

ASH WEDNESDAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY

This year, Ash Wednesday is St. Valentine's Day, February 14th. I wondered how often that happened. When I checked it out on the internet, I discovered that it doesn't happen too often. It happened just a few years ago in 2018. Before that, it hadn't happened since 1945. It will happen again in 2029. With the two days coinciding with one another, it causes a bit of a dilemma. Do you buy your sweetheart a box of chocolates and risk her saying that she had decided to give up chocolate for Lent?

Of course, Valentine's Day is a day of love. It is a day when a lot of us try to show love to the people we care about. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. As we go through the season of Lent, we will be reminded of how Jesus showed His love for us. It is as Romans 5:8 says, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

This Lenten season, our Midweek services will use words from the so-called "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, to help us consider our Lord's suffering and death for us. We often use the "passion" to refer to Jesus' suffering and death. Every midweek Lenten service we will have a reading from "The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ as it is taken from the Four Gospels." Each of those readings point to the suffering Jesus endured in the last days of His life. On the Sunday before Easter, the Sunday we used to just call "Palm Sunday," we also will have readings for the "Sunday of the Passion."

When we hear that word "passion" in the context of Lent, we can remember the suffering that Jesus endured for us. He suffered for all those times when we have let our emotions get away from us. It may not have led to us committing "a crime of passion," but it has led to us committing sin. Lent is a time of the Church Year when we are reminded of our need to repent of our sin. When we do that, we can remember what we have because Jesus suffered for us. He went to the cross so that we can have the forgiveness of sins.



GET READY FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY?

LET THE ST. JOHN'S ACT TEENS
SET YOU UP WITH SUBS & SNACKS

ORDER SUBS FROM NOW
UNTIL SUNDAY, FEB 4.

PICK UP SUBS
& YUMMY
SNACKS AFTER
CHURCH ON
SUPER BOWL
SUNDAY, FEB 11

Sign up in Fellowship or with forms in
bulletin (put form in T & L Flerlage
mailbox.

Sponsored by:



Money raised supports the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA



Love

is patient,
love is kind.
It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no records of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-5

Wednesday Lenten Services

We will read through the Passion history as it is recorded in the four Gospels, using portions of 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 to suggest themes of our service.

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|---------------|---|
| FEB 14 | Perfect Love... is not Proud |
| FEB 21 | Perfect Love... is Patient |
| FEB 28 | Perfect Love... is Not Easily Angered |
| MAR 06 | Perfect Love... is Not Self-Seeking |
| MAR 13 | Perfect Love... Keeps No Record of Wrongs |
| MAR 20 | Perfect Love... is Kind |

Supper begins at 5:00 PM followed by Worship at 6:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH NEWS

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS

The Sunday School kids are singing the "Doxology – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" during worship on **Sunday, February 11**. This is always a special time when our kids sing their hearts out for Jesus. Be sure to have kids arrive at 8:45 am to warm up together in the pre-school classroom.



COMING IN JULY!

More info coming soon.

FAMILY SERVICE DAY

helping hands feeding families in need



DAY INCLUDES MANY HAPPY FACES

Families are invited to join us in a family service day packing meals for the Outreach Program in Nisswa on **April 13 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am**. Please sign up in the church entryway before March 31, so we can get a head count. Watch for more details coming soon.

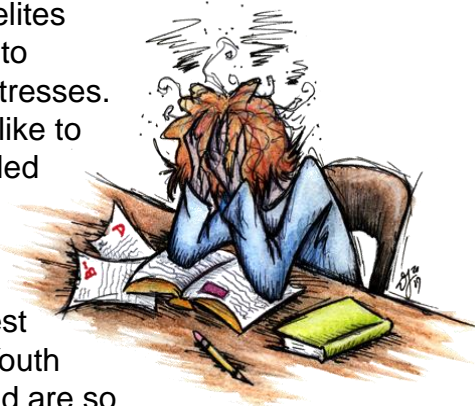


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ACT: DEALING WITH TEEN STRESS

No matter what our age, we all deal with stress in our lives at some level. Teens need constant reminding that God is with them in times of high stress and that they are not alone. These past few weeks in ACT we've discussed stress due to schoolwork and grades. If we remember how the Israelites were enslaved and how the Disciple James taught us to persevere, it makes it easier to get through the daily stresses. We've also discussed friendship, particularly what it's like to lose a friend. Paul went through this, and it ultimately led to the Gospel being spread more.



YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

We had a great turnout and lots of interest in going to the upcoming New Orleans Youth Gathering. We have lots of fundraising ahead of us and are so thankful for all your support of our church and community.

SENDING A BOX OF "LOVE" TO COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THOSE IN THE MILITARY

It has become an annual tradition to send a special box of goodies and "love" to show our support for our members away at college or in the military. This is St. John's way to let them know God is always with them and that we are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers. Boxes will be packed by the St. John's Circle and sent out on Monday, February 12.



If you have a college student or a child in the military, please let us know their name and address as soon as possible. Contact the office at 218-927-3170.

UPCOMING EVENTS
KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED + INVOLVED

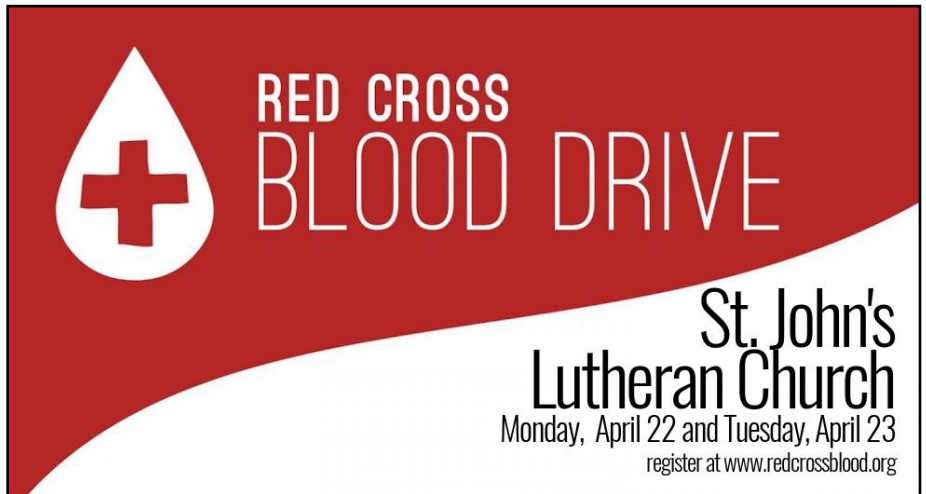


KITCHEN CLEAN UP DAY

Looking for help in organizing, decluttering, and cleaning the church kitchen.

FRI, FEB 2
8:30 AM

All are welcome for a morning of fun work and fellowship.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St. John's Lutheran Church
Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23
register at www.redcrossblood.org



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHICKEN DINNER

SIT DOWN OR CARRY-OUT

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

watch for more details soon!



MEDICARE ANNUAL WELLNESS

For those of us that are on Medicare there is a wonderful benefit available. It is called the Annual Medicare Wellness visit. Medicare.gov states that you can get a yearly “Wellness” visit to develop or update your personalized plan to help prevent disease or disability based on your current health and risk factors. Your wellness visit may include routine measurements such as height and weight, blood pressure; a review of your medical and family history; a review of your current prescriptions; discussions of Advanced Care Planning; and mental health concerns such as anxiety or depression. A cognitive assessment may also be performed to look for early signs of dementia. Depending on findings, additional visits may be needed to do further testing and develop treatment plans.

It is a clinic visit that is focused on your preventative health care instead of responding to a new symptom or concern. It is a time to discuss things such as mammography, colonoscopy, bone density or PSA screenings. Thank goodness that we can have these tests for early detection and treatment of so many things! It is also time to discuss any questions or concerns regarding your medications, or current vaccinations.

Should you have new symptoms or health concerns, it is important that you schedule a clinic visit to discuss these with your primary care provider.

May God bless us all with good health this year,

Teri Hiller-Baty, RN Parish Nurse



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Blessings on your special day!

Ben Crowther	03	Jean Root	17	Bunny Dotzler	25
Isabella Westerlund	03	Jessica Carpenter	20	Jon Redmann	25
Jacob Redepenning	04	Jozee Fossum	20	Laura Schlagel	25
May Borchert	05	Dennis Lamke	20	Scott Wold	25
Alice Fageroos	06	Mark Wold	20	Ronald Christian	26
Rachel Bartz	07	Lois DuChane	21	Tim Landrus	28
Mikael Perrine	08	Alicen Bartel	23	Jace Novotny	28
Laura Sutton	09	Alexis Erdman	23	Steve Shirilla	28
Jenna Harmon	10	Jim R. Bender	24	Jeff Ruschmeier	29
Beth Borseth	12	Jane Lenzen	24		

**The birthdays listed are from our church records. Any mistakes are unintentional. Please notify the office of any mistakes, deletions, or if you do not want your birthday listed.*

TOGETHER IN MISSION | NEWS FROM THE NEUENDORFS

We recently received the following from James and Christel Neuendorf:

In September, we hosted a workshop on Chocolate making during our *compañerismo* (fellowship) time! We invited everyone who came to the "Noche de Pinturas" night and to our delight, we had quite a few people who repeated their visit. And two of the ladies who had come before brought a friend! Many stayed for dinner and the prayer service to end our time together.

The workshop and supplies were donated by a friend of the congregation who has a lot of talent in crafts and in many other areas. The CARD house is designed to be a place for people to gather and be together as a family. Being part of a family means you have a role and responsibilities. As we grow as a family we grow in responsibilities and roles given our time and talents. This event was a wonderful expression of how that is happening.

On Reformation Sunday, October 29th, we welcomed Mateo Ortega Luna to the family of God through Holy Baptism at Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios (San Juan). He is the second child of God to be baptized at our Lutheran Church in San Juan after his sister. Praise God!

From November 11th to 18th, we hosted a short-term team of volunteers from Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest, NC. They worked hard all week building an outdoor kitchen at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Mayaguez). At the end of the week when the kitchen was finished, we celebrated with a meal, campfire and hymn sing. A church member, Cindy, made a feast Friday evening. (Each evening a different member made a meal for the team.) We sang together from our Spanish hymnals and English hymnals, alternating one verse in Spanish and the next in English. It's a fun way to sing together.

One of the team members from North Carolina said that he was blessed by the times to worship together because even though we are speaking in different languages we are brothers and sisters in Christ, members of the same Body, and this was a new understanding through the experience.

The next day the men of the church gathered for a bible study and used the new outdoor kitchen for a meal. And in the following week we celebrated Thanksgiving together and Carlos made the turkey two ways in the outdoor kitchen. What a blessing it is to have this space. Our usual activities outdoors are Friday bonfires and the men's bible study time with a barbeque. These are easy opportunities to invite friends to come and enjoy some fellow. We are planning new ways to invite the community to our church and to use our outdoor space now more with the new outdoor kitchen as well.

Following our Thanksgiving service and meal at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Mayaguez) on November 22nd 2023, the church family decorated the church for Advent and Christmas. This has become a yearly tradition, and it is a wonderful time of preparing together.

Every Friday morning in Ponce, a homeschooling group of 30 children gather to learn English and have Science labs in our church facilities. Missionary Ruth Maita teaches two Fridays a month, and the pastors in Ponce lead chapel for these children every Friday, reading a bible story in Spanish (to make sure everyone understands!), teaching the children the Lord's prayer, Creed and easy hymns in English like "The Lamb".

For the class in December, Ruth was asked to lead a special craft morning with the group to celebrate their last gathering before taking a break for Christmas. The children made felt angels and poinsettias out of toilet paper rolls.

We thank God that faith comes through hearing His Word and that these families are hearing His Word every Friday through faithful missionary pastors Adam Lehman and James Neuendorf.

If you would like to give toward the support of our Together in Mission Missionaries, please place your offering in an envelope marked "Together in Mission."