

The Saline Psalter

HOLY FAITH CHURCH

Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran

6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Saline, MI 48176

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February 2013

THE PASTOR PONDERERS

Guns and Jesus

There is a fundamental problem with the way we are discussing gun violence and gun laws in our society. Well there is probably more than one, but the one to which I'm referring has to do with the difference between carefully pre-planned mass shootings by sociopathic individuals, such as occurred at Sandy Hook, and heat-of-the moment, one-on-one homicides and suicides, such as kill upwards of eighty people a day in the U.S. That's three Sandy Hooks every day of the year—a much higher per capita gun death rate than any other developed, western country. It is arguable whether stricter gun laws would deter an individual who spends months plotting a mass shooting (although even in U.S. mass shootings the guns were legally obtained five out of six times)ⁱ. It's harder to deny the impact such laws would have on the far more significant, if less headline-catching, problem of daily gun deaths that have become like background noise to us.

Now Jesus, as we all know, was a practitioner and a teacher of non-violence. He spoke against the agenda of those who sought to protect their people by taking up arms against Rome. The gospels do not record his performing a single act of violence against another. In fact, he told us to love our enemies and stopped his disciples from defending him in Gethsemane even, in one account, healing the slave whose ear a disciple had cut off (Luke 22:50-51). So it's hard to imagine that Jesus would condone a culture awash in guns—especially guns for something other than for hunting purposes. And it's not hard to imagine that Jesus would encourage us, as Christians, to do what we could to reduce the epidemic of gun carnage that infects our nation.

I am more aware than I used to be of the danger of baptizing a political agenda with the words and examples of Jesus. And if it seems that I'm doing so here, I hope you will at least hear me out. Because the evidence seems to me overwhelming. For example: states that have stricter gun laws in the U.S. have lower death ratesⁱⁱ. Also studies show that the urge to commit suicide, the leading kind of gun death, tends to be transitory. Weekend suicides among Israeli soldiers have dropped 60% since 2006, when the army instituted a policy of leaving guns at base when going home for the weekend...and weekday suicides have shown no corresponding uptickⁱⁱⁱ. As far as the self-defense argument goes, one study found that "for every time a gun in the home was used in a self-defense or legally justifiable shooting, there were four unintentional shootings, seven criminal assaults or homicides, and 11 attempted or completed suicides."^{iv}

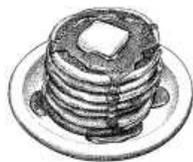
Friends, I am not suggesting that hunters be deprived of their weapons. But I am suggesting that we speak up as citizens, and as Christians, to demand basic, sensible gun control laws: background checks, waiting periods, closing the gun show loophole, limiting magazine clips and banning assault weapons. I am suggesting that we contact our elected representatives on behalf of the 30,000 people a year who fall to a bullet. For there is no doubt in my mind: it's what Jesus would do.

ⁱ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/14/nine-facts-about-guns-and-mass-shootings-in-the-united-states/>

ⁱⁱ *ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/12/14/mythbusting-israel-and-switzerland-are-not-gun-toting-utopias/>

^{iv} <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9715182>



**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**
February 12, 2013
Serving starts at 5:30pm

**Fresh, hot pancakes
with butter and syrup, sliced ham,
fruit cocktail, juice and coffee or tea.**

*There is no cost,
just a free will offering.*

Ash Wednesday

Holy Eucharist and the
Imposition of Ashes



February 13th at 7:00pm

The American Red Cross and I extend our sincere appreciation to you for hosting a blood drive. Coordinating a blood drive and knowing that you are responsible for saving so many lives makes your group a true asset in our community.

The preliminary results from Sunday, December 30, 2012 are as follows:

- 22 donors presented to give blood (25 was our projected goal)
- 18 pints of life-saving blood were collected
- There were 3 deferrals, 1 unproductive pint and 2 first time donors.
- And the most important number of all—the lives of 54 patients will be touched by this!

We are all grateful for the sacrifices you made in order for us to be there Sunday. Please pass along our thanks to everyone that was involved!

Best regards,

Beth Harris

Regional Donor Representative

American Red Cross

Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region

Special Gifts Offering Feb. 2013 The Hope Clinic

Our special gifts offering for February is The Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. Hope is an interdenominational Christian organization providing free medical and dental clinics for the uninsured. They have a large food bank and provide many other services for those in need. They also minister to the spiritual needs of those they serve. For all of us it is an opportunity to join with the many churches in our area that support this wonderful ministry.

Hope Clinic began in 1982 as a Saturday walk-in clinic run by Dr. Heffernan as an expression of his Christian faith. With great support from our area churches, medical community, Washtenaw United Way, and hundreds of volunteers, Hope now owns an enlarged building, and provides 9 half day clinics per week, and a dental clinic. They now serve God's beloved poor with 15 full time and 21 part time workers.

Many patients meet financial qualifications to receive free lab and radiology tests through St. Joseph Mercy Health System and many receive free services from Hope's network of nearly 100 volunteer specialists who accept referrals for free specialty care.

Over 200 doctors, physicians' assistants, nurses and pharmacists donate their time. They now conduct over 7,000 medical visits, over 4,300 dental visits and fill more than 16,000 prescriptions each year.

Hope depends on the continuing help of us all to serve ever increasing needs. Please write a check to Holy Faith as you are able and put HOPE on the memo line.

2013 Mission Café Let's Eat!!

The Cafe is off to a good start in 2013, with \$222 raised for our new mission - the Paper Pantry! The turnout was lower than some, due to bitter cold weather. But those who turned out were treated to some of the best fresh fruit seen this time of year, warm biscuits & gravy, special scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, wonderful waffles and most importantly - time together with our church family!

We hope to see you this month, when the Cafe will benefit the Parish Discretionary Fund! Mission Cafe is always the 3rd Sunday of the month, along with 3 on the 3rd for Saline Area Social Services. We cleverly dub this "Mission Sunday".

Thank you so much for your support of Mission Cafe in the past - we look forward to many great brunches together!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
Joan will be out of the office January 31 through February 5							
4 Epiphany 8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	AA Mtg 7pm	Liturgy Meeting 5:30pm	Joan back in office				
5 Epiphany Transfiguration 8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour Teen Group 7-8:30pm	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	AA Mtg 7pm	Pancake Supper 5:30-7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes 7:00pm				
1 Lent Mission Sunday 8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45am Lego Sunday School 11:00am Mission Cafe	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	AA Mtg 7pm	PLT 7pm					
2 Lent 8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour Teen Group 7-8:30pm	24	25	26	27	28		
	AA Mtg 7pm						

Dear friends,

We are considering discontinuing the newsletter and using other ways to get information out to our congregation and friends.

Even though there is a lot going on at Holy Faith, people don't think use the newsletter as a way to communicate their information. We have been wondering if other media (our Facebook or web page, emails, etc.) have overtaken the newsletter as a primary source of information, thus rendering the newsletter irrelevant.

We want to steward our resources to achieve the most effect communication possible and are no longer sure the newsletter falls into that category.

We welcome any feedback you have for us on this matter. Specifically, whether you use the newsletter or not and if so, what you rely on it for. Please send your comments to Joan in the office—by email, phone or leaving a note in her mailbox.

Pastor Ian

Win Big For Kids

Dinner and Raffle

Saturday, March 23

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

Benefitting Saline Area Social Services and the Saline Fiddlers amongst the many great programs in Saline aimed at helping kids. SASS will use their share of the proceeds to purchase school clothing for Saline area students and the Fiddlers will put their share toward their summer tour to Great Britain.

This is the 2nd annual event fundraiser organized by the Saline Kiwanis Club. The sale of raffle tickets generates a large portion of the proceeds. Each ticket is \$100, admits two people and entitles you to a special meal and a chance to win \$5,000 or many other prizes.

To purchase a ticket, or find out other ways you can help support this event, please see Susan Cummings (a2pinkaster@gmail.com or 734-429-5324)

I've been assured this will be a very fun evening!

Also benefitting: The 5th Corner, Saline Rotary Club, Saline Community Fair, Saline Police Cadets, Saline Lions Club, Saline Boy Scout Troop 457 and Saline Area Girl Scouts. They will all use their money to benefit programs aimed at helping kids.

SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	4 Epiphany February 3	5 Epiphany February 10	Ash Wednesday February 13	1 Lent February 17	2 Lent February 24
8:00 Reader	A. Witbart	Centlivre/Bulchalski	TBA	Leonards	A. Witbart
10:00 Asst. Min.	S. White	M. Barber		C. Schneider	J. Dodge
10:00 Reader	L. Kaufman	B. Arnold		T. Dersnah	M. White
10:00 Ushers	C&G Francis	J&R Wales		K. Cummings	S. Proud
10:00 Greeters	T. Dersnah/L. Reifert	M&S White		H&N Tinsey	J&L Darling
Altar Guild	J&N Savage	J&N Savage	J&N Savage	J&N Savage	J&N Savage
Coffee Hosts	Dodge Sigler	Francis Reifert		Mission Cafe Savage Harrison	Baisch/Marr Brown
Counters	White/Tinsey	Marr/Kaufman		Schneider/Wales	Marr/White

	3 Lent March 3	4 Lent March 10	5 Lent March 13	Palm Sunday March 17	Easter March 24
8:00 Reader	Centlivre/Bulchalski	Leonards	C. Johnson	Leonards	Centlivre/Bulchalski
10:00 Asst. Min.	T. Dersnah	M. White	K. Garvey	L. Reifert	A. Leonard
10:00 Reader	L. Reifert	N. Reed Twiss	C. Sigler	S&I Brown	M. Barber
10:00 Ushers	L. Kaufman	C&G Francis	K. Cummings	S. Proud	J&R Wales
10:00 Greeters	M&S White	J&L Darling	M&S White	H&N Tinsey	T. Dersnah L. Reifert
Altar Guild	Fatchett/Mclvor	Fatchett/Mclvor	Fatchett/Mclvor	Fatchett/Mclvor	Fatchett/Mclvor
Coffee Hosts	White Wales	Czyrka Goble/Kemeny	Mission Cafe Dodge Herrick-Zilka	Blevins Brodie	Steude Sigler
Counters	Kaufman/Tinsey	Wales	White/Tinsey	Marr/Kaufman	Schneider/Wales

PRAYER FLAGS AS A LENTEN PRACTICE

Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, and continuing throughout the season of Lent, there will be materials to create Prayer Flags available in the Parish Hall.

"Traditionally, prayer flags are used to promote peace, compassion, strength, and wisdom. The flags do not carry prayers to gods, a common misconception; rather, the Tibetans believe the prayers and mantras will be blown by the wind to spread the good will and compassion into all pervading space. Therefore, prayer flags are thought to bring benefit to all.

By hanging flags in high places, the wind will carry the blessings depicted on the flags to all beings. As wind passes over the surface of the flags which are sensitive to the slightest movement of the wind, the air is purified and sanctified by the prayers.

The prayers of a flag become a permanent part of the universe as the images fade from exposure to the elements. Just as life moves on and is replaced by new life, Tibetans renew their hopes for the world by continually mounting new flags alongside the old. This act symbolizes a welcoming of life's changes and an acknowledgment that all beings are part of a greater ongoing cycle. Because the symbols and mantras on prayer flags are sacred, they should be treated with respect."

We suggest that throughout Lent, you make as many prayer flags as you wish. The prayers can be for petitions, or as the Tibetans do, promoting peace, compassion and more. The mantras can be ones of gratitude and praise. As we finish prayer flags each Sunday, we will hang them in the parish hall to remain there throughout Lent. Then, before the Easter Vigil we will hang them outside on the grounds of Holy Faith, so the Wind of our Creator may blow them into the Universe. We will use washable markers, so the prayers on the flags will fade in the elements and become a permanent part of all creation. If your children would like to make prayer flags, please help them, and teach them the reason for the flags.

If you have solid colored broadcloth (cotton material) that you would like to donate, or have any questions, or need help, please feel free to ask one of the Prayer Committee Members: Roxane Chan, Paula Leonard, Suzanne Buchalski or Debbie Wollard.

To drop off donated material, please look for a laundry basket, marked "material donations for prayer flags" under the church bulletin board.

Thank you so much for your generous gift. I have met so many wonderful people and it is a pleasure to come to work each day. I can't believe that in a few months I will be celebrating my three year anniversary at Holy Faith. I truly appreciate your kindness and friendship.

Joan



Dear Fathers,

I want to thank you for your generosity in taking up a collection for me and the staff at Christmas again this year. I always feel so blessed by such a gesture of love. Nan and I are truly grateful!

Peace, Ian



To the wonderful congregation at Holy Faith, Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I did not find it in my mailbox until this past Sunday (which shows that I should probably check it more than I do currently...) but I was overwhelmed by the incredibly generous Christmas gift that I received.

Many of you will come by the piano after service to thank me for my music, and I always say thank YOU—you are the voices that make each hymn truly sing. Thank you for reminding me how truly fortunate I am to be able to share my music with my church family every Sunday, to have the freedom to improvise from my heart, and to play music I love for people who love to hear it. I look forward to this new year with all of you and hope that I can continue to make every service beautiful and special, with both yours and God's help.

With love,
Melissa



Dear Friends

Thanks so much for your very kind and generous Christmas gift. Being part of this church family and worship community is such a privilege to me. Receiving a gift on top of that privilege is like icing on the cake!

Peace and blessings for a healthy, happy 2013.
Deacon Don

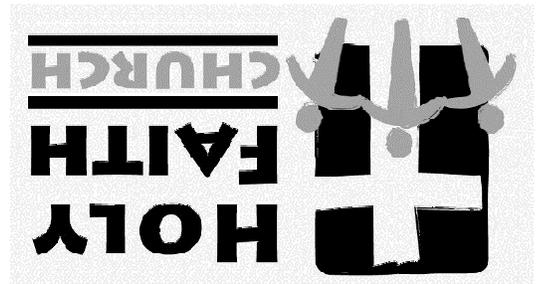
Altar Flowers are Given...

February 3 by Jane Darling
In honor of her mother's 93rd birthday



Sign up on the bulletin board to buy altar flowers. Two arrangements are \$30 and will remain on the altar for two weeks. The flowers are selected by the florist. If there are specific requests, please discuss your concerns with the florist, Maureen's Flowers at 429-8700.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Seek God Together.
Grow in Spirit and Love.
Reach Out to Our Neighbor and the World.

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