

The Erin Spirit

Erin Presbyterian Church (USA)

"Serving the Community on the
same site since 1860."

FEBRUARY 2016



For in the one spirit
we were all baptized
into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13



Pastor's Pen....

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, is just around the corner - February 10 this year. Many of us are just coming up for air after the rush of the Advent/

Christmas season. This season always feels far less rushed and encumbered with cultural baggage than the season of Advent.

Many faith traditions begin with the practice of smearing ashes on one another's foreheads - a practice that seems as bizarre to the But we do this to remember who and whose we are, so that we can be brave. It takes courage, after all, to confront our own mortality and to repent. These two themes lie at the heart of our Ash Wednesday worship. We all need to face the truth that we will all one day die. And we all need to repent - that is, to turn from our self-centered and self-sufficient ways and to turn to Jesus Christ, as we follow him in the way of the cross (i.e., the way of self-giving and self-sacrificial love). All of that takes courage. And that courage comes when we embrace the truth of our baptism that in life and in death we belong to God.

In this way Ash Wednesday sets the stage for Lent. The season began as a period of forty days to prepare candidates for baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter. It still serves that purpose in many traditions today. But Lent is also a season for those of us who have already been baptized to renew our baptism and to grow in Christian discipleship, as we learn more fully what it means to die and rise with Christ.

As always, I am grateful for this opportunity to make this pilgrimage of faith with you. May we encourage one another to become ever more brave disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Nancy

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the

enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

What is Lent? Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

When is Lent? It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. So what is LENT? At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit. Where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry.

Why "DO" Lent? How do I start? Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships,

family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

SERVICE: Some Christians take something on for Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker or friend every day of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

FASTING: What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

From the church office:

- The DEADLINE for the **March 2016** Erin Spirit is Mon., February 15th. Please, be sure to have your info to the church office by 1 p.m. if you want it in the February Erin Spirit.
- Any committee or person needing something put into the Sunday Spirit, I ask that you have it into the church office by 1 p.m. on Tuesday of the week you would like it put in.
- Any group or committee needing to use the lit up portable sign for event(s) advertising, please see Dorothy to schedule needed dates on the church calendar. It is the responsibility of the group using the sign to put up the message they want and to take the letters down and put them back when they are finished.

Committee Meetings for February

Presbyterian Men The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, February 13th at 9 a.m. with a meeting to follow. We will be making plans for the Chili Cook-off on February 20th, so please plan on attending this event. Men of all ages are invited. Please come out to enjoy a delicious breakfast and take part in this fellowship event of Christian men.

- **Evangelism will be** meeting Saturday, 2/13/16 at 10:30 am in MacDonald Hall
- **Property & Finance** will meet Wednesday, 2/10/16 at 11 am in Pastor's study.
- **Session** will meet the 3rd Wednesday, 2/17/16 at 7 p.m. in MacDonald Hall.

The new slate of officers and Committee Chairs, along with the Church Nominating Committee and Memorial and Endowment Committee will be listed in the March 2016 Newsletter.

We would like to thank the out-going church officers for their time and efforts they committed to serving Erin.

Dave Marshall, Elder
Kevin Smith, Elder
Priscilla Smith, Deacon

Please keep in mind that every year brings changes and new opportunities. If you find that your situation allows you some extra time to participate a little more we are always in need of volunteers in the following areas:

Please contact the committee in parentheses after the duty.
Ushers, Sound Tech, Worship Leader (Worship & Music committee)
Being on a offering counting team (Treasurer)
Coffee Hour hosting, Greeting (Evangelism committee)
Maintaining message on bricked Gratiot Sign Board (office) this takes a team of 2 people.

Items to be put on your calendar

Roseville Community Schools sponsors Gleaner's Mobile Food Bank at Erin Church in the parking lot on rolling Mondays of the month. If you are able to help distribute the food (it usually takes an hour to an hour and a half of your time) please come to the church around 12:15/12:30 on Monday, February 8th.

Ash Wednesday communion service on
February 10, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Lenten Friday Fish Fry Dinners

Please join us and invite your family, friends and co-workers.

We will doing a Lenten Fish Fry every other Friday during Lent 5:00 pm – 8:00 p.m. in Knox Hall

Friday, Feb. 12th
Friday, March 11th

Friday, Feb. 26th
Friday, March 25th

cost: \$10.00 per dinner (includes: baked or fried fish, fries, Cole slaw, roll & butter, & dessert!!)
50/50 Raffle

Donations of desserts are appreciated. If you are able to donate a dessert for any of the above dates (serve 24) please sign the sheet in the reception area of the church or call the office.

Men of Erin are sponsoring a Soup/Chili Cook-Off & Game Night

Saturday, February 20, 2016 4:30 to ?
\$5 at the door (12 and under free)

If you have a favorite game(s) bring them with you!

There will be a 50/50 Raffle and Basket Auction

1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize will be awarded to the best Soup or Chili recipe entered!

Please use the available sign up sheet to let us know if you will be entering a recipe in the cook off or just joining us for the tasting and the fellowship.

Financials to Date

A note from the Administration, Property & Finance Committee...Below is our financial position for the year of January through December 2015:

Cash Receipts

Total offerings	\$68,951.52
Fundraisers	7,214.34
Church use & interest income	<u>18,092.84</u>
Total Income	\$94,258.70

Cash Expenditures

Staff Salaries	\$33,062.05
Building/operational expenses	36,381.26
Committee expenses	<u>12,291.62</u>
Total Expense	\$81,734.93

Net Operating Total (favorable) \$ **12,523.77**

Total income for the year of 2014 was \$90,289.12 compared to \$94,258.70 for this year, thus our income has increased over last year by \$3,969.58. Expenses for the year of 2014 were \$98,256.99 while this year our expenses dropped to \$81,734.93, a reduction of \$16,522.06 in spending. Offerings received for the month of December averaged \$2,362.38, up from November which averaged \$1,594.10 per Sunday. Our investments recorded a net loss of \$71.36 during December and now total \$4,905.74 at year end, down from the December 31, 2014 balance of \$4,938.40.

Thank you,
Administration, Property & Finance Committee

2016 Offering envelopes are available for you to pick up at the church. Please take the box with your name on it. Some members have been assigned a new envelope number.

Per Capita amount (per member, not family) for 2016 is: \$25.04

2015 Statement of financial givings are available in the reception area of the church. If for some reason you cannot pick yours up please call the church office and make arrangements to have it mailed to you.

ERIN FAMILY UPDATES

We want to take the opportunity and would be pleased to join you in praying for specific needs. If you are at worship please fill out the prayer request card and turn over to Pastor, put in offering plate, or call the church office and let Dorothy know the name of the person you would like us to pray for.

Temporary Concerns:

LaRue Berkley
Ramona Hoggarth
Paul Hughes
Neil Latham
Johanna McGill
Sandy McMullen
Allie Miller
Diane Miller
Kathy Parker
Eileen Seeley
Sandy Van
Shirley Waters
Robert Weidenbach
Irene Wingate
June Zydek

Long Term Concerns:

Frank Allor
Terra Brozik
Butler Family
Blanche Dunn
Heather Welch
Gleason
Grace Graebert
John Harrison
Cindy Hogman
Kelly Keller
Sandy Male
JoAnn Moore
Anthony Nowaczewski
Debbie Palutis
Guido Perry
Alton Rausch
Linda Wright



Pray for US Military especially:

127th Wing Air National Guard
Codey, USMC
Aubrie, USMC
Dan Heaton, USAF Reserves
Rivan Frazee, USAF



Thank you to my Erin Family for your prayers, your cards and your kind words over the past year and a half while my Mom was a shut-in.

I would like to thank the Deacons for all of their cards and Edna Bassett for her phone calls checking upon my mom and myself. God Bless.

Pamela L. Spinella & Helen Stewart family

with you.

The family wishes to honor and celebrate Joe's life at a Memorial Service on Saturday, May 14th at the Vintage House on Utica and Masonic from 1 to 4 p.m. We would love to have all of you join us for a lovely lunch and time of fellowship and sharing our memories of Joe. Please mark your calendars now and RSVP Ramona by April 15th.

Again....thank you all for everything.

*God bless,
Ramona (Vicks) Hoggarth and family*

To my dear Erin Family and friends:

THANK YOU seems like such a simple phrase, but still it is meant to show just how much I appreciated your prayers, calls, visits and kind words of encouragement during the months of Joe's illness.

Thank you Pastor Nancy for all of the visits to Joe and me during a very difficult time! Joe was very grateful and enjoyed the time spent

Ordination and installation of new church officers will be done on Sunday, February 14, 2016 during our worship service.

We welcome to the Board of Elders: Mary Smith and to the Board of Deacons: Edgar Kirkindall & Gary Morris.

Happy February Birthday to our Erin family & friends:

- 11 La Rue Berkley
- 12 Dan Heaton
- 15 Sally Marks
- 16 Marshelle DiLorenzo
- Pam Spinella
- 22 Jim Pinello



GREETERS SCHEDULE

- 7 Tom & Dorothy Pietrzak
- 14 Edgar & Margaret Kirkindall
- 21 Gary & Kelly Morris
- 28 Carol Weidenbach



Communion Sunday February 7, 2016

Deacon preparation: Carol Eickhoff & Martin Kirkindall

Elder clean-up: T. Pietrzak & Sue LeFevre

We will need Deacon & Elder volunteers to prepare & clean up communion for Ash Wednesday, on Feb. 10, 2016. Call the office if you can do this.



Lectionary Schedule

- 7 Pastor Nancy Bass
- 14 Kelly Morris
- 21 Kevin Smith
- 28 Kelly Morris

Mission for the Months of January & February

Helping Hands Covenant (Joining hearts & hands)

An emergency assistance fund for Presbyterian churches to use in crises situations for members and friends.



Deacon of the Day

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE

7 Usher Team 1, J. Jaworski & Ramona Hoggarth



14 Team 2, Sue Le Fevre & Ruth Harris

21 Team 3, Dave Marshall & T. Pietrzak

28 Team 4, Men of Erin

- 7 Carol Eickhoff
- 14 Martin Kirkindall
- 21 Edgar Kirkindall
- 28 Gary Morris

Feb. 7 -Team 3

Dave Jaworski
Terry Bossick



Feb. 14 -Team 1

Tom Pietrzak
June Frazee



7 Volunteers Needed

14 Dave & Karen Marshall

21 Dave & Jean Jaworski

Feb. 21 -Team 2

Dave Marshall
Sandra Rogers

Feb. 28 -Team 1

Tom Pietrzak
June Frazee

28 Carol & Nancy Weidenbach

FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30—Scottish dancers in MacDonald Ground Hog Day	3 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel	4 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel	5	6
7 8:30-WTTC in  Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship & communion 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	8 12:15 to 2 Gleaner's Mobile Food Bank in Parking lot	9 6:30 to 9 POD class in Knox Hall 7 NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30-Scottish dancers in MacDonald	10 11-Property & Finance mtg. in Pastor's study 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel 7-Erin worship & communion Ash Wednesday	11 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel	12 5 to 8 Fish Fry in Knox Hall	13 9-Men of Erin breakfast & meeting 10:30 Evangelism meeting
14 8:30-WTTC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship in Sanctuary 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-Coffee Hour: The Marshalls 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	15 Church Office Closed President's Day	16 7 NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30-Scottish dancers in MacDonald	17 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel 7-Session Mtg. in MacDonald Hall	18 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel	19	20 4:30 Soup & Chili Cook off in Knox
21 8:30-WTTC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship in Sanctuary 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-Coffee Hour: The Jaworskis 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	22	23 5:30 to 9 POD class in Knox Hall 7-NLCOGIC in Chapel 7:30-Scottish dancers in MacDonald	24 6:30 to 8 CCC-B in Chapel	25 6 - 8 pm WTCC in Chapel	26 5 to 8 Fish Fry in Knox Hall	27
28 8:30-WTTC in Chapel 9:30-CCC-B Bible study in MacDonald 10:30-Erin Worship in Sanctuary 11-CCC-B in chapel 11:30-Coffee Hour: Carol & Nancy Weidenbach 12:30-NLCOGIC in sanctuary 4-WTCC in Chapel	29	Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____				

Are You Ready To Fumble?

Football Season is underway! Can you find all 32 NFL football teams in the word search?

J H Z L E S M R N B R X F Y T Y H S H S
H N C W W Z O R T M T S O S O D L Z R N
O G B H M J G A Y B R Y R Z T L G A U O
S L A N I D R A C E D E T J I N U P A I
E T I R G E F R G J O F Y B B G A W G L
S T E J A A F R S T L I N W A N W I Q W
S T V E L I A S H M P Z I J T V R R G Y
E T L C L H D R W Y H T N H G I P T S M
Z S O O C E O E W O I E E A L K H R Y K
N N K I C O R P R A N R R F N I S P O U
S F R A R U L S S S S J S Y N N G L B P
S R A E B T E Q K B R O W N S G I U W S
J E T S B Q A R W P A C K E R S C S O N
J R Z R G N S P A Y N W N T W C N A C E
S O C N O R B L H M E Z E L A A O I B V
S E L G A E S H A Z S X C N T W A N I A
M Q K M M N C K E G A Z E I R E B T T R
E N P J V C M G S N N E T D T D T S L S
W V K H W U T S S O R E H D H B N K S F
R E D S K I N S W S B W B O P Y P R U D



BEARS	BENGALS	BILLS
BRONCOS	BROWNS	BUCCANEERS
CARDINALS	CHARGERS	CHIEFS
COLTS	COWBOYS	DOLPHINS
EAGLES	FALCONS	FORTYNINERS
GIANTS	JAGUARS	JETS
LIONS	PACKERS	PANTHERS
PATRIOTS	RAIDERS	RAMS
RAVENS	REDSKINS	SAINTS
SEAHAWKS	STEELERS	TEXANS
TITANS	VIKINGS	

www.erinchurch.org
We're on the Web!

Office is open Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 1 pm
 Office Email: churchoffice@erinchurch.org
 Fax: 586-777-6397
 Phone: 586-777-9200 or 586-777-9201
 Pastor Email: pastor@erinchurch.org

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

3000 Gratiot Avenue
 Roseville, MI 48066
 Nancy D. Bass, Pastor

Erin Presbyterian Church (USA)



The *Session* of Erin Church sets our vision and has authority over the entire ministry. Please contact its members with your questions, comments, and or ideas.

Pastor Nancy D. Bass, Moderator
 Jean Jaworski, Clerk of Session

Class of 2016

Ramona Hoggarth
 Jean Jaworski
 Tom Pietrzak

Class of 2017

Ruth Ann Harris
 Sue Le Fevre
 Mary Smith

The *Deacons* of Erin Church perform the ministries of service and compassion. Please contact its members if you have or see a spiritual and/or physical need.

Class of 2016

Carol Weidenbach

Class of 2017

Martin Kirkindall
 Gary Morris

Class of 2018

Carol Eickhoff
 Edgar Kirkindall
 Margaret Kirkindall