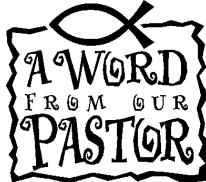


The St. John's Messenger

Volume 145 Issue 2

www.stjohnsmc.com

February 2015



RE-LENT LENT 2015

Lent is a season to refocus on our relationship with Christ. If we are honest with ourselves, we all neglect spending time with Christ. We take him for granted. Just ask yourself when and how you honor Christ in your day-to-day life. An honest reflection on that question will direct you to an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord.

It is easy to see what part of our life isn't surrendered to Christ. One way to refocus on Christ is to repent. Repentance basically means to acknowledge that Christ is right about my sin and I am wrong to disobey him. Repentance is to realign my thinking and my actions to reflect the leadership of Christ in my life.

Acts 26:20 declares, "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds." The full biblical definition of repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of action.

The theme for this season of Lent is "Re-Lent" which can be a play on the word "relent." To relent we may have to let go of the old to reengage a new vision of what God requires of us.

During Lent we may need to **RESTART, REVIVE, REFORM, REFRESH, REUNITE, RENEW, REBUILD** various aspects of our relationship with Christ.

I invite you to choose how you will prepare to **RE-LENT** of that which must be discarded and **REFRESH** a new trust in Christ.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th with worship in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. Each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening we will consider how we may "**RE-LENT**" and **RENEW** a closer walk with Christ.

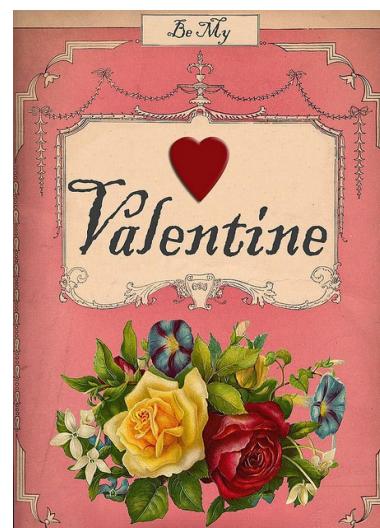
*In service to Christ,
Pastor Bill*



THANKS TO ALL OF YOU !

St. John's members and friends once again joined together in the annual Peanut Brittle/Giving project---and the outcome again this year was a joyful one. Each Thursday morning that the kitchen crew worked, they gathered to ask God to bless this project with a good outcome, and he surely did!! As stated earlier, all the profits would be donated to community agencies where our Michigan City brothers and sisters could be assisted.

Thank-you's once again to Ed Beutner who once again donated all the peanuts for this project. (Say thank you to him if you stop by his business for that Albanese candy!!) Also, a St. John's couple donated all the sugar. We are thankful to these individuals, to the kitchen crew, the office staff, Mr. Rod, the Women's Guild, and all of you who purchased. See you next year!!!



DESSERTS NEEDED!

Your delicious desserts are needed for Monday, February 23rd, for the Men's Shelter. Please contact Lynda, 872-1427, if you are able to help! *Thank you very much!*

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Having residents of Lifecare Center join in prayer and singing carols
- Serving soup kitchen lunches at St. Paul's with community members, including teens
- Delivering Christmas greetings and cookies from the Women's Guild
- Ongoing support of New Disciple's Tuesday Soup Kitchen
- Planning to cook and serve at the Monday evening Men's Shelter
- Raising funds for mosquito nets and clean water.

Thank you to all who share the life and love of Jesus for remembering our mission to serve with your gifts and memorials as we work together in 2015! --*Missions*



UPCOMING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

February 1, Communion: Dunebrook Center

February 18, Ash Wed. Salv. Army, Gift of Warmth



RUMMAGE SALE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS! APRIL 30—MAY 2, 2015

(set-up April 27 – 29, 2015)

It's never too soon to start saving your treasures for our annual Rummage Sale! Plan on offering a helping hand when we begin setting up, or on sale days. Your help is always very greatly appreciated!

VBS PLANNING MEETING

It is that time again to start planning for this summer's VBS week! If anyone is interested in being part of the 2015 VBS Task Force, please join us at 11:30 in the library on Sunday, February 1st. If you are unable to attend but would like to be apart of this planning team, or have any questions regarding VBS, please contact Lisa Kay Swartz at 219-229-8461.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Where: The Salvation Army
1201 S. Franklin Street

When: Sunday, March 1st, 2:00 p.m.
To pray for the Bahamas

Please join us for this community event!
All are welcome. Refreshments to follow.

FEBRUARY FOOD BANK

Needed are:

Soaps

Soaps

Cereals

Sauces

As always, your generosity is very greatly appreciated!

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

The Alzheimer's Association hosts support groups here at St. John's the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings are February 12th and March 12th. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the Adobe Room. For more information, call the Alzheimer's Helpline, 800-272-3900.

USHERS

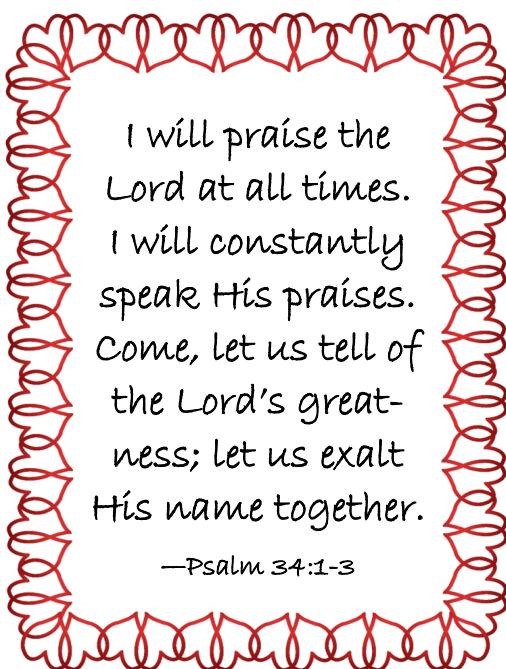
Ushers for the month of February are Paul Beebe,
Jack Fischbacher, Joe Dabkowski,
Craig Schroeder

GIVING

In this season, many hearts are open to giving. We can trust that God sees our giving. He doesn't need a plaque or a printed announcement to remember what we have given. The Bible provides many verses to help us give the right way. Matthew 6:1-4 shows us how we should give quietly, even secretly, and promises that God will reward us for our giving. Acts 5 gives us one of the most memorable examples of the wrong way to give in Ananias and Sapphira: they gave the impression of donating the full value of the land they sold while they secretly held back part of the proceeds. 2 Corinthians 9:7 tells us how we should give cheerfully the amount we have decided in our heart without any feeling of compulsion.

BLOODMOBILE

The next Bloodmobile will be on Tuesday, February 7th, at St. John's, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule your blood donation appointment.



DONATION CONSOLIDATION POLICY

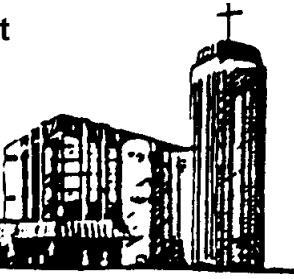
Owing to the fact that many donations to the Church for particular, specific purposes have been sitting idle due to insufficient funds to achieve that purpose, any donation to the Church will now go into one of the four following categories: Worship & Arts; Christian Nurture, Church Mission, or Building & Church Operations. Furthermore, any donations that have been given to the Church in the past for a specific cause that have been insufficient to achieve that cause will be placed in the most relevant of the four categories. This way, the donor's wishes of using their money to do good and serve God will be honored.

CALVARY RADIO, 89.9 F.M.

You are encouraged to tune in to Calvary Radio at 89.9 FM to benefit from their teaching programs and music all week long. Their programs may be the only way some people have to hear the Bible taught chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts by mailing a donation to them so they can keep spreading the gospel over the airwaves at: Calvary Radio Network 150 W. Lincolnway, Ste 2001, Valparaiso, IN 46383, or making a donation online at <http://www.calvaryradionetwork.com/Support.html>



St. John's United Church of Christ
101 St. John Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-9121



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MICHIGAN CITY, IN
PERMIT NO. 96

Return Service Requested



VALENTINE GREETINGS

Valentine greetings I joyfully send.
With a very good wish to a very good friend.
With the hope that the day, may be joyous and gay,
And leave you sweet memories to gladden each day

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Valentine's Day, February 14th

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Desserts for Men's Shelter,

Monday, February 23rd

Daylight Savings Time begins, March 8th

First day of Spring, March 20th

Palm Sunday, March 29th

Good Friday, April 3rd

Easter Sunday, April 5th

Spring Rummage Sale,
April 30th - May 2nd

