

Wilson Lutheran Church
401 310th Street
Wilson WI 54027
Address Service Requested

Mission Statement
Gathered. Renewed. Sent

We are:
Gathered by the Spirit.
Renewed by the Word.
Sent to Serve

February 2023, Newsletter for Wilson Lutheran Church



Wilson Lutheran Church
401 310th Street, Wilson, WI 54027
Phone: 715-772-3150
Office Email: wiluth@wwt.net
Web Site: wilsonlutheran.org
Pastor: Rev. Bob Dahm
Pastor Email: PastorBob@wwt.net

Cover Picture by Pastor Doug Brandt



Luther Point

BIBLE CAMP

11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, WI 54840

715.689.2347 | www.lutherpoint.org | info@lutherpoint.org

Executive Summary, Luther Point Bible Camp 2022

2022 was another great year of growth, re-centering and exploring new avenues of ministry at Luther Point Bible Camp.

Program

We continue to hold programs year-round at Luther Point Bible Camp with the emphasis being on our summer camp programs. This year we welcomed over 500 campers to summer camp at Luther Point Bible Camp along with 20 summer staff members and countless volunteers. While here they learned what it means to be “Created Good.”

We also launched our first on-site day camp “Camp Connect.” Something we as a camp strive to do is be a resource for our surrounding communities. By offering half day and full day programs we were able to meet a need in our community by providing a safe place for kids to play, learn and grow. We are looking forward to 2023 and continuing to grow and expand this program.

Retreats

One of our main ministries at Luther Point Bible Camp is to provide a space set apart from the hustle and bustle of the world for groups and individuals to come slow down, relax and encounter God. We had 135 group reservations made at Luther Point in 2022 and are on track to meet and surpass that number for 2023.

Facilities

Luther Point Bible Camp always strives to provide the very best facilities we can offer to all our constituents. This year updates were made to the Chapel with replacing the floor and painting the inside. Future updates will include replacing the windows and adding heat to make it suitable for meetings, events, and weddings year-round.

We continued to replace the old fluorescent bulbs around camp with new energy-efficient LED’s. It is amazing how many bulbs are around Luther Point (think in the thousands!). A sling-shot range was added for campers to use in 2022 as well as new kayaks given by a generous donor. We are looking at giving new life to our outpost low-ropes course as well as our sporting areas in 2023!

Financial

Luther Point continues to strive to be the very best stewards of the resources given to us. We are poised to end 2022 with a net positive income and continue to pay down our debts. For over 2 years we have had the line of credit with our bank paid off (prior to that it had a balance for over 15 years). We kept our camper registration costs the same even though inflation is hitting us hard with the cost of food, propane, fuel, etc.

Thank You!

Thank you for being a part of this ministry, partnering with us and walking with us as we continue to share the good news of God to people from across Wisconsin, Minnesota and the nation!

God’s Peace,

Sam Campeau
Executive Director

Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

February 2023 – Seasons After Epiphany / Beginning of Lent

Sunday, February 5 – Epiphany 5

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ Holy Communion – Chancel Rail
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 21-16
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments

Sunday, February 12 – Epiphany 6

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ No Communion
- ❖ Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

Sunday, February 19 - Transfiguration

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ Holy Communion – Continuous Serving
- ❖ Readings: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9: Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion – Continuous Serving
- ❖ Readings: Joe; 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends alms giving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

Sunday, February 26 – Lent 1

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion – Continuous Serving
- ❖ Readings: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11: Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

MISSION STATEMENT

GATHERED – RENEWED – SENT

Gathered by the Spirit. Renewed by the Word. Sent to Serve.

Pastor's Office Hours: Pastor Bob may be reached at the church office, 715-772-3150, Wednesday through Friday, and Saturday morning. In the event of an emergency or hospitalization, he can be reached at 715-235-4900 (home), 612-270-3838 (cell), or by email at PastorBob@wwt.net.

WELCA Meetings: The next regular WELCA meeting will be held Thursday, February 8. Pastor Bob will lead a Bible study from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (men and women are welcome to attend), followed by a business meeting. Monthly meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month. All women of the church are invited to attend.

January 12 WELCA Minutes:

Sharon called the meeting to order, following Bible study led by Pastor Bob.

Seven members present: Sharon Bowell, Tracy Davis, Sue Dahm, Mary Brandt, Ginny Overland, Linda Rambo, Karen Esanbock.

No secretary's report.

Treasurer report: Balance of \$1443.89

No unfinished business.

New business:

- Officers: Sharon gave a review of where things stand since the Covid pandemic and no meetings being held. She stands as the only officer at this point, serving as both secretary and treasurer. She is willing to remain treasurer but relinquish secretary duties. President and secretary rolls need to be filled. After discussion, motion made by Mary, seconded by Tracy to nominate Karen as secretary. Motion carried. Motion made by Karen, seconded by Ginny to nominate Tracy as president, motion carried.
- Boxed card sales: Discussed boxed card sales in Narthex. Sharon will place an information notice with how to pay for the cards.
- Pancake Supper: Discussed resuming this community event fundraiser. Will fully plan at the February meeting.
- WELCA organization: Discussed ways to include the congregation as a whole. Mary will investigate with the Synod.
- Future Bible Study material: "Gather" magazine has not arrived yet, and others have not received renewal notices. Bible study materials are accessible online. We will continue with the Gather Bible study for this year. Investigate other options going forward.

Next meeting February 9, following 9:30am Bible Study. Men and women are welcome

Motion to adjourn by Linda, seconded by Mary.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Karen Esanbock, Secretary

Wilson Council: The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Thursday, February 9. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

January 12 Council Meeting Highlights: *(Complete minutes are available in the church office.)*

- Mike made a motion to close the Building Fund Account and move it to the General Fund Account placing the Building Fund under its own category, second by David. Motion carried.
- Annual Reports need to be submitted by January 15th for the annual meeting.

- Thank you notes from Elmwood Food Shelf, Spring Valley Community Food Shelf and Zion Lutheran Food Shelf were read. Pastor Bob expressed his appreciation for the Christmas gift given him.
- Walking Together Synod event will be held March 11 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake.
- Synod Assembly will be April 29th at Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake. People are needed to represent Wilson Lutheran at the Assembly.
- The Endowment Fund recommendation was to not do any distribution of funds due to the losses in the market.
- The Endowment Committee will be seeking someone to fill a vacancy on their committee at the annual meeting. They typically meet once a year.
- Tracy made a motion to use the Thanksgiving Offering to purchase from the ELCA Good Gifts Program School Supplies for a Classroom for \$300, 1 Piglet for \$45 and 1 Sheep for \$100, second by Sharon. Motion carried.
- Coffee after church services will began the first Sunday in February. Anyone interested in serving treats and coffee can sign up

**Annual Meeting of Wilson Lutheran Church
January 22,2023**

The Annual Meeting of Wilson Lutheran Church was called to order at 9:48 AM by Council President Chuck Walz.

Pastor Bob opened with Litany and Prayer.

Minutes:

The minutes of the 2022 Annual meeting were read by Secretary Ginny Overland. Doug Faber made a motion to accept the minutes as read, David Powers second. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial report is included in the 2022 Annual Report for members to review. Sharon Bowell made a motion to accept the financial report, Jill Menk second. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Audit Committee – Jill Menk reported everything was in order
- Cemetery Committee- Doug Faber reported the Cemetery was doing well
- Endowment Committee- Doug Faber reported there would be no disbursements unless there is an emergency due to the market losses
- Nominating Committee- Sherry Ellefson reported there were no open positions

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- The 2023 budget was included in the Annual Report for members to review. David Powers made a motion to approve the 2023 budget, Doug Faber second. Motion carried
- There are no vacant positions for 2023 Council
- Jill Menk and Barb Lamb will be on the Audit Committee
- Endowment Committee had no appointments to be made
- Nominating Committee will be Sherry Ellefson
- There was no other business

A motion was made by David Powers and second by Doug Faber to adjourn. We closed at 10:00 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer and potluck.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Overland, Secretary

Tuesday Community Supper: St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church will be serving the Tuesday Community Supper from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 7th, in the Fellowship Hall at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1350 Florence Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin. The menu is: chicken spätzle soup, fruit, bread and dessert. Come and enjoy the company of your friends and neighbors. The Tuesday Community Supper is served the first Tuesday of the month at Gethsemane. This is a free meal open to anyone in the community. Area churches, businesses and organizations take turns preparing and serving good nutritious food.

Federal FoodShare Funds Ending: During the pandemic, the federal government increased Wisconsin FoodShare benefits to help make sure people could feed their families. This funding will no longer be available after the end of February. Wisconsin expects this change to have a disproportionate effect on seniors and people with disabilities. Food benefits that have been \$280 per month, will decrease to \$23 per month.

All this makes your support for area food pantries an even more significant part of Wilson's hunger ministry. When you're doing your own grocery shopping, please remember to include a few items for the food pantry box in the narthex. All January contributions will go to the Baldwin Food Shelf. February donations will go to the Glenwood City food shelf.

Thank You: Dear Wilson Lutheran Church. Thank you so very much for your recent monetary donation through the Virtual Poinsettia drive. What an awesome idea and successful event. We at West CAP thank you for your unending Support.

Amazon Smile Ending: If you have been making Amazon purchases using an Amazon Smile account, Amazon has announced that program will end on February 20, 2023. Lutheran World Relief has been one of the many charitable organizations benefitting from participation in the program, receiving over \$60,000 in contributions. Globally, over \$450 million dollars has been donated to all the participating Smile organizations.

In their announcement ending the program, Amazon stated they would "continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change – from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters."

Women of the ELCA – Morning of Renewal:

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

WHERE: CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 510 GERMAIN STREET, SOMERSET WI

REGISTRATION: 8:15AM (\$10) LUNCH INCLUDED

EVENT BEGINS: 9:45AM

SPEAKER: PASTOR LORI PEPPER: "THANK YOU, MARY AND MARTHA!"

UKULELE JAM!

Pastor Lori Peper is married and lives in Dresser, WI. She is the proud mother of 3 adult children. She currently serves West Immanuel in the Apple River conference of the NW Synod of WI. She previously served First Lutheran in Barron, and a 3-point parish in Amery. A former Music Director in Hudson and member of Bethel Lutheran, Pastor Lori entered seminary in 2007 and was a recipient of a scholarship from the St Croix Valley Women of the ELCA. Thank you, again! She enjoys all aspects of parish ministry with a special interest in the ways music lifts our spirits and enhances the worship experience.

Good Neighbor Ukulele Ministry began with a spark of interest stirred while pastor Lori was serving in Amery, at Neighbors United in Christ, a three-church parish. Having enjoyed the ease, and enjoyment of the instrument, a ukulele jam group was soon formed. Our first 'gig' outside the church came from a member's

suggestion to jam at a nursing home where her mother, Lucy was living. That began a musical ministry of lifting spirits, sharing the reasons for our hope in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit and Lucy started the ball of ukulele ministry rolling. Over the past 8 years, this little, 4 stringed instrument has brought us, and so many, others much joy. We have more than 60 players in the group, have inspired others to start their own groups, and play in nursing homes, the Polk County Fair, Mall of America, church services, park events, anniversary parties and much more.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – FEBRUARY 2023

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Feb 3	Jason Spielman	Feb 9	Charles Howell	No February anniversaries we know of	
Feb 5	Lisa Howell	Feb 12	Barry Brandvold		
Feb 6	Carolyn Anderson	Feb 14	Theresa Pomasl		
Feb 7	Tanner Howell	Feb 19	Brenda Keck		

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Month	Altar Care	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Sundays
February	Sue Timm	Tracy Davis	Rex and Janet Brandt	4 Sundays Ash Wednesday
March	Rex and Janet Brandt	Peggy Timm	Mike and Sherry Ellefson	4 Sundays

ACOLYTE and READER SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Acolyte	Reader
February			
	5	Brady	Ginny Overland
	12	Lucie	Darren Peterson
<i>Transfiguration</i>	19	Owen	Linda Powers
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	22	Ryan	Jes Lamb
	26	Brady	Sherry Ellefson
March			
	6	Lucie	Rex Brandt
	12	Owen	Barb Knopps
	19	Ryan	Ginny Overland
	26	Brady	Kathy Borton

2023 LENT – HOLY WEEK – EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Service	Time
February 22	Ash Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
March 1	Wednesday Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 8	Wednesday Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 15	Wednesday Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 22	Wednesday Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
March 29	Wednesday Lent Service	7:00 p.m.
April 2	Palm / Passion Sunday	9:00 a.m.
April 6	Maundy Thursday	7:00 a.m.
April 7	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.
April 9	Easter Sunday	9:00 a.m.

LENT AND EASTER THEME – “250 YEARS OF AMAZING GRACE”

2023 is the 250th anniversary of the writing of the hymn, “Amazing Grace”, which was written in 1772 by English clergyman and poet, John Newton. As a young man he was pressed (navally conscripted) into service with the Royal Navy. After leaving the service he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of County Donegal, Ireland so severely that he called out to God for mercy. While this moment marked his spiritual conversion, he continued slave trading until 1754 or 1755, when he ended his seafaring altogether.

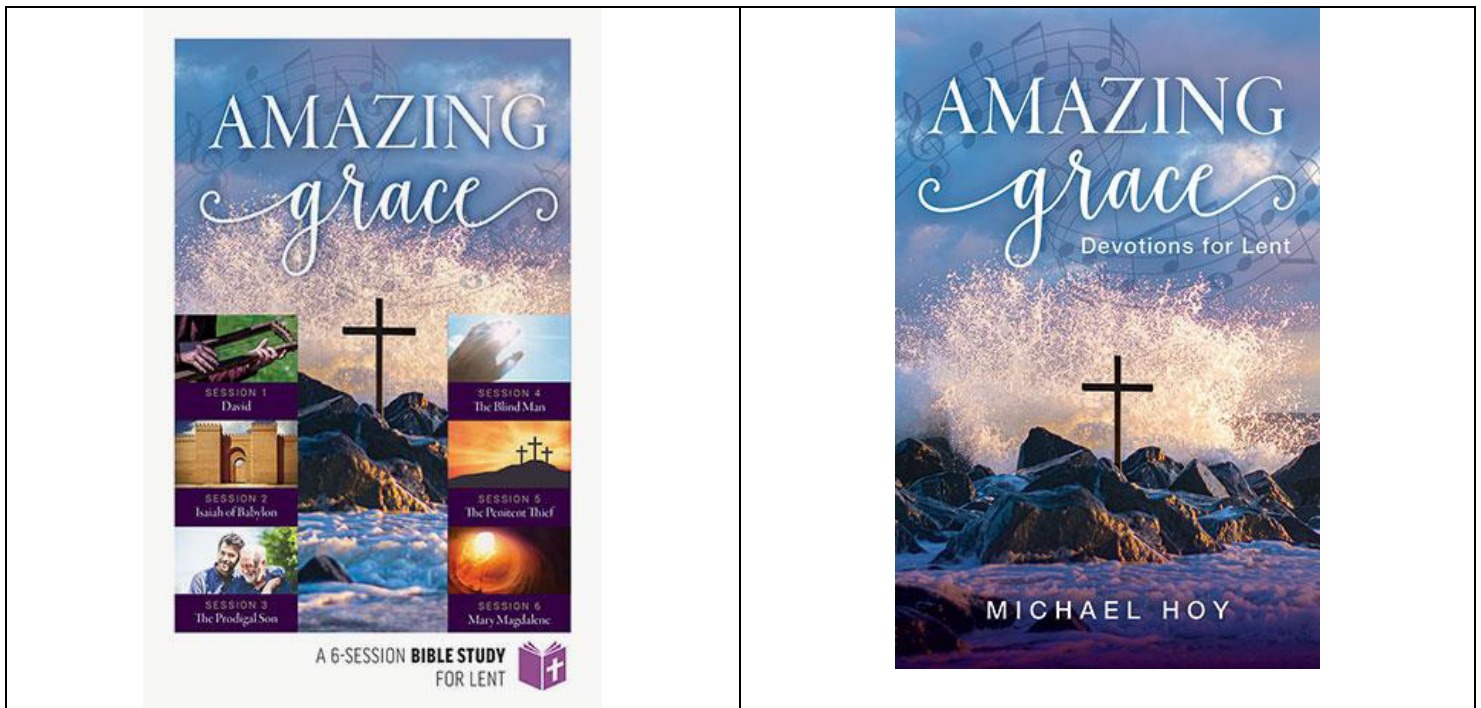
Ordained in the Church of England in 1764, Newton became the curate of Olney, Buckinghamshire, where he began to write hymns with poet William Cowper. "Amazing Grace" was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day of 1773. When originally used in Olney, it is unknown what music, if any, accompanied the verses written by John Newton.

This beloved hymn will be the theme of our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday worship, and our Lent Bible study and devotionals.

The Lent Lenten devotions, by theologian Michael Hoy, will tie the words of the beloved song (and the history surrounding it) to our lives today and to the lives of those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God revealed most profoundly in the salvation of Jesus.

“Amazing Grace” will be the focus of our Lent Bible study, be held each Wednesday evening beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Through small group reflection, see how God’s amazing grace touched the lives of those who encountered Christ firsthand and who point us to discover his suffering, death and resurrection. Study and discussion questions remind us that our lives, too, have been touched by such amazing grace because God sent his Son to save us.

Please contact Pastor Bob if you are interested in joining the study group so student books can be ordered.



Revised Common Lectionary
Daily Readings – Year A
February 2023

Date	Day	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
1	Wednesday	Psalm 37:1-17	Ruth 3:1-3; 4:13-22		Luke 6:17-26
2	Thursday	Psalm 112:1-10	Deuteronomy 4:1-14	1 John 5:1-5	
3	Friday	Psalm 112:1-10	Isaiah 29:1-12	James 3:13-18	
4	Saturday	Psalm 112:1-10	Isaiah 29:13-16		Mark 7:1-8
5	Sunday	Psalm 112:1-10	Isaiah 58:1-12	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20
6	Monday	Psalm 119:105-112	2 Kings 22:3-20	Romans 11:2-10	
7	Tuesday	Psalm 119:105-112	2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	
8	Wednesday	Psalm 119:105-112	Proverbs 6:6-23		John 8:12-30
9	Thursday	Psalm 119:1-8	Genesis 26:1-5	James 1:12-16	
10	Friday	Psalm 119:1-8	Leviticus 26:34-46	1 John 2:7-17	
11	Saturday	Psalm 119:1-8	Deuteronomy 30:1-9a		Matthew 15:1-9
12	Sunday	Psalm 119:1-8	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
13	Monday	Psalm 119:9-16	Exodus 20:1-21	James 1:2-8	
14	Tuesday	Psalm 119:9-16	Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15	James 2:1-13	
15	Wednesday	Psalm 119:9-16	Proverbs 2:1-15		Matthew 19:1-12
16	Thursday	Psalm 2	Exodus 6:2-9	Hebrews 8:1-7	
17	Friday	Psalm 2	Exodus 19:9b-25	Hebrews 11:23-28	
18	Saturday	Psalm 2	1 Kings 21:20-29		Mark 9:9-13
19	Sunday <i>Transfiguration</i>	Psalm 2	Exodus 24:12-18	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
20	Monday	Psalm 78:17-20	Exodus 33:7-23	Acts 7:30-34	
21	Tuesday	Psalm 78:17-20	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 11:1-6	
22	Wednesday <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Psalm 51:1-17	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
23	Thursday	Psalm 51	Jonah 3:1-10	Romans 1:1-7	
24	Friday	Psalm 51	Jonah 4:1-11	Romans 1:8-17	
25	Saturday	Psalm 51	Isaiah 58:1-12		Matthew 18:1-7
26	Sunday	Psalm 32	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
27	Monday	Psalm 32	1 Kings 19:1-8	Hebrews 2:10-18	
28	Tuesday	Psalm 32	Genesis 4:1-16	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Prayer Ventures
February 2023**

1 *Black History Month* Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ — we stand together to glorify God as partners in the gospel, doing God’s work in the world together. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide our church in its pursuit of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, racial reconciliation and an end to hatred and mistrust.

2 Give thanks for older adults, whose diverse gifts, life experiences, perspectives and wisdom are essential to the life, vitality and leadership of our congregations and communities.

3 Pray for leaders of children, youth and family ministries as these leaders gather for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Anaheim, Calif. Give thanks for their commitment, gifts and concern for the faith and well-being of young people.

4 Give thanks for staff and volunteers who help congregations function smoothly, grow and thrive, including administrative assistants, accountants, property managers, program coordinators and communications staff.

5 Jesus describes us as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Pray that, by sharing our faith and acting with compassion, justice and care for our neighbors, we might direct people’s attention to our loving and generous God.

6 ELCA World Hunger works through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and alongside global companions and agencies in Kenya to build the capacity of families to respond to and withstand worsening droughts. Pray for our neighbors in Kenya and for the immediate and long-term success of LWF initiatives, which include training farmers in climate-smart practices, building and repairing water wells, managing water supplies and promoting hygiene.

7 Remember in prayer those who have suffered tragedy, trauma or loss from recent winter storms, flooding and earthquakes. Pray that God will bring

them hope and encouragement throughout their grieving, recovery and adjustment to the changes in their communities.

8 Pray for pastors and deacons who serve multiple congregations, and pray that congregations sharing leadership will flourish, discovering new partners, resources and assets for doing God’s work in the world.

9 Pray that our compassion and advocacy, offered without prejudice or the expectation of any recognition or reward, might bring light, hope and relief to the world. “If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday” (Isaiah 58:9-10).

10 Remember in prayer the 1.3 million people serving in the military and the nearly 800,000 serving in the military reserves, many of them young adults.

11 Give thanks and pray for the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities), work that grows more critical every day as vulnerable youth yearn for assistance with the daunting task of finding safety, stability, respect and welcoming communities in our country.

12 Pray for people who suffer chronic illness and pain that impacts their daily lives, activities and employment; pray that they might receive affordable health care and effective treatment; and ask the Spirit to stir our empathy and help us provide appropriate, respectful support.

13 Pray that our civic engagement and concern for our neighbor and the world might exceed what is required or expected of us by laws, social norms, trends and tradition.

14 Ask God to help us understand, respect and set aside our differences so that we might be empowered by our unity in Christ and embrace our complementary gifts and passions to do God’s work in the world, “for we are God’s servants, working together” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

15 Praise God that, as different as we are from one another, we gather to celebrate Communion remembering our unity and strength in Christ, who frees us to love and serve our neighbor and to bear God's mercy into the world.

16 Give thanks for the publishing ministry of Augsburg Fortress and for writers and editors who help deepen our faith, equip us for life and service, and support our faith communities.

17 Praise God for the clarity and joy we find in following God's ways and commandments, and for the assurance that we are never alone or directionless in our baptismal journeys.

18 *Martin Luther, renewer of the church (1483-1546)* Give thanks for the life, faith, prayerful deliberation, and wisdom of Martin Luther, who continues to influence and challenge the church and our theology. Pray that we might remember Luther's human complexity and imperfections — and our own — as we strive to understand Scripture and live as children of God in an ever-changing world.

19 We embrace the mystery of the Holy Trinity through the gift of faith. Give thanks that, through Scripture, God leads us to clarity about the true nature of Jesus Christ, who was sent to redeem us and to teach us how to live as children of God: "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5).

20 *World Day of Social Justice* Pray that our concern for social justice in the world will be grounded in our faith, Jesus' example and the ways and wisdom of God, emboldening us to serve our neighbor, respect one another and risk changing unjust laws, traditions, institutions and behaviors.

21 *Shrove Tuesday* Ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for the season of Lent and to create in us a humble, penitent spirit that is renewed daily through faith in God's forgiveness and love, revealed and experienced in Jesus Christ.

22 *Ash Wednesday* "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Give thanks for the cross of ash drawn on our

foreheads today, which assures us of God's forgiveness, love and renewing spirit.

23 Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global companions in Tanzania: David and Kellen Msseemmaa, Astine and Ryan Bose, Dr. Steven and Bethany Friberg, Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Deacon April Trout, Linda Jacobson, Robert Kasworm, the Rev. Mary Jo Maas, Derrick Matthews and Dr. Dorothy Brewster-Lee, the Rev. Elieshi Mungure, and Robert and Carolee Stuberg.

24 Shout praise and thanksgiving for God's love, forgiveness, patience, creativity and concern for those who suffer poverty, injustice and disregard.

25 Pray for the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, an intentional group of women who respond to Christ's call through Word and Service and diaconal ministry.

26 Give thanks for the strength and example of Jesus, who prevailed over temptation and demonstrated the power of God over evil, self-interest and greed. Pray that the Spirit will guide and sustain us through the challenges we face each day.

27 Pray that we might understand how we stray from God's intent, harming or neglecting our neighbor. Ask the Spirit for the humility we need to confess our offenses, receive God's mercy with gratitude and make amends with neighbors we have hurt.

28 Give thanks for synod bishops who manage their synods' work, further the church's mission in diverse contexts, and support and care for leaders and congregations. Pray for them as they gather in mutual support and encouragement for the Conference of Bishops, to advise the presiding bishop of our church and reflect on how we do God's work in the world.

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	2 9:30 St. Croix Conference Pastor's Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	9 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 WELCA Mtg. 12:30 Council Mtg.	10	11
12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School Transfiguration Sunday Newsletter Deadline	20 Presidents Day Holiday	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 5:00 p.m. Lent Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28 Pastor's Day Off	March 1 5:00 p.m. Lent Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Lent Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lent Worship	2 9:30 St. Croix Conference Pastor's Meeting	3	4