



# Annunciation of Our Lady

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Magnificat

Mar 2017

## Important Date

**Saturday, March 11th - Augsburg College Concert and Jazz Band will be performing at Annunciation. (Parishioner Rosie Attiyeh will be among the performers!) @ 7pm**

**Sunday, March 19th - we'll celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation with ONE service at 9am, followed by an all-parish potluck in Strang Hall.**

### Lent 2017 Schedule

**Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, and April 5 Lenten Suppers:** (no supper on March 29 because of Spring Break). Soup/Salad potluck, 6-6:30pm, program (the scriptures of Lent) from 6:30-7:30pm.

**Sunday, April 9th Palm Sunday:** , services at 8am and 10am begin in the narthex.

**Thursday, April 13 Maundy Thursday service:** Agape meal, 7pm.

**Altar of Repose:** sign up to sit watch in the chapel from after the Maundy Thursday service until noon on Good Friday.

**Friday, April 14 Good Friday:** with services at 12noon and 7pm.

**Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil:** service at 8pm, with appetizer/hors d'oeuvres potluck and champagne reception following. *Incense will be used at this service.*

## March

## Confirmation/Reception

I Will, With God's Help

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Sunday Night Live



March 19th, 5-7pm.



Annunciation is offering a five part program of instruction for Adults and Youth (8th grade and up) to prepare for confirmation (or reception) in the Episcopal church. Confirmation is an adult reaffirmation of the baptismal vows that, for many Christians, were made on their behalf as infants or young children. Reception is for those individuals confirmed in another faith tradition (i.e. Lutheran, Roman Catholic) who would like to make a formal, intentional acknowledgment of their commitment to the Episcopal church. Classes take place following the 10am service (11:30am-1:30pm): a light lunch will be provided. **Class dates are: February 5, February 12, March 5, March 12, and April 23.** (A 6th date - April 30 will be a practice session for confirmands presenting at Youth Sunday on May 7th.) An areawide confirmation (or reception) by Bishop Jeff Lee will take place at St. Simon's, Arlington Heights, on Saturday, May 6, 11am. **If you are interested in participating, please contact Maggie Attiyeh or Rev. Elizabeth.**

## Augsburg Concert and Jazz Band

### **AUGSBURG COLLEGE** *In Concert at Annunciation*

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 11, 7pm when the Augsburg College Concert Band and Jazz Band will be performing at Annunciation. (Parishioner Rosie Attiyeh will be among the performers!) On Sunday, March 12, the Jazz Band will be with us again, to provide some of the music at worship. Please see Maggie Attiyeh if you are interested in being a host family for the student performers, or able to help with providing a meal on Saturday evening, March 11.

## Lenten Suppers & Program



Our Wednesday night Lenten suppers & programs begin Wednesday, March 8 (other dates: March 15, March 22, April 5). Come enjoy a soup/salad/bread supper, followed by an active discussion of the Scriptures of Lent, drawing on the traditions of Lectio Divina and Guided Meditation. Supper begins at 6pm, with the program and discussion running from 6:30-7:30pm. Sign-up sheets for soup and salad preparers are in the narthex. Questions? Contact Mike Bill (regarding the suppers) or Rev. Elizabeth (regarding the program).

## Feast of Annunciation *Potluck*

### *Service & Potluck - March 19*



Save the Date - On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation with ONE service at 9am, followed by an all-parish potluck in Strang Hall. Sign-up sheets - to help with setup, cleanup, and indicate what dish you're bringing - are in the narthex. Questions? See potluck coordinator, Cindy Mellen or vestry hospitality liaison, Andrea Lindblad.

## April



### Adult Forum

**Sunday's at 9:00 am**  
**In the education room**

**We have GREAT discussions**  
**Come join us**

### Rector's Study Groups

The Rector's Study Groups - meet **Wednesday** mornings at **10am** and **Thursday** evenings at **7pm**.

**Winter:** Accidental Saints: Finding God In All The Wrong People by Nadia Bolz-Weber

### Book Club 2017

March - The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessey by Rachel Joyce

**West - Mon Mar 6th @ 7pm,**  
**Linda Piepenbrink's house**  
**East - Mon Mar 20th @ 6 pm,**  
**Postesta's**

April - The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman  
May - Mrs. Poe by Lynn Cullen

### Lunch Bunch



**Date:**

**Wednesday, 3/22/2017**

**Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**Location:** Lunch gathering for women of the parish at 1 pm. Location will rotate and date will be 4th Wed of each month.

For reservations contact Jane Schaefer at 224-372-7940 or at [cs.js@comcast.net](mailto:cs.js@comcast.net)



## Appalachia Service Project



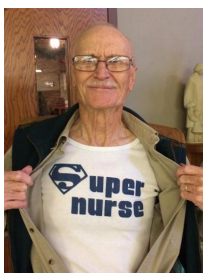
### Outreach Opportunity

Come be a part of the effort to make homes "Warmer, Safer, Drier" for people in need in Appalachia. In 2017, we will be traveling to Rainelle, West Virginia to repair and replace homes damaged or destroyed by massive flooding last

June. Trip dates are **April 22 thru April 29, 2017.**

We are getting close to our deadline for committing to the number of people on the trip, so if you are interested in participating, and want further information, please contact a member of last year's ASP team: Mike Bill, Lisa Kleine, Rev. Elizabeth, Dave Schrunk, Tony Waynick, or Dan Whipple

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE



Dale Sanders, RN

### More Exercise

AA's Step 10: We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

St Paul wrote to Timothy " Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit"

Spiritual strength and agility only come through practice. We can develop our spiritual muscles through consistent effort and daily discipline. Continuing to take personal inventory is one of the disciplines we can develop. Results won't happen overnight, but we will eventually grow to enjoy the benefits! (Adapted from comments in the Life Recovery Bible, Tyndale House Publishers)

## From Our Rector



Elizabeth Molitors

### A Theology of Potlucks

When I was in discernment for the priesthood, and meeting with my parish discernment committee, someone asked me a question about how I saw the church, and the role of a priest within the church. There were lots of ways I could have answered, but as I think in terms of stories and analogies, what came to

mind was a metaphor: the church as a potluck feast, with the priest serving as the potluck host.

That my choice of a metaphor involved food is no surprise - I love the making of food, the eating of food, the sharing of food. I love that the heart of our worship on Sunday is a meal, with everyone invited to participate. I love that so many of Jesus' encounters, during his life and after his resurrection, involved food - the feeding of the 5,000, having dinner at Zacchaeus', breaking bread with two of the disciples after they walked to Emmaus, the Last Supper (to name but a handful.)

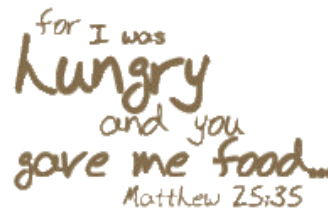
Food is a great equalizer - no matter your age or social standing or a zillion of the other demographic factors that so often divide us - everybody eats.

And while it is a pleasure for me to host dinner parties, attending with careful attention to all the details of planning and preparing on

Great food this past month - come join us!

## Outreach Opportunities

### Feed My Starving Children



If you would like to be a part of this ministry of feeding the hungry please join us. Mark your Calendars ... Here are the Saturday dates,

**9:00 am to 11:00 am  
+March 25, 2016**

### Last Saturday every Month

God's Peace and Blessings! After the packing session for FMSC, Sat Dec 31 New Years Eve, there will be a New Yeras Eve Party for all the people who attend. The party will be just down the street from FMSC @ Deacon Linda's house. Please let her know if you are planning to volunteer that Sat and come to the party afterward. [lindalutter@hotmail.com](mailto:lindalutter@hotmail.com) or text/call @ 847-340-3253



### Meal for December

Our next PADS meal will be **Friday, March 17th.**

my own, I have a particular fondness for potlucks.

The role of a potluck host is to 'make room,' reserving a space and setting a time, making sure everyone knows they're invited, doing a little coordination, and then stepping back out of the way and letting the process unfold. (Can you see the church and liturgy parallels already?)



At a potluck, everybody brings something, whatever they like, whatever they're best at, whatever they can afford in terms of time or money or talent. Don't like to cook? Then bring the cups or plates or soda or lemonade or a shrimp platter from Costco; we need ALL those things. (It's the same in our liturgy, and in our communal life as a church: all gifts are needed.)

Potlucks are 'raggedy,' but they work. They work without control and strict oversight. Even if you don't specify how many people should bring main dishes or salads or desserts, somehow, it all works out. Trust the potluck process! And if you end up with six plates of brownies, what's wrong with that? (Church and worship are also pretty raggedy; we don't control who comes through our doors or check what gifts and talents people are bringing in with them before we invite them in. Yet, it all seems to work out.)

While not necessarily fancy, potlucks are lush and abundant and overflowing, an outward and visible sign of the generosity of everyone contributing. Potluck as sacrament! When each person brings a dish that's enough to feed 12 or 15, suddenly you have way, way more than enough. (Our church is set up that way too, isn't it?)

Potlucks are also about story and connection: the deviled eggs presented on a plate handed down from grandma; the casserole that's been part of a family's Thanksgiving table for a hundred years. As you stand in line at the Feast of the Annunciation potluck on March 19, ask the person next to you what dish or item they brought and the story behind it. Whether they brought an old family favorite or the lemonade or take-out from a favorite restaurant, there's a story there: of a long-since passed away relative, or an extremely busy week, or not really liking to cook. All of which lend themselves to a follow-up question, "What can you tell me about your great uncle? What happened this week? Why don't you like to cook?" (Our faith is built on story, on witness and testimony. Without the stories of the ancient Israelites, the disciples, the early Christians, where would we be?)

At potlucks, we take care of each other and watch out for each other, marking our food contributions as safe for those with nut allergies, or who follow a vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free diet. No *one* person is in charge of the food; we're all part of something larger, and it needs everyone to work. It's a lesson in synergy, of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

Lastly, potlucks are not just about giving - they're about receiving, too. If everyone brought their offering, set it down at the table and then left, it wouldn't be much of an event, would it? We all need to come hungry to a potluck, with an appetite to taste the gifts that each other have brought. (Hunger is also an integral part of our life of faith, and as a church. Whether you come to Annunciation hungry to worship God with joy, hungry to be refreshed with God's word, hungry to learn or to connect with a community, the common thread is hunger.)

Jesus spoke often to his followers about the Kingdom of God - the way that the world could be if we all lived and loved in the way God

The menu will be Herb Roasted Chicken, Garlic Buttered Parsley Potatoes, Corn, Turkey Vegetable Soup and side of Cottage Cheese.

*We will begin cooking at 2:00 in the church kitchen. Sign-up sheets are posted on the PADS easel for donations to contribute to this meal, along with cooking, delivering or serving. Thank you! See you in the kitchen!*

~ Cheri Johnson

## RECAP

### Scout Sunday



desires for us - and he spoke of the kingdom most often in metaphor. To which, I would like to add another:

**The Kingdom of God is like a potluck: bring yourself, bring something, come hungry.**

## From Our Deacon

Linda Lutter



Welcome to the season of Lent! A time when we spend more time, than probably usual, looking into our lives and realizing that we have not been the best we can be. Perhaps we could be a bit nicer to a coworker, a parent, a child, a neighbor, a stranger ... perhaps we realize we judge people without knowing them ... perhaps we realize that we don't really give human beings the attention

that God would want us to give them either by feeding them, clothing them, sharing our money with them, listening to them ... I mean really listening to them, looking into their eyes listening to them, I guess you get the idea. This Lent could be a wonderful experience for us because after the 6 weeks of loving God's people more than we have ever loved them before we will be a changed person. It could be only one random act or it could be several ... I can give you a list of things if you need help.

We just have to remember that our purpose on earth is to serve God by loving his people ... and that, at times ain't easy! I believe in baby steps ... perhaps we can try one of our ministries at Annunciation or perhaps work on our own inner being to become stronger in our Lord by reading books, attend our Wednesday Lenten Program, study the Bible ... whatever our heart directs us. It all starts there.

Opening our heart to God's directions is the key. Pray for it ... ask God for help. One thing I can suggest that would be a great place to start our Lenten Journey is to ask for God's forgiveness. Start out by unburdening our self. In the book we are reading for the Rector's Study, Accidental Saints, Nadia talks about listening to the confession of an acquaintance, Suzanne. Nadia asks that Suzanne tell her the things that weigh on her conscience. That is a great way to start.

We can just sit quietly and take a deep breath and let those things that weigh on our conscience be brought to the surface and ask God to forgive us for them. We could start or end with the following verses of Psalm 51:

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sing. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.*

After Suzanne made her confession after wiping away her tears she said "I feel unbelievably lighter."



### Reaching In, Reaching Out

**Congregation of YES! Thank you for all your support with our inreach/outreach shirt sales. Our final numbers are in and with the 80 shirts we sold and donations received we have collected a total amount of \$539.15!! These proceeds will go to support our own parishioners as they prepare for a mission trip to Rainelle, West Virginia through the Appalachia Service Project organization. All shirts will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 12th during both coffee hours. We encourage everyone to wear your shirts as you go through your day to help to spread the word about Annunciation and remind you to wear them to church on Sunday March 19th as we celebrate The Feast of the Annunciation!**

**Souper Sunday**

I think that is a great way to start our Lenten Journey ... an open heart free to receive God's guidance and love.

Have a Blessed Lenten Journey

## From Our Seminarian

Shay Craig



The photo presented here is a photo of Elizabeth and the children of our parish burying the A-word on the last Sunday before Lent. If the picture seems a little blurry, it's because I had tears in my eyes when I took it. You see, I came to the church through the A-word.

My parents were atheists and for them, "church" was a thorough and undisturbed reading of the entire Sunday New York Times.

But we lived right across the street from an Episcopal Church and from my bedroom I had a front row seat to their communal life. It was a modest

mission style church with a big bell that they actually rang and gorgeous music and tons of food ... and kids in weird clothes got to carry candles! The whole thing was completely fascinating to me.

But there was one thing they did that was my favorite.

Once a year the kids would all parade out into the courtyard singing and carrying a long elaborate rainbow banner that said the A-word on it. They would process around the courtyard a couple of times and then stop in front of one of the flagstones on the ground. The priest would lift up the flagstone to reveal a sort of hole underneath. The kids would then roll up the banner, slide it into a black sleeve and place it under the flagstone. And then they would walk away in silence.

You can imagine that for a completely unchurched child this looked completely nuts.

But then, when I was about 8, my oldest sister was home for Easter. I called her into my room to show her as the community repeated the process in reverse: processing out in silence, exhuming the banner, and shouting and singing like crazy people. She turned to me and said, "Do you want to see what they do in there?"

Now, I am still learning "what we do in here" but what I learned then and what has been so powerfully affirmed for me at Annunciation is, (among many other things) we welcome the stranger, make them part of our community and share in the mystery (and sometimes crazy looking rituals) of faith.

## From Our Sr. Warden

Deb Gallinger

This week I went to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie with fellow parishioners from Annunciation and the impact was profound. I thought I knew the horrible story of the mass extermination of Jews and other marginalized people during World War II but I had not thought much about the specifics of this terrible part of history. The



## Ash Wednesday



Many people very happy to see me this morning and I was happy to be there for them. One gentleman was all smiles and said "what a great way to start my day, thank you." May we all have a blessed Lent.

pictures, documents and artifacts were chilling and moving, but moreover I was affected by two realizations.



First of all, the holocaust lasted much longer than I realized, starting around 1933 and lasting throughout the war. That is a long time for people in Germany and around the world to act to address this atrocity and ultimately to ignore it. I was left to contemplate where I would have stood if I had lived during this time. Would I have had the courage to stand up to the actions of the government, would I have denied its reality or would I have submitted to the will of the authorities and stood silently while the outrage proceeded?

Secondly, informed by a moving video at the end of the tour, I recognized that the Holocaust is not over today. It is taking place now in other places around the world and to other peoples. The massacre in Rwanda happened just a few years ago and genocide continues to occur in Africa and the Middle East today. I am again faced with the same choices. How am I responding to the same cruelty in other places around the world today?

Unfortunately we don't have to go far from home to witness similar injustices and now I don't have the same excuse of a faraway problem. The evil of gun violence in Chicago is much closer to home, so what am I doing to contribute to solutions there? We are surrounded by homeless, struggling, frightened people in our community and we work to lessen their burden through PADS and other outreach efforts but is there more we can and should be doing to address the underlying injustices? We are witnessing a great deal of animosity and antagonism throughout our country based on differences in our political opinions, but can we all strive to find common ground as we uphold our viewpoints?

As Christians we are challenged to recognize the value of all people, especially the most disadvantaged among us. We are expected to respect each other in spite of our differences, whether those differences are ethnic, racial, sexual, geographic, religious, financial or political. I am challenging myself to explore my reactions to these differences and ensure that I focus on our mutual humanity rather than allow my biases to color my judgment of others. I hope you will consider the same undertaking and maybe we can overcome some of the adversity and resentment we are experiencing at this time

## From Our Jr. Warden

**Mike Bill**



As you all know Annunciation has been involved with the Lake County PADS program for over 23 years and we have been volunteering in the use of our building as a shelter for many years and now support other church in their mission of serving the homeless by donating meals and lunches. I for the last several years have acted in delivery and serving of meals. I really enjoy talking to the guests and hearing their stories. I want to share a recent story with you mainly because we corporately pray for the "Guests of Pad's" in our [Prayers of The People](#) but that does not do justice to exactly we are praying for.

Let me introduce to you Chuck and Audrey they are 10 and 12 years my junior which makes them 57 and 55 they are brother and sister. After some small talk about what they were going to watch on

television that night Chuck began telling me their story on how they happened to be there as our paths crossed. Around 10 years ago, their father and mother fell into ill health caused by old age the mother died first and Chuck took over his father's business and that kept the family in survival mode. The father grew ill and died several years' latter. The father asked Chuck to always take care of his sister Audrey and Chuck agreed. The next several years pasted and then Chuck suffered some intestinal disorders that he had for many years finally requiring surgery; during that time the business was shuttered and the income was sparse, Chuck recovered slowly and then the sister had a heart attack. The dust settled and they found themselves homeless at the end of 2016. They indicated that the hardest thing for them to deal with was to ask for help. This brother and sister could have been my next store neighbors or even someone sitting in the church pew beside me.

I tell you this story because we all need to know what we are praying for and that when Jesus commanded us to Love one Another; there were no stipulations: race, age, religious and political beliefs were not conditions that changed that commandment and we must all be civil with each other in all our interpersonal dealings in our short time of God's creation. I'm very proud to be a member of Annunciation and I love you all. My prayer is that we can all learn to follow Jesus's commandment, I'm still learning every day

See you on Sundays!

Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church,  
5725 Stearns School Road, Gurnee, IL 60031

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