



**St. Jacob Lutheran
Church**

February 2018

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From the Pastor

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It snowed today. Not that wind-driven, blowing, cold and miserable snow! It was instead that soft, fluffy, gentle snow. Big flakes, falling slowly to the ground, coating everything in a sheen of white. It was beautiful; so I went for walk just to enjoy the wonder.

It’s amazing how a snow like that changes things. Suddenly, the earth that has been colored black and gray by traffic and ice melt is now overladen with a pristine white carpet. Where mudholes and brown slop had dominated the landscape, a shimmering blanket of sparkling snow now stretches as far the eye could see. It was not only beautiful but a wonder. Majestic in its ability to make the meanest places shine, snow provides that covering that erases the ugly and shows forth the beauty. It makes everything new.

On Wednesday, February 14 (Valentines’ Day), we will gather with Christians throughout the world to celebrate Ash Wednesday. That day marks the beginning of Lent. At the service, worshippers will receive a cross of ashes traced on their foreheads. This smudge of “dirt” is accompanied by the words quoted above and is a sign of our sinfulness, our contrition and our desire to repent. Like the words themselves, the ashes offer a reminder of our mortality, our need for forgiveness and our willingness to submit ourselves to God’s judgment. In short, we are called to recall the “dirtiness” of our lives.

From then until Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, we will carry that reminder. Throughout the season of Lent, we will be called to recognize our sin, repent in words and actions, and seek the forgiving grace of God. We will hear of Jesus’ temptation and realize our own temptations. We will journey with our Lord toward the cross, all the while remembering why that cross exists and what it means for us. During those six weeks, the “dirt” will remain.

Then, suddenly, like the soft and gentle snow that covers the brown and gray earth, through that cross and empty tomb, the gift of God’s forgiveness will come upon us, blanketing us with grace, hope and peace. Suddenly, the landscape of sin and death will be overshadowed by the bright and glorious wonder of new life. We and the world will be made new!

I love the snow because it reminds me of the love and grace of God that brings forgiveness of sin into our broken and “dirty” world, making everything new and beautiful once again.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Dave

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Thought of the Month

People get very upset by the idea that their children might have to suffer. Well, why are you having children? You want them to be Christians, don’t you? If they are going to be Christians, they are going to suffer. That is what life is about.

Stanley Hauerwas

Bible Trivia Question

What is the first day of Lent called?

Answer on page 8

Thank You

The Church Council would like to thank the anonymous donor for the donation for the Security System that was recently installed within the church building.

Thank you to Pastor Dave for the visit and communion, the Carolers, Benevolence & Christian Action team for the Poinsettia, and the cookies, candy, and banana bread. I truly enjoyed very visit & goodie. Betty Lou Kendall

We would like to thank the Benevolent Christian Action Team, Men's Prayer Breakfast, the Ornament sales group, for their contributions to COTA for Hayden. We would like to also thank the congregation for the Christmas Eve offering collection & their continued prayers & support for Hayden. Hayden Weiskittel & Family

*Additional thank you are on the bulletin board in the office area: Wernle, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, Southern Ohio Synod, COTA

Lenten Services

St. Jacob will not be having Lenten Services this year, due to Pastor Dave's distance of travel. St. Paul's in Botkins and St. John's in Sidney have invited us to their Lenten Services. Both will run from Feb. 21-Mar. 21. All are welcome!

Their schedules are as follows:

St. John's—every Wednesday evening during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten dinner every Wed. @ 5:30pm to support the youth. Theme: "The Baggage of Life"

St. Paul's—every Wednesday evening during Lent at 7:30 p.m. Theme: "Amazing Grace"

1st Week: Salvation, 2nd Week: Rebirth, 3rd Week: Restoration, 4th Week: Grace, 5th Week: Story Time

St. Jacob will have a Ash Wednesday Service February 14th, Maundy Thursday March 29, Good Friday March 30. All services are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Sun Rise will be Easter Morning at Pearl Cemetery at 6am with Breakfast at 7am in the church basement. Easter services will be 8 and 10 a.m.

Eucharistic Ministry Training

Following the long-held tradition of the church, St. Jacob will begin a program of Eucharistic Ministry. Essentially, this means that lay members of St. Jacob will be trained to distribute the Holy Sacrament to the homebound and those in care facilities. Taking the elements of bread and wine from the altar following the Sunday services, they will bring Holy Communion to those who cannot be there for health or other reasons. This does not mean that the pastor will cease taking Holy Communion to those folks. Instead, the Eucharistic Ministers will serve as additional participants in the sacramental ministry of the congregation. The benefit of Eucharistic Ministry is multi-faceted. First, because the Sacrament will be distributed shortly after the Sunday service, it connects those who are unable to attend more closely to the worship life of the congregation. Second, the Eucharistic Ministers serve as additional visitors to those who are homebound or in care facilities offering care, prayer and support. Finally, the Eucharistic Ministers offer additional "eyes and ears" on the ground and in that way support the regular pastoral ministry of the congregation. **Pastor Dave will be offering training for those who wish to participate as Eucharistic Ministers during the Sunday School hour, February 18 and March 11. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Dave.**

Sunday Morning Servants

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Readers (8am)	Steve Elsass	Jennie Bertke	Mike Bertsch	Jeff Bertke
Readers (10am)	Ken Taylor	Kara Kipp	Darcy Steinke	Logan Cathcart
Acolytes	Alysha Maurer	Kaleigh Montague	Ashley Anthony	Ava Bertke
Crucifer	Audrey Krites		Jared Line	
Greeters	N-Dick & Darla Line	N-Joe & Wendy Yinger	N--Roger Lentz	N-Lorrie Moniaci
	S-Karen Sayre	S-Morgan Meyer	S-Sarah Dirksen	S-Ike & Mitzi Eisenhardt
Communion Asst.	Fred Pulfer		Bailey Althausser	
		Ash Wed:Jenni Shoffner		
Blood Pressure Ck.	Phyllis Evans			

Special Council Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2018

The St. Jacob Lutheran Church Council members met in special session on Sunday January 14, 2018 at 11:00am to discuss possibly purchasing the Freisthler property at 107 W Main St in Anna. The Vision Team was also invited and attended the meeting.

Jim Brandt said the church was approached from the Freisthler family attorney, Keith Schnelle, about purchasing the property. The property was appraised at \$57,500 +/- 10%. by Fullenkamp Appraisals. The family is requesting a purchase price of \$62,700. Mrs. Freisthler wishes are for the church to have the first chance to purchase the property.

Keith Elsass moved and Rick Ike motioned for a proposal to proceed ahead towards proposal for purchase of the property and investigate with caution for an asbestos investigation. The motion will come before the congregation for approval. Motion passed.

The Vision Team updated the council about their plans. They have been in contact with three design-firms: Garmin-Miller, Ferguson, and Levin Porter. The Vision team is looking at correcting a lack of office space for the pastor, improving the food pantry, and a garage. They are looking at working with the church council on getting a firm set of objectives. Now that the Freisthler house is available, that has opened up other options for the team.

Dave Fogt motioned to proceed with establishing a committee for a feasibility study and to see what the needs are of the congregation, as well as selecting a consultant. This was seconded by Keith Elsass. Motion passed.

Dave Fogt updated council on Call Committee. They have had 5 candidates so far. Two withdrew their own names. One took another call, and two were removed from the list by the team.. They were removed because the committee felt the fit wasn't there with the church. They do have another member they will be interviewing via Skype in the near future.

Keith Elsass moved for a motion to adjourn. Rick Ike seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Pleiman

Council Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2018

Members in attendance:

Brad Pleiman	Ann Huffman	David Fogt	Keith Elsass
Jerry Pleiman	Darrell Heintz	Rick Ike	Cheryl Pulfer
Carol Bodenhorn	Pastor Westphal	Deb Christman	Dave Bell

Excused Members:

Steve Wildermuth

The meeting was called to order by President Darrell Heintz

Secretary's Report

Roll Call was taken. The minutes from the December, 2018 meeting was reviewed. Keith Elsass moved and Carol Bodenhorn seconded to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report

For December, 2017, the Current Offering was \$21,788.00 and the Benevolence Offering was \$2,235.00. The Capital Campaign collected \$1,919.00. Keith Elsass moved and Jerry Pleiman seconded to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

For December, 2018 the receipts were \$18,760.00 and expenses were \$13,478.16 for positive difference of \$5,281.84. This brings the Year-to-Date receipts to \$228,111.87 and the expenses to \$168,311.43 for a positive difference of \$59,800.44. David Bell moved and David Fogt seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Offering Our Gifts and Talents

Trustee's Report

Jerry Pleiman reported that security cameras are all installed. They will schedule a day to train on the new system. The camera system was entirely paid for by an anonymous donor.

The trustee are currently cleaning and organizing the undercroft. They have put old Christmas decorations out in the basement. They will be donating all the old decorations to Goodwill. Trustees will be checking into replacing the lights on the east ramp and steps. The ceiling repair by the elevator is on hold till the gutters are fixed. The gutters will be fixed when the weather is better. There was a high water kit installed in the basement. This kit was provided free of cost for one year from Church Mutual Insurance. The sensor is in the men's restroom where the water comes out of the drain. It will notify several members through Wi-Fi if there is high water, so they can get a jump on cleaning it up. Jerry has been in contact with the village to see why the water is backing up through the drain pipe when there is heavy rains. The village stated that the problem should now be alleviated due to the new drainage system that was installed in the new subdivision south of town. It should minimize the water that goes into storm sewer by the church. Jerry is going to look into further options to keep it from happening again. Placing a back flow preventer may be an option.

Wannemacher Construction will be doing the snow removal for the parking lots only. The cost is: \$175.00. It will be an additional \$185.00 for salt treatment. They gave a price for the all the sidewalks. The price was \$475.00 and an additional \$100.00 if there is more than 3 inches. It was decided that the trustees will do the sidewalks along with a few other members.

Cody Limbert, Steve Elsass, and Jeff Bertke made a presentation for a new sound board. The current board is 40 years old and has not been working properly. They cannot find parts to repair the current board. The new board can be purchased through Parts Express in Dayton for \$1999.00.

Council Meeting Minutes-cont.

Rick Ike moved and Carol Bodenhorn seconded to go ahead and purchase the new sound board. Motion passed.

Deacon's Reports

The Parish Ed –No updated information.

Worship Team- Ash Wednesday on the 14th of February. They are tentatively considering Sunday night Lenten services. There will be a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM; a Good Friday Service and possibly a sunrise Easter service. Pastor Westphal said he would not be able to do the Lenten services and a suggestion was made to combine the Lenten services with Botkins or Sidney.. Pastor Westphal will do the Easter week services.

The Vision Development team has not had any meetings since the last council meeting.

The Benevolence Christian Action Team delivered poinsettias to the shut-ins.

The Evangelism team is taking care of the greeters for the south and north entrances.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Westphal reported that he has been busy visiting shut-ins. He took communion to the ones he could. Some people were not around due to the holidays. There is a baptism scheduled for February 11th. The pastor still wants to form an Eucharistic Minister team that could distribute communion to our shut-ins. He hopes to start training next month. They are going to seek volunteers.

Continuing Business

David Fogt gave the updates of the Call Committee progress during the congregational meeting, there is nothing else to report.

The votes were counted for the purchase of the Freisthler residence. The 9:00 a.m. service vote was 50- yes 0-no. The 10:00 a.m. vote was 74-yes 1-no. Motion passed.

Darrell Heintz appointed Mike Christmas as chairman to head a team with Steve Elsass and 2 other members. They will check into getting a plan together and checking into architects to see what are needs is for a new building. Darrell will meet with Dave Richards at US Banks to discuss the best option in how to make the Freisthler house purchase. Dave Fogt will get with an attorney to help us proceed with the purchase.

New Business

Deb Christman said that Church Mutual provided us a fire safety check list that we can use as we clean areas of the church. She also recommended that after the purchase of the Freisthler property we have Church Mutual walk through and reassess everything and make any recommendations. We have till May when the policy renews.

Jerry Pleiman stated that a residents next to the west parking lot had been parking their cars in the lot. One vehicle had not been moved in a long time and all the tires were flat. This has cause a problem with snow removal. He spoke to the residence and they moved their vehicles from the lot.

Envisioning Business

The next church council meeting will be February 18th, 2018 after the 10:00 a.m. service concludes.

President Darrell Heintz adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Pleiman

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2018

The annual congregational meeting was called to order by President Darrell Heintz on January 21, 2018. The meeting was held in two sessions, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Westphal opened each session with prayer.

At both sessions Dave Fogt updated the congregation on the Call Committee progress. Five candidates have been interviewed. Two withdrew their own names. One took another call, and two were removed from the list by the team. They were removed because the committee felt the fit wasn't there with what the church needed. They will be interviewing another candidate on Tuesday January 23rd.

Jerry Pleiman updated the congregation on the new security/camera system that was installed. There are cameras at all entrances as well as, 2 upstairs, 1 in the basement, and 1 in the food pantry. The monitor is in the church office. The cameras can also be viewed through a phone application.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Cody Limbert moved and Kathy Fogt seconded to accept the minutes from the previous congregational meeting that was held on January 22nd, 2017, Special Meeting on September 10, 2017, and Special meeting on December 10th 2017. D.J. Heintz moved and Bonnie Schmidt seconded the acceptance of the minutes at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Dave Fogt motioned and Jim Bertsch seconded to accept the following reports: Pastor's and Parochial, Financial Secretary's, Treasurer's, General Memorial, Endowment Team, Vision Development Team, Deacons, and Trustees. There was a typographical error for the Church Utilities in the Treasurer report. It was shown to be \$1445.73. It should have shown \$9445.73. John Fahnestock moved and Fred Pulfer seconded the acceptance of these reports at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Jerry Pleiman moved and Jeff Bertke seconded to accept the following reports: Women of the ELCA, Christian Cupboard, Bereavement Team, Banner Team, Brotherhood, Youth Ministry and Luther League, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Mission Interpreter, Parish Education and Thrivent Choice Team. Cody Limbert moved and June Barhorst seconded the acceptance of these at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

Council recommended the ratification of Jill Brandt (1st term) as a members of the Endowment Committee. At the 9:00 a.m. session, Linda Glessner moved and Carol Bulle seconded the ratification of the member to the Endowment Committee. Kim Klopfleisch moved and Nancy Martin seconded the ratification of the member at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions. Jim Brandt updated the congregation reference to the purchase of the Freisthler Property at 107 W. Main St. in Anna. Five members did a walkthrough of the property and there are no asbestos or lead issues. The purchase cost is \$62,700.00. At the 9:00 a.m. session, Jim Brandt made a motion to proceed with the purchase of the property. Jeff Bertke seconded the motion. Jim Brant Motioned and Kristian Althaus seconded the motion at the 10:00 a.m. session.

Ballots were passed out.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Jan Elsass moved and Steve Elsass seconded to recess the meeting until the 10:00 a.m. session. Motion passed. At the 10:00 a.m. session, Fred Pulfer moved to adjourn and Penny Fahnestock seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brad Pleiman, Secretary

Feb 1	Karen Wilt
Feb 4	Isabella Miller, Doug Thomas, Wendy Yinger
Feb 5	Kathy Ferree
Feb 8	Kendel Strasser
Feb 9	Sue Althausser, Penny Fahnestock, Owen Heintz, Clarence Pfaadt, Gary Strasser, Macy Wahl
Feb 14	Edna Bertsch, Patty Billing, Gabriel Derschem
Feb 15	Betsy Anthony, Ava Bertke, Steve Spence
Feb 16	Olivia Mauring
Feb 18	Michelle Rose
Feb 19	Donna Short
Feb 20	Luca Wagner
Feb 21	Amy Wagner
Feb 22	Michael Hoewischer, Kaitlyn Rose
Feb 24	Carson Shoffner
Feb 25	Allison Shoemaker
Feb 26	Andy Bixler, Brandon Fleshman
Feb 27	Hannah Lee, Kaleigh Montague, Sharon Schnell
Feb 28	Brittany Current, Lorrie Moniaci, Melissa Rivera, Benjamin Wical
Feb 29	Abraham Wildermuth



High School Seniors



St. Jacob is offering a \$500 Scholarship to all 2018 graduating High School Seniors who are members. Please pick up your application in the church office and return it by Sunday, March 18, 2018.

LOMO-Summer Camp

There is a 2018 Summer Program Schedule posted on the back window for those interested in going to church camp this coming summer. There are discounts for first-time campers and returning youth campers. Also, each camper will receive a \$100 scholarship from St. Jacob Parish Ed Team and the \$100 from the Christian Action Team. You can save up to \$250 if you register early! Website is lomocamps.org



St. Jacob Lutheran Church

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Growing and Sharing; Inviting and Caring

Fat Tuesday Dinner

Sponsored by Luther League

February 13, 2018 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Turkey Tetterzina

Cold Slaw

Dessert and Beverage

Donation accepted



Upcoming Events

- Feb 4 Blood Pressure Check 9-9:45 a.m.
- Feb 5 Parish Ed 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 12 Brotherhood TBA
- Feb 13 Fat Tuesday Dinner 5-7pm
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 18 Eucharistic Ministry Training 9:00 a.m.
Church Council Meeting 11 a.m.
Luther League & Kids of the Kingdom –Ice Skating 1:15pm
- Feb 21 & 28 Lenten Services at St John's 7pm or St. Paul's 7:30pm
- Feb 25 Men's Prayer Breakfast

Bible Trivia Answer: Ash Wednesday
