JOYOUS NEWS

February 2024



219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith, and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.

I am from Pittsburgh so, naturally, I am a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. With the Super Bowl coming up, I get to ponder how the Steelers have sadly not given me much to cheer about the last several seasons. It has been a rollercoaster ride and there is a strong sense that it is time for a coaching change.

One of the great things about sports is the rivalries, and how they can keep things interesting even when your team isn't doing well. The Steelers' historic rival is the Cleveland Browns. The Browns, which we Steelers fans lovingly refer to as the Clowns, are a once proud organization that has fallen on hard times the last couple of decades. It all started when the owner of the Browns decided to move the team to Baltimore. What was once the Browns became the Ravens. And what was once a rivalry between teams that loved to hate each other, but didn't really hate each other, became a bitter rivalry between the Steelers and the Ravens as two teams that really, really hate each other. Steelers fans never forgave the Ravens for taking flight from Cleveland and landing in Baltimore.

Rivalries are fun and interesting layers to sports. For example, in a year where the Steelers aren't doing anything, seeing them still beat the Ravens twice was quite enjoyable. If Michigan isn't going to win the national championship, the success or failure of the season all rides on what they do against Ohio State. And rivalries give you more rooting options. You root for UofM and whoever is playing Ohio State. It's all in good fun, even if the rivalries run deep.

Sports aren't the only place rivalries exist, however. And they aren't always in good fun. Catholics and Protestants have been rivals in the West, literally fighting for the souls of people. In places like Ireland we have seen where this has become so contentious that it went beyond rivalry and into war between the Irish Catholics and the Protestants. Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox are also rivals in Eastern Europe and the East.

There are interesting rivalries that have existed within the Church, even among Protestants. Theologians with differing views have gone after each other's ideas for centuries. One such rivalry was between two of the greatest men of the 18th Century: John Wesley and George Whitefield. To be clear, they were not enemies. They were just rivals. They both worked as great evangelists and preachers and were both Anglicans instrumental in the Methodist movement.

No one can argue that John Wesley wasn't a great clergyman and evangelist. He rode hundreds of thousands of miles on horseback preaching the gospel, and sometimes preaching as many as seven sermons a day. Likewise, George Whitefield was known as a great preacher known for revivals in the colonies. He saw the preaching of the word as his central call and was concerned to see people come to saving faith in Christ.



Happy February 2024 Ulentine's

at New Life



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20 Years of New Life!

As Valentine's Day approaches this year, it gives me pause to think of my special church family. On February 14, 2004 a group of Emmanuel Episcopal Church members met at the home of Bob Blanz for what was to be a final meeting of this group. This group had formed from those who had run for vestry at Emmanuel in an attempt to turn around the direction of the church to center on Biblical truth. The group was dismayed by their inability to gain what they wished in that vestry election. As they met on that Valentines' Day, they had not planned to do what came out of that meeting. They decided to form a new Anglican church, apart of the Episcopal Church and they did!

A lot has happened to what is now New Life in the past 20 years. Like human life our church family has experienced great joy and deep pains. Through it all, our ultimate goal remains firm. We are an Anglican Church that holds scripture as our ultimate guide to truly following Christ.

The original steering committee was nine people: Bob Blanz, Ernie Mainland, Bill Atkins, Tim Strauss, Lou Zako, Bobbie Stinchcombe, Gretchen Lucky, Bob Dominic and Liz Ostrander, As soon as the group made their idea known, many others jumped aboard. The Emmanual Youth Pastor, Jeff Watton was with us, but, not a committee member, as he was our employee.

While I served on this committee, I often thought that this group was as diverse as the original disciples. Twenty years later, only three of us are left, yet, without the efforts of all of the original group during that first year, we likely would not be where we are today.

I hold dear memories of New Life as it made its' way into existence. We started out as First Anglican Church of Petoskey. We were astounded yet overjoyed by the filthy little building (so many pizza boxes, disgusting couches and wild paint jobs) that Ernie Mainland found to become our church building. Signing up with AMIA (Anglican Mission in America) and then hiring David Linka {who had been the representative from AMIA to visit us regards to affiliation) to be our first priest. There was a period where we worshiped on Sundays in the gym at Central Elementary. There was a group of guys who worked on projects to fix things around the church, and they named themselves "Hardly Able Construction". We changed our name to New Life Anglican Church, a name suggested by Aleta Watton. When David Linka left us to go back down south (he had never lived north of Virginia prior to his calling to Petoskey!) we had a long, and discerning search for our new pastor. Now we have been blessed by Father Mike for 14 years, (They only had Mickey and Josh when they came us. What joy to watch their family grow up and grow bigger!) We were able to procure our present church building just at the same time as the first group of summer college students asked to be part of us.

Our numbers may have been larger at the start. As things settled down some did not stay, some returned to Emmanual, some felt that they could not agree with our theology, some moved away, many have moved on to be with the Lord, and sadly we had our own church split. I have seen these sort of changes happened in many (all eventually?) churches. It is just how relationships go.

As long as we continue to show people that we love Christ and follow his word, I am sure New Life will continue for many years to come. It gives me great joy to see so many young children at New Life these day and pray that New Life continues to share the good news for many years to come!

~ Liz Ostrander,

Church Historian

Continued from page 1

There were two specific places that Wesley and Whitefield disagreed. And to their credit, I think they were each right on one of the points. Their first major disagreement was about predestination and God's role in salvation. George Whitefield held to the view held in the Thirty-nine Articles of the Anglican Church that holds that God is sovereign in the work of salvation from beginning to end. Wesley, on the other hand, held to an Arminian view of the necessity of the individual to choose God on his own. So the dispute was whether, on Whitefield's view, God is sovereign in choosing who he saves, or on Wesley's view, the individual must choose God apart from God's work in order to be saved. For the record, I agree with Whitefield on this issue.

Where I disagree with Whitefield is in his second area of contention with Wesley. Whitefield was a slave holder and believed that slaves were a necessary part of the economy and part of funding ministry that was dear to his heart. Wesley believed that slavery was among the most abhorrent of evils and that no Christian should be able to defend it. To be very clear, John Wesley was right on this point and Whitefield was in the wrong.

Despite these differences, and despite their rivalry particularly on the point of salvation, they didn't dislike each other. In fact, Whitefield handed over his ministry in Methodism over to Wesley so that he could focus on evangelistic preaching. But they were known to be rivals enough, and to disagree firmly enough, that George Whitefield was once asked if he thought he'd see John Wesley in heaven. To paraphrase Whitefield on his answer, he said: no, he didn't think he would see John Wesley in heaven, because he thought that John Wesley would be too close to the throne of God for him to ever catch a glimpse.

What this shows is that while they had vehement disagreements on certain issues, they did truly believe one another to be brothers in Christ. And we can learn a lesson from that. There are people that we disagree with on many issues. Some are very important issues, and some seem more important than they truly are. It is an election year, so many points of contention will come out. What we can learn from Wesley and Whitefield, however, is that we can disagree on key issues and still be loving brothers and sisters in Christ. Even if we disagree on big social issues as they did on slavery.

My encouragement, then, is that we not let our differences divide us more deeply than they must. There are some issues that we are rightfully divided on and there isn't any middle ground. But let us not look for rivalries and ways to be divided. Let us look for ways to be united, to be brothers and sisters, and to be one body in Christ.

~ Fr. Mike

FR. MIKE'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00pm and Thursdays & Fridays 9:00am - 1:00pm

MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST – meets each Tuesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at Southwood's Restaurant

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays at 10am the annex study ~ suspended for February

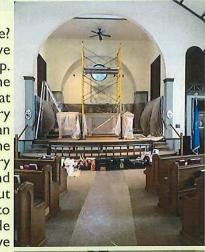
MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM – our next meeting is Thursday, February 22 in Blanz Hall. Our meetings will include fellowship 5:30 – 6:30p.m., dinner 6:30 – 7:30p.m. and a short teaching 7:30 – 8:00

p.m. Bring your beverage of choice. I hope you will join us.

New Life's Sanctuary Refresh

FROM THE CORNER OF THE SACRISTY

How do we glorify Him and how do we glorify His house? Sacrificial love...His sacrifice he gave to us and our sacrifices we are willing to give back to Him, His house. His home of worship. to honor Him. Last year we had banners made and put up for the different colors of the seasons and with Shauna Ostrander that came true. the vestry and I had decided to paint the Sanctuary walls. It did not happen until two weeks ago but what an undertaking. I was able to come in and see the beginning and the end of the process! Unbelievable!! What went on in that very small space in just a week, not only were the walls painted and freshened but also the ceiling. Everything all cleaned up and put back together for worship Sunday. A blessing from our Father to us as we continue to do His work and care for the gifts He bestows on us. Every small deed is to His honor and glory and we thank you Father.



Blessings, Karen D

~ A blessed thank you to Budnik Builders for the beautiful work painting the sanctuary.







WALLY'S GALLERY -

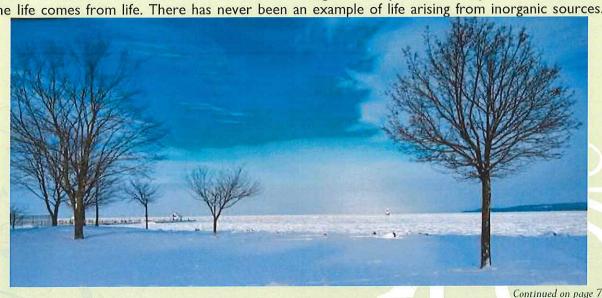
Recently my wife and I watched a movie with the title "Prometheus." Curious about the name I googled it and found this answer: "Prometheus, in Greek religion, is one of the Titans, the supreme trickster, and god of fire. His intellectual side was emphasized by the apparent meaning of his name, Forethinker. In common belief he developed into a master craftsman, and in this connection he was associated with fire and the creation of mortals."

It is from the last sentence that I now understood why the movie was given this name. Several scientist set off into the outer realms of the universe to find the planet from which, they believe, life on earth was seeded. While they find the planet they searched for, all ends in badly except for one scientist who escapes with her life.

In more modern times the idea that life was brought to earth from another source in the universe was advanced by Francis Crick in 1981. It was given the name "panspermia." Francis Crick, a brilliant scientist, along with several scientist played a crucial role in unlocking the code in DNA. As brilliant as he may have been, panspermia does not solve the problem of the origin of life. It only says that it came from somewhere else.

What upsets me about these ideas in fantasy is that people will accept the idea of panspermia since it was proposed by a brilliant scientist. They assume that while we may not now scientifically know the source of earth's life, we will eventually. Unfortunately, that idea is left in the mind of the viewer at the movies end. The one surviving scientist believing she has discovered the source of earth's life, rather than return to earth safely, sets off to discover the source of life that existed on the planet she just escaped from. Even if she may believe that she has achieved that discovery, she will then have to search again for the source of that life's origin. This is called an infinite regression because it is a search that extends into an infinite past with no ending and consequently no solution.

I often wonder what those who suggest such hopeless proposals as panspermia are searching for? Are they looking for another form of life or are they searching for the origin of life itself absent from a Creator? Whatever their intent In all of biological history the one thing we have learned is the life comes from life. There has never been an example of life arising from inorganic sources.



Continued from page 6

At times I will watch a show that tries to offer an example of how inorganic molecules might evolve into life but it all results in wishful thinking. Those searching the skies may discover the presence of water on a distant planet and conclude that it is evidence of life. No it doesn't. Water may be essential for life but, in itself, it is not sufficient. There is far more required of immense complexity.

If the escaped scientist, in the movie, decides to search for the originator of life, in her present condition, she will never find it. Why? The answer was always in front of her before she ever left earth but she did not have the ability to see it.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome: "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal powered divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So the they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20) However, even though God has made himself known through his created order, unless God gives her a changed heart she will never be able to see Him, in all that He has made. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

That same idea was expressed in a book that I read many years ago. As I recall an author was not identified but the words I do remember: "Earth is crammed with heaven and every bush aflame with God, but only those who see, take off their shoes."

All those who believe in such searches or set off into the cosmos with hopes of finding the answer to life are in engaged in a fruitless endeavor as they do not have the eyes to see what was always before them.

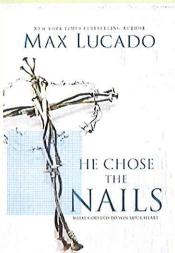
~ Wally's Gallery

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Beginning, 6pm, Wednesday, February 21 \sim March 20

This study will be led by Fr. Mike

He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart - Is a wonderful book that is easy to read



and very engaging. We will be reading three chapters a week starting Wednesday, February 21 and ending Wednesday, March 20. Three chapters may sound like a lot, but I read the whole book in two days, so trust me, it won't be too much reading to do for each week.

We will meet on Wednesdays at 6pm where we will have soup and salad, and then book study will start at 6:30pm and end no later than 8pm.

If you are interested in a copy of the book, please sign up in Blanz Hall.

I hope many of you will join us for this time of encouragement and discussion.

"REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN...."

These are the words we hear every year as ashes are imposed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. I remember when I was younger, I would always think "Eww, I don't want to be dust, that sounds kind of gross!" And I always prayed that no one would sneeze during imposition of the ashes for two reasons, one so the Priest didn't end up covered in ashes unexpectedly, and two so that we would actually have enough ashes to cover everyone.

But as I grew up, I began to understand more the powerful meaning behind these words, and what the season of Lent is truly all about. It's a time of reflection, penance, and self-sacrifice. It's a time of repentance, and fasting, and discipline. And the ashes, as we have so often heard, are a great and powerful reminder of our mortality, as are the words spoken when they're imposed. So I began to appreciate and understand this tradition more, and the meaning of the season of Lent as a whole.

And while it may be somber, and maybe not the most joyful season in the church calendar, knowing that Easter is imminent, makes it all not so heavy. Knowing what Jesus went through, and did, for us, deserves reflection and pondering, and honor and thanksgiving for sure. That is why we begin the season of Lent the way that we do, on Ash Wednesday. And then this journey culminates in Holy Week, where we literally walk the way of the cross, from the Last supper and Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday, to the somber remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, to the glorious day of Easter Sunday!

That is why the Ash Wednesday service opens with:

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy word."

"Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen."

The season of Lent forces us to look inward, and ask God to I) forgive us for our many sins and offenses, as we say every week. 2) Ask Him to help us in areas where we need to become more like Him. And 3) Prepare and be ready for a joyful and glorious Easter! A time to become less of ourselves, if you will, and more of Him. A time to lay down those things which need to be laid down, and to become more and more in His image. A time to remember what Jesus went through for us, and to strive to become more like Him.

So, I ask, for you all, and for myself, to take time this Lenten season to humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, to take time to read things that will help you spiritually grow, to pray, and to truly ask Him how you can change, for His honor and glory, and for the work and purposes of His Kingdom to which He has called you.

I cannot wait to hear, and to see, how this Lenten and coming Easter season has impacted, and will impact, all of us to Gods Honor and Glory!

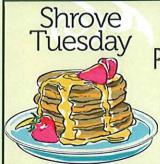
In His Grip, Erika Jo Dielman



Avalanche Bay Water Park Youth Outing

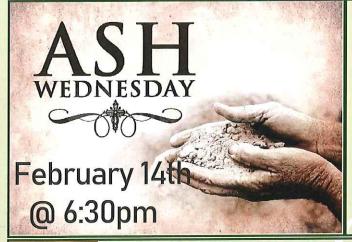
Sunday, February 11th
Directly after church

@ Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls
<u>Invite your friends</u>.
Sign-up sheet in Blanz Hall



Fellowship
Pancake & Sausage Supper
Tuesday, February 13th
6 p.m. in Blanz Hall
Sign -up in Blanz Hall





Ash Wednesday
Volunteers
Needed:
Usher, Greeter,
Lector and LEM.
Please contact Tracey if you
are available to serve.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed:

We really could use some more coffee hours hosts.
Please consider signing up to assist in this ministry.
If you are interested please contact Liz Ostrander or Tracey.

February 2024 Service Calendar

If you are unable to fulfill your service duties on the dates listed, please try to rearrange and find your own replacement.

	February	February	February	February	February	March
	4	11	14	18	25	3
ALTAR	Gretchen	Gretchen	Gretchen	Gretchen	Gretchen	Liz
GUILD	Lucky	Lucky	Lucky	Lucky	Lucky	Ostrander
SOUND/	Ferd, Wes	Ferd, Wes	Ferd, Wes	Ferd, Wes	Ferd, Wes	Ferd, Wes
MUSIC	& Dylan	& Dylan	& Dylan	& Dylan	& Dylan	& Dylan
USHER/ COUNTER/ GREETERS	Randy F. / Dylan W./ The Flynns	Dylan W./ Dan W./ Sally Stump	Ash Wednesday Volunteers Needed: Usher, Greeter, Lector and LEM	Don L./ Mark D./ The Bowmans	Dan W./ Don L./ Taylor DuBois	Mark D./ Randy F./ The Flynns
LECTOR	Erika Dielman	Dylan Williams		Leah Williams	Dan Wandrie	Karen Dielman
LAY MINISTER	Mickey Bridge	Wally Stansbury		Erika Dielman	Karen Dielman	Howard Bates
PRAYER TEAM	Sharalen & Betty	Sally & Leah		Sharalen & Betty	Sally & Leah	Sharalen & Betty
CHILDREN'S	Darlene	Darlene	N/A	Darlene	Darlene	Darlene
NURSERY	& Taylor	& Taylor		& Taylor	& Taylor	& Taylor
COFFEE	The	The	N/A - Ash	The	Brenda Flynn &	The
HOUR HOSTS	Wandries	Greenwells	Wednesday	DuBois'	Ginny Poquette	Davis'



Thursday Morning Prayer 8:30am in

Fr. Mike's Office



ALTAR GUILD

Feb......Gretchen Lucky Mar.....Liz Ostrander

April.....Karen Dielman

MayKaren Dielman



Føbruary



Wedding Anniversaries



Randy Flynn 2/2 George Renton 2/8

D.W. Lucky 2/11





May the Lord richly bless you on your special day and all year! Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary so that we may celebrate with you and remember you in prayer.

Congregation — We Need You!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Team Leaders listed below.

Altar Guild:		Karen Dielman	231/347-3532
Altar Flowers	s:	Karen Dielman	231/347-3532
Music/Sound	l:	Ferd Dielman	231/347-3532
Ushers:		Dan Wandrie	231/347-5871
Greeters:		Carol Bowman	231/459-4566
Lectors:		Tracey Jepsen	231/347-3448
Lay Eucharis	tic Ministers:	Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Acolytes:		Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Children's S	unday School:	Darlene Wandrie	231/347-5871
Youth Sunda	y School:	Don Lucky	231/622-2058
		/ 1111 0 1 1 1 1	

Adult Sunday School: Nursery:

Fellowship/Hospitality: Prayer Chain:

Women's Ministry: Men's Ministry:

InReach: OutReach:

Christian Ed. Scholarship:

Missions:

Building and Grounds:

Art and Architecture: Church Historian: Communications:

Student Visitor's Liaison:

Treasurer:

Assistant Treasurer: Assistant Treasurer:

Assistant Treasurer:

Stewardship:

Don Lucky	231/622-2038
(middle & high school)	
Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Bonnie Bridge	231/445-1810
Liz Ostrander	231/348-2802
Ron Davis	231/330-6355
Suzanne Schulte	517/899-1946
Mike Bridge	231/330-0689
Gretchen Lucky	231/622-2057
Lacy Bates	231/373-7997

231/330-4821

231/330-8626 Toni DuBois 231/330-6559 D. W. Lucky Dan Wandrie 231/347-5871 Ron Davis 231/330-6355

Susan Davis 231/330-4821 Liz Ostrander 231/348-2802 231/445-1810

Bonnie Bridge (newspaper articles, etc.)

Susan Davis

231/373-7997 Lacy Bates 231/330-4930 Wes Ostrander

231/330-4821 Susan Davis

Sally Stump 231/881-2818 Dan Wandrie 231/347-5871 Dan Wandrie 231/347-5871

New Life Anglican Church 2024 Vestry

Sr. Warden, Erika Dielman Jr. Warden. Dylan Williams Carol BowmanSusan DavisTaylor DuBoisRandy FlynnApril Honeycutt

Our Joyous News Needs You!

Please consider submitting an article or item of interest for the next issue of the Joyous News.

> Submission deadline is February 27th.



SAVE YOUR **OLESON'S RECIEPTS**

We appreciate grocery receipts from Oleson's Food Stores. You may leave your receipts in the coffee hour donation basket, in the Outreach shopping cart or on Tracey's desk.

Prayer Chain

To activate the chain call: Ron Davis at 231.330.6355 or e-mail at rsdavismgr@gmail.com

To Help Keep You Informed

You may contact Tracey Jepsen our Administrative Assistant at 231,347,3448 for copies of Vestry Approved: Financial Statements and Vestry Meeting Minutes.

		Treasurer's	Report ~ Ja	nuary 31, 2024		
	December			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Offering	9,478.00	15,145.00	(5,667.00)	9,478.00	15,145.00	(5,667.00)
Other	6,898.35	1,986.00	4,912.35	6,898.35	1,986.00	4,912.35
Income	16,376.35	17,131.00	(754.65)	16,376.35	17,131.00	(754.65)
Expense	(18,362.81)	(16,841.00)	(1,521.81)	(18,362.81)	(16,841.00)	(1,521.81)
Difference	(1,986.46)	290.00	(2,276.46)	(1,986.46)	290.00	(2,276.46)
Assets		Vicini in	Tile/	\$599,206.53		
		Jan. 1,2024	Donations	Expenses	Difference	Jan. 31, 2024
211 Fund 124,		124,445.27		1,649.36	1,649.36	122,795.913
Fund In/Out Reach 21,119.94			Zery - Allenda		21,119.94	
Operating		Operating	211 Fund	211 In/Out	Deposit	Interest
Interest Bearing Accts70,000.00		-120,000.00	-10,000.00	200.000.00	3,600.35	
St. Francis 3-month CD		Desired to	Deposit	A TANK DIA	200,000.00	203,600.35

New Life Anglican Church

P.O. Box 481 PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN 49770 office@newlifeanglican.net newlifeanglicanchurch.org

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4







JOYOUS NEWS

February 2024

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

In a speedy path of flight
a blue jay glides
through early morning light.
It hasn't heard the weather report
and, if it could,

it probably would retort by gliding still to another tree, not caring a fig

what the report might mean to me.

For here I am in my snow bound world,

totally flightless unlike this bird.

Such freedom to fly,
in the early morn!

It sets my mind in a fit of scorn.

Course, I wouldn't like what it has to eat and feed on snow

for an ice cold treat.

But, look at it now, this upstart thing,

has flown even higher on its widespread wings.

BES