

All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church

S6065 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075

716-649-6266

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Rev. David Menz, Pastor
Rev. Paul Mertzlufft, Pastor Emeritus
Office Administration, Louise Peters
Beth Cheney, Editor



The Pastor's Pen

April 2025

When the ancient catacombs under the city of Roma were first excavated, archaeologists found amid the inscriptions and surviving graffiti the recurring initials “NF – F – NS – NC”. Whatever these letters meant had apparently been so well known to the Romans that they never bothered to spell them out. For a long time, scholars were unable to decipher the message.

Then one day the fully written message was discovered. The initials stood for: “non fui – fui – non sum – non curo” or “I was not – I was – I am not – I care not.” Once I did not exist, then one day I did, one day I will not be here, and I don’t care. Evidently these words summed up the ancient Romans’ belief with regards to any kind of personal immortality.

Thank God we Christians have infinitely more to anticipate beyond death! Jesus’ death and resurrection have made it possible for us to bear our trials and carry our crosses in life, knowing that it all has meaning and purpose in light of the hereafter. “If it is for only this life that we have hoped for in Christ,” Paul writes, “we are of all people most to be pitied, but in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits (the first evidence of the resurrection) of those who have died” (1 Cor. 15.19-20).

Often at this time of year someone asks how our Easter holiday originated. Some historians point to Acts 12:4 in the King James Version where the word “Easter” is used. It is translated from the Greek word “Pascha” and is generally translated “Passover” in newer biblical translations.

There is a weekly celebration, but no annual celebration of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament. Jewish Christians linked it with the Passover and so observed it on the 14th day of Nisan (March/April) regardless of the day of the week. Gentile believers later celebrated the annual resurrection on the Lord's Day or Sunday.

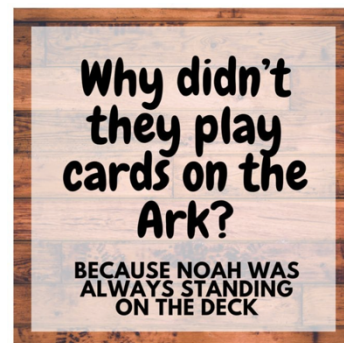
In the year 325 at the Council of Nicaea, it was decided that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox (approximately March 21). This is still our method of determining Easter which will always fall between March 22 and April 25. The name "Easter" comes from "Eoster," an Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring whose pagan holiday fell during that time of year. From her holiday we get many of our Easter traditions – bunnies, eggs, new clothes, decorating baskets, etc.

The most important thing about Easter Sunday for us is – are you really in Christ? Are you living daily for Jesus? If we say we believe, then our lives will show it. This is not done by worshipping only on special days. See you in church!

Pastor Dave



To My All Saints Family:
Thank you for all the prayers,
support and cards I received
during the time Ron was in the
hospital and after his passing. I
deeply appreciated your
thoughtfulness. Love you all.
God's Blessings,
Louise



News from Good Shepherd in North Boston

Good Shepherd's ladies group is having a Yard Sale May 16 & 17, if anyone has items they might want to donate please send Jocelyn Rola an email for a drop off time at jdhrx2@gmail.com or call Good Shepherd at 716-649-7218 and leave a message to someone to get back to you.

The members of All Saints Family have prayed for the following people for the last 30 days. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

- † Family of Neline Rizzo
- † Barb Winship
- † Family of Zachary Golley
- † Bruce
- † Joe
- † Andrew
- † Michael



I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and good wishes sent during my recent surgery and recovery. The outpouring of love from All Saints was amazing. Amazing grace. Thank you again.

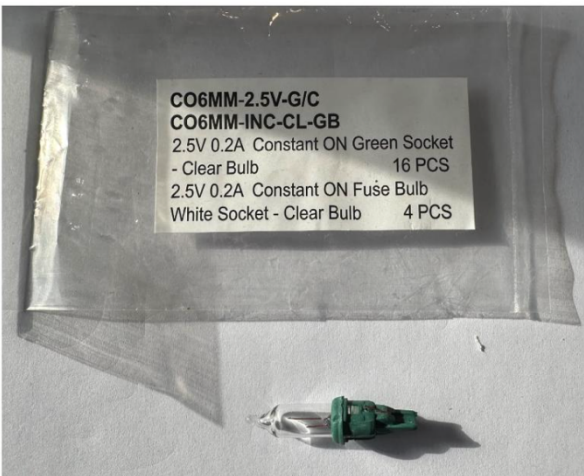
Barbara Kurasch

Faith Hope
Blessed Love

Have You Seen Me?

Do you have a stash of these bulbs somewhere? We are looking for any bulbs that fit this description to help keep the Sanctuary Christmas tree working properly.

General Electric - ConstantOn
Clear
2.5 Volt
0.2 Amp (0.17Amp)
6mm outside diameter of bulb



CO6MM-2.5V-G/C
CO6MM-INC-CL-GB
2.5V 0.2A Constant ON Green Socket - Clear Bulb 16 PCS
2.5V 0.2A Constant ON Fuse Bulb White Socket - Clear Bulb 4 PCS



If you have any of these bulbs please bring them in for Barbara Kurasch.

Do you have a Thrivent Life Insurance Policy or other Thrivent financial product?

If so ... Choice Dollars distribution is available January -March 31st or quarterly. Please consider directing Thrivent's charitable outreach funds to All Saints!

Worship Notes

Midweek Lenten Series: Luther's Catechisms

Early in its history the Lenten season became a time of education in the basics of the Christian faith for new converts seeking baptism at the Easter Vigil. Martin Luther encouraged preaching on the catechisms, especially during Lent. Using the catechisms as a basis for our midweek Lenten worship provides an opportunity to revisit some of the basic teachings of the Christian community.

All our midweek services begin at 7:00 pm with a time of fellowship afterwards.

Week 5 (Apr. 2 – First)

Holy Baptism

Week 6 (Apr. 9 – All Saints)

The Lord's Supper



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- † **Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion** April 13
 - 9:15 am Worship at First with Palms
 - 11:00 am Worship at All Saints with Palms

- † **Maundy Thursday** April 17
 - 7:00 pm Worship with Communion – First

- † **Good Friday** April 18
 - 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service – All Saints
 - A service of lessons and hymns with gathering darkness.

- † **Easter Sunday** April 20
 - 9:15 am Festival Worship at First
 - 11: 00 am Festival Worship at All Saints



South Erie County Cooperative

All Saints Lutheran Church
First Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Grace Lutheran Church

MARCH 13, 2025 — One of my anchor scriptures is, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:22-23). In her last letter to her husband George Burns, Gracie Allen gave us a new image of that truth, advising him to never place a period where God has placed a comma.

My time with you will officially end on May 31. The *transition process* I offered will also end, but the *process of transition* will continue with new leadership and in a new form more suited to your desires.

As I write this, Rachel Sosebee, the Synod’s mobility specialist, is planning to meet with the Good Shepherd and Grace church councils to discuss options for what comes next in the hope of recommending a way ahead.

In the meantime, all four councils have been encouraged to begin as promptly as practical the preparation of their Ministry Site Profiles. (Good Shepherd has a recent one which they will update.)

While the SECC congregations are finding a way through this season of major transition, smaller transitions are taken in stride. One day ends, a new one begins, and God’s mercies are renewed. We find that God has sewn our lives not with periods but with commas. Thank God!

PASTOR RICH NEAL 716-984-3541
richneal@together.net



Scholarship News

The Tina and Dana Dueringer

Scholarship and Memorial Fund has monies available for the 2025-2026 school year.

Recipients shall be active members of All Saints Lutheran Church or related in some way to the ministry of the congregation, complete high school this year and be registered to attend a college or graduate school in a degree program for the next semester.

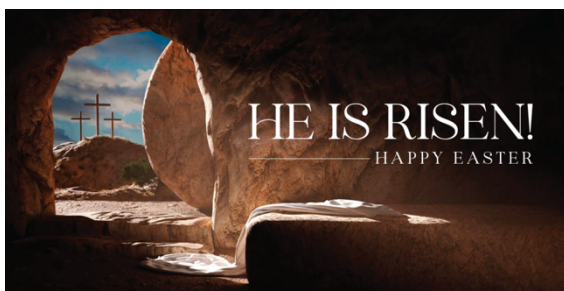
All interested candidates may pick up an application on the table in the church narthex.



The Tina and Dana Dueringer Scholarship and Memorial Fund was established by family and friends of Tina and Dana Dueringer as a lasting memorial with the purpose of honoring our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ by assisting young people embarking on a career, with Scholarship aid.

Applications must be turned in by May 11, 2025

Bev Zier, Chairperson



Transforming All Saints

Updates on the changes coming in 2025

On Sunday, 30 March, both Church Councils from All Saints and First will meet with Rev. Jeremiah Smith, Dean of the Niagara Frontier Conference of the Upstate New York Synod, to discuss the upcoming changes for both congregations.

Meanwhile, we are working to compile and refine the following documents, which must be in order before we invite a new pastor.

- The All Saints Constitution has been updated and assessed by Synod. Once we receive final approval, copies of the constitution and a study guide will be available for review by the congregation. We hope to put the revised constitution to vote on 4 May 2025.
- An updated Policy Manual provides an overview of the practices and customs that determine the operation of All Saints.
- A Resource Book details how things are done within the church, from ordering communion wafers to tending to the gas well.
- The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) will provide a snapshot of All Saints, including our missions, ministry, aspirations, and resources and will be important in attracting a new minister. Work on this document has not yet begun.
- If you can help with these documents, please contact Barbara Kurasch.

Council Highlights

March 2025

- In honor of Ron Peter's work on the board, a \$100 donation was received from St John's Lutheran home for Children, in support of our youth program. A motion was made to send the contribution to Ryan Lotocki for use in his work with WNY youth.
- Preparations for the Pastor Menz's last service are being made in conjunction with First Lutheran of Blasdell. One joint service here at All Saints has been proposed.
- Extreme and prolonged cold caused part of the gas well to freeze up and left us without gas for five days. The well has been repaired but the regulator will need to be replaced this summer. A motion was made to approve that expense.
- Volunteers from All Saints and other of our SECC churches will be building beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace on Saturday, 15 March. Extremely generous donations of both cash and bed linens have been received from All Saints and our sister churches.
- Final revisions to accommodate comments from Synod were made to the constitution and approved. Plans are being made to present the revised constitution to the congregation. Final review and voting are tentatively scheduled for 4 May 2025.
- The South Erie County Collaborative (SECC) is still meeting to plan events and cooperation between the four churches. The future of the SECC Steering Committee is uncertain at this time. Council encouraged All Saint's Steering Committee members to proceed with the research and documentation required in support of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP).
- Annual Reports are due to Barbara Kurasch by April 1, 2025.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for May 18, 2025.

FINANCE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

BANK BALANCES

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 1,140.58
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 2,353.79
TOTAL	\$ 3,494.37

MONTHLY ACTIVITY

	ACTUAL	1/12 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CURRENT RECEIPTS	\$ 6,796.00	\$ 12,793.00	\$ (5,997.00)
SPECIAL GIFTS			
CURRENT EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,966.00	\$ 12,793.00	\$ (2,827.00)
DIFFERENCE	\$ (3,170.00)	\$ -	\$ (3,170.00)

YEAR TO DATE

CURRENT RECEIPTS	\$ 14,521.00	\$ 25,586.00	\$ (11,065.00)
SPECIAL BUDGET GIFTS			
CURRENT EXPENDITURES	\$ 21,569.00	\$ 25,586.00	\$ (4,017.00)
DIFFERENCE	\$ (7,048.00)	\$ -	\$ (7,048.00)

**Schedule of Volunteers
April 2025**

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Deacon	Sandi Menz	Martha Muck	Sandi Menz	Barbara Kurasch
Ushers	Chris Lotocki & Volunteer			
Reader	Ron Heintz	Barbara Kurasch	Martha Muck	Sandi Menz
Altar Guild	Donna Pavel	Louise Peters	Louise Peters	Sandi Menz
Cleaning	Beverly Blette	Dave Menz	Joan Fabian	Martha Muck
Counting	Beth Cheney & Ann Spear Mayer			

If you cannot serve at your scheduled time, please arrange for a substitute.

April Birthdays



Carol Goodberry	4/3
Emily Lotocki	4/4
Rev. Paul Mertzluft	4/5
Lana Pavlik	4/7
Livia Walbridge	4/8
Leslie Carr	4/9
Madisyn Pavlik	4/13
Landon Blette	4/16
Ronald Heintz	4/19
Jonathan Fabian	4/28
Pat Chambers	4/28
Eryn Gawlak	4/30

April Anniversaries

Laura & Robert Kaiser 4/16/93
Lois & John Stutzman 4/11/90



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the May Newsletter is **April 15th**.
Please have all articles in by this time.
Thank You! Send to Beth Cheney
@ bwc143@verizon.net



St. John's Lutheran Home for Children

Serving Western New York Since 1864
P.O. Box 441
Tonawanda, NY 14051
(716) 361-8331

All Saints Lutheran Church
6065 South Park Ave.
Hamburg, New York 14075

March 1, 2025

Dear Pastor Menz and Members of All Saint Lutheran Church

Ron Peters was a vital member of St. John's Lutheran Home for Children serving many years as the Executive Secretary. Ron will be sorely missed by our board.

It is the tradition of St. John's Lutheran Home for Children that when a board member passes a donation is given to their home church for use in their youth program.

Enclosed is a check for One Hundred dollars to assist your youth program at All Saints.

Sincerely

George A. Roeser
Treasurer

LUTHERAN CHARITIES GOLF CLASSIC

Join Us for Exclusive Use of the Pendelton Creek Golf Club

MONDAY, JUNE 30TH

JOIN US AT

PENDELTON CREEK GOLF CLUB
4385 Tonawanda Creek Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 694-0366

EVENT SCHEDULE

11 AM	Registration Begins Lunch Driving Range Open
Noon	Shotgun Start
4-5 PM	Open Bar
5 PM	Dinner & Awards

CONTESTS, PRIZES & AWARDS
Closest to the Pin
Longest Drive

First Place Trophies
Scramble Format

HELP YOUR SCORE!
Buy Mulligans & Strings

TRY YOUR LUCK!
50/50 &
Basket Raffle
with "Big Ticket" Items

PRICING

Golfers: \$150
Includes lunch, golf and cart fees, 1-hour open bar and buffet dinner.

Non-Golfing Guests: \$50
Includes 1-hour open bar and buffet dinner.

*Dietary Concerns or Allergies?
Please let us know!

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE!
www.wnylutherancharities.org

or Mail This Form to:
Lutheran Charities of WNY
6540 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

or Contact Us at:
(716) 632-2623
info@wnylutherancharities.org

PAYMENT

Golfers: _____ x \$150 = _____

Guests: _____ x \$50 = _____

Payment Method:

Check Enclosed
Make checks payable to:
Lutheran Charities
Memo: Golf Classic Registration

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

GOLFER REGISTRATION

Type: Group Individual

Contact Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

GROUP GOLFERS

Golfer 1:
Email: _____

Golfer 2:
Email: _____

Golfer 3:
Email: _____

Golfer 4:
Email: _____

OUR MISSION

to care for and support individuals, families and communities by building valuable connections to create synergy and empowerment.

For over 40 years, Lutheran Charities' primary mission has been to support Western New York communities with kindness, compassion, justice and generosity, joining people where they are with what they need.

GOLF WITH A PURPOSE

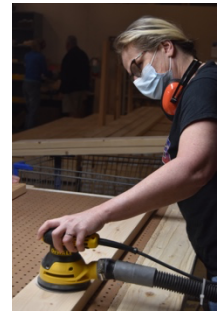
100% of proceeds from the annual Lutheran Charities Golf Classic underwrite grant funding for various service agencies throughout Western New York, providing education, food, health care, social support and more to our at-risk neighbors.



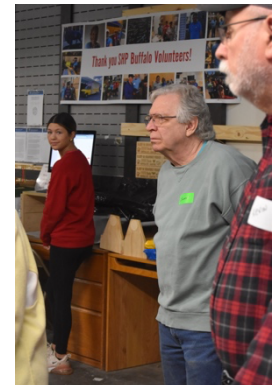
Donations collected from the four churches for Sleep In Heavenly Peace

**All Saints Lutheran, First Lutheran in
Blasdell, Grace Lutheran, Good Shepherd**

Sheet Sets	51
Quilts	33
Mattress Covers	14
Pillows	31
Blankets	10
Pillow Cases	12
Throw	6



The volunteers were able to make parts
For 25 beds. We also collected \$450 to
Donate to the cost of two more bed
supplies. Great job everyone!!





All Saints Lutheran Church
S6065 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075



April 2025 Newsletter