

CHURCH MOUSE

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Important March Dates

2	Pot Luck	6:00 pm
2	Ash Wednesday Service with Communion	7:00 pm
4	Men's Bible Breakfast @ Parkview	8:00 am
6	PTL Mtg.	5:30 pm
7	Staff Mtg.	2:45 pm
7	Pot Luck	6:00 pm
7	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
9	BCE Mtg.	6:00 pm
10	No School Staff Development	
12	Sunday Brunch after service	
14	Pot Luck	6:00 pm
14	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
16	Church Council Mtg.	7:00 pm
21	Pot Luck	6:00 pm
21	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
28	Pot Luck	6:00 pm
28	Lenten Service	7:00 pm

Greeters

- 5 Don and Isabel Canfield
- 12 Roger and Helen Drew
- 19 Marien Klett
- 26 Ron and Ruth Nearpass

Ushers

- 5 Hallet Family
- 12 Randy Kellogg/
Don Heckathorn
- 19 Peter and Heather
Roseboom
- 26 Brian and Jackie Schendel



Church Mouse Submission: If you enjoy reading this newsletter, please consider submitting an article/ pictures from life events (eg: the birth of your own baby or grandchild or family vacations/celebrations/birthdays). Please include a caption to go with the picture. We will also accept announcements that have to do with the Church life at Zion. Please send to Adina-she has a mailbox in the office or you can send her an email at asetzer01@stny.rr.com. The deadline for any submission is the 20th of the month.

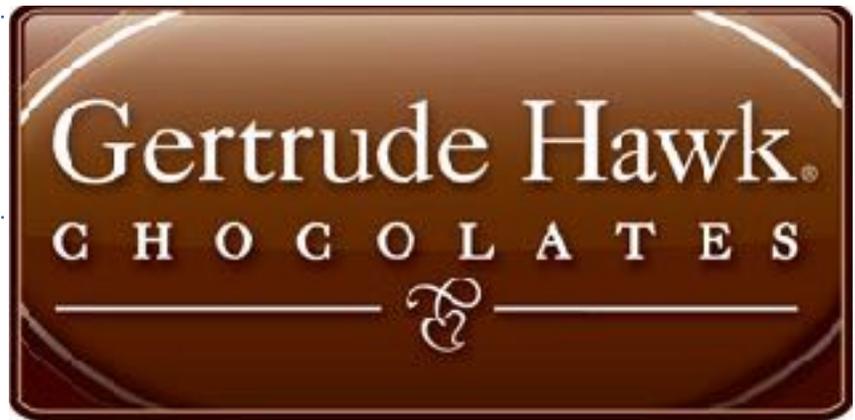
March Birthdays

8 Karen Gunther
22 Jenny Ceccherelli

March Anniversaries

None

***Please contact Debbie in the office to add your birthday/ anniversary dates.



PTL Fundraiser: The PTL is now running the Easter Candy Fundraiser with Gertrude Hawk Chocolates. Orders are due by Monday, March 13th and orders will be ready for pick up Tuesday-Wednesday, April 4-5th at the school. Check with the office for catalogs or with school students who are selling via catalog/online. Please contact PTL President Stephen Ferraro with additional questions (754-8931) or FerraroFive@gmail.com. These fundraisers help support the music, art, and gym classes as well a field trips and other community events!



Sunday School News: Something special will go on during Sunday School on March 26th. Hmm... I wonder what that might be. Come to Sunday School at 10:00 am and see but make sure you bring your hands with you!!

Message from Pastor Grabenhofer

Dear Saints at Zion,

01 March is Ash Wednesday, the day we enter the holy and penitential season of Lent. Lent is the time that we use to prepare our hearts and minds to hear once again the glorious proclamation and foundation of the holy Christian faith: *Christ is risen!* With Jesus' resurrection from the dead, sin, death, devil and hell all lay defeated. Our faith is not in vain; we are no longer in our sins; the devil is our defeated enemy and heaven stands open to us—we are, in Jesus, God's dear children.

Precisely this proclamation and its results in us and for us is precisely the thing the devil wants to take from us. He wants to destroy the Spirit-worked faith we have that rejoices in and receives Easter's proclamation. One insidious way that he tries to do this is by making the glorious proclamation "Christ is risen!" something that's "old hat"; he wants to get us tired of that announcement so that we no longer desire to hear it. One way he tries to do that is to try to get us to think that our sins are no big deal: we aren't really all that bad; we don't sin too much; or, at the very least, we are certainly better than most.

But if the devil succeeds in that with us, then what? Then "Christ is risen and my sins are forgiven me" are no big deal—after all, I really didn't need it all that much anyway. But what is our antidote to this? Lent! Lent is the time of year that we take special time to hold up our hearts and lives to the mirror of God's holy law and examine them all the more closely. As we do so with honesty and humility, we will see our sin all the more clearly.

Ash Wednesday with its ashes remind us of the end result of our sin—death. The holy apostle clearly testifies [Rm. 6.23]: **The wages of sin is death.** Death teaches us that our sins are indeed a great affront to a holy God. When we realize *what* our sins really are and what we earn and deserve because of them—death and God's wrath and eternal damnation in hell—how we long for that glorious announcement of Easter that Jesus *did* rise from the dead, that in Him our sins *are* forgiven and that we will one day be with Him in heaven, soul and body. Recognizing our sin drives to our Savior from sin. *That's* the purpose of Lent and its *inward* focus on heart and life.

But Lent also has an *outward* focus—on Jesus. Again, Ash Wednesday's ashes remind us of this. Not only do the ashes remind us of *our* death, but they also point us to the death of Another—*Jesus*. In Lent, we ponder Jesus' holy suffering and innocent death. There we see His great love for us; there we see the Father's great love in sending Jesus, His Son. Yes, Jesus' suffering and death drive home to us the seriousness of our sin—that it took the death of the holy God Himself to reconcile us sinners to God—but it also drives home to us the *love* of God for us sinners. *That* love draws us to our gracious and merciful God; it leads us to sorrow over and

Message from Pastor Grabenhofer

confess our sins all of which we committed against our gracious and merciful God; that love draws us to receive that forgiveness that Jesus won for us by His holy life and innocent suffering and death and now offers and gives us in His holy word and sacraments.

This outward focus of Lent gives the solid foundation to faith and our repentance. It's why we *can* confess our sins—our God is gracious and merciful to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; and Jesus' suffering and crucifixion show that beyond any shadow of a doubt. Having looked inward at our hearts and lives and seeing and being full of sorrow for our sins and looking outward at Jesus and His suffering and death for our sins, how we love Him and long to hear Easter's proclamation: Christ is risen!

Blessed Lent,
Pastor Grabenhofer

JOIN US TUESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT TO PONDER OUR LORD'S SAVING WORK:

02 March [Ash Wednesday]

2 Chronicles 29.3-11

Why Ash Wednesday And Lent?

07 March

St. Matthew 26. 20-25

Is It I, Lord?

14 March

St. Matthew 26.30; St. John 18. 1-2

Strengthened For The Struggle

21 March

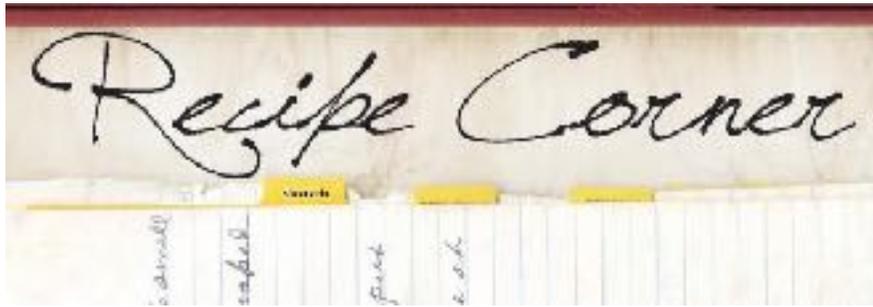
St. Matthew 26.51-2; St. John 18. 10-11

St. Peter's Sword And Jesus' Cup

28 March

St. Matthew 27. 15-19

The Very Stones Would Cry Out



Make your own easy and homemade take on the fast food favorite, Shamrock Shake

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups vanilla ice cream
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 10 drops green food coloring
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 maraschino cherry
- whipped cream (optional)

To Do:

In a blender, combine the ice cream, whole milk, food coloring, and peppermint extract. Process until smooth-about 30 seconds. Add to a glass and top with whipped cream and cherry. Enjoy!

