

March 2019



# The Word

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## Give Up, Giving Up For Lent



### Reflections from Fr. Jeff

*"The mission of Christ's Church is to worship God and to make known the love and salvation of Christ."*

As Lent approaches, I know some of you are planning on giving up sweets, chocolates, smoking, alcohol, cursing, eating out, and even carbs! Giving up things is truly a prayer and a sincere offering to the Lord. I by no means want to deter you from a pious act to deepen your relationship with our Lord. For others of you, you find giving up things for Lent as odd and uncomfortable. I jokingly say that I give up skydiving and water polo. In reality, I try to either give up or take on something that I not only do for Lent but for the rest of my life. So needless to say, I have learned to take baby steps.

Recently, Bishop Jim Hobby stated that we need to prepare ourselves for church. I was instantly brought back to my seminary days in studying St. Ignatius. He was a Roman Catholic priest and theologian who was the founder of the *Society of Jesus* (a scholarly religious group). Coincidentally, he died four months, 10 days after Thomas Cramer in 1556. One of the most powerful take away points I had from reading his work was about preparing to pray.

St. Ignatius suggests the way to prepare for Lent is by preparing to pray. His questions to us are:

- ❖ Have we physically set aside a prayer space for our Lenten journey?
- ❖ What time of day will we pray during Lent?
- ❖ What are the "exercises" or prayer methods we will be using during Lent?

In our preparatory prayer during the spiritual exercises, we pray for specific graces.

- ❖ What is the grace we desire to deepen within us during Lent?
- ❖ To deepen our understanding of Jesus' Passion?
- ❖ To walk with Jesus through His Passion and Resurrection?
- ❖ To work on overcoming a temptation that keeps us from fully entering into life with Christ?
- ❖ To foster a new spiritual practice to ignite or inflame our relationship with Jesus?

In these last few days before Lent begins, I invite us to begin our preparatory prayer. We can turn to Jesus and ask, "What is the grace You desire to deepen within me over these next 40 days?"

If you choose this challenge for Lent, know you will be joining me. Either way, you are in my prayers! Amen!

Fr. Jeff+



## Notes from the Deacon's Corner

### Corporate Prayer: What Does That Mean?

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**M**ost people understand the word “prayer” is used by us as God’s children to communicate with Him. As His people, we can experience joys and sorrows in life, which often leads us to pray. We often forget to thank God for the joyful events and people in our lives, but it is not unusual for us to be reaching out to Him in prayer when we experience sadness, sorrow, or suffering in our day. Prayer can take many forms and take place in many places throughout our day. When driving the car, grocery shopping, caring for our children, experiencing quiet moments at work, at church or away from church all open the opportunity for prayer. Corporate prayer means praying in groups.

Quietly meditating is a form of prayer. Using one word or a mantra is a form of private prayer. Many years ago, my spouse, Derek, and I took a Christian meditation course from our Anglican priest. He included focusing on one’s breathing as part of meditating. He encouraged us to think of a simple word or phrase repeating it over and over. All of this is a form of private prayer. In our human life, the Holy Spirit doesn’t take time off. He is always at work, guiding us, teaching us, protecting us, and pushing us. Jesus said, “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst them.” (Mt: 18:19–20) (KJV)

I have heard people say, “I don’t need to go to church, I am spiritual.” This expression of a person’s faith journey is partially true. People can experience private prayer but are missing out on corporate worship. They are missing out on having others pray for them, per Jesus’ command of “where two or three are gathered together.” We don’t live in silos, we live in community and God has given us one another to help one another. This includes praying for one another.

Whether we pray in private or in public, the Bible gives us guidance on how to pray. We are to pray with **humility**, as scripture says in James, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10). We are to be **obedient** in prayer, as the Bible tells us: “Dear friends if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask because we obey his commands and do what pleases him” (1John 3:21–22). We are to be **thankful** and **not anxious** as is taught us in Philippians, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6).

When we let ourselves sink into prayer, whether in corporate or private prayer, we can allow the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts. Feeling the warmth of the Holy Spirit is comforting, is peaceful, and is exhilarating. We can truly let our anxieties and worries be carried off and replaced with a sense of relief that “everything will be OK,” as our Father in Heaven promises us. He is with us, He will be with us always. How can we doubt our Heavenly Father who is Almighty, all good, all truthful, all loving? Prayer is a human expression of communication with our Father. He has designed us to have a prayerful life. By developing a deeper relationship with God, with His Son, Jesus, we are really guaranteed to have lives which are guarded and protected by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



# The Bishop's <sup>3</sup> Annual Visitation



On February 3, Bishop James Hobby had his annual visitation here at Christ's Church. His message was on 1 Corinthians 14:12-25 about our Christian responsibility. We also received instruction on sharing The Peace.

**Eight people were confirmed. Congratulations to:**

\*Luke Sandala \*Alessia Sandala  
\*Lilly Cook \*Daniel Cook  
\*Marsha Cook \*Aryana Galdo  
\*James Watson \*Kellen Wylie

The Bishop also blessed our new sanctuary chairs given in memory of Bob Plummer and Bob Wicker. Details in April's issue of *The Word*.



**Congratulations also go to those receiving The Bishop's Awards:**

**Exemplary Service-** Jack Oberdorf and Tom Thompson

**Excellence in Scripture-** Amie Dancu

**St Philip Award for Proclaiming the Gospel-** Aryana Galdo, Lilly Cook, and Freda Schultz

Christ's Church's first ever **St. George's Award** was given to Devon Gilbert, the Boy Scout who renovated our library as his Eagle Scout Project. St. George is the patron saint of scouting.

*It was a wonderful day of celebration and feasting!*

## Upcoming Parish Calendar

**Mar 5:** Youth Pancake Supper, 5:00—7:00 pm

**Mar 6:** Ash Wednesday. Services at 12:00 Noon and 7:30 pm

**Mar 8:** Our next Salad Bar

**Mar 10:** Deadline for the articles to be included in the April issue of the Parish newsletter

**Mar 11:** Christian Women Together monthly dinner

**Mar 12:** Deadline for the articles to be included in the Annual Report

**Mar 12:** Vestry Meeting beginning at 7:00 pm in the C.E. Building

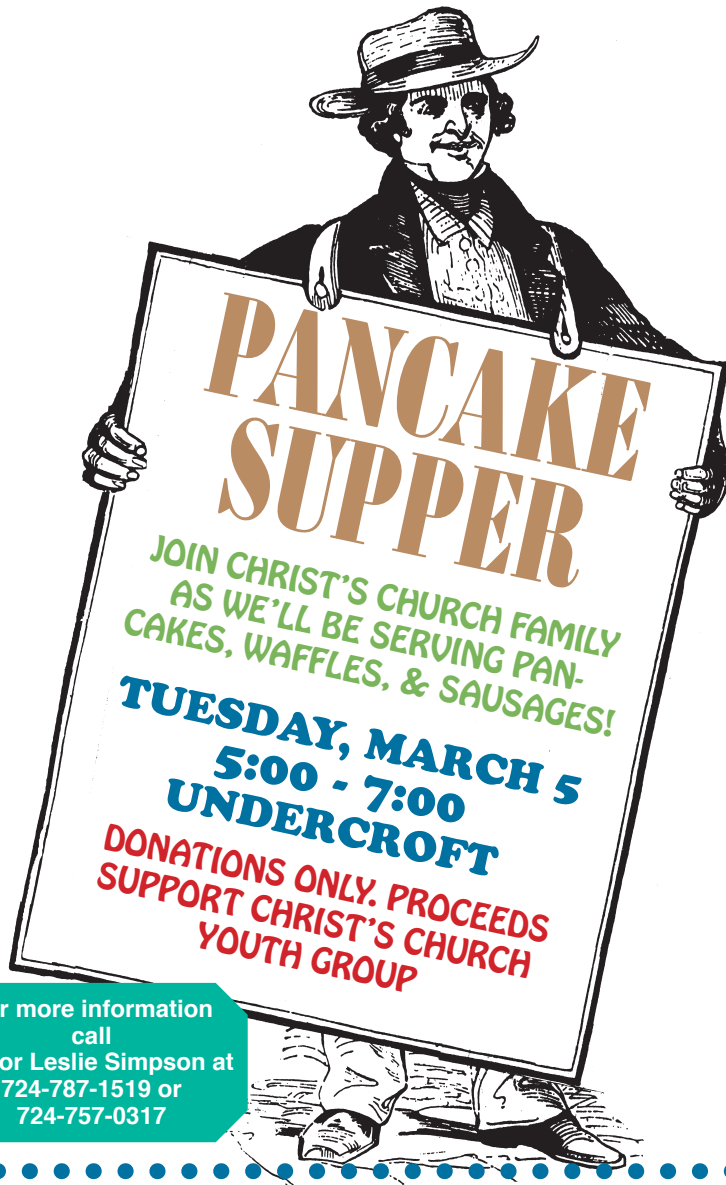
**Mar 24:** Annual Parish Meeting, Undercroft, Time: TBD

## Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum



Have you been to the Ark Encounter? The Creation Museum? Well, if not, you are in luck! Howard Finney is organizing one of his famous bus tours, and his sights are set on the full-size Noah's Ark and the 75,000 square-foot Creation Museum situated in the beautiful Williamstown, Kentucky. Dates are September 26—27, 2019. Details are included in the special insert in this newsletter.





For more information  
call  
Jeff or Leslie Simpson at  
724-787-1519 or  
724-757-0317

## DONATE CLOTHING FOR LENT

Do you need a new and challenging project to do for Lent? How about taking a large trash bag and donating one article of gently used clothing, coats, or shoes for each of the 40 days of Lent. This can be an individual commitment, a family commitment, or a group commitment. At the end of Lent, you can donate your bag to the charity of your choice or bring it to church. We will donate the items to various charities around Greensburg. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th.

## VESTRY *Notes*

A motion to pay for our Godly Share in the amount of \$14,250.87 to the Anglican Diocese passed. \$6,961.53 will be reserved to pay the Episcopal Diocese.

Gretchen talked to Shepherd's Heart about doing a dinner there. The dates she suggested were March 31 and April 28. She will report next month which date is chosen.

The church picnic will be August 25.

Sunday School will permanently move to the undercroft for the winter.

Father Jeff explained that in the event of a weather emergency when church needs to be canceled people are to go to the website or call the church extension 8.

November and December Financial Statements were reviewed.

A 2019 budget of \$232,250 was approved.

## Finances

End of 2018	
Income -	\$217,846
(98% of budget)	
Disbursements -	\$217,790
(98% of budget)	
Net gain for the year -	\$ 55.54
Assets:	
Balance in checking -	\$ 36,244
Balance in investments -	\$128,681





Services for **Ash Wednesday, March 6**, will be held at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. This is a time to begin your penitential Lent. Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer, fasting, and repentance and falls on the first day of Lent, six weeks of penitence before Easter. The priest makes a sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes made from palms from Palm Sunday. As he applies the ashes, he says "Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return." Which is based on the words spoken to Adam and Eve after their sin, to reminds worshippers of their sinfulness and mortality and thus, implicitly, of their need to repent in time. The priest makes a sign of the cross to remind us that forgiveness can only be accomplished through Jesus Christ.

## Women Alive in Christ Retreat

Need a day at the beach? A time to slow down, wiggle your toes in the sand, and bask in the warmth of God's presence? Join us for our **SeaSide Escape**. We may still really be here in Pittsburgh, but it'll be such a meaningful experience... with Bible Study, worship, connection with other women, as well as time for quiet reflection and plenty of laughter!... you'll feel as if you're somewhere far-far away!

**When:** March 15–16, 2019, Friday evening 6:30 p.m. to Saturday evening 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Kearns Spirituality Center 9000 Babcock Blvd Allison Park, PA 15101

**Cost:** \$95.00 for one night, two meals and a time to slow down and bask in the warmth of God's presence

**Registration:** Please call Bonnie Colaianne at 724-939-7163

*Mission Statement: "To glorify God in relationships and activities, and to encourage a servant's heart toward God, the church family, and our community."*

## Support your local CCW!

### Salad Bar

We missed seeing "you" at our recent salad bar on February 8. The tables were beautifully decorated with a Valentine theme in pink and red. The food was delicious and plentiful, according to the many compliments received.

You missed seeing two men running for judge in the May primary. Another one of our guests was a local Orthodox priest, a first-timer.



We served **97 guests**, and our net income was **\$810.33**. *Thank you* to everyone who helped in any way!

Our next salad bar is **Friday, March 8**. Remember: There is **NO** salad bar in April.



### Frozen Pie Sale

Our next Frozen Pie Sale is **Wednesday, May 15**. This is your reminder to check your freezer. How many do you have left? Be sure to tell your family, friends, and neighbors, too. The next issue of *The Word* will have the pie order form.



# Property REPORT

The much needed renovation for the men's restroom is on schedule! The contractor, who is a member of our Church, Steve Oshetsky, has had us on his schedule since last year, and, is to begin the work at the end of February or early March. Please be patient with the inconvenience and the dirt and dust!

The old "Handicap" restroom will be available for the men to use!! This is the restroom just up the ramp as you exit the Undercroft. It will take some time to complete this renovation, as there is a lot to do, so, please be patient. You all know what it is like when you start to tear out walls, who knows what he will find! I am sure he will do a fine job for us and we will all be happy with the results.

The Eagle Scouts will be doing their projects in the C. E. Building. The floor by the D. Robertson room and the playground area are the next two projects for them.

Gene DiPrimio, *Property*



## Inclement Weather Notifications

Being located in western Pennsylvania, we do suffer from unfavorable weather from time-to-time. To learn if the weather will impact any of our programs, visit our website at [www.ccagbg.org](http://www.ccagbg.org) or call the church office 724-834-4750 and select the number "8" which will give you an updated status report.



Don't forget!  
March 10  
is the deadline  
for articles  
in the April  
issue of  
The Word.

# WANTED!

**ARTISTS, WRITERS, HOT SHOT PHOTOGRAPHERS, SINGERS, DANCERS, VIOLIN PLAYERS, MUSICIANS, MAGICIANS, SONG WRITERS; ANYONE WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING OUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER ALIVE AND INTERESTING FOR OUR PARISHONERS IS WELCOME TO JUMP ONTO THE BANDWAGON!**

C'mon, folks, how about stepping up to the plate and start sending in stuff that we can publish in *The Word*. Anniversaries, weddings, graduation ceremonies, great vacations, memorable birthday parties, are good things to read about, but so are parish events with accompanying photos! And we need updates from our various ministries of which we're all proud to have on board. So, the social media stuff has its place, but so does your parish newsletter. Help us, please!

Thank you,  
The Newsletter Staff

## This Month's Book Recommendation

# Martin Luther

The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World

By Eric Metaxas

On All Hallows' Eve in 1517, a young monk named Martin Luther posted a document he hoped would spark an academic debate, but that instead ignited a conflagration that would forever destroy the world he knew.

Five hundred years after Luther's now famous Ninety-five Theses appeared, Eric Metaxas, acclaimed biographer of the bestselling *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* and *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*, paints a startling portrait of the wild figure whose adamant

faith cracked the edifice of Western Christendom and dragged medieval Europe into the future.

Written in riveting prose and impeccably researched, *Martin Luther* tells the searing tale of a humble man who, by bringing ugly truths to the highest seats of power, caused the explosion whose sound is still ringing in our ears. Luther's monumental faith and courage gave birth to the ideals of liberty, equality, and individualism that today lie at the heart of all modern life.

~ From the Publisher





*Favorite Recipes  
from the*  
**CCW Salad Bar**

### **ALMOND SUGAR COOKIES**

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking powder  
1 cup butter softened  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups sugar  
1 egg  
4 or 5 drops almond flavoring

- \* Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- \* Stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.
- \* In large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and almond flavoring. Gradually blend in dry ingredients. Roll teaspoon of dough in ball and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Cookies will spread as they bake. Bake 8 to 10 minutes until golden brown.

*Jess Wylie*





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