

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 2024 Newsletter for Wilson Lutheran Church



Wilson Lutheran Church
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Cover Picture by Pastor Doug Brandt



Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

January 15, 2024

Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

After much prayer, reflection and conversation with my family I have decided not to seek a second term as bishop. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this synod first for four years as the Director of Evangelical Mission and now for the last six years as Bishop. I am grateful for your partnership in ministry, your prayers, support and trust through these years. Serving through COVID was an unexpected challenge! Through it all I was proud of your creativity, hard work and determination to continue to proclaim the good news and care for your congregations and communities. I am confident that you will continue to serve faithfully walking in the way of Jesus in the future. Please know that I will pray for you and for the next bishop.

I invite you to take time in these next few weeks to pray about the bishop's election. Please plan to attend your conference assembly in February. This meeting will be the nominating ballot to begin the pre-identification process for the bishop's election. Your Deans will be sending information about the meeting. (I am grateful to the Deans for their leadership in the election process.) [Here is the link to the synod constitution which lists the expectations for the bishop.](#) [Here is the link to the synod assembly 2024 election information.](#) We will have some time to talk about the Bishop's Election process on January 30 at 2:30 p.m. at the end of the Winter Theological Gathering at Luther Park. (Spirit Focused Ecclesiology with Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson) If you haven't, please register [here](#).

You are receiving this letter on Martin Luther King Day, January 15. Martin Luther King Jr., the Baptist pastor and civil rights leader was born on this date in 1929 and was assassinated on April 4, 1968. This federal holiday is declared to be a National Day of Service. We are encouraged to volunteer and do something to improve our communities. Martin Luther's dream was to address the racism, violence, hatred and poverty and create the Beloved Community. I hope and pray that you and your members will take your faith to the streets and be servant leaders in your communities for Jesus' sake. In these last six years we have tried to create space for intentional conversations about racial, environmental and gender justice. It is my dream you will continue to do so. Please read the latest edition of the synod's justice newsletter, Just Love, Just Act for ideas on ways to continue the conversation. [December 2023 Newsletter](#)

I am so grateful for you the rostered and lay leaders of this synod and for the amazing synod ministers I've had the opportunity to work with over the course of these years as bishop. A heartfelt Thank You to Liz Bartsch, David Behling, Sara Bishop, Diane House, Greg Kaufmann, Lidix Montoya, Erin Nelson, Randy Olson, and Laura Ramlow. I am honored to have been a part of such great team of leaders. I have been inspired and learned so much from each one of you. Thank you all.

God's blessings, as we moving forward bravely in this new year taking the next most faithful step!

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson".

Epiphany 2, Martin Luther King Day



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

February 2024 –Season of Epiphany

Sunday, February 4 – Epiphany 5

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39: Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

Sunday, February 11 - Transfiguration

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9: Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Joel 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 almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

Sunday, February 18 – Lent 1

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 1:9-15: The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

Sunday, February 25 – Lent 2

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 8:31-38: After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

THE STONES WOULD SHOUT

A Series of Special Services for Midweek Lent

When someone complained about the children's praises on Palm Sunday, Jesus replied, *"If these were silent the stones would shout!"* (Luke 19:40). Each of these services in this series considers two biblical references to stones and seeks to learn their lessons. All midweek services are at 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) has Adam considering the dust from which he was made and to which he will return, in the light of Jesus' observation that *"hearing the Word of God and keeping it"* (which Adam failed to do) is like building on a rock. Sermon: **"Hear God's word and keep it"**

Wednesday, Feb. 21: *"Am I my brother's keeper?"* Asked Cain after slaying Abel. Jesus asks whether one would give a stone to a child who asks for bread. Both death with hardness of heart. Sermon: **"God is still here!"**

Wednesday, Feb. 28: *"Look to the rock from which you were hewn."* Like Isaiah's hearers, slaves making bricks in Egypt needed assurance that God of their ancestors was still truly present. Sermon: **"Am I my brother's keeper?"**

Wednesday, Mar. 6: This week dealing with fearsome foes, David uses a stone to defeat Goliath, while Jesus refuses the temptation of the evil foe to turn a stone into bread. Sermon: **"Facing a fearsome Foe!"**

Wednesday, Mar. 13: The walls of Jericho tumbled for those who trusted in the Lord. Jesus warns that for those who fail to do, *"not one stone will be left on another!"* Sermon: **"Stones that fall."**

Wednesday, Mar. 20: This week (the last Wednesday) takes us to Sinai where the law was given on two stone tablets. At Gabbatha (The Pavement) stands One who has come to fulfill the law. Sermon: **"Law given, law fulfilled."**

Each week we will add a stone at the foot of the cross. Also worshipers will receive a small stone to carry in his/her pocket or purse during the Lenten season as a reminder of our Lenten discipline and worship services.

These Midweek Lenten Services are being led by Mary Brandt, Pastors Doug and Rex during Pastor Bob's Medical Leave.

MISSION STATEMENT

GATHERED – RENEWED – SENT

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

Pastor's Office Hours: While Pastor Bob is spending time in the office during his medical leave, attending to the "administrative" stuff of the church, he is not available for emergency call. In the event of an emergency or hospitalization, please contact one of the following pastors who have agreed to provide that coverage:

- Pastor Bob Friese – St. John's Lutheran Church, Sprint Valley
 - 715-778-5935 (Church)
 - 715-308-1681 (Cell)
- Pastor Ben Nelson – Zion Lutheran Church, Woodville
 - 715-698-2707 (Church)
- Pastor Stephen Hilding – Christ Lutheran Church, Menomonie
 - 715-222-2475 (Cell)
- Pastor Paul Backstrom – Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Baldwin
 - 715-684-2984 (Church)
 - 952-905-0601 (Cell)
- Pastor Jonathan – Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Glenwood City
 - 715-265-4411 (Church)
 - 651-247-2826 (Cell)

W/ELCA Meetings: Weather permitting, the next regular meeting will be held Thursday, February 8, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Wilson Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights - January 11, 2024

- All reports for the Annual Meeting on January 28 can be given to Darlene.
- The Green Jug donations for ELCA Good Gifts Program totaled \$301.50. Tracy made a motion to purchase 3 groups of goats, each group consists of a couple of goats for a price of \$300.00. Second by Louanne. Motion carried. Barb Lamb will place the order.
- The Virtual Christmas Poinsettia donations totaled \$750.00 giving each of the five Local Food Pantries \$150.00.
- The monthly Bible Study will be on break until April.
- Confirmation classes will be on break until April.
- Supply Pastor Schedule is filled during Pastor Bob's medical leave.
- Pastor Bob will order 4 Communion Cup Trays, holding 40 cups each, and 1 Cover to replace the current worn out ones. Memorial funds will be used to purchase them. Barb Knopps will have them engraved.
- Pastor Bob gave an update on his health therapy schedule.
- There will be open positions on the council to be voted on at the annual meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary and 2 Council Members.
- The Constitution By-Laws will be reviewed and any changes be presented to the Congregation at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Tuesday Community Supper: Gethsemane Lutheran Church will be serving the Tuesday Community Supper from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6th in the Fellowship Hall at Gethsemane. The menu is: Tator Tot Hotdish, Lettuce with Dressing, Roll and Cupcakes. Please come and enjoy the company of your friends and neighbors.

The Tuesday Community Supper is served the first Tuesday of the month at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1350 Florence Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin. This is a free meal open to anyone in the community. Area churches, businesses and organizations take turns preparing and serving good nutritious food.

Food Pantry Support: Thank you for your continuing support of our hunger ministry. Your contributions are making a difference. The food pantry box in the narthex was again filled. January contributions went to the Elmwood Food Shelf. January contributions will go to Spring Valley. The elimination of the federal FoodShare Funding program has impacted our senior citizens and those with disabilities, which means local food shelves are in even greater need of our support. Please help our neighbors in need.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers: There's nothing better than hot bowl of soup on a cold winter evening (maybe by then it will be 🌨️), but to make that happen we need soup, bread and you. There's a clipboard on the table in the narthex where you can sign up to help.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Month	Altar Care	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Sundays
February	Dean and Linda Rambo	Kathy Borton	Scott and Kathy Borton	4 Sundays Ash Wednesday
March	HELP NEEDED	Rex Brandt	HELP NEEDED	5 Sundays Palm Sunday Easter Sunday 3 Wednesday Eve Lent Service

Please check the clipboards on the table in the narthex for other months still needing your help. If you're unable to serve the entire month, perhaps you could share the Sundays with another person? Please let Pastor Bob know if you are able to help, or sign up on the sheets in the narthex.

2024 ACOLYTE and READER SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Acolyte	Reader
February			
	4	Brady	Ginny Overland
	11	Lucie	Darren Peterson
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	14	Owen	Dean Rambo
	18	Aran	Jes Lamb
	25	Brady	Sherry Ellefson
March			
	3	Lucie	Rex Brandt
	10	Owen	Ryan Peterson
	17	Aran	Tracy Davis
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	24	Brady	Barb Knopps
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	28	Lucie	Doug Faber
<i>Good Friday</i>	29	Owen	Sherry Ellefson
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	31	Aran and Brady	Janet Brandt

PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – February 2024

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Feb 2	Judy Johnson	Feb 9	Charles Bowell		None Noted
Feb 5	Lisa Bowell	Feb 12	Barry Brandvold		
Feb 6	Carolyn Anderson	Feb 14	Theresa Pomasl		
Feb 7	Tanner Bowell	Feb 19	Brenda Keck		

ELCA Good Gifts Program: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the “Green Jug” during Advent and Christmas. Your giving resulted in the purchase of three pairs of goats for three families. Your gift will provide them with milk and cheese, enough for their own use and as a source of income. Thank you for your generously serving our neighbors around the world.

Spring Valley Area Ambulance Breakfast: The 35th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction will be held Sunday, February 25 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at Brother Michael Center in Spring Valley. This event helps the service acquire needed equipment so important to their mission to service their neighbors in times of greatest need. These dedicated women and men provide lifesaving care to hundreds of homes and businesses in the Spring Valley area, including Wilson Lutheran Church. Let’s join them for breakfast on the 25th following worship.



Doug Brandt celebrated his 80th birthday by watching the Packers defeat the Bears (17-9) at Lambeau Field in Green Bay along with Rex, Janet and daughter Tanya.

**Annual Meeting of Wilson Lutheran Church
January 28, 2024**

The Annual Meeting of Wilson Lutheran Church was called to order at 9:58 AM by Council President Chuck Walz.

Pastor Bob opened with expressing a Thank You for the support he has been receiving from everyone, followed by Litany and Prayer.

Minutes:

The minutes of the 2023 Annual meeting were read by Secretary Ginny Overland. Mary Brandt made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Second by Barb Knopps. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial report is included in the 2023 Annual Report for members to review. David Powers made a motion to accept the financial report. Second by Jill Menk. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Audit Committee – Jill Menk reported everything was in perfect order.
- Cemetery Committee- Doug Faber reported after surveying fees other cemeteries in the area were charging the following changes were made: Non-Member fee for a plot is \$500.00, no charge for members, \$300 for Perpetual Care per plot, \$150 fee for each burial in a plot, \$35 for registration and markings. They had a Cemetery Maintenance Appreciation Dinner.
- Endowment Committee- Doug Faber reported Sue Faber resigned from the Committee and Pastor Doug Brandt filled her position. The Wilson Endowment Fund Committee recommended giving \$500.00 each to Luther Park, Luther Point and Luther Seminary (to support future pastors and leaders).
- Nominating Committee- Sherry Ellefson expressed appreciation and thanked the council members for their service. There are 3 positions open and 3 nominees: Scott Borton, Sue Timm, and Rebecca Stoltman. Vice President David Powers would move to the President position, Council Member Barb Knopps would move to the Secretary position. Barb Lamb made a motion to close the nominations. Doug Faber second. Motion carried. Dean Rambo made a motion for a unanimous consent ballot for the nominations. Second by Louanne Anderson. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Mike Ellefson presented four bids for paving the parking lot across from the church. Council had approved the bid from Monarch for \$23,445, a gift of \$5000 has been given for the resurfacing. Tracy Davis made a motion to approve the Council's recommendation. Second by Sue Timm. Motion carried.
- The 2024 budget, approved by council, was included in the Annual Report for members to review. Linda Powers made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Second by Scott Borton. Motion carried.

A motion was made by David Powers and second by Jill Menk to adjourn. Motion carried. We closed the meeting at 10:22AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Overland
Secretary

Wilson Lutheran Investment Fund Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2024

Members Present: Doug Faber, Doug Brandt, Kari Deppa, Dennis Blegen, Linda Powers

Meeting was called to order by President Doug Faber.

Pastor Doug led us in prayer.

Based on email from Pastor Bob, funds have grown to approximately \$3,000+/- more than the initial investment. The committee unanimously agreed to recommend distributing \$1,500 as follows:

- \$500 to Luther Park
- \$500 to Luther Point
- \$500 to Luther Seminary (to support future pastors and leaders)

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Powers

PASTOR'S UPDATE

The Journey Has Begun: First, permit me once more to express my deep gratitude for all the phone calls, emails, text messages, cards, offers of transportation, food, and every other way you have reached out to support me following my cancer diagnosis and Susan's death. As Becky Davidson said to me last Sunday, "you are loved". I know it and feel it every day. Thank you. That means more than I have the words to express.

So, what's going on. I had my first chemo treatment on Wednesday, January 24th. I'm told everyone reacts to those differently, and I was hoping for the "good difference". At first that was the case. The following Thursday and Friday morning, the worst I experienced was a case of intermittent hiccups. As irritating as they can be, I'll take that over some of the alternatives. Friday afternoon the nausea set in and continued into Saturday and Sunday. 🤢 I was told that wouldn't happen until the second or third treatment, but . . . Friday and Saturday are my usual sermon writing days but, given how I felt, I couldn't have written a sermon last week if my life depended on it. At least one you'd have wanted to hear.

Daily, Monday through Friday, radiation treatments began on the 25th. Those have gone well. So far there have been five. They told me I would likely start getting really tired after a couple weeks of those but, since I'm not normal 😊, by the end of some days I'm really tired now – mildly fatigued. The mistake I make when that happens is I try to keep chuggin' and pluggin' when I should just call it quits and be done for the day. I'm learning.

Today (the 30th) is a really good day. I've had more energy than I've had in a week. I'll take that when it comes

So, that's my story for now, and I'm stickin' to it.

By-the-way, if you haven't heard, I'm now an official "Wilsonite". I moved to Roger and Barb Kronholm's home in Wilson and love every minute of it. Pull out of the driveway, turn right, and three minutes later I'm at church. It doesn't get much gooder than that.

A VERY SPECIAL DAY – A VERY SPECIAL GIFT



Pastor Bob received a handcrafted Prayer Shawl created by Chaplain Becky Davidson, who presided at the Sunday, January 28 worship service. The shawl was passed around the congregation prior to worship, giving everyone an opportunity to hold it and offer a brief prayer.

The shawl was then blessed during the Sending portion of the service, and the congregation joined in a Prayer Shawl Litany written by Chaplain Davidson.

Everyone was then invited to come forward to lay their hands on Pastor Bob in a prayer for healing. (Yes – Lutheran do "lay on hands".)



“This experience, this outpouring of love and support, will remain with me forever. At the conclusion of the service, I told Becky that, aside from my ordination twelve years ago, this was the most powerful, most spiritually uplifting moment I’ve ever experienced. Whether your hand laid on my shoulders, or that of another behind me, I truly felt that presence of each and every person. Thank you who were a part of it. It was truly a moving moment for me.” PB

Revised Common Lectionary
Daily Readings – Year B
February 2024

Date	Day	Psalm	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
1	Thursday	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Proverbs 12:10-21	Galatians 5:2-15	
2	Friday	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Job 36:1-23	1 Corinthians 9:1-16	
3	Saturday	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Isaiah 46:1-13		Matthew 12:9-14
4	Sunday	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Isaiah 40:21-31	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
5	Monday	Psalm 102:12-28	2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37	Acts 14:1-7	
6	Tuesday	Psalm 102:12-28	2 Kings 8:1-6	Acts 15:36-41	
7	Wednesday	Psalm 102:12-28	Job 6:1-13		Mark 3:7-12
8	Thursday	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 11:26-40	2 Corinthians 2:12-17	
9	Friday	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 14:1-18	1 Timothy 1:12-20	
10	Saturday	Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 16:1-7		Luke 19:41-44
11	Sunday <i>Transfiguration</i>	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Kings 2:1-12	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
12	Monday	Psalm 110:1-4	Exodus 19:7-25	Hebrews 2:1-4	
13	Tuesday	Psalm 110:1-4	Job 19:23-27	1 Timothy 3:14-16	
14	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
15	Thursday	Psalm 25:1-10	Daniel 9:1-14	1 John 1:3-10	
16	Friday	Psalm 25:1-10	Daniel 9:15-25a	2 Timothy 4:1-5	
17	Saturday	Psalm 25:1-10	Psalm 32		Matthew 9:2-13
18	Sunday	Psalm 25:1-10	Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
19	Monday	Psalm 77	Job 4:1-21	Ephesians 2:1-10	
20	Tuesday	Psalm 77	Job 5:8-27	1 Peter 3:8-18a	
21	Wednesday	Psalm 77	Proverbs 30:1-9		Matthew 4:1-11
22	Thursday	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18	Romans 3:21-31	
23	Friday	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 16:1-6	Romans 4:1-12	
24	Saturday	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 16:7-15		Mark 8:27-30
25	Sunday	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
26	Monday	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45	Genesis 21:1-7	Hebrews 1:8-12	
27	Tuesday	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45	Genesis 22:1-19	Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19	
28	Wednesday	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45	Jeremiah 30:12-22		John 12:36-43
29	Thursday	Psalm 19	Exodus 19:1-9a	1 Peter 2:4-10	

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Prayer Ventures
February 2024

1 Pray for synod hunger team chairs and other key ELCA World Hunger leaders participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Houston. Ask the Spirit to guide their work of energizing congregations and synods to end hunger and poverty in the world, bringing relief and hope to our neighbors.

2 Remember in prayer those who suffer from heart disease, heart failure and congenital heart defects. Pray for the doctors, nurses, surgeons, care providers, researchers and chaplains who provide treatment, care and encouragement to patients of all ages and their families.

3 Pray for your synod's leaders, congregations and special ministries. Ask the Spirit to sustain them and stir their creative wisdom in carrying out the mission of the church in a changing and challenging world.

4 Give thanks for Jesus, our Savior, who changed the world not by force or coercion but by demonstrating God's lifesaving love, mercy, care for those who suffer and welcome for those who are excluded. Pray that the example of Jesus and the word of God will guide us in living for one another and sharing the gospel.

5 Pray for peace, healing and justice in places of conflict and violence, especially Ukraine, the Holy Land, Myanmar, Haiti, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

6 "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary" (Isaiah 40:28). Who better to have at our side during every twist and turn in life than God, who is mighty, merciful and concerned for our well-being? Give praise and thanks to God!

7 Remember in prayer our neighbors and siblings in Christ who experience domestic abuse — physical,

sexual or emotional. Pray that they will find refuge, community support and care for their injury and trauma. Give thanks for the work of ELCA Justice for Women, Women of the ELCA and community organizations that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence.

8 Praise God for the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and the ways God continues to use our collective assets to impact the world and serve our neighbors in need.

9 Promise to follow in the footsteps of Paul, who was mindful of the responsibility God had entrusted him with to share the gospel with people of various cultures, beliefs and life circumstances.

10 Pray that the Spirit will strengthen and sustain Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, stir her wisdom and renew her vision for our church and its mission.

11 Like Jesus' disciples, we are often confused, fearful and full of questions, longing to understand what God is doing through Jesus and what we must do as followers. Pray for God's patience as our faith matures and we learn how to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

12 Give thanks for our global companions whose daily realities, faith traditions, culture and language may differ from ours yet complement and enrich our lives and faith.

13 Pray that everything we do and say as people of faith will light the world, direct attention to our Creator and reflect God's love for humanity and all creation.

14 *Ash Wednesday* "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them" (Matthew 6:1). Reflect on who we are to God — fragile, imperfect beings *and* loved children who stand before God with humility and gratitude.

15 Joy and sorrow are both intrinsic to being human. Pray that we might feel each of them as deeply, in the world and in our lives.

16 Pray that, during Lent, we will lean into God's grace and mercy with humility, trusting the promise that the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ win us a place in the kingdom of God.

17 Pray that, as bold disciples of Christ, we will be unashamed of our faith, confident in God's promises, comfortable telling our faith story and quick to respect and serve those in need.

18 "God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth'" (Genesis 9:12-13). Give thanks and praise to God for this promise of love and forgiveness.

19 *Martin Luther, renewer of the church (1483-1546)* Give thanks that we continue to learn from and be inspired by the sermons, hymns and writings of Martin Luther, who studied and wrestled with Scripture and the church to better understand God's saving grace and how it impacts every aspect of daily life.

20 Ask God to bless the work of the ELCA Organizing for Mission Network, a community of leaders and resource providers who use the principles of community organizing to develop, redevelop and renew gospel-centered communities that act for the sake of the world and the well-being of our neighbor.

21 The cross has become widespread in art, jewelry, clothing and popular culture around the world. Reflect on the symbol and the true meaning of the cross for those who find salvation and identity in Christ.

22 Remember in prayer those who helped you become the child of God you are today — siblings in Christ, parents and family, church leaders, teachers, friends, strangers, mentors and influential people who have gone before us.

23 Promise to learn God's ways and truth and to integrate them into your daily life, that we might operate from a firm foundation of love, wisdom and justice when struggling to discern right from wrong and to relate to one another.

24 Pray for the work of the ELCA Peace Not Walls campaign, which seeks a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and connects ELCA members with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Lutheran World Federation and ecumenical companions across the Middle East.

25 Do you know someone celebrating a momentous occasion — a birth, an anniversary, recovery from illness or injury? Let their joy be your joy, and lift up prayers of thanksgiving to God.

26 Pray that we will not grow weary of serving our neighbors in need, both nearby and around the world. Ask the Spirit to renew us when we feel overwhelmed by human needs.

27 Remember in prayer the bishops of our church gathering for the Conference of Bishops in Itasca, Ill. Give thanks for their faith, gifts, wisdom and diverse perspectives, which God uses to benefit the church and help us do God's work in the world.

28 "In my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me" (*ELW* 325). Lent reminds us of our frailty, suffering and loneliness and of God's love and forgiveness, found in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Breathe a sigh of relief and thank God.

29 Be mindful of those in your community who lack safe shelter and adequate food. Pray that their needs will be met, and that God will use you and your congregation to meet them.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Pastor Bob on Medical Leave for the month.				1	2	3
4 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	5	6	7	8 10:30 WELCA Meeting 12:30 Council Meeting	9	10
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School Transfiguration of Our Lord	12	13 9:30 – St. Croix Conference Meeting	14 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	15	16	17
18 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School Newsletter Deadline	19 Presidents Day	20	21 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Worship	22	23	24
25 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	26	27	28 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Worship	29	March 1	2