

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015 VOLUME 38, ISSUE 2

Lent Begins on February 18

The Upper Room Discourse: "When Jesus Has Your Heart"

When Jesus was walking upon this earth, He would often look into the hearts of the people to whom He was addressing. He would see their hurt and pain, their hopes and dreams, and their sinful and proud hearts. Jesus also knew that the things we carry in our hearts determine our thoughts and actions. That is why in the Beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they shall SEE God." (Matthew 5:8) Seeing God (understanding His ways and plans for us) requires that we have pure hearts. So when Jesus entered Jerusalem (knowing that the cross was before Him), He gathered His disciples for one last conversation in the Upper Room on the night we call Maundy Thursday. Jesus looked into the hearts of His disciples and He saw hearts filled with fear. So what does Jesus do? He shares His heart with them with words of comfort and assurance. These words of Jesus are recorded for us in the gospel of John, chapters 13-16. During our mid-week Lenten services we are going to look at the different kinds of hearts Jesus desires to give us. Each week we will look at a passage from these chapters and address the hearts Jesus desires to give. What is the condition of your heart today? Whatever it may be, Jesus knows your heart's condition. Please join us weekly at our mid-week service and let Jesus renew your heart and give you a pure heart that shall see God.

Sunday, February 15 – "A Servant's Heart" (John 13:1-14) INTRODUCTION

Wednesday, February 18 – "A Clean Heart" (John 13:15-20) ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 25 – "A Discerning Heart" (John 13:21-32)

Ash Wednesday

February 18 – 7:00 p.m.

Our Lenten season begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. During Lent the people of God reflect on the meaning of their own baptisms (the daily dying to self so that the new person in Christ can arise each day). The imposition of ashes reminds us of our human mortality and frailty ("from dust we came, to dust we shall return"). What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. Our theme for the evening is "A Clean Heart" which is something every person needs. Our service will include an honest examination of our conscience, the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, and the Lord's Supper.

Lenten Suppers

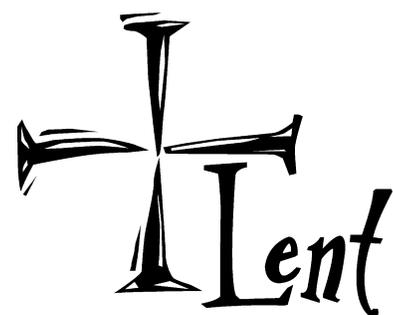
Wednesday evenings beginning February 18

Before our mid-week Lenten worship during Lent, a freewill offering supper will be served in the fellowship hall between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. Various groups and organizations in the congregation will be serving the meals. These meals are a great time for fellowship and conversation where you can meet with other members and make new friends who may be just acquaintances to you. Our first supper will be served on February 18 and will be served for the next five Wednesdays (through the month of March). Easter Sunday is April 5 this year. We hope that you and your family will join us!



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Sunday Service Times

8:30 a.m.

Traditional worship

9:40 a.m.

Sunday school for all ages
Coffee & Fellowship

10:45 a.m.

Contemporary worship

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "WHO HAS YOUR HEART?"

King Solomon, the one to whom God gave the greatest wisdom, wrote these words in his book of proverbs: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Proverbs 4:23) Of all the things we could be guarding in life (wealth, health, relationships, etc.), why does the wisest man ever to live on earth (besides Jesus) say to us: "guard your heart above everything else?" Because everything we do flows from it! Your heart is the deepest part of your life — where all your thoughts, emotions, and will lie. If our heart is the deepest part of our life, then what lies in it is vitally important. While we would hope that good things would be flowing out of our hearts, ever since The Fall into sin by Adam and Eve, our hearts have been infected with an inherited disease we call sin. And out of sinful hearts, Jesus says in Matthew 15:19, come evil thoughts which lead to evil words and actions. That is why this Lenten season during our mid-week Lenten services we are going to look at the kind of hearts that only Jesus can give. Our Lenten journey is not about a 12-step program to healthy hearts, but a radical surgery that requires a transplant (a new heart given to us through the surgical work of the Holy Spirit). We may talk a lot about the Holy Spirit and even profess our belief in Him in the Apostles' Creed, but His work in us is clearly given to us in Jesus' Upper Room Discourse (a theme will be examined more closely on Wednesday nights). Jesus says: "When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will prove the world to be wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned." (John 16:8-11).

Have you ever thought that you might be wrong about the nature of your own

sin, righteousness, and judgment? Unless the Holy Spirit is truly working in our lives, we will be wrong on each of these areas. When Jesus left this earth, there is a specific reason why He promised to send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of His believers. The Holy Spirit's role is to create faith in us — a faith that will do "greater things" than Jesus (John 14:12) — and a faith that will be able to ask Jesus for anything and He will do it because our hearts and minds are one with Him. But in order for any of that to happen our hearts must be transformed and made pure again if we are ever going to see God (Matthew 5:8). As I am preparing our messages for our Lenten season, I am literally being blown away by what Jesus is saying and promising His believers in John, chapters 13-16. I am so blown away that I believe this Lenten season could be one of the most powerful and life-changing Lenten seasons of your life!!! But all this must begin with an honest look into our hearts with a sincere confession to let the Holy Spirit have full control of your heart. Such a look will be painful because every heart is deeply infected with sin — in fact, if we could look into our hearts as God sees them, they would be very black indeed. But the good news is that Jesus has come to do something about it. He wants us to have clean, pure hearts flowing with His life-changing, joy-giving blood.

One of the saddest chapters in the Bible is the 12th chapter of the gospel of John. Jesus has been performing one sign after another to prove that the Kingdom of God had truly broken into the world through His works and miracles. Peoples' lives were being changed and new life was being shown in places where only darkness and sickness had existed before. But John 12:37 reads, "Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they (many of the Jewish leaders) still would not believe in him." How trag-

ic a story! The Jews, who had been waiting for the Messiah to come for hundreds of years, did not receive Him or believe in Him when He finally came to them. (John 1:11) The reason for their unbelief was in their hearts. John quotes the prophet Isaiah which explains this unbelief: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them." (John 12:40) Did you see this connection to King Solomon's words that "above all else, guard your heart"? Our heart is the KEY to either our belief or unbelief, Jesus' working in us or not, seeing or not seeing God in our midst.

This Lenten season I invite you to take the only heart examination that truly matters in this life. Much like our physical hearts, the hardening of the arteries means approaching death; so the hardening of our spiritual hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit means spiritual death and judgment from God. It is very humbling to admit our hearts might be hardening to God, but this is the first step back to God. Remember also, Jesus came — not to condemn the world — but to save us and give us an abundant life (a life full of the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

Join me at the foot of the cross again this year as we let the Holy Spirit create in us new hearts!

PASTOR MATT'S LETTER

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

The two most important days of your life are the day that you were born, and the day that you find out why. — Mark Twain

Reflecting on Mark Twain's comment about your two most important days, I have to say that I am in perfect agreement, with the exception that for the Christian there are actually three days: the day you were born, the day you are baptized, and the day you find out why. The born part is relatively easy ... it happens and here you are. The baptism part is really quite easy, depending on the temperature of the water in the font ... someone else carries you and together in the community you are washed and claimed and reborn a child of God. The third, though, can in all honesty be very hard. It is not hard to do, but it is hard because it involves us doing things that are contrary to our human nature, but joyous in our child of God nature.

Learning to find out why we are born a child of God is a life-long journey of learning, reflection, contemplation, self-examination, and the joy of discovery that also can be challenging. I often speak to people who are deepening their walk with God about the statement of **Ecclesiastes 1:18**, "*With increased wisdom comes increased sorrow.*" It is the joy of learning more about God, but also the sadness of realizing how far we really are from Him. But it is a good walk, because as we set our

own pride aside, with each step on the journey we grow ever closer to pushing the humanity of us away while being filled with the love and strength of Christ.

Studying with the Youth Group last night we looked at **John 15:16a** and we found that Jesus chose us, but not just so we are chosen, but He chose us to appoint us to bear fruit of an eternal nature, fruit that would last. Our challenge as children of God then is to realize that we have been called or claimed but we are now invited to join in the discovery as to why we have been called, to claim our work and to then set about a life of doing it for God's kingdom. Even when that reason might in a sense change, through age or change of life, we still need to find out why God has called me in this place and this moment. Speaking with one of our shut-ins who asked why am I here, my only response could be perhaps to be the light in this place as a witness to God's power, or perhaps to become a prayer warrior for our congregation, or perhaps to write cards and letters of encouragement so that others can continue to carry on their ministries.

It's an important day – the day you find out why — and it changes your life and opens your eyes to see far more than you ever thought you would see with God. It's the day Paul wrote of when he told the church I long for you to be eating meat, but as of yet you are still drinking milk. It is the day that I discovered sitting in seminary clas-

ses early on when I realized that for 20 years I had been a graduate of my confirmation class and had been a Christian for those years, but now I saw that I was supposed to be a disciple.

Jesus always longs to call His people into a deeper place; He's waiting out in the deep water. He reminds us, like Peter we can get out of our boat and walk on water with Him. And, best of all, we can experience God's power to work through us and show His strength and might to make His kingdom come through one such as us.

This Lent we are going to be looking at the farewell discourse of Jesus to His disciples and His words to them as He was preparing to depart: words to encourage, to challenge, and to show us what it is like when Jesus has our heart.

May this Lent open our hearts to see His heart, and to begin to conform ours to His.

Journey forward.

Pastor Matt

Sunday School is out in deep exploration this year. As we begin a new session of Exploring the Bible we are all going to be looking at the books of Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah and what it is speaking to us still today. If you haven't been a part of classes yet, come on in and join the exploration adventure. Head out into the wilderness of God's Word to see what He has in store for you and where He is calling your life to join him in this Bible Adventure.

3 and 4 year olds, and Kindergarten are studying the Story Book Bible as an overview.

1st through 3rd Grade is a class group taught by Becky B. and Amanda C.

4th through 6th Grade is a class group taught by Judy C. and Susan T.

7th and 8th Grade is a discussion group led by Nate M. and Brian A.

High School and College is a discussion group led by Mary W., Greg M., Charlie S., and Linda M.

Wednesday Night ALIVE! is going back to its regular schedule from now until Ash Wednesday. Confirmation and FLYTE classes begin at **5:00 until 6:30 p.m.** Our AMAZING food ministry teams will be cooking to warm your hearts and strengthen your bodies once again for a meal you can't beat for a \$3.00 donation to help cover costs. The Youth Group will go back to its regular hours as well, starting at **7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** Come on out, worship, fellowship, and grow together as the people of God. Bring a friend, bring a family. Hope to see you all there.

IT'S CHILI – SOUP — AND CARD PLAYIN' TIME! That's right — it's back and bigger and better — the Confirmation Class fundraiser Chili AND SOUP Cook-off and Cribbage and Pitch Tournaments with Family Game Night (still gotta find a better name). If you haven't made it before, this is the time to come and see what all the talk is about. Right in the middle of a cold and dreary winter comes a great way to warm up and fellowship with the Body of Christ. Come out, eat some chili AND SOUP, and help to vote for the winner of the coveted GOLDEN SPOONS. Entrance to the chili AND SOUP cook-off is a \$5.00 entry fee (and a chili OR SOUP) and voting for the best chili and SOUP happens with \$1.00 bills so head to the bank and make sure you got plenty of singles on hand. We have seen all kinds of chili's over the years and if you are an eater, you never lose in this competition. There is also a \$5.00 entry fee into the Cribbage and Pitch tournaments. Each year the competition for the coveted GOLDEN DECK gets more intense. Not a cribbage or pitch player? No problem! Bring a game to play with others and have a blast. **SATURDAY, January 24, beginning at 5 p.m. until done!** You don't want to miss out on this night.

SUPER BOWL SUBS are going on sale still until January 27 to support the Youth Group. Please see a youth group member and place your order for sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl and beyond. (They freeze and thaw quite well) We're holding prices steady even though inflation is on the rise, so you can get your subs for the still unbelievably low price of \$4.75 for one or \$21.50 (a 10% discount) for packs of 5 subs. You still get the same high quality and delicious subs you've come to know and love. Please see a youth group member to place your orders, and if you would like to help them out by selling to those you work with ... perhaps there is a ransom that can be arranged. Subs will be made Saturday, January 31, and can be picked up in the afternoon after 4:30 p.m.

Vibrant Faith Corner — The Vibrant Faith page on our website isn't just for parents. Godparents, grandparents and step-parents have tools and ideas provided so that Vibrant Faith can be shared with the children in every direction. If you are a grandparent and want to grow closer in faith to your grandkids, all you have to do is start at the Vibrant Faith @ Home link on our web page. You can also go to Vibrantfaith.org and look at blogs and Learning Exchange for other things to ponder.

Food for the Poor Sunday — February 8

Once again a representative from Food for the Poor (the largest international relief and development ministry in the U.S.) will be coming to Christ the Servant to give a presentation and take a free-will offering for Food for the Poor (96% of every dollar donated goes directly to the needy). The Rev. Bruce Rudolf will be representing Food for the Poor and has been a Lutheran pastor for 48 years. He has served congregations in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, from which he retired in 2004. He has been married for 51 years and has been blessed with six children and seven grandchildren. Let's welcome Food for the Poor with us again and Rev. Rudolf.

"I pray that everything may go well with you, and that you may be in good health, as I know you are well in spirit." – 3 John 2

Blood Pressure Screening:

After 1st Service

2nd Sunday of the month

This month: February 8

Laugh More, Stress Less

Humor can help reduce stress by providing a positive way of looking at problems. Humor can also help you perceive what's ridiculous or absurd in a situation. To promote humor in your life, follow these steps:

1. Be open to humor. Give yourself permission to laugh, even during tough times.
2. Surround yourself with humor. Try hanging cartoons in your workstation.
3. Seek out humor. Look for humor in everyday situations, or watch a favorite comedy DVD.
4. Share your humor. Tell a funny true story to a coworker or friend.

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Don't Brush Off Dental Care

When it comes to your health, don't forget about dental care. The problems your dentist warned you about as a child should still concern you. Cavities and gum disease are things to watch for throughout your life. To protect against these lifelong concerns, keep up good dental habits.

Brushing 101

To brush your teeth correctly:

- Brush twice a day: in the morning and before going to sleep.
- Use a soft-bristled brush and a toothpaste that contains fluoride.
- Place your toothbrush at a 45-degree angle against your gums and brush each tooth 15 to 20 times.
- Move the brush gently, using short strokes. Don't scrub.
- Replace your toothbrush when it's worn or frayed, about every three or four months. You should also get a new toothbrush after you have had a cold, strep throat or similar illness.
- Don't cover your toothbrush or store it in a closed container.

Don't forget to floss

Flossing helps remove plaque and food particles stuck between your teeth. The American Dental Association recommends flossing once a day.

Still go to the pros

You may have dental concerns that can't be totally taken care of with just brushing and flossing. In addition to getting regular cleanings, talk with your dentist about issues that can arise later in life, such as dentures or dry mouth.

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Viral Gastroenteritis (stomach flu)

I got the flu shot, but I still got the stomach flu. The flu shot protects against influenza, which isn't the same thing as the stomach flu (gastroenteritis). Gastroenteritis is an infection caused by a variety of viruses, including rotaviruses and noroviruses. Although it is often called the stomach flu, it is not caused by influenza viruses.

Real flu (influenza) attacks your respiratory system — your nose, throat and lungs — causing fever, muscle aches, coughing and congestion. Gastroenteritis, on the other hand, attacks your intestines, causing signs and symptoms such as watery diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and stomach cramps.

No vaccine is available for gastroenteritis with the exception of two oral rotavirus vaccines — RotaTeq and Rotarix — for infants. However, you can reduce your risk of gastroenteritis by frequent and thorough hand-washing. The annual flu vaccine is the most effective way to reduce your risk of getting influenza.

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Is The Air In Your Home Safe?

The air you're breathing in your house and office may be more polluted than the air in a smog-filled city. You might be breathing in harmful mold, chemicals, pet dander, pollen and bacteria, any of which can lead to asthma and allergy attacks or lung infections. Here are the four best ways to reduce your risk of health problems from dirty air:

Reduce indoor moisture. Mold and bacteria particles in the air thrive in moist environments. Using ventilation fans in areas of the home with high humidity and running an air conditioner can help lower humidity. Water-damaged carpet or building materials should be completely dried or replaced. Don't forget the basement, attic and crawl spaces — if you see water condensing on your walls, you may want to operate a dehumidifier in these areas.

Bring outside air in. Sometimes the weather doesn't permit it, but opening a window can improve circulation and usher out airborne bacteria and chemicals. Running a window or attic fan and always using vent fans in kitchens, laundry rooms and bathrooms will keep the air moving in and out of your home.

Keep things clean. Vacuum carpets and sofas weekly if possible, with a vacuum that has a HEPA filter. Washing bed sheets in hot water reduces dust mites, pollen, pet dander and other allergens. Allergy-sensitive people should use allergen-blocking pillowcases and mattress covers. Mattress protectors range from \$10 to \$40, or several hundred dollars for higher-quality fabric.

Eliminate toxic chemicals. You may want to consider an air purifier, but research varies on the effectiveness of products that filter the air. You're better off removing contaminants from your home rather than trying to filter them out of the air. Try finding non-toxic cleaners and using non-chemical pest control methods.

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Every square inch of your cell phone contains roughly 25,000 germs — making it one of the filthiest things you come in contact with on a daily basis!

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**American
Red Cross**

REMEMBER TO DONATE BLOOD

To give the Gift of Life, contact the American Red Cross office. Appointments available every Tuesday.

Birthdays

- Feb. 4 Arlene Longe
- Feb. 5 Jayne Bittner
- Feb. 8 Doug Witte
- Feb. 9 Mary Lund
- Feb. 12 Jeremy Olson
- Feb. 18 Millie Drey
- Feb. 19 Rhonda Beed, Korrie Hall
- Feb. 20 Deb Olson
- Feb. 23 Nell Finkral
- Feb. 24 Danielle Piske
- Feb. 27 Jan Puls, Tim Werlinger
- Feb. 28 Carter Olson

Anniversaries

- Bob and Susie Lutz — February 2
- Roger and Karen Peters — February 12
- Roger and Donna Young — February 20

*God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month.
May your day, and your year, be filled with joy!*

**WOMEN OF FAITH 2015 TOUR:
"LOVED"**

The Women of Faith tour will be in Lincoln at the Pinnacle Bank Arena on August 28-29. Tickets are available with a payment deadline of February 15. This is the last year for Women of Faith, so grab your mom, your sister, your best friend, and enjoy it together! Contact Margaret Svitak to purchase your ticket(s) and for ticket price.

CARD OF THANKS

Dear Quilting Ladies Friends,
Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!
Our volunteers just packed your wonderful donation of quilts. We hope to ship them on our next container to mission recipients in Latvia. All praise to God Who provides for all our needs!
Orphan Grain Train appreciates your support! May He continue to bless you as you care for His people; and may He keep you in His loving hands.

Blessings,
Doug Trampe, warehouse manager

A big THANK YOU to all those who put food in our cart for the Food Pantry. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Doris Hoffart

Thank you for all the cards, calls, food, prayers and visits while I've been laid up.

Donna Young

Thank you to the CTS Choir that came to The Manor and sang Christmas songs. It was wonderful to see them and hear them. Thanks also to those who continue to remember me with prayers and cards, especially the Agape Circle and the CTS Care Team. I continue to thank God for His miraculous healing. I hope to be walking and home by the Spring. Praise the Lord!

Cherlynn Hillrichs

We need more hands to tie our quilts. Could YOU help us? We tie quilts the first Thursday each month at 9 a.m.

PieceMakers

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Funds Balance
11/30/2014

Reconciled Bank Balances	
Checking Account	\$ 4,850.50
Endowment Account (4076)	9,850.71
Improvement Account (2367)	14,478.69
Savings Account (4034)	85,095.17
Good Samaritan Account	155.06
Youth Checking Account	20.10
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Total Cash In Bank	\$ 114,450.23
Designations for Restricted Use	
Mission Fund - Rystrom	\$ -
Mission Fund - A&A Cyboron	(45.00)
Mission Fund - Amanda	(545.00)
Mission Fund - Marissa	(100.00)
Mission Fund - B&A Cyboron	(25.00)
Worship Fund	(2,500.00)
Mission Fund - Weichs	(20.00)
Mission Fund - India	659.00
Good Samaritan Fund	(155.06)
Daycare	(1,106.34)
Military Bible Sticks	(250.00)
Church Property Fund	(73,661.78)
Parsonage Fund	(3,023.73)
Confirmation - Youth Fund	(680.50)
Youth Fund	(2,213.31)
Ministry Expansion Fund	-
Tanzania Mission Fund	(9,819.48)
Youth Tanzania Fund	(13,404.19)
Disaster Relief Fund	(100.00)
Memorial Fund	(3,211.26)
Missions/Growth Fund	(1,260.09)
Total Designations	\$ (111,461.74)
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Operating Funds Available @12/31/2014	\$ 2,988.49

FEBRUARY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Traditional worship 9:40 Sunday school/fellowship 10:45 Contemporary worship	2 7 p.m. Childcare Oversight committee meeting (library)	3 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	4 WNA! 5:30 pm Prayer meeting (library) 7:30 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	5 9 AM Piece Makers Quilting 6 PM Women of CTS meeting 6:30 PM Way of Life (parsonage)	6 5:30 Girl Scouts	7
8 8:30 Traditional worship 9:40 Sunday school/fellowship 10:45 Contemporary worship	9	10 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	11 WNA! 5:30 pm Prayer meeting (library) 7:30 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice	12 9 AM Agape Circle 6:30 PM Way of Life (parsonage)	13 Valentines Dinner Dance	14 Happy Valentine's Day
15 8:30 Traditional 9:40 Sunday school 10:45 Contemporary worship Fellowship Hall Reserved	16 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	17	18 Ash Wednesday 6pm Lenten meal (Youth Group) 7 pm Worship 8 pm Senior choir	19 6:45p.m. MOPS/MOMSnext (no Way of Life this week) 7 PM Wine Women & Wisdom	20 5:30 Girl Scouts	21
22 8:30 Traditional 9:40 Sunday school 10:45 Contemporary worship F. Hall reserved Board meetings 5:30, 6:30, 7 p.m.	23 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	24 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	25 6pm Lenten meal 7 pm Worship 8 pm Senior choir	26 6:30 PM Way of Life (parsonage)	27	28

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
Alive

5 p.m. FLYTE, Confirmation
 6:30 p.m. Dinner
 7 p.m. Activity

Wednesdays during Lent

5:00 p.m. Confirmation
 5:00 p.m. FLYTE
 5:30 p.m. Prayer
 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal
 7:00 p.m. Worship
 8:00 p.m. Senior Choir



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DATE/ 8:30 A.M.	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
FEB. 1	MARILYN NICKOLS	MIKE, NELL FINKRAL	KATELYN ANDERSON	RICHARD HILL-RICHS	MICHELLE, MICHEYLA ANDERSON
FEB. 8	ROGER, KAREN PETERS	ARLYNN BOELMAN, WENDELL HAHNE	KATELYN ANDERSON	BRIAN ANDERSON	DOUG, PAT WITTE
FEB. 15	MARY LUND		KATELYN ANDERSON	SUSAN THOMPSON	MICHELLE, MICHEYLA ANDERSON
FEB. 22	STEVE, JULIE FREESE	NATE METSCHKE, ROGER YOUNG	KATELYN ANDERSON	CHARLIE SKOGLUND	DOUG, PAT WITTE

DATE/ 10:45 A.M.	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
FEB. 1	DANITA BRODERS	CHUCK NICHOLSON, GREG MOEN	ELIZABETH BRODERS	JO ROBERTS	MARGARET SVITAK, MARY WEICH
FEB. 8	CONNIE ATKINSON	WARREN BENNETT, JIM MEYER	USHER	CONNIE ATKINSON	BECKY BAHNFLETH, LU CARTER
FEB. 15	TARA BAHNFLETH	RICH, DEB OLSON	KATELYN HALL	TARA BAHNFLETH	KORRIE HALL, LINDA CYBORON
FEB. 22	AARON, GINGER BECKMAN	RON HALL, DALLAS PULS	KELCIE HALL	GREG MOEN	BOB, ANDY LUTZ

Coffee Servers:

Feb. 1 Brian & Michelle Anderson
 Feb. 8 Rich & Kay Jaeger
 Feb. 15 Galen & Susan Thompson
 Feb. 22 Arlynn & Sharon Boelman

Communion Bread: Mary Lund

Altar Guild: Michelle Anderson, Sharon Koeppe

Offering Counting Teams:

Feb. 1 Dean & Doris Hoffart
 Feb. 8 Meg Donovan, Nell Finkral
 Feb. 15 Marsha Burke, Rhonda Piske
 Feb. 22 Darcy Metschke, Korrie Hall

Membership Care Team: Pat Witte, Marsha Burke

Can you help? Volunteers are needed at both services to greet, usher, lector, assist with communion, and make and serve coffee during the Fellowship hour. For more information or to sign up, please see Kathy in the church office or call 379-1775. Training will be provided. Thank you!

The Teen Mom Infant Childcare Program has 3 children enrolled at this time. Our first started in December, the second started in January, and the third will start in February. We are planning on adding some volunteers on the days that there are three babies, so that each child can get the one-on-one attention that they need. We are hopeful that our open house on January 24th will bring in more potential clients, so that we can be a blessing to even more people through this program.

It has been amazing to see how God is working in these young moms' lives through this program already. One young mom stated that this is "such a great program" and that it "saved [her] life". This mom has formed a good relationship with me, as well as her mentor mom, and she is working toward putting her life back together. She is so excited to be a part of it and is always asking how she can help get the word out so that more people enroll in the program. She has blessed us as much as we have blessed her.

I am so incredibly grateful to God and this congregation for giving me the chance to speak into the lives of these young moms and give them hope! It is our job to give hope to the hopeless, so that they too will come to know our Lord and Savior! And what an amazing job that is!!!

"And we^b boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^c also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:2b-5)

Liz Armitage, Program Director

1st Annual Cookie Exchange
December 6, 2014

Attendance: 9 ladies

Theme: Baking Up Christmas

Devotion: Baking Up Christmas by Julia Bettencourt given by Michelle Anderson

Ladies brought 3 dozen cookies each; we put together 7 tins (donated by Kathy Rogers) for shut-ins. Thanks to Pastor Matt and Pastor Steve for helping deliver them.

Meeting

Soup Supper December 3, 2014: Michelle Anderson gathered \$100 from several ladies, purchased the supplies, made chili and chicken noodle soup, carrots, celery; Doris Hoffart: Made Turkey Noodle soup; Korrie Hall: Made cinnamon Rolls; Sharel Olson: Donated puff pastries; Mary Weich: Helped serve soup. Money received: \$136.82. Voted on where the tithe should go \$13.68 going into offering plate. Discussion for remainder was to get supplies for kitchen ideas were good knife set, tongs, soup ladles, cookie sheets. Nell Finkral made the motion for \$123.14 to go toward knives, Susan Thompson seconded the motion. Passed to purchase knife set. Sharon Koeppel was going to purchase the knives, going to look into a Rada Knife Set.

Discussion was held about a kitchen remodel and dream kitchen. It was brought up that there was someone within the congregation that was working on getting it remodeled. Would be great to have new ovens, maybe even a double oven, larger microwave. Louise Skoglund will be checking into this and seeing what we can do as a ladies group.

Concerns were made about money (\$2,000) was given for a banner room several years ago and nothing has been done. Altar Guild was brought up that they should take care of it. Discussion was held that there was not an Altar Guild committee anymore. That there is volunteers that take care of it monthly, however no meetings/trainings have been held. Nell Finkral will organize a meeting to have a committee form.

Thank Offering was gathered in November with a total of \$693.70 as of meeting date. More money has been coming in. Discussion was held as to where the money should go. Nell Finkral made the motion that half of all the money received for thank offering go to Tanzania Well Fund, the other half go to the BCC fund (Youth Tanzania Mission fund). Susan Thompson seconded the motion. Vote was passed.

Prayer Concerns: Amanda Cyboron gave updates on her brothers. Aaron: will be going to Thailand for mission work leading a team. Pray for finances, health, strength. Aaron is also finishing his Masters in Leadership. Brandon: not able to go off his medicine. Need prayers for guidance, strength and encouragement. Annamarie will be having their second child at the end of January.

Meeting minutes by Michelle Anderson

Explore the Bible

Nehemiah in February

During the month of February we will be concluding our study and sermon series on the book of Nehemiah as the people of God returned from their Babylonian exile and rebuilt the temple and the walls of Jerusalem and restored their worship. The people of Israel re-committed their lives to serving and worshiping the one true God—Yahweh. As we soon enter into the season of Lent (a time of repentance), will you join us in returning to the Lord in faithful worship and a willing spirit to serve in His name?

February 1 – “Do Your Appointed Task” (Nehemiah 7:1-8)

February 8 – “Get an Understanding” (Nehemiah 8:1-12) **Food for the Poor Sunday**

February 15 – “Return to the Restoring God” (Nehemiah 9:32-37) A Servant’s Heart

February 22 – “Commit Your Way to the Lord” (Nehemiah 10:28-39)

CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 East Benjamin Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68701

Phone: 379-1775

Fax: 371-7743

E-mail: christtheservant@cableone.net

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