



# The Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
15 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD 21788  
Number 76      March 2015



## **WE BELIEVE**

What do you believe? Each week at worship we recite one of the creeds of the church as a statement of just what we believe. The word “creed” comes from the Latin “Credo,” meaning “I believe,” and we have three that are widely used by the western church (Roman Catholics and Protestants): the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. They are important and useful for outlining what the church teaches and have been in use for hundreds of years. You don’t find them in the Bible and Jesus never actually handed us one though—the creeds we use are the product of groups of committed, faithful, Christians coming together and writing down what the most commonly accepted beliefs were. That got me thinking...what could this group of committed and faithful Christians here at St. John’s come up with?

The creeds we use have been around for a long time. The Apostles’ Creed is most likely the oldest. It was probably adapted from a very early baptismal liturgy in use not long after the time of Jesus. Just as we do in baptism now, people were asked, “Do you believe...?” and they responded with a systematic profession of faith in the triune God.

But it didn’t take too long before things got complicated. Within just a few years of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, many different ideas arose about who Jesus is, what his relationship to God the Creator is, and how the Holy Spirit fits into the picture.

*(continued)*

Christians debated big questions--did Jesus just appear to be a human, but was actually a divine being? Was he a man who was "adopted" by God to be the messiah? How could he be both God and human at the same time? Was the Holy Spirit someone who was separate from the Father and Son or flowed from them? Were all of the three persons of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) equally important, or was one preeminent? Fights broke out over these topics, and that's when Emperor Constantine stepped in. He had taken over the Roman Empire and declared it would all be Christian. This ended the persecution of Christians, but just fueled the conflicts over just who was "really" Christian and had it right. So in the year 325 AD, Constantine, hoping to restore unity to his empire, gathered together a group of bishops in Nicaea and told them to work it out. What came out of that gathering was the Nicene Creed. The disputes didn't end, though, and, in fact, the churches of the eastern part of the empire eventually broke off because they wanted to leave out the phrase stating that the Holy Spirit "proceeded from the Father and the Son."

Sometime between 450 and 650 AD, it was decided that a more-detailed creed was needed to emphasize that God is one God in three persons, and the Athanasian Creed was written based on the teachings of Athanasius. It's not likely you'll hear that one in church, though, because it's very, very long.

All these efforts to wrestle with the mystery of God help us to distill our thoughts and pass down the traditional wisdom of the church, so there is great value in having them as part of our worship service. But I think the faith and insight of this congregation is every bit as wise, alive and thoughtful as any of those old guys gathered around the table at Nicaea, so I've given you all a challenge this Lenten season.

Think about your faith. Think about who God is and the love shown in Jesus. Think about what it is that you truly believe, and then write your own creed. We will use our original creeds each Sunday during Lent in place of the traditional creeds. The ones written so far have been deeply moving and I think have spoken truths as eloquently—or more so—as the authorities who wrote hundreds of years ago.

*(continued)*

As you hear the creed statements of your sisters and brothers of St. John's, you may find that something resonates with you in a way you felt but couldn't put into words; you may also hear something that challenges you or you don't care for. Either way—you are thinking about your faith and your relationship with God through Jesus, and that makes your faith a living, breathing reality.

Whether you choose to submit a creed for use during the service or not, I urge you to write one. What better time could there be than the contemplative, reflective time of Lent to examine your faith? As you allow the Holy Spirit to work in you, please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to talk and explore your thoughts in a deeper way. Trust that Spirit within you—while we may never resolve all the mysteries of faith, we delight in the ongoing revelation of God's presence among us.

Blessings to you as Winter's dark turns to Spring's light,  
Pastor Susan



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## CHOIR PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<b><u>Performances</u></b>	Mar. 29	Palm Sunday
	Apr. 5	Easter
	May 31	Trinity

**Rehearsal Sundays**  
**8:45—9:45**  
Mar. 1  
Apr. 5  
May 3

**Rehearsal Sundays**  
**9:45—10:35**  
Mar. 8, 15, 22  
May 10, 17

**Wed. 7:00**  
**(Tentative)**  
Mar. 25  
Apr. 1  
May 27

**Community Lenten Services – Mondays at 7:00 p.m.,** beginning Tomorrow. The theme this year is earth, wind, and fire. Please see table below.

<b><u>Date</u></b> <b>(Mondays, 7 pm)</b>	<b>Host Church</b>	<b>Pastor/Pastoral Leader</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>February 23</b>	St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Utica	Pastor Bert Lane Preacher: Pastor from Homewood at Crumland Farms	
<b>March 2</b>	St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church	Pastor Susan Beck	Vespers
<b>March 9</b>	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Barbara Anderson	
<b>March 16</b>	Harriet Chapel Episcopal Parish	Pastor Sally Joyner Giffin	Taizé
<b>March 23</b>	Thurmont Church of the Brethren		

**\*\*\*Holy Week and Easter at St. John’s\*\*\***

**April 2:** Maundy Thursday *Holy Communion Worship at 7:00 PM*

**April 3:** Good Friday *Worship at 7:00 PM*

**April 5:** Easter Sunday—**ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM**

**(Please note new time this year for Easter Service!)**

**Bible on Tap:** Thursday, March 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Shamrock Pub. Join the lively discussion as we continue our study of the book of Revelation. Just show up with your Bible and a thirst for knowledge!

**Pastor Don Haas will be supplying March 22.** Pastor Susan will be away that day celebrating the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of a dear lady.

**“Ring Belle”:** Belle Grimes has agreed to be the contact person to make sure that information on needs in our congregation gets out. If you have news or a concern that you want church members to know about, call Belle at 301-271-3082, or let Pastor Susan know to pass it along to her. Just ring Belle!

**You are invited!** Join other adults in the upstairs Adult Sunday School room for small-group learning and discussions on March 1, 8, and 15. The study called **“Making Sense of Scripture”** will be facilitated by Marcia Andersen and held from 9:40 to 10:30 am. Come join the group to learn more about where the Bible came from and what it is about. Please bring your Bible!

## News from the THURMONT THESPIANS

### **Semi-Annual Book Sale** **Saturday and Sunday** **March 7 and 8, 2015** **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Mark your calendars now to be sure you don't miss the book sale – every piece of reading material you could ever want, and homemade soup and brownies will be available in our social hall to benefit the Thurmont Thespians' production of ***Meshuggah-Nuns***, coming up later in the month at the American Legion.

Check with Becky Urian if you want to be sure you get your favorite soup reserved with your name on it, and don't forget to stop in and browse through all those many books for one or two you can't resist!!

### ***Meshuggah-Nuns*** **An ecumenical comedy!** **Written by Dan Goggin** **Directed by Steve Ross**



Following the rampant success of *Nunsense I* and *Nunsense II: The Second Coming*, the little sisters of Hoboken find the sisters on an all-expense-paid trip on the "Faiths of All Nations" cruise! When the cast for the ship's musical production of *Fiddler on the Roof* (except for the guy playing Tevye) all get seasick, the ship's captain asks the sisters and Tevye to put on a show. Naturally, hilarity ensues! You don't have to be Catholic. You don't have to be Jewish. This is a show for anyone who loves a good laugh!!

Opening at The American Legion on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and playing Saturday night the 21<sup>st</sup> again at 7:30 with a matinee on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m.

But perhaps you prefer the second weekend which is Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 or dinner theatre Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. or that evening's showing at 7:30 p.m. With a matinee again on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

Don't miss this fun-filled comedy with our own Kelli Donaghue reprising her role as Sister Robert Anne and Travis Sanders playing Tevye (you remember Travis from *Smoke on the Mountain* as Pastor Oglethorpe!). Anna Perry will again play Sister Hubert, with newcomer to our stage Allison Banzhoff as Reverend Mother (Allison has tons of experience playing in *Nunsense* shows, however) and Emily Cofer tackling the role of Sister Amnesia. This year we are adding an assistant to Reverend Mother – Jessica Paguingan, who will play Sister Mary Gnu (who can resist a name like that for a nun?).

**Please call Becky Urian at 301-271-7613 and reserve your seats early for this wonderful comedy!**

## **THE KENYA PEN PAL PROJECT**

### **“Send a Smile to the Face of a Child”**

The Kenya Mission Team will be kicking off a project on Sunday, February 22, to provide a pen pal for the 26 girls in the Lenana Girls High School. Those interested in participating will be given a packet containing an envelope with their child’s name, a picture of the child, and paper to write a letter. There will also be instructions, including ideas of what to write about, and an explanation of the whole program.

We ask that you write a letter and return it to the church by Sunday, March 8, so they can all be mailed together. This is an ongoing project and we can get more names as needed. If you are interested in becoming a pen pal, you may contact any of the following:

Lisa Riffle  
Kathrin Muegge  
Betsy Miller

The letters that *you* will receive in return are guaranteed to enlighten you more than you can imagine!



## **PRESCHOOL NEWS**

The Preschool Board held a budget meeting on February 2 and approved a budget for the 2015-16 school year. The budget was presented to the Church Council and approved on February 12.

Registration will be held for the 2015-16 school year on Monday, March 2, for current students and on Tuesday, March 3, for new students. This will be held 8:00 — 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



## **BAKE AND FLOWER SALE AT CVS SHOPPING CENTER**

**Saturday, APRIL 4, 9:00 – 3:00**

The Fundraising Committee will, once again, have their bake and flower sale which will feature Easter baskets, Easter flowers, homemade Easter eggs and lots of homemade baked goodies for on your Easter dinner tables. Come visit us at CVS shopping center and support the church and our hard work. Thank you!

## LOVE MEANINGS

(from the column entitled *From Olives to Apples*)  
by Ann Marie Bezayiff

Does anyone remember those oversized English-language dictionaries in the Harding libraries? They were on a special shelf and weighed a ton, or so it seemed. They were too heavy to maneuver and off limits to children.

One time, I got close enough to see what the mystery was all about. The pages were fascinating. Each one was filled with words, unintelligible marks (a mysterious language), their pronunciation, part of speech and various meanings. There seemed to be at least one word for every subtle human thought, every physical movement possible, and detailed descriptions of anything a person could experience. The word *love* I found to be an exception. In spite of all the possibilities for description and expression in our language, the word *love* seems limited in comparison.

There's the love of money. Love of a good time, wine or food. Love of clothes or technology. Love for alcoholic drinks or drugs. We love our pets. The kind of love we have for our parents is definitely different from the love we feel for our children. The love for grandchildren is different from the love we feel for our children. There is romantic love. Spouses love each other, though that kind of love changes over time. Passionate love experienced in early years of a marriage often changes into a more polished, mature love as the years go by. We continue to love those who've died. Such love is difficult to describe but rich and deep in emotions. In Mark 12:31 we are commanded to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Speaking of neighbors, after almost 20 years living in the country, David and I have returned to suburbia. We thought the transition from country noise to city noise would be difficult. I have to say, it's almost quieter. True, dogs bark now and then, and there's one resident who thinks he's driving the Indy 500 every morning; but, for the most part, there's an absence of people noise. We do have neighbors. I've seen them at our free-standing mailbox in the evenings, walking dogs, exercising, and a few moms and grandparents with children in strollers. My sister Carla thinks those automatic garage door openers are the culprit (they are so convenient and help to keep the car clean). They open and close so quickly; there's not even enough time to wave. Love your neighbor takes on an entirely new meaning, when you never see them.

So back to the word *love* and my favorite use of the word. It's a spiritual love, it's that bond between creator and created. We are loved, completely and uniquely, for who we are. We are loved unconditionally. The love that Jesus has for us overpowered even death.

That kind of love is beyond description. No words can define the love Jesus has for each one of us, not in an English dictionary or in any language dictionary.

It's a heart thing.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS: March 12 and April 9, 2015**

**Council Highlights — February 12, 2015**

**Old Business:**

- a) John noted that there seems to be a saving on oil with the new furnace. John also reported that we will need to replace most of our lighting fixtures as the fluorescent bulbs we are now using will not be available.
- b) The Food Bank does not want the wooden tables and the chairs currently in use in the fellowship hall. It was suggested that we advertise them in the Synod e-letter.

**New Business:**

- a) There were concerns that the Food Bank needs to remove the freezers and refrigerators from the Chapel. Pastor Susan will contact Pastor Sally to make sure that this is done. Also the Food Bank promised to replace the floors. We asked her to check on this.
- b) Someone in the congregation requested that the Easter Service be held at 10:00 a.m. instead of 10:45. After some discussion it was generally agreed that most of the congregation would prefer this. Carol Ford moved that the Easter Service be held at 10:00, seconded by Belle. The motion carried.

Respectfully recorded by Carol Ford, Vice President

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**A YOUTH SUNDAY SELFIE!!**

Kudos to our youth who did a great job planning and leading worship February 1!  
#stjohnsyouthrock



***FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FELLOWSHIP PROVIDERS' SCHEDULE***

- JANUARY:** *Thurmont Thespians*
- FEBRUARY:** *Social Ministry*
- MARCH:** *Worship & Music*
- APRIL:** *Neighborhood Niche*
- MAY:** *Evangelism*
- JUNE:** *Fellowship*
- JULY:** *Women of the Church*
- AUGUST:** *Fundraising*
- SEPTEMBER:** *(Picnic)*
- OCTOBER:** *Youth/Sunday School*
- NOVEMBER:** *St. John's Preschool*
- DECEMBER:** *Church Council*

# PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

## ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS

Marie Seiss  
Janet Heckert

Luke Bradley  
Dorothy Stowell

Belle Grimes

## FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dale Wireman—friend of Debbie Ayers  
Larry Haga—family of Becky Smith  
Jeremy Hahn  
Kevin Orndorff—son-in-law of Debbie Ayers  
Michele Myers—niece of Harriet Valentine  
Rick Baker—brother of Darlene Fogle and Debbie Ayers  
Kelly Heath—daughter of Belle Grimes  
Jesse Wolf—son of Belle Grimes  
Jacob and Edna Matthias—parents of Belle Grimes  
Rev. Frederick Simmel—former Pastor of St. John's  
Betty Post – sister of Gayle Spahr and Judy May  
Marge Dolson – friend of Gayle Spahr  
Lauren Jones – stepdaughter of Carol Donovan  
Brian Murphy – friend of Carol Donovan

## IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

PVT. Dylan Goins  
C Battery, 1/19 FA, Class #10-15  
2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon "Regulators"  
5970 South Boundary Road  
Fort Sill, OK 73503

Josh Waldron  
3144 HAPAWAI Loop  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Britini Fogle  
3/3 Enrique Cortes  
3/5 Dan Bradley  
3/8 Michael Beard  
3/9 Harriet Valentine  
3/11 Amanda Unger  
3/12 Richard Lohr  
3/14 Sara McCall  
3/14 Marilee McKissick  
3/19 Mary Lou Kelly  
3/24 Randy Spahr  
3/24 Chester Zentz, Jr.  
3/28 Kaitlin Fox  
3/30 Katie Myers

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Laurin Spahr  
4/6 Michael Delauter  
4/9 Rodman Myers  
4/11 Eric Hobbs  
4/15 Randy Valentine  
4/16 Darlene Fogle  
4/18 Stacey Brown-Hobbs  
4/18 Mary Dart  
4/18 Kathrin Muegge  
4/22 Becky Urian  
4/30 Taylor Myers

## March 2015

### TRADITIONAL SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	ASS'T. MINISTER	LECTOR	WELCOMERS	ALTAR
3/1	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>	S. Dart	G. Spahr	B. & N. Riffle	G. Angleberger J. May
3/8	8:30 a.m.	L. Riffle	M. Skilling	D. & D. Valentine	G. Angleberger J. May
3/15	8:30 a.m.	J. Ford	S. Brown-Hobbs	H. & R. Valentine	G. Angleberger J. May
3/22	8:30 a.m.	S. Brown-Hobbs	J. Ford	Dart Family	G. Angleberger J. May
3/29	8:30 a.m.	B. Riffle	L. Riffle	B. & J. Urian	G. Angleberger J. May

### SING & REJOICE SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	WELCOMERS	PRAYER
3/1	10:45 a.m.	<u>ONE SERVICE — Traditional at 10:45 a.m.</u>			
3/8	10:45 a.m.	J. Hobbs-Myers	S. Getz	T. & A. Hauk	M. B. Johnson
3/15	10:45 a.m.	J. Muegge	A. Mumm	T. & A. Mumm	K. Donaghue
3/22	10:45 a.m.	M. Donaghue	R. Johnson	S. Getz R. Johnson	B. Watson
3/29	10:45 a.m.	S. Getz	M. Donaghue	C. Fox M.L. Royer	K. Johnson



**\*\* Please Note \*\***



*If you cannot be present on the assigned date,  
be sure to trade with another assistant. Thank you!*

# MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:40 Sun School 10:45 a.m. <b>ONE SERVICE</b> <b>TRADITIONAL</b></p> <p>4:00-7:00 (TTR)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00-10:00 a.m. Preschool Registration (current students)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. <b>LENTEN VESPERS</b> <b>SERVICE</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00-10:00 a.m. Preschool Registration (new students)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 Bible on Tap at Shamrock</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Thurmont Thespians Book Sale</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing &amp; Rejoice</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Thurmont Thespians Book Sale</p> <p>4:00-7:00 (TTR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00-8:00 (TTR)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00-2:00 (TTR)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing &amp; Rejoice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Opening of <i>Meshuggah-Nuns</i> at American Legion</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 p.m. <i>Meshuggah-Nuns</i> at American Legion</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing &amp; Rejoice</p> <p>2:00 p.m. <i>Meshuggah-Nuns</i> at American Legion</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 p.m. <i>Meshuggah-Nuns</i> at American Legion</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Dinner Theater— <i>Meshuggah-Nuns</i> at American Legion</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 Trad Worship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing &amp; Rejoice</p> <p>2:00 p.m. <i>Meshuggah-Nuns</i> at American Legion</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

# APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <b>7:00 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion Service</b>	3 <b>7:00 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY Worship Service</b>	4 9:00-3:00 Bake and Flower Sale at CVS Shopping Center
5 <b><u>EASTER</u></b>  <b><u>10:00 a.m.</u></b> <b><u>ONE SERVICE</u></b> <b><u>TRADITIONAL</u></b>  ( <u>NO</u> Sunday School)	6	7	8	9 10:00 a.m. "Wiggler" Worship Service  7:00 Church Council	10	11
12 8:30 Trad Wor- ship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:30 Trad Wor- ship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 Trad Wor- ship 9:40 Sun School 10:45 Sing & Rejoice	27	28	29	30		



# EASTER LILY AND MUM ORDERS

It's hard to believe that next month we will be celebrating Easter! We want to give you an opportunity to decorate our church with lovely flowers!

Please fill out the order form below and return it with your payment to Dede in the church office no later than **Sunday, March 15, 2015.**

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## Easter Lily & Mum Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. of LILIES: \_\_\_\_\_ Price Each: \$8.00 Amount : \_\_\_\_\_

No. of MUMS: \_\_\_\_\_ Price Each: \$8.00 Amount : \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

**Church Office: 301-271-7877**

**Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck**

[PastorSusan@saintjohnlutheran.org](mailto:PastorSusan@saintjohnlutheran.org)

(H) 410-442-9946

(M) 410-707-4640

**Administrative Assistant: Dede Himes**

Email: [admin@saintjohnlutheran.org](mailto:admin@saintjohnlutheran.org)

Council President: John Brown

Web Site: [www.saintjohnlutheran.org](http://www.saintjohnlutheran.org)

**St. John’s Preschool: 301-271-4109**

Chairperson: Stacey Brown-Hobbs, 301-271-2390

**Registrar: Marie Skillinger**

Email: [stjpreschl@aol.com](mailto:stjpreschl@aol.com)

**Thurmont Thespians**

**Beth Watson**, 301-416-0864

Email: [beth.watson@myactv.net](mailto:beth.watson@myactv.net)

**St. John’s Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**  
*15 N. Church Street  
Thurmont, MD 21788*

*“Loved by God ... to love others!”*  
 Ministers: *The People of St. John’s*  
 Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck

**8:30 AM Traditional Worship**  
**9:40 AM Sunday School, all ages**  
**10:45 AM Sing & Rejoice Worship**



*Please submit articles for the  
April 2015 Grapevine by  
March 20.*