

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
510 ALBANY SHAKER ROAD  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211  
518-458-1562



<b>Office</b>	<b>518-458-1562</b>
<b>Pastor Joyce Fiore</b>	<b>518-588-3149</b>
<b>Kathy Flynn</b>	<b>Admin. Assistant</b>
<b>Kevin Wertman</b>	<b>Custodian</b>
<b>Anita Andersen</b>	<b>Music Director</b>
<b><u>Church Council:</u></b>	
<b>Danny Patrick</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mike Serge</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Jeff Emptage</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Patti Kopach</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Atif Dean</b>	
<b>Kathryn Ingalls</b>	
<b>Nancy Layne</b>	
<b>Carol Phelps</b>	
<b>Maryanne Sangiacomo</b>	
<b>Elizabeth Sickler</b>	
<b>Susan Spofford</b>	
<b>Marie Wertman</b>	
<b>Meg Winters</b>	

## **Mission Statement**

“We are a community of God’s faithful people called by Christ to love, welcome, and care for all.”



**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Contacts**

Kathy Flynn, Administrative Asst. office@gscl.org	518-458-1562	Mon. – Wed.
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

"We are a community of God's faithful people called by Christ to love, welcome, and care for all."

<b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Transitional Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Joyce Fiore</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Danny Patrick</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mike Serge</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Patti Kopach</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeff Emptage</b>
	<b>Atif Dean</b>
	<b>Kathy Ingalls</b>
	<b>Nancy Layne</b>
	<b>Carol Phelps</b>
	<b>Maryanne Sangiacomo</b>
	<b>Elizabeth Sickler</b>
	<b>Susan Spofford</b>
	<b>Marie Wertman</b>
	<b>Meg Winters</b>
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>	
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Marjorie Raymond</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>John McGrath</b>
<b>Bldg. Rental Coordinator</b>	<b>Danny Patrick</b>

## Pastor Joyce's Message

We are entering the month of March. From Thesarus.com here is some information.

Where did the name *March* come from?

The name *March* is ultimately derived from the Latin word *Martius* (named after *Mars*, the Roman god of war). *Martius* was the name of the first month in the original Roman calendar. Along with *January, May, and June, March* is one of several months named after a god. The Roman ruler, Numa Pompilius, is traditionally credited with adding January and February to the calendar, thus making March the third month of the year. While many have adopted this calendar (the Gregorian calendar), some cultures and religions still celebrate the start of the new year on March 1. In Iran, New Year's Day is celebrated on March 21.

This month we begin to look toward change in the weather and also change in our life in Christ. Pastor Ken Simmuro of the Foothills conference, in his sermon on the occasion of Pr. Lowell Chilton's installation at First Lutheran, offered words that resound with March. This month enters with cold and snow and is the forerunner of spring. Change is

in the air. Pastor Simmuro spoke of the changes the Christian Church is offering: the next step in our moving ahead is an opportunity to examine our response to Christ's message in today's world. No looking back and asking for everything to remain as it was is the mantra. Christ's message of salvation never changes and how we hear it and observe following the message is always in a time of looking at our situation in life. Look around Good Shepherd and see the changes that keep occurring and know that Christ is ever and always the same.

This is the message as we prepare for the time of Easter. Blessings and joy...even if it is cold outside, Christ will warm us up.

Pastor Joyce

### **The Lenten Season in 2023**

- Lent begins each year on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter Sunday. This year Lent started on **February 22, 2023**; and if you are following the 40 days tradition, Lent will then end on Holy Saturday, April 8th, 2023.
- Lent can be helpful for families, in the same way, that Advent helps parents prepare their children for Christmas. The season of Lent provides an opportunity for families to strengthen spiritual discipline together. In addition to engaging in the distraction of the baskets and egg hunts, Lent can help your family focus on the real meaning of Easter and what Jesus' sacrifice means for our salvation.

## **Lent Dates for 2023**

- **Ash Wednesday**: February 22, 2023
- **Palm Sunday**: April 2, 2023
- **Maundy Thursday**: April 6, 2023
- **Good Friday**: April 7, 2023
- **Holy Saturday**: April 8, 2023
- **Easter (Pascha) Sunday**: April 9, 2023

## **LENTEN SERVICES IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM** **WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT**

**Simple meal at 6 pm**

**Evening Prayer at 6:45 pm**

**“SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS: EVENING  
PRAYER FOR LENT”**



The four ELCA churches in the Albany Area (Good Shepherd, First Lutheran Church, Saint Johns, and Holy Spirit) will share in Wednesday Lenten worship. We have a rich calendar of saints in the Lutheran tradition—Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our Christian journey.

Each week we gather for a simple meal at 6 pm followed by prayer and singing with the saints at 6:45. We gather on Zoom and in-person.

Each pastor will lead one service in this order:

March 1st – Holy Spirit

March 8th – First Lutheran

March 15th – St. John’s

March 22nd– Good Shepherd

March 29th – Shared service at First Lutheran

(potluck meal & worship led by all pastors)

Prayers of thanksgiving for **Pastor Lowell Chilton** as he was installed as Pastor of First Lutheran in Albany. Below is a group picture of the ELCA pastors and several pastors from other denominations joining in prayer and worship for the congregation and community at First Lutheran.



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## **Eucharistic Ministry**

Eucharistic Ministers commissioned on 2/29/23.

Meg Winters, Bertie Cole, Richard Walker and Betty Suarez accepted the call to bring Holy Communion to the homebound. Here they are with the communion kits on the altar rail preparing to bring communion and offer Lenten ashes to people who are unable to attend worship. We thank God for their service.

In peace,  
Pastor Joyce



## Our Jewish Neighbors Celebrate Purim

There is so much activity happening as we observe the Lenten season. Keep in mind that our Jewish neighbors will celebrate Purim which begins at sunset on Monday, March 6 and ends on Tuesday, March 7.

Purim is a Jewish holiday which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, an Achaemenid Persian Empire official who was planning to kill all the Jews. The Biblical Book of Esther tells the entire story. Here is another Biblical book of God's salvation that we often forget to read.

### **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**



Carlos Sanchez                      Carl Phelps  
Betty Cadwallader                  Carol Phelps  
Carolyn Wolfe                        Keith Kelly

Please pray for the Olsen family as they grieve the recent loss of Neil Olsen.

## Don't Forget Our Homebound Members

Especially during these long winter months, please remember to send cards, and make phone calls to our homebound members.

Betty Cadwallader	Carolyn Wolfe
Lydia Carbonaro	Shirley Kroll
Ann Howland	Lou Reiss



# EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM



This year there will be a choice of **Gerbera Daisies**, **Tulips**, **Mums** or **Lilies**. All will be 6" pots in Spring colors. Each Plant is **\$13.00**. To order complete this form below and deposit, with your check or cash, in the offering plate. If you prefer, send it to the church office.

**The absolute final deadline for orders is  
Wednesday, March 15. No exceptions. Late orders  
will not be accepted.**

Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Gerbera Daisies: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tulips: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mums: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. of Pots \_\_\_\_\_ x \$13.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(Make checks payable to Good Shepherd)

## **IN MEMORY OF:**

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## **IN HONOR OF:**

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Please call Carol Phelps with any questions 518-355-3901.





## **March Birthdays**

- 3 – Michelle Wiegert
- 5 – Logan Rudat
- 10 – Russell Crouse
- 12 – Donna Constantine
- 16 – Richard Szesnat Jr.
- 18 – Atif Dean
- 20 – Steve Layne
- 22 – Susan and Sara Kelly



## **Church Council Update**

At the last Council meeting on February 13, four people were elected to the following positions:

Danny Patrick	President
Mike Serge	Vice President
Patti Kopach	Secretary
Jeff Emptage	Treasurer

The Council and Officers were installed on Sunday, February 19 by Pastor Fiore during the worship service.

Prior to the election of officers, the Council welcomed our new council members and they are: Patti Kopach, Nancy Layne and Susan Spofford. We thanked them for assuming positions of leadership in our community of faith.

The Council approved appointments of people who will serve as Financial Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Ministry Teams' Chairs as well as a number of other positions in the church. See the complete list on the wall in the narthex under "Council News."

The next **Church Council FORUM** will be on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. This will be an opportunity to find out more about what the council is working on and for you to ask any questions you might have about Good Shepherd.

Everyone was made aware of Pastor Chilton's Installation at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 26 at 3:00 pm.

As of the end of January 2023 we had a surplus of \$3,453 in the operating fund. We are off to a good start in this new year.

Yours in Christ,

Danny L. Patrick, President  
Church Council

**UPCOMING COUNCIL FORUM**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The Council set the date for our next Quarterly Church Council Forum to be held on Sunday, March 26 after the worship service. Please save the date and attend to find out more of what the Church Council is doing and ask any questions you might have. We plan to have zoom available for people who cannot attend in person. If you

have any burning questions or ideas before this time, please feel free to call Danny Patrick at 518-477-5355.

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The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been completed by the Call Committee and posted at the Synod. Rachel Sosebee, from the Synod, met with the Call Committee and Executive Council on January 31. Rachel complimented the work performed on the MSP. She also stated that she and Julie Grindle are actively looking at candidates for a pastor at Good Shepherd.

We were advised that the next step is to have a mock interview with a local Pastor (often the Dean) before they interview the date is scheduled for the first candidate. This is a growing practice so some people are not familiar with this step.

The Call Committee has put together a list of interview questions for when a candidate is selected for us. We have also reached out to Rev Jo Page, Dean, to select a date and time for the mock interview.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Layne, Chair

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The new Fire Smart Omni series TV's are up and running. It is very easy to launch Zoom with the remote or you can always ask Alexa to launch Zoom. In the



sanctuary we have a 65 inch TV and in the Library there is a 43 inch TV. The 65 inch TV in the Sanctuary will be on during all services and this will allow the people at home to be able to see the congregation in their seats from the front. We will no longer be displaying the bulletin because it doesn't always look in focus to the people on Zoom. Both TV's can be moved into another area of needed as they are on a stand with wheels. No computer is necessary to launch Zoom on the TV's and both work exactly the same way.

We now have a square account with a credit card reader that connects to the GSLCL iPad. This allows us to accept credit/debit cards at any of the future events. The money that is collected on the credit card reader goes into a GSLCL Square account and can be transferred at any time to the GSLCL checking account at no charge. This has already proved to be successful.

On March 2, 2023 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Loudonville is scheduled to launch its new website. Please take time to access it at <https://www.gslcl.org>. The new webmasters will be Vince Pasqualino and Steve Layne.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Layne

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## **January/February Cluster Collection – Thank You!**

As you may or may not know the Lutheran Cluster made up of First Lutheran, Holy Spirit, St. John's and Good Shepherd collected needed items for the folks at the Schuyler Inn in Menands. The residents are there due to being homeless and families go there usually with just the clothes on their backs. We want to thank everyone who donated items for these folks in need. They appreciate everything that they, and their children, receive. The items will be brought to the Schuyler Inn in the next few days. Thanks again!!

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## **March/April Cluster Collection**

The Cluster collection for March and April will be items for the St. John/St. Ann's Food Pantry that ***cannot be purchased*** with SNAP benefits (aka: food stamps). Items that are especially helpful are diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and general hygiene products like soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet paper. Other good choices are laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning products and paper towels.



AFTER THE WINTER BREAK,  
SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>!  
OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS  
ARE BUSY PLANNING AND  
PREPARING ACTIVITIES FOR THE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR  
LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER.



## **Hillenbrandt Scholarships**

Applications for the 2023-2024 academic year can be found online at Good Shepherd's website ([www.gslcl.org](http://www.gslcl.org)). Necessary instructions will be located on the form. When all necessary requirements have been completed, return the applications to the church office **no later than April 1, 2023.**

## **Souper Bowl Sunday**

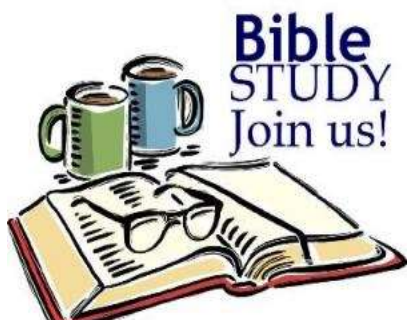
A big thanks goes out to everyone who brought in cans of soup before, and on Super Bowl Sunday. We collected 34 cans of soup which will go into our Food Pantry in the parking lot to help feed people in our neighborhood. Our members put most of their soup cans behind the Kansas City Chiefs who won this year's Super Bowl. Again, thank you for your donations of canned soups!





**SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**PANCAKE SUPPER**  
**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**  
**THANK YOU!**

The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out at this year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and everyone who supported the supper. They are as follows: Colleen Ward, Kathy and Mark Silo, Betty Sickler and her friend Patty, Kathy Ingalls, Chris and Marc Kleinhenz, Atif and Kiran Dean, Maryanne Sangiacomo, Betty Suarez, Kirsten Andersen, Meg Winters, Bertie Cole, Marie Wertman, Kathy Flynn, Administrative Assistant, Steve Layne, Barbara Rasmussen, and Danny Patrick. We made close to \$350 of which 10% will go to Feeding America, and the remainder will be deposited in the general fund for other ministries at Good Shepherd. A special thanks to Betty Sickler who made a beautiful poster of Feeding America which was displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Again a big thanks to all who made this event such a success.



**Wednesday Bible Study**

Join us for the Wednesday Bible Study 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm as we study Scripture and grow in God's word. Men and women are invited! Each week we begin in prayer, and reach out to others who may be ill or just need cheering up with a card and personal note. Contact Bertie Cole for current information about joining the group!

## Community Food Pantry



As you may know or not know, Good Shepherd for the past year has had a food box in the parking lot filled with non-perishable food items for people that are in need of food. People are coming and getting food from the box which is a great thing but we are now at a point that it is sometimes difficult keeping the box filled. The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry team will oversee the food box and make sure it is filled with food. The team decided to use \$200 from the Summer Lunch Program to purchase food for the box. In addition, Kirsten Andersen has obtained a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant for the food box. However, we are going to need everyone's support in donating food and placing it in the tub in the front hallway for the food box.

Also, another way you could support the food pantry would be putting a monetary donation in a blue envelope that you will find in the narthex which is for designated giving. Just put your name on the blue envelope and put for the Food Pantry. Your support of this food box will be greatly appreciated as we continue this needed and special ministry. A few guidelines though:

- No glass as accidents happen and we do not want glass in the parking lot
- No liquids as these tend to freeze and will get food in the cabinet
- No ready to eat items - snack bars or candy
- No cleaning products - again they may contaminate food



- Diapers, dry formula, powdered milk, toilet paper are always needed. But please do not attach receipts to formula or diapers
- Please check to make sure the food is not spoiled or out of date
- Very few canned good will freeze

### Suggested items include

- Dried beans, Canned Beef Stew, Cereal, Chef Boyardee, Crackers, Pasta,
- Pepperoni Slices-sealed, Powered Milk, Rice, Rice A Roni, Canned Salmon,
- Dried or Canned Soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Tuna, Canned Vegetables
- Toilet Paper, Dog and Cat food, Kitty Litter



### **Donations to Building Fund Requested**

The Building Fund is used for maintenance and repairs of the church building. Recently, the staff bathroom in the back hallway was renovated, walls in the back hallway were painted, repairs were made to the front façade, and a downspout was added to one of the front gutters. Please consider making a donation to this fund. Envelopes for "Designated Gifts" are available in the narthex. Donations to the Building Fund are separate from the annual pledge. All donations are included on the annual contribution statement for tax purposes.

## **THRIVENT GRANTS**

Did you know that thoughtful Thrivent members have directed a total of \$50 to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in 2022 by recommending where Thrivent should distribute some of its charitable outreach funds? Thrivent members have until March 31 to tell Thrivent where to send some of Thrivent's charitable giving dollars budgeted for 2022.

You can find more Thrivent Choice resources on Thrivent.com using the following link: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>.

If you are not already familiar with Thrivent Choice program, please know that your church is enrolled to receive Choice Dollars grant funding. Thrivent Choice is a member-advised charitable grant program that provides an easy way for members to recommend where Thrivent should donate some of its charitable outreach funds. Members can help support you by directing Choice Dollars. Visit Thrivent.com to learn more or call our local office at 518-429-8626.

The many outreach projects of our congregation are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for two \$250.00 Action Team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carol Phelps or Danny Patrick.

**If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member. Associate membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a \$250.00 Thrivent grant for our congregation's outreach projects.** Contact Thrivent either by phone or at Thrivent.com for more info.

## Financial News

<b>Financial Report for January 2023</b>			
	Month	YTD	
Expenses	\$11,379.95	\$11,379.95	
Revenue	\$14,833.09	\$14,833.09	
<u>Surplus +</u> Deficit -		\$3,453.14	

### From the Financial Secretary

2022 Financial Statements: Contribution statements for 2022 were mailed out in January. If you did not receive your contribution statement or if you have any questions, please contact Financial Secretary, Marjorie Raymond at 518-424-6043.

### Blood Drive April 12th

**Our spring blood drive is ready for scheduling either online at American Red Cross under Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or by contacting Carol Phelps (518-355-3901). We will accept walk ins if there is an available appointment when the person arrives.**



### Volunteer!

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Thank you to Atif and Kiran Dean who will assume responsibility for church paraments being changed according to season.

Thank you to Bertie Cole who is moving forward in broadening the list of people preparing Communion every week. Anyone else interested should speak to Bertie.

## **Volunteer to be a Reader, or serve on a committee!**

If you would like more information as to what these volunteer opportunities entail, please reach out to Bertie Cole at bertiecole@gmail.com or 518-698-8839. We welcome your participation! **THANK YOU!**



### **We continue to collect can tabs:**

There is a jar in the narthex in which to put your can tabs. We have been informed that Ronald McDonald House still collects them and recycles them through a broker for cash. One more place to reach out to our community!

Drop off your can tabs Monday-Thursday 11 am – 4 pm or call the office to arrange a time to stop by. We would like to fill the container in the Narthex the first Sunday we can resume in-person worship.

## **Tithe.ly**

You can go to our website [www.gslcl.org](http://www.gslcl.org) via your computer or phone and make an electronic donation. You can also download the app from the App Store on your phone – tithe.ly. It's secure and easy. Try it out today.



*Donate here to support the various ministries of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*



## **Fellowship after Worship**

Volunteers needed: Thank you for all who signed up to host our gatherings following worship. Please consider providing coffee and some small bite sized snack by signing up on the chart right outside of the fellowship hall for the rest of the year. What a great time to meet each other and chat. Questions? Contact Meg Winters, Fellowship Coordinator at 518-860-4594.



**Don't forget that  
Daylight Savings  
Time begins Sunday,  
March 12th (set your  
clocks ahead  
Saturday night!)**



**Save the Date: Synod Assembly 2022**

***Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E Mindset: Restorative Justice***

June 2-3, 2023 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center



# MANY THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP SERVERS & VOLUNTEERS!

## THOSE WHO SERVE 3/5

Opener  
Greeter  
Usher  
Lay Reader  
Communion Assistant  
AV Tech  
Closer

Jeannette Harting  
Jeannette Harting  
Dick Walker  
Mark Silo  
Kathy Silo  
Elizabeth Strohbeck  
Meg Winters

## THOSE WHO SERVE 3/12

Opener  
Greeter  
Usher  
Lay Reader  
Communion Assistant  
AV Tech  
Closer

Maryanne Sangiacomo  
Betty Suarez  
Paul Spofford  
Dick Walker  
Marie Wertman  
Emmie Knobloch  
Marie Wertman

## THOSE WHO SERVE 3/19

Opener  
Greeter  
Usher  
Lay Reader  
Communion Assistant  
AV Tech  
Closer

Mike Serge  
Nancy Serge  
Mark Silo  
Bertie Cole  
Meg Winters  
Marie Wertman  
Atif Dean

## THOSE WHO SERVE 3/26

Opener  
Greeter  
Usher  
Lay Reader  
Communion Assistant  
AV Tech  
Closer

Steve Layne  
Patti Kopach  
Mark Silo  
Atif Dean  
Kiran Dean  
Maryanne Sangiacomo  
Carol Phelps



~ MARCH 2023 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1 pm Bible Study	2 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4pm Drama Kids	3 9:30 Colonie Srs.	4
5 9:30 WORSHIP	6 4pm Club Scientific	7 12:30 Colonie Srs. 7:00 pm Outreach & Evangelism	8 1 pm Bible Study	9 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4pm Drama Kids	10 9:30 Colonie Srs.	11
12 9:30 WORSHIP	13 4pm Club Scientific 6:30 Worship & Music	14 12:30 Colonie Srs. 6:30 pm Church Council	15 1 pm Bible Study	16 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4pm Drama Kids	17 9:30 Colonie Srs.	18
19 9:30 WORSHIP	20 4pm Club Scientific 7:00 pm Worship & Music	21 12:30 Colonie Srs.	22 1 pm Bible Study 6PM GSLCL WORSHIP	23 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4pm Drama Kids	24 9:30 Colonie Srs.	25
26 9:30 WORSHIP	27 4pm Club Scientific	28 12:30 Colonie Srs.	29 9 am Colonie Srs Board 1 pm Bible Study 6PM WORSHIP 7PM Property Team meeting	30 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4pm Drama Kids	31 9:30 Colonie Srs.	

## Lenten prayer

Dear God, During Lent help us to keep our eyes on Jesus. Help us to spend more time talking and listening to you. Help us to share what we have with others and be sorry for times we have done wrong.

Amen

