



SERVE • CARE • WORSHIP • LEARN

ST. JOHN'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church

4125 Penn Avenue
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
610-678-1088

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2PM

Friday: Closed



well hello, march

The Light

 Volume 2024, Issue 3

The staff at St. John...

Reverend Richard Moore, Pastor:

pastor@saintjohnss.com

Deacon Diana Pelletier,

Director of Children and Youth Faith Formation:

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Arlene Moll, Director of Music Ministries

music@saintjohnss.com

Becky Ruth, Bell Choir Director

Lexie McLaughlin: Church Administrator

stjohnsec@saintjohnss.com

Jane McClellan-Renner, Finance Administrator:

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Michele Brossman, Custodian

Kevin Brossman, Custodian

Barbi Connor-Genesis Preschool Administrative Director

Jen Kovalchick- Genesis Preschool Director of Education

genesispreschool@saintjohnss.com



Congregational Council:

President—Deb Dietrich

Vice President - Tim Fox

Secretary -

Treasurer— Gary Triviets

Care Team Liaison— Georgianne Jones

Learn Team Liaison— Mason Sassaman

Serve Team Liaison - Antonette Rosenmerkle

Worship Team Liaison - George Balchunas

Congregational Team Leaders:

Care Team - Deb Scheidt

Learn Team - Danielle Hale

Serve Team - Cole Luscombe

Worship Team - Cleann Pauley



Flowers(\$55) , Bulletins(\$20) & Newsletter (\$30)

Sponsorships are needed. Please fill out the form which is on the table at the front door, and put it in Lexie's mailbox. Thank you.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsors are needed!



Dear Friends,

As spring begins to stir and the earth comes to life after winter, I am once again reminded of the promise of renewal and the hope that Easter brings. It's a time when nature echoes the resurrection story that we celebrate in our faith. If the cross of Jesus Christ is the seed of our Christian faith, then the Easter proclamation, "Christ is risen!" is the flower.

This year, Easter is March 31st. But it's important to remember that Easter is more than just a single day. For the church, Easter is an entire season. One that marks opportunities with each week of the lectionary for spiritual awakening and a fresh start on life. The season of Easter invites us to embrace the theme of renewed hope with profound significance in our lives.

Going a bit further, I think it is important to remember that Easter goes further than the season of the church. Easter is what we celebrate every Sunday throughout the entire year. I remember my old Liturgics professor saying every Sunday is Easter, therefore let your worship and your preaching proclaim Christ crucified and risen for us!

Most importantly, I think we need to remember that Easter is every day. March 31st is Easter. Indeed, on that day we will read of the empty tomb and affirm our baptisms. We will be sent out into the world with our faith re-oriented around the sacrifice of the cross, the gift of God's grace, and the promise of eternal life renewed in our hearts and minds. But when we wake up the next day, on April 1st, that same message of Easter is still just as needed and just as potent. The truth is, we need Easter every day, and the most important day to revisit this message is today---right now, as you're reading this message, trace the sign of the cross on your forehead and remind yourself, *"I am a child of God and heir to the eternal kingdom. I am saved by grace. Today is a new day for God's will to be done through me. Amen!"*

This Easter, rejoice in the promise of renewing life, knowing that death has been conquered and that we are truly free. The past is gone, and the future is for us to make of it something new and better. Let your hearts be opened to the endless possibilities that lie ahead for you.

May this Easter be a time of blessing and renewal for each and every one of us, as we look to the radiant light of God's love to guide our paths forward.

Wishing you all a blessed and joy-filled Easter!

Yours in Christ,

T Pastor Rich

Contacts for Pastor Rich

Mobile/Text Msg: 610-401-5602

Email: pastor@saintjohnss.com

Find me on Facebook: Rich Moore

Find me on Twitter: @LuthRevRich

What's luck got to do with it?

luck  the
IRISH TO
ya!

March of 2024 brings with it both St. Patrick's Day and Easter. The Irish are known for being a lucky group of people. After all, they have four-leaf clovers and leprechauns with pots of Gold at the end of rainbows. St. Patrick's day is celebrated around the world and is known for being the one day of the year that we all can claim a little piece of that Irish luck.

The "Luck of the Irish" is a phrase attributed to 1800's America, when the Irish seemed to be extremely lucky in the mines. It was used in a derogatory way, as if to say that it was only through luck that they could find such success. Despite this negative connotation, with as lucky as the Irish have seemed to be throughout history, it makes sense that we might all like to be Irish for a day, hopeful of a bit of that luck rubbing off on us in whatever we might most be hoping for at the time; better health, a new job, winning the lottery...

So, what does all of this talk of Irish luck have to do with Easter, you might be asking. My answer, in fact, is absolutely nothing! As followers of Jesus, no matter how Irish some of us may be, our fortune, good or bad (because fortune can go either way), is not centered on luck at all, but on God's saving Grace through our faith.

The centerpiece of Martin Luther's faith is that we are saved by Grace through Faith. Not by anything We do, but by what God does. God bore a son, Jesus, to live as we live, to know fully what it means to be human. God sacrificed Jesus as the final sacrifice, to wipe the slate clean of sins for All people. What good fortune, indeed!! Though some might not see this as Good fortune, but rather as a negative fortune for the work we are called to do through the gift of God's sacrifice.

As Children of God and Followers of Jesus, we are called through our Faith in God's Grace (complete and unconditional love) to make sacrifices for others, to give of ourselves in time, talent, and treasure for the building up of the church. We are called to fully live into the promise of eternal life by living freely and fully for the sake of our neighbors.

To some this may not sound like fortune, but to the Children of God, this is the greatest fortune of all. As we celebrate the "Luck of the Irish" this St. Patrick's Day, I invite you to consider the fortune you daily receive from God who loves you so completely that they sacrificed Everything for you. And then, find ways to pass it on.

peace, *Diana*



FAITH IN ACTION

Our middle and high school youth will stay in the sanctuary for the congregational meeting and will then gather in the children's chapel room on Sunday, Mar 3rd to debrief. We will also fill Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt on Mar 30.

Mark your Calendars

- March 3** Congregational Meeting
- March 5** All Teams Meeting
- March 17** Mary's Shelter Bowl-A-Thon
- March 24** Palm Sunday
- March 28** Maundy Thursday
- March 29** Good Friday
- March 30** Easter Egg Hunt
- March 31** Easter
- May 19** Graduation Celebration
- July 8-12** SCUBA VBS
- July 27-Aug 3** Mission Trip





STRONGER TOGETHER YOUTH GROUP

Our next Stronger Together adventure will be to participate in the Mary's Shelter Bowl-A-Thon.

Who: Youth in grades 7-12 & Friends

What: Bowling to help Mary's Shelter change lives!

Where: Berks Lanes Bowling, Sinking Spring

When: March 17th 3-5 pm

We must register by March 4th!

Help us raise money for our clients and programs at Mary's Shelter and enjoy a great day of bowling! During the two hour event, each strike earned means both kids and adults get a chance to go to our prize table!



St. John's Lutheran Church

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, MARCH 30th

Join us for crafts, games, food, the Easter Story
and, of course EGGS!

10:30 AM Easter Activities

11 AM EGG HUNT!



FREE fun for the entire family!

For more information contact Deacon Diana
deacondiana@saintjohnss.com 610-678-1088



HOPE
Rescue Mission

40 Days - 40 Items

Take the 40 Days - 40 Items challenge. Clean out your closets and donate the items to help our neighbors at Hope Rescue Mission in Reading who, Since 1894, has been a place of refuge for the homeless men, women, and children of Berks County, PA. We offer residential programs that people can work their way through to transition back into the community as productive and independent individuals. They accept all seasons of men, women, and children's clothing. We accept hats, scarfs, coats, shirts, pants, dresses, belts, purses, backpacks, towels, sheets, blankets, socks, and new underwear.

Pick up a bag outside the church office, fill it, and drop it off by Easter!



STRONGER TOGETHER YOUTH GROUP

Youth from Allegheny Lutheran, St. John's, St. John's Mohnton, and Trinity Reading joined together on Feb 17-18 to get a feel for being hungry and to find ways to help alleviate hunger in our community and around the world. We began with a stroll around downtown Reading where we noticed a lack of places to buy healthy, affordable food. We talked about food deserts, witnessed the horrible

state of the sidewalks, and felt cold for about an hour. All the while knowing we had a warm place to sleep later that night and the promise of food the next morning.

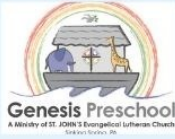
We had deep conversations, played fun games, spent time in scripture and prayer, and were visited by Pastor Aaron Decker, a Lutheran Missionary serving in Bolivia. We heard of hunger issues in our own community as well as in Bolivia, South Africa, Ecuador, and Guatemala.

We broke our fast Sunday morning with the worshipping community of Trinity when we received the life-giving gift of the Eucharist. Upon reflecting over breakfast EVERY youth said their hearts and minds were open in new ways, that they would do it again, and they would recommend the experience to others. **God is Good.**



Noisy Offering

THANK YOU SO MUCH for supporting your neighbors in need by giving to our Noisy Offering. With your help we were able to raise **\$211.41** to be split between the Wilson Area Food Pantry and ELCA's Mission in Bolivia.



Join us for a new year at Genesis Preschool!

2024-2025

Preschool Enrollment

**Allow your child's love of learning to start here!
Registration opens in February!**

- ✓ Age 2 through Pre-K
- ✓ Extended-Day Options
- ✓ Hands-On Learning & Play
- ✓ Creative & Nurturing Environment

SCHEDULE A TOUR!

☎ 610-678-9908

✉ genesispreschool@saintjohnss.com

🌐 www.saintjohnss.com/our-preschool



Saint John's Famous

Easter Eggs

**Orders accepted
Until March 17th**



INCOME AND EXPENSES

Month: January 2024

	Year to date Jan 2024	Year to date Jan 2023	Year to date 2024 budget
INCOME			
General Fund Giving	\$20,876	\$25,965	\$16,896
Targeted Giving	\$2,673	\$4,161	\$2,499
Fundraising	-\$1,933	\$2,191	\$750
Other Income	<u>\$104</u>	<u>\$4,195</u>	<u>\$125</u>
Subtotal	\$21,720	\$36,512	\$20,271
Genesis Income	\$14,239	\$10,701	\$8,301
Bequests	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$35,959	\$47,213	\$28,572
EXPENSES			
Care Team	\$0	\$0	\$19
Learn Team	\$0	\$290	\$187
Serve Team	\$5	\$658	\$467
Worship Team	\$380	\$821	\$450
Property Team	\$9,464	\$8,721	\$5,867
Hospitality	\$54	\$0	\$25
Office/Support Team	<u>\$2,095</u>	<u>\$1,323</u>	<u>\$1,998</u>
Subtotal	\$11,997	\$11,812	\$9,013
Staff	\$19,494	\$20,630	\$22,282
Genesis Expense	<u>\$11,053</u>	<u>\$6,614</u>	<u>\$7,872</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,544	\$39,057	\$39,167
UnBudgeted Expense	<u>\$310</u>	<u>\$400</u>	
Net Income	-\$6,896	\$7,757	-\$10,595
Unbudgeted Expense			
Fellowship Hall	\$0	\$0	
Easter Egg Funds used		\$0	
Maintenance & Repair	\$0	\$0	
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$0	\$0	
Speidel Bequest	\$0	\$0	
Use of Memorial Funds	\$0	\$0	
Youth	\$0	\$400	
VBS	\$310	\$0	
Total	\$310	\$400	
Forgiven Covid 19 Loan		\$0	
Change in Investment Value	\$0	\$12,310	



Circle of Friends

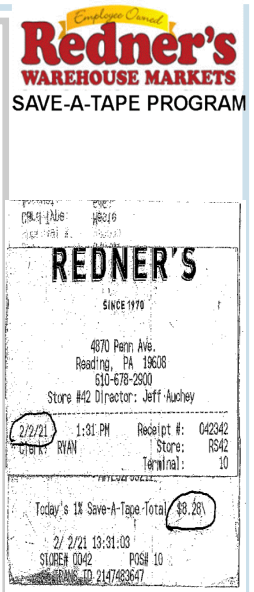
Please join us 1pm, March 19, 2024 at
 Gionnotti's Country Manner
 3118 Pricetown Rd, Fleetwood, Pa 19522
 Call Jeanette Minnich 610-678-1740
 for questions

Comfy Corners in the Sanctuary

We have a 'soft space' in the back corner of the sanctuary with carpet, a rocking chair and quiet toys. The other corner has crayons and coloring pages. We are inviting families with infants, toddlers, children, or even adults that need to move around more freely, or who need some extra space, to stay in worship more comfortably. Please check out these spaces and invite folks to use them.



Redner's Save-a-Tape program is simple:
 Please put your receipts in your envelopes that you mail into the church or when you drop them off in the locked mailbox outside and also on the table inside the door. St. John will receive 1% of each bill. **You need to use your Redner card in order for the church to Receive the 1% as shown on receipt...Thank you!**



We are still collecting for animals in need: blankets, towels, throw rugs, etc.

Thank you for your donations!



We are continuing to collect soda and soup can tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia. Put them in the jar on the table outside the church office. Thank you!



WILSON AREA FOOD PANTRY NEWS



The Wilson Area Food Pantry distributed food to 89 families (321 individuals) on Friday February 16. These families express their gratitude to us for helping them and it gives many of us a really good feeling that we can help those in need.

Donations to the pantry are vital to the support that we can give to the families in need. Food donations such as peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, pasta sauce, mac and cheese, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, and canned tuna or chicken which will be collected March 13 will be combined with food provided by Helping Harvest and food purchased with the generous donations from our member congregations. Please fill our two grocery carts especially at this time of year when we emphasize giving to help those in need even as God has given to us. Our next pantry distribution March 15.

We are very grateful for all the support that Saint John's gives the pantry. That support is both food donations and financial donations which is used to buy food as well.



It is our mission to serve God by helping those in need.

We are also grateful for our volunteers give of their time to serve our neighbors. We are especially grateful for the teenagers from the Hope for Humanity club and the others that come to help. It was wonderful to see so many young people helping.

Our Congregational Church Council met on February 13. Discussion and decision highlights include:

Council finished their Giving to God book discussion. In applying what we learned, Council approved a Commitment Campaign to run in April (see separate article in this newsletter). Council also approved additions to the bulletin content that will encourage generosity and gratitude.

The Care Team has gained a few new members committed to connecting with the members of our congregation.

A committee is forming to provide more structure and support to our monthly Thursday evening meals. Interested members should speak with Georgie Jones.

The Learn Team has provided a Lenten Family Devotion Guide and begun planning for the Spring Carnival to be held May 5th. Each ministry team is encouraged to host a game for the event.

The Serve Team has initiated a clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission – 40 items for 40 days during lent.

The Worship Team continues to discuss and develop a plan for a second service, which will eventually be presented to Council.

IT continues to be a challenge with email being particularly effected.

We discussed the dilemma of keeping our facility secure and yet welcoming and accessible on Sunday mornings once worship service has started. No resolution was found and the Property Team will be asked to consider ideas.

Council was joined by the members of the Finance Committee to discuss the final budget proposal to be shared with the congregation (see separate communications on the budget). The proposal will be shared on February 18th and the Congregational Meeting to vote on the budget will be March 3rd.

We will discuss priorities for focus and support by the interim pastor at a special Council meeting on February 27th.

Commitment Campaign Coming!

As you know, the Giving Team and Council have been reading *Giving to God* by Mark Allen Powell. (Help yourself to a copy available on the table in the sanctuary alcove!) Our study of all the aspects of stewardship has been faith building and affirming. We highly recommend the book!

Through our study, we have come to understand that giving can and should be a DUTY and a DELIGHT. Our DUTY is expressed in the support we provide (time, talent and treasure) to operate our church and its ministries. Our DELIGHT is expressed in sacrificial giving, above that minimum we do as members of this congregation.

We are currently engaged in the process of determining our 2024 budget. The Giving Team thought this might also be a good time for our members to consider their giving in terms of DUTY. What is your family's commitment to dutiful giving, supporting our operating budget? To encourage discernment, the Giving Team has designed a very simple Commitment Campaign to take place in the month of April. We will distribute Commitment Cards and ask each family to consider their financial commitment to supporting the operating budget.

The Commitment Card will ask you to share what you believe your dutiful giving will be going forward and whether that represents an increase. This commitment is between you/your family and God. We are simply facilitating your conscious consideration of your dutiful giving. Names are completely optional. We will not be recording your commitment (this isn't a pledge campaign). We will not be using the figures we collect to inform budget planning. We will collate the results and celebrate your commitment to dutiful giving at the end of the campaign.

The Commitment Campaign focuses on financial giving. We fully recognize that giving to God includes volunteering your time and talents as well. But we are not trying to collect information on our commitment to volunteering through this campaign – that is for another time in the future. We also appreciate that not everyone is able to increase their financial commitment. That is okay. This is meant to be a low-pressure opportunity for our members to consider their dutiful giving. Please consider participating. There will be more information shared during the March Congregational Meeting and Conversation and during Sunday service announcements. In the meantime, if you have any questions, just reach out to a member of the Giving Team (Deb Dietrich, Heather Riegel, Andy Romberger, Patrick Velekei).


The Worship Team continues to work on raising funds for a new projection system. Thanks to some individual contributions and proceeds from the Chicken Corn Noodle Soup and Christmas Candy sales the total fund balance is \$5,627.66. We're more than halfway there. Look for news about another fundraiser in the spring and if you're so inclined, we continue to accept donations to the fund. Tax returns are coming!

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR


Saint John's has a newly updated online calendar. You can find this on our church website. Use the QR code on the right to check it out now. Check it to see what's happening, when is the newsletter deadline, or when Sunday's service includes Holy Communion.



While you're there...

Click  to print the calendar.

Click  to add the calendar feed to your device.



CONNECT WITH OUR
zoom
BIBLE STUDIES

TUESDAYS: 5PM-6PM
Led by Pastor Rich
Register by emailing to:
pastor@saintjohnss.com



Altar Flowers


In October we learned that Stein's florist in Shillington would no longer be doing altar vases for churches. After making calls to many local florists, Royers has

the most economical prices for our needs. The price will be \$55, only a dollar more than we are currently paying Steins. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers, please fill out a sponsorship form on the table outside of the office.


January 2024 mission was to benefit United Lutheran Seminary and together we raised \$360.42. March's mission is Opportunity House.




Opportunity House



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**



Food | Fellowship | Faith
2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9 AM



Please **RSVP**
to Pastor Rich
By the prior Tues-
day

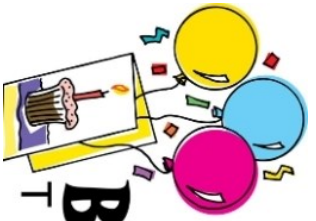
pastor@saintjohnss.com
610-401-5602



March Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>25 Easter Egg Candy 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Congregational Conversation 4:00pm Monthly Scout Troop 456 Meeting 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting</p>	<p>26 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>27 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>28 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Newstetter Assembly Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>29 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>1 Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off Pastor Rich Day Off Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>2 Easter Egg Candy</p>
<p>3 Easter Egg Candy 9:00am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00am Congregational Council Meeting 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting</p>	<p>4 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>5 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Team Meetings</p>	<p>6 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>7 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>8 Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off Pastor Rich Day Off Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>9 Easter Egg Candy</p>
<p>10 Easter Egg Candy 9:00am Worship Service 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting</p>	<p>11 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>12 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Spring Township Women's Club</p>	<p>13 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy 6:30pm Pioperty Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy 9:00am Men's Breakfast 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>15 Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off Pastor Rich Day Off Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy 10:00am Soup Kitchen 2:30pm Food Parnty Distribu- tion</p>	<p>16 Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy</p>
<p>17 LAST DAY TO SUBMIT CANDY ORDERS Pastor Rich on Vacation Easter Egg Candy 9:00am Worship Service 4:00pm Monthly Scout Troop 456 Meeting 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting</p>	<p>18 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Monthly Newstetter Articles Due Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>19 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>20 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>21 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Easter Egg Candy 12:30pm Food Parnty Setup 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>22 Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off Pastor Rich Day Off Easter Egg Candy</p>	<p>23 Easter Egg Candy 7:00pm Opportunity House</p>
<p>24 Easter Egg Candy 9:00am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00am Congregational Conversation 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting</p>	<p>25 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM</p>	<p>26 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>27 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM Newstetter Assembly</p>	<p>28 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Men's Breakfast 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion</p>	<p>29 Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off Pastor Rich Day Off 7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>30 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt</p>



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

March



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

25

26

27

28

29

1
Derek Daley's birthday
Nancy Troutman's birthday

2
Christine LeVan's birthday
Erik Saar's birthday

3
Gary and Lorene Triviet's anniversary
Giovanna Bonarigo's birthday

4
Brooke Pauley's birthday
Michele Coleman's birthday

5
Alycia and Matthew Arters's anniversary

6
Kathleen Wiest's birthday
Kenneth Gifford's birthday

7
Marilyn Frasso's birthday

8

9

10
Danielle Hale's birthday

11
Lori Dilks's birthday

12
Marilyn Oxenreider's birthday
Nathan Kutz's birthday

13
Alycia Arters's birthday
Bradley Drebushenko's birthday
Carol Long's birthday
Tina Royer's birthday

14
Jennifer Stinson's birthday

15
Brooke Klingler's birthday
Chelsea Yoder's birthday

16
Decklan Fox's birthday
Marjorie Hinkle's birthday

17
Jan Veleke's birthday

18

19
Rebecca Ruth's birthday

20
Jim Roth's birthday

21

22

23

24
Shaun Shillady's birthday

25
Stephanie Woronko's birthday

26
Roxann Miller's birthday

27
Eric Drebushenko's birthday

28
Tristan Plant's birthday

29

30

31
Aidan Yoder's birthday
Debbie Fick's birthday
Ryan Yanchocik's birthday