



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

5th & Race Streets (P.O. Box B), Mifflinville, PA

E-Mail: stjohnsmifflin@verizon.net

www.stjohnmifflinvillelutheran.com

Church Office: (570) 752-2289

Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

February / March 2025

Volume # 62; Number # 55

From the Pastor's Desk.

"Like sands through the hourglass, so are the Days of our Lives" -This famous slogan from the soap opera, "Days of our Lives" really reflects how pastors feel during the season between Advent and Lent. It seems only yesterday that I wrote a Pastor column about the Christmas season and now, I am writing about Lent. However, this time, I'd like to focus on a more current topic which I have been asked by numerous congregation members my opinion about a certain movie, and so, I would like to address in my column for this newsletter the topic of the movie, Bonhoeffer, which premiered in theaters at the beginning of December this past year.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he was born into a wealthy family at Breslau, Germany (now Poland), in 1906, before the start of World War 1. His father was a psychiatrist-neurologist and an outspoken critic of the theories and methods of Sigmund Freud, while his mother was a teacher and the granddaughter of a famous Prussian Lutheran theologian. He was one of eight siblings, with him having a twin sister. Dietrich had a very good education and started to pursue his theology degree when he was fourteen. He was also gifted musically which he could play the piano by age eight and the local Philharmonic Society played some of his orchestra writings when he was eleven. However, tragedy struck the family when the second son, Walter, was killed in action early in World War 1.

Bonhoeffer received his Doctor of Theology from the University of Berlin in 1927 and then decided to study abroad in the United States. In 1930, he studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and was dismayed by the poor quality and the unwillingness of the students to seriously engage in deep theological studies. It was at Union Seminary, Bonhoeffer became friends with Frank Fischer, a black seminary student who invited him to come to the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. One night, Bonhoeffer heard the preaching of the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Sr. who preached upon the "Social Justice" and hearing the words of the African-American Spirituals, which he fell in love with, knew that the church back in Germany needed to become more active in the society which was changing in a very dangerous direction with the rise of the Nazi party.

Bonhoeffer returned to a much different Germany in 1931 and was involved with the controversies of the National Synod and he was ordained as a Lutheran pastor of youth in 1931. In 1932, The Church-Wide Assembly of the German National Church held its Conference and overwhelmingly elected a new Presiding Bishop which was supported by the Nazi Party, though it was not specifically labeled as such. Bonhoeffer and a few others broke ranks with the National Church and formed a "Confessing Church" to preserve the traditions and beliefs of the one, true Lutheran Church. They also started their own Seminary for training new pastors who did not agree with the government-sponsored Church, but this was closed and the professors arrested.

Bonhoeffer was eventually arrested in 1943 on charges of being suspicious in his loyalties to the Nazi Party, even though he did not participate in any of the assassination plots that were going on during the war. His role with the Abwehr was mainly to be a type of ambassador to other countries and organizations through his ecumenical work with the churches. Bonhoeffer used these connections to funnel messages to the foreign governments about life in Germany, the Holocaust and German military matters that he was aware of from overheard information by others in the Abwehr. After 1943, he was placed under arrest and held in Tegel Prison where he waited for a year and a half to be brought to trial. He had freedom of movement in the Prison and access to writing materials which he wrote several books and treatises which are available today. On April 8th, 1945, Bonhoeffer was found guilty by a SS judge and was sentenced to be hanged with other members of the Abwehr who were convicted as traitors. He was transferred to Flossenbürg Concentration camp and hanged: one week before the Americans liberated the camp.

The movie based on the biography book by Eric Metaxas, has been very controversial in its portrayal of Bonhoeffer and the family descendants have said that parts were just plain fictional. It is hard to make a movie exciting and historically accurate within a two-hour time span, especially one like Bonhoeffer, who is a very complicated person. A movie goer needs to understand the condition of Germany and especially the National Church from World War 1 through World War 2. Plus, we need to examine his writings which gives us a glimpse into his faith journey and that is what we will do during the season of Lent and in our Thursday afternoon Study group which meets at St. John's on Thursdays at 2:00 PM. We will be breaking down the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and how his faith was shaped by the events of the day and how Nazi Germany easily took over the Church, schools and other organizations during the time leading up to World War 2. It should help to fill in the gaps that the movie leaves out. Until next time, may all of us have a very blessed winter and a happy season of Epiphany!

Pastor Dan.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 PM**. Anyone who has experienced grief due to the recent or past death of a loved one is welcome to attend. This is an informal group whose purpose is to talk about any issues group members may be experiencing related to loss. Refreshments will be served.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled blood drive will be on **Wednesday, February 12th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.

BELL / VOCAL CHOIRS

On **Thursday evenings**, Bell Choir will meet at **6:00 PM** with Vocal Choir meeting afterwards at **7:00 PM**. We can always use new members to one or both choirs. We are not professionals, just like-minded people who love music and being involved in a group.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet at 1:00 PM on Thursdays. All are welcome to attend.

FELLOWSHIP & EVANGELISM NEWS

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION - The first Sunday of each month has been designated as "Fill the Shelves" Sunday. St. John's will continue to collect canned goods and non-perishable items for Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine. Your generosity is supporting a vital and much appreciated ministry in our community. You can place your items in the collection bags at any of the church entrances. ~ Thank You! *(Please remember to check the expiration dates on your donations)

THE WELCOME TABLE- is a place where someone can get a free meal without judgment or discrimination. It relies solely on the generosity and donations of other's and volunteers. In December we served 108 meals and 108 Christmas Cookie bags. In January we made macaroni and cheese and turkey and ham barbeque. We served 100 guests. The remaining pan of macaroni and cheese and BBQ was delivered to Orangeville Manor for our veterans. Upcoming meals will be held on **February 8th and March 8th - 10:30am – Noon. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH** for your dedication and support to this ministry! Sign-up sheets are in the rear of the sanctuary, or you can call Lydia to volunteer. Please Note: For now, drop off times for donations will be on **Thursday's from 5:30 – 6:30 before the day of the meal and Saturday, the morning of, at 9:00 am. (unless otherwise announced)**

GATHERING TIME-The first Gathering time was very enjoyable. We got to meet some new friends and catch up with our old friends! We are looking forward to our next Gathering time on **February 9th following worship**. There will be light refreshments

If you would like to volunteer to bring a light snack(cookies, donuts, cake) please give the office or Lydia Ferro a call and she'll sign you up! Looking forward to seeing you!

SHROVE TUESDAY & BURNING OF THE PALMS-March 4th, 2025 at 6:00 PM. St John's will be hosting the Shrovetide meal of Pancakes & Sausage prepared by the F&E committee, followed by burning of the palms, weather permitting of course. Please sign up on the sheet in the rear of the church, or call the church office if you will be attending.

LENTEN MEAGER MEALS- During the season of Lent we will again be having the Sunday evening meager meal beginning at 6:00 PM. There is a sign up sheet in the rear of the church if you are willing to volunteer to make a meal. **St. John's will host on March 9th, March 23rd, and April 6th. Faith United In Nescopeck will host on March 16th and March 30th.** (A meager meal consist of soup, BBQ, sandwiches, pizza, or something simple with a light dessert.)

HOAGIE SALES

St. John's will be having a hoagie sale on **Wednesday, March 6th. Pick up time will be 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Payment will be collected when hoagies are picked up. Ham & Turkey \$8.00, and American \$9.00. All hoagies will have onion packets included. Last day for orders is Friday, February 28th. 10% of all proceeds will go to the Red Cross.**

CHICKEN AND WAFFLES

Our next Chicken & Waffle Dinner will take place on **Saturday, March 22nd from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.** Take outs only. 10% of the proceeds will go to Agape in Bloomsburg. Prices remain at \$12.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 6-12, and under 6 meals are free.

JOSEPH MASSINA TURNS 101!

Joseph Massina will be celebrating his birthday of **101 years on February 14th**. Please consider flooding him with cards. His address is: Celebration Villa of Berwick Room #145, Berwick PA.18603

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY and MARCH 2025

1. February 2nd – Presentation of our Lord
2. March 2st – Transfiguration Sunday
3. March 2nd - Camp Mount Luther Sunday- St. John's only
4. March 4th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and burning of Palms – 6:00 pm
5. March 5th – Ash Wednesday FUEL – 12:00 noon- St. John's 7:00 pm
6. March 6th – Hoagie Sale
7. March 9th – First Lenten Soup/Sandwich – St. John 6:00 pm – mini service theme is Bonhoeffer and his theological life.
8. March 9th - Women in Ministry. Girl Scout Sunday.
9. March 16th – Lenten Soup/Sandwich – FUEL 6:00 pm
10. March 22nd – Chicken and Waffles – St. John's.
11. March 23rd – Lenten Soup/Sandwich – St. John's 6:00 pm
12. March 30th – Lenten Soup/Sandwich – FUEL 6:00 pm
13. April 6th – Lenten Soup/Sandwich – St. John's 6:00 pm
14. April 13th – Palm Sunday
15. April 17th – Maundy Thursday – FUEL 7:00 pm
16. April 18th – Good Friday – FUEL 12:00 pm- St. John's 7:00 pm
17. April 20th – Easter Morning - St. John's 9:00 am- FUEL 10:45 am
Easter egg hunt at St. John's following worship service.

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025

President: Angela Traugh	Liz Shotwell
Vice President: Valerie Lynn	Tina Baucher
Secretary: David Ferro	Sharon Bachman
Treasurer: Wendy Zajac	Donald Bogert
Paul Zajac	Janet Gibney

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EATON ABOUT THE WILDFIRES

Dear Church,

The images of leaping flames, smoke-choked skies, and the wreckage of homes and habitats in and around Los Angeles are hard to bear. The ongoing, deadly California wildfires have claimed lives, displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and destroyed homes, businesses, schools and houses of worship. The devastation continues as winds spread the flames. So far we know that Bishop Brenda Bos of the Southwest California Synod and her wife, Janis, lost their home in the Eaton fire. We believe that the fires have touched the lives of many more ELCA members and several congregations as the synod continues to receive damage reports and assess the immediate needs for support.

The prophet Isaiah writes that even when fires rage, the final word is faith, not fear. God redeems us and calls us by name to be agents of healing and hope, even amid staggering loss. In faith, we respond through prayer, accompaniment and action.

Please join me in praying that God's love and care be manifest among all who are impacted by these wildfires. Pray for the firefighters battling unrelenting blazes and for first responders, health care providers and public servants providing safety and support for those impacted. Pray for ELCA ministries as they care for the many needs of their communities. Pray for the long-term well-being of all who are affected by the widespread devastation and who face ongoing danger.

[Learn](#) how your church is responding and how you can get involved.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THANK YOU FROM CAMP VICTORY

Hello St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation in support of Camp Victory. Camp Victory utilizes your generous donation to provide a magical camping experience for our campers, who face many daily challenges. Here at Camp Victory, life-long friendships are formed, and love and dancing with joy make every day special!

Your generous contribution makes it possible for us to maintain and prepare our facility for our special campers! Your support is so important in making the Camp Victory experience fun, memorable, and life-changing! Thank you for being a part of this journey and for helping us make a difference in the lives of our campers

Without our campers' smiles and without your wonderful support, Camp Victory's mission would not be possible.

Gratefully Yours,
Kate Stepnick
Executive Director
Camp Victory

USSWO Day of Learning and Renewal

Brushstrokes of Faith and Strength

The USS Women's Organization invites you to join us on Saturday, April 26th at Salem Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove for a day of Learning and Renewal while helping Women at Risk Survivors. The event will begin with registration at 9:30 am. Following an opening at 10:00 am, Judy Mummau will lead everyone in painting a picture of three crosses on a hillside during sunset (see picture on flyer). Lunch will be provided. After lunch, Judy will paint a picture and tell a Bible story. The day will end around 2:00 pm with a closing. Throughout the day, there will be a pop-up shop open where you can buy items and gifts that will support the Women at Risk Survivors International. The cost for the day will be \$25.00 which includes all of your painting supplies and lunch. Pre-registration and payment are due by April 1st.

Flyers containing more information and registration forms will be on the rear table of the sanctuary.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Emily Detterbeck 3
Richard Huntington 3
Jessica Mowery 10
Joseph Detterbeck 13
Joseph Massina 14
Vinniedee Hippensteel 22
Valerie Lynn 27

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Karen Bird 1
Laura Mausteller 2
Chris Leiby 3
Mitchell Johnson 4
Carolyn Bahlavooni 5
Scarlett Zaneline 7
Mark Young 8
Gianna Keck 8
Judy Ohl 16
Benjamin Yoder 19
Dan Lynn 20
Cole Shotwell 21
Jace Traugh 24
Deborah Huntington 25
Barbara Schneider 25
David Bird 26

John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box B
Mifflinville, Pa. 18631

St. John's Mission Statement

*"We the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
celebrate God with us as we worship, learn, grow and serve."*

Upcoming Events:

Worship

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2025 - 9:00 am

Shrove Tuesday

Ash Wednesday

Hoagie Sales

Lenten Soup & Sandwich

Chicken & Waffles