

# March / April Newsletter 2024

**The Chatfield Evangelical Pietist Church**  
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## Our Mission Statement:

“Striving to know Christ  
and to make Him  
known.”

*In reference to Matthew 28: 18-20*



From the Pastor's Desk

## The Importance of Pruning in Your Life

***“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” - John 15:2***

With spring right around the corner I thought this would be appropriate for all of us to consider. In 2015, my wife and I were blessed to move our family out to the country. On the property was a massive lilac bush. We were very excited to enjoy the blooms we anticipated were sure to come in the future. Well, the first spring, not many blooms came. The next spring even less came. It went this way for the next couple of years. So, I decided in the fall of 2019 that I would prune the bush back quite a bit. This bush was at least 12 feet tall. I cut all the branches of this bush back to about 6 feet tall. Some people were worried that I might have killed the bush, but I was to the point of attempting to replace the bush anyway. I thought might as well go for broke.

In the spring of 2020, I don't know if we got any blooms. The next spring in 2021, new growth had happened but not many blooms were found on the bush. The spring of 2022 though, there were so many blooms on the bush that they literally changed the smell of the air all around our home and their fragrance was powerful.



This got me thinking about our own lives and how God works in and through them. Friends, yes, the Lord will prune and even discipline those He loves so we can have the opportunity to grow, become mature and complete in the Lord, and have much good fruit in our lives. But please keep in mind, too, that the Lord has already shown us how to live. At times we need to

“prune” things out of our lives in order to receive the good “blooms” that the Lord desires for us to have.

Please don't get discouraged when you don't see much fruit soon after making good godly decisions in your life. Sometimes, just like the lilac bush in our yard, it takes time for the good gifts to come. It really is a process friends. So, rejoice in the Lord always; I will write it again, rejoice!

***“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,  
Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.  
The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but  
in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:4-7***

### *Making a joyful noise unto the Lord!*

We appreciate how much our church choir enriches our worship service with one more way to praise our Lord. We would love to have a few more vocalists. Please join us every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30. It is fun and a wonderful opportunity to praise and glorify our Lord. We would love to have you join us!

**“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music”  
Psalm 98:4**

### *“Food and Faith, Hand in Hand”*

Food Pantry continues to serve the community in need on the second Saturday of each month. March 9th this month and April 13th next month. You are welcome to come join in this monthly event to bring smiles and have fellowship delivering hope in a somewhat unwelcoming world. Thank you to all who donate your time and resources to promote this very important outreach. What an opportunity to serve, as our Lord us calls us to do!

**“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.”  
Galatians 5:13 NLT**

### *Sunday school meeting*

We are working on improving our Sunday school program, a vital part of building a strong biblical foundation. At our first meeting 16 members began the process of evaluating our program and sharing ideas about how to best serve our congregation and community. We met on January 11 and February 27. This is a work in progress and we are excited to have everyone's input. If you are interested in teaching or being an aid please let Dick Dunbar or one of our councilmen know. Of course, if you are interested in coming to the meeting to be better informed or to help, please come. Watch for more information on when the March meeting will be. Everyone is welcome!

**“If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.”  
Romans 12:7 NLT**

Would you like to have the council minutes emailed to you?  
Please let me know: Randy (pietistsecretary@gmail.com)

## Celebrating LifeWise at Buckeye Central

Thank you for the outstanding support you have shown our LifeWise program! We appreciate your generosity and gifts in helping us tell the story.

Ever wonder what goes on in a LifeWise classroom? A lot!

Memory work, so we can hide God's precious word in our hearts, is always included in our weekly lesson. This week, we also sang and danced to "Father Abraham" to remind us that Abraham is the father of many



nations and listed in the genealogy of Jesus. Our lesson, on Abraham and Isaac, was introduced with the game, "Where is the lamb?" After playing several rounds, we watched the lesson video looking for the answer to Isaac's



question, "Where is the lamb?"

The students then learned this week's character trait, sacrifice: giving of myself.



Finally, the students reviewed the lesson by performing a mini skit acting as Abraham, Isaac, the servants, and the angel of the Lord. The servants even carried sticks allowing Abraham to build an altar. What relief we all shared when Abraham passed the test and the Lord provided the lamb.



Speaking of the lamb, our memory verse, John 3:16, reminds us that God provided the lamb, His one and only Son, for us, too. Please check out our Facebook page LifeWise Buckeye Central OH and our website [www.lifewise.org/buckeyecentraloh](http://www.lifewise.org/buckeyecentraloh) for more information



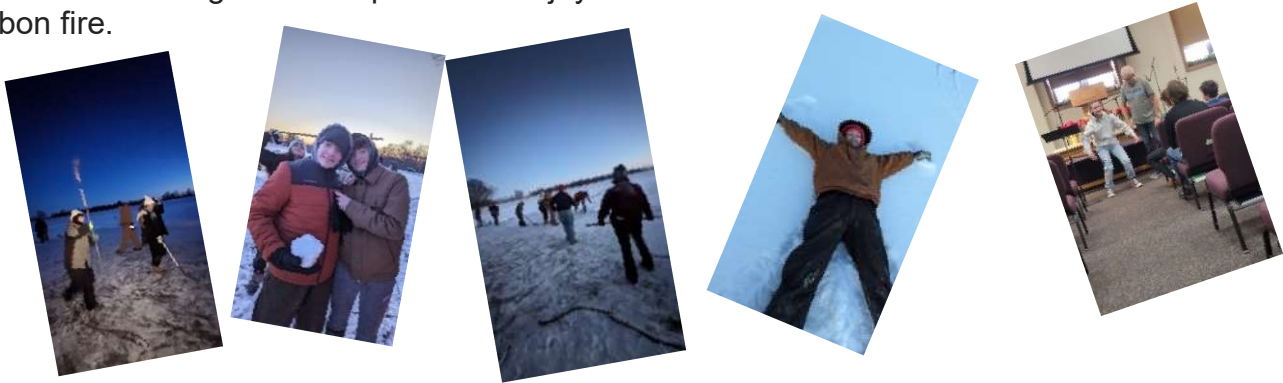
LifeWise classes are held every Thursday at St John's Lutheran Church from 12:30 to 1:30. The children are picked up at Buckeye Central at 12:30, hauled to the church for class then, returned by 1:30. This is a community led program. To be within the guidelines of the Supreme Court, it must be off of school property, privately funded and parent permitted.

**Contact Linda to see how you can be a volunteer for this amazing program.**

# CSI Events:



"What kind of life do you want to build" was the topic of the talk given by Denny Walton, Senior Quizmaster for our Bible Quiz league. He talked about how the choices we make add up to build a good or bad life. After the talk we had Subway and snacks. 31 youth and 9 chaperones went ice skating at a local pond and enjoyed hot chocolate around a bon fire.



On Feb 11, 33 students, 4 junior leaders and 3 leaders attended a CSI event at Bolwmor Lanes in Sycamore. If you're wondering how many pizzas it takes to feed a crew this size: 4 jumbos and 2 large salads! The lesson compared bowling to salvation and was presented by Eva DeZurik. In bowling, missing just one pin removes the possibility of achieving a perfect game, no matter how hard we try. Much like committing just one sin makes us a sinner and in need of salvation. Jesus Christ achieved the "perfect game" and wants to trade his perfect sinless "scorecard" with ours! Praise the Lord!



## Stripes Action!

Thank you so much for all of the support for the Senedot Stripes. We are thrilled that the Stripes are a part of Evangelical Pietist Church. We are beginning to see serious fruit for the Kingdom of God from this ministry.



The following is a note received from a former player for the Lady Stripes that is now a coach for the ministry. Dear friend reading this, even though it is a personal note to me, please know that you are a part of this happening and you are part of the bigger picture of all of this. God is not only using those directly connected to this ministry but He is using you through your prayers and financial support. Praise God you are willing to strive to expand God's Kingdom here on earth in this way.



Coach Jason,

You are truly such a blessing to me and my family! Your faithfulness to God in starting the Stripes has GREATLY impacted me. This program literally changed my life and I cannot fully express my gratitude. It is an HONOR to pour into the Stripes anyway I can! Thank you for leading your family by following Christ boldly and unashamedly. THANK YOU for selflessly pouring into the lost and rejected girls. You and your family (this includes the church family) are deeply appreciated! I love you! Thank you!



Friends, this is just one of many, many lives that have been touched due to your support of this amazing ministry. I praise God for all of you. Let's keep serving Christ together.

Pastor Jason



**"Peanut Butter Drive is underway until 3/24/24"**



**March Birthdays:**

Oliver Haskins	6
Shari Shuck	7
Troy Johnson	12
Ruth Leuthold	13
Gary Richards	13
Ryland Bloomfield	17
Leah Markley	18
Lloyd Kalb	18
Dennis Gottfried	22
Bill Hanes	27

**March Anniversaries:**

Kevin & Patti Garrett	4
Mike & Marla Shuck	11
Larry & Ilona Bertsch	11
Ted & Ellen Klink	12
Jacob & Leah Markley	21

**Greeters: March/April 2024**

March 3:	Joe & Joyce Schimpf
March 10:	Roger & Vicki Kehres
March 17:	Ty & Amanda Garrett
March 24:	Tom & Linda Schulze
March 31:	Jaya Dezurik and Girls
April 7:	Glen & Sue Blackford
April 14:	Donnie & Nicole Johnson
April 21:	Roger & Juleen Marquart
April 28:	Barb Yosick

**Nursery Supervision**

March 3:	Alita Phillips; Cindy Richards
March 10:	Dee Kalb; Theresa DeZurik
March 17:	Mary Ann Cooper; Susan Woodman
March 24:	Wayne & Ruth Leuthold; Dawn Kessel
March 31:	Sarah Johnson; Eva DeZurik
April 7:	Alita Phillips; Cindy Richards
April 14:	Dee Kalb; Theresa DeZurik
April 21:	Mary Ann Cooper; Susan Woodman
April 28:	Wayne & Ruth Leuthold; Dawn Kessel

**April Birthdays:**

John Leuthold	4
Lucas Thompson	4
Nicholas Ratliff	6
Kasey Seif	7
Alita Phillips	11
Elijah DeZurik	11
Sue Steiger	12
Darcy Vercruysee	16
Nichole Johnson	18
Joanie Tieben	19
Susan Blackford	21

**April Anniversaries**

Dick & Janet Dunbar	2
Al & Becky Schimpf	9
Dale & Janice Auck	25

**Junior Church Roster**

March 3:	Jaya DeZurik and helper
March 10:	Norma Gebhardt and helper
March 17:	Jaya DeZurik and helper
March 24:	Norma Gebhardt and helper
March 31:	Jaya DeZurik and helper
April 7:	Norma Gebhardt and helper
April 14:	Jaya DeZurik and helper
April 21:	Norma Gebhardt and helper
April 28:	Jaya DeZurik and helper

If you cannot serve the day you are scheduled, please ask someone else on the roster to trade with you. If you cannot make that happen, call Randy Kalb 419-569-5370.

**Thank you so much for blessing us with this valuable gift of love and time!**

March 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Dominican Republic Presentation during the 10am Service  Mission Meal Church council Bible Quiz @ EFF 2:30pm	4	5	6 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	7 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30	8 Bible Quiz After Season Party 6:00-9:00pm	9 Food Pantry 1 - 2:30 PM Strips Scheduling Meeting
10 Daylight Saving Begins	11	12	13 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	14 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30	15	16
17 St Patrick's Day	18	19 Stripes End of the Year Celebration Dinner 6-8pm	20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	21 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30	22 <b>CSI Lock-in</b> Starting at 6pm	23 Earth Hour  CSI Lock-in ends at 8:00am
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Last Sunday for Peanut Butter to be at Church for 3/29/25 Drop off at NewVision FM.	25	26	27 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	28 <b>Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7:00 PM</b>	29 <b>Good Friday</b> 11am – 1pm Reflection Time in the Sanctuary	30
31 <b>Resurrection Sunday</b> 7am- Sunrise Service 8am – Breakfast 9am – Sunday School 10am – Easter Service						

April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	4 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30PM	5	6
7 Mission Meal Church Council Meeting  Firm Foundation Study (Humility) 7 – 8:30pm	8 Total Eclipse of the Sun	9	10 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	11 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30PM	12	13 Food Pantry 1-2:30 PM
14 Firm Foundation Study (Passion) 7 – 8:30pm	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16	17 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	18 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30 PM	19	20
21 Firm Foundation Study (Unity) 7 – 8:30pm	22	23	24 Prayer meeting 7:00 PM	25 Choir 6:30 PM Praise team 7:30 PM LifeWise 12:30-1:30 PM	26 Arbor Day	27
28 Firm Foundation Study (Serventhood) 7 – 8:30pm	29	30	<b>The Firm Foundation Study will continue into May. May 5<sup>th</sup> (Thankfulness) and May 12<sup>th</sup> (Accountability) from 7:00 – 8:30 pm</b>			



# Striving to Know Christ and to Make Him Known

From our Pastor

As most of you know the mission statement of Evangelical Pietist Church is “Striving To Know Christ and To Make Him Known.” I am pleased to let you all know the Church Council is striving to take their responsibility very seriously regarding this mission statement. Not only are the Council as individuals striving to implement this in their own lives and their families lives, but we also desire each member and attendee of Evangelical Pietist Church to Strive to Know Christ and To Make Him Known. So, we'd like to give you, in each newsletter, for each remaining month of 2024, a tool to Strive to Know Christ and to Make Him Known.

It is a schedule to read for each month to meditate and pray on God's Word each day in the Morning and in the Evening. We will also be encouraging you to take time and strive to read a chapter of Psalms everyday. Please keep in mind, we are encouraging you to strive to do this. If you end up falling behind or failing, it is okay. We encourage you just to pick up reading on the day that you are on in the month. Please put this schedule up somewhere you can see it every day, on your refrigerator, your mirror in your bedroom or bathroom, or even your desk at work or at home. Together let's, “Strive to Know Christ and To Make Him Known.”

Date	Morning Reading	Evening Reading	Psalms
MARCH 1ST	Deut. 7	Eph. 6	1
MARCH 2ND	Deut. 8	Phil. 1	2
MARCH 3RD	Deut. 9	Phil. 2	3
MARCH 4TH	Deut. 10	Phil. 3	4
MARCH 5TH	Deut. 11	Phil. 4	5
MARCH 6TH	Deut. 12	Col. 1	6
MARCH 7TH	Deut. 13	Col. 2	7
MARCH 8TH	Deut. 14	Col. 3	8
MARCH 9TH	Deut.15	Col. 4	9
MARCH 10TH	Deut. 16	1 Thess. 1	10
MARCH 11TH	Deut. 17	1 Thess. 2	11
MARCH 12TH	Deut. 18	1 Thess. 3	12
MARCH 13TH	Deut. 19	1 Thess. 4	13
MARCH 14TH	Deut. 20	1 Thess. 5	14
MARCH 15TH	Deut. 21	2 Thess. 1	15
MARCH 16TH	Deut. 22	2 Thess. 2	16
MARCH 17TH	Deut. 23	2 Thess. 3	17
MARCH 18TH	Deut. 24	1 Tim. 1	18
MARCH 19TH	Deut. 25	1 Tim. 2, 3	19
MARCH 20TH	Deut. 26	1 Tim. 4	20
MARCH 21ST	Deut. 27	1 Tim 5	21
MARCH 22ND	Deut. 28	1 Tim. 6	22
MARCH 23RD	Deut. 29	2 Tim. 1	23
MARCH 24TH	Deut. 30	2 Tim. 2	24
MARCH 25TH	Deut. 31	2 Tim. 3	25
MARCH 26TH	Deut. 32	2 Tim. 4	26
MARCH 27TH	Deut. 33	Titus 1	27
MARCH 28TH	Deut. 34	Titus 2, 3	28
MARCH 29TH	Joshua 1	Philem. 1	29
MARCH 30TH	Joshua 2	Heb. 1	30
MARCH 31ST	Joshua 3	Heb. 2	31

Date	Morning Reading	Evening Reading	Psalms
APRIL 1ST	Joshua 3	Heb. 3	31
APRIL 2ND	Joshua 1	Heb. 4	32
APRIL 3RD	Joshua 5	Heb. 5	33
APRIL 4TH	Joshua 6	Heb. 6	34
APRIL 5TH	Joshua 7	Heb. 7	35
APRIL 6TH	Joshua 8	Heb. 8	36
APRIL 7TH	Joshua 9	Heb. 9	37
APRIL 8TH	Joshua 10	Heb. 10	38
APRIL 9TH	Joshua 11	Heb. 11	39
APRIL 10TH	Joshua 12	Heb. 12	40
APRIL 11TH	Joshua 13	Heb. 13	41
APRIL 12TH	Joshua 14	James 1	42
APRIL 13TH	Joshua 15	James 2	43
APRIL 14TH	Joshua 16	James 3	44
APRIL 15TH	Joshua 17	James 4	45
APRIL 16TH	Joshua 18	James 5	46
APRIL 17TH	Joshua 19	1 Pet. 1	47
APRIL 18TH	Joshua 20	1 Pet. 2	48
APRIL 19TH	Joshua 21	1 Pet. 3	49
APRIL 20TH	Joshua 22	1 Pet. 4	50
APRIL 21ST	Joshua 23	1 Pet. 5	51
APRIL 22ND	Joshua 24	2 Pet. 1	52
APRIL 23RD	Judges 1	2 Pet. 2	53
APRIL 24TH	Judges 2	2 Pet. 3	54
APRIL 25TH	Judges 3	1 John 1	55
APRIL 26TH	Judges 4	1 John 2	56
APRIL 27TH	Judges 5	1 John 3	57
APRIL 28TH	Judges 6	1 John 4	58
APRIL 29TH	Judges 7	1 John 5	59
APRIL 30TH	Judges 8	2. 3 John	60