

# FAITH NEWS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2021

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR

I always find February a fascinating month when it comes to celebrations. February 14th is Valentine's Day, that ode to chocolates, flowers, and romance, named after Saint Valentine of Rome, the 3rd century patron of: engaged couples, marriages, love, fainting, epilepsy, plagues, and beekeeping. Most years February also holds in it's days Ash Wednesday, which falls between Feb 17 and March 10.

It might seem that this is an odd comparison, Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday. One day is about love, life, and a future together, while the other day reminds us about our mortality, with death wiped on our brows as we hear the words, "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Early this February I officiated both a wedding and a funeral within four days of each other. Seeing those events so close together I was reminded of what I consider the key distinctions between the two.

Weddings are beautiful, filled with love, grander, and celebration. Guests bustle in, superlatives are spoken, vows are exchanged, promises are made, and then a reception happens. All this while juggling photographers, friends, family, and all the little details that add to the day.

Funerals, tend to be, a bit more somber. They are still beautiful, and filled with love and a celebration of life, though they also carry a sadness, a longing of the lost.

The true beauty I find in funerals, that is not present in weddings, is the desire to spent just one more hour with the loved one who has been lost. Funerals lack the urgency that is typically prompted by pushy photographers, or restless guest. There's no anxiety about the entrees, whether or not the bar will be open or cash, or if Uncle Mark is going to make a fool of himself on the dance floor. There is simply a desire to have one more hour with a loved one no longer in our midst.

There's a Latin phrase "Memento Moir" that translates to "remember that you will die." This is meant to be more inspirational than morbid.

Remember that you will die, so make the most of this and every day that you have.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

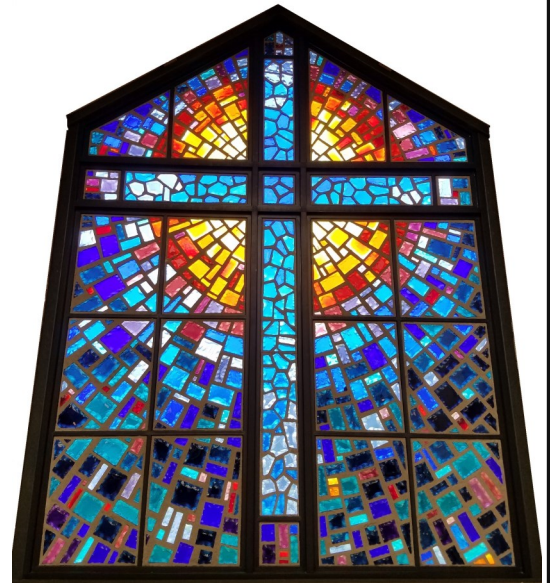
Make the most of this Valentine's Day; tell your partner, your family, and your friends how much you love them.

May we all remember this year round, and not just on Feb 14th. Our days are fleeting, we will die, and return to the dust from which we came. So let us make the most of every second we have. Let us extend more grace, hug more necks, and let those we love know how much we care every single day.



# Congregational Updates

- We are currently updating our directory! If you have any changes to your mailing address, phone number, or email, please call or email the Office Admin.
- If you would like a copy of “Christ In Our Home”, “Portals of Prayer”, or “Living Lutheran” sent to you, please call or email the Office with your address.
- An anonymous donor will be matching donations to the February Cause of the Month “Souper Bowl” up to \$1,000. Donations will be accepted until the end of February.
- The new Worship Companion for Ash Wednesday - Pentecost Sunday are available now! Download from constant contact or stop by the office to get a copy.
- Thanks to all who supported the January Cause of the Month for the Faith Mission shoes/socks project. Faith members more than matched the donations from Meijer (\$1,000) and Thrivent (\$250) towards the project. Dave Appel and Alan Mittermaier delivered new men’s shoes (126 pairs) and women’s shoes (12 pairs) plus socks purchased from local Meijer stores.



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## PRAYER REQUESTS

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- Please pray for divisions in our country and among families during on-going political tensions.
- Thomas Maxwell, father of Meredith Szeles, who is fighting stage 4 melanoma.
- Herb Pennington, friend of Jodie Martin Oiler, who was involved in a motorcycle accident.
- Billy Wittenbrook, father of a co-worker of Tom Chappelle, resurgence of cancer at age 92.
- George Dorn, father of Heidi Stover, whose cancer has spread.
- Bruce Burkhart. Cousin of Suzanne Ohrstedt, who has Covid-19 in Florida and is entering into hospice care.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Holidays in BLUE - Festivals and Commemorations in GREEN</b>						
	<b>1</b> 6:30 Praise Board Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>Presentation Of Our Lord</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) Psalm 147 <b>Ansgar, Archbishop &amp; Missionary, 865</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 Resource Board Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>Martyrs of Japan, 1597</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00AM Worship (Zoom)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) Psalm 50	<b>11</b> 7:00 Council Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:00AM Worship (Zoom) <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) Psalm 25 7:00 Ash Wednesday	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Rasmus Jensen, First N.A Lutheran Pastor, 1620</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00AM Worship (Zoom)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, 156</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) Psalm 22 <b>St Matthias, Apostle</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Elizabeth Fredde, Deaconess, 1921</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00AM Worship (Zoom)	<h1>February 2021</h1>					