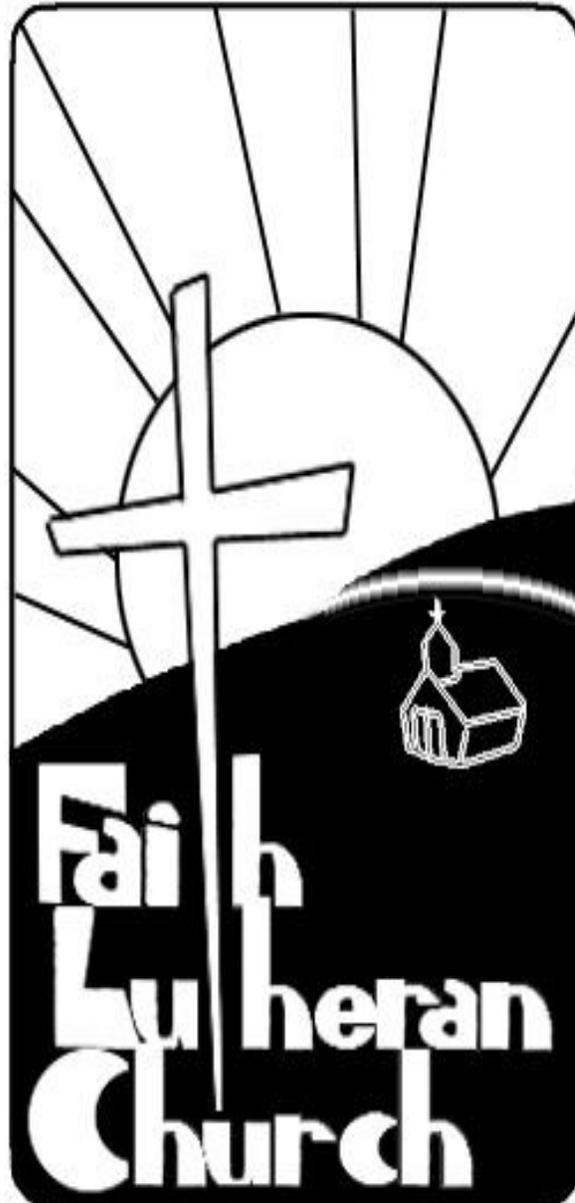


The Grapevine

March 2017

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Clippings from the Vinedresser



Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn... Isaiah 58:6-8

sweetness, and sometimes bitterness, of God's Word.

Do you stop for a Tim's or a Starbucks every morning? Why not give that up and donate all the money you save to Canadian Lutheran World Relief? Do you have a favourite TV show that you watch? Why not give that up, total up the time you save, then head over to Simcoe Hall Settlement House and help pack food boxes?

And fasting doesn't necessarily mean giving something up. We can add as well. During Lent we could volunteer to pick up the groceries for a shut-in, or shovel their walk (if winter ever returns). We could share our expertise in computers or guitar or piano with others who can't do these things.

The whole point of fasting is to help us focus on and be better at letting our lights shine for Jesus in the world, better at living as God's blessed people, being salt and light in the world.

Think about it—you don't have much time!—then pick a fast. Give something up and replace it with something else. And let your light shine.

Lent is once more upon us and with it the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" As part of our Lenten fast, it is customary to give up something we are especially fond of. As you know, I give up all sweets for Lent and have for years. But if we just give up something and don't replace it, we miss the point of the Lenten fast.

The people of Isaiah's time (this is Third Isaiah, so the people have returned from their Babylonian exile) were great fasters. They could give up meals, throw ashes on their heads and tear their clothes with the best of them, but God was not impressed. For the fast was all show, there was no change in their behaviours or attitudes, and in particular, they failed to put God's justice, righteousness, and mercy into practice. God, through Isaiah, instructs the people what kind of fast is pleasing to God.

So, what will you give up for Lent, and with what will you replace it? I generally add 1/2 hour to my Bible reading/meditation time, replacing the sweetness of desserts with the

"Do you stop for a Tim's or a Starbucks every morning? Why not give that up and donate all the money you save to Canadian Lutheran World Relief?"



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 1 with a service of Imposition of Ashes. We will be joined by our friends from Knox, St. Luke's, St. James, and St. Paul's Presbyterian, and Northminster United Churches.

This is a service of repentance, forgiveness and encouragement to keep the Lenten disciplines of Fasting, Prayer, and Good Works.

The service begins at 7:00 p.m., in Augustana Hall.



Lenten Lunches

The theme for this year's Lenten Lunches is, "Let All of Me Kneel Before God's Holy Name," and will focus on how we worship God with our whole bodies.

The Schedule is as follows:

Week 1: March 8, 2017

Northminster United

Rev. Sandra Farrow "Flesh"

Week 2: March 15, 2017

Faith Lutheran

Rev. Dennis Becker "Ears"

Week 3: March 22, 2017

St Luke's/St James' Presbyterian

Rev. Matthew Sams "Mouth"

Week 4: March 29, 2017

Knox Presbyterian

Rev. Lynda Reid will present on "Hands"

Week 5: April 5, 2017

All Churches

Rev. Lowell Nussey will present on "Feet"

Week 6: April 12, 2017

St Paul's Presbyterian

Rev. Lois Whitwell "Knees"

Faith Lutheran's turn, as you can see, is March 15. We will need the following: volunteers to help set-up, serve and clean-up; soup and desserts for approximately 105 people; cheese; pickles if we want (coffee, tea, juice will be supplied; pastor will pick up the bread/buns).

A freewill donation is taken at the lunch to help us plan future events.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up and help us out.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Sunday School



Sunday School meets on Sundays March 12 and 28. The March 12 class is over March Break, so the class will be one class for all who are here.

See you there!



Women's Circle

The women of the Women's circle invite you to join them for Dinner and Discussion, Thursday, March 2 at Club Loreley at 5:30 p.m.

Why not join them?

Bible Study



Our study of 1 & 2 Samuel continues in March. So far we have looked at God's call of Samuel the prophet, the rejection of the house of Eli, and the anointing of Saul as the first king. Still to come, and the whole point of these writings, is Israel's greatest king, David.

We meet every second Tuesday at 9:45 a.m., in the chapel. In March our meeting dates are the 14th and 28th.

Will you come and join us?

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. The theme this year is "Am I Being Unfair to You?" and has been prepared by woman from The Philippines.

There are three services in Oshawa; Faith Lutheran is participating at the 7:00 p.m., service.

Here is the schedule of worship services:

10:00 a.m., Salvation Army Temple

2:00 p.m., Northminster United

7:00 p.m., Centennial Albert United



Choir

Choir practices will continue at 6:30 p.m., throughout Lent. We will not have a practice on March 1 (Ash Wednesday), so as not to interfere with the Service that evening.

We are thrilled to welcome two new members to the choir this past month – Andrew Mountney and Claudia Warrington. The more the merrier.

After a successful choir venture for the opening service of the Refor-

mation 500th Anniversary celebrations, we are planning to have another joint choir for the Reformation Service in October. We hope to start working on pieces for that in the next couple of months.



What is Lent?



Lent is a time of preparation, 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) that are set aside for intentional religious practices. These may include additional worship, prayer, daily devotions, fasting, giving up something, etc. The purpose is to break our normal routines for 40 days and give us time to reflect on the gift of Jesus in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Some Clarification of Lenten Lunch Responsibilities

Host Church Responsibilities

Provide the following:

- Approximately 10 Soups to be served for lunch. (105 people)
- Set the tables before lunch; help put away tables after
- Cheese to be cut up and put out on tables around the hall.
- Buns/bread to be put into baskets and put out on tables around the hall.
- Juice if desired
- Desserts (cookies, squares etc)
- Volunteers to serve and help with clean-up

What will Northminster provide?

- Cream, Milk, Sugar
- Coffee/Tea
- Water
- Dishware, tablecloths, napkins
- Butter (for buns)
- A Volunteer to help in the kitchen
- A dishwasher for cleanup.
- A lift operator for people requiring assistance.



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

WITH THE OSHAWA GENERALS

Wednesday, March 15th, 2017

7:05 PM

Barrie Colts vs. 

Tribute Communities Centre - Oshawa

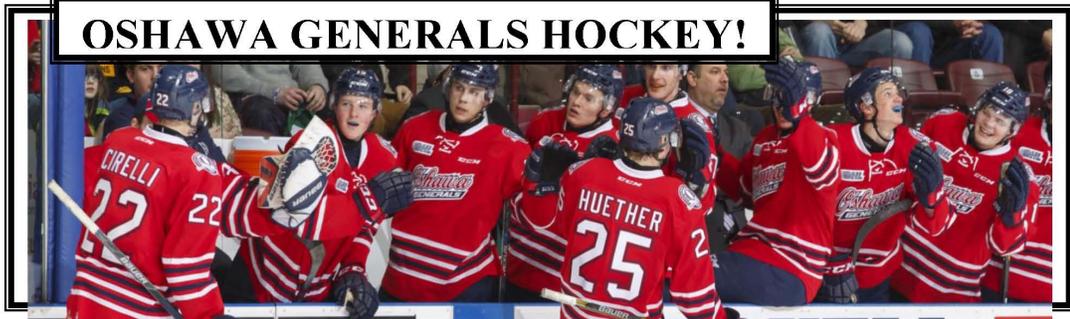
On Wednesday, March 15th, 2017, the Oshawa Generals will present **Faith & Family Night** at the Generals game starting at 7:05 PM at the Tribute Communities Centre in downtown Oshawa.

All families from your church are invited to the Oshawa Generals home game as the Generals take on the Barrie Colts starting at 7:05 PM. Discounted tickets will be offered at \$15.25 each (child, youth or adult) with \$1.50 from each ticket purchased being donated back to your church. **Note that this is also a \$5.75 savings versus the regular walk-up price.**

Deadline to order tickets is Sunday, March 5th, 2017

For more information or to order tickets,
please speak to a member of your church administration today.

OSHAWA GENERALS HOCKEY!



March 2017



<p>Ushers:</p> <p>5: Tammy Becker, Carrie Macklin 12: Ken and Katy Haber 19: Will and Lisa Bachewich 26: Irv and Helen Linkie</p>		<p>Readers:</p> <p>5: Tammy Becker 12: Angela Hanke 19: Lisa Bachewich 26: Karen Albrecht</p>	<p>1 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>2 Women's Circle, 5:30 p.m., Club Lonely</p>	<p>3 World Day of Prayer</p>	<p>4 Counters: Will Bachewich Ray Latour</p>
<p>5 1st Sunday in Lent Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour</p>	6	<p>7 Faith Council, 6:30</p>	<p>8 Lenten Lunch, noon Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	9	10	<p>11 Communion Server: 5: Angela Hanke Donna Jennings 19: Arlene Jacobs</p>
<p>12 2nd Sunday in Lent Sunday School and Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	13	<p>14 Bible Study, 9:45 am</p>	<p>15 Lenten Lunch, noon Choir, 6:30 p.m. Faith Night at Oshawa Generals, 7:00</p>	16	17	<p>18 Communion Set-Up: 5: Wendy Nass, Wendy Becker 19: Laurie Ikeda</p>
<p>19 3rd Sunday in Lent Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	20	21	<p>22 Lenten Lunch, noon Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	23	24	<p>25 Flowers: 5: Line Plants 12: Elke Roseman 19: Maureen Molson</p>
<p>26 4th Sunday in Lent Sunday School and Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	27	<p>28 Bible Study, 9:45 am</p>	<p>29 Lenten Lunch, noon Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Prnt with the Pastor, 7:00, The General</p>	31	<p>Coffee: 5: Fellowship Hour 12: Arlene Jacobs 19: Donna Jennings 26: Carol Plath</p>