

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



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February 2020

Church Council

Church Council meets Sunday, February 2nd, following service. Installation of Officers will be February 2nd during service.

Ladies' Guild

Ladies' Guild will meet Thursday, February 6th, at 7:00 PM. Please join us.

Save containers for leftovers

Have you ever seen a Lutheran potluck that didn't have enough food? I didn't think so! Every time we bring food to share there is food left. We always want others to take some home to enjoy also. We don't have a lot of good containers to send food home in that doesn't have to be returned to church. Please wash out and save any containers like cottage cheese, dips, and large yogurt containers, anything that will close tightly and is disposable and bring them in. We don't need enough to clutter the kitchen, but it would be nice to have some on hand.

Church Officers

A voters' meeting was held on January 19th. The approval of the 2020 budget and election of officers was on the agenda. The following church officers for the year 2020 were unanimously voted in: President, Watson Clark; Head Trustee, Roger Sholl; Financial Secretary, Betty Ruple; Head Elder, Watson Clark; Treasurer, JoAnn Clark; Council Secretary, Tracie Popejoy; and Evangelism, Linda Ruggles.

In other words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from The Message Bible reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 26th. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a six-week, 40-day season during which we remember the price that we owed and that Jesus paid for our sin and the mercy of God. We will observe Ash Wednesday with a worship service on February 26th at 7:00 PM.

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"A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside"—Denis Waitley



The Family of Donna Klinger
Gloria Spencer—healing of broken arm
Evelyn—strength
John Boehk—healing
D.J. Padden—great surgery outcome
Carolyn Myer—broken nose, migraines,
fibromyalgia
Mary Boehk—healing from surgery
Julie Rupley—heart problems
Scott Jackson—congestive heart failure
Helen Meyer—healing of wound on foot
George Bridge—continuing recovery of
cancer
Dr. Leland Wolf—heart attack
Anthony Turowski—congestive heart
failure

Dawn Nichols—flesh eating bacteria on her
arm
Juanita Kunkle—dementia & physical
problems
Grayson Rupley—sensory disorder
Margaret Runnells—broken leg
complications and cancer
Allison Stickel—health & anxiety issues
Jim—dementia
Diane Jackson—blood clots
Pat Waldfogel—broken wrist and knee
problems
The safety of the unborn
Our Saviour Lutheran
Missionaries

Loved and known

“Jesus knows me, this I love,” read the church sign. That twist on the classic children’s song emphasizes the importance of being both loved and known. “It’s not one or the other; it’s hard truth and ridiculous grace,” sings contemporary Christian artist Tauren Wells in “Known.”

Timothy Keller, in *The Meaning of Marriage*, describes the duality this way: “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.”

Three in One

Everyday objects can serve as simple lessons about biblical truth. To illustrate the profound concept of the Trinity, for example, some teachers use an apple, an egg or a three-leaf clover. During winter, you can point to a kid-friendly snowman to describe how God is Three in One. The ball of snow on the base represents God the Father, our Creator and strong foundation. The middle ball, with stick arms reaching to the side, reminds us of Jesus, who died on the cross. And the snowman’s head stands for the Holy Spirit, our ever-present Counselor who helps us and speaks God’s truth to us.



February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. *“The Lord says: ‘These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me’ ”* (Isaiah 29:13).

A young girl was dying. Her only hope lay in a complete blood transfusion, but she had a very rare blood type. Only her brother, even younger than she, had the same type blood. His parents and doctors explained the situation to him, giving him time to ask questions. He agreed and, without delay, he was laid on a bed, the needle was pushed into his tiny vein, and slowly his blood seeped from his small body into the bag hanging from his bed. He lay quietly as the nurse stood next to him, ready to attend to any need he might have. “How do you feel?” she asked. “Ok,” he answered, “but, Nurse, when do I die?”

What love this little boy had for his sister! What must he have thought when his own parents seemingly agreed, even asked him to sacrifice his life to save his sister’s?

The boy’s love for his sister can help us see how much Jesus loves us. Jesus suffered abuse, torture, persecution, and death for all of us. *“Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends”* (John 15:13). He demonstrated His tremendous love not because of our worthiness, but because He is a God of tremendous love. Jesus’ love for His heavenly Father and for us changed the world. Through His death and resurrection from that death, we through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. God’s love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him. *“We love because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19).

The love of Jesus empowers us to be His stewards. Because of Jesus’ love, we change from people giving to a need to people responding out of love. Certainly, we give to needs such as our church budget, Christian causes, and people, but our primary reason for giving is out of love and commitment to Jesus. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. However, our primary reason for giving is a desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for our Lord and the love that He shows us every day. Because our love for Jesus is our motivation for giving, our giving becomes joyful. Love changes our giving from an obligation to a privilege.

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”* (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to . . .

- *“Give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart”* (Deuteronomy 15:10).
- *“Carefully observe [His decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul”* (Deuteronomy 26:16).
- *“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality”* (Romans 12:13).
“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

God, through Ezekiel, promised, *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws”* (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father’s decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us.

LWML Ladies' Meeting

January 9, 2020

Attending: Dody F., Linda R., Diane S., Janice B.

Devotions: Dody

Linda opened meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ending balance as of 1/9 is \$1,359.75. A motion by Janice to accept the report as given by Dody, second by Diane, motion carried.

No new business from the Secretary's Report. Our Christmas Party was held at Sauder's in December.

New Business: Discussion for Soup Suppers – Ladies decided not to have them this year for Lent.

Old Business: None

Altar Duty: Feb.- Janice B.

March – Janice and Diane

Hostess: Feb.- Janice

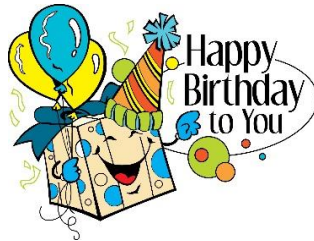
March – Diane

April – Linda

Devotions: Feb.- Linda

March – Doty

Motion to adjourn by Dody, Diane second, adjourned.



- 1 Sydney Shaffer
- 4 Dixon Root
- 9 Theron Hines
- 10 Zachary Rieger
- 13 Cole Styron
- 17 Mollie Houser

- 23 Steve Rieger
- Roger Sholl
- 26 Helen Meyer
- 27 Reagan Wonderly
- 29 Emmalyn Rupley



- 14 David & Tracy Padden
- 27 John & Mary Boehk



GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS TO ALL

Have a heart

Valentines of every size and description adorn store windows and other places of business this time of year. The holiday has become a time for love to be enthroned as a virtue, with the heart symbolizing the romance of our lives.

But the heart symbolizes not only love, but life itself! Without a heart, our bodies cannot survive.

Consider God's words to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NRSV).

The heart — that inner countenance — shows what we really are. Samuel was to seek one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. David, even though he was the weakest physical specimen, was the one selected. His heart was great.

Love looks deeper than outward appearances, and we can thank God for that. Don't be swayed by mere valentines — have a heart!



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The Purification Of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Kingdom Kids 10:15 AM Worship Service Installation of Officers Church Council meets						8 MOPS 10:00AM - Noon
9 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Kingdom Kids 10:15 AM Holy Communion Coins for Compassion						15
16 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Kingdom Kids 10:15 AM Worship Service Newsletter deadline						22 MOPS 10:00AM - Noon
23 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Kingdom Kids 10:15 AM Holy Communion Special One Offering						29