



# The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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March 2018



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ—

Pictured is work by artist Salvatore Zofrea entitled *Harvesting*. It shows what labor it took to bring in a harvest from a field. Several men are hard at work. Even with the technology available to the modern farmer, anyone who says it isn't hard work, clearly ought to spend a few weeks on a farm at harvest time.

Who has a right to food in our society? The ones who grow it? The ones who can afford it? What about the poor? The refugee? The unemployed? What rights do they have to food?

Zofrea's artwork takes us back to the Book of Leviticus, to help us learn what the Bible says about who has a right to food. In Leviticus 19: 9-10 we find this:

*When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup>You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.*

In an agrarian culture, this meant that everyone who produced food had a responsibility to take care of those who had no access to food. The Biblical direction included the poor and the alien.

One of the values the Bible promotes is that because God is Lord over all, we have a kinship with every other human being. One of the forces at work in our present culture is tribalism.

Tribalism says you take care of your own. Tribalism divides people into "them" and "us."

The Christian Church carries on this Biblical tradition. Listen to the way the Book of Acts describes the early Christian Church In Acts 4: 34-35

<sup>34</sup>*There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

In and around Buffalo in the month of March you will find the custom of a St. Joseph's Table near his feast day on March 19. Where tables of food are set out for the poor to come and eat without cost.

There is never a "them" and "us" with regard to food. In March and at all other times, remember the poor and the alien and help them in whatever way you can to have access to food.

Pastors Wendy and Tim

## Celebrate the Great and Holy Week: March 25-April 1



Make sure your plans include a celebration of the last week of Jesus' earthly life, by joining together in our special worship services:

**Palm Sunday, March 25**—with Palms we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then we read the story of his suffering and death in the Passion of St. Mark. **9:00 am and 10:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**—the night we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Our tradition of sharing worship with the folks of Calvary Episcopal Church continues. This year, we'll worship with them AT CALVARY at **7:00 pm**

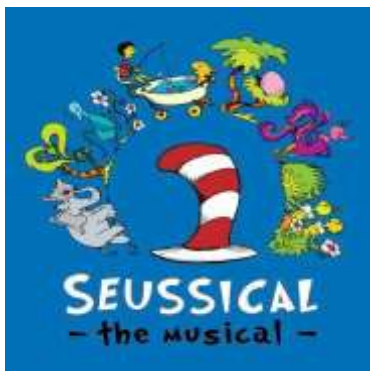
**Good Friday, March 30**—the Liturgy of the Cross is a service whose roots go back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. We read the Passion of St. John, pray the solemn prayers, and spend time in silent devotion before the cross. **2:00 pm.** Later in the evening, we'll gather for a devotional service of readings, poetry, and songs centering on Christ's death. **7:00 pm.**

**Holy Saturday, March 31**—to mark the day Jesus rested in the grave, we come together for a simple service of prayer, then those who wish stay and help decorate the church for Easter. It all begins at **10:00am.**

**Easter Sunday, April 1**—Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! The centerpiece of the Christian Faith and our hope of eternal life. We gather for Holy Communion and lots of Alleluias! **9:00am and 10:30am.**

Pastors Wendy and Tim

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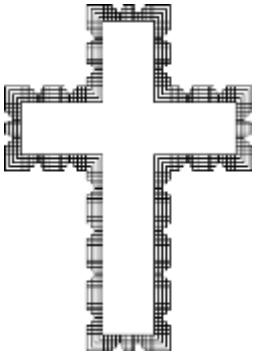
The Sunday School is going to see *Seussical the Musical* at Williamsville North High School on March 10. Ticket prices and more details to be announced.



### ALUMINUM CAN TABS

We are again collecting can tabs to take to Synod **Convention in June.** Please bring your tabs and place them in the container in the hallway.

## Council President



Members of St. Paul's,

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Ray and Debby Hopkins for their many years of putting "The Voice" together for our congregation and beyond. I would also like to welcome Debby Lemoine aboard as our new "Editor in Chief". Thank You for stepping up to the plate, to take over this endeavor.

There are also some other items which I would like to bring to everyone's attention, especially the parents of our youth. The Organic Youth program is alive and well. Currently under the guidance of Mr. Nick Stroczkowski, there are a number of upcoming events that might be of interest to you.

**March 2-4 LCLC Middle School Winter Retreat Grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.** Includes games, hikes Bible Study, Worship, Sledding, fun in the snow and Campfires, music and S'mores. Held at LCLC 5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, NY 14713 Cost \$100 (includes \$25 non-refundable deposit) **Registration deadline FEBURARY 23.**

**March 23-24 Youth Worker Training Event,** starts at 7 pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ends at 3 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, get to know other Youth Workers in the WNY area. On Saturday there will be a presentation from Abbey Sandonato, Youth Counselling Specialist on "Why Our Youth Tend to Engage in Risky Behavior", how their brains develop throughout their teen years and our role in that process. To be held at LCLC, 5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, NY 14713 Cost \$60 (includes meals, lodging (with linens), and program.

**April 20 – 21 Volleyball Marathon-** The evening will start off with a community service project, which will be followed up with and all-night volleyball tournament. This will take place at the Buffalo Niagara Court Center, 425 Meyer Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224. Cost \$25

**June 2, 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Play Day.** Parents can take the afternoon off while Nick and the Organic Youth Leadership Team lead games, serve snacks and teach about God's Love for each of us. This event is being held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4007 Main St., Amherst, NY 14226 Cost FREE!

To get involved in any of these programs you can contact me, or **Nick Stroczkowski at St. John's Lutheran Church, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster NY 14086 716-683-8972 or [nick@organic-youth.org](mailto:nick@organic-youth.org)**

Also there are upcoming events for us "mature folk":

**Daily Bread Food Truck** is looking for volunteers, however there is also a paid position for an associate chef. Volunteer opportunities contact Mr. Mike Weltzer at [mjw2427@gmail.com](mailto:mjw2427@gmail.com) for the associate chef position contact Tony Piette Executive Chef at 716-839-1675 or [j-tpiette@msn.com](mailto:j-tpiette@msn.com).

**Study Group** for Pastors, preaching deacons and Folk interested in getting into the Scripture readings for upcoming Sundays. Meets Wednesday Mornings at 10 am at Trinity Lutheran, 8760 Transit Rd., East Amherst, NY 14051

**April 14, Diakonia St. Paul's Williamsville,** Open to both Congregational Deacons and Lay people. This spring theme is the New Testament Overview.

Another busy year is upon us.

George A. Roeser  
Council President

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

**In memory of Carol Cocol:** *(All donations for Carol Cocol go into **Music Fund** unless otherwise indicated.)*

Ray & Doris Wright

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**Daylight Savings Time** begins, Sunday March 11.  
Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

## Book Club



The Book Club will meet on March 18 at 3:00 pm in the Friendship Room to discuss *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. Our hostess will be Sandi Emser and all are welcome. Questions? Please call Ellen Pachioli at 636-9786.

## PRAYER LIST FOR MARCH VOICE:

Dick Atkins	Marge Kolb
Dick Edwards	David Kuehfs
Ursula Grau	Eric Madsen
Beverly Heinricher	Eva Paulson
Ed Jacobi	Art Plant
Pearl Kibler	Tony Rizzo
Holly Kolb	Pat Valentine

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*Please remember in prayer all those who serve in the military and all victims of war and oppression.*



## Third Annual Lutheran Charities Wine & Craft Beer Event

Thanks to all of the St. Paul's folks for making it a wonderful evening.

**Debbi Hopkins**



**The deadline for the April 2018 Voice is March 19th**  
Please submit articles to [stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com) or our box in office