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The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

## February 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Letter from Pastor Frey

Can a Christian who died 1351 years ago qualify as the patron saint of the internet? You decide. Isadore of Saville was born in sixth century Spain. With the early death of his parents Isadore and his brother became monks in the Roman Catholic Church and both eventually served as bishop of Seville. (Not at the same time)



Because Saint Isidore died in 672, he obviously never surfed the Web. But do not let that little detail discourage you from giving a thought to Isidore when you *google* something or look up a previously unknown fact on Wikipedia.

During his lifetime Isidore compiled a 30-volume encyclopedia of all knowledge then extant. This encyclopedia of knowledge could be regarded as the world's first database; the prototype and initial source of all collections of knowledge produced after and of their modern electronic equivalents.

It may not be immediately obvious how Isadore's contributions to knowledge translate into a unique demonstration of faith. For Isadore, knowledge was a gift from God and in the

quest for understanding the believer is connected to God's purposes and their eyes opened to recognize how God is active in the world. St Augustine's mantra "*credo ut intelligam*, I believe so that I may understand" becomes, "*intellego ut credam*, "I think so that I may believe" in Isadore. Knowledge and faith, far from contradictory, go hand in hand.

Isidore is one of so many examples of faith and discipleship lived out in unique ways employing one's particular skills and interests. There is not just one way to follow Jesus; there are as many paths as there are people. When we bring our unique personalities, abilities, and interests to our desire to live as a follower of Jesus the results are as unique as we are.

This Lent there will be THREE PATHS you can follow to explore your faith and discipleship.

### THE PATH OF WORSHIP

In addition to weekly Saturday and Sunday services St Paul's will again host mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. The services will feature the Holden Evening Prayer worship setting and the theme will be *Faithful Followers*; significant Christians commemorated during the season of Lent whose unique witness demonstrates the diverse ways to be a follower of Jesus. Commemorated Christians will include poets and musicians, women advocating for faith and freedom, great people of prayer and some Christians you may never have heard of who gave voice to God's amazing grace shown forth in Jesus Christ. Wednesday worship is preceded by a soup and bread supper at 6:00 PM.

### THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE

Can TV make you smarter? My parents said no but I say yes. A series called *The Chosen* began on Netflix a few years ago and season 3 started this month. The series describes itself as “...fresh take on the Gospels. It follows Jesus as he gathers his disciples, heals the needy and sacrifices himself for the sake of humanity.” It is available on Netflix but also can be freely accessed on a website and app called Angel Studios <https://watch.angelstudios.com/>. A discussion guide is available on their website. We are encouraging people to watch this series during Lent (Imagine the church instructing you to watch TV as a Lenten discipline!) and, if you like, join the discussion of the series at a *special* table over soup and bread on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. You could also plan to watch the series with some friends and use the discussion guide or just have your own conversation.

### THE PATH OF PRAYER

Acquire a free copy of a daily Lenten Devotional at the church and/or print out the “Lenten Journey for Your Fridge” devotional and establish your own Lenten discipline for yourself or your family and friends. Find someone who will agree to read along with you who you can check in on and they you. Accountability helps us stay on the task! You might also check out the online devotional from Luther Seminary at [www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional](http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional).

You can follow one or all three of these paths during the season of Lent but please, please, **PLEASE**, choose at least one of these paths and stick to it. Lent is not an obligation; it is an opportunity to explore our relationship with Jesus Christ, grow as disciples and discover the significance of Christ in our lives!

**Pastor Frey**



February  
22

11:00 A.M.—Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Soup & bread follows the service

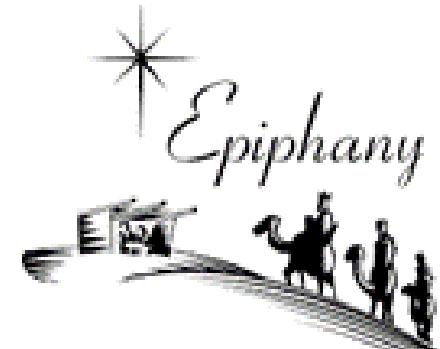
6:00 P.M. – Soup & bread

7:00 P.M.—Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

## Note from Joy

### FROM EPIPHANY TO LENT

I like the season of Epiphany. It is a calmer season. It does not have the pressures of Christmas. I like that the paraments—the altar cloth which match the pastor’s stole and/or chasuble—are green. I like that the season is a flexible one—not always the same length because it must adjust to the changing dates of Ash Wednesday which announces the season of Lent every year. But much more important, (you were beginning to think I was very shallow, right?), is the meaning of Epiphany. An Epiphany is a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being. Jesus, we sing, is “God in flesh made manifest.” (What does “made manifest” mean? Made perceptible or revealing the essential nature of something.) The Incarnation—God coming to us in flesh—is amazing enough, but the season of Epiphany helps us SEE or UNDERSTAND better who Jesus is.



Have you ever had a flash of inspiration or insight? An “Oh, now I get it!” moment? Epiphany provides some of these moments for us about Jesus. The Day of Epiphany is the celebration of the wise men who followed a bright star finally seeing Jesus—the newborn king—God in flesh made manifest. Then at the Baptism of Jesus, we hear God the Father proclaim Jesus is the Beloved Son and that the Father is well pleased, and the Holy Spirit lights upon him. Throughout Epiphany we learn, especially this year, how John the Baptist (or Baptizer) considers Jesus the Lamb of God, and the disciples begin to follow and slowly discover that Jesus is someone special. The Beatitudes reveal Jesus’ understanding of the Kingdom of God and what justice and righteousness should look like. The LIGHT shines on and in Jesus in each of these and enables us to see Jesus more clearly.

Before we know it, it is Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday in Epiphany and the transitional Sunday between Epiphany and Lent. The favored disciples see Jesus in all his glory, face shining and clothes pure white, then speaking to Moses and Elijah, perhaps preparing for the most difficult journey ahead.

Then it’s Lent. The colors in the chancel change to purple or violet. The tone becomes serious. We stop saying Alleluia until Easter (everyone but the choir who must practice some Easter anthems ahead of time). Lent is a time to prepare for Easter, to prepare for the glorious resurrection we will celebrate, only after we remember Christ’s journey to Jerusalem, his passion, his suffering and death. Lent is an opportunity, not an obligation in our church. You don’t have to eat fish on Friday, and you don’t even have to give up stuff unless you want to. (We all think we are going to stop eating desserts and lose weight. Very spiritual!) The opportunity is to take time to grow closer to God. It’s a time we can give more to others, whether that be time or money or prayers, or other things we can share. We have

more church services, share more resource material and possibly exert some peer pressure. This year we hope the resources we offer and the worship and fellowship experiences available will help us grow in our devotion and closeness to God and one another. We will be offering that kind of opportunity, too (dinners and discussions). I hope that Lent is not just a time when you feel guilty that you didn't give up desserts, but a time when you focus on God in Christ and how much he loves us-- and respond by helping others.

--Joy Gerhart

## **Worship and Education**

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### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENT**

**Sunday, February 12, A very special Pre-Lent All Sunday School Event**



We never did come up with a splashy name for this. In my head, I've been calling it the "Pre-Lenten Event" which sounds a little rhymey if not catchy. On Sunday, February 12, during the Sunday School hour (which is 9:15 – 10:15am) we will be preparing for Lent with watching Pastor Frey burn palms, praying and enjoying three fun centers—one will be snacking on pretzels (of course you know we think of that shape as of people folding their arms in prayer), painting, YES PAINTING papers with names of Jesus to put together to make one big cross, and playing some colorful bells to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me!" with lots of help. Everyone is welcome—young and not so young! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and all Sunday school classes will be suspended for this exciting event. Older youth may want to volunteer to help. We will have t-shirts if painters need extra coverage. We will be handing out Lenten calendars for all the children. Please mark your calendar and plan to come and join us.

## Events

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### **WOMEN'S GROUP –WED., FEB. 8 AT 2 PM.**

Come to hear Grace Fabian, a Douglassville neighbor who served as a missionary with her husband in Papua New Guinea from 1969 to 1993. Her husband was tragically murdered, but she remained translating the Bible until 2005.

Hear about her experiences in this land “down under” near Australia. Join us in the library to see her display of items from Papua New Guinea and hear her stories complemented by her pictures.

## **Giving Opportunities**

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### **FEBRUARY 12 IS BLANKET SUNDAY: “WRAPPED IN LOVE”**

Your gift of \$10 (per blanket) will be used to purchase a special blanket which can be used for a variety of purposes during natural disasters and other times of need. Blankets can be used as a suitcase, a pillow, a coat, a tent, a bed or hammock, or floor covering among other things. They can be used as blankets too! You can wrap those who have lost so much with a gift of love.



# Parish Records, Giving Summary, & Milestones

## FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

**Baptism:** 1/29/23--Ava Leigh Stumhofer, daughter of Matthew & Adrienne (Simmons) Stumhofer

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** given in memory of **Ellen Sheeler** by:

Kay Bonslaver	Helen Strain
Bill & Angie Kutz	Larry & Eileen Swavely
John & Kathy Meehan	Ralph & Robin Rohrbach
JoAnne Merkel	Forino Co.
Betty Brumbach	Paul & Kay Reber

Contributions to the **Agape Fund** given in memory of **Ellen Sheeler** by:

Greg & Norma Godon	Carol Pearson
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### --YTD Giving thru December 2022--

	<u>Jan.-Dec. 2021</u>	<u>Jan-Dec. 2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 371,201	\$ 387,312	16,111	4.34
Vision 2020 Contr.	52,788	50,164	-2,624	--4.97
Total Giving	\$ 23,989	\$ 437,476	13,487	3.08

<b>BAZAAR--2022</b>	
Income:	
Attic Corner	580.76
Candy & Cookies	1,109.00
CocoBombs	645.00
Crafts	331.00
Greens	3,971.00
Lunch	848.00
Pantry	658.00
Pies	6,483.00
Quilters	136.00
Raffle	834.00
Chow chow	385.00
Unallocated	1,001.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,981.76</b>
Bazaar Expenses	(940.05)
Bazaar Profit	16,041.71
Bazaar Benevolence	(1,604.17)
Bazaar Net	14,437.54

## **OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

March 5            March 12            March 26

Cost is \$35 per Sunday. Call the church office (610-385-6616)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/2	Charles Merkle	Chase Saylor	2/19	Norma Godon	
2/3	Pr. Greg Frey	Olivia Sypherd		Emily Poole	
	Arlene Hiltbeitel	2/12	Patti Hetzell	2/20	Colleen Breen
	Nicole Sudall	2/14	Sue Childs		Stuart Crichton
2/4	Jay McClafferty		Richard Kucharik		Morgan Kelly
	Ryan Sonon		John Wolfe	2/21	David Barr
2/5	Tim Loscig	2/15	Jennifer Bonetz		Riley Haring
2/6	Gabriel Gross		Nolan Breen		Gavin Michener
	Rachel Lau		Christian Luo		Kristopher Moyer
2/7	Kevin Fisher	2/16	Aidan Gil	2/23	Maeve Bartra
	Jacob Hasara		Lynn Grace	2/24	Cindy Dominick
2/8	Lisa Bowersox	2/17	Carole Berry		Rebecca Miller
	Mary Graefe		Nicholas Chroscinski		Joan Schaeffer
2/9	Brynn Hennessey		Joanne Guss	2/25	Adrienne Stumhofer
	Ian Oister		Alexander Hackett	2/26	John Dollhopf
	Nathan Shingle		Elizabeth Jablonski		Mark Hammond
	Gene Stewart		Gabriel Luo	2/27	Alex Maloney
2/10	Kristin Saylor	2/18	Michael Casciano		Deb Smith
2/11	Audrey Bokosky		Magdalena Nygard	2/28	Greyson Fusco
	Brad Haring		Warren Saylor		Palmer Loughin



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Darrell & Margaret Reitmeyer	2/1	48 yrs.
Robert & Kathy Kline	2/5	40 yrs.
Robert & Jane Eagle	2/10	22 yrs.
Jeffrey & Joan Schaeffer	2/14	42 yrs.
Ed & Denise Chroscinski	2/22	26 yrs.
Robert & Marylynne Endy	2/24	33 yrs.



# Prayers, Worship Notes, & Calendar



## PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING THIS MONTH

If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. Please include in your prayers this month: James Breen, Colleen Breen, Sheamus Breen, Nolan Breen, Clara Britton, Franklin Brown, Anna Brown, Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Rylan Brown, Betty Brumbach, Ellen Buck, Charles Burns, Margaret Burns. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Carol Basch, Sue Blevins, Dale Boughton, Linda Breitenstein, Jennie Clouser, Jeff Cremi, Joyce

Drey, Carol Flisock, Richard Garrow, Val Jermacins, Kim Koury, Tom Krezanosky, Leo, Bill Lerch, Shirley Martin, John McCalicher, Louise Minner, Randy Mohler, Danielle Moyer, Craig Nichols, Carol Pearson, Dave Prizer, Ray, Bonnie Reppert, Patty Salemno, William Seisler, Larry Tobias, Toby, Carolyn & Matt Tokarski, family & friends of Bruce Basch, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Carole Barbary, Makayla Becker, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Jake Campbell, Darrell, Diane Davis, Barbara DePrefontaine, Ethan, Eve, Heath Fegely, Ron Glaser, Norman Griffen, Anna Gyuris, Sara Hartline, Jevin Heller, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Priscilla Leh, Joanne Marnell, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, Nathan Resch, Lauren Ridge, Gene Schaeffer, Audrey Serrian, John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalnecker, Tom & Bobbi Vinchosky, Joan Wendel, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; Sandi Zelinski, homebound -- Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hiltebeitel, Dale Szajek.

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>2</b> Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 7 PM—Choir	<b>3</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom)	<b>4</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>5</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School 9:30--Finance	<b>6</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom) 7 PM—Chr. Ed.	<b>7</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>8</b> 10 AM—Bible Study 2 PM—Women's Gr. 7 PM--Council	<b>9</b> 7 PM—Choir	<b>10</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom)	<b>11</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>12</b> <i>Blanket Sun.</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—All School Event	<b>13</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom) 6:30--CDC 7 PM—Pastoral Care	<b>14</b> Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS	<b>15</b> 10 AM—Bible Study	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM—Social Min. 7 PM—Choir 7:30 PM—Crime Watch	<b>17</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom)	<b>18</b> 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>19</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School 1 PM—Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom)	<b>21</b> Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 2 PM—Knit & crochet	<b>22</b> <i>Ash Wed.</i> 11 AM—Holy Comm. Soup & bread follows 6 PM—Soup & bread <i>7 PM—Holy Comm.</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom)	<b>25</b> 6 PM—Holy Comm
<b>26</b> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sun. School	<b>27</b> 10 AM—Bible Study (zoom)	<b>28</b> Quilting 9 AM—Knit & crochet 2 PM--TOPS				



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## *FriEDENS: An Amazing Garden Story*

A few weeks after the lockdown in the spring of 2020, I called a neighbor in town who had a garden in her front yard. It's Shartlesville, and the PA Dutch are used to their yards looking \*just so,\* so I knew this was a brave woman who love gardening vegetables more than public opinion. I also knew she didn't have room for pumpkins in her small yard, so I called and proposed we plant some viney crops up on our church property. She agreed and even had the seeds, gardening skills, and ideas, so after consultation with council, the garden was born. We sent our crop to the neighboring UCC congregation's food pantry, and with the excess had physically- distant free produce giveaways.

In 2021, we expanded the garden by half, to about 50 by 75 feet. We watered each plant via a recycled gallon milk jug with a pinprick in the bottom. The plants were happy, but our backs were not. It took 45 minutes to an hour to water all the jugs, which we did nearly every day because the garden is in full sun. The black plastic we used for weed suppression became a slip-and-slide while we irrigated.

In 2022, we were able to install a drip irrigation system that did not require filling milk jugs and weed suppression fabric that was not slippery. The fabric required using a blow torch to make holes for planting but will be able to be used for multiple years. The irrigation only required turning on the spigot and letting it run for several hours, which was a true God-send because we had some unexpected health issues on the garden team that limited our volunteer force! It was an extraordinarily dry summer, so the grant came just in time.

This past summer we had 21 people volunteer in the garden, took produce to 5 food pantries or senior centers, including Cafe Esperanza in Reading, and welcomed 29 people into the garden at a joint VBS. Not only are we feeding our neighbors with free, fresh, pesticide-free produce, but we are also getting to know our neighbors, developing new connections in the congregation among volunteers, teaching children about food insecurity and the joy of gardening, and passing on agricultural wisdom.

Submitted by Pastor Inge William

SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
2023



GOING  
BEYOND  
DEATH  
TO LIFE

JUNE  
1-3

*What's happening at Kalahari?*

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning this incredible event!*

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SO, LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,  
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN  
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.