**FESTIVAL**/COMMEMORATION **DAYS IN FEBRUARY**

**Feb. 2 The Purification of May & The Presentation of Our Lord**

Feb. 5 Jacob (Israel), *Patriarch*

Feb. 10 Silas, *Fellow Worker of St. Peter & St. Paul*

Feb. 13 Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos

Feb. 14 Valentine, *Martyr*

Feb. 15 Philemon & Onesimus

Feb. 16 Philipp Melanchthon (birth), *Confessor*

Feb. 18 Martin Luther, *Doctor & Confessor*

Feb. 23 Polycarp of Smyrna, *Pastor & Martyr*

**Feb. 24 St. Matthias, *Apostle***

**“Growing as One”**

 The following memory items can be used within the **daily office services** in the ***Lutheran Service Book***: Matins (pp.219ff.), Vespers (pp.229ff.), Morning Prayer (pp.235ff.), Evening Prayer (pp.243ff.), Compline (pp.253ff.), Responsive Prayers 1 (pp.282ff.) & 2 (pp.285ff.), and **Daily Prayer for Individuals & Families (pp.294ff.)**.

**Week Passage *Catechism* Hymn(s)\***

Feb. 4 - 10 Mark 1:34 Lord’s Prayer – Conclusion *LSB* #398

Feb. 11 - 17 Mark 9:2 Holy Baptism – What *LSB* #413

Feb. 18 - 24 Mark 1:11 Holy Baptism – Benefits *LSB* #657

Feb. 25 – Mar. 2 Mark 8:34 Holy Baptism – How *LSB* #708

 (\*at least 1st stanza)

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School, 9:10am (school building): Theme of the day; various

 materials, activities

Sunday Bible Class, 9:10am (basement): “A HOLY CONVERSATION:

 Spiritual Warfare” video (Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett, Exec. Dir., Luther Academy,

 Fort Wayne, IN)

Wednesday Bible Study, 10:30am (school building): “A HOLY

 CONVERSATION: Spiritual Warfare” video (Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett, Exec.

 Dir., Luther Academy, Fort Wayne, IN)

***“Valentine’s Love”***

This year, **“Ash Wednesday”** – a different date each year – and **“Valentine’s Day”** (“Commemoration of Valentine, *Martyr*”) – always the same date – happen to fall on the **same day – February 14**. That’s interesting, because they’re **both about similar things**:

 **“Valentine’s Day”** is about ***love***. But not everyone knows that “Valentine’s Day” is named for a **great Christian** who lived many, many years ago: **St. Valentine**. He lived in the **first few centuries** after Jesus, and one story about him says he **gave up his life to save another** who was going to die – he **died so the other person could live**! That’s an **amazing way to show love**, isn’t it?

 **“Ash Wednesday”** is the beginning of the ***Season of Lent***, when we count down the days to **Jesus dying on the Cross** **for us**. And, as you know, we have **special mid-week Wednesday services** to help us do this. But ***why* did Jesus die on the Cross?**: To **Pay for our sins** – That’s especially What we think about on “Ash Wednesday.” The **ashes** place on our **foreheads** **look dirty**, don’t they?: That reminds us of our **sin**, and even of how we’re **all going to die** someday because of our sin. But **what shape** do we make the ashes in?: a **cross** – because **Jesus dying on the Cross** **Took away our sin.**

 That’s the **most Wonderful Way to Show Love**, isn’t It? – **dying for others** so that **they can Live** – “Valentine’s Day” *and* “Ash Wednesday.”

 In His service & yours,

***Pastor Dodge***

**THANK YOU:** “Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

 “A big ‘Thank You’ for your generous donation to support the local ‘Lutheran Hour’ broadcast over WLEW radio station.

 “We never know who will hear the ‘Good News’ of salvation for the first time. Or, to strengthen their faith in the Word.

 “Thank you again for helping to spread ‘Christ for the Nations’ messages to all listeners.

 “Yours in His service,

 *Arnold H. Koehn*”

**OFFICIAL ACTS:**

Deaths: 12-23-23: Erwin Schave (funeral: 12-28-23); 12-30-23: Howard Griffore; (1-4-24 funeral for Michael Emerick)

Transfer Out: 1-21-24: Scott Maschke, to Redeemer, Sidney, OH

**“*ASK THE PASTOR*”**

Please note the **“Ask the Pastor”** box in the entryway. Questions submitted in the box (anonymously if you wish) may be used for this section of the newsletter.

**Q: Please explain the Phrase “New Heavens and New Earth.”**

**A:** From the ***Small Catechism with Explanation*** (2017; pp.226f.):

 **Apostles’ Creed, Article 3**: **“The Resurrection of the Body, and the Life everlasting.”**: **“*What does This Mean?*: On the Last Day, He will Raise me and all the dead, and Give eternal Life to me and all believers in Christ. This Is most Certainly True.”**

 “**225.** What will happen to this world after we Christians are Raised from the dead?

 “The present creation, like our own bodies, will be Set Free from its bondage to corruption, and God will Create a New Heaven and a New Earth.

 767 **Romans 8:19-23** …

 768 **James 1:18** …

 769 **Revelation 21:5** And He Who was Seated on the

 Throne Said, “Behold, I am Making all things New.”

 “**226.** What will the New Creation be like?

 “The New Creation is Described in Ways that are both familiar

 and Mysteriously unfamiliar. The Bible Describes a ‘New

 Heaven and a New Earth’ in Terms much like creation was

 before the Fall, but entirely New and also Different in certain Ways.

 770 **2 Peter 3:13** But according to His Promise we are

 waiting for New Heavens and a New Earth in which

 Righteousness Dwells.

 771 **Isaiah 65:17-18** For behold, I Create New Heavens

 and a New Earth, and the former things shall not be

 remembered or come into mind. But be glad and

 rejoice forever in that which I Create; for behold, I

 Create ‘Jerusalem’ [*i.e.*, the Church] to be a Joy, and

 Her people to be a Gladness.

 772 **Revelation 21:1** Then I [John] saw a New Heaven

 and a New Earth, for the first Heaven and the first

 Earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

 773 **Revelation 22:3,5** No longer will there be anything

 accursed, but the Throne of God and of the Lamb

 will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. …

 And night will be no more. They will need no light of

 lamp or Sun, for the Lord God will be their Light, and

 they will Reign forever and ever.

 774 **Matthew 22:30** [Jesus said,] “For in the Resurrection

 they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are

 *like* angels in Heaven. [*italics* mine]

 **Continued 🡪**

(**“*Ask the Pastor*”** continued)

 775 **Isaiah 60:19-20** The Sun shall be no more your light

 by day, nor for brightness shall the Moon give you

 light; but the LORD will be your everlasting Light, and

 your God will be your Glory. Your Sun shall no more

 go down, nor your Moon withdraw itself; for the LORD

 will be your everlasting Light, and your days of

 mourning shall be ended.

 “Read **2 Peter 3:5-13**, where Peter compares the End-Time Cleansing of the creation by fire with the Cleansing of the Earth by the Flood of Noah’s day. In **Revelation 21:1-5**, John Describes the New Heaven and the New Earth as the ‘New Jerusalem’ [the Church in its “Kingdom of Glory”].” [underlines mine]

**LENTEN SCHEDULE:**

(**Wednesday** services will be at **noon** (“Morning Prayer”) **and 7pm** (“Evening Prayer”). Each 7pm service will be preceded by a **Soup & Sandwich Supper**, provided by the Ladies Aid, from **5:00 – 6:30pm**.)

**“*ST. JOHN PASSION: …*”**

“Ash Wednesday,” Feb. 14 “The Powerless ‘I AM’” *18:1-11*

 (Valentine, *Martyr*) Divine Service w/ Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Wed., Feb. 21 “Two Interrogations” *18:12-27*

Wed., Feb. 28 “What Kind of King Is This?” *18:28-40*

Wed., March 6 “Whom Do We Follow?” *19:1-16a*

Wed., March 13 “Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross”

 *19:16b-27*

Wed., March 20 “Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation” *19:28-42*

**FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD:**

Vicki Koglin

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE:**

Average Church attendance for the month of December 2022: 93

Average Church attendance for the month of December 2023: 99

**REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the month of December 2023**

**Budget Income:** General Fund: $16,676.00

 Loose Offering: $ 9,460.08 **TOTAL:** $26,136.08

***Non-Budget Income:***

Barnabas: $25.00 Missions: $120.00 Trustees: $550.00 Choir: $25.00

Debt: $1290.00 Tuition: $190.00 Christmas Bulb: $25.06

Ladies Aid: $50.00-

**Acolyte Schedule February, 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Feb. 4[This Photo](https://lengskitchen.blogspot.com/p/soups.html) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) | 8:00  | Maddix Thoms | 10:00  | Sophia Koglin |
| Feb. 11 | 8:00  | Jensen Zimmerman | 10:00  | Brady Iseler  |
| Feb. 18 | 8:00  | Maddix Thoms | 10:00  | Sophia Koglin |
| Feb. 25 | 8:00  | Jett Zimmerman | 10:00  | Brady Iseler  |

**Acolyte Numbers for Substitutions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Phone** | **Name**  | **Phone** |
| Brady Iseler | 810-479-1231 | Maddix Thoms | 989-553-0889 |
| Sophia Koglin | 989-553-2112 | Jett/Jensen Zimmerman | 989-552-7822 |

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available for pick up in the entryway. Please sign up on the numbered clip-board sheet on the bulletin table and take the corresponding numbered envelope box.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Ladies Aid** will be hosting **soup sup** **pers** before the 7 PM worship service during the Lenten season and need volunteers. 3 individuals (soup scooper, sandwich maker & dish washer) are needed for each of the six Wednesdays from 4:45 PM to clean-up. A sign-up sheet is available on the entryway table at the church.
We also need **2 cakes per week**. A sign-up sheet is available for that also. Please consider helping so that we can continue to host these soup suppers.
If you have any questions, please contact Lori Kowaleski or Suellen Emerick.

**SERVICE WINTER WEATHER NOTICE**:

In the case of severe Winter weather, a decision will be made as early as practically possible by Pastor and the head Elder on whether or not to officially cancel a worship Service. If a Service is to be cancelled, the decision will be disseminated on local media (WLEW AM/FM and website, and FM 103.7) and, if possible, added to the new church Facebook page.  If, however, you don’t get the message of a cancellation, know that Pastor will be present to conduct some sort of service so that you didn’t venture out for nothing.

**Special Note:** If an evening Lenten service is cancelled, the soup supper will be **cancelled** that night as well.

***February Wedding Anniversaries***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** |  | **Yrs** |  |
| 17 | Lavern & Brenda Friedland | 59 |
| 18 | David & Heather Bender | 18 |
| 18 | Don & Kristi Pitts | 24 |
| 25 | Duane & Bonnie Koglin | 40 |

**FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Meredith Birchfield | 2 | Brantley Brown |  4  | Amy Babcock |
|  |   |  |   |  | Allan Koglin |
|  |   |  |   |  | Eric Koglin |
|  |   |  |  |  | Matthew Koglin |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Darla Pankow  | 6 | Jeffrey Schave | 7 | Kathie Reinke |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Kathryn Rocha | 11 | Jesse Bender  | 13 | Evan Dodge  |
|  |  |  |   |  | Michael Reinke |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Michael Lloyd | 19 | Shannon Stozeski  | 21 | Joyce Friedland  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Elmer Geiger |
|  |  |  |  |  | James McNeil  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | Gregory Brown | 23 | Heidi Nelson  | 24 | David Berndt  |
|  | Theodore Rink |  |   |  |   |

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Linda Iseler | 2 | Brian Bucholtz |  |  |
|  | Madilyn Simmers |  | Donald Finkel |  |   |
|  |  |  | Heidi Nelson |  |  |
|  |  |  | Tamara Talaski |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Misty Barrells | 5 | Brandon Bender | 7 | Evan Dodge |
|  | Arthur Haas  |  | JoAnn Muter |  |   |
|  |  |  | Matthew Terrasi |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Reena Hill | 10 | Cindy Chiotti | 11 | Kelli Johnson |
|  |   |  | Shirley Rink |  | Jadyn Pitts |
|  |  |  |  |  | Terra Ginther |
| 13 | Joseph Weiss | 14 | Clinton Weiss | 16 | Casey Eggert |
|  |  |  |   |  | Tammy Kessel |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Blake Bender | 20 | Charles Koglin | 21 | Shirley Pawlitz |
|  | Mary Michalski |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 25 | Gracie Prill | 26 | Mary Eggert |
|  |   |  | Isabella Prill |  | Emily Pleiness  |
|  |   |  | Kenneth Reinke |  | Cathy Woodke |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 27 | Steven Schulz | 28 | Jason Bender |  |  |
|  |  |  | Arnold Kessel |  |  |
|  |  |  | Judy McTaggart |  |  |
|  |   |  | Angela Zinger |  |  |

 **If there are any corrections or additions for the Birthday calendar,**

 **please call the Church Office 989-428-4140.**

February 2024

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:00 Divine Service w/ Communion**

**9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class**

**10:00 Divine Service w/ Communion**

**Ushers 8:00 Ushers 10:00**

Terry Emerick Albert Bender

Alan McTaggart Scott Iseler

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | ***Monday*** | ***Tuesday*** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |     |    |   | 1 | 2 Pastor at E.L.M.S Bd. of Dir.’s @ Flint*Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord* | 3 Pastor’s Day Off8:15 District Theological Convocation (“Reconcilation”) @ Our Savior, Lansing(open to all) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | 54:00 6th Confirmation Class  | 6   | 710:30 Bible Study | 8 | 9 | 10Pastor’s Day Off |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 *The Transfiguration of Our Lord* | 124:00 6th Confirmation Class6:00 Finance Board | 13 10:00 “Winkel” @ Port Sanilac | 14  *Ash Wednesday*10:30 Bible Studynoon Worship w/ Comm. & ashes 5:00 Soup/Sandwich Supper7:00 Worship w/ Comm. & ashes *Valentine, Martyr* | 15 | 16  | 17 Pastor’s Day Off |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18  | 19Presidents’ Day  | 207:00 Trustees7:00 Elders | 21 10:30 Bible StudyNoon Lenton Service5:00 Soup/Sandwich Supper7:00 Lenten Service  | 22 | 23 |  24 Pastor’s Day Off *St. Matthias, Apostle* |
| 25 | 264:00 6th Confirmation Class6:00 Finance Board | 27 | 2810:30 Bible StudyNoon Lenton Service5:00 Soup/Sandwich Supper7:00 Lenten Service  | 29 |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Elders: Dan Blacker 989-428-4598Don Clark 989-551-2255Harold Collings 989-550-7618Gary Eggert 989-553-7259Rick Finkel 989-550-8141Les Weiss 989-551-4148Greg Woodke 989-550-5931 |

5 |