

“GLAD TIDINGS”

March 2014

THE SEASON OF LENT

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

We begin the Lenten season on Wednesday, March 5th beginning at 7 pm with the Ash Wednesday Service at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Towanda. The Ash Wednesday service is a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more. This is a service for the imposition of ashes and the remembrance of baptism based on the sermon’s assurance that though we are dust, we are baptized dust, and that makes all the difference.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

- **One Great Hour**—Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Your generous gifts to this Special Offering help provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. One Great Hour of Sharing begins Sunday, March 2nd and is dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an envelope for you donation if you wish to participate in this mission. Envelopes can also be found in the pews.
- **Sacrament of Holy Communion** is on Sunday, March 2nd during the 11:00 am worship service.
- **World Day of Prayer**—Friday, March 7th. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.
- **Daylight Saving Time** begins Sunday, March 9th. Don’t forget to set your clocks up a hour.



Elders for the month of March will be Kim Barnes and Deb King.

PRAYER CIRCLE

We continue our study of Genesis completing Chapters 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45. After Joseph was thrown into the pit, he ended up in Egypt. The Lord was always with him and gave him success in whatever he did. The Pharaoh put him in charge of Egypt. He met up with his brothers when they came to buy grain; however they did not recognize him. He accused them of being spies, and demanded that 1 be kept in prison while the remaining brothers return to Canaan and bring the youngest brother, Benjamin, back with them. Benjamin was the brother of Joseph, the others were step brothers. Joseph had their bags filled with grain and he placed the silver they had used to pay for the grain on the top of the bags. When the brothers discovered this they questioned, what was God doing to them? They thought they were being punished because of what they had done to their brother Joseph. On their 2nd journey they took balm, honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. They also took double the amount of silver. Joseph took them to his house and released Simeon. Joseph was so moved to see his brother, Benjamin, he hurried out of the room and wept. He again had the silver put in their grain sacks, but he had his silver cup put in Benjamin's sack. He bid them farewell and they had not gone far when Joseph sent his steward after them and accused them of stealing the cup. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. They all returned to Egypt, and Joseph advised that the thief of his cup would be his slave. The brothers protested this and said he was the youngest, and the favorite of their father. It would kill their father to lose Benjamin. Joseph was alone with his brothers when he revealed who he was. There was much crying and wailing. He advised his brothers that God had sent him ahead to preserve a remnant on earth and save their lives. He advised them to go back to Canaan and bring my father here. The Pharaoh sent carts to bring the wives, and children and promised them the best of the land in Egypt.

We meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the conference room. Pastor Jira has a wonderful Bible study. We have prayer, sign cards to send to person's needing comfort or cheer. Please join us, you are always welcome.

The following were remembered on our Prayer List

January 29th thru February 19th

Prayer Circle Listing

Angel List

Makayla Evans
Mason Barto
Ashley Weed
Marisa Ivey
Betty Miller
Nancy Irvine
Andrew Pardoe
Deb Mathers
Shawn Mastrantonio
Abbiella Brown
Caiden Irvine
Jim Christini
Carolyn Russell

Current List

Whitney Rockwell
Danny Schmeckenbecher
Marion Lent
Robert Allen
Otto Brown
Gladys Derr
Colleen Close
Jim Allen
Tom Jennings
Cynthia Sims
Rowena McCarthy
Joyce & Carl Rogers
Linda Hartzell

Dale Kress
Jane Wallace
Wilbur Beers
Shirley Strohl
Diane Place
Joyce Danielski
Richard Hollenback
Rebecca Kerstetter
Bob Soper
Donald Bishop Family
Jim Ennis
Evelyn Maryott
Our Nation
Barb Bailey
Frank Lindsey
Harry Chilson Family
Michelle Lamphere
Lynn Kithcart
Mary Lou Vosburg
Emily Woodcock
Teddy Madison
Nancy Schneider Family
Leonice Jones
Clara Weaver

SESSION MINUTES

WYSOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2014

The regular meeting of the Session of the Wysox Presbyterian Church was called to order by Pastor Jira Albers on January 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Wysox Presbyterian Church.

Opening devotions and prayer led by Pastor Jira

Elders Present: Kim Barnes, Dave Blascak, Lori Blascak, Mary Bruce, Vaughn Hollenback, Deborah King, Julie Palmer, Dody Savercool and Shelly VanDerMark

Elders Excused: Michelle Irvine, Ronald Irvine Jr. and Loretta Stevens

Elders Absent: None

Guests Present: None

ORDER OF THE DAY:

1. The Docket for the meeting was approved on a motion by Elder King and seconded by Elder L. Blascak.
2. On a motion by Elder King and second by Elder Bruce the minutes of the Session Meeting on 12/09/13 were approved, with noted corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Endless Mts Pregnancy Care Ctr
- USPS Notice regarding changes to bulk mailings
- Various thank you cards and letters of appreciation

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Music & Worship: Elder Savercool reported:
 - a. January 26th Congregational meeting with luncheon
 - b. Choir continues with their preparations
2. Membership & Evangelism: Elder Bruce reported for Elder Stevens:
 - a. 50+ Membership Plaque needs to be hung
 - b. Visits and outreach efforts continue
3. Christian Education: Elder King reported:
 - a. Destiny Barto and Barb King continue to lead the Sunday School effort with great success
 - b. Youth Group hosted a very successful breakfast after the Cantata
 - c. Youth Group to host Father/Son dinner perhaps in June rather than February
 - d. New group needed to take charge of Mother/Daughter banquet
4. Mission: Elder King reported for Elder M. Irvine:
 - a. February 2nd "Souper" Bowl of Caring
5. Memorial: Elder Bruce:
 - a. Memorial donations continue for Dotty Schmiegl
6. Property: Elder D. Blascak reported:
 - a. Fix for the downstairs door has been made
7. Personnel: Elder Ron Irvine - none

8. Finance & Investments: Elder Lori Blascak:
 - a. Presented and reviewed the report prepared by finance committee. Pleased with 2013 earnings.
9. Recognition: Elder Mary

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented and reviewed the report submitted by Lora Schmieg
 - a. The monthly financial report was accepted on a motion by Elder Hollenback, seconded by Elder Bruce, with a note to move decorations into the flower line item going forward.
2. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Albers shared his report of activities for the past month. Also made note that he will be attending a continuing education session April 27th-May 1st but will not miss worship.
3. **Lackawanna Presbytery:** Training for Elders and Deacons being held in Wyalusing on February 1st, Elders King, VanDerMark and Barnes plan on attending. Reverend Barbara Smith has expressed an interest in attending our February session meeting, and she will be added to the docket as our Special Guest.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2014 Budget:** The final draft of the 2014 budget was presented for adoption. On a motion by Elder Barnes, seconded by Elder Bruce, the 2014 budget was adopted by session and will be presented to the congregation for their consideration at the upcoming Congregational meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of adoption of Sexual Offender response policy was tabled until next month.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.
Closing Prayer lead by Pastor Jira Albers

Next Session Meeting: February 10, 2014 @ 7:00pm

Respectfully recorded and submitted:

Kim D Barnes
Clerk of Session



SEWING SOCIETY

We had a great crowd for our Tuesday dinner and had many compliments. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

Thanks to all who provided dishes and to those who were there to help serve and clean up.

We want to thank all who have donated to our air conditioner fund and we hope to have it ready for summer use.

Hope to see you in March when we will be serving roast beef.

Thanks to Tom King for his help.

We are not expected to do the best but our best.