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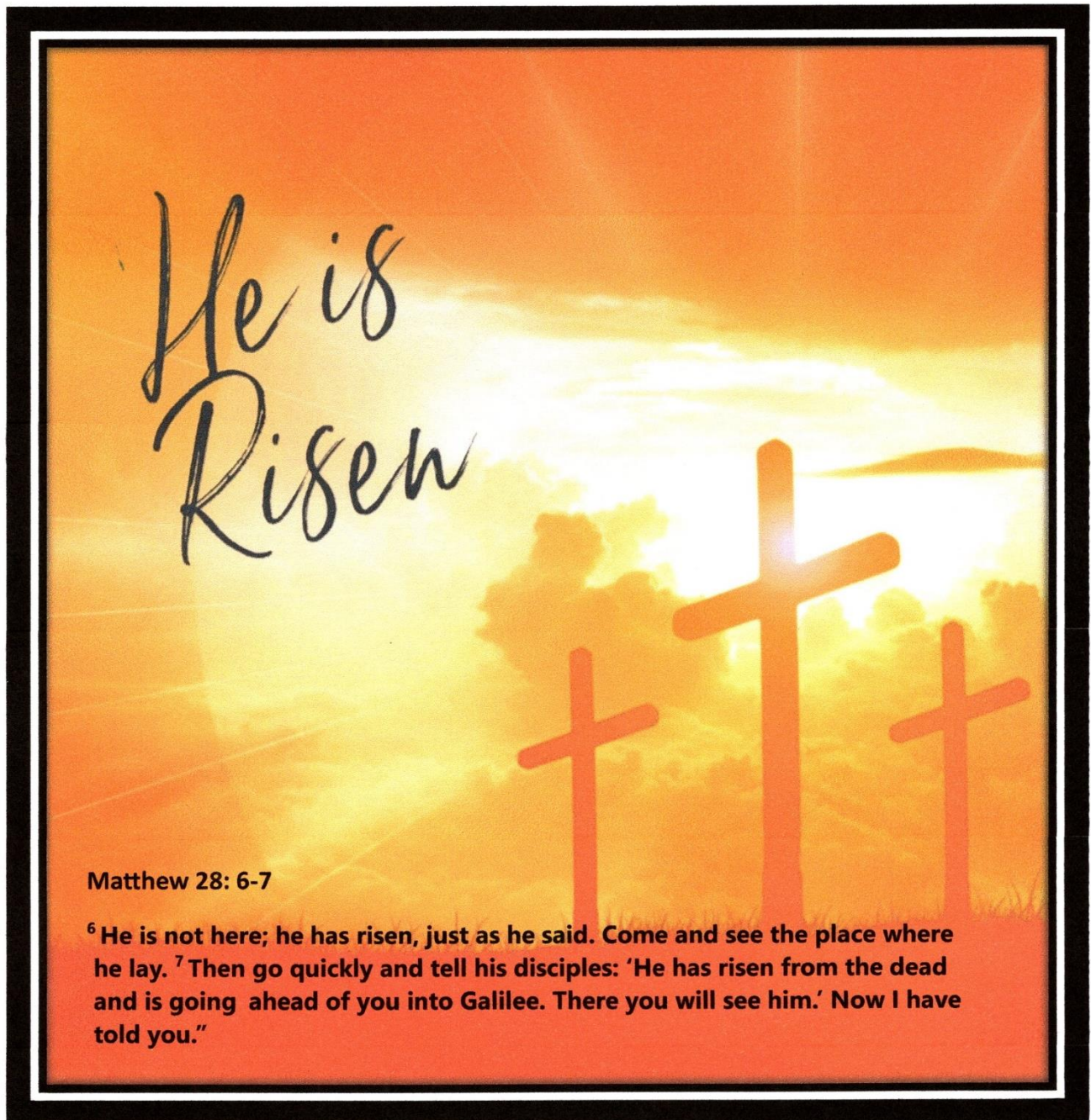
2023

Edinburg United Church
Loving & Growing

THE OPEN DOOR

Vol. 800 March 2024

From Lisa , Church Moderator



Easter season is a time to reflect and repent on our sinful natures. A time of renewal and recommitment to our faith. We praise God for the sacrifice of his son and celebrate his resurrection. What does Easter mean to you?

Reflections... and Ponderings...

By the time this newsletter reaches your hands we will have entered the Season of Lent: 40 days long beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 14th) and ending on Holy Saturday (March 23rd). Although Lent is a season in the Liturgical year, we often speak of this time as a journey.

When preparing to go on a journey we usually have a lot of preparation: planning our route, packing clothes, making sure everything is taken care of on the home front while we are away, and other sorted details. So..., what preparations do we undertake, as followers of Jesus, for this Lenten Journey?

Admittedly, planning for this 40 day journey is unlike most because we are planning for a spiritual journey – not an “over the river and through the woods” kinda trip.

The number 40 is associated with many journeys in the Bible; journeys that involved preparation, suffering, waiting, and repentance – all very important Lenten themes. Noah and his family had a 40 day journey on the ark. The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land. Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days. I doubt we'd really want to go on that wilderness journey. We will, however, experience the highs and lows of life just as Jesus did at the moment of his baptism when the dove descended and God declared, “This is my Beloved Son,” only to immediately find himself driven into the wilderness of temptation. “Life is what happens when we make other plans...”

Yet, every Lenten Season we are invited to journey with Jesus through his life of teaching, preaching, healing, heartache, suffering and revelation of God's love for all people. Truthfully, this is a challenging journey even for the most diligent church

goer. We are called, as disciples, to repent through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

There are Lenten booklets out by the Connect Cards to help each one of us with prayer and repentance for the next 40 days. I invite you take one if you haven't already. I also invite you to risk engaging a new perspective on prayer; stretching beyond your usual practices, be open to things not yet revealed or seen, discover a renewal and deepening of your faith.

What will you fast from this Lenten season: chocolate, soda-pop, vending machine snacks, your morning coffee at McDonalds (these are good choices because the money saved can be your almsgiving to ministries in need of support)? Again, I invite you to risk going beyond the usual practices of fasting from food and think about fasting from a behavior that holds you captive from all that God has truly created you to be in living in this world with all people.

What if you fasted from behaviors like: criticizing others or yourself, judging others (by whatever criteria or for whatever reason), or gossiping (even when you believe you aren't gossiping but just “finding out what's going on”)? Maybe you're always trying to do it all, or to get your point across and be “in control.” “Seek ye first to understand...” My guess is that fasting from chocolate or fried foods sounds easy compared to the alternative of fasting from criticism, judgment, or battling with the desires of our egos.

You and I can choose to ignore this 40 day journey of Lent; Easter will arrive on March 31st, either way. You and I can choose to “go through the motions” of the practices of prayer, repentance, fasting, etc., etc., etc.. We can spiritually rush through the 40 days of Lent to get it over with and avoid sacrificing, or we can fully embrace the events, the emotions, the changes, and the

challenges of a deepening faith which God sets before us in our daily walk with Jesus. We can truly seek the Renewal, Transformation, Love and Peace that awaits us on Easter morning because we intentionally and actively engage in this spiritual journey of Lent (the hard work of Lent) and walk (not run) with Jesus to the cross. We can walk with Jesus all the way to the cross embracing the fears and uncertainties of the wilderness places in our lives knowing the joy that awaits us.

We can... or not...

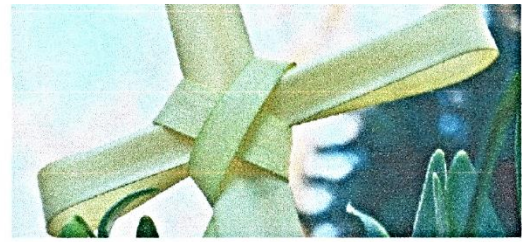
Which journey will you choose to take this Lenten season?

Blessings on your Lenten journey...

Pastor Susan, Interim

**"I love LOVE
and let LOVE
love through
me."**

*Jean Pierre
Medaille,*



March 24th ~ Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47

Or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 25:6-9 &

Ps 118:1-2,14-24

1 Cor 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 Mark 16:1-8

**ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING OFFERING,
MARCH 17TH**

Special envelopes will be in the pews.

THE STUDY OF RUTH

6:30pm on

April 3, 10, 17, 24

Lectionary Bible Study

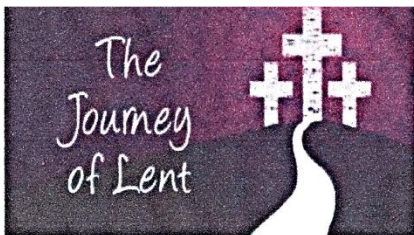
6:30pm on

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

SPIRITUALITY GATHERING

6:30pm on the last Thursday of
each month beginning on April 25th.

If you will be planning to attend please
let Pastor Susan know ~ Thank you!



March 3rd Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19,

1 Corinthians 1:18-25,

John 3:13-22

March 10th Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22,

Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

March 17th Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12,

Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

Congregational Meeting



We will be having a congregational meeting on March 3rd, after services. Please plan on attending.



GUESS WHO? From January

Yes, this is Genny!! The people that answered correctly were: None. We did have some great guesses. Keep trying every month.



GUESS WHO?

On the connect card, guess who this is!! Do you already know, don't tell anyone else. I will announce in the next newsletter who all knew!!!



Senior Funday

Wednesday, March 6th from 11:30 to 2:00, Come out and enjoy the fun!!!

Bring a dessert or something to share. **All are welcome**



Movie night at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 9th. All are welcome. The movie will be **"Welcome to Paradise"**. Bring a chair (if you'd like) and a drink. We will have popcorn!!!



SAVE THE DATE



Solar Eclipse Viewing: April 8, 2024. Meet up at the church around 1:00. Bring your own lunch, chairs, games and anything else to enjoy the day. We will have games, fun and fellowship. We have solar viewing glasses for the 1st 30 people!!!
3:08 in the afternoon

Tim Dillon

Birthday: **April 25, 1952**

Spouses name: **Kim Dillon**

Where were you born? **Ravenna Hospital (lived in Edinburg Township)**

How many brothers or sisters? **4**

High school/college? **Southeast High School**

How long lived in the area? **71 years**

Any jobs? **Auto Mechanic, now retired**

How long have you attended this church? **Whole life**

How long have you been a member? **57 years (April 8, 1966)**

Where were you baptized? **70 years ago, (April 2, 1953)**

Do you have any hobbies? **Old cars, watching westerns & running my dog in agility**

What do you do in your free time? **Yard work –work around home**

Any children? **4 daughters and 1 son**

Any grandchildren? **5 grandchildren:
3 grandsons & 2 granddaughters.**

If you received a Who are you? And haven't returned it yet, please do so.



Who is interested in doing a secret sister? Just sending notes and cards and at Christmas having a gift exchange? Sign up on the connect cards (Feb. 25th and March 3rd) or email EUCnews1823@gmail.com by March 3rd. Cyndi will put names in and have you draw a name.

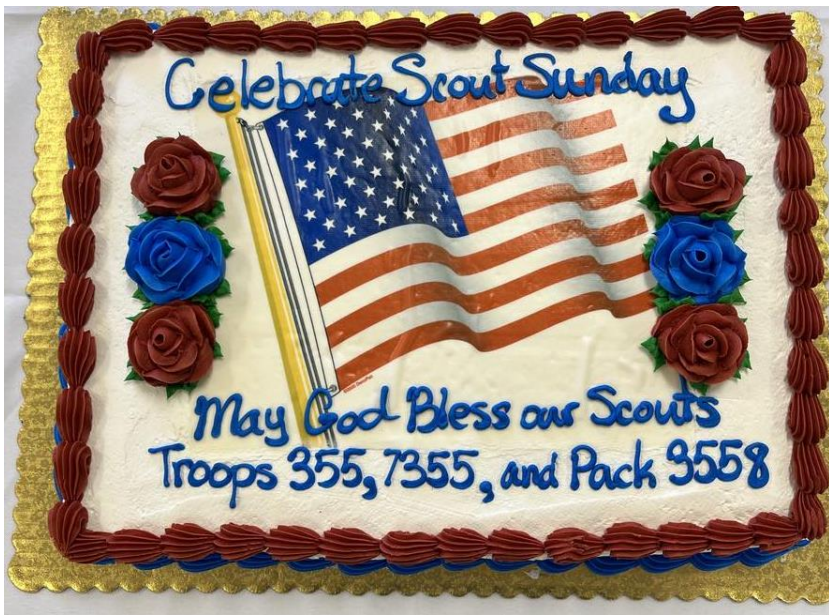


Search and Call Committee

Pastor Susan (not on committee) Eva Rowley, Barb Rohn, Lisa Morehead, (moderator, not on the committee), Brenda Hards, Melissa Dills (and Lenny Reiter, not pictured)

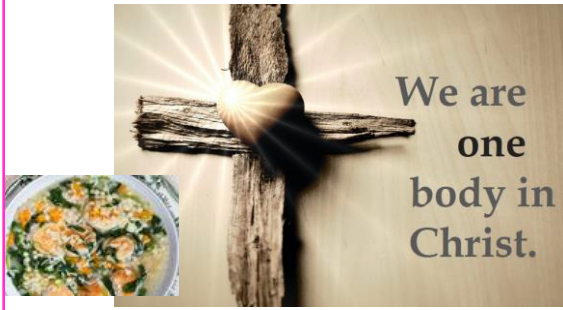


Some of our Youth Group did a tour of the Haven of Portage County. Learned a lot of what the Haven did and even things that they can help with.



Cub Scout Pack 3558, BSA boys Troop 355 , BSA Girls Troop 7355 and the Church celebrated Scout Sunday on Feb. 4th. The scouts then had a cake and desserts for the congregation to enjoy to show appreciation to the Church for chartering them and giving them a place to meet.





We are
one
body in
Christ.

*Feb. 25th after service
"One Body – One Soup". Bring a can of your
favorite soup and plan to have a great meal and a
great time!!*

If you are ordering flowers and/or attending Ruth, a musical,
MONEY IS DUE NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH.



Don't forget Leap Day on Thursday!!

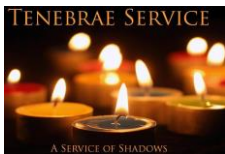


Pastor Susan will be on vacation March 4-10. Glen Shedlock will be leading our worship that day.

Holy Week Hymns



Hymns of Holy Week: March 20th @ 7:00 p.m.



Tenebrae service will be held, Thursday, March 28th @ 7:00 p.m.
We need scripture readers for this night!! If you are interested
mark the connect card or see Pastor Susan.

*Palm
Sunday*

Palm Sunday, March 24th at services at 9:00 a.m.



Easter Sunday, March 31st services at 9:00 a.m.

To ALL! I would like to thank everyone for my gift bag at Christmas time. Thanks to Pat Campbell for delivering. I enjoyed everything, everything was very useful.
Love & Prayers for ALL.
Linnea Romocean



To everyone at EUC

Just a note to say thank you on behalf of several church members who really appreciate the gift bags which were prepared for them.

First, Bill Rowley enjoyed his and even shared some with me.

Alice McConnell sent me a text to let ask me to tell everyone how much she appreciated that we remembered her again this year.

As always when Frances Beckett gets her gift bag, she asks me to make sure you all know she appreciates it, and EUC will always be her church.

Donna Kibler and I were talking, and she said she was getting ready to write a thank you note for her and Bill's gift bags. I told her I was writing one on behalf of several members with whom I am in touch, and could I include her in my note. She said yes, but please be sure to say that we miss seeing everyone. And we appreciate the bags, all who contributed to the contents, Cyndi and the youth of the church for putting this together.

So.....Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you and thank you all from Bill Rowley, Frances Beckett, Alice McConnell, and Donna and Bill Kibler.

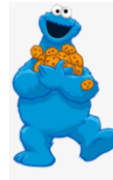
Love you all...Eva Rowley

Liturgist for March are:



March 3: Connie McCambridge
March 10: Barb Rohn
March 17: Rob Thomas
March 24: Sue Francis
March 31: Cindy Jarrett

Cookie queens for March are:



March 3: Julia
March 10: Eva
March 17: Agnes
March 24: Cindy Stuart
March 31: Lisa

MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

If you would like to do any of the following:

Liturgist: see Cindy Jarrett

Cookies: Lisa Morehead

Greeter: Sabrina Finney

Future Council Dates

(2nd Thursday of the Month) 6:30 p.m.

Anyone is welcome to attend

March 14	August 8
April 11	Sept. 12
May 9	Oct. 10
June 13	Nov. 14
July 11	Dec. 12

FINANCE

Jan-Dec. 2023

Tithes/Offerings: \$102,093

Income: \$133,879

Total spending YTD: \$157,452

Council members: Lisa Morehead,
Jeneen Kubula, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn,
Matt Finney, Sabrina Finney, Dianne
Raubacher & Cindy Jarrett

Send in something for the **GUESS WHO!** Email to
EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com or give Cyndi baby pictures or
something about yourself to let people guess who it is!!!



Have the kids, grandkids and adults **color a page** (or more) to **hang up at the Church!!** Pictures are available at the Church or bring your own.

Do you need to fill out a building use form?? Want to see the **Church calendar??** Go to our website <https://www.edinburgunitedchurch.org>
Click on resources and then forms or calendar. Click on the link and it will take you to the form.

Have you, your kids, grandkids or anyone else done something you would like to announce??? If you would like anything added to the newsletter, please email it by March 27th. For it to be put in the newsletter it needs sent to the following email:

EMAIL: EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com

Birthdays in Blue
 Anniversaries in Red
 Events in Black
 Holidays, etc in green

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					Mary Hatcher 1	2
Worship 9:00 a.m. 3	Alyanna Todd 4	5	6	Tim Knudsen 7	Bill Kibler 8 Jessica Ranta	9
Worship 9:00 a.m. 10	Derek Hatcher 11 Kimberley Hatcher	Marla Walsh 12	Samantha Zeigler 13	Dick Hatcher 14 Church Council @ 6:30	Scott Besaw 15	16
Worship 9:00 a.m. 17 Lorelei Finney Kirk Lange St. Patrick's Day	Clem (C.J.) Lang 18	19	Zoey Wyss 20 Healing service At 7:00 p.m.	21	Jeff Phile 22	Rose Slack 23
Worship 9:00 a.m. 24 Palm Sunday Julie Pruchenski	Pat Campbell 25	Diane Bishop 26	27	Tenebrae service At 7:00 p.m. 28	Good Friday Danielle Zimmermann 29	Graham Nezbett 30
Worship 9:00 a.m. 31 Easter Emily Booher Pamela Pribanick			Last day for anything to go into March newsletter			

EDINBURG UNITED CHURCH

Unofficial Council Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

PRESENT: Pastor Susan, Lisa Morehead, Jeneen Kubala, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn, Matt Finney, Sabrina Finney, Cindy Jarrett. ABSENT: Diane Raubacher.

The Meeting was Called to Order by Lisa at 6:35 PM. Pastor Susan read a Devotional and a Council Prayer. The Minutes of the December Council Meetings were read and approved as corrected.

CURRENT ACTION VOTED ITEMS: Lisa shared that Shelly from KidWatch has secured an EPA Professional to do the Church's water testing that is due annually by January 1, each year and that a contract has been signed and agreed upon. Lenny moved that EF Davis 2 and Associates LLC be hired to do annual water testing for the Church at an annual cost of \$600 to be divided equally between KidWatch, SE Cooperative Preschool, and the Church effective as of January 1 of this year 2024. Cindy seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously. There is to be a Soup Fund Raiser for Cub Scout Troop 3558. Sabrina moved to have Cub Scout Troop 3558 Soup Fund Raiser on Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM utilizing Fellowship Hall. It will be Drive Thru only. Lisa seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. For another Cub Scout activity, Cindy moved that Scout Troop 3558 be approved to utilize Fellowship Hall for their Pinewood Derby preparations on the evening of Friday, April 19 at 6:30 PM and again for the Race on Saturday, April 20, 2024 to be held at 2:00 PM. Sabrina seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

This was recorded incorrectly. It will be corrected at the March council meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: There is now a Form available to be utilized for ordering items for church. Eva Rowley is continuing to do Church Payroll and mentor Cyndi Oblisk with other financial activities. Job Descriptions are also being updated. Cyndi has set it up in Breeze to enable Donations to be made to church for various Fund Raisers and needs.

UPDATES: Search and Call Team consisting of Lenny Reiter, Melissa Dillion, Brenda Hards, Eva Rowley and Barb Rohn, will have their first meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. They will be meeting with Nayiri Karjian from Living Water ONE to begin the journey of calling our next Minister. Matt reported that he has continued to be in touch with James Madison regarding parts for updating the Septic System and that the ordered control panel is the delay. Matt also reported on the toilet and sink to be installed on Church's third floor for Preschool. The flag pole project that Scout Neveah Barringer is pursuing has been approved by her Scout Council for an extension until June, 2024. An Invoice for \$200 for snow plowing of Church parking lot done during 22-23 season has just been received. Matt moved that we pay Amber Zahara the \$200 for plowing. Jeneen seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES: Lenny reviewed finances and Budget information with handouts. It was discussed that information about expenses related to Manse's needs being master bath, new roof, septic and driveway, be presented with estimates at upcoming Congregational Meeting. Lisa shared, just to inform Council, that Bradley Insurance Agency, currently with Hastings Insurance, needed a vote from their customers, weather to stay as a Mutual Company or be a Stock Holder Company. The Mutual Company was voted on.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM by Lisa and closed with Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Rohn, Council Clerk