

The

VOICE!

FAMILY ART NIGHT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
6:00PM



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

12:15PM - Afternoon Service

6:30PM - Evening Service



LENT SUPPER SERVICES

EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING LENT - 6:00PM

February 21st

February 28th

March 7th

March 14th

March 21st



February 2018

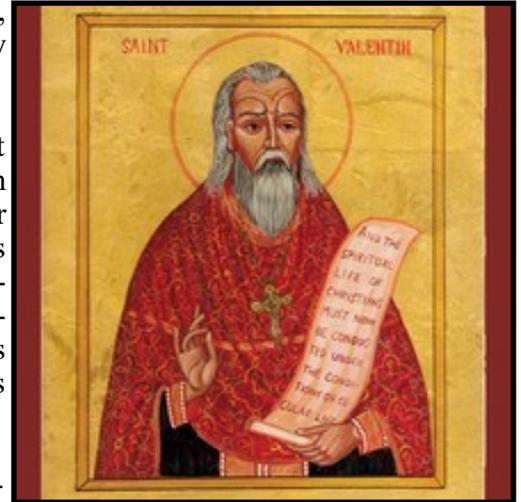
FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE: Being Valentine

I subscribe to something called Mikey's Funnies. Each day I'm sent a "funny," some are truly amusing, some profound and some somehow sad. Last year at this time, Mike sent out something from Dr. Michael Halleen on "Being Valentine." Let me share:

"When I found the one my heart loves, I held on and would not let go..." (Song of Songs 3:4)

Another Valentine's ... No doubt the usual enormous quantity of cards, flowers and candy (will be) bought and exchanged. It is said that only Christmas exceeds Valentine's Day in the number of holiday cards sent.

The true identity of Saint Valentine is not known. One legend holds that he was a kindly priest of the third century who continued to perform marriages despite an imperial ban. It seems that the Roman Emperor Claudius was upset at the number of men who refused to serve in his army because of their desire to stay home with their wives, so he outlawed marriage. And Fr. Valentine was beheaded for his trouble. Another tale tells of a medieval monk named Valentine who carried messages back and forth between men in prison and their loved ones. Many stories attach to this holiday, but the fact is we don't know about St. Valentine.



But we know about love. We know how wonderful it is— and sometimes how disappointing. We know how naturally it comes to us — and how difficult it can often be. We know much we want it — and what risks it may carry. I asked a friend who had spent his career as a general surgeon what the most difficult kind of surgery had been for him. "Fixing hearts," he said, "because I know the cost of failure." He could as well have been describing love.

There is risk in giving love and risk in receiving it. Often the kids in orphanages where I've shared in ministry stand back when we arrive. They have had their hearts broken before, being abandoned by those they loved, and they don't know if they want to go there again. One can hear the fear in their voices when they ask if we're coming back to see them again, can feel it in the tightness of that last hug as we board our bus to leave. Yet love we must. It's a risk we have to take for life to be healthy and full. The title alone of psychologist Smiley Blanton's book gives the whole picture: "Love or Perish."

So love. Love God with all your heart. Take the chance on what that might mean for you. Love your neighbor — and your spouse and your parents and your kids — in the same measure as you do yourself. Valentine's Day (will pass), but today is still a time, as Solomon said, to hold them and not let them go.

Good advice for this month, (and for every month), especially this year, with Ash Wednesday being February 14th. God loves us with an incredible love and his name is Jesus. On February 14th we begin our walk with Christ to the cross, pausing often to say 'Thank you, Jesus.' So, celebrate Love. Love God and those around you. Put your faith, your love into action. Share the gift and the blessings will flow.

It's a God thing. Pastor Karen

PS. Here's one of the amusing "funnies": I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. "Yes", he said, "I bought her a belt and a bag." "That was very nice of you", I replied, "I hope she appreciated the thought." He said, "So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

Just have to smile.... *Pastor Karen*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thank you to all who helped with the many activities for Advent and Christmas. The music was uplifting and the decorations were special. The meals for Advent and Christmas day were a special time to greet each other and have good food.

As I read the calendar, it is filled with activities. There were 66 scheduled events in January; combine that with all the meetings and I say we have a very active membership.

What else would you like to see going on at United?

Are there needs we are not filling?

Did you know that we have free popcorn at the monthly movie night?

If you have ideas, concerns or opportunities you would like to share please let the Council know. Maybe you visited a church that was doing something neat that would work for United.

May God bless you in the coming weeks,

Dorothy Klitzke



Church Activities



Women of United



Morning Circles

Feb 7- 9:15 a.m.

Deborah Katy Sojka

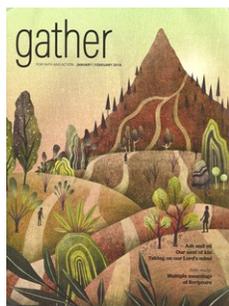
Feb 7 - 9:30 a.m.

Mary Sandy O'Neil

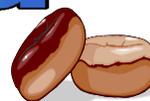
Naomi At Duffers

Rachel Marilyn Brown
(At Church)

Sarah..... (At Church)



Feb 11



Naomi Circle

Feb 5 9:30 a.m. Sit and Chat

Feb 21 9:00 a.m. Visiting Phoebe

Feb 28 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Leaders

No board or General Meeting in February

Altar Guild will meet again in March

Afternoon Circles

Feb 6- 1:00 p.m.

Hannah..... Louise Wobig

Feb 14 - 1:00 p.m.

Martha..... Marge Taylor (At Church)

Evening Circle

Feb 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Priscilla Marilyn Cornwell (At Church)

Piecemakers - 9:00 a.m. Luther Hall

The Piecemakers meet every Thursday morning to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and for local needs. Everyone is invited to join them at 9:00 a.m. in Luther Hall. There are lots of tasks for people who don't sew. If you'd like to be part of a wonderful fellowship, join us any time.

Looking

Ahead....



- ▶ There will be no General Meeting of the Women of United in February. Our March meeting will feature our own Betty Wehner and Lorraine Janzen who promise to help us develop a "Green Thumb."
- ▶ Next month we will distribute the envelopes for our Bakeless Bake Sale.
- ▶ Don't forget your Best Choice Labels. They earn cash for us!

Mark your calendar for the Spring Gathering!



The Gathering will be April 14 here at United from 9 am to 3 pm.

The theme is "On the Wings of a Dove." Susan Humphrey has prepared a wonderful Bible study for our Gathering, and we look forward to a day of fellowship and learning. The Gathering is always special because it is a time for us to renew friendships with women in Clusters 6 and 7. We'll be asking for help with food for breakfast and lunch as well as help with the program. If you have never been to a Spring Gathering for the Women of the ELCA, we invite you to join us on April 14. Watch for more information on the Women's Bulletin Board!

And while you're looking at your calendar, mark the dates for the Fall Convention in Yukon, OK, on September 28, 29 and 30.



At our December meeting we honored our sisters who died in the past year: Sharon Myran, Retta Stolpe, Janice Hutcherson, Janeen Anderson, Mavis Hvidsten, Joy Rendon, Lillian Sanford, Frances Crivello, Marjorie Salomo, Barbara Thorson, Phyllis Bergstrom. We celebrate their lives and all they meant to us and to United Lutheran while we mourn their passing.



We always need items for the SHOEBOX ministry. These items are given to people who are in need of emergency shelter. Some of the items we use are travel or small size shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, combs and disposable razors. We also need shoeboxes. You can find a complete list of the items we need in the SHOE BOX tub in the narthex. Our thanks to Katy Sojka for delivering the items you so generously donate.

Sit and Chat

Women of United ~

Take a minute to *Sit & Chat* with friends on
Monday, February 5th @ 9:30am

We will discuss the following excerpt from
The Gather Magazine (Jan/Feb 2018 Edition).





BLESSED LORD GOD, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (Source: "A prayer for grace to receive the word," *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 72)

I was a seminary student when I overheard a woman in the registrar's office asking for information.

"I think my son should be a pastor," she said, "and I want to know just what a seminary education is all about."

A staffer gave her a quick summary—three years of class work and a year of internship—and a school catalog.

"What kind of classes?" the mother asked.

"Church history, theology, pastoral care, and of course, Bible."

"Oh, he won't need to take the Bible classes," she interrupted. "He has read it from beginning to end multiple times." She took the catalog and left, and I silently chuckled at the idea that classes in Bible could be optional at any seminary, let alone a Lutheran one.

The more I thought about that long-ago conversation, the more I recognized two other responses. I must admit I was impressed with anyone who read the Bible from beginning to end several times.

(Whenever I had tried that kind of structured Bible reading, I'd tended to bog down somewhere in Leviticus.) But I also found myself saddened that anyone might think the best or only way to read the Bible is by yourself.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm all for personal Bible reading; times of private devotion, study and reflection establish a spiritual discipline that bears much fruit. But I knew even then that reading the Bible (no matter how often) on one's own was never going to be enough. My most vivid memories of Bible reading are of family devotions (I can still picture the illustrations in our family picture Bible), Sunday School classes, late night dorm room discussions, circle meetings, text study groups and yes, seminary classes.

I have learned that, no matter how mindfully I approach times of individual Bible study, there are all too many times when my mind wanders and the words lie flat on the page—anything but nourishing. I am most fed when I "hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" Scripture in community.

David J. Lose, in *Making Sense of Scripture* (Augsburg Fortress 2009), reminds us that the Bible "was written by lots of different people, usually with a community in mind. It's been collected, handed down, and interpreted by communities, and it tells a communal story, the story of what it means to be part of the family of God. When you read it with others you come closer ... to realizing its intention—

to build a community of faith around its confession of the God who is out to be in relationship with a community, the community we call 'humanity'" (p. 113).

Of course, group Bible study can have its own challenges. Just as the Bible was written by different people, a study group is made up of different people with different backgrounds, interests, challenges, opinions, experiences. Even if the group seems pretty homogenous on the surface, greater or lesser differences are bound to surface. As we discuss in this issue's Bible study (see p. 20), how do we respect other interpretations and learn from the perspectives of others, even if these conflict with our own? Do we have to come to agreement, or can we live with a multiplicity of views? What do we do with the person who seems to want to dominate the discussion? Or the person who never says a word? How do we honor confidences while being supportive?

Some of you reading this article may have long experience in group Bible study—it's one of the great gifts of Lutheran women's organizations. Others may be coming to group study for the first time. I hope the following suggestions can be helpful, no matter what your experience.

music: NEWS

2018 is off to a good start!

- Blue Grass Gospel Band is assembling again for regular weekly Tuesday night rehearsals at 6:30 PM.
- Chancel Bells are rehearsing each Thursday afternoon at 3:15 and will play the prelude for our 9:30 worship service on Sunday, February 11th.
- Since Lent begins Wednesday, February 14th, the February 11th worship service will be the last Sunday our liturgy and hymns will use “Hallelujah” until Easter Sunday, April 1st.
- Wednesday, February 14 there will be two Ash Wednesday services: 12:00 PM and 6:30 PM. Choir will be singing for the 6:30 PM Service. Since this is an early service, choir will assemble for rehearsal at 5:45 PM on the 14th. Following the service, choir will rehearse for an additional 30 minutes. Choir will be rehearsing each Wednesday night following Ash Wednesday at the usual 7 PM time.
- Orchestra will meet Wednesday, February 14 at 4:45 PM and will meet each Wednesday at 4:30 PM through March 21st which is the last mid-week Lent Service and supper.
- The members of all the Music groups are responsible for planning, making, setting up, serving, and cleaning-up the Lent Supper on Wednesday, March 21st. A sign-up sheet will be in the Music Suite for all to sign.
- The music suite is being repainted and the new carpet should be installed the beginning of February. Jeff Peleaux is doing the painting and engineering the moving of music files and cabinets so the old carpet can be removed and the new carpet laid. There will be a few days of “disruption” prior to the carpet installation, during the time the carpet is laid, and during the time it takes to put everything back in place in the Music Suite. Please contact Jeff if you have any free time to assist with this project. Also, if anyone is interested in getting some of the old carpet, it is FREE for hauling it away!



PARISH NURSES: UNO!...Workout? (absolutely!)

How can this familiar old card game get me interested in EXERCISE/Moving?

Did you whisper to yourself a New Year's resolution to exercise more? Try to be more active by trying something creative. Only one out of three adults today engage in leisure time physical activity. Let's try to change these numbers. Get your old UNO card game out & try this fun way to "UNO Workout". Great to do alone, with your kids/grandchildren or even in a small group. You can use any Uno deck you have on hand to play & the only rule of the game is that you perform the corresponding exercise & number of reps for whatever card you draw. Create your own list of activities/exercise lists & challenge yourself each day to do draw a few more cards. Help keep your heart healthy. Small changes can make a big difference in how you feel.



Green cards: Squats, leg lifts while sitting in a chair, march in place 20 steps

Red Cards: Crunches, elbow to knee, twist side to side, neck stretch side to side, blow 10 bubbles

Yellow Cards: Jumping jacks, jump rope, stand up & down from chair, log roll across the floor

Blue Cards: Pushups, front arm raises, add a weight & raise arms above head, catch a ball

Wild Card: You can do 10 of any of the exercises or create a special list when this card is drawn.

Draw 2 or 4: Pick one of your cards & do the exercise of your choice or what another player asks you to do.



"He gives strength to the weary & increases the power of the weak" Isaiah 40:29

May grace & blessing be in your path!
Your Parish Nurses - Tonja Seusy & Charlotte Spencer



Youth Gathering is just 5 months away!!!

The NWA group will include 22 students from ULC, The Neighborhood Church and Christ the King. Charli Anne and I recently had the opportunity to meet with some of the youth we will be traveling/worshiping/serving with.

Of the group, only one young lady has had the opportunity to attend Youth Gathering in the past. She talked a bit about her experiences three years ago and highlighted a few things to expect. She made sure to mention that it was a great deal of fun!

One wonderful aspect to going as a combined group is all the youth Charli Anne will get to know. Of the kids we have already meet, most go to Bentonville West High School...where she will go next year. Charli will enter into Freshman year with a built-in support system! How great is that!

In other exciting news....

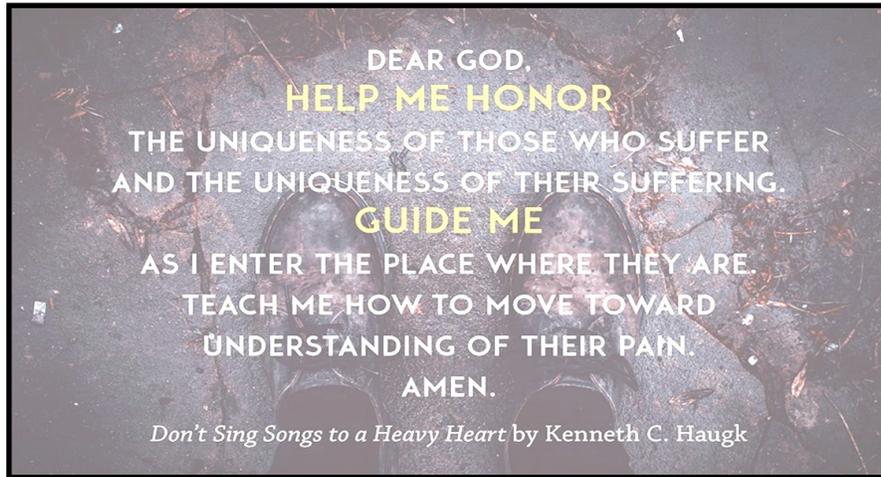
The ELCA is reporting higher than expected registration numbers! This year's Youth Gathering is poised to be one of the biggest ever with more than 30,000 youth, adults and volunteers in attendance. With that many like minded people in you just know that great things are going to happen.

With that in mind....

Volunteer experiences will abound on Service Learning Day. Youth will have the opportunity to support Houston area agencies in a full day of service. In 2015, youth cleaned 3,200 vacant lots, built 99 picnic tables, filled 26 dumpsters, made 4,000 warm hats and created 2,033 mural boards to help beautify Detroit. With recent flooding in Houston, we can expect a lot of hands on, down and dirty work...and we are looking forward to it all!

Get Ready, Get Set, GO!

-Sarah Stephenson



Stephen Ministry teaches us that no hurt is the same.

There are as many different ways for a person to be “broken” as there are stars in the sky.

The Stephen Ministry team is currently reading *Cancer. Now What?*

It tells us that “Statistics are numbers. Don’t give them any power over you by thinking they determine what will happen.” Even though these “statistics” are focusing on the usual success of cancer treatments.....it can also apply to the usual success of the treatments for brokenness.

Just because others “get over” their hurts faster doesn’t mean that this is the norm. We are all individuals. We all process our shattered dreams, shattered bodies and shattered spirits in different ways. There are no “standards” or “guidelines” we should be following when we are pulling our lives back together.

“I am feeble and sorely broken; I have groaned because of the disquiet of my heart.” -Psalm 38:8



Our Stephen Ministry team understands that there is no cure all/one shot remedy for the emotional turmoil that accompanies the minor or major disasters that life hands us. However, Stephen Ministers do understand how to listen, how to direct and how to care for individuals....not statistic.

If you are interested in talking to a Stephen Minister or joining the Stephen Ministry team, please contact Sarah Stephenson at 855-1325 or stephenmin@unitedlutheranbv.org.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS:

**02/12 @ 3:30PM
02/26 @ 3:30PM**

UNITED IN PRAYER - Mondays @ 2:45PM

Gracious Lord Jesus. You came into the world as one of us and you suffered as we do. Be with all on our prayer list and their loved ones in these days of special needs. Help them to see that YOU are with them in all things. Strengthen, heal, bless, and fortify their faith against fear and doubt in Your loving purpose for them. We give You thanks on their behalf and ask that You and ask that You would also keep them in our hearts and all of us in Your power, until we are freed from all that afflicts us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Members in Need of Prayer

Dorothy Altfillisch
Lucile Aasmundstad
Kay Anderson
Iris Benson
Marilyn Brown
Jason Carlson
Roger & Anne Costa
Virg Dykema
Jerry & Lorraine Herman
Ardis Huke
Jean Koppernolle (recently moved)
Walt & Betty Knocke
Ruby Kroona
Duane & Connie Kuske

Red & Bonnie Larson
Ken Lawson
Sally Leffler
Bill Lindeman
Al & Maxine McClain
Alice Medin
Al & Shirley Schmidt
JoAnn Shaver
Mable Shaw
Helen Smiley (recently moved)
Mike Spencer
Joyce Strunk
Cliff Stolpe
Ben Walford
Marge Wolf

Family & Friends in Need of Prayer

Rick Benson
Nat Bothwell
Annika Cutts
Bryan Dale
Hannah Dykema
Jackie Garner
Colleen Gress
Betty Kline
Cindy Lund
Phillip Phillips
Rachel Sparks
John Stubbs
Rose Taylor
Larry Tuttle's Family & Friends
ULC Staff

Pray for: the world & our country, our church, Pastor Karen & Jeremy, church council, staff, music, children's ministry, members, the Phobes and Shut-Ins, Stephen Ministers & care receivers, friends & family members.

Local Churches & Area ELCA Churches
Peace in Joplin
Neighborhood
Good Shepherd
Faith
Living Word - Pr. Solberg
Christ the King
Peace in Rogers
St. Luke's
Emmanuel
Bishop & Staff

Members in Care Centers

Highlands – Russ Salomo, Joe & Bea Ranieri
Bradford House – Cleo Sundal
Green Acres (Holiday Island) – John Norris
Concordia – Dot Fritz

If you are aware of someone who should be added to or removed from the Prayer List, please call the church office at 479-855-1325.





I have so much appreciation for all the hand shakes, hugs, cards, and best wishes I received at my birthday party. I can't find enough words to express my gratitude so I will say a **HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to all.

- **Ralph Picht**

Thank you very much to the following members for their help in removing and storing our Christmas decorations on January 6th: Doris Horning, Carole Walford, Fred and Robin Nelson, Kay and Howard Anderson, Rick Hebar, Gary Rick, and Pastor Karen and Jeremy. These good workers had it all done in about 45 minutes! Your Altar Guild appreciates all of you!

- **Stevie Lamar**

Thank you to everyone that brought in Best Choice labels last year. We collected 6,000 in 2017 so we will receive \$210.00 very soon. We will contact New Beginnings Children's Homes in the near future to see what they need. We'll keep you posted - keep bringing in those labels! Thank you!

- **Dee Sadenwasser**

Celebrate

February



BIRTHDAYS

2/1 - Michelle Creel
2/1 - Lisa Twitty
2/2 - Lorraine Janzen
2/5 - John Norris
2/7 - Frank Barbieri
2/9 - Sally Ball
2/11 - Virginia Anderson
2/12 - Marilyn Brown
2/12 - Carole Olson
2/13 - Hunter Peleaux
2/13 - Vern Sutter
2/14 - Eugene Dolan
2/16 - LoGene Test
2/19 - Bob McNew
2/19 - Roger Rahlfs
2/20 - Dottie Seeley
2/21 - Al McClain
2/22 - Addie Fry
2/22 - Jake Grasmick
2/26 - Debby Horn
2/26 - Wilma Peterson
2/28 - Sonja Nelson
2/28 - Marvin Scrimpf



ANNIVERSARIES

2/1 - Al & Shirley Schmidt
2/2 - Len & Lanette Bruflat
2/5 - Don & Toni Hippe
2/14 - Jerry & Bev Shelton
2/15 - Fred & Robin Nelson
2/24 - Ron & Rose Olson
2/28 - Jerry & Mable Shaw

If we've missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know. Thank you!

February EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY
8:45-9:15AM
10:45-11:15AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
FAMILY ART NIGHT
6:00PM

Please sign up in the narthex!
all are welcome to join the fun!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
UNITED SINGLES: Games & Snacks
10:30AM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
BREAKFAST CLUB
8:00AM

Devotion given by: Rosalyn Harris
Please sign up in the narthex!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
MOVIE NIGHT: All Saints
6:30PM

popcorn provided

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
& MONDAY FEBRUARY 26TH
STEPHEN MINISTRIES MEETING
3:30PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
DAMASCUS SHEPHERD GROUP
MARDI GRAS PARTY
4:30PM

Details in updates and announcements

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
& WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
BIBLE STUDY
8:00AM

all are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
BREAD FOR THE WORLD
9:15AM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
12:15PM & 6:30PM

EVERY THURSDAY
PIECEMAKERS
9:00AM

Come join us!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
FAITHFUL STEWARDS,
LASTING IMPACT SEMINAR
W/STEPHEN PHELPS
10:30AM

Please sign up in the narthex!

Lunch will be provided

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
BOOK CLUB
6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
& WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
LENTEN SUPPER SERVICE
6:00PM

Please sign up in the narthex!

Updates & Announcements

DAMASCUS SHEPHERD GROUP: MARDI GRAS PARTY! TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH @ 4:30PM

Please join us for fun and fellowship! Appetizers at 4:30pm and Dinner at 5:00pm. Games will follow the meal. Please RSVP to Glenda Heist (479-876-1370) or Louise Wobig (479-855-6982) before Friday, February 9th. Thank you!

PIECEMAKERS: BASKETS OF PROMISE

The Piece Makers are once again asking for your help with our Baskets of Promise service project. During the 40 days of lent we will be collecting different items each week, these items provide comfort and dignity for those in need around the world thru Lutheran World Relief. We will be collecting Bath towels, soap, tooth brushes, combs and nail clippers, a different item each week during lent. In the past you have all been very generous with your contributions to our projects, and the Piece Makers have been very blessed to have such a loving and caring congregation. I will have more information in the church bulletins as we get closer to lent. Once again THANK YOU for all you do to support the Piece Makers of United Lutheran Church.

LENTEN SUPPER SERVICES

We will have Lenten Supper Services every Wednesday of the Lent season starting at 6:00pm. Please sign up in the narthex so that we can have an accurate head count for food. Thank you so much!

- Wednesday, February 21st @ 6:00pm - Hosted by: Stephen Ministries
- Wednesday, February 28th @ 6:00pm - Hosted by: Church Council
- Wednesday, March 7th @ 6:00pm - Hosted by: Pastoral Support
- Wednesday, March 14th @ 6:00pm - Hosted by: Breakfast Club
- Wednesday, March 21st @ 6:00pm - Hosted by: Worship and Music

UPDATE ON SENIOR CIRCLE

As of January 2018, Northwest Medical Center has cancelled their Senior Circle series for the Bella Vista area. They will continue to have Senior Circle events in the Bentonville and Rogers Area. If you would like more information on those circles, please call Lesa Tucker @ 479-757-4106. Thank you.

UPDATE ON EXERCISE CLUB

As of January 2018, the Exercise Club is being dissolved and will no longer meet on Tuesday and Thursdays. We are hoping to replace it with a Yoga Hour. **Please let the church office know if you would be interested in starting a Yoga Hour or if you are interested in leading it.** Thank you!

Updates & Announcements

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT TUESDAY, MARCH 27TH @ 7:00PM

The Watoto Children's Choir has traveled extensively since 1994, sharing a message of hope for Africa's orphans and widows, and we are excited to welcome them once again to United Lutheran! **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!** Let's share the love we have with these wonderful children as they sing their hearts out in the name of hope and peace for all!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Otto Troutner and Claire Redlaczky are into their second semesters at Kansas Wesleyan and Southern California and they both very graciously thank all of you who are helping them out financially. Please keep these two great young people in your prayers and continue to support the scholarship fund! - Wally Nelson

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Due to owners leaving Bella Vista, (2) niches are available in the original section of the columbarium. Sale price is the original selling price of \$450.00 per niche. If interested in this bargain price, please contact Darwin Krumrey or the church office.





Family Art Night

Friday, February 9th
6:00-7:00pm

Bring the kids, the grandkids, and the neighbor kids for a fun evening making Valentine's Day crafts to take home and to share with the community!

Please sign up in the Narthex!

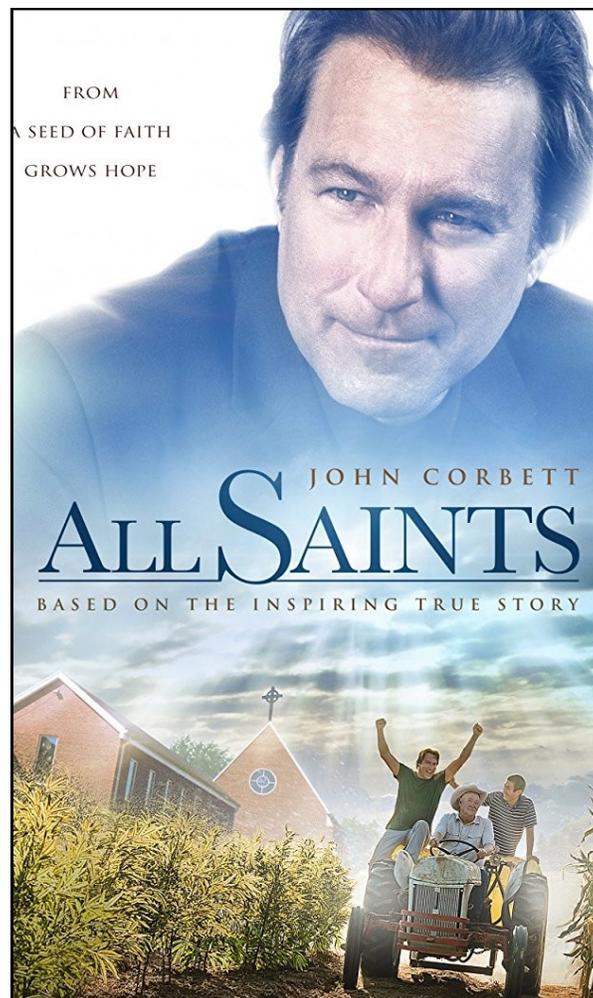
MOVIE NIGHT CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY

February 12th, 6:30pm

ALL SAINTS

ALL SAINTS is based on the inspiring true story of salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock (John Corbett), the tiny church he was ordered to shut down, and a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. Together, they risked everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all.

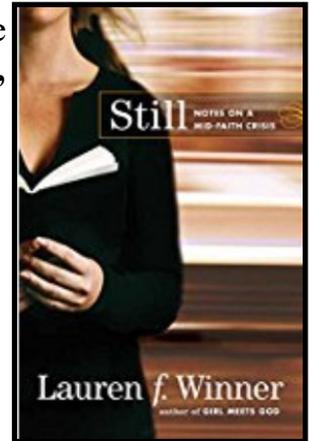
popcorn provided



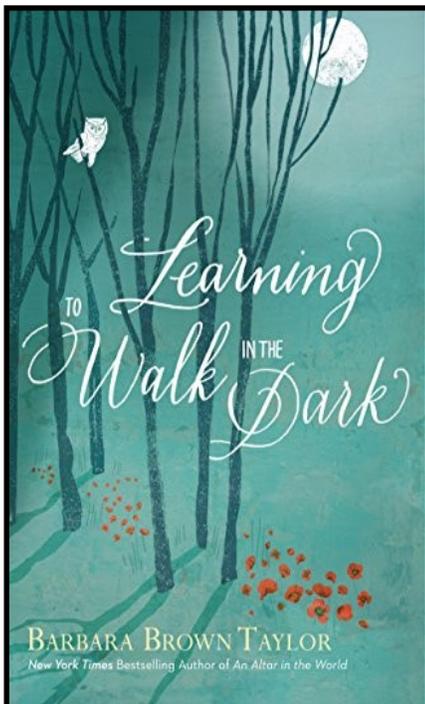
BOOK STUDIES with PASTOR KAREN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH @ 10:00AM OR 6:30PM

Lauren F. Winner has written an engrossing reflection of literary grace and spiritual wisdom. **Let me know if you would like a 10am option, otherwise we meet at 6:30pm for a delightful discussion.**

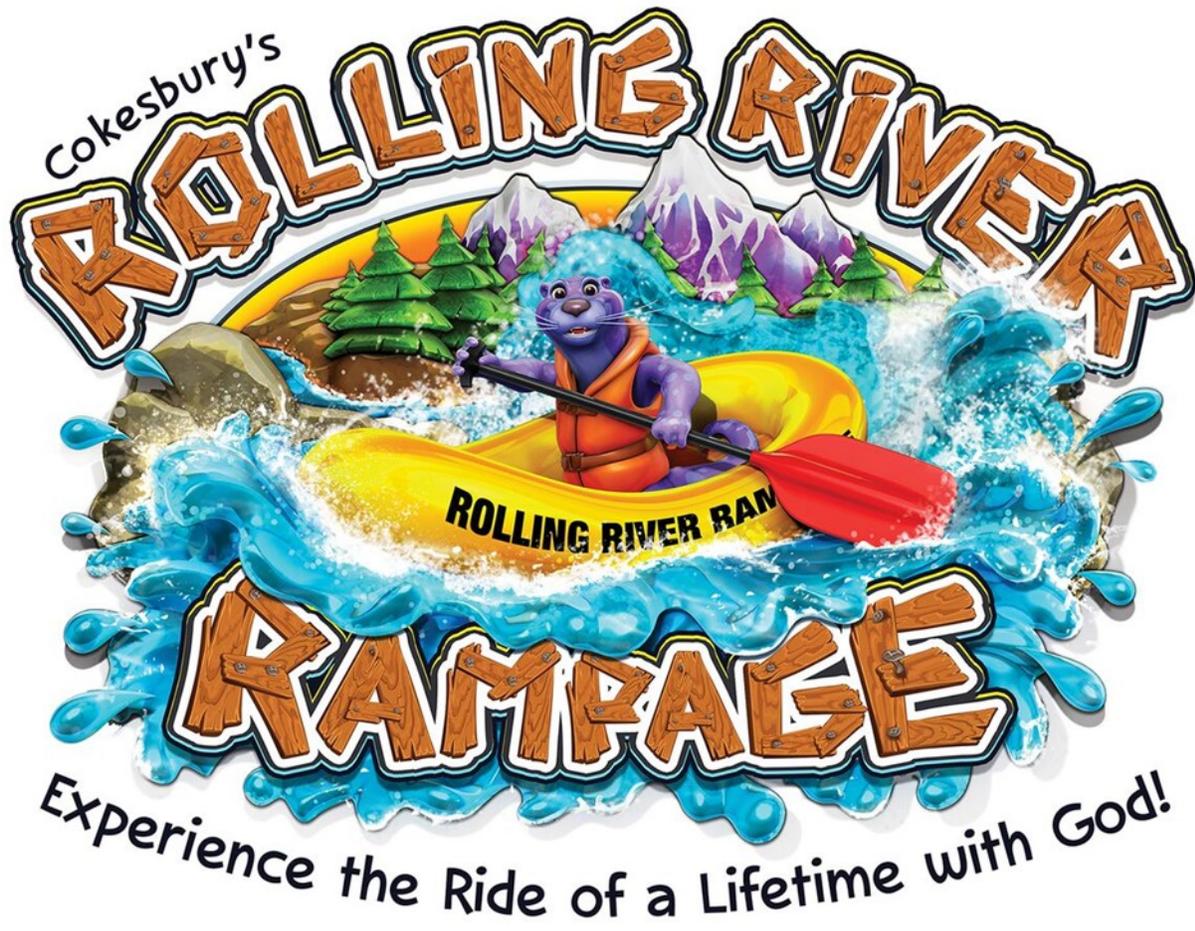


March Book: Learning to Walk in the Dark Barbara Brown Taylor

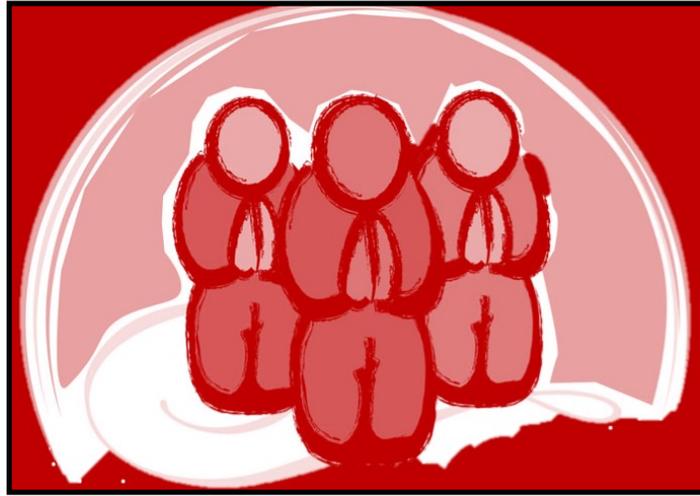


Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark* provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don't have all the answers. Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments. Kindle devices are available in the church office for checkout if you'd like to read the book. You can also find it at the library or on Amazon.

VBS 2018!



July 16-20
5:30pm-8:30pm



Prayer Corner

Idolatry is the replacement of God with something else. Our primary devotion and chief affection is due to our Lord; the giving of that worship and glory to any other, is to go against

His words when He said, ‘...you shall have no other Gods before me’. Many people don’t realize when they may sometimes support what takes the place of God. How often do people skip church to go the ballgame? How often do people watch television in place of prayer?

Always put God first...before all things and all others.

Submitted by - Ruth Dronen

***edited by - Rosalyn Harris**

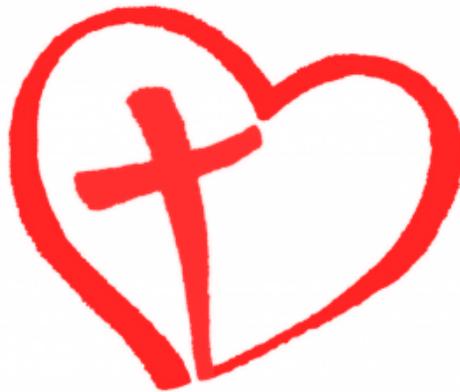


God is love.

1 John 4:16

Eternal God,
thank you for the gift of love -
the eternal gift of your love.
I pray that you would use me to share your love with others.
May this world know real love and may we all be moved by it.
Help me to live out life in your love and your name.

Amen.





Merciful God,
look upon us as we enter these forty days,
bearing the mark of ashes,
and bless our journey through the desert of Lent.
May our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms a making of peace;
our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.
All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,
for in his cross you proclaim your love
for ever and ever.

Amen.

FOR THE LOVE OF LENT

Lent begins February 14th this year. Lent is a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) of preparation for the central event of Christian faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It has long been a time of fasting, self-denial and penitence. Lent is still a special time of spiritual growth and journeying

We are invited during this holy season to be more intentional about our faith practices. There is an intentionality of focus on what is most pivotal, God's great love for us in Jesus Christ, and the sacrifice that was made for our salvation. The disciplines of Lent help us to "repent" and "turn toward God."

Lutherans still emphasize this time of penitence and spiritual preparation. Originally a time of intense preparation for those about to be baptized into the faith, it eventually became a time for all believers to practice self-examination and to walk more closely with God. So the invitation goes out each year, to "return." Take advantage of the opportunity! Choose at least one faith practice for the Lenten season. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Prayer. If you are not already in the habit of daily prayer, determine to make it your Lenten practice. To structure your prayer, remember the acronym PRAY: Praise (and thank), Repent (how have I messed up?), Ask (for yourself and for others), Yield (sit quietly in the presence of God). Or just pray that perfect prayer, The Lord's Prayer, slowly, dwelling on each petition. Or pull out your Lutheran rosary, and make time to pray the Small Catechism each day.

Worship. Make the decision today: "I will be at worship every Sunday in Lent. I will worship on Wednesday. I will attend Holy Week worship including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services." When worship is a part of your breathing in and breathing out, God becomes a central part of your life, and the Body of Christ is renewed for sake of the world.

Bible Study. Pick up the Lenten Devotional provided, "*Embodied: Mind, Body, Heart, Soul.*" Or, choose a book of the bible and read it as if for the first time. Read the foot notes. Look to a commentary. Read a psalm a day, listening for words and phrases that the Holy Spirit would lift up for you. Or, decide to join a group study: Sunday morning adult education will continue it's focus on the Lutheran Handbook. Then again, Wednesday morning study focusing on the New Testament ancestors in faith.

Fasting. Classic for Lent. Give up something you enjoy for the six weeks, and whenever you long for it, let that longing remind you of the Lord who loves you and gave up everything for you. Or, fast one daily meal or one day a week, letting your hunger pains make you mindful of ... (let the Holy Spirit fill in the blank).

Almsgiving. 'Faith without works is dead' James tells us. Give money to a worthy cause. Give some of your time to someone or others in need. Consider tithing for Lent. Here's the challenge - don't choose one that seems easy (I will give up Brussel sprouts for Lent). Choose one you know will challenge you. Then count on God for assistance and give it your best shot. Forgive yourself for lapses - pick up and try again. And know that there is a whole community of fellow believers practicing too.



WEDNESDAYS' WORSHIP IN LENT: Silent Witnesses

There were many witnesses to the events which took place on that hill outside of Jerusalem nearly 2000 years ago.

An angry crowd gathered to be certain that *their* verdict of “guilty” be carried out in the sentence of death by crucifixion.

A small group of the condemned man’s followers milled about the crowd; still in shock over the injustice being meted out, many of them kept their identity secret to protect themselves from a similar fate.

And some *had* to be there - those responsible for tending to the necessary tasks which went along with an execution.

But there were other “witnesses” there as well, ones we don’t usually think about, although they were even closer to the events than the crowd. In fact, they actually *participated* in those events in unique ways. They are the

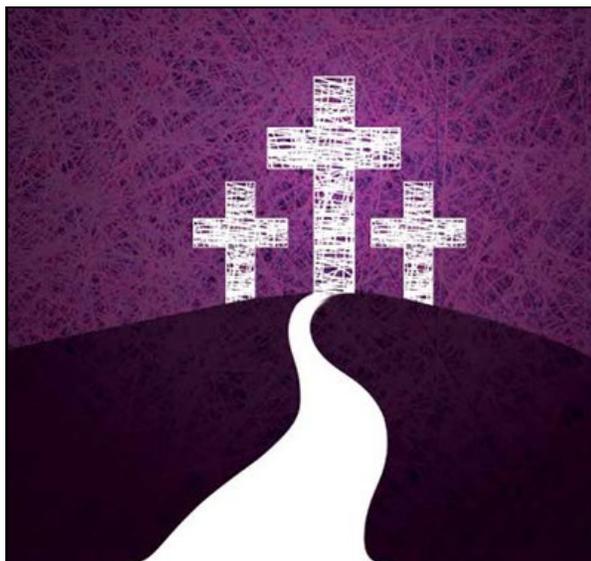
Silent Witnesses

- The Thorns • The Robe
- The Nail • The Spear
- The Shroud • The Stone

If only these *things* could speak!

What might they tell us about the events from *their* viewpoint?

Throughout this Lenten Season we will have the unusual, imaginative, challenging, and faith-strengthening opportunity to hear these normally “Silent Witnesses!” Join us for worship each week.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 14TH

12:15PM - Afternoon Service
6:30PM - Evening Service

LENT SUPPER SERVICES EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING LENT - 6:00PM

February 21st
February 28th
March 7th
March 14th
March 21st



February 2018



February 1 - Thursday	9:00AM - Worship and Music 3:15PM - Chancel Bells
February 2 - Friday	THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD 6:00PM - Family Art Night
February 3 - Saturday	10:00AM - Larry Tuttle Memorial Service
February 4 - Sunday	5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY 9:30AM - Worship & Communion 10:45AM - Youth Sunday School 10:45AM - Adult Christian Education
February 5 - Monday	9:30AM - W-ELCA Sit & Chat 1:00PM - Staff Meeting 2:45PM - United in Prayer 6:30PM - Priscilla Circle
February 6 - Tuesday	9:30AM - Worship & Music 1:00 PM - Hannah Circle
February 7 - Wednesday	9:15AM - Deborah Circle 9:30AM - Circles: Mary, Naomi, Rachel, Sarah 5:45 PM - Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal
February 8 - Thursday	9:00AM - Piecemakers 3:15 PM - Chancel Bells 6:00 PM - Council Meeting
February 10 - Saturday	10:30AM - United Singles: Games & Snacks
February 11 - Sunday	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:30AM - Worship & Communion 10:45AM - Youth Sunday School 10:45AM - Adult Christian Education 4:00PM - ULC Council Gathering
February 12 - Monday	8:00AM - Breakfast Club 1:00PM - Staff Meeting 2:45PM - United in Prayer 3:30PM - Stephen Ministries 6:30PM - Movie Night: All Saints
February 13 - Tuesday	1:00PM - Martha Circle 2:00PM - Damascus Shepherd Group: Mardi Gras Party
February 14 - Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY VALENTINE'S DAY 8:00AM - Bible Study 9:15AM - Bread for the World 12:15PM - Ash Wednesday: Afternoon Service 4:45PM - Orchestra Rehearsal 5:45PM - Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM - Ash Wednesday: Evening Service

February 15 - Thursday	9:00AM - Piecemakers 3:15PM - Chancel Bells Rehearsal
February 17 - Saturday	St. Matthias, Apostle 10:30AM - Faithful Stewards, Lasting Impact: Seminar with Stephen Phelps, ELCA Regional Gift Planner
February 18 - Sunday	1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30AM - Worship & Communion 10:45AM - Youth Sunday School 10:45AM - Adult Christian Education
February 19 - Monday	PRESIDENT'S DAY 1:00PM - Staff Meeting 2:45PM - United in Prayer
February 20 - Tuesday	6:30PM - Book Club: Still
February 21 - Wednesday	9:15AM - Visiting Phoebes 4:30PM - Orchestra Rehearsal 6:00PM - Lenten Supper Service: Hosted by - Stephen Ministries 7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal
February 22 - Thursday	9:00AM - Piecemakers 3:15PM - Chancel Bells Rehearsal
February 25 - Sunday	2ND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30AM - Worship & Communion 10:45AM - Youth Sunday School 10:45AM - Adult Christian Education
February 26 - Monday	1:00PM - Staff Meeting 2:45PM - United in Prayer 3:30PM - Stephen Ministries
February 28 - Wednesday	8:00AM - Bible Study 10:00AM - W-ELCA Bible Study Leaders 4:30PM - Orchestra Rehearsal 6:00PM - Lenten Supper Service: Hosted by - Church Council 7:00PM - Choir Rehearsal

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

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