

# St. John's News



## Balm for February

It's February. Somehow, the shortest month of the year can feel like the longest for some of us. Joy is always good salve for the soul, any month of the year. February, too. Psalm 37 speaks of sheer delight and joy. What brings that kind of happiness? How we answer probably says a great deal about our truest beliefs and values – what's really going on within us. Money? Power? Friendship? Security? Love? These can all be good and useful things, even essential for there to be a sense of having a peaceable life. They're all a little bit slippery too, though. Here today, gone tomorrow. Crises, disasters, pandemics, disturbances can rob us of things that took a lifetime to work toward.

About 1600 years ago, Augustine spoke of a delight that lasts, and what the Psalmist is describing: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Everything we see now is in some sense, 'here today, gone tomorrow.' Only God lasts. Only God remains. Nothing really satisfies except the One whose image we bear – the One who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us. As a friend of mine in seminary shared with me once over pizza during lunch (both of us devouring the pizza because we were so hungry!), "This pizza's good... but if they somehow gave us all the pizza in the world, I don't think I'd be very happy about that!" Sheer delight, the truth about happiness, what really satisfies in this life, is the God who knows us.

We experience something of heaven on earth as our hearts would be opened to God, giving ourselves permission to let the joy of God occupy us. (Even a little joy from God goes a long way!) God brings true delight and joy. God brings what really satisfies. Even in midst of so much that might be unsatisfying or joyless, God promises not to desert us, or leave us. God is faithful. Whatever grief, burdens, pains – or worse – we might experience, Christ already carries it, too, and is with us in midst of it.

The Lord be with you always,  
Pastor Matt Wheeler +

## Remembering in our Prayers...

+ The family and friends of Irene Fry, finished her baptismal journey, December 30<sup>th</sup>

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## THANK YOU

From Betsy Roberts- Thank you for all the prayers, encouraging comments, and cards I received during my recent hospitalization and recovery. The St. John's congregation has always treated John and me like family. We so much appreciate the love and warmth that have come our way from St. John's throughout the years.

From the Funeral Luncheon Committee- Thank you to the family of Irene Fry for their donation.

From The Ringers and Pealers Handbell Choirs- We would like to thank fellow bell choir member, Wayne Wensinger, for locating and donating the new lights to brighten our music notebooks. Thanks, Wayne!

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February Birthdays- Sharon Evans, Kim Ramirez, Alise Tooman, Mary Boroff, Violet Boroff, Mindy Brown, Terry Frey, Bob Adams, Anne Overmyer, Henry Boroff, Abby Offenburg, Mark Walther, Jali Wojdyla, Riley Wojdyla, Steve Thurn, Nancy Whipple, Zach Baker, Trudi Tooman, Betty Zoeller, Greg Lindsay, Pat Ramirez, Jack Whipple, Maury Gnepper, Anne Gulau, La Rae Bryant, Chloe Weiker, Shari Bachelder, Amy Boling, Mike Bower, Mike Baker, Jill Walker, Ruth Berger, Marge Fought, Jordan Walther, Amy Eberhard, Lorrie Smith, McKenna Boling, Tristan Boling, Marian Ried, Cooper Schwochow.

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**February Anniversaries-** Darl & Debbie Schiets, Don & Ann Bixler, James & Trudi Tooman, Walter & Joyce King, Mark & Susan King.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:**

We welcome Mrs. Roberts back for our opening and thank Diane for her help with the Christmas program. We have a wonderful time singing and praising the Lord. We are still a small but mighty group as we learn about God's love for his people. The Pre-school through third grade are learning about Jesus' ministry and his miracles. Grades 4-6 are concentrating on the Old Testament lessons.



**Sunday, February 20:** We plan to sing at both services if we have enough children.

**Sunday, February 27:** For Sunday School we will have all youth, grades pre-school - high school participate in some lessons together to learn more about Lent beginning at 9:15 am. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to come downstairs and participate with us.

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### **MITTEN TREE:**

Thank you for the 107 hats, 51 scarves, and 111 mitten/glove donations. We had a beautiful mitten tree this year! We donated most of them to the children in the Fremont City Schools and the rest we are putting out in the St. John's Blessing Box.

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### **TAKING FAITH HOME**

Dave and Sue would like to begin sending the "Taking Faith Home" brochures through e-mail so we can save on postage. We will still mail copies for those that prefer the post office method and we will have copies available in the church office. If you have any email address updates, please send to Sue @ [sulumasa@aol.com](mailto:sulumasa@aol.com) I just started to use the Daily Bible Readings myself this January. They relate to the Sunday Lectionary texts and are another source as a daily devotional for your family. For a busy family this material is not time-consuming either.

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5<sup>th</sup> Qtr. Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room 8:30 – 10:30p.m.  
Jr/Sr High youth and their friends are welcome!!!

## Wii Bowling League

Starting Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

4:30p.m. in the St. John's Youth Room

Award potluck – May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00p.m.



### ST. JOHN'S WEATHER POLICY-

*\*If School is closed due to weather- all Youth activities are cancelled.*

*\*If Sandusky County is under a Level 2- the Office is closed all activities are cancelled except Worship Services.*

*\*If Sandusky County is under Level 3- No Worship Services.*



**LUTHER LUNCH** will meet on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM in the Auditorium for a potluck. Nancy Willis will present a program highlighting some of the information in the Archives.

# LIFT NEWS

**Trinity Update:** Trinity Lutheran Church has voted to dissolve as a congregation. The final regular worship service for Trinity was on January 9 (see right). A lunchtime congregational meeting for Trinity members will be on March 13 at 11:30 at Ole Zim's. A final celebration of ministry will be held outdoors on the former site of Trinity on June 26.



**Pulpit Swap:** Pastor Paul Bailie, from the LIFT Parish, will be preaching at Grace on the weekend of January 22-23. Pastor Mark Bogen will preach at St. Mark that Sunday.

**Drive-Thru Ashes:** On Ash Wednesday (March 2), pastors from LIFT congregations will be available for distribution of ashes in the parking lot of Hayes Memorial UMC from 12-5 PM.. Please stay in your cars. Many of our congregations will also offer in-person worship that day. This drive-thru option is designed to help us be visible in the community and to offer safer worship options.

# Drive-Thru Ashes

March 2, 2022

12-5 PM

**Hayes Memorial  
United Methodist Church  
1441 Fangboner Rd.  
Fremont, OH 43420**



## Bridge of Hope

In Matthew 25:35 (NRSV) Jesus said:

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

When we love our neighbors in these tangible ways we are also loving God. In this new year I invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the LIFT Bridge of Hope food pantry as a way to live out love for God and neighbor. There are many ways you can help with this ministry. Included below are several suggestions for you to prayerfully consider. As

well, feel free to talk to Ministry Coordinator, Ashley Wynn, about any questions you have, or other ways you want to help.

Buy a few extra items every time you visit the grocery store.

Commit to giving a dollar amount each month for purchasing needed supplies for the pantry. Checks need to be made out to LIFT, with Bridge of Hope in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to LIFT Parish 705 W. State St. Fremont 43420.

If you work somewhere that sells food, diapers, or personal care items, inquire about their donation process, and if they would be willing to donate to Bridge of Hope. There is a refrigerator and deep freezer in the pantry.

Donate a package of diapers each month.

Donate extra Bibles or devotionals in good condition that you no longer use. Many people that utilize the pantry appreciate receiving these items.

Organize a food or diaper drive at your business, organization, or place of employment. We will recognize your effort on the LIFT Facebook page, and newsletter.

Organize a service project to make laundry detergent for the pantry.

Volunteer once a month to go with Ashley to pick up food, and restock the pantry.

Pray for those who visit the pantry, and for God's provision for the needs of the pantry.

Volunteer to open the pantry one or more times a month on Thursday mornings (about 9:30AM-11:30AM)

Bridge of Hope and Camino de Vida celebrated Christmas with a Posada, which means lodging in Spanish. This is a traditional Latino celebration to commemorate Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay where Jesus could be born. Festivities included Christmas music performed by Pastor Paul Bailie and Leo; the Christmas story read by Pastor Mary Carmen; a traditional dinner of tamales, rice, and beans; and a piñata. Forty-four guests came, and many expressed their thanks afterwards.

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*Attention All Women!*

*Save the date - Saturday, April 30, 2022 9am - 1pm for our Women of the Eastern Conference which will be held at Zion Lutheran, Sandusky. More information to come.*



LIFT  
Feb. 2022  
Newsletter