



welcomegrowsend

Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church

February 2015

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From Pastor Jodi

As February begins, we hope and pray that winter is nearing an end—that the cold and snow will give way to warmth and green grass. Winter will come to an end—eventually. We know that it will. Knowing the promise of the springtime to come helps us face the dreariness of the dark days.

The same is true in our church calendar. Mid-February this year, we begin the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday; this year that day is February 18th. Lent is a season of introspection, of self-examination, of repentance, of focusing on Jesus and his sacrifice on our behalf. It is usually a bit darker and more somber than other seasons. Even so, we live in this season looking forward to the promise of the end, the promise of Easter and the empty tomb. **Knowing the promise of Easter's joy to come helps us face the reality of the dark days of Lent.**

And so we live in the tension—knowing warmth in the cold, knowing light in the darkness, finding joy in the sorrow, and embracing life even in the midst of pain. These tensions will guide our Lenten season during our Midweek Lenten services. The overarching theme is “Embracing Life in the Midst of Pain.” Look for details separately in the newsletter.

There is good news in God's love for us. Even when there is pain, even when there is dark and sadness, we can know and trust **God's love for us. Sometimes we need a reminder.** Knowing the promises of God help us to face each and every day. That truth certainly helps me face more than just the cold winter days. I pray the same is true for you.

In Christ,
Pastor Jodi

Embracing Life in the Midst of Pain

February 18th - Ash Wednesday
7 p.m. Worship - We can still sing a joyful song when tears become our teacher

February 25th
6 p.m. Meal (Education / Property)
7 p.m. Worship - Affliction is an equal opportunity employer

March 4th
6 p.m. Meal (Lay Ministers)
7 p.m. Worship - Our whole being is affected

March 11th
6 p.m. Meal (Education / Property)
7 p.m. Worship - Life is put into perspective

March 18th
6 p.m. Meal (Evangelism)
7 p.m. Worship - “A time to dance and a time to mourn”

March 25th
6 p.m. Meal (Stewardship)
7 p.m. Worship - Deliberately take action when pain and sorrow hits

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday
7p.m. Worship - A Service of Healing

April 3rd - Good Friday
12 noon Ecumenical Worship at First Presbyterian Church
7 p.m. worship at SOTC - Pain that leads to life

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd	Carly Dunham Elyse Eichelberger
5th	Kortney Drake
14th	Gladys & Glenn Reif
17th	Sara & Kurt Guhn
19th	Benjamin Burger Eric Reist
23rd	David Bakke
24th	Cathy & Mike Bermel
25th	Penny Burger
27th	Sandy Hill
28th	Penny & Tom Burger

Board Meetings

- Property
February 9 @ 5:30
- Evangelism
February 9 @ 6:00
- Stewardship
February 9 @ 6:30
- Lay Ministers
February 10 @ 5:30
- Education
February 10 @ 6:30
- PPC
February 23 @ 6:30

Upcoming Events



Stepping Out

Our February "Stepping Out" event will be a trip to the Quad City Mallards' game on Friday, February 6th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign-up in narthex.

Spaghetti Dinner

The candlelight spaghetti dinner is February 21st, from 5:00-7:00. Please bring friends and family to this annual event. A free will offering will be collected and proceeds will support the youth attending the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI this summer.

A sign-up sheet for times slots to work and food donations will be in the narthex. Work times begin in the early afternoon and go until we get the church put back together. Thank you for your generosity.

Please contact Amy Bakke if you have any questions at 563-299-3650.

Chocolate Fest

The annual Chocolate Fest will be held during Fellowship Time on Sunday, February 15th. Please bring your favorite chocolate items to share!

Called Together in Mission: People of the Spirit

Join members from around the synod for this annual event, held this year on Saturday, March 14 at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. This year, Dr. Troy Troftgruben, assistant professor at Wartburg Theological Seminary will be the keynote speaker. Through his address and various workshops, participants will be engaged around the topic of what it means to be people of the Spirit! The cost is \$20 per participant which includes lunch. Let Pastor Jodi know if you plan to attend so we can register.

Ongoing Events

Water, Water, Everywhere

Clean water is one of the most powerful ways to make change in the world. Imagine the impact! Entire families have safe water to drink. Sanitation improves. Everyone is healthier and stronger. And best of all, women and children who once spent several hours each day fetching water can reallocate their time to school, work and family. The children's offerings (and any other designated offerings) will go toward clean water programs through ELCA Good Gifts.

The Preemie Project

Products of the Flock sent 40 tiny crocheted blankets to The Preemie Project in Iowa City for miscarriage mementos. For more information on this project please visit their web site at www.thepreemieproject.org

Youth Fundraisers

Thank you to all who braved the cold January 7th to support our Youth Group. We raised \$316.21 to help send them to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI this summer.

In December, we raised \$480.89 at HyVee. Thanks for the spectacular support!

They have a few more events planned in the near future if you were unable to attend in the past.



Bible at the Brew

Bible at the Brew is meeting the first Tuesday of every month. See you February 3rd @ 6:30 p.m.

Christians Gathered Underground

We will be meeting February 11th at noon. Please let Pastor Jodi know if you are planning on attending to reserve enough tables.

Women's Group

Women's group will be meeting February 14th @ 8:30 a.m.

MY Group

We are community-wide high school youth group--a place for our students to gather for fun, food, and faith-filled conversations. The meetings of MY Group (Muscatine Youth Group) are held on Sunday evenings from 5-7 p.m. in the lower level of MCSA. See Pastor Jodi for more information.

Thank You

Thank you for the congregational Christmas gift. My family will enjoy a nice dinner with the restaurant gift card. I'm sure we will find some other good use for the Visa gift card. I continue to be grateful for the many ways that you show your caring spirit to me. Thanks again.

Pastor Jodi

Worship Notes

- Worship helpers are needed for February. Please sign up at church or contact the office.
- Remember with Lent there are Wednesday night services so more helpers are needed.



Prayers of the People

Please remember the following people in your prayers this week:

Concerns

Weldon family, friend of Tom Atkinson
Sara Guhn, following a stroke
Florence Hildebrandt, dealing with health issues
Chris Pelton, cousin of Sandy Hill, fighting leukemia
Tina, friend of Margaret Hildebrandt, facing difficult life circumstances
Ruth Reist, health problem
Janet Iwanowski, as she continues to fight cancer
Gary Boschee and family, dealing with health issues
Pastor Don Sondrol, dealing with health issues
Colton Bunn, dealing with health issues
Donna Alloway, facing a serious surgery
Pastor Rob Dotzel, undergoing cancer treatment
Belle Torres, (4 years old) facing brain surgery
Marla Moore, waiting for a lung transplant
Andrew Sessler, son of Rose Howard, dealing with health issues
Paula Jackson, friend of Abby Burger, dealing with TTP, liver & kidney issues
Peggy & Manny Anderson, sister and brother-in-law of Joanne Drinkall, health problems
Delene McConnaha, recovering from Hip surgery

Joys



Financial Report

- End of the year Giving Statements are now available. Please let Kathy know if you did not receive one or if there is an error.
- Thanks for continued generosity and faithful giving



Weekly Giving

December

December 7th	\$2168.00
December 14th	\$1171.00
December 21st	\$2528.00
December 24th	\$2377.00
December 28th	\$1854.00
Total	\$10,098.00

January

January 4th	\$2569.00
January 11th	\$1107.00
January 18th	\$ 981.30
January 25th	\$1841.00
Total	\$6498.30

Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Children's Sermon	Communion Assistants	Communion Set-Up	Fellowship
Sunday February 1st @ 9:00 a.m.		Corman's	Shelly Corman		Emily Faust	Debby Morrison	Team 4
Sunday February 8th @ 9:00 a.m.			Josh Allen		Josh Allen	Betty Burch	Team 5
Sunday February 15th @ 9:00 a.m.			Tom Atkinson			Debby Morrison	Chocolate Fest
Ash Wednesday February 18 7:00 p.m.			Tom Atkinson	X		Debby Morrison	X
Sunday February 22nd @ 9:00 a.m.			Al Oestmann		Al Oestmann	Betty Burch	Team 6
Wednesday February 25 7:00 p.m.				X	X	X	X

February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 MY Group	2 5:00 Weight Watchers	3 6:30 Bible at the Brew	4 5:00 The Way 6:30 Tone Chimes	5 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	6 QC Mallards Game	7 7:30 Weight Watchers
8 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 MY Group	9 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Property 6:00 Evangelism 6:30 Stewardship	10 5:30 Lay Ministers 6:30 Education	11 Noon The Underground 5:00 The Way 6:30 Confirmation @ SOTC 6:30 Tone Chimes	12 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	13	14 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:30 Women's Group
15 Chocolate Fest 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 MY Group	16 5:00 Weight Watchers	17	18 9:00 Altar Guild 5:00 The Way 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	19 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	20	21 7:30 Weight Watchers 5-7 Spaghetti Dinner
22 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 MY Group	23 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 PPC Newsletter Deadline	24	25 5:00 The Way 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	26 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	27	28 7:30 Weight Watchers
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>Upcoming Events</u> March 14 - Called Together in Mission April 5 - Easter</p> </div>					