

## E-News for the Week of Sunday, March 13

### *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

#### Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

#### Participants

**Celebrant:** Rev. Nancy Wright

**Altar Guild:** Suzanne Furst

**Communion Assistant:** TBA

**Lector:** Robert Bergesen

**Liturgical Assistant:** TBA

**Greeters:** Gary and Donna Pittman

**Ushers:** Jake Hansen & Richard Butz

**Coffee Hour:** Huggett Family

#### Upcoming Week

##### **Wednesday, 3/9**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (RENTAL)

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bell Choir

##### **Thursday, 3/10**

7:30 p.m. Social Action

##### **Sunday, 3/13**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Worship & Music

4:00-8:00 p.m. St. Timothy (RENTAL)

##### **Monday, 3/14**

7:00 p.m. Council

##### **Tuesday, 3/15**

6:00-9:00 p.m. Nunn's Men's Group (RENTAL)

##### **Wednesday, 3/16**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Tai Chi (RENTAL)

6:15 p.m. Choir

7:15 p.m. Bells

Click [HERE](#) for a long-range calendar.

#### Services in Lent

**Maundy Thursday (March 24) 7:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist, stripping of the altar

**Good Friday (March 25) 7:00 p.m.** Tenebrae service of scripture readings, prayers, and hymns, ending in darkness

**Easter Sunday (March 27) 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** Worship services with Holy Communion; Pancake breakfast by Church Council from **7:30-9:30 a.m.**

### Upcoming Birthdays

3/9 Chase, Logan and Reece Norton

3/10 Emily Kimball

3/11 Amy Kimball

3/21 Stephen Wisloski

3/16 Ben Peake

3/17 Maya Menzel

3/18 Abby Kelley

### Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension sisters and brothers,

First, the Gospel lesson this Sunday is John 12:1-8, the story of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anointing Jesus' feet. Such an expression of deep love for Jesus! Another story, perhaps an earlier one in the Christian tradition, told of an unnamed woman, a "sinner," who washed Jesus' feet with her tears (Luke 7:36-38), and the other two gospels tell of a similar scene (Mark 14:3-9) and (Matt 26:6-13) of unnamed women anointing Jesus with perfume from an alabaster jar.

I've reflected on how we serve Jesus by loving him, expressing love in demonstrative ways. Such love comes from gratitude for his love and forgiveness. Women, who were generally oppressed, seemed to feel freed and deeply devoted to Jesus. In John, the story comes in the chapter prior to Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet. Jesus washed women and all people of anxiety, confusion, fear, shame, and purposelessness. He gave back the joy and zest for life.

Second, a repeat announcement! I know that many of you are chomping at the bit to attend with me the March 12th "3 G Generating Generous Giving" workshop in Rutland. But, I only need at least two of you! Seriously, Bishop Jim Hazelwood and Rev. Renee Lia Braaten present via simulcast on giving and generosity, including sharing best practices. I am obligated to attend, and do so gladly, but I will not want to attend alone. This is an important workshop as we envision, with many other churches, how to thrive in ministry, and undergird our ministry financially. Go

to: <http://www.nesynod.org/faithinaction/news/item/introducing-3g-generating-generous-giving> for all the information.

Blessings, Pr. Nancy

### Sunday School News

#### **Children**

Join us for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.! And be sure to check out the announcements below for Pretzel Dough Maker Volunteers, Easter candy donations, and Nursery Volunteers!

#### **Adults**

The class is reading Pope Francis I Encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home as the Bishop has suggested. Anyone can join at any time; you can purchase a book from Pr. Nancy or read the Encyclical on line for free. No class preparation is needed, as we read aloud and discuss each paragraph.

### New Member Bios

Five parishioners are being brought in as new members this Sunday! They are Katie, Bill and Henry Huggett and John and Barbara Fritsche! Be sure to read their bios below and introduce yourself on Sunday!

### ***Katie, Bill and Henry Huggett***

Hello and thank you for the warm welcome! We relocated to Vermont in August 2015 from Omaha, Nebraska where we were members of St. Michael Lutheran Church. Bill and Katie are Wisconsin natives and we still have family there. Katie's new position as Professor and Director of the new Teaching Academy at the University of Vermont College of Medicine is the reason for our relocation. Bill is the Behavior Coach at Robinson Elementary School in Starksboro. He is a former elementary school principal and teacher. Henry is 5 years old and will begin Kindergarten in August. We all enjoy traveling, golf, outdoor activities/sports, reading, and following college sports.

### ***John (J) Fritsche***

John was born in Houston, Texas. He was a Professor of Education at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois for 26 years until retiring and moving to Vermont. During that time, he served as the chair of the Education Department and Director of Teacher Preparation and in 2012 developed the graduate program for the College. In 2002, John was a Fulbright Senior Scholar to Cyprus working with both Greek and Turkish Cypriot Teachers and in 2012 was awarded a second Fulbright Scholar Grant to Qatar serving as an instructor and lecturer at Qatar University. Before coming to Illinois College in 1989, John was a Lutheran educator teaching in Lutheran schools in Wisconsin and Ohio and was an elementary/middle school principal in Jacksonville, Illinois. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 45 years and both enjoy traveling and spending time with their three grandchildren. He also enjoys doing pottery at UVM and road biking.

### ***Barbara Fritsche***

Barbara retired in June of 2015 and soon thereafter moved to Burlington with her husband to be closer to their daughter Emily, son-in-law Matt, and grandchildren, Abby and Jacob. Barbara was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and is the oldest of 4 children. After college, she and her husband moved to Chicago where Barbara finished law school at DePaul University, after which she and her husband moved to Jacksonville, Illinois. Their children (Emily and Jonathan) were born and raised in Jacksonville. Jonathan is married, lives in Denver where he works for Charles Schwab, and has a 4-month old child (Annie). Initially, Barbara was employed as an assistant attorney general in Springfield, Illinois and then practiced law in Jacksonville for 32 years for a private law firm both in civil defense trial work and also as a corporate employment attorney.

## **HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS**

### ***Volunteer Dough Makers Needed for Palm Sunday Congregational Pretzel Making!***

The Sunday School is seeking help for our annual congregational Palm Sunday pretzel making on Sunday, March 20th. We need volunteers to make pretzel dough ahead of time at home. Please drop off dough in the church's kitchen fridge the week prior to Palm Sunday or bring it with you to church by 9:00 the morning of Palm Sunday. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the recipe!

Thanks so much! ~The Educational Ministry Team

### ***Request for Candy Donations for Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt***

Looking for Easter Bunnies to help supply candy for eggs for Ascension's Sunday School Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. We are looking to fill about 300 eggs. If you are able to donate, please label

candy "Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt" and place on the counter in the kitchen by **Saturday afternoon, March 26th**. Thank you! ~The Educational Ministry Team

### **Church Service Childcare**

The Educational Ministry Committee is going to provide childcare during the regular worship time beginning Sunday, April 3rd. We need help from the congregation to fill this important need. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex **beginning this Sunday, March 13**. We are looking for 2 adults to cover each Sunday service. This is a great chance to sign up with a friend and spend some time together while providing childcare so that parents and care givers can have a more focused worship experience.

### **Name Tags**

Dear Parishioners. Newcomers to Ascension would like us to wear our name tags. Please find them in the library, or ask the office to make you a new one.

### **Quilter's Group**

All are welcome to join with the quilters at Ascension in the assembling of mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are tied rather than quilted hence no sewing skills are required. The process is simple and moves along quickly when many hands are involved. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Next meeting is **Thursday, March 17!**

### **Men's Breakfast**

Men's breakfast alert: our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 19th but note the meeting location change! We will be at the "DUTCH MILL RESTAURANT" on Shelburne Road. The meeting time will remain at 8:30.

See you at The Dutch Mill on **Saturday, March 19th!**

### **Women's Retreat 2016**

Yippee- Women's Retreat is on! April 28-May 1. Checks should be made to Blue Gentian Lodge. (You can put them in the offering plate.) \$165 by **Sunday, March 27**. Please tell Bonnie if you have a specific roommate in mind. Books for retreat will be handed out on Sunday, April 3.

Questions? Ask Bonnie @ [bonnielomb@gmail.com](mailto:bonnielomb@gmail.com).

### **Coffee Hour**

The 2016 coffee hour list has been posted. Please sign up!

## **Additional News and Opportunities**

### **Poverty Is Sexist: Report**

NOWHERE on Earth do women have as many opportunities as men. NOWHERE. Read the latest information on the status of women, and how by lifting women out of extreme poverty, we can end it sooner. A copy of the report is in the Narthex or download it yourself at:

[http://one\\_org\\_international.s3.amazonaws.com/international/media/international/2016/03/05003440/PovertySexist\\_2016.pdf](http://one_org_international.s3.amazonaws.com/international/media/international/2016/03/05003440/PovertySexist_2016.pdf)

### **Medal of Science Winner at St. Michael's College**

St. Michael's will be hosting Dr. William Julius Wilson as one the spring Peace and Justice speakers. Dr. Wilson is an award-winning sociologist (he is one of only two sociologists to have received the National Medal of Science) whose influence extends beyond academia to the White House (Clinton and Obama have both cited his writings) and popular culture (he was the inspiration for the second season of the popular TV series, The Wire.) According to best-selling author and Georgetown

sociologist Michael Eric Dyson, "Wilson virtually invented contemporary urban sociology and reinvigorated the study of the ghetto poor." National Book Award Winner Ta Nehisi-Coates (Between the World and Me) calls him an intellectual deity, a "gawd." Here is the link to a recent Associated Press article which recounts Dr. Wilson's past accomplishments and current projects (at 80, he is hard at work on a new study, "Multi-dimensional Inequality in the 21st Century".) Hope to see you on **March 16th, 7:00 p.m.** at the McCarthy Recital Hall at St. Michael's College!

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0db96b7c1afb42c8b04ee07183688a9b/80-wj-wilson-scholar-race-and-class-looks-ahead>

### ***Benefit Silent Auction***

Silent Auction benefiting Vermont Interfaith Action, Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP), and other social justice ministries. **April 29, 2016** at St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St, Burlington.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the bidding begins (including light refreshments)! Bidding ends at 7:30 p.m. and the entertainment begins (including delicious desserts)!

Tickets are \$15 at St. Paul's online: [stpaulscathedralvt.org](http://stpaulscathedralvt.org) (through 4/26), \$20 at the door. Students 12-18 years old are \$2. Children under 12 are free! The first 50 ticket-buyers will be automatically entered into a special prize drawing!

Winners take home your treasures that evening. Come, bring friends, and have fun... all while helping our neighbors!

### ***Battery Recycling***

There have been a few newspaper articles recently announcing a new recycling program for batteries. Until now the advice has been to put alkaline batteries in the trash. Starting January 1, 2016, you can now give your single-use, alkaline batteries new life by recycling them through Call2Recycle at convenient locations across Vermont. For more information, click

here: <http://www.call2recycle.org/vermont/>

### ***Volunteer at the Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity ReStore***

The ReStore is Habitat's thrift store where profits from the sale of donated goods are used to build Habitat for Humanity homes in Chittenden County. Volunteer duties include receiving and sorting donations, pricing and stocking shelves, assisting customers and so much more! If you would like to volunteer at the ReStore, please email [volunteer@vermonthabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@vermonthabitat.org) or call 318-7533 for more information.

### ***Writing with Spirit***

A weekly creative writing group, **Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Combines meditation and spirituality with poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction. Cost is \$20 per session or \$100 for 6 sessions and Session 1 is free! Led by Nancy Kilgore, DMin at All Souls Interfaith Gathering, 291 Bostwick Farm Road, Shelburne, VT. Visit [www.nancykilgore.com](http://www.nancykilgore.com) or email [nancy.hayes.kilgore@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.hayes.kilgore@gmail.com) for more information and to register.