

# Strivings

## COMINS COMMUNITY CHURCH

MARCH - APRIL 2024

### *Sunday Morning Samplings*

Pastor Kevin and Joan were called to Comins Mennonite Church in August of 2006 and began their ministry here in October of that year. His first sermons here were from the book of 1 Peter. After a character study of the Old Testament saint, Joshua, he plans to return to Peter's letter to the Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor for our March studies. In this letter we will be encouraged to remain holy in a world that is far from holy and may learn some tools to use when persecution comes our way.

Resurrection Sunday is early this year ~ March 31. We will direct our thoughts to Jesus' power and victory in His resurrection. Consider inviting others to come with you for our 7:00 Sunrise Service or 9:30 Worship Service. Easter tends to be a Sunday when non-church people will visit a church.

In April Pastor Kevin will begin a study from the book of Luke. gotQuestions.com offers these words of application concerning this gospel:

*The Gospel of Luke gives us a beautiful portrait of our compassionate Savior. Jesus was not "turned off" by the poor and the needy; in fact, they were a primary focus of His ministry. Israel at the time of Jesus was a very class-conscious society. The weak and downtrodden were literally powerless to improve their lot in life and were especially open to the message that "the kingdom of God is near you" (Luke 10:9). This is a message we must carry to those around us who desperately need to hear it. Even in comparatively wealthy countries—perhaps especially so—the spiritual need is dire. Christians must follow the example of Jesus and bring the good news of salvation to the spiritually poor and needy. The kingdom of God is near, and the time grows shorter every day.*

Remember, if you miss a Sunday, you can usually find a recording at [www.cominscc.weebly.com](http://www.cominscc.weebly.com). Try not to miss a Sunday ~ it's the day God has given us to stir up love and good works in each other's lives.

### *Annual Conference Invitation*

Pastor Kevin and Joan will be attending this year's Annual Conference of the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches Wednesday to Friday, July 24-26, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This year's theme is **A New People – Grace Changes Everything.**

Grace really does change everything. This year, we hope to catch a glimpse of the incredible journey that Jesus is orchestrating for His people—a vision of the one new people He is shaping us to become. We seek to explore the profound grace essential for this metamorphosis, emphasizing not only the grace that must be received and extended externally but also internally within our churches and existing fellowship.

If you would like to attend this conference, talk to Pastor Kevin so he can get you registered. It always proves to be an uplifting, worship-filled time with our denominational churches. Comins Community covers the cost for up to six members from our church.

### *Communion*

We will worship at the Lord's Table on April 21 during our morning service. Consider reading Luke 9:10-36 before this service. Only the Son of God was able to pay the huge price for our sins. Prepare your hearts and attend this day to worship your Savior and Lord at His table!



### *New Committee as We Look to the Future*

Pastor Kevin celebrates his 63rd birthday this year, meaning his retirement may be 3-4 years down the road. The Church Board desires a smooth pastoral transition at that time which means we should start planning now. They have appointed a Pastoral Expectations Committee to draw up a job description and the qualifications needed for our next pastor. Those serving on this committee are Janette Sarkozi, Mike Salisbury, Ollie Hall, Yvonne Mead, and Joss Esch.

## Women in Mission

Our Women in Mission invite all ladies to join them as they strive to complete beautiful quilts and comforters for this year's relief sale. They also take on other projects and have large supply of donated fabric for other ideas. They meet monthly on the second Thursday, 9:30 – 3 P.M. They share a carry-in lunch and enjoy a fun day of quilting, tying, and conversation. They would love to welcome some new faces ~ all ages are welcome. Talk to Joan Salsbury, Nancy Bugg, or Linda Dice if you have questions

## Missionary Collections

Our missionary focus in March is Lydia's Gate, our country's homeless shelter. We will be collecting paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins) and shelf stable food items for their kitchen. Please do not donate past date or damaged items. This mission is also in need of board leadership. If you are interested in serving a local ministry, talk to Pastor Kevin.

In April we will collect food for the Community Food Pantry at TriPoint Church of God. They serve 30-40 neighbors each time they are open and strive to be relational in their service. If you would like to be more involved in this ministry, talk to Pastor Kevin.

## Library Time

Janice (Pudge) Handrich will have the church library open every Thursday morning, 10:00 A.M. – noon. Grab some quality books or puzzles from our library and watch our long winter days become a little shorter. We offer fiction and non-fiction books, a large VCR/DVD selection, and many jigsaw puzzles for you to borrow.

## J.O.Y. Time Activities

Everyone is invited no matter your real age, but we gear our activities to those who are enjoying retirement years at J.O.Y. Time. Pastor Kevin prepares the entrée for the meal, and you are invited to bring something to complete our lunch. Here are the meal plans for March and April:

March 13	Dominoes & Baked Spaghetti
March 27	Dominoes & Taco Pie
April 17	Dominoes & Beef and Noodles

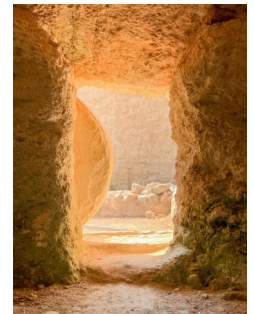
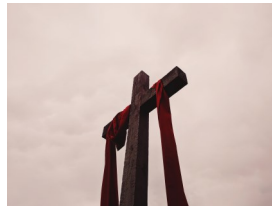
Watch your bulletin for more information about these fun mornings and possible other events.

## Holiday Schedule

March 29 (Pending) Cross Walk in Mio on the Courthouse Lawn

March 31

- 7:00 A.M. Sunrise Service
- 8:00 A.M. Carry-in Breakfast
- 9:30 A.M. Resurrection Day Worship



## Game Nights

Get to know your church family better by spending an evening of friendly competition playing table games at the church. Bring your favorite game, a snack to share, even a friend or two, and arrive by 6:30 P.M. on the last Friday evening of each month. Many good laughs fill the evening.

## Clothing Closet ~

### Tell Your Friends and Neighbors!

Clothing donations continue to come in each week. If you have clean, quality clothes you no longer need or wear, consider donating them to this ministry. The Clothing Closet is open the second and fourth Fridays from 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Sign up at the Information Center to help over the next few months.

We are still needing an individual or two that will oversee this ministry. Talk to Pastor Kevin to take hold of the reins.

## Blood Drives

Several blood donation drives are scheduled for Oscoda and Montmorency Counties. Versiti Blood Centers of Michigan run these collections. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 866-642-5663 or visit [versiti.org/MI](http://versiti.org/MI). Here are the dates and locations to consider:

March 25	2:00-7:00 P.M. Kittle Hall
March 27	2:00-7:00 P.M. Kittle Hall
April 4	11:00-4:00 P.M. St. Francis Catholic Church - Lewiston
April 24	Noon-5:15 P.M. Mio High School

## Daily Devotions in Our Quiet Time Devotionals

Our readings in March and April will take us through 1 Peter, Jonah, Haggai, and into the Gospel of Luke. 1 Peter was written to Christians suffering persecution – just might help us prepare for the days ahead. Jonah will encourage us to have compassion on the most wicked and to obey God in all situations. In Haggai we might find a hidden secret in his prophetic writing. Luke will become Pastor Kevin's sermon text for several weeks in the spring.

The spiral-bound diaries are still available for a suggested donation of \$20 for those able to share in the cost. Mid-week Bible study is designed around both the devotional reading of each week as well as Pastor Kevin's weekly sermons.

Be encouraged and have your reading reinforced by attending our midweek Bible study at the AuSable Valley Apartments, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome and we will keep the popcorn bowl full.



### **The Better Word**

(written upon reading Hebrews 7.xxiv)

A bereaved lamb bleats black condemnation.

The crimson carnage brands the clay

of Cain's field crying,

“Avenge... Avenge!”

A fleeing disciple weeps in self-condemnation.

The seeping flux stains the tree

on the hill breathing,

“Forgive... forgive...”

by M. A. Salsbury

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### **Women's Bible Study**

Several of our women have enjoyed this winter's study, *So Long, Normal: Living and Loving the Free Fall of Faith*, by Laura Story. Keep your radar up for the next study. Dates and time are still to be determined.

### **Ladies' Café**

All women and girls are invited to the Ladies' Café, a monthly carry-in breakfast at Comins Community. The fellowship is sweet as well as the muffins and danish. The gals meet on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 A.M. What better way to build friendships?



### **Iron Men's Breakfast –**

#### **Check Your Calendars**

All men and boys are invited to a monthly Saturday breakfast at the church, but the cook's schedule is playing havoc with the dates. In March we will meet on the fourth Saturday and in April we will meet on the second Saturday (in the Mission House lower level). The breakfast buffet comes out of the oven at 7:30 A.M. Come hungry!



### **Deadline for May/June Newsletter**

Articles, calendar dates, and other submissions for the next newsletter are needed in the church office by Tuesday, April 16. Please consider enhancing our newsletter with tasty recipes, creative writings, and book reviews.

Don't forget to turn you clocks back March 9th before you go to bed so that you are on time for church.

### **Sovereignty**

God claps Earth in deaf'ning hands.

Jagged knives dance 'cross her breast.

Tears of love then cleanse her wounds;

She is bleeding...

flowers.

by M. A. Salsbury

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