

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

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Contents:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Birthdays & Anniversaries | 2 |
| Lutheran Hour | 3 |
| Preschool News | 4 & 5 |
| February Calendar | 6 |

Broken Men, Broken People

Moses, murderer; Samson, serial philanderer; Gideon, spoke with God yet made an ephod and worshiped it instead. David was an adulterer; Jonah ran away from his calling; Peter denied Jesus; Paul actually persecuted the body of Christ – the Church – and by extension, persecuted Jesus himself.

And yet, God called these broken men to bring his people out of slavery, to defend his people from their enemies, to preach repentance and proclaim the promise of a savior. Over and over again, throughout history “God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.” (1Co 1:27 ESV)

And it’s not just weak and sinful leaders that God chooses, he selects broken people as well. He didn’t choose a mighty nation like the Hittites, the Egyptians, the Canaanites, or the Babylonians to bear his name; he chose a 75-year-old, childless man and his wife to turn into a mighty nation.

God chose these people. And yet, not quite 90 days after the ten plagues, after the parting of the Red Sea, after dining on manna from heaven – after seeing God in a pillar of fire that led them, the Israelites made a golden calf began to worship it. Over and over again, throughout history the people of Israel – God’s chosen people – forsook the Lord and “whored after the gods of the peoples of the land.” (1Ch 5:25 ESV)

Broken men, broken people – God chose them in the past and he continues to choose them today. St. Paul wrote, “And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” (1Co 2:3-4 ESV) Every pastor understands this implicitly. The Holy Spirit does not use a man to proclaim the Gospel because of what he is, but in spite of him.

And people to whom the Gospel is proclaimed? “God chose what is foolish..., what is weak... so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” (1Co. 1:27-28 ESV) God isn’t looking for perfect people. He’s not looking for those secure in their righteousness. He’s looking for the weak, the broken so that in Christ they can be healed. That’s the good news of Jesus Christ, the one who was perfect was broken on the cross in order to heal you, to cleanse you, to make you perfect in him.

Broken men, broken people – just as God used the Old Testament prophets to proclaim his Word, just as He used the Children of Israel to be a light to the nations, he uses us today. He takes the Moseses, Samsons, Gideons, Davids, Jonahs, Peters and Pauls, and makes them pastors, leaders, poets, and servants of his Word. As God’s children, we have been entrusted with the service of sharing the good news, of being the means by which the Holy Spirit will bind up the broken that they may be healed. *(Continued p.2)*

(Continued from p. 1)

The month we enter the season of Lent. It's a season of preparation that we might have a fruitful commemoration of the mystery of Easter. It's a time especially in the church year when we focus on breaking off of sinful habits and replacing them with the practice of exercising virtues. It's a time where we, as broken people now healed by the work of Christ on the cross, work by his power to heal the broken relations that still exist between our neighbors and ourselves.

This season of Lent, I ask that you pray for the church. Pray that God would bring all of us to repentance and humility, that he would heal the divisions that exist in his church. And that by his grace, we will all stand firm in the faith until the day of his return.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Bill Kerr | 2 |
| Roger Nuerge | 2 |
| Avis Miller | 3 |
| Jean Taylor | 4 |
| Brett Torres | 11 |
| Joel Nuerge | 12 |
| Justin Nuerge | 12 |
| Luke Bendekovic | 12 |
| Ariana Gremer | 13 |
| Lisa Dietrich | 14 |
| Amber Gremer | 14 |
| Matthew Osten | 16 |
| Ronald Nowry | 17 |
| Skylar DeThomas | 19 |
| Minnie Nowry | 20 |
| Rich Clayton | 21 |
| Allison Bendekovic | 22 |
| Morgan Blank | 24 |
| Hannah Bendekovic | 27 |
| John Dietrich | 28 |
| Aubrey Merkle | 28 |
| Kyle Borgman | 29 |

Baptismal Birthdays

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Kathy Voland | |
| Tom Sigler | |
| George Mesing | 2 |
| Sallie Mannino | 5 |
| Shane Dietrich | 7 |
| Jean Taylor | 9 |
| Joan Coe | 14 |
| Mary Nuerge | 15 |
| Kim Singleton | 21 |
| Roger Nuerge | 22 |
| Brooke Lehman | 22 |
| Lisa Dietrich | 24 |
| Jason Mengel | 24 |
| Becky Mallary | 25 |
| Joel Nuerge | 26 |
| Justin Nuerge | 26 |
| Karen Meinert | 28 |
| Jane Wilson | 28 |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Tom & Cheri Shively | 13 |
| Lorena Hamara & Ron McWilliams | 15 |
| Scott & Beth Lehman | 20 |
| Tom & Aubrey Merkle | 21 |

Servants in Ministry

Greeter

| |
|----------------------------|
| 1-George/Joleen Mesing |
| 8-Robin/Brittany Young |
| 15-Mary Nuerge/Tara Dulski |
| 22-Tom/Colleen Sigler |

Reader

1-OPEN

| |
|-------------------|
| 8-Darryl Gunther |
| 15-Peter Humphrey |

22-OPEN

Acolyte

| |
|-------------------|
| 1-Carrick Skuse |
| 8-Sophia Fatschel |
| 15-Tyler Borgman |
| 22-Cade Skuse |

Audio Visual

| |
|---------------------------|
| 1-D. Gunther/M. Gremer |
| 8-S. Fatschel/D. Eckstrom |
| 15-J. Ciccone/M. Gremer |
| 22-L. Gunther/D. Eckstrom |

Altar Guild

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Linda Weimer & Mary Nuerge |
|-------------------------------|

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following members & friends in your prayers:

- Prayers of thanks for the arrival of Brogan Adam Sell, Faye Brockmiller's new grandson born on January 9th at 8 lbs, 12 oz and is incredibly healthy and amazingly beautiful.
- Erich Borgman recent surgery
- Skylar DeThomas for concussion
- Twila DeThomas's 12 year old niece, Khia, diagnosed with osteosarcoma;
- Continued prayers of healing for Chuck Taylor, Sue Szabo, Carl Blank, Zelda Parks, Carol Helkowski and Willis Voland's sister Betty Ann; Margaret Rombold, Milt Scott, and Twila DeThomas' stepfather battling cancer.

The Lutheran Hour—February Sermon Schedule

February 1 -- **"Boring? Not Likely!"**

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Jesus' enemies considered Him too dangerous to let live, but we have wrapped the Savior in a cloak of dullness. (Mark 1:21-28)

February 8 -- **"The Gospel's Power for Gracious Living"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Christ empowers His followers to live lives that encourage, affirm, and serve others. (1 Corinthians 9:18-23)

February 15 -- **"Searching for Love - Listen to Jesus"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus is God's love in action for you. Listen to Him! (Mark 9)

February 22 -- **"Regrets, Reality, and Grace-filled Restoration"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Through Christ's forgiveness, regrets give way to restoration. (Luke 15)

PoP Sweethearts

Valentine's Day is a special holiday where we remember the sweetest people in our lives. Take a moment to update your address books with contact information for the following members and maybe even send them a special Valentine!

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carl Blank | 107 Jessica Dr., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 |
| Joan Bowen | 134 Marwood Rd., Lund Care Center, Apt. 1801, Cabot, PA 16023 |
| Cora Harris | 615 N. Pike Rd., Oertel Hall, Rm. 102, Cabot, PA 16023 |
| Minnie Nowry | Paramount Senior Living, 500 Seven Fields Blvd., Mars, PA 16046 |
| Zelda Parks | 6485 Nimishillen Church St., Canton OH 44721 |
| Margaret Rombold | 161 Brunner Rd., Zelienople, PA 16063 |
| Ross Shively | 104 Pappan Business dr., Apt. 329, Beaver Falls PA 15010 |
| June Shively | 257 Georgetown Rd., Beaver Falls, PA 15010 |
| Cliff Teets | 100 Norman Dr., Sherwood Oaks, Cranberry PA 16066 |

50 + Dinner

February's 50+ Dinner will be on Friday, February 20th, at 6:00 PM at Atria's in Wexford. Please sign up by Sunday, February 15th if you can join us. We would love to have more people join us and that includes singles and couples!! Please use the sign up that is posted in the hall on the bulletin board. Hope to see you there!

January Preschool News ... Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

Well it is that time of year again, when we get the snow suits out and dress children over and over again! I love a good snowball fight and making snow angels in the fresh fallen snow! Winter is definitely here! The children are all busy working on their alphabet books and their number books. They have grown in so many ways since the beginning of the school year. You should be very proud! We are! I will say that I do believe that they have spring fever and the teachers do too!!! They have a lot of energy to run off so we have been doing just that. We have been playing musical snowflakes and snowmen in the fellowship hall with many balls and some hockey nets. Boy they have been enjoying that!!! It's also great exercise for the teachers. Our Bible lesson for the month was Noah's Ark.

Three year olds

The three year olds lesson for this month was Nursery Rhymes. I was glad to see that some of them knew some! We did some fun activities too. Mitten Matching, Mitten Measurement and Musical Snowflakes! Wow did they like that! We even wished upon our own stars! This is such a fun unit to do with them. We had a lot of fun with the kids. Thanks for sharing them with us.

Four year olds

The four year old's lesson for the month are hibernation and rhyming words. Once they caught on to the rhyming, they had a lot of fun with it! We even made up silly rhyming words, like Dr. Seuss is known for! The children had so much fun with this! We discussed the many animals that sleep for the winter and how other animals prepare for the winter and we talked about how we prepare for the winter too. We are still working hard on our number and alphabet books. We have started printing our names in upper and lower case letters. Everyone is doing a great job and time is sure flying.

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

January Preschool News . . . Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila**HAPPY 2015!!!**

Both preschool classes jumped right back into each school day after a quick “show and tell”. All the boys and girls were permitted to bring his or her favorite Christmas gift to show the class. Toys were definitely the most popular type of gift that the children brought from home.

It was nice during the month of January to have full weeks of instruction again since the holiday season is over. The only thing we are battling now is “Mother Nature”. Is spring coming yet? Please stay warm and safe during the rest of this winter. Both classes sure were busy all month. We learned four new letters during our writing skills lessons during January. We learned the letters; N, Y, D, and Z. During the N week we talked about the “New Year” and even made a 2015 card to take home. Towards the middle of the month we focused on animals that hibernate. We talked about what it means to hibernate and which animals typically do so. We always have crafts that go with lessons and even our three year old class took home a book about hibernation. This time of year it’s hard to keep the distractions to a minimum, but when it was time for a science project about the five senses, the boys and girls sure were attentive. The sense of “taste” was so cool to play with. Students were encouraged and given the opportunity to taste food items that were: sweet, sour, bitter, and salty. We really had their attention during this activity. In addition to taste the students learned about sight, sound, smell, and touch. Our job is so easy when we have all these eager learners.

As always, both classes had a Bible lesson to focus on. We held Chapel again at the end of the month, where the children got to show and sing the song *Get in the Ark*, which is about Noah’s Ark and why he built it. In the song it talks about the animals entering two by two. A cow, duck, and pig were three examples we taught the children of animals that entered the Ark. The students also learned that God created a rainbow in the sky and that was his promise never to flood the Earth again. The boys and girls really participated in a question and answer segment Miss Twila held asking detailed questions about our theme in January, Noah’s Ark.

We always try to take a moment to thank the friends, families, and neighbors who attend Chapel with our children. The children feel really special as they stand in front of everyone and sing. January was a fun and exciting month during preschool. We are gearing up for a very busy February too. Our time with the four year olds is half over, which makes us push toward preschool graduation so that they may be ready to enter kindergarten. 2015-2016 Registration forms for both three year old and four year old preschool classes are being accepted now. Please contact one of us at the preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

Until Next Month!**God Bless,****Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila**

February 2015

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Liturgy Bible Study after service | 2 | 3 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ | 4 11:00 Midweek Bible Study | 5 7:00 Choir | 6 | 7 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 8 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Liturgy Bible Study after service | 9 6:30 Council | 10 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ | 11 11:00 Midweek Bible Study | 12 7:00 Choir | 13 | 14 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion VOTERS' MEETING | 16 | 17 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ | 18 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service | 19 7:00 Choir | 20 | 21 6:30 Holy Communion |
| 22 1 st Sunday in Lent 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion Liturgy Bible Study after service | 23 7:00 Elders Meeting | 24 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ | 25 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Lent Service | 26 7:00 Choir | 27 | 28 6:30 Holy Communion |