



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior.

Every Valentine's Day, February 14, across the United States and in other places around the world; candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones.

St. John writes, "this is love not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since He so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:10-11). We express our love through heart shaped cards and boxes of candy; our gracious God expresses His love for us in the form of a cross.

Valentine's Day is a reminder of God's sacrificial love for us, an example of that love found in our lives and History. February 4th has been designated as "Chaplains Day". It remembers the sacrificial love of four chaplains of different faiths who gave their lives for others. They were on board the *Dorchester*, which was a troop carrier headed for Greenland. The *Dorchester* was struck in the early morning hours of February 4th by torpedoes from a German submarine. The *Dorchester* sank within 20 minutes. As the ship began to sink four chaplains displayed extraordinary bravery. They helped calm the frightened soldiers, distributed life jackets, and ultimately gave away their own life vests to others in need. Eye witnesses reported seeing them standing together on the deck, arms linked in prayer as the ship went down. They sacrificed their lives and saved many troops who were about to perish.

The Lord's cross expresses His love and the hope that can be found in Jesus. We look to the cross and see our Lord's death in our place. There He pays the price demanded for our sins so that we can be His children who can live lives of love and hope.

The love that God has for us is a sacrificial love that richly and daily provides us with all that we need – spiritually and physically. He loves us not because we deserve His love but because of His grace. We are His forgiven children and now we have a living hope for time and eternity.

We can remember that in every situation He surrounds us with His love. That love is there in times of sickness and health, joy and sorrow, peace and discord, prosperity and scarcity. Surrounded by His grace and love we have hope for the future and eternity.

This Valentine's Day let us remember God's love, the source of true love and the love that is to be reflected in our lives. May Prince of Peace Lutheran Church continue to reflect God's love not only to our members and our community, and may that love reach out to the far corners of the world.

May our gracious Lord continue to surround you and yours with His love and may you have a blessed Valentine's Day.

In Christ,  
Pastor Raether

Pastor Raether



## Blessings for Faithful Obedience

Connected to Christ as branches to the vine, we are enabled to live obedient lives. Scripture makes some exciting promises to those who love and obey Him. Our Savior declared, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). The life we lead will depend on our relationship with Jesus. When He lives within us, we receive His strength to serve and obey Him. When He abides in us, the love of the Lord will be seen through us. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). When Christ dwells within us, God will pour out His blessings upon us. Sometimes material blessings will be given along with the certainty of spiritual blessings. We will be blessed "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:8).

The blessings of God are given to those who love and obey Him; the curse of God will be on those who are disobedient. Some of God's blessings or curses, depending on obedience or disobedience, are recorded in Deuteronomy, chapter 28: "If you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). The next twelve verses share God's blessings to the obedient. Verse fifteen is the first of fifty-three verses relating to God's curses for disobedience: "But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."

As we face decisions, we need to remember the far-reaching consequences our choices will have. We can choose curses by disobedience, or we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, choose a blessed life by obedience. An old adage says, "We make decisions, and then our decisions turn around and make us."

We live in a broken and rebellious generation. The obvious question, of course, is why? Many think the answer is confusing, but it is not. It is found throughout the record of Scripture; it is disobedience. How can we be obedient? We must learn, by the Spirit's power working within us through Word and Sacrament, to be obedient to Christ in the details of daily life. We rely on Jesus' words, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

### "The Parables of Jesus"

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues its study of "The Parables of Jesus." This study gives us the opportunity to study the parables Jesus used to teach his people. Session titles are:

- Jan. 21 – "The Prodigal Son" – Luke 15:11-32
- Jan. 28 – "The Great Banquet" – Luke 14:16-24
- Feb. 4 – "The Talents" – Matthew 25:14-30
- Feb. 11 – "The Sower" – Mark 4:1-9, 14-20
- Feb. 18 – "The Unmerciful Servant" – Matthew 18:21-35
- Feb. 25 – "The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin" – Luke 15:1-10
- Mar. 4 – "The Rich Fool" – Luke 15:1-10

Other Parables to be discussed are:

- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
- The Good Samaritan
- Workers in the Vineyard
- The Ten Virgins

## LENT

Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th and Easter will be celebrated on April 5th. The mid-week Lent service will be held on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Because of the vacancy at St. Paul Lutheran, the pastors will not be rotating for the Mid-week Services.

The theme for Prince of Peace's midweek services will be "The Hand of the Lord." Hands are used to heal, mend, build, teach, comfort, and so much more. Yet, as humans, our hands are sinful and unclean. Christ's hands are the ones that can transform our sinful and dirtied hands into beautiful, clean ones to carry out His plans. Spend this Lent exploring God's Word to see how His hands are used in both the New and Old Testaments, from creation to crucifixion and eternal life.

The schedule and theme of each midweek service is as follows:

- 2-18 – Ash Wednesday -Matthew 6:1-6;16-21 "The Hand of The Lord (HOTL) Who Freely Gives"
- 2-25 – Mid Week I – Matthew 14:28-31 "HOTL Who Creates and Saves"
- 3-4 – Mid Week II – Luke 11:21-23 "HOTL Who Cast Out Demons"
- 3-11 – Mid Week III – Matthew 8:1-4 "HOTL Who Heals the Sick"
- 3-18 – Mid Week IV – Luke 7:11-17 – "HOTL Who Raises the Dead"
- 3-25 – Mid Week V – John 3:11-18 "HOTL Who Holds All things"
- 4- 2 – Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Celebrated -John 13:1-17 – "HOTL Who Serves and Feeds"
- 4- 3 – Good Friday – Isaiah 53:4-11 "HOTL Who Was Pierced"
- 4- 5 – Feast of the Resurrection - Holy Communion Celebrated – Luke 24:1- 12 – "HOTL Who is Risen"

## SUNDAY SERMON SCHEDULE

### "They Walked with God"

The theme of our Midweek Lenten services is "The Hand of the Lord." We will find that the hands of the Lord transforms us and empowers us to walk as God's Children. We are called upon to walk with our Lord on the journey called life. Our Sunday sermon series will take a look at six individuals who walked with the Lord. We look at the example of their lives and by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit we fulfill our call to "walk with the Lord." The Sunday and sermon schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 22 1st Sunday in Lent – "Enoch: the Man Who Walked with the Lord" Genesis 5:24, Hebrews 11:5 – Holy Communion Celebrated
- Mar. 1 2nd Sunday in Lent – "Noah: the Man Who Prepared for the Judgment."
- Mar. 8 3rd Sunday in Lent- "Abraham: The Man of Faith" James 2:23; Hebrews 11: 8ff – Holy Communion Celebrated
- Mar, 15 4th Sunday In Lent- "Joseph: Who saw Dreams, Dungeons, and Diadems" -Genesis 50:210-21
- Mar, 22 5th Sunday in Lent – "Ruth, the Woman of Loyalty" – Ruth 1:16,17 Holy Communion Celebrated
- Mar. 29 Palm Sunday – "Joshua, A Type of Jesus Christ" – Numbers 13:16, Matthew 1:21 – Service of Palms
- Apr. 5 Feast of the Resurrection - Holy Communion Celebrated – Luke 24:1-12 – "The Hands of The Lord- Who is Risen"

## FEBUARY

It is always interesting to see what events and things are set aside to be observed during a month. The month of February is no different. Consider the following:

### DAY

- 1 National Dark Chocolate Day
- 1. National Baked Alaska Day
- 2. National Tater-Tot Day
- 3. National Carrot Day
- 3 National The Day Music Died – Plane crash where Buddy Holly died, near Clear Lake
- 4. Four Chaplains Day
- 4. National Homemade Soup Day
- 5. Optimist Day (First Thursday in February)
- 7. National Send a Card to a Friend Day
- 8. National Iowa Day
- 11. National Shut-in Visit Day
- 14. National Organ Donor Day
- 15. National Gum Drop Day
- 15. National Wisconsin Day
- 16. National Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- 18. National Drink Wine Day
- 20. National Comfy Day
- 20. National Cherry Pie Day

- 22. National Margarita Day
- 26. National Write to An Elder Day
- 28. National Tooth Fairy Day
- 29. National Leap Day

**Board of Education**

January 7, 2026

**Members:** Kari Johnson, Rhonda Waddell, and Sue Macek

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm. Sue opened with a prayer. December minutes were approved as written.

**Library:** Our new book written by Shannon Bream titled, "The Women of the Bible Speak". This book outlines lessons we can take from Esther, the hope of Hannah, the audacity of Rehab, and the faith of Mary (the mother of Jesus). In this book Shannon Bream offers us a deeper understanding of each and wisdom and insights that can transform our own lives today.

**St. Paul:** Classes resume on 1/5, basketball schedule: 1-6 Saints vs Boone, 1-8 vs Denison, 1-19 vs CCS, 1-20 vs Mt Olive and 1-30 IDW Basketball tourney. On 1/15 ends the 2nd quarter, 1-25 to 1/31 is National Lutheran School week.

**Catechism and Sunday School report:** So far we have learned about Genesis to Hosea from the Old Testament. Bible stories this month include Mary and Joseph, the Wise Men, Jesus tested, and Simon Peter. We decorated cupcakes to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

**Family Fellowship report:** Discussed new dates for Family Fellowship. We will meet twice a year. Dates discussed were April and October. More discussion needed.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Will resume on Wednesday Jan 7th at 10 am with "Tame Your Thoughts."

**Cradle Roll:** Birthday cards were sent to three children.

**Old Business:** The Advent Hymn sing on December 17th was inspiring. Thanks to Steve Long, St Paul band, and Emma Davis solo.

**New business:** Special thank you to the Ron Brown family for supplying the Christmas sacks on Christmas Eve. Prince of Peace will hold an "Epiphany" service at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 6th. Fellowship coffee afterwards.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be February 4th at 5:15 pm.

Sue Macek  
Chairman

**Lutheran Women's Fellowship**

January 8, 2026

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on January 8, 2026, at 1 pm. Nine members attended the meeting. Pastor Raether began the meeting with prayer. Sally Zuspenn called the January meeting to order. Sally Zuspenn started the meeting with mites devotion; LWML Mission Statement, and LWML Vision Statement. The minutes of December 4, 2025, were given out, were read, and approved.

**Committee reports:**

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Shut-ins Birthdays:** None

**February Funeral Committee:** Connie Tyrrell & Jean Martinson.

**Women's Fellowship Year Book:** Members present reviewed 2025 book and made changes for 2026.

**Alter Flowers:** LWML will pay for altar flowers when no one signs up for Sunday flowers. Need to contact Sue Macek for flower payment needed.

**January 11:** Christmas trees and decorations will be taken down to be stored.

**Lenten coffee:** Sally Zuspenn passed out signed up sheets for: February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25.

**Installation of officers.**

**Birthdays:** Nancy Herzberg, Connie Tyrrell.

**February 5 Hostess:** Noon Potluck.

Sally Zuspenn closed meeting at 1:55 pm with Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer.

LaVonne Peters  
Secretary

**ORGAN FUND UPDATE**

Received in 2024	\$28,453.15
Received in 2025	\$ 6,505.00
2026 YTD Received	\$ 240.00
Reimbursed to Foundation	\$31,000.00
Organ Fund	\$ 4,198.15

# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jill Davis -(2/1), Emma Davis -(2/2), Alexis Malm -(2/2), Gavin Valley -(2/2), Alyssa Valley -(2/8), Bruce Heistand -(2/10), Nancy Kuebler -(2/17), Larry Hughes -(2/20), Euvon Miller -(2/23), Brenley Wertz -(2/23), Gerald Mason -(2/25)

No Anniversaries.

## ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
1/4	41	
1/11	45	41
1/18	32	
1/25		
<u>Epiphany</u>		
1/6	35	34

## Membership Report for January 2026

### GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized +

### LOSS

Confirmed -

Baptized -

Communicant =153  
Baptized (not confirmed) =48  
Total baptized souls =201

## Financial Report January 2026

### Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$5,358.00, Missions Budget \$157.00, Loose Offerings \$23.00, New Year's \$10.00, Christmas Offering \$40.00, Lutheran Witness \$25.00, Special Offering \$105.00, Miscellaneous \$212.00, Organ Fund \$240.00.

**Total Offerings \$6,170.00**

### Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,113.74, Organist \$457.33, Pastoral Expenses \$471.98, Ministry Expense \$50.08, Office Supplies \$85.61, Computer/Internet \$190.72, Pest Control \$42.00, Gas & Electric \$552.00, Snow Removal \$220.00, Sanitation \$42.80, Property Repairs \$549.85, Miscellaneous \$258.94, W/H Tax \$205.00, Postage \$312.00, Missions \$157.00, Charities \$295.00, Advertising \$240.00.

**Total Expenses \$ 7,336.31**  
**Net Income \$ -1,074.05**