



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church, NALC- 156 Poplar St. S.W. Bolivar, Ohio 44612

Pastor Mike Pozzuto - E Mail: stpaulbolivarpastor@gmail.com -PH: 330-874-4540

From the Pastor...

ALWAYS LENT SO DON'T RELENT

The season of Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter (excluding Sundays) that recalls the time Jesus spent in the wilderness after His baptism by John in the Jordan River. The practice of Lent goes back centuries to the early church. The emphasis is upon prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a solemn time of reflection upon the public ministry of Jesus and His death and resurrection.

Lent is the time when many Christians devote more time to prayer and acts of self-denial. These practices are intended to incline our thoughts to focus upon the sacrifice that Jesus made in behalf of all people. As I consider the lifestyle of all believers, I would assert that this is the manner in which we should live year-round and not just for six weeks of the year.

I can recall as a child that I would look forward to Easter because the acts of self-denial would come to an end. It would be time again to eat candy. Maturity in faith requires a daily commitment to following the example of Christ through acts of self-denial. Daily prayer helps to make this an important part of our identity. I believe that the practices of Lent are therefore, fundamental for living as disciples of Jesus throughout the year.

During the season of Lent, our worship will include a five-week video series by Max Lucado entitled, "He Chose the Nails." This series will concentrate on the gifts that Christ gave at His crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross but also the gift of the thorns, the nails and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with gifts of grace that reveal the love that God has for His people.

During Lent we will have Wednesday devotions at six local churches as the community celebrates the season. I encourage you to join us each week as we recall the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Each service will begin at 11:30 am followed by a luncheon. The schedule is as follows: March 12-Zoar UCC, March 19-Bolivar United Methodist Church, March 26-St. Paul Lutheran Church, April 2-St. John UCC, April 9-Holy Trinity Catholic Church and April 16-Bolivar Community Church.

I pray that this Lenten season will impact your life for the rest of your days and that the practice of Lent will deepen your love for God and his people.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

MINISTERS FOR MARCH 2025

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
3/2	8:00 am	Jim Ward	3/2	8:00 am	Byron Lautenschleger
	10:30 am	Randy Simers		10:30 am	Cheryl Simers
3/5 Ash Wednesday	7:00 P.M.	Terry Tegtmeier	3/5 Ash Wednesday	7:00 P.M.	Marcia Howenstine
3/9	No 8:00				
	10:30 am	Kim Pohovey		10:30 am	Kim Pohovey
3/16	8:00 am	Charlann Young	3/16	10:30 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Terry Tegtmeier			Richard Dudash
3/23	8:00 am	Steve Maurer	3/23	8:00 am	Sandy Ritter
	10:30 am	Marcia Howenstine		10:30 am	Gabriel Woods
3/30	8:00 am	Jim Ward	3/30	8:00 am	Olivia Howell
	10:30 am	Randy Simers		10:30 am	Cheryl Simers
USHERS & GREETERS			SCREEN		
3/2	8:00 am	Byron & Marianne Lautenschleger	3/2	8:00 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Ann Shetler		10:30 am	Sophia Ranta
3/5 Ash Wednesday	7:00 P.M.	Randy & Cheryl Simers	3/5 Ash Wednesday		Ted Howenstine
3/9	No 8:00				
	10:30 am	Tom & Tammy Huggins		10:30 am	Doug Dix
3/16	8:00 am	Jim & Jen Ward	3/16	8:00 am	Terri Howell
	10:30 am	Dave & Linda Clugston		10:30 am	Dee Garrison
3/23	8:00 am	John & Sandy Bolitho	3/23	8:00 am	Pam Ward
	10:30 am	Aaron & Meghan Woods		10:30 am	Ted Howenstine
3/30	8:00 am	Dave & Charlann Young	3/30	8:00 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Dee Garrison		10:30 am	Doug Dix
Altar Guild			Community Meals		
		Ted & Marcia Howenstine			Kathy Pozzuto

<u>Transfiguration Sunday 3/2</u>	<u>Ash Wednesday 3/5</u>	<u>First Sunday in Lent 3/9</u>	<u>Second Sunday in Lent 3/16</u>	<u>Third Sunday in Lent 3/23</u>	<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent 3/30</u>
<u>Deuteronomy 34:1-12</u>	<u>Joel 2:12-19</u>	<u>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</u>	<u>Jeremiah 26:8-15</u>	<u>Ezekiel 33:7-20</u>	<u>Isaiah 12:1-6</u>
<u>Psalm 99</u>	<u>Psalm 51:1-19</u>	<u>Psalm 91:1-13</u>	<u>Psalm 4</u>	<u>Psalm 85</u>	<u>Psalm 32</u>
<u>Hebrews 3:1-6</u>	<u>2 Corin. 5:20-6:10</u>	<u>Romans 10:8-13</u>	<u>Philippians 3:17-4:1</u>	<u>1 Corin. 10:1-13</u>	<u>2 Corin. 5:16-21</u>
<u>Luke 9:28-36</u>	<u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u>	<u>Luke 4:1-13</u>	<u>Luke 13:31-35</u>	<u>Luke 13:1-9</u>	<u>Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</u>

CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!!

March Birthdays

<i>Whitney Ward</i>	<i>3/1</i>	<i>Madelyn Reeves</i>	<i>3/15</i>
<i>Logan Hornberger Lohr</i>	<i>3/2</i>	<i>Walter Tidenberg</i>	<i>3/16</i>
<i>Joe Pozzuto</i>	<i>3/3</i>	<i>Jim Howell</i>	<i>3/19</i>
<i>Rick Simmons</i>	<i>3/4</i>	<i>Gabriel Woods</i>	<i>3/22</i>
<i>Lizzie Kienzle</i>	<i>3/5</i>	<i>Gary Pohovey</i>	<i>3/23</i>
<i>John Kienzle</i>	<i>3/6</i>	<i>Jen Ward</i>	<i>3/24</i>
<i>Brenda Tegtmeier</i>	<i>3/8</i>	<i>Meghan Woods</i>	<i>3/24</i>
<i>Kathy Ferguson</i>	<i>3/12</i>		

March Anniversaries

Gary & Donna Spangler *3/9*
Pastor Mike & Kathy Pozzuto *3/31*

SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST

Please see a list of our shut-ins below; they would enjoy hearing from you by visit or card. **Jerry Hoskinson**, 1970 North Orchard Rd. NE Bolivar, OH 44612 - **John Kienzle** – Hennis Care Center, Bolivar, OH. (Room 206) - **Betty Menapace** – Park Village – 1511 Crater Ave. Room 19 A, Dover OH 44622 and **Alyce Snyder** at Assisted Living at Brewster Park 360 Wabash Avenue (Jefferson Lodge/Inn Bldg.-(Room 608) Brewster OH 44613 **Carol Hoskinson** – The Gables 3660 Greentree Ave. SW Canton, Ohio 44706 (Room 311)

Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers – Donna Dudash, Dave Rimer, Gary Sliffe, Kris Simtson, Darin Wentz, Pam Ward, Pat Mizer, Suzanne Kuntzman, Mary Sanders, Irene Ward, Netta Strand, Bill Nelson, Lissa Johns, Brock McNutt, David Shetler, Gary Smerglia, Lauren Seifert, **Servicemen & Women-** *Seth Hershberger, Abraham Marlowe, Kyle Grieving, Cearra Taylor, Don Scholz, Rob Vitous, Camren Taylor, Trent Garver, Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, Jordan Ritter, William Robishaw*

Note: After 6 months names will be removed if no new information is given.

Prayer Team: Recently a prayer team was formed at the church. The members include: Jim Davis, Doug Dix, Donna Dudash, Sandy Ritter and Terry Tegtmeier. They have offered to pray with the worship ministers before each service. *You are welcome to stop by the parlor after the service to have a prayer team member lift you and your concerns and praises in prayer with you. All are invited!*

Council News: The new 2025 council officers are as follows:

Doug Dix – President
Zac Pirillo – Vice President
Rick Simmons – Secretary
Richard Dudash – Treasurer & Pam Ward – Financial Secretary

Community Meal: St Paul Lutheran Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Community Meal 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 6 and Thursday, March 20.



Bolivar Bi-Centennial News: This year the Village of Bolivar is celebrating 200 years of existence. Several events are being planned which include lectures at the local library as well as a community worship scheduled for Sunday, June 8 after the conclusion of the Strawberry Festival. In addition, an old-fashioned baseball game is also being planned. There will be a lecture will be on Monday, March 31 describing the last 100 years of Bolivar. The lecture begins at 6:00 pm. More information will be available in the future.

LENT: Many Christians have heard of Lent, but do all know what it means? Is it really just a time of giving up chocolate or social media?

As many Christians mark the beginning of Lent this year on Wednesday, March 5th, known as Ash Wednesday, it's important to know the real purpose and meaning to the 40 days of Lent.

What is Lent? - Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter, (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The 40 days of Lent involve fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as a way to connect deeper with God. Commonly observed by Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches, many use the 40 days of Lent as a time of personal reflection to prepare your heart



Lenten Schedule: Ash Wednesday is **March 5 – 7:00 p.m.**

The service will be at 7:00 pm with distribution of ashes. The Community Lenten services will be held on the following Wednesdays beginning at **11:30 am** and a lunch to be held at the conclusion of the service.

Each local church will host a service –

Zoar UCC - **March 12**, Bolivar United Methodist Church - **March 19**

St. Paul Lutheran Church - **March 26**, St. John UCC - **April 2**,

Holy Trinity Catholic Church - **April 9**, Bolivar Community Church - **April 16**.

Please Note: Pastor Mike will be away on Sunday, March 9. There will be no 8:00 am service that day. Pastor Cathy Ammlung will be the supply for the 10:30 am service.

Thrivent Awareness Sunday: Sunday, March 23, is Thrivent Awareness Sunday. Dave Zastawny will make a brief presentation at each service. Materials from Thrivent will be available for those who are interested.

Devotionals: Our Daily Bread as well as Lenten devotionals are available in the narthex.

Volunteer Day: On Saturday, April 5, we will be going to the NALC Disaster Response Center in Caldwell Ohio. We will depart from the church at 9:00 am and return mid – afternoon.



Change Your Clock: Daylight Saving Time begins March 9. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on March 8.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR MARCH 2025

Have you ever wondered how you can pray for others when you are bombarded by persistent temptations in your own life? Here is some advice that can be a great help.

First: Write down your most persistent temptation or sin.

Second: Ask God to give you a strategic prayer that you can pray whenever you experience this temptation. Let it be a prayer request that, when answered, will damage Satan's Kingdom.

For example, what if every time you were tempted to lose your temper, you prayed for a fallen friend or family member? Or if you were tempted to have an impure thought, you prayed for the purity of your children or grandchildren?

The key is to use your temptation to do the wrong thing to become the motivation to do the godly thing. You can easily say "no" to a persistent temptation if you are also saying "yes" to something else. Temptation will enable you to feel the need of others and be prompted to intercede for them.


PSALM 27:8 DAVID SAYS, "MY HEART SAYS OF YOU, SEEK HIS FACE!"

YOUR FACE, LORD, I WILL SEEK

Adapted from an article by:
Dr. Bill Thrasher
Professor of Theology
Moody Seminary



MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	3/8
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 a.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		Turn Clocks ahead 1 hour..
3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13	3/14	3/15
Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. First Sunday of Lent	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 p.m.	NALC PASTORS MEETING 10:00 A.M.	Evangelism Meeting 9:30 a.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Worship Meeting 10:00 a.m.	Youth Group	Property 9:00 a.m.
3/16	3/17	3/18	3/19	3/20	3/21	3/22
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Council 7:00 p.m. St Patrick's Day 	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.		Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
3/23	3/24	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Thrivent Sunday Third Sunday of Lent	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 p.m.	Homeless Shelter Meal 5:00 p.m.	Lenten Service St. Paul Lutheran March 26 11:30 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.			
3/30	3/31					
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent	Yoga 9-10 a.m.					



Month To Date Giving

Month to Date Giving Through February - Amount 2025 \$8,815.00

Month to Date Giving Through February - Amount 2024 \$ 8,055.00