



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN FEBRUARY 2020

Happy Birthday

Carmen Wolfe	Feb. 4
Doug Witte	Feb. 8
Mary Lund	Feb. 9
Dagney Petersen	Feb. 11
Jeremy Olson	Feb. 12
Millie Drey	Feb. 18
Rhonda Beed	Feb. 19
Korrie Hall	Feb. 19
Deb Olson	Feb. 20
Nell Finkral	Feb. 23
Joy Potts	Feb. 25
Jan Puls	Feb. 27
Carter Olson	Feb. 28

Happy Anniversary

Vernon & Tama Krause	Feb. 2
Bob & Susie Lutz	Feb. 2
Roger & Donna Young	Feb. 20

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STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

There is only one proper motivation for us as Christian stewards to give and that is as a response to God's love which He has shown us in Jesus, His Son. His love is the source of our love and resulting generosity. His love empowers us to turn our love into action.

Our giving, then, of time and energy and service and money all result in prayers of thanksgiving to God. The Church is edified, the recipients have their needs met, the giver is blessed, and God receives the glory that is rightfully His.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolytes

2	Austin Wolfe
9	Katelyn Anderson
16	Delilah Broders
23	Ethan Wolfe

Coffee

2	Sharon & BJ Koeppe
9	Brad & Kathy Rogers
16	Al & Sharon Boelman
23	Mike & Nell Finkral

Communion Assistants

2	Lonnie Svitak, Bob Lutz
9	Gary and Mary Weich
16	Linda Cyboron, Louise Skoglund
23	Margaret Svitak, Linda Shaffer

Greeters

2	Judy Carstens
9	Chuck & Jeanne Nicholson
16	Dean & Doris Hoffart
23	Rich & Kay Jaeger

Ushers

2	Rich & Deb Olson
9	Al Boelman, Dallas Puls
16	Steve & Julie Freese
23	Doug & Pat Witte

Lectors

2	Greg Moen
9	Emily Svitak
16	Connie Atkinson
23	Emily Svitak

Sunday Worship – Epiphany

A Season of Making Christ Known

During the month of February we continue the season of Epiphany (making the light of Christ known in a dark world) until we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26. During these weeks in February we will be listening to the Sermon on the Mount (Jesus' teachings to His disciples and all believers who will come after). Since these texts are the very summary words of Jesus about the nature of the Kingdom of God, it is important that we hear them again with open ears, hearts, and minds. The Kingdom of God came near to us in Jesus and He has called us to continue to carry that message in word and action.

<u>Feb. 2</u>	Matthew 5:1-12	Epiphany 4	The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes
<u>Feb. 9</u>	Matthew 5:13-20	Epiphany 5	The teaching of Christ: salt and light
<u>Feb. 16</u>	Matthew 5:21-37	Epiphany 6	The teaching of Christ: forgiveness
<u>Feb. 23</u>	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration	Christ revealed as God's beloved Son
<u>Feb. 26</u>	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21	Ash Wednesday	The practice of faith
<u>March 1</u>	Matthew 4:12-23	Lent 1	Christ revealed as a prophet

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 26, 7 PM

Our journey to the cross begins with our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 26 with the Imposition of Ashes upon our foreheads, reminding us that we are mortal beings living a finite time upon this earth. As ashes are placed upon our foreheads with the sign of the cross, we will hear these words spoken to us: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The "alleluias" that were said as we raised our palm branches on Palm Sunday have been burned into ashes as we confess our sin for the many times we have fallen short of the glory of God. During this service we take an examination of conscience before God, others, and self as we begin another journey to the cross—the place of redemption and forgiveness. Ash Wednesday is the first step in this journey. The theme this year is **For His is Our Peace through the Cross**. On this night each family unit will be given a wooden cross (placed upon a wooden stand) upon which six items will be placed during Lent (see Midweek Lenten Services article). The first item (a stone) will be given as part of our message: "A Stone's Throw." The Lord's Supper will be observed as we receive the body and blood of our Lord in the bread and wine. A free-will meal will be served in the fellowship hall between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 7 PM

This year we will be journeying to the cross under the theme: **"For His is Our Peace through the Cross."** Our theme is based on the apostle Paul's words in Romans: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). The message of Lent is that we have peace through the forgiveness of our sins and we have the promise of life everlasting. On Ash Wednesday each family unit will be given a wooden cross on a base upon which six different objects will be placed (one per week) until we come to the week of Holy Week. At each midweek Lenten service you will be given one object to place on the cross. Each object will remind us of how we fall short of God's glory and how Jesus took that sin upon the cross.

Here is our schedule:

Feb. 26 – Ash Wednesday (Lent 1)

Object: Stone

Theme: A Stone's Throw

Text: Luke 22:39-46

March 4 – Lent 2

Object: Money Bag

Theme: What's Your Price?

Text: Matthew 26:14-16

March 11 – Lent 3

Object: Purple Cloth

Theme: Hail, King!

Text: Mark 15:16-20

March 18 – Lent 4

Object: A Single Nail

Theme: Nailed

Text: Luke 23:26-33

March 25 – Lents 5

Object: Dice

Theme: The Highest Stakes

Text: John 19:23-24

April 1 – Lent 6

Object: A Sponge

Theme: Soaked in Love

Text: John 19:28-30

Midweek Lenten Meals

Wednesdays served between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Each Wednesday during our Lenten season, various groups will be serving a free-will offering meal in the fellowship hall before our worship service which begins at 7:00 p.m. A variety of meals will be served (menus posted in advance) which will provide a time of fellowship before each midweek Lenten service. Each free-will offering may be used to support a special ministry or mission of the congregation. We hope that you will take this opportunity to get to know members of our congregation and prepare ourselves for worship. After worship there will be desserts/bars/cookies and coffee for more fellowship time!

My Letter to the Congregation

“Using All the Spiritual Gifts of the Church”

(Excerpts from *The Permanent Revolution* written by Alan Hirsch and Tim Catchim)

Last month I explained the five spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the church from Ephesians 4:11 (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, Teachers), summarized as APEST. Each spiritual gift was defined in the scope and importance for the body of Christ. When all are present and functioning, the body of Christ “grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16b). While we are called to exhibit all five spiritual gifts, one in particular is our primary gift (one that energizes us when we use it). We also have a secondary gift close to the first. For example, my primary spiritual gift is Teacher. I come alive when I teach. I can enter a teaching time a little bit tired and before I know it, I am energized (evidence of the Holy Spirit within me). A close secondary gift is Shepherd (Pastor). I love to visit with others, plan worship, preach and enter into the lives of others in difficult times. As a result, you will often see me in my office for teaching/preaching preparation times. And when I am not doing preparation, I will be listening to the Holy Spirit as to whom I might make a visit or phone call. I am always on call and ready when you are in the hospital or in a difficult time or in crisis. That does not mean I am not called to be an apostle, evangelist or prophet, but each of us has a primary/secondary gifting that energizes the most. Please note: I will put a simple questionnaire on the back table to help you discover your primary spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit. (If you need any help in filling it out or want to discuss it with me, don't hesitate to contact me.)

This month I want to talk about the particular insights each of these spiritual gifts (APEST) brings to the body of Christ. Each spiritual gift has a particular ministry that brings a unique vocational bias, a certain sensibility, and heightened receptivity to the issues that others cannot see. I stress each spiritual gift brings a receptivity that “others cannot see” but are needed if the body of Christ is to function as God designed it. So let us examine what each spiritual gift brings to the body.

Apostle – is the **custodian of the DNA** of the body (the core and founding ideas of the body). Not surprisingly, apostolic types tend to favor the entrepreneurial edges of the church and have a natural capacity for adventure and risk. They are systems-sensitive who possess a keen intuition of what it takes to initiate new ministries and maintain them. As a result, an apostle seeks to take Christianity to a whole new ground. They like to develop, maintain, and mobilize for a movement of God with a broader impact on the world.

Prophet – is the **guardian of faithfulness** of the body who have always been perceived as those who are in the know. Prophets call people to live faithfully in a covenant relationship with God. Their real motivation is to motivate their listeners to live faithfully in light of a new future. The prophet holds people in a tension between what is and what can be possible if we live our lives faithfully with God. They are generally not content with the status quo. They tend to be always calling God's people to greater degrees of faithfulness. They question everything that does not seem to be God honoring and force us to face up to the distance between us and God. They stir the pot, rock the boat, move our cheese, harp, nag, and agitate until we pay attention to the areas of our individual and communal lives that do not reflect the values of the gospel and God's kingdom. God's people have always struggled to hear and integrate prophetic messages, which is why so many prophets are rejected and

isolated from the ministry of the church. But without them, it is hard to see how we can remain a faithful, covenantal people.

Evangelist – is the **recruiting to the cause** of the body who are always looking to create a positive encounter between people and the core message of the church, especially the gospel. An evangelist generally seeks to spread the gospel message and enlist others to the cause. The evangelist is an exceptional recruiter to the cause of Christ that causes the church to grow. They are socializers who possess confidence, curiosity, sociability and energy to propel them into all kinds of new relationships. They are able to make connections between God and people as well as people and people. Evangelists are investors, inviters, convincers, and conversers. Although evangelists are adept in bringing new people in, they typically struggle to integrate them into the community. Thus, they rely on the functions of the shepherd gifting to foster a sense of community and belonging.

Shepherd – is the **creating empathetic community** of the body who has the task of nurturing people in the faith and caring for the welfare of the people. They are invigorated by a sense of cohesion, inclusiveness, and stability. Shepherds pay close attention to their immediate environment, noticing details about people and the state of the community. They tend to have strong empathetic aptitudes and heightened capacities for a meaningful friendship and relationships (relational networks tend to max out between 120-150 people). To be a good shepherd in any sense of the word, shepherds have to know all the names and stories of the people in their care. Thus, shepherds find it disheartening when people leave the community—for good and not-so-good reasons. The downside of shepherds is that they often avoid conflict in the name of keeping peace and tend to be passive-aggressive because they are generally expected to be “nice,” civil people. And yet it is hard to see the church sustain itself without shepherds over the long term.

Teacher – is the **bringing of wisdom and understanding** of the body who teach with a biblical world view. Teachers seek to help people gain insight into how God wants them to see and experience their world. Teachers differ from the other spiritual gifts in that teachers are concerned more about broad comprehension as opposed to faithfulness to the covenant. Teachers do not have that sense of urgency that instills the apostles and prophets. Teachers are not concerned with how long learning takes; their main aim is that learners come to a fuller understanding, and that such learning can only be conceived as a lifelong process. Due to their primary commitment to ideas, teachers are more susceptible to being ideological (which almost always ends up with privileged ideas at the expense of people, i.e., Pharisees in Jesus’ day). Teaching is indispensable to the health of the church, but the teacher should not be the axis upon which the community revolves.

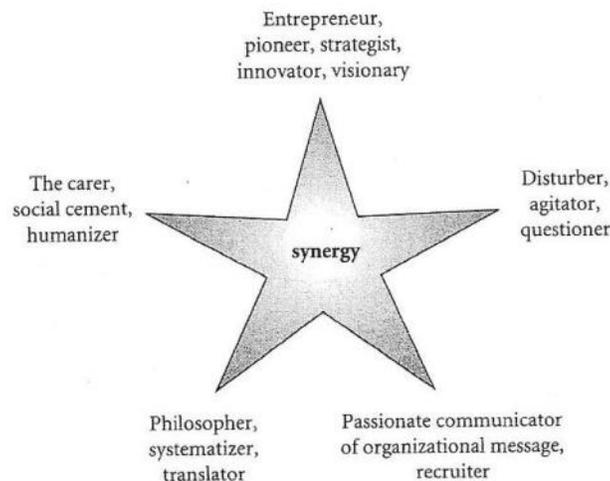
When you look at the five spiritual gifts (APEST), you see the genius of the Holy Spirit in creating faith from one generation to another. When all five gifts are recognized and understood, the church becomes one of the most powerful forces on earth for change and reconciliation. The danger comes when one spiritual gift dominates the others or seeks to drive out any of the other spiritual gifts (sadly, this happens often in the church). The church needs all FIVE spiritual gifts. For example, this is what happens if one spiritual gift dominates as the sole gift in the body.

- If the **apostolic leader dominates**, the church will tend to be hard-driving, autocratic, with lots of pressure for change and development, and will leave lots of wounded people in its wake. This church will tend to dissolve in time.

- If the **prophetic leader dominates**, the church will be one-dimensional (always harking back to one or two issues), will be factious and sectarian, will have a "superspiritual" vibe, will tend to be either too activist to be sustainable or too quietist to be useful. This is not a viable church.
- If the **evangelist leader dominates**, the church will have an obsession with numerical growth, will create dependence on charismatic leadership, and will tend to lack theological breadth and depth. This church will not empower people.
- If the **shepherd (pastor) dominates**, the church will be risk averse, codependent and needy, and overly lacking in healthy dissent, and therefore creativity. The church will lack innovation and will not be able to transfer its core message and tasks from one generation to the next.
- If the **teachers (theologians) dominate**, the church will be ideological, controlling, moralistic, and somewhat uptight. A rationalistic, doctrine-obsessed, Christian Gnosticism (the idea that we are saved by what we know) will tend to replace reliance on the Holy Spirit. This church will be exclusive based on ideology, such as that of the Pharisees.

So can you begin to imagine what Christ the Servant could become if we truly understood these five spiritual gifts and encouraged those who had these gifts to share and use them among us? Would there have to be any adjustment? Definitely, we would have to humble ourselves, confess our tendency to want only our spiritual gift, relearn, and submit ourselves to the full power of the Holy Spirit in our congregation as the Spirit designed us to be.

Below is a chart summarizing the five spiritual gifts which, when received, bring the synergy of the Holy Spirit in our midst!



*** Next month I will share a chart that summarizes the contributions each spiritual gift brings to the body of Christ.

Seeking the Spirit's full power among us,

Pastor Steve

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Chili Cook-off & Game Night, 5:00
2 Epiphany 4 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 fellowship	3	4	5 2:30 Confirmation	6 6:30 Journey	7 6:30 Girl scouts	8
9 Epiphany 5 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 potluck	10 5 Hospitality	11 4:30 Steward- ship 6 Book study	12 2:30 Confirmation	13 9 Agape 6:30 Journey	14 Valentine's Day Movie Night 5 - 12 p.m.	15
16 Epiphany 6 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 fellowship Mission/ ministry team	17 Presidents Day 6:30 Council	18	19 2:30 Confirmation	20 2 Card club 6 MOPS	21 6:30 Girl scouts	22
23 Transfiguration 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 fellowship	24	25 6 Bible study	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Meal 6:00-6:30 Service with ashes 7:00	27 6:30 Journey	28	29

Membership care team: Linda Cyboron, Rhonda Beed
 Altar guild: Margaret Svitak, Mary Ann Knee
 Communion bread: Margaret S.

Christ the Servant Council Meeting
January 20, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Present: Pastor Steve, Emily Svitak, Warren Bennett, Steve Jessen, Doug Witte, Steve Freese, Bob Lutz, Jan Puls, Steve Morton, Chuck Nicholson

Absent: Sharon Koeppe

Steve Jessen opened the meeting with a devotion from *My Utmost for His Highest* on 'continuous conversion.' It talked about the need to continually submit to the Spirit as we go through life. One time of obedience and submission to the Lord is not enough, but it needs to be a continual conversion of our hearts to His will.

Receiving of Minutes/Financial Reports/Pastor's Report

Bob Lutz inquired about where local benevolence was being given. This was addressed in the minutes last month. As the year moves ahead, Steve Morton and Sharon Koeppe will be in contact with the missions and ministry team to set this.

Doug Witte inquired about some differences between balances posted in different places of reports/ newsletter. Steve Jessen mentioned it was likely because Greg Moen has been working often on things to finish out the year, and these numbers may have changed because of this.

Doug Witte moved to receive the minutes, financial reports, and pastor's report. Steve Freese seconded. Motion carried.

Book Study

Steve gave members *The Servant Leader* by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges. Council will be going through the book over the next several months.

Designated Fund Policy

Steve Morton and Jan Puls worked on looking at policies for designated funds. The council received a draft of a policy. They reviewed it and considered some questions in moving forward with it. Further questions will be asked of a CPA to make sure that the policy would be legally up to date with tax laws. The policy will be reviewed again next month.

Steve Jessen was approached with the request to pay for a congregant to go to the upcoming Via De Cristo weekend from the mission account. The cost of the weekend is \$175. Doug Witte inquired as to why the fee couldn't be taken out of the Adult Education/Recharge Retreat budget line item. Doug Witte moved that the \$175 be paid on congregant's behalf and that it would come out of the Recharge Retreat budget line item. Warren Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Transition Team: Steve Jessen shared that the team recently met and has been looking into a candidate for the intentional interim position. There has been no commitment yet; however, there have been interactions between the committee and this candidate. Further decisions are to be made and council/members will be kept in the loop as these decisions are made. Once an interim is in place, a call committee can be formed.

Building/Grounds: Warren Bennett noted that one of the Christmas trees has parts missing. Julie Freese is going to work on purchasing another tree from the women's group funds.

Discipleship: Doug Witte intends to meet with Pastor Steve to discuss what specific items he may have in mind to buy or set aside funds for, so they don't get overlooked in the transition this year.

Mission-Local and Outreach: Steve Morton inquired of where to find the schedule for local benevolence. He will be reaching out to Linda Cyboron in moving forward.

Audit Committee

Doug Witte put together a list of responsibilities of the audit committee. Steve Jessen will contact some people that were suggested.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Council set April 26th for the semi-annual meeting.

The next council meeting is February 17th.

Bob Lutz closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Svitak, Secretary

Bank Account and Fund Balances
as of Jan. 6, 2020

Designated Giving Checking Account	
Church Emergency Fund	\$ 8,619.35
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 1,105.00
Memorials	\$12,018.42
Missions/Growth	\$ 3,870.71
Special Projects (Kitchen)	\$ 5,080.21
Tanzania Travel	\$ 8,108.20
Worship Fund	\$ 2,323.47
Interest	\$ <u>51.69</u>
Total Designated Giving account	\$41,177.05
General Checking account	\$58,057.24