


MARCH 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS Continued

March 22	Support Group	9 am
March 23	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
March 24	Revelation Bible Study Worship Lunch & Fellowship	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:15 pm
March 28	 Sunday School Worship	9 am 9 & 10:30 am
March 29	Support Group	9 am
March 30	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
March 31	Revelation Bible Study	5:30 pm

Happy St. Patrick's Day



March Birthdays

Nancy Heiman	March 1
Scott Arndt	March 2
Tracey Mengert	March 2
Derek Stedjee	March 2
Tracey Burghduff	March 8
Aurora Burghduff	March 11
Jason Ridge	March 14
Gary Much	March 17
Suzanne Miller	March 20
Luna Phillips	March 20
Mary Ann Zilz	March 24
Jackson Krohn	March 27
Kaleb Peeters	March 27
Sam Rulseh	March 28
Joseph Enoch Jr.	March 30
Nate Bonikowske	March 31



Don't forget to

SPRING AHEAD!

**on Saturday,
March 13!**

St. Peter's Proverbs

March 2021

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

"Alive in the Spirit"

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A Message from Pastor Janice



Dear friends,
I want to bring to your attention an opportunity to stand for the truth with regard to a very dangerous piece of legislation called the Equality Act. The Biden administration has said they want to get it passed within their first 100 days.

Here is an email message received from Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse:

We Cannot Remain Silent!

The Equality Act is a dangerous threat to our nation.

I am writing to you about a very dangerous piece of legislation—the Equality Act. The Biden Administration has said they want to pass this within their first 100 days. I cannot say this more emphatically—for people, for businesses, and for ministries of faith, the Equality Act is a threat to life as we know it in our nation today. It's a real game-changer.

The Equality Act will:

Designate schools, churches, and healthcare organizations as "public accommodations." With this, schools, churches, and hospitals could be forced to accept the government's beliefs and mandates about sexual orientation and gender identity. That would be highly intrusive and incredibly far-reaching. It will threaten everyday speech where people can be fined or lose their jobs for using the wrong name or pronouns.

Legislate that we allow boys in girls' sports, boys in girls' locker rooms, men in women's shelters, and men in women's prisons. It will force teachers and students to publicly pretend that a biological male is a female. Schools will be encouraged or mandated to instruct first, second, and third graders that they can choose to be a boy or a girl, or neither, or both, making biological sex (and science) a relic of the past.

Use the force of law across all 50 states to strip Christian and other religious ministries of their right to hire people of shared faith to pursue a shared mission. Can you imagine a Christian organization being forced to hire people hostile to its deeply held beliefs who have no passion for its beliefs, teachings, and mission? That doesn't work.

PASTOR JANICE Continued on Page 3

MARCH 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1	Support Group	9 am
March 2	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
March 3	Revelation Bible Study Lenten Worship Lunch & Fellowship	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7: 15 pm
March 7	Sunday School Worship	9 am 9 & 10:30 am
March 8	Support Group	9 am
March 9	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
March 10	Revelation Bible Study Worship Lunch & Fellowship	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:15 pm
March 13		
March 14	Sunday School Worship	9 am 9 & 10:30 am
March 15	Support Group	9 am
March 16	Men's Group Quilters	8:30 am 9 am
March 17	Revelation Bible Study Worship Lunch & Fellowship	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:15 pm
March 20		
March 21	Sunday School Worship Worship with Baptisms Trustee Meeting VDC Council Meeting	9 am 9 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 1 pm

(continued on Page 8)

God has created all people. All people are trapped in sin—the fallen condition of this world. And God longs for all people to find their true identity in their relationship with Him.

Civil legislation should protect our rights to any non-criminal expression of our identity—even if it’s an identity contrary to who God created us to be. For example, immoral sexual behavior or claiming identity as homosexual or transgender should not be criminalized or used as a basis for employment discrimination. But neither should civil laws force churches and schools to bless, affirm and support people in their sinful condition. And that is the effect of The Equality Act. It is a threat to religious freedom and free speech.

As Christians we are not called to affirm a person’s right to stay stuck in their sinful condition; nor are we to condemn or exclude them from our fellowship. Instead, in whatever ways we can, we lovingly invite them into a life-transforming relationship with God in Christ. Such action involves clearly stating that their lives are in need of transformation, that they are not stuck in a condition that is less than God’s perfect desire for them. We need the civil freedom to declare that God loves them just the way they are, but isn’t content to leave them there. Legislation like The Equality Act may force us as Christians and as a church to say, in effect: ‘You’re fine as you are. We won’t invite to discover the better thing God has for you.’

I urge you to prayerfully consider all this and how you might respond.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Janice

(The website Govtrack.us will help you find your senators and representatives to contact them on this important issue before them.)



Strip health professionals of their rights of conscience. It will force doctors and medical professionals who long to do no harm to engage in gender transition treatments such as hormone-blocking, cross-sex hormones or surgery. It is obvious that a Catholic or faith-based hospital should not have to perform gender transition surgeries that go entirely against all they believe.

Be a tool used by the government to deny or threaten accreditation to religious colleges and universities if they do not satisfy the demands of the secular Left to apply sexual orientation and gender identity to dorms, sports, places of privacy and even teachings. The Act could be used as a weapon to threaten the availability of federal student loans and grants to students at certain disfavored religious school These are just a few examples. Friends, this is a pivotal time for our nation. This impact of this legislation is immense. We must not remain silent and accept what we know is wrong.

The House has already passed this legislation one time previously, so it will likely pass in the House again. But then it has to come to the Senate, and we need you to contact your U.S. Senators to vote NO. The progressive Left are zealous about this issue and will pull out all the stops to try to make it the law of the land.

People of faith need to PRAY. Churches need to recognize the significance of this and pray corporately, asking for God’s intervention and mercy to extend the religious freedoms we have been blessed with for so long.

In these fleeting hours before the Equality Act comes up for a vote again, we must act now! Please contact your congress member and U.S. senators and ask them to vote NO. I also encourage you to let the White House know about your strong opposition to this bill.

Sincerely, Franklin Graham

A Biblical and Christian perspective on this kind of legislation and these kinds of issues:

We are called by God to love ALL people **and** to stand for the truth. Loving someone does not mean accepting, blessing or affirming their sinful condition (a condition we ALL share—though it’s expressed in different ways in each person’s life).

A Message from Pastor Kay

Are you showing your kids how important time with God is?

Am I the only one, or does keeping a daily quiet time sometimes feel like a fight for you too?

Distractions bombard us from every direction: new text messages beg to be read, Instagram notifications ding from our phones, and let's not even mention the endless TV show episodes on Netflix that we'll never get around to finishing.

However, spending time with God is vital for our growth as a Christian. I can't afford to sacrifice this time because His Word is a "lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (see Psalm 119:105) and His Word is my daily nourishment (see Matthew 4:4). I also want to store up treasures in heaven, as mentioned in Matthew 6:20.

So, since this time is far too important for us to skip, what habits can we implement that will allow us to cut away distractions and make the most of our quiet time?

1. Schedule time when you're most fully present, alert, and engaged. Are you a morning person or a night owl? Often, when I find myself dozing off during my prayers it's because I've waited until my brain has decided to retire for the day. Think about it: How terrible would it be if your friend always fell asleep every time the two of you had a conversation at a coffee shop! It wouldn't make you feel like he/she valued your friendship much, would it? God deserves more than the scraps and leftovers of our energy. Matthew 6:33 (NLT) says to "seek the Kingdom of God above all else". This involves finding that time of day when we are the most alert, when distractions are lessened, and when we can seek Him fully (without snoozing during our prayers!).

2. Keep a prayer journal - This is a habit of mine that I began a few years ago. The act of writing out my prayers keeps my attention fully engaged. Plus, it's faith-building to look back through these prayers and see how God has answered these prayers (and to see how I've grown spiritually over the years!).

3. Have a plan (and stick with it). The same applies to any goal that we set out to achieve: ambitions require action, and action requires a plan. When we have a plan in place, we will be less likely to hit the snooze alarm and miss out on this morning time



with God. This plan can involve reading through a Bible study in a certain amount of days, writing in a prayer journal, and reading a devotion. Whatever plan you create, choose one that will allow you to dive deep into God's Word, share your heart with Him, and intercede on behalf of others.

4. Dedicate a specific space to your quiet time. Matthew 6:6 (NLT) says, "But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." If we're striving to cut out distractions and prioritize our quiet time, it's helpful to not only dedicate a specific time of day toward growing this relationship but also a specific space. This place should make it easy for us to, as this Scripture says, "pray to your Father in private." What does this space look like? Some Christians have chosen an empty closet as their place to meet with God, while others prefer to meet with Him on the porch during sunrise. I am not joking when I tell you my granddaughter goes under the kitchen table to pray. The place isn't as important as its purpose.


Is there a comfortable spot in your house that allows you to shut out the world, and will you be able to have an "appointment with God" every day in that place?

Then, once you have chosen this time and space, you'll be surprised at how easy it becomes for you to stick with this habit and grow in your relationship with Christ! When you actively grow your relationship with Christ, you are setting the example for the rest of your family.

Go see God!

Blessings, Pastor Kay

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Thrivent members you may have Choice Dollars to direct. Call 1-800-thrivent and say "Choice Dollars". You can direct to St. Peter's or another charity on their list or you can go to www.thrivent.com, click on "My Thrivent" tab and "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars". For more information contact Lola Zaug, St. Peter's congregational advocate. Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2021. Thrivent Choice Dollars directed to St. Peter's for the general fund were \$2,963. A total of \$37,953 has been contributed to St. Peter's since 2010.