

February Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- February Birthdays
- Walking Together Flyer
- Uncommon Conversations Flyer

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Volume I, Issue I

Newsletter Date

Pastors Ponderings

During the month of January, we hit the ground running with the Gospel of Mark and his announcement in chapter one, verse one, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” There was a lot of fast-paced action and, not surprisingly, we do not slow down a whole lot with our readings in February. On **Sunday, February 4** we hear from chapter five of Jesus healing a Gerasene demoniac – yes, you read that right. It’s one of the more dramatic healings in all of the gospels. On **February 11**, in chapter nine, we journey up the mountain with Jesus and four of his disciples to witness his transfiguration and hear a voice from heaven declare Jesus as God’s beloved.

We then tumble down the mountain (so to speak) as on the first day of the season of Lent, **Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m.** we hear in the latter part of chapter nine Jesus predicting his passion and death. On this holy day, we also receive the ashes on our foreheads with the reminder that “We are dust, and to dust we shall return.”

On **Sunday, February 18** we move to a story in chapter ten of a rich man who is called to sell all that has and follow Jesus. A very challenging text as we move ahead on our Lenten journey! And, on **February 25** we hear Jesus again predicting his passion, disciples who “just don’t seem to get it,” and Jesus’ healing of blind Bartimaeus.

On **Wednesdays, February 21 and 28, with a meal at 6:00 and worship at 7:00**, and for the weeks following during Lent, we will be using a series called, *Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith With Peter*. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter’s story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love.

Using this brand new engaging worship and devotional material, we’ll be joining Peter in figuring out faith. We won’t idolize or vilify him; instead, we’ll wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes. For this series, we will use stories that focus on the significant moments in Peter’s journey—from becoming a disciple to meeting the risen Christ. Join us every Wednesday for this exciting journey of discovery!



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, thoughts and prayers and offers to help.

I would like to thank WELCA for the beautiful poinsettia. I appreciate it very much.

Again, Thank you
Linda

Thank You

Dear Holy Cross,
I would like to thank you all for your unending support and donations this past year. All of your youth and committees that put on events that directly support West CAP's Food Pantry has been very much appreciated throughout this past year. The many families and individuals we serve would not have this support network without the generosity of congregations and people such as all of you. This past year with the increased prices of food and general overall cost of living increase, it has affected our ability to keep some common items on the shelves on a regular basis. Currently we are always in need of canned soups, vegetables, boxed pasta, peanut butter and tuna products. We also

can use personal care items on a regular basis as well.

If anyone is looking for some volunteer opportunities, we are in need of on call delivery persons for shut ins or emergency food deliveries. Please contact Melissa Larson for a volunteer application and additional information regarding other volunteer opportunities.

Again, I want to thank you all for your steadfast concern and care of our community members in need. May you all have a happy and healthy year in 2024!

Warm regards,

Melissa J Larson, C.S.W

Food Access and Resources Coordinator-West CAP, Inc

Love and Care Ministry 2023 By Nancy Wold

We are thankful to God for all that have volunteered and donated to our Ministry. Nancy Wold is the "Sunshine Lady" and prayer chain Coordinator. Jane Berends has joined the prayer chain team as the "caller". In 2023 Nancy has sent out 505 cards to our congregation and community members, keeping in touch with countless people needing our prayers and a little Sunshine. Becky Hahn served as a consistent visitor and caring presence to our senior members along with me and quite a few others as well and we are grateful for her ministry also.

Becky also kindly serves with me monthly at the Glenhaven worship service along with Carol Kelm on keyboard. Becky has taken a leave for the time being as she heals.

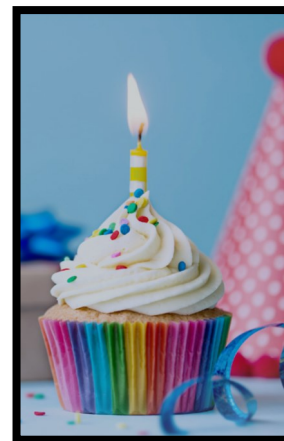
Thank you to all that have made cards, donated cards and donated stamps to our Ministry.

We are open to others joining our team in any capacity in 2024 as we continue to show God's Love and care and bring a ray of Sunshine into people's lives.



February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| 2/1 | Kassidi Thompson | 2/14 | Ned Hahn |
| 2/4 | Thomas Jeske | | Gordon Hierlmeier |
| | Jane Berends | | Brady McCarthy |
| | Tori Ohman | | Nolan Hoffman |
| 2/6 | Sheila Swenby | 2/18 | Linda Hobbick |
| 2/7 | Elizabeth Mosing | 2/21 | Susan Kahler |
| 2/8 | Betty Ludtke | | Logan Hoiotmt |
| | Arvid Jeske | 2/22 | Jaycie Oberle |
| 2/9 | Joan Ludtke | | Linda Krizan |
| | Pete Krizan | | Libby Wagner |
| | Robert Ohman | 2/23 | Peggy Harrinton |
| 2/11 | Peggy Olson | | AdieLynn Groves |
| | Kyle Johnson | 2/27 | Nancy Wold |
| | | 2/29 | Lyle Wagner |



February

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9am—Worship With Baptism 10:10—Fellowship	5 11:00am Bible Study 7:00 pm Uncommon Conversations	6	7 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship 7:30pm-Youth Group	8	9	10
11 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	12 11:00am Bible Study 1:30 pm Resource Meeting 6:30 pm Faith & Life / FUN	13 10:30am— Glenhaven Worship 6:30pm Threads	14 Ash Wednesday 3:30pm-JAM 5:30pm-Confirmation 7:00pm-Worship	15	16	17
18 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	19 11:00am Bible Study 9-4 Confirmation Service Day 7:00pm Council Meeting	20	21 3:30pm-JAM 6:00pm-Lenten Meal 7:00pm-Lenten Worship	22 8:30am Quilting 1:00pm WELCA	23	24
25 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	26 11:00am Bible Study	27	28 3:30pm-JAM 6:00pm-Lenten Meal 7:00pm-Lenten Worship	29		

Resources Team Thanks You! By John Lindelof

The church finished 2023 in a healthy financial position, thanks again to the generosity of our congregation. We had some large expenses this year and we are thankful that our unrestricted fund still sits at \$19,615, with available funds in several of our restricted funds as well. More was allocated to the fair stand fund with several larger projects on tap, and a check from an insurance claim on the roof gave the building fund a boost.

As we look to 2024, the council has recommended a 4.6% increase to the budget. This will position the church to continue to provide a wide array of excellent programming and events for both our congregation and community.

Though the council recommends a balanced budget, we ask that you consider making an increase to your giving, if at all possible. These funds are vital to the church and ultimately determine the quality of what the church can provide. There are several ways to give, and in an effort to broaden the appeal, Holy Cross will be offering the opportunity to give by way of a QR code. This is an excellent option for our younger generations to easily give, and we hope you'll prioritize doing so. Simply Giving continues to be an excellent way to give, and we graciously ask that you consider an increase in your giving as we move into 2024.

We are thankful to all of you and your faithful giving!

Holy Cross Lutheran Balance Sheet			
	Dec. 31, 2021	as of December 31, 2022	Dec. 31, 2023
Assets			
General Offering (unrestricted)	35,015	28,250	19,615
<i>Restricted Funds</i>			
Children, Youth, and Family	250	313	787
Building	956	1,606	37,837
Choir & Handbells	2,085	1,591	1,591
Fairstand	2,000	2,000	6,000
Noisy (Malawi) Offering	0	98	0
Undesignated Memorials	46	1,776	2,964
Signage Memorial	3,455	4,020	4,020
Prepaid Funeral	600		
Total Current Assets	44,407	39,654	72,814
Total Current Liabilities	1,706	2,287	1,773
Total Equity	42,691	37,367	71,041

Council Meeting Minutes 1-15-2024

Council Meeting on 1/15/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM.

Attendance: Dave Anderson, Derrick Oberle, Amber Hoffman, John Lindelof, Jill Logghe, Ned Hahn, Angela Jeske and Pastor Jonathan.

Ned motioned to approve the agenda, Jill second.

April motioned to approve the secretary's report, John second.

Faith and Life Team

- Confirmation Class Update – All is going well, bowling scheduled for after the annual meeting.
- Synod Walking Together in Rice Lake on February 17th, \$25 Registration.
- Sinor Class recognition May 5th (8-9 kids)
- JAM _ Average 30-40 kids each week, going well, good outreach and kids seem to be enjoying it. Planning a mother's Day Program too.

FUN Ministry Team Report

- Uncommon conversations Feb 5th (Watershed) Stewart Bartz, Tara Dawn, Becky Brathal will be leading the conversation this year.
- Uncommon Conversations – April 22nd topic “Neighbor to Neighbor” & Communities of Color, learning about our brothers & Sisters in community.
- Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd. More info to come...
- Luther Point Bible Camp July 21st-26th, the week following the St. Croix County Fair.
- Guatemala Trip April 6th-14th. Still openings for others to attend!

Property and Management

- Fairstand Work scheduled for Spring, working with Clinton Rassbach.
- Roof work is on hold for this time of year. Money is set aside for that. Money was moved to a separate account at Hiawatha Bank as a 7-month CD account.

Resources

- Ned motioned to accept the Financial report for December, Jill second.
- The council reviewed the annual budget and has a recommendation for the congregation to approve at the annual meeting.

Council Business

- Service Coffee Hour on February 4th: April & Derrick
- Next Meeting: February 19th @ 7:00 pm.

Adjournment at 8:45 pm

Confirmation Corner By Jill Logghe

Happy New Year!

January 2024 is off to a great start as we have had near perfect attendance for class and more delicious nutritious suppers.

We are currently learning about Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, the two sacraments we celebrate in the Lutheran Church. As observed in the pictures the students are remembering their baptism by wetting their faces with water three times

and reciting, **"I am baptized. I am a Child of God. I am important."** Please note that we celebrate Holy Communion twice monthly, the 2nd and 4th Sunday &



Wednesday of the month. Students are encouraged to volunteer to serve communion, acolyte, and usher. Thank you Mentors and students for delivering poinsettias (December event) to our senior members. They brought smiles and the visits were very much appreciated

In the past our January event has been a Sliding Party at the Stack Shack. Last year there was TOO MUCH snow and this year NOT ENOUGH!! So like last year we went BOWLING at Leakers! When?

Sunday, January 28th, 12:30 – 2:30. So much Fun!!

Our February event is a service project at N St. Paul Area Food Shelf, 2266 2nd St. North, St. Paul, MN on

Monday, February 19th, 9:00-4:00. Students will be checking expiration dates and shelving food.

Please note that Ash Wednesday is February 14th, which is the beginning of our Wednesday Lenten Worship services. Like during Advent various church groups serve suppers from 6:00 – 6:45. Students meet in the classroom at 6:45 to discuss the worksheet and prepare to join their mentor and parents for worship.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb 14th Ash Wednesday,
Lenten Services Begin
Monday, Feb 29th, 9:00am-4:00pm
Service Project at
North St. Paul Food Shelf



High School Youth By Melanie Hill

The High School youth started the new year with sponsoring the Grace Place meal for January. We provided tator tot casserole, buns, milk, dessert and veggies for approximately 55 people. Thank you for your support of Grace Place. I know that Grace Place truly appreciates the help.

We will be scheduling a fun event in Feb as there are a few days off in the middle of the month. So keep an eye out for emails regarding that.

Our youth are super busy this year. They are involved in a variety of activities: basketball, wrestling, DECA, FCCLA and more. Please reach out if you would like to watch any of our youth as they show their talents.

Melanie

A Year Full of Grace By Pastor Jonathan

O Day Full of Grace that now we see
 Appearing on earth's horizon
 Bring light from our God that we may be
 Abundant in joy this season.
 God, shine for us now in this dark place;
 Your name on our hearts emblazon!

ELW 627 Scandinavian Folk Hymn

Of course, you likely knew that I would begin my reflection on this past year with a song because thanks be to God, there's always a reason to sing! I thought of this hymn as I reflected on this past year and thought about how 2023 was *A Year Full of Grace*. We welcomed several people into God's water family through baptism: Akari, Gus, and Michael. And we said goodbye to a number of beloved saints: Lorraine, Louise, Ruth, Marlys, and Lori. We also welcomed eight young people into membership as they stood up proudly to affirm their baptism: Kirah, Eli, Tori, Clayton, Langston, Jaxin, Addisyn, and Max. These were all rich, grace-filled moments.

By God's grace and favor, there were countless other days full of grace in which God brought light and abundant joy. Many, if not most, of these are shared in more detail in the pages of our Annual Report (please let us know if you want one set aside or sent to you)! For me, a few highlights that stand out included another incredible mission trip to Guatemala. Jeanne Jeske, Jill Logghe, and members of my family got to visit CLAG, the Christian Elementary School in the capital, to visit Las Rosas, a struggling, yet faith-filled community in rural Guatemala to worship and build relationships, *and* we had wonderful interactions and learned from the young women of the Milagros boarding school.

Another grace-filled moment was when we gathered with many of our fellow grieving community members at the intersection of Highway 128 and G at the site where Officer

Katie Leising was tragically killed. We continue to grieve that loss but we also boldly declared resurrection and re-claimed that space as holy ground. Clearly, as the hymn above states, God will continue to shine God's light for us in that dark place.

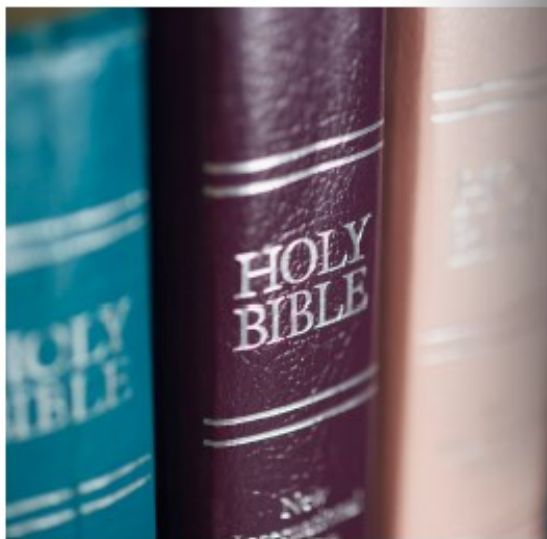
As we faithfully go into another year of grace, we need to continually embrace that light of Christ that can bring us abundant joy. We are sure to have more difficult days but as I see with our excellent staff of Wanda Feldman as office manager, Cindy Thompson as custodian, Carol Kelm as musician, Bruce Kelm, Melanie Hill, and Jill Logghe as our Church, Youth, and Family Coordinators, we are better together *and* we are able to accomplish so many delightful things in Jesus' name! Thank you to former staff members Syliva Proudlock and Katie Drinkman who served faithfully and well. And thank you to Derrick Oberle and each of the council members for bringing their talents and gifts to serve Jesus' Church – particularly Jill Logghe and Ned Hahn who are stepping down and will be greatly missed on the council.

Thank you to each and every one of you that brought light, shared joy, expressed words of encouragement, and showed love. May we continue to have God's name emblazoned on our hearts for all the world to see!

WALKING TOGETHER

"I Love to Tell the Story"

+ Worship +
+ Workshops +
+ Inspiration +



FEBRUARY 17, 2024

9:00 - 4:00

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
RICE LAKE, WI**

8:00 Registration
9:00 Worship
10:00 Workshop 1
11:00 Workshop 2
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Workshop 3
2:00 Workshop 4
3:00 Workshop 5
4:00 Blessing & Sending



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AGRICULTURE, WATER & COMMUNITY

A Farmer-Led Uncommon Conversation on the relationship between our farms, food, & local waters.



Featuring presentation by Stewart Bartz, of Bolan-Vale Farms and roundtable community discussions on farming and our community.

FEBRUARY

5TH

7:00 PM-

8:20 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

615 Maple Street

Glenwood City

All community members are encouraged to come & connect.



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April Visit to Guatemala Church Friends

We plan to accompany our brothers and sisters in faith in Guatemala. We'd love to have a few more people to join us! The plan is to fly to the capital, stay overnight at the Lutheran Center, and go by private coach bus to the rural community of Las Rosas. We'll worship with them, learn, play with the children, and get a wonderful sense of their faith and life. Evenings are spent at a nearby hotel/resort. Following this, we visit Panajachel, a gorgeous town on the edge of Lake Atitlan, surrounded by volcanoes. We then return to the Lutheran Center to meet and worship with the young women of Milagros (Miracle), the ILAG boarding school. We will also have a day with children at the Christian

elementary school (called CLAG) in the capital before we depart for home.

Please speak with me or Jeanne Jeske if you are at all interested in joining us! The total cost and specific itinerary will be pinned down very soon. Please listen to hear if God is calling you to experience the faith, culture, and beautiful people of Guatemala!

