near the bowling alley in the Sherwood Shopping Center. They started dating shortly after she graduated from high school. She was baptized at the age of nineteen at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Troy where she and David were married on March 30, 1968. They had two children, a daughter, DeAnne, and a son, Matthew, who passed away in 2002.

In 1975, the couple moved to Lansdale, Pennsylvania when David was transferred for work. They were supposed to be there for two years, three at the most. However, it ended up being forty-three years! A few years after moving to Pennsylvania, Debbie decided to attend nursing school. She graduated as a registered nurse in 1983. Debbie worked as a nurse for thirty years before retiring in 2013. She worked in the operating room for a while. She also worked in a psych ward as well as drug and alcohol rehab, and finally she settled into family practice.

In her free time, Debbie loves to read. She also enjoys quilting, crocheting, and knitting. Debbie has four grandchildren: two granddaughters in Piqua, a granddaughter in Florida, and a grandson in Pennsylvania. Debbie also loves spending time with her dog, Bella, a darling little shih-poo.

In 2011, Debbie and David decided to start attending church. They visited several before finding their home at the Trinity Lutheran Church. At this time, David, who had never really attended church, was baptized. They attended this church for eight years.

In 2019, Debbie and David decided to move back to Troy. She says that Pennsylvania never really felt like home. As soon as David retired, they moved as quickly as possible. Debbie feels like she has always been a Buckeye, and she enjoys being closer to some of her grandchildren.

As soon as they moved, Debbie and David started looking for a new church home. They had loved their little Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania, and they were looking for something that was a similar size and traditional style. They visited several local churches before finding their home at St. John's. They knew we were the church for them right away. Debbie loves how St. John's feels like such a family. She says, "It just feels right, and that's really what we were looking for."

PRAYER LIST

HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERING AT HOME, and OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Dennis Schmidt	Jack Besecker	Jerry Schroeder
Darla Brumfield	Roger Colby	Marian Fenner
Judy Fletcher	Keith Fletcher	Harold Roeth
Sally Griffin	Uta Schroder	Erica Hollopeter
Leon Hollopeter	Ann Horman	Linda Iddings
Helen Kellar	Bill McKibben	Jim Perry
Gloria & Dick Hahn	Luella Roeth	Kathy Short

IN EXTENDED CARE

Linda Morrow (Cincinnati)

FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS

Paula Hahn (daughter-in-law of Richard & Gloria Hahn)
Larry & Tracy Laub (friend of Jim Perry)
Howard Chaney (friend of Jim Perry)
Bernice Davis (cousin of Jim Perry)
Jack McCoy (friend of King family)
Molly Luciano (friend of Jim Larson)
Owen Gauntt (friend of Dawn Flory)
Joe Schoen (cousin of Laura Schmidt)
Mary Brady (friend of Laura Schmidt)
Gary Holfinger (son of Opal Holfinger)
Joanne Schmidt (mother of Jim Schmidt)
Toni Riley (friend of Mindy Gearhardt)
Bill Sherer (father of Briana King)
Mikey Perry (friend of Jim Perry)
Pastor Jonathan Schriber
Joel Miller (Connie Adams' brother-in-law)
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burlieson (friends of Jim Perry)
Asher Cantrell (grandson of Stephanie Wood)
Jean Sherer (grandmother of Briana King)
Kenton Stacy (grandson of Wanda Stacy)
Michael Laub & Family (friends of Jim Perry)
Betsy Kraft (daughter of Mary Ann Francis)
Kennedy Kraft (granddaughter of Mary Ann Francis)
Family of Kellie Mahaney (friend of Mindy Gearhardt)
Teachers as they await vaccination and continue to find ways to teach and care for students in these days



FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE ARMED FORCES

Faith King- Army- Bravo 1-134th Field Artillery, Piqua, OH
(niece of Brooks and Briana King)
Brandon Moyer – Navy, Pyndell AFB, Florida
Jon Osterman- Army
Cory Purvis- Army, Alaska (Pattie Perry's grandson)
LT Mary Strade- USS Bainbridge- deployed (sister of Laura Schmidt)
Tristin Stangel- Marines, New River Air Station, North Carolina

SCRIPTURE

Sunday, March 7, 2021

First Reading:

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm:

Psalm 19 (8)

Second Reading:

I Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel:

John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 14, 2021

First Reading:

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm:

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19)

Second Reading:

Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel:

John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 21, 2021

First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm:

Psalm 51:1-12 (10) or

Psalm 119:9-16 (11)

Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel:

John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm:

Psalm 31:9-16 (5)

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel:

Mark 14:1-15:47 or

Mark 15:1-39[40-47]





Sitting with God in Lent

It is no secret that Lent has felt different this year and last. Ash Wednesday service at-home was certainly unique as it offered a new perspective into the Lenten season in a time when “new” may feel like too much. You all have been getting

to know me, and I have been getting to know you during conversations I’ve delighted in before and after worship or on the phone where I’ve had the chance to hear wonderful stories of lives well-lived.

Yet there has also been so much loss—loss of people and family members in the last few months to a year, loss of familiarity and comfortability in knowing the flow of what is to come every week, month, or even year, both within our communities and in our churches.

Every time a pastor is called to a congregation, there is a sense of things shifting a little as the pastor adjusts to the congregation and vice versa. I have been so blessed, honored, and beyond thankful that you all have received me and welcomed me with such grace; while I also know that new things and new people can be challenging!

With all this swirling a bit in my mind and heart this month, I decided to add a new element to my Lenten devotion this year. As a part of my quiet time of reflection each day, I am praying for a member or small group of members each day of Lent in order to both connect with God, and connect with each one of you! For as you may know, Lent is a time of recentering our focus on God as well as a way of exploring the blessings of God each day. I encourage you all if you don’t already, to find time to sit with God and list out the good things, the hard things, and the people in your life who remind you of God’s presence with you always.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rachel Patterson



“At the cross, God wrapped his heart in flesh and blood and let it be nailed to the cross for our redemption.”

-E. Stanley Jones

A REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY

“BEHIND HIM WERE HIS SERMONS; AHEAD, HIS SUFFERING. BEHIND HIM WERE HIS PARABLES; AHEAD, HIS PASSION. BEHIND HIM WERE HIS SUPPERS OF FELLOWSHIP; AHEAD, HIS LAST SUPPER OF BETRAYAL. BEHIND HIM, THE DELIGHTS OF GALILEE; AHEAD, DARK GETHSEMANE. PROPHECY WAS NOW TO BECOME PRACTICE.”



Excerpt from “Palm Sunday: Hosanna or Crucify him” by Nelson price
www.preaching.com accessed 02/24/2021

Two Horses

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you get a closer look, you will notice that one horse is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is pretty amazing.

If you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell coming from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small, copper-colored bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is so that he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and the blind horse will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.



Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are imperfect or because we have problems or challenges. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God places in our lives. Other times, we are the guide horse, helping others to see the way.

-Author Unknown

St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
February 10, 2021

Present: Holly Turner, Mindy Gearhardt, Brooks King, Chad Reese, Ann Horman, Dave Larson, Derrek Shively, Brandy Hahn, Kevin Marten, Pastor Rachel Patterson

Absent: Scott Gephart

1. Devotions – Devotions were led by Pastor Rachel.
2. Pastor's Report – 23 calls, 10 virtual meetings (includes clergy meetings with other pastors and with synod leaders as well as nonprofit groups). Brooks moved to accept the Pastor's Report, seconded by Kevin. Motion carried.
3. Financial Report – Dave informed council overall we showed a loss of \$2214.19. We were over our budget because we purchased a computer and software for Pastor Rachel. Derrek moves to accept the financial report, seconded by Ann. Motion carried.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Property – The property committee has been looking into some improvements, repairs and general upkeep around the church and Eagles Nest. Rick has gotten a quote from Brian Bros for the interior column capitals and exterior cleaning of the church. The gold refinish is a time-consuming project with cleaning, prep and painting. This was last done in 1991. The exterior includes pressure washing, seal/caulking, spot painting (underneath the cross, for instance), refastening flashing and cleaning off the bell tower. It was noticed last summer that the caulking was pulling away on the rose window--this will keep the water from coming in on the interior altar wall (has happened in the past). Proper care of the Dryvit is just ensuring things are periodically cleaned and sealed. Brian Bros. is a commercial, insured contractor. They've done our work for about 20 years and are very familiar with the building. Rick would be on-site for all work. Hemm's replaced a broken window in the church office meeting room. Also, in the church office, new wiring was run to the meeting room air conditioner and the copier. There had been, at some point, a fire inside the copier receptacle. Both are now on grounded, separate circuits. We will need to replace our old 60-amp panel with a 100-amp panel to stay safe. That is in process and will be in the \$1500 range. We've repaired a number of electrical problems since last summer. This is important to make sure that all are safe and functional and not necessarily renovation. Rick is also in the process of receiving a quote on the ceiling fans in the sanctuary. The fan closest to the chancel has a bearing noise.
 - i. Brooks moves to accept the electrical repairs that are in process, seconded by Brandy. Motion carried.
 - ii. Holly moves to accept the exterior cleaning by Brian Bros. with the estimate of \$6,120, seconded by Chad. Motion carried.
 - iii. Holly moves to accept the interior painting by Brian Bros. with the estimate of \$1,300, seconded by Derrek. Motion carried.
 - b. Social Ministry – The committee met and assembled cards. The committee plans on meeting monthly (3rd Saturday at 1:30) and to include thinking of you and

sympathy cards when it is appropriate. Social Committee plans to work with Laura and the youth on a project for the shut ins for Easter.

- c. Youth – Pastor Rachel and Laura met virtually to discuss activities for the youth. The Yak with the Youth has been moved to February 21. The youth are asked to bring something from home that reflects something about them. They also discussed first communion/confirmation.
5. Old Business
 - a. Review of Safety Procedures
 - i. In-person Worship – Rick brought in Mike Caldwell to look into the mic issue we have been having with the online viewing.
 - ii. Sunday School – First Communion and confirmation will be starting. The youth will be expected to wear a mask and be socially distant.
 - b. Congregational Meeting – The date has been set for February 28, 2021.
 - c. Lenten Services
 - i. Ash Wednesday – Families will come up as a group and Pastor will impose the ashes using a Q-tip. Pastor Rachel has also worked on a part of the service for those watching online so that they can take part in the imposition of ashes.
 - ii. Lenten Services – The services will be more singing than what has been done in the past. These services along with the Holy Week services will be held in person along with the online viewing platform.
6. New Business
 - a. Financial Secretary update – a couple of council members have reached out to Dave to discuss what the Financial chair entails.
 - b. Apps/software for church management
 - i. Planning Center – This could be used for any group within the church and find emails/phone numbers. Pastor Rachel is possibly going to use the free version to help her keep track of information.
 - ii. Sundays and Seasons – This is a yearly subscription and we would have access to the liturgy, all hymnals, artwork, etc. This fee is approximately \$400-450. This also depends on your congregation size. Council will look into this and come back next month to discuss.
 - iii. Zoom – With the bible study coming up council discussed the possibility of purchasing a Zoom account. Brooks moves to purchase a zoom account, seconded by Kevin. Motion carried.
 - c. Church use request – We have had some requests from non-members asking about a bridal shower and a possible wedding in July. These two activities are not for the same party. At this time council feels that since we are not using our basement for our own needs then we should not allow non-members. Also, with Covid regulations it would be difficult to monitor that regulations and safeguards are being met.
6. Adjournment – Holly moves to adjourn, seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. Council adjourned by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Turner