

# the Grape Vine



## A Little Lower

After receiving good marks on his first grade report card, my grandson asked me, "Grandpa, are you proud of me?" I responded, "You bet I am."

Pride can be a good thing, but it can also be a bad thing.

It's fine to be proud of our accomplishments and the accomplishments of those whom we care for, as long as the pride is coupled with a sense of humility.

The problem comes when an attitude of arrogance walks hand in hand with pride - an attitude that says, "I'm the man."

We need to teach our kids and grandkids, and maybe even ourselves, that pride should be accompanied by the reality of feeling blessed and humbled by the fact that we've been given a whole lot of talent in certain areas of life.

I know, it's easier said than done. But let's give it a try. The next time you congratulate a loved one, a friend, or even yourself, remind the person that in their pride they need to think of themselves as "a little lower than what we'd like to think."

With a slight change in our attitude, we can make pride a joyful and humbling experience - an experience to be proud of.

### Worship with Holy Communion

Saturdays.....6:00 pm

Sundays.....8:15 am

### Sunday School

Sundays.....9:30 am



### Our Core Values:

Family Worship

Relying on Prayer

Unity in Christ

Instruction in the Word

Telling Others

Service to God's Community



*"Growing Together for Christ"*

## Joyful Harvest Church

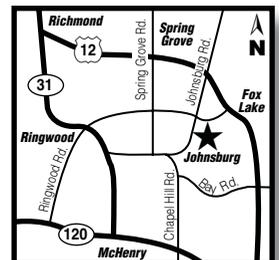
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Pastor Doug Liston - pastor@joyfulharvest.org



# Who's Who at Joyful Harvest



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## GrapeVine Articles:

To submit an article for April 2011  
email Cindy Kutz at  
classicprintery@mindspring.com  
or give to Rose Stevens  
by March 15th



For any newsletter submissions ...

Newsletter Chairpersons:

**Rose Stevens**.....847-363-1286

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or 847-546-6558

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Fax: 847-546-6558

or give to Rose or Cindy  
at church service.



Bulletins

To submit a bulletin announcement:

Email it to office@joyfulharvest.org  
by Wednesday each week.

## *Message from Pastor Doug*

As we prepare for the season of Lent, I thought it might be appropriate to think just a bit about Ash Wednesday and what the season of Lent is all about...

Lent is the season of the church year immediately prior to Easter, culminating in Holy Week. The season begins on Ash Wednesday (March 9 this year) and continues for forty days – Sundays are not counted in these forty days. Within the Catholic Tradition, individuals gave up something for Lent. This act of giving up something important was to serve to give us more time to concentrate upon Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus went into the desert for forty days for a time of contemplation, reflection, and preparation. Our observance of Lent is mainly about introspection – about looking inside of ourselves and taking stock of how we are living. This introspection begins with Ash Wednesday, and the receiving of ashes on our foreheads.

In biblical times, if someone was mourning, they marked their foreheads with ashes to indicate to the community their deep suffering and loss. Therefore, ashes were a sign of remorse, repentance, and mourning. (See examples in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6, and Jeremiah 6:26.) This custom was carried forward into the Christian churches by early Christians who, since they were in mourning for their sins and were repenting of them, found it appropriate for them to show their sincerity by having ashes on their foreheads. When we receive ashes, they are there as a symbol that we, too, are in mourning – for the sins and the grief that our sins cause us when reflecting on the life of Christ – our own period of contemplation, reflection and preparation for the new life in Christ that we are reminded of by Easter's empty tomb.

Next month, we'll talk a little about Holy week and the opportunities that await us in reflection and worship in the conclusion of Lent.

Blessings,  
Pastor Doug

# Message from Kurt Senske

## What I Have Learned

By Kurt Senske

**Ideas we can all take to heart in our quest to discover our own best ways of serving God.**



At one time or another we all, as human beings, struggle and wrestle with the question “What is God calling me to do?”

After more than a decade of intentional Biblical reflection, numerous conversations, the penning of several books, thousands of missteps and an occasional victory, I’d like to ask you to allow me to share what I have learned via my own journey.

What I have learned is that we must be intentional about placing our relationship with God at the center of our lives. When we take time to pray, study the Word, attend worship and partake of Jesus’ body and blood, we naturally become aware of ways in which we can humbly be of service to others.

What I have learned is that when our faith is strong, we become less so that we can become more. We humbly allow God to work through the daily routines of our lives to fulfill God’s plan for us. We find that we gain deep satisfaction knowing that this is how we are to serve in this particular moment – being the carpool mom, coaching our son’s baseball team, spending the night in the hospital caring for a friend, or building a well in Ethiopia.

What I have learned is that as we reduce our own egos and focus instead on the needs of the world, we will discover doors that magically open and chance meetings will occur. We become stronger than our wildest dreams.

What I have learned is that we begin each day forgiven and renewed to write a brand-new story – one of service marked by intensity and integrity, remembering that the only narrative that matters is how well we serve those whom we encounter.

What I have learned is to pay attention to times of suffering, hardship and disappointment. They are God-given opportunities to discover a new purpose in our lives, to, in the words of Martin Luther, “work out the salvation in our lives.”

What I have learned is that living a life of significance is not a destination, but rather an ongoing journey as we disown ourselves and follow Christ’s calling for us.

## Message from Kurt Senske *cont. from pg. 4*

What I have learned is that as Christians, we live with the confidence that death indeed has lost its sting. Grasping both the futility and eternal significance of our lives, we comprehend that it is how we live each day, not what we do, that truly matters.

Finally, what I have learned, have come to deeply respect and sometimes fear, is the immense power we receive when we become bold in our faith and actions. I believe in the power of members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – that individually and collectively, we have the God-given opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others via our community, congregation, family and profession.

**Note: The following article was reprinted with permission from the Winter 2011 issue of Thrivent magazine, a quarterly member publication of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.**

Dr. Kurt Senske serves as CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the South and as chairman of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Board of Directors. He is the author of *The Calling: Live a Life of Significance*. Learn more at [kurtsenske.com](http://kurtsenske.com).

## Message from Roberta Miller

### Pastor's Business Card

*A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.*

*Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door.*

*When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10'!*

*Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock,' Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.'*

*Remember when the funniest jokes were the clean ones?*

*They still are!*

**'A cheerful heart is good medicine' (Prov. 17:22)**

## *Message from Don Korus*

### **A Devotional Faith in Jesus Christ and Love for Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church**

What brought me to Christ? Was it my Uncle Nick, the priest, who performed my christening? Or was it the incredible privilege of having my first communion in the Vatican (Rome) also performed by my Uncle? How about the other worldly experience of seeing the original cast of Andrew Lloyd Weber's Jesus Christ Superstar live in London? My 1980 cross-country coach prayed with the Charles Marion Russel *Rustlers* cross-country team before every meet (including the state meet where we took second!) Some of my friends in high school who were Evangelical Christians showed me an example of the joy in Christ. And, my mother often took me to church as a teenager (something we shared together.) My Aunt Ruth sent me prayer cards in 1982 while I was in my third bout of intense medication treatment for severe depressive illness. In 1996, I moved to McHenry and immediately felt God had sent me here. Soon after moving, I told my family that I would meet a local girl here and marry her. I soon found myself falling madly in love with Cindy. With her help in 1991, I finally gained control of my life after fourteen years of hellish depression and mania! It was 1997 when my third cousin Sandy told me about a groovy little mission church in Johnsburg. We attended the first time that Sunday. We loved the people and the style of worship. We've attended JHLC now for thirteen years!

For me, being saved is a lifetime process. I can pinpoint these moments and many other reasons why "there is no turning back" from my faith. I don't believe any of those life experiences were random. My roles as a member of Joyful Harvest Church and as a member of council are also not random occurrences. This church has a vital role in God's world. While I serve on the council, I have the responsibility to do God's work! I am blessed in many ways. I see myself repaying blessings given me by using my God-given gifts to help build this church and to reach out to its members and the community! I am thankful for this privilege and proud to be a Lutheran and a follower of Jesus Christ!

Through the salvation of my Savior, Jesus Christ,  
Don Korus

# Valentine's Prom 2011

## THANK YOU!

WOW! The Valentine Prom was a big success! If you didn't make it, you really missed some fun. Here are some highlights:

We started out with the worship service, of course, and as always Pastor's message was inspiring. After that we then finished the final details for the Prom and people started to arrive. First we ate and talked, then ate some more. There was enough food to feed an army and boy was it good! Thank you to all who contributed; it really was delicious! We had a Tissue Race game, where couples took turns pulling a tissue out of a box with one hand until the box was empty. The winners of Tissue Race game were Cindy & Don Korus. We also had a "Guess the Number of Candy Hearts" in a huge jar of candy. Jeanette Betts won, (only missing the exact number by 4). Then, we were entertained by the Joyful Birdbath Players. They put on a few skits for us that were quite funny. We have quite a few talented actors in our membership! Thanks to all who stepped up the challenge and took the stage – you all rocked! FYI -You haven't lived until you've seen Gordy Ritter dressed as Cupid! Also, a special thank you goes to "George" for so quietly handling the signs for the skits. He doesn't say much but he looks good in a tuxedo!

If all this wasn't enough, Judy Sigwalt was taking prom pictures of each couple for them to take home. Thanks Judy!

Then we had the "Already Wed Game" with our host Larry "Eubanks" Konieczski and our 4 fabulous couples: Couple #1: Theresa & Eric Hoffman, Couple #2: April & Kevin Brennan, Couple #3: Judy & Bud Sigwalt and Couple #4: Pastor Doug and Sandy Liston. It was played just like the Newlywed Game and it was sooooo funny! All the couples had us laughing hysterically! You'll have to ask Kevin about April's favorite "song" and then ask Theresa about what color Eric would be. Everyone had great answers and there were lots of matches too! The winning couple was Couple #3 and they won dinner for two.

Last, but not least, we crowned our King & Queen of the Prom and that honor went to Cindy & Woofe Kutz. They were crowned and received a nice gift.

I apologize if I went on and on, but it was just such a good time.

Cindy and I would like to thank each and every person that helped make the Valentine Prom such a success, right down to taking down the last chair!! We could not have done it without you!!!!

God has blessed us with a wonderful & supportive church family and we are truly grateful!

What do you think - should we do it again next year?

***See prom pictures pages 12 & 14***

# March 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 8:00 am - Breakfast Club at Dino's in Fox Lake	<b>2</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Kiddy Keys 6:30pm - Council Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 am - Men's Group 6:00 pm - Worship <b>First Saturday Soup Sales</b> For each soup sale a \$1.00 donation is made to Joyful Harvest. Factory located at the corner of Bay and Chapel Hill Roads in Johnsbury. 9am-3pm
<b>6</b> 8:15 am - Worship 9:30 am - Congregational Coffee 5:00-7:00 pm - Confirmation Class	<b>7</b> 9:00 am - Weight Watchers 6:30 - 8:00 pm - Tiger Cub 455 Den Meeting	<b>8</b> 8:00 am - Breakfast Club at Dino's in Fox Lake	<b>9</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Kiddy Keys 7:00 pm - Lenten Service  <i>Ash Wednesday Lent Begins</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 am - Men's Group 6:00 pm - Worship
<b>13</b> 8:15 am - Worship 9:30 am - Sunday School  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	<b>14</b> 9:00 am - Weight Watchers 6:30 - 8:00 pm - Tiger Cub 455 Den Meeting	<b>15</b> 8:00 am - Breakfast Club at Dino's in Fox Lake	<b>16</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Kiddy Keys 6:30 pm - Council Meeting	<b>17</b>  <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i>	<b>18</b> 6:30 - 9:00 pm - Pack Meeting	<b>19</b> 7:00 am - Men's Group 6:00 pm - Worship  <i>CRE Workshops JABA Expo</i>
<b>20</b> <b>New Member Sunday</b> 8:15 am - Worship 9:30 am - Sunday School 5:00-7:00 pm - Confirmation Class  <i>Spring Begins</i>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am - Weight Watchers 6:30 - 8:00 pm - Tiger Cub 455 Den Meeting	<b>22</b> 8:00 am - Breakfast Club at Dino's in Fox Lake	<b>23</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Kiddy Keys	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 am - Men's Group 6:00 pm - Worship
<b>27</b> 8:15 am - Worship 9:30 am - Sunday School	<b>28</b> 9:00 am - Weight Watchers 6:30 - 8:00 pm - Tiger Cub 455 Den Meeting	<b>29</b> 8:00 am - Breakfast Club at Dino's in Fox Lake	<b>30</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Kiddy Keys	<b>31</b>		



# HAPPENINGS

*that were, that are and that will be!*



## **Turtle Island Soup Company:**



On the first Saturday of every month, Turtle Island Soup Company opens their factory from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to sell the delicious soups that they create. They are a powder mix (*all you do is add water to most of them*). Each box serves approximately 4 to 6. They sell for \$4.75 and a \$1.00 donation is made to Joyful Harvest out of this amount. The factory is located at the corner of Bay Road and Chapel Hill in Johnsburg. The soups make excellent anytime gifts. Stop by and taste their samples and purchase a few to help Joyful Harvest.



## **Johnsburg Area Business Association Expo:**

Help is needed to man the Joyful Harvest booth on March 19th. It's a wonderful opportunity to tell the community about the great things happening at Joyful Harvest. If you can help out, please see Robert Miller or Theresa Hoffman.



## **Food Pantry:**

March is our month to staff the Food Pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:30pm. To schedule times to help please contact Bill Rudzena at 815-347-4746. Please join our Helping Hands Food Pantry volunteers for the month of March. It's not just rewarding, but fun, too.



## **Ideas for Council:**

The Church Council is asking for several volunteers to help coordinate activities for our youth. As parents you would know what their interests would be. For instance, Volleyball for the older kids against the adults, sledding & hot chocolate for any age, game nights, etc. Please contact any of the Council members so we could assist you in any way.



## **Congregational Coffee:**

Meeting to be Sunday, March 6th at 9:30 am after Worship to discuss possible 10:45 am 2nd service on Sundays, getting people more involved in Sunday School, developing a Worship Team and more. Hope to see you there.



# HAPPENINGS



*that were, that are and that will be! - (cont.)*

## **New Member Sunday:**

On Sunday, March 20, Joyful Harvest will welcome new members to the congregation. If you have been considering becoming a member, please see Pastor Doug about this painless process!

Membership can be one of the first steps toward becoming a true disciple of Christ. It is often noticed that those who are members of a congregation seem to be more involved - they have a deep-seated desire to be part of what is happening in the church. They want to grow to be more faithful in their daily walk with Christ and to hear God's Spirit calling them to life.

Certainly, we at Joyful Harvest want to see our congregation grow. But more importantly, we want to see each individual grow as well. Growth is a sign of life. Growing trees are living trees, and growing animals are living animals. Growth involves increase and advance. In many areas of our experience, when something stops growing it dies.

If you see Joyful Harvest as a place where you can grow in your discipleship, please consider taking the next step - becoming a member. **See Pastor Doug soon!**



## **Worship Team WANTED:**

Looking for people to to work with choosing the music/readings/dramas, etc. for worship as well as help scheduling the monthly assistance of readers, greeters, communion servers, bread bringers, etc. Please contact Pastor Doug if your interested.



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry:**

If you crochet or knit and would be interested in being a part of a prayer shawl ministry, please give Rita Rudzena a call at 815-385-6379. You can work at home while making them . . . directions can be given . . . easy to knit or crochet. It would be great having prayer shawls on hand at Joyful Harvest to hand out to those in need such as surgery, etc.



## **Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE):**

Will be held on Saturday, March, 19, 2011 at Kishwaukee Valley College in Malta, Illinois. There are plenty of workshops for everyone with lots of different subjects. It's a great way to learn more about church and your faith. See Pastor Doug for more details.

# Celebrations

## March Celebrations –

### Birthdays:

2	Theresa Hoffman	20	Justin Romano
3	Rosanne Abbate	22	Melissa Luszcz
3	Ben Hagen	23	Glen Stevens
3	Jean Roth	24	Rose Stevens
8	Mark Kandray	24	Sandy Larkin
9	Joe Lusk	24	Tom Liston
10	Laura Hammond	25	Hazel Morley
10	Ericson Hoffman	27	Michelle McClanahan
10	Jacob McClanahan	29	Holly Smith
13	Sam Abbate	31	Maria Faulkner
19	Jason Larkin	31	Cole Stevens
20	Dave Rigby		



### Anniversaries:

3/15	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kutz
3/19	Mr. & Mrs. Kai Hansen
3/31	Mr. & Mrs. Marty Garstkiewicz

## Valentine's Prom 2011 (cont. from page 7)



# Education News

## Sunday School:

We are back in session and ready to explore more of the Bible with stories about Jesus and his disciples. We are considering a program at Easter involving the Sunday School, more details to come later. Mr. Glen has some great ideas for the artistic side of the program, so please encourage your children to come and join us.



We have had an offer of material to create some new costumes, such as for our sheep who have lost their fleece. If you would be interested in sewing or otherwise creating new costumes, please speak with Heidi Aavang on Sunday, by email at [heidi.aavang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heidi.aavang@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at (847) 497-4705. Also, if anyone would like to help with the Sunday School program or with Vacation Bible School, please contact Glen Stevens or Heidi Aavang.

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## Men's Group:



Men's group is continuing to meet on Saturday mornings at 7:00 am at the church. They are currently studying "Making The Most Of Your Christian Life". All men are invited to attend. Please join us for this wonderful Bible study and fellowship opportunity.

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## Confirmation Class:

Confirmation classes are continuing roughly every other Sunday from 5:00 - 7:00 pm - dinner is served. Next classes will be March 6th and 20th. **If interested, it's not too late to join.** Students in 7th and 8th grades are invited to attend and we welcome adults who are interested also. We are holding the class in conjunction with Nativity Lutheran in Wonder Lake, but meet at Joyful Harvest.

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## Adult Bible Study Class:

I would like to invite everyone to join us on Sunday mornings for Adult Bible Study from 9:30-10:30am after worship. We will be completing the study of Acts by the end of March, but there is still so much to learn. Please feel free to join us, as stated before there are no tests. We discuss verses and in turn we learn about each other as well. In April, we will begin working on our Spiritual Gift Inventory as a group, and I also have a few other topics that we will be discussing. If anyone has a bible study that they would be interested in learning more about, please let me know.



We look forward to seeing all of you.

Debbie Kelly

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# Valentine's Prom 2011 (cont. from page 7 & 12)

## JOYFUL BIRDBATH PLAYERS



## ALREADY WED GAME



## TISSUE GAME



# March Recipes



## Corned Beef, Potato and Cabbage Salad

### what you need

1/2 cup olive oil  
1/4 cup cider vinegar  
1/3 cup Grey Poupon Harvest Coarse Ground Mustard  
1 bag (16 oz.) coleslaw blend (cabbage slaw mix)  
2 lb. new potatoes, cooked, quartered  
1/2 lb. corned beef, chopped

### make it

**MIX** oil, vinegar and mustard in large bowl. Stir in coleslaw blend.

**ADD** remaining ingredients; toss to coat. Cover

**REFRIGERATE** at least 1 hour before serving.

### SERVE

#### SPECIAL EXTRA:

Add 2 Tbsp. KRAFT Thousand Island Dressing to mustard mixture before tossing with remaining ingredients.



## Corned Beef Brisket with Cabbage

### what you need

3 lb. corned beef brisket  
1/2 cup chopped onions  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 bay leaves  
1 cup maple-flavored or pancake syrup  
1/2 cup yellow mustard  
1 Tbsp. Kraft prepared horseradish  
1 head cabbage, cut into wedges

### make it

**PLACE** meat in large saucepan; top with onions, garlic and bay leaves. Add enough water to cover all ingredients; cover with lid. Bring to boil; simmer on medium-low heat 1 hour. Drain, reserving meat in pan. Remove and discard bay leaves.

**ADD** enough fresh water to saucepan to cover meat; cover with lid. Bring to boil; simmer on medium-low heat 2 to 3 hours or until meat is tender.

**HEAT** oven to 350°F. Remove meat from pan, reserving liquid in pan; place meat in shallow baking pan. Mix syrup, mustard and horseradish; spoon half over meat. Reserving remaining syrup mixture for brushing onto cooked meat.

**BAKE** 20 min., brushing frequently with remaining syrup mixture. Meanwhile, add cabbage to reserved liquid in saucepan; cook 8 to 10 min. or until tender.

**PLACE** meat on platter; drizzle with pan drippings. Serve with cabbage.

## How to Spot a Geezer

“Geezers” are easy to spot. This is slang for an old man.

During a sporting event during the playing of the National Anthem, they will hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment.

They remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Jet Age, the Moon Landing and Vietnam.

If you bump into a Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. Pass a Geezer on the street and he will nod, or tip his cap to a lady.

Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. They hold the door for the next person and always when walking, make sure the lady is on the inside for protection.

Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV and in movies.

Geezers have moral courage. Geezers seldom brag unless it is about their grandchildren in Little League or music recitals.

This country needs Geezers with their decent values and common sense. We need them now more than ever. It is the Geezers who know our great country is protected not by the so-called politicians or police, but by the young men and women in our military that are serving their country in foreign lands, just as they did, without a thought except to do a good job and the best you can and to return home to loved ones.

Each and everyone of us should thank God for Old Geezers!

~Author Unknown~