

February Tidings 2017

St. Paul's Reformed Church
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Pastor's Musings

My brothers and I always got so excited when on a Sunday evening we saw Dad taking out the waffle iron (like cooking on the grill, making waffles or pancakes was something my Dad did, never my Mom - a guy thing I guess)— it meant waffles for dinner. I guess part of the excitement was that we were breaking the rules - eating breakfast for dinner, that combined with the fact that waffles with maple syrup just tasted great.

If pancakes for dinner sounds like a good idea to you, then be sure to attend the Mardi Gras Dinner at St. Paul's on Saturday, February 25 at 5:00pm. There will be plenty of pancakes and sausages to enjoy!

The eating of pancakes as part of the preparation for Lent is a time honored tradition for some Christians. It arose, like other pre-Lenten foods, out of a need to consume all the meat, dairy and eggs in the house before the start of the Lenten fast - which in past generations was a very strict fast, similar to today's vegan diet. Eating of pancakes before Lent has led to the Tuesday before Lent being called, Pancake Tuesday, in some parts of the world.

The practices surrounding the days before Lent have changed through the years, and have been observed in various ways in different parts of the world. The most famous is of course Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and the Carnival season celebrated in many parts of the world. In the English speaking world the season was and still is generally known as Shrovetide, which ends on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Lent). Shrove is a form of the English word, shrive, which means to absolve - in this case to make confession, do penance and receive absolution before entering the season of Lent.

Whatever the days leading up to Lent are called, they are generally a time for good eating and celebration before the start of Lent with its call to fasting, service to others, prayer and reflection on one's spiritual condition.

So you are invited to join in this year's festivities by enjoying a pancake dinner at St. Paul's on the Saturday before Lent - February 25 at 5:00pm.





A Class for New Members - and Those Who Need a Refresher on our Reformed Church and St. Paul's
Pastor will hold a two-session class on who we are as a congregation and our Reformed heritage. He will also touch on our newly developing affiliation with the United Church of Christ. While this course is intended to acquaint new members with our traditions and "way of doing things," it is also an excellent refresher for everyone.

Babylon Clergy Cluster Concert

A benefit concert for The Feeding Ministries of Babylon will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 7:00pm at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 200 Great East Neck Rd., West Babylon. Come and enjoy sacred music and singing including soloists, choirs, organ selections, a bell choir, Greek Orthodox chant and much more!
A freewill offering will be accepted to assist the work of the Babylon Clergy Cluster feeding ministries.

February Sunday Worship Service Scripture Readings:

- 5: Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12
- 12: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 5:21-24
- 19: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Matthew 5:38-48
- 26: Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-13

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PRAYER SERVICE



St. Paul's Reformed Church
Highlights of January Consistory Meeting

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Strauch continues Part Time status. Consistory will be rotating to cover church phone voice mail. REMINDER: For those who cannot reach Pastor Strauch, Pastor is part time. He is available Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Sat. Jan. 14 at 6PM-Room For All, Pot Luck dinner. Sun. Jan. 15 at 7PM-Martin Luther King Prayer Service. Tues. Jan. 17 at 6PM-Local LGBTQ Teen Group-Pizza, Tour and discussion with Pastor. Interested congregation welcomed. Pride Partner-June 9-11. Being held on Boardwalk in Long Beach. St. Paul's to have a table and possible guides for visitors to area. Scout Sunday-Feb 5. Following church service, there will be a luncheon for all. North Babylon Street Fair-May 21. Church will see if we do something. Food Pantry will have table. Lions Club-St. Patrick's dinner, Fri. Mar 17 at 6PM. 5/28-Confirmation Sunday. 6/4-Pastor will be away.

Stewardship: (B. Walters)

Questioning of replacing St. Paul's Church sign on Deer Park Ave.

Finance: (D. Miller) There are concerns. Severe shortfall in 2017 proposed budget. We have to honestly look at what we are going to do. Assessment paid, Pastor's annuity paid, Insurance paid.

Worship: (C. Lavarata) Committee meeting-Jan 23 at 7PM. Need for Ushers. Ash Wednesday Service- 3/1 at 730PM. Pancakes for Dinner-Feb 25 at 6PM. Choir will resume wearing Choir robes. Choir will be singing the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Property: (John Altieri) Boy Scouts using our facilities to test cars and track for their Box Car Pine Derby. Congregation will be asked to adopt a plant to help start our garden and to help keep garden trim. Our boiler is OK but we need to consider its future.

Preschool: (Betty Milligan) Attendance is 47 students. 52 students to break even.

Family Care: No report

Christian Education: (C. Lento)

Sunday School needs a new teacher. No Women's study group for January.

Mission: (D. Miller)

No report

Fund Raisers: Cindy Lavarota listed a few that will be or looking into. Applebee's-Sat. 2/4/17 8-10AM Tickets \$10.00 presale \$12.00 at door, "Christmas" in November Fair, Bowling, Play for Easter, Easter Cookie Walk.



February Calendar



4	8.00am	Applebee's Fundraiser
5	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service: Scout Sunday
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.00am	Choir Rehearsal
12	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.00am	Choir Rehearsal
	11.30am	New Members Class
15	7.30pm	Consistory Meeting
19	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	9.15am	Choir Rehearsal
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.30am	New Members Class
	7.00pm	Babylon Clergy Cluster Concert
25	5.00pm	Mardi Gras - Pancakes for Dinner
26	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.30am	Board of Elders Meeting

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