

**ROUGH & READY RUMBLINGS**  
**MARCH 2023**

Salem Church of Rough & Ready  
11 Church Road  
Klingerstown, PA 17941  
Church/Children's Church: 9:00 A.M.  
Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.

Pastor Mark E. Mantz  
Phone: 570-863-2061  
Cell Phone: 570-863-8837  
Email: markemantz@yahoo.com

Elaine Dietrich, Secretary  
178 Vista Road  
Klingerstown, PA 17941  
Phone: 570-425-2398  
Cell: 570-415-59961  
Email: secretary@salemchurchrr.org

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 8 AM. It will be a time of informal fellowship, food, and a devotional. Please plan on attending, and feel free to invite other men to come with you.

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study on the Life of Abraham. Please join us at 6 PM as we learn about this Man of Faith. The material will be covered again on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM so that you have two opportunities to participate in this Bible Study. This will be an enlightening weekly study so be sure to bring your Bible, notebook and pen.

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – World Day of Prayer

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday in Lent. Bible Study @ 6 PM

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Salem Consistory Meeting @ 7 PM

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday in Lent. Daylight Saving Time Begins. Our annual breakfast will be served at 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion. Bible Study @ 6 PM

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent. Bible Study @ 6 PM

Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Meeting @ 6 PM. They will be filling eggs for the Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. If you wish to donate, please bring small snack bags, crackers, pretzels, chips, etc.

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ 8 AM

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday in Lent. Bible Study @ 6 PM

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Church Grounds & Cemetery Cleanup @ 9 AM

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Palm Sunday. Easter Egg Hunt @ 2 PM

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School will be filling Easter Baskets for the shut in @ 6 pm. Please provide the name, number in family, and address of anyone in need of a basket.

Lent Services on the following dates at 7 PM: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29

Bible Study on the following dates at 1 PM: 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

Salem Church of Rough & Ready Consistory Meeting

2/7/23

Present: Pastor Mantz, Mike Masser, Dan Scheib, Randy Wehry, Louise Rothermel, Dean Dietrich, Arlin Weikel, Andy Kuczala, Matt Lucas, Dorothy Brown, Brock Klinger.

Opening Devotional:

Genesis 22 - God instructed Abraham to sacrifice his son. Abraham took his son, who was nearly grown, and intended to follow through on the instruction. In verse 15, the angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham and told him that because he obeyed him, he would bless him with offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore. God had promised Abraham the same thing before he challenged him to sacrifice his son. Would he have still blessed him if he hadn't followed through? Immutability is a property of God. It means he can't be untrue. God promised that when we believe in Jesus we'd have everlasting life. Whether we're faithful to him or not, he's faithful to us.

Terry Troutman

- Troop 652 doesn't have enough kids to continue the boy scout troop.
- As the chartering organization, the church inherits their belongings. The troop has around \$2,700 in its bank account along with some camping equipment.
- They don't own the property the scout house was built on, so it will need to be torn down. A portion of the funds will be used to pay for a dumpster to clear it out.
- Cub Scouts don't camp and wouldn't have use for those materials. They could accept the funds, though.
- We could potentially store materials in the church basement for a few months while we sort out which groups should receive it. Motion by Dan Scheib, Seconded by Brock Klinger - Once the scout house is cleaned up, disperse the equipment to another pack that is in need. Disperse the funds to the cub scout pack.

The minutes from the December meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Current \$293,954.22

Benevolence \$3629.99

Building \$8,401.46

Old Business:

- Air Conditioning
  - No update from contractor. Hopefully installed by April.
- Motion Sensing Lights
  - Installed. Once the power is turned off, the motion sensor lights are off. Pastor Mantz will purchase and donate a switch cover that holds the switch in place.
- Wifi
  - Installed. The password on the side of the modem must be used to connect. We will not open the network to preserve bandwidth and prevent inappropriate use.
- Christmas Tree
  - The sales tax refund came through. The price point came in closer to \$1,000.
- Online Giving
  - A few weeks after mentioning Zelle as a potential method for accepting donations digitally, news came out that Bank of America customers had lost substantial sums of money due to fraud. As a result, we discourage congregants from donating via this option.
  - It will be necessary to secure 501c3 tax exemption from the IRS in order to proceed with any online giving platforms. To be eligible for recognition, the church's bylaws may need to be edited requiring a congregational

meeting and vote. Brock will look into how substantial the required edits will be. We will not proceed if it means compromising our policies and values.

New Business:

- Communion
  - We'll need cups for our next communion. Pastor Mantz will stop at Bible Depot and pick up a few boxes.
- Salem Cemetery Committee proposed making the old grass cemetery road (row Z) available as cremation urn/vault burial plots.
  - Motion by Dan Scheib, seconded by Andy Kuczala to accept the proposal.
- Discussion around tithing Violet Hoffman estate's \$20,000 gift.
  - Motion by Randy Wehry, seconded by Louise Rothermel to tithe 10% of the gift into the Mission Fund.
- Men's breakfast
  - Beginning February 25th, we'll be starting a men's breakfast to be held on the fourth Saturday of every month at 8 AM. We'll meet for an hour of fellowship and a rotating devotional. Brock will take care of the meal, and Pastor Mantz will handle the devotional for the first one.
- Bible study
  - Pastor Mantz is considering hosting two separate bible studies to accommodate as many schedules as possible.
- Lenten Services
  - Randy, Randy Jr., and Chris Trisatti will be performing. Randy Jr. will give a message.
- Love Offering
  - Offering for Alan Troutman wrapped up on February 5th.
  - Dennis O'Brien is a retired pastor living in Valley View. Love offering will run from Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> to Mar. 5th.
- Entrance Ramp and Railing
  - Jim Gessner got a quote to smooth the concrete and reattached the loose railing for \$1,000.
  - Motion by Brock Klinger seconded by Dean Dietrich

Pastor Mantz provided a detailed activity report for the month of January.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed with all present reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brock Klinger

Recording Secretary

Sunday School Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2023

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance \$4,417.90

Offering Deposit \$261.62

Copier Toner (\$150.52)

Christmas Party Supplies (\$215.88)

Blanket Fund Donation to Church World Services (\$300.00)

Total Income: \$261.62

Total Expenses: (\$666.40)

Ending Balance: \$4,013.12

Old Business:

- The teen through college age study of Proverbs, led by Pastor Mantz, continues to go well. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to join.
- Butch Heim will discuss a potential combined Youth Group with the Church of God with their church members.
- Pastor Mantz will meet with those who are interested in a small group bible study immediately following

church service on February 12, 2023 to find a date(s) that work for everyone's schedules.

- The church basement cleanout is going well and will continue to take place from 11:15 a.m. (following the conclusion of Sunday School) through 12:00 p.m every Sunday until the basement is organized. Help would be greatly appreciated from anyone from the congregation.

New Business:

- A men's prayer breakfast will start in February 2023 and continue one Saturday every month.
- Discussed "Proclamation Safari Park" as a potential 2023 Vacation Bible School theme.
- Planning for the Easter Egg Hunt has begun. We will "fill" Easter Eggs at 6 p.m. on March 20th.
- The Sunday School will begin to look for and collect packaged snacks and treats to be utilized at the Easter Egg hunt.
- The Sunday School is still looking for Christian centered entertainment options for our various events throughout the year. Anyone with an entertainment suggestion should speak to a member of the Sunday School committee.

Sunday School Calendar of Events (First Quarter):

- February 12, 2023: Super Bowl of Caring Sunday & Scout Sunday (The congregation is encouraged to bring a canned good or monetary donation.)
- February 25, 2023: Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
- March 12, 2023: Congregational Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
- March 20, 2023: Sunday School Meeting 6:00 p.m. (Fill Easter Eggs & VBS Planning)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FROM JANUARY

Current Fund Income: \$8,941.00  
 Current Fund Expenses: \$9,670.67  
 End of Month Balance: \$293,953.22

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children's Church Leader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Smith	Marian Heim
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tina Novinger	Lexi Leshner
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Maddy Klinger	Bailey Novinger
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Kerstetter	Lucas Scheib

ALTAR FLOWERS

- March 5<sup>th</sup>
- March 12<sup>th</sup>
- March 19<sup>th</sup> In Memory of Cabin Fire Victims by the Wehry Families
- March 26<sup>th</sup> In Honor of Steve & Sandy Rothermel's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1	Todd Brown	20	Marian Heim	9	Andrew & Lori Meredith
	Brayden Kimmel		Elaine Dietrich	12	Ryan & Beth Novinger
10	Kara Brown		Jessica Kimmel	17	Chris & Melissa Lenker
	Jean Dietrich		Zack Spickler		Todd & Julie Strohecker
12	Maria Casey	21	Janelle Welgosh	21	Mike & Josey Masser
13	Alexis Leshner	22	Louise Rothermel	24	Steve & Sandy Rothermel
14	Stacy Andracchio	28	Laura Novinger	26	Jim & Tina Novinger
15	Roger Hess		Rachelle Madenford		
	Dean Dietrich	30	Diane Klinger		
	Chris Lenker	31	Tina Novinger		
18	Christine Gessner		Derrick Schwartz		
	Krista Schaible				

## NEWSLETTER FROM MISSIONARY

**Akemashite Omedetogozaimasu!**



Congratulations on this new year! What a year that this has been. It's crazy to think that I was in teaching in Chile this year and now I'm in Japan. God really shows Himself in mysterious ways. As I'm writing this, I am currently sitting in the teachers room at Higashi High School. Today is the day that I am officially starting my volunteer here. And since it the first time I'm seeing my coworkers since last year, I need to greet everyone with both ohaiyo gozaimasu and akemashite omedieogozaimasu (good morning and congratulations on the new year). At first, it kind of seems like a bit of an overkill, I feel like I'm saying a whole speech just to greet someone, but the more I think about it, the more I can appreciate it. To me, this year had so many ups and downs. Many times of loneliness, but also many times of joy. So looking back on it, I don't think it is too much to congratulate people on making it through the year. It's kind of like looking back on how far we've come.

This past month has been a very fun experience of different church celebrations. Between parties and Christmas plays, it's been a treat to see God's love being spread around during the celebration of His birth. As of right now my most important responsibility is full time language learning. Forty hours a

week of studying Japanese is no walk in the park, but it is completely necessary. And after more than a month of doing full time Japanese studies, I can confidently say, that I know basically nothing! Sure I can speak small talk and recognize a few kanji, but if the topic goes off of the weather or my health, I'm lost. This can sometimes be really discouraging. It's difficult to watch my friends talk about the gospel and have deeper conversations in Japanese while I'm still stuck on learning a few verbs. It seems impossible.

But I'm still here. I'm still studying. And by the grace of God, I haven't given up. One of my friends and mentors told me something that really shifted my perspective. She said that learning Japanese is like filling a bowl with rice. If you concentrate on the entire amount, you will want to give up. Instead, you need to concentrate on each individual grain. Right now, I've just began to fill up my bowl. I may have just a few grains of rice, but if I keep on adding one grain and then another, someday I will have a full bowl.

So I will keep learning Japanese, attempting to speak to friends and neighbors, and learning how to work in a Japanese school setting. And each grain of rice I pick up, I want to give to God. And I think that at the end of this new year, I will get to look back on how far I've come and proudly tell myself, "akemashite omedetogozaimasu."

Prayer Requests:

Pray for my relationships and bonds to grow.  
Pray for my Language classes to continue smoothly  
Pray for my growth and understanding of Japanese culture  
Pray for God to open hearts and doors for gospel opportunities.

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### *Who Are You?*

The month of March will soon be here, and along with the month comes many sayings and traditions. Many of us grew up learning that March either comes in like a lion, and leaves like a lamb, or it comes in like a lamb and leaves like a lion. A tradition many celebrate, whether they're Irish or not, is St. Patrick's Day. We wear the green, which represents the Emerald Isle, and maybe a shamrock or two, and we all can be Irish for a day. In some cities that have large concentrations of those with Irish heritage, there are huge celebrations on St. Patrick's Day, with traditional Irish garb, activities, food, and beverages. Jeanne and I used to be vendors at some Irish events, and it was a lot of fun to see and be a part of the festivities.



I can legitimately claim Irish heritage in my lineage. My paternal grandmother's maiden name was Catherine McGlynn. The McGlynn's were proud to be known as "Black Irish." A trait that many of her family had was black hair and blue eyes, a trait that both my dad and I possess. My cousin, Joe McGlynn, was very proud of being Black Irish until he went to Ireland to visit the homeland. When he told people who he was he thought he would be welcomed as a relative returning from America. Well, let's just say that the welcome was less than friendly! Joe told me he thought he was going to be lynched! He learned that the Black Irish were really Scottish people who helped

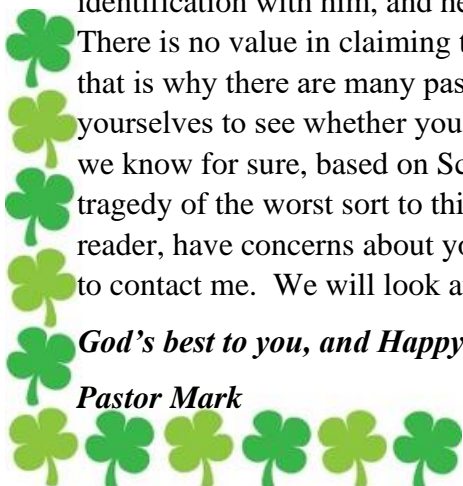
England subjugate Ireland, and in exchange for their help, the English forcibly took land from the Irish and gave it to the Scots. Needless to say, if you go to Ireland, don't mention being Black Irish! To add to this story, which I always chuckle about, a number of years ago I was working in a barber shop when an elderly man sat in my chair for a haircut. As we talked, his brogue gave him away as Irish, which he confirmed. As I cut his hair, I mentioned the story Joe told about going to Ireland and identifying as Black Irish. There was an immediate hostility from this fellow towards me. He let me know what he thought about my ancestry, and about me personally. I replied that I had nothing to do with events several hundred years ago, but he still remained hostile. He also told me to never wear orange when he was around or there would be trouble (orange was evidently the color of hats worn by those who betrayed Ireland to the English). Now, I have always found these two true anecdotes to be humorous, and I still smile as I think of them. They do illustrate some things about life that we ought to take notice of.

One thing that comes to mind is what can happen when we don't forgive an offence, and then hold a grudge against someone. Have you ever noticed how some grudges and hostilities get passed down through generations of families? Somewhere along life's way an offence is taken, and it eventually becomes a vendetta against an entire family or group of people. This is true even of those who are professing Christians. Something is said or done, or we think something was said or done, that we don't like, and we get upset. This can lead to anger, which can lead to holding a grudge, which can lead to broken relationships for years. In Ephesians 4:26, God says "do not let the sun go down while you are still angry". In verse 32 of the same chapter, we are admonished to "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." We may "justify" ill will towards someone because the offence was too great to be forgiven, in our opinion. Colossians 3:13 tells us to "forgive as the Lord forgave you." When we think of the magnitude of the forgiveness God extended to us, and the punishment our sins deserved, how can we ever justify an unforgiving attitude?

Another thought is that we need to be sure of who, or what, we identify as. My cousin Joe thought his heritage was a great thing, and surely, he would be welcomed with open arms when he arrived in Ireland. He found out that wasn't the case. Jesus talked about those who were sure that they would be welcomed into Heaven, and he said that they would be in for a shocking surprise. In Matthew 7:22&23, Jesus warned that many will claim identification with him, and he will say that he never knew them, and he will order them to depart from him. There is no value in claiming to be a Christian if there is no personal relationship with him as Savior. Perhaps that is why there are many passages of scripture where we who profess to be Christians are advised to "examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves." (2 Corinthians 13:5, for example.) It is vital that we know for sure, based on Scripture, that our profession of faith is set on the truth of the Bible. It would be a tragedy of the worst sort to think that we are Christ's own but find out that he doesn't know us. If you, dear reader, have concerns about your relationship to Jesus Christ, and you want to be sure that you are his, feel free to contact me. We will look at the Bible together and see what it says about being a true follower of Christ.

*God's best to you, and Happy St. Patrick's Day, too.*

*Pastor Mark*



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