

ELIAS COMMUNICATOR

Called by Christ, we live our faith in Word and Deed

February/March 2020



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From the **PASTOR**



Grace and peace to you – In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I greet you with faith and confidence that God is nurturing each of us and giving wisdom and insight so that we may all live with full assurance that we are the beloved people after God’s own heart. February is the Love month, and once again, I was called upon to write an article in the Emmitsburg News Journal about Love! Please look for it in the Pastor’s Desk section.

Here, of late, I must admit that I’ve gone back to Love School, and I thought that was over back in high school! It was not my intention, but I’ve been placed in a re-learning process to review the lessons about what true love is. I thought I knew some of this – after all, I’ve counseled pre-marital couples with some success –

but it seems that the Holy Spirit and my life’s course has offered refresher senior courses, and I’ve been enrolled, somewhat to my dismay. Many of you have also been enrolled in this “class” at various points in your life. You know, the “Advanced Love Class.” Before you let your mind wander too far, consider what true love entails. We learn the facts about what our love-life should look like and be from the familiar passages in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

Here’s some of the juicy love ideals we want to know and live out: Love is not arrogant, but considers others as fully valued and worthy of our time and attention, no matter if we are smarter than they are, more handsome or pretty than they are, wealthier than they are, or more powerful by physic or position. Love has no room for pride. Even if you are a martyr for the faith or some other worthy cause, if you are self-giving, but in your own mind, ultimately self-serving (i.e., consciously or unconsciously justifying oneself), this is not agape (Christian) love, for true love is pure like Christ was. Unselfish love is not so easily attained or lived.

Taking care of my dear wife, Sandy, through the illness we are battling has been my new love school experience. Throughout our love life, we have laughed and enjoyed our time together. A month or more ago, as she was no longer able to dress herself, I tried to get her to smile and laugh when I suggested, “This is our new love making,” referring to my helping her put on socks and sweatpants. True love is really hard work, it’s really intimate, it’s really painful to love your spouse so much that you feel their pain and bear their frustrations in times of sickness or poverty. It’s during these times that God teaches us the depth of his Love and grows our heart capacity. There was also a moment when Ben, my wife’s ex-husband, came to visit her in the hospital. Without a word, he and I assisted Sandy to get to the

continued on p. 5

Coming Events

Ash Wednesday

On February 26, we will share the Imposition of Ashes at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm. Please join in this somber remembrance of our humanity, or finite nature. In this we will learn to make our lives count for the Kingdom of God and every day lived in submission and gratitude to God and neighbor.

Council of Churches Ecumenical Lenten Services

† Wed., March 4 at 6 pm – Trinity United Methodist Church – Dinner! & Service, with Rev. Chris Spruill giving the devotion.

† Wed., March 18, 12 pm – Toms Creek UMC – Luncheon! Pastor Jon will give the devotional.

† Wed. April 1, 6 pm – Elias Hosting Dinner (Please be in touch if you can please help with the meal!) Pastor Richard Baker of Trinity UMC is our speaker.



Yard Sale/Soup and Sandwich Sale

The famous Elias Yard Sale, Spring Edition, will take place on March 26, 27, and 28, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. Once again Connie Fisher is gathering up all sorts of goodies to sell, so look around and see what you can bring to add to the sale. And if you can help, please be sure to see Connie.

At the same time, we will be offering carry-out soup and sandwiches, just as we did in December. If you can help with this effort, please see Deb Zimmerman.

AND, just in time for Easter baskets, there will be chocolate peanut butter eggs for sale as well. Gene Stitely heads up that activity, so if you can help, let Gene or Peggy know.

Ladies' Day Out

The ladies will gather for lunch at the Carriage House at 11:30 am on Tuesday, February 18 and Tuesday, March 17.

Men's Breakfast

The men will gather for breakfast on Saturday, March 7. We'll meet at Bollinger's Restaurant in Thurmont at 8 a.m.

Council of Churches

The next Emmitsburg Council of Churches meeting will be held at Incarnation United Church of Christ on Tuesday, March 17, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Paws to Pray – Elias Prayer Hotline!

Offering serious Prayer for Real people with real needs....and we know, by Faith, that our Real God hears us and answers Prayer.

Please join the group, or just listen and pray silently if you feel shy. Everyone's welcome.

Dial: **712-451-0767** Access Code: **812928** then press #

Paws to Pray takes place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM.

Feb. 11 Feb. 25 March 10 March 24

Welcome to the Hotline . . . Let us pray!



Swing Dance Night(s)

The dance parties continue in the Elias Dining Hall, on the Saturday evenings of:

Feb. 15 – *Valentine's Theme*

March 21 -- *Spring Fling*

Cost is: Singles \$10; Couples \$20, pay at the door. Hours are 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Come alone or bring your Dance Partner! You Don't even Have to Dance! The Music is fun – song requests are welcomed! Invite a friend. Light refreshments provided! Live Band, *Music with Monte and the Leister Quartet with Special Guests!!!*

<http://www.musicwithmonte.com/bio.htm>



Pastor's Desk *(continued)*

commodore...this was God's school of love. Our ongoing training in Love's ways is what our Lord intends for every follower.

The Holy Spirit is at work when we find it in ourselves to work with one who was previously our sworn enemy. This is God's way of loving us. God is teaching us, humbling us, placing us in crucibles not of our own making. This is the burning away of the chaff, indeed, a painful process, but what is emerging is the golden glow of Christ's pure love, polishing us.

I pray that each one of us and our families will be open to the ways in which Christ demonstrates his love for us by working in our lives through his Word. By his Life-giving presence in the most unexpected circumstances, and thru the Holy Spirit's leadings. These are God's ways that form us into the Loving People God wants us to be. Live to love, accept into your heart the pure eternal love of God as we have known in Jesus. Give this love away to those you've not thought of before as loving or lovable. Let Christ's love rule over your heart and life in every matter under heaven – herein will know love's beautiful fulfillment.

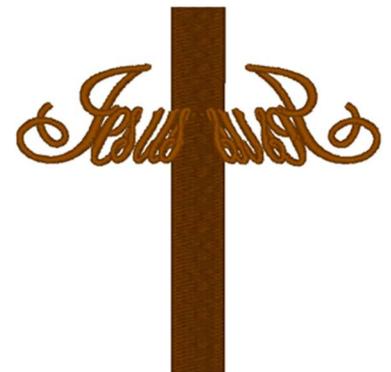
Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jon, and Your Elias Family

Lenten Giving

There are many ways for our Congregation to mark the journey of Lent. Traditionally there is the “**giving up**” of something which many of us may choose to do. Again this year, why don't we also think about what we can **give**? Over the six weeks of Lent, let's give to the local food bank. Below are some weekly suggestions:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 1 | Cereals & Coffee |
| March 8 | Canned Fruits, Diced Tomatoes, Jelly, & Juice |
| March 15 | Laundry & Dish Det., Shampoo, Toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. |
| March 22 | Rice, Spaghetti Noodles & Pasta, & Spaghetti Sauce |
| March 29 | Peanut Butter, Beans, & Canned Meats |
| April 5 | Monetary donations |



Roger Adams

From The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther



on: LOVE

... A Christian's capacity to love at all times is counter-cultural. It goes against the grain of society to show our faith in words and deeds of love, esp. when we are persecuted or treated badly in the marketplace. Nevertheless, every one of us ought to be exercising our Faith – in the Practice of Christian Love...for surely, this is what makes us unique and a brilliant light in the world. Luther's advice is to stay the course – stay True to Jesus' Love...here's some of Pastor Luther's advice in the matters of Love

from: LOVE MAN AS MAN

“God does not say: Thou shalt love the rich, the mighty, the learned, and the saint. No, this free love and this most perfect commandment does not restrict itself to, and select, certain people only: There is no respect of persons. For that is how the false, carnal love of the world acts. It looks only to the person and loves as long as it has hopes of some benefit. When hope and benefit cease, the love also ceases. This commandment, however, calls for free love toward everyone, no matter who he/she is, whether friend or foe; for it seeks neither benefit nor profit rather it gives them. This is why it is most active and energetic toward the poor, the needy, the wicked, the sinner, the simple, the sick, and the hostile; for here if finds it necessary to endure, to suffer, to bear, to serve, and to do good at all times and under all circumstances.” **What Luther Says**, Practical Anthology, p. 831 #2585. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959.

A CHRISTLIKE LOVE

“A Christian loves [her/his] neighbor as a brother [or sister]; he makes no difference between persons or things. [She] does not consider whether he is serviceable or not, whether he is wise or unwise. As for the rest, the world loves differently—The common people judge friendships by their usefulness. With the deaf, the weak, the unlearned, the ungrateful, no one desires to associate. But God loved all, even His enemies, without making any difference. Therefore, we , too, should love as brothers even those who are not lovable.” **What Luther Says**, Practical Anthology, p. 831 #2586. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959.

And finally: A SIMPLE DIRECTIVE (from 1519):

“As thyself,’ Says He, you should love, should love no less than you love yourself. But how much you love yourself no one can tell you better than you yourself; you yourself feel what can only be guessed about you by another person. This is why no one can tell you better than you yourself what you should say to your neighbor and what you should do and wish for him/her. For here the proverb is out of place that he who teaches himself is a very poor instructor. In fact, you will be the best of all teachers for yourself; you will deceive yourself least of all, whereas all the others are misleading. So easily discernible and close to home is the Law of God that no one can be excused if he does not live right.” **What Luther Says**, Practical Anthology, p. 830 #2582. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959.

A Thoughtful Writing by Alan W. Watts: *Behold the Spirit.*

"Christianity exists to reveal love to the world in all its overwhelming and almost outrageous fullness. Only by the contemplation of the love which is God can we have any love for our neighbors, just as a mirror has brilliance – power to reflect – only when turned toward the sun so that it receives the image of the sun within itself “Love in the divine sense is the giving of one’s whole being to another; and when we say that God is love, we mean that he gives his entire Self to every single object of his love, to every creature that he has made. Whoever fails to respond to it is simply self-condemned by contrast. Of course, the gift is received in varying degrees by different creatures as the light of the sun shed with equal brilliance upon all parts of the earth is reflected more perfectly by a mirror than by a brick.” *Illuminations of the Synoptic Gospels*, Anthology. p.135. Leila Whitney Galbraith. 1989.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, allow that my life would reflect your love in the fullness of the glory of your Son. May my presence illuminate the lives of others. Brighten a dark alley or shine your brilliance into someone else’s heart, in need of compassion. Come Holy Spirit, come down into our world to inspire love amongst men and women, boys and girls and all of creation. Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

LOVE IS PATIENT; President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865):

The story is told about a member of Abraham Lincoln’s Presidential cabinet, Mr. Edward McMasters Stanton. Stanton openly mocked President Lincoln using such insults as, “He is a low cunning clown.” He nicknamed the president “The original gorilla;” adding that “Du Chaillu (Paul Belloni Du Chaillu, 1860’s French-American traveler, zoologist, and anthropologist) was a fool to wander about Africa trying to catch a gorilla when he could have found one so easily at Springfield, Illinois!” Lincoln said nothing, but made Stanton his Secretary of War, because Stanton was the best man for the job. Lincoln treated Stanton to every courtesy.

The years wore on. The night came when the assassin’s bullet murdered the President at Ford’s Theatre. In the little room in which the President’s body lay, there stood Mr. Stanton in the sullen quietness of the night. Looking down on the silent face of Lincoln in all of its dignified ruggedness, Stanton was heard to have said through tears, “Here lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen.” The patience of Abraham Lincoln, founded and kept in Christian love, had conquered in the end.” Paraphrased from William Barclay, *Letter to the Corinthians*. Westminster Press. 1956. p.133.



HEAD DEACONS:

- ✚ February – Roger Adams & Deb Zimmerman
- ✚ March - TBD

WELCOMERS:

- Feb. 2 – Marta Hillis
- Feb. 9 – Bryant Hoffman
- Feb. 16 – Julia & Sandy Hartle
- Feb. 23 – Linda & Ernie Shriver

- Mar. 1 – Linda & Steve Wantz
- Mar. 8 – Julia & Sandy Hartle
- Mar. 15 – Marta Hillis
- Mar. 22 – Bryant Hoffman
- Mar. 29 – Linda & Ernie Shriver

- Apr. 5 – Linda & Steve Wantz

ACOLYTES:

- Feb. 2 – Dennis & Kevin Shank
- Feb. 9 – Bryant Hoffman & Gretal Shank
- Feb. 16 – Bryant Hoffman & Dennis Shank
- Feb. 23 – Bryant Hoffman & Kevin Shank

- Mar. 1 – Dennis & Kevin Shank
- Mar. 8 – Bryant Hoffman & Gretal Shank
- Mar. 15 – Bryant Hoffman & Kevin Shank
- Mar. 22 – Gretal & Kevin Shank
- Mar. 29 – Bryant Hoffman & Dennis Shank

- Apr. 5 – Dennis & Kevin Shank

LECTORS:

- Feb. 2 – Renata Provance
- Feb. 9 – Frank Schmursal
- Feb. 16 – Dennis Shank
- Feb. 23 – Gretal Shank

- Mar. 1 – Kevin Shank
- Mar. 8 – Linda Shank
- Mar. 15 – Michael Shank
- Mar. 22 – Betty Valentine
- Mar. 29 – Deb Zimmerman

- Apr. 5 – Paul Harner

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

- Feb. 2 – Gretal Shank
- Feb. 9 – Frank Schmursal
- Feb. 16 – Gretal Shank
- Feb. 23 – Frank Schmursal

- Mar. 1 – Gretal Shank
- Mar. 8 – Frank Schmursal
- Mar. 15 – Gretal Shank
- Mar. 22 – Frank Schmursal
- Mar. 29 – Gretal Shank

- Apr. 5 – Frank Schmursal

February Altar Chair-

**persons: Harriet Buhrman
& Judy Manahan**

**March Altar Chairpersons:
Marta Hillis & Peggy Stitely**

Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report



Facts and Figures

Attendance	2020
Total Sunday attendance through January 12, 2020	2226
Average Sunday attendance	49
Total Wednesday attendance through January 22, 2020	507
Average Wednesday attendance	15
Average weekly attendance	57

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Jon's schedule varies according to emergencies, visitations, and unforeseen circumstances. The pastor can be reached by the church phone at 301-447-6239, by cell phone at 240-422-2193, or by email at jsgreenstone@verizon.net.

Monday: off, unless emergency.

Tuesday: visitations, meetings

Wednesday: 9:30 am service, office 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, visitations, evening music and service rehearsals

Thursday: visitations, church office 2-4 pm

Friday: service/sermon preparation, evening programs

Elias Communicator

is a bi-monthly newsletter of
Elias Lutheran Church.

Services: **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Worship – 9:30 a.m.

All are welcome to attend
and share God's word.

We are located at
100 North Ave.,
Emmitsburg, MD
(301) 447 – 6239

E-mail: eliasluth@gmail.com

Website: www.eliaslutheranchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Jon R. Greenstone

Deadline for the April/May issue is
Sunday, March 22



ELIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A PRAYING CONGREGATION. WE HOLD IN COMMUNAL PRAYER THE PEOPLE LISTED HERE AND THOSE IN OUR HOMES, WORKPLACES, AND COMMUNITIES.

Prayers for Healing:

Neil & Erma Bechtol, Carrie Boyd, Rich Boyd, Emily (Lingg) Bromwell, John Eyler, Rosie Eyler, Wayne Hill, John Holt, Sr., Joani Kramer, Keagan Krietz, Martin Manahan, Amanda Restivo, Bonnie Royer, Willie Shank, Diane Shockey, Betty Stambaugh, Sandy Stillwell, Janet Andrew Wallace, Sharon Winfield, and April Witkowski.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Nancy Andrew, Paul Andrew, Charles Bechtol, Mae Bolin, LeeAnn Delgar, Alicia Fogle, Kathy Givler, Trevor George, Richard Herring, Rita Hinchey, John Holt, Jr., Aruldass Jesudass, Mary Johnson, Don Leatherman, Dolly Long, Lois Orndorff, Bonnie Pastorett, Brian Reed, Sylvia Rosensteel, Wanda Schuler, Patti Shank, Joan Smith, Betty Valentine, Dottie Wagerman, Dolores Wivell, Virginia Wright, and Pastor Susan Yatta.

For those serving in the Military:

Logan Councillor, Jacob Fannin, Nathan Jeffcoat, Noretta Kime, Lucas Mort, Sean Reaver, Austin Schaeffer, Ashley Shank, Sally Shank, and Jacob Whitney



Prayer shawls are available!

If you know anyone, on this prayer list or not, who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please see Betty Valentine (301-447-2507).

February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 pm – AA
2 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Renata Provance	3	4 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm	5 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	6	7 8:00 pm – AA	8 8:00 pm – AA
9 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Frank Schmersal	10	11 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray	12 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	13	14 8:00 pm – AA	15 7:00 pm – Swing Dance Night 8:00 pm – AA
16 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Dennis Shank	17	18 11:30 am – Ladies Day out at Carriage House	19 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	20	21 8:00 pm – AA	22 8:00 pm – AA
23 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Greta Shank	24	25 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am – Imposition of Ashes 7:00 pm – Imposition of Ashes 8:00 pm AA	27	28 8:00 pm – AA	29 8:00 pm – AA

March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Kevin Shank</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>6:00 pm – Lenten Service 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 am – Men’s Breakfast 8:00 pm – AA</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Linda Shank</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 pm – Paws to Pray</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Michael Shank</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30 am – Ladies Day out at Carriage House 7:00 pm – Council of Churches</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>12:00 pm – Lenten Service 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 pm – AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 pm – Swing Dance Night 8:00 pm – AA</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Betty Valentine</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 pm – Paws to Pray</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 am - Holy Communion</p> <p>6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Yard Sale/Soup & Sandwich Sale</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Yard Sale/Soup & Sandwich Sale 8:00 pm – AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Yard Sale/Soup & Sandwich Sale 8:00 pm – AA</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Deb Zimmerman</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Coming up:</p> <p>Lenten Service at Elias – April 1 Palm Sunday – April 5 Maundy Thursday – April 9 Good Friday – April 10 Easter Sunday – April 12</p>			



SEE YOU AT ELIAS...IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE UNITED IN CHRIST OUR LORD

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Elías Communicator

P.O. Box 465

Emmitsburg, MD 21727