

First English Lutheran Church

February
2024

THE Messenger

Connected in Christ, we grow in faith, live with hope, and reach out to share God's love with others.

On Unconditional Love

Kindness. Generosity. **LOVE**. These are life's spiritual jewels. They are the virtues of goodness and light. Each brings its blessings to our days and makes life worth the living when we choose to participate in them.

When we bring **LOVE** into the lives around us, we bring **LOVE** into our own life. **LOVE** circles back to bless its bestower, and becomes its own reward. We create **LOVE** by being **LOVING**.

What would our world be like without **LOVE**? Without generosity? Without kindness. It's not a difficult question to answer when you watch TV for even a few minutes. **LOVE** seems to have abandoned us—especially during wars, natural disasters, when the darkness of our life is at a premium and light seems nowhere to be found. But the **LIGHT** is found in **CHRIST JESUS**. His **LOVE** never has...not even once...abandoned us. He has promised in Hebrews 13:5 to *never leave us, nor forsake us*. Every moment of every minute, of every hour, of every day, we have full access to Christ's **LOVE**—its power, depth, meaning and value. His **LOVE** exists **ETERNALLY** and that means **FOR-EVER!**

Being absolutely convinced in Christ's **LOVE** for us, we begin to see “with the eyes of our heart” that **LOVE, LOVE** alone, is the most valuable use of our life. Tapping into **LOVE** is tapping into the mother lode of our spirit. It is hitting the spiritual vein of gold that gives our heart access to the treasures of joy, peace, and happiness. It is then, when our hearts begin to brim full of wealth that only **LOVE** can bring us...Jesus' **LOVE**...we discover we are becoming rich in all that really matters.

Source: Rochelle Pennington, The Golden Formula, Pathways Press, <http://www.pathwayspress.org> 2002

Blessings during this Valentine's month and beginning of Lent.

Intern Vicki



the Family **HELP** for the **HOMELESS** **Hygiene Drive**

February 11th ~ March 3rd

Last year FELC was a part of Wisconsin Rapids Area businesses, churches, and schools who collected supplies for the homeless. All items collected will stay in our area and we will be collecting for **The Family Center** and **FOCUS Food Pantry!** In these three weeks we will be collecting all items needed, with different items collected each week, see below. **We believe we all CAN afford to buy an extra bottle of shampoo or some toilet paper.** A collection box will be located in the entry area for your convenience.

Week 1 ~ 2/11-2/17

Toilet Paper*
Paper Towels*
Tampons/Pads*
Kleenex

Laundry Soap*/Dryer Sheets
Dish Soap*/Sponges
Cleaning Sprays/Rubber Gloves
Garbage Bags*

Toilet Brush & Cleaner

Week 2 ~ 2/18-2/24

Diapers & Pull-Ups*
Baby Wipes*
Baby Shampoo/Lotion
Rash Ointment
Bottles/Sippy Cups

Shampoo*/Conditioner
Brush/Comb
Style Products/Clips/
Head Lice Treatment

Soft Toothbrushes* Toothpaste*
Dental Floss

Week 3 ~ 2/25-3/3

Soft & Bar Soap*
Deodorant*
Hand, Foot, & Body Warmers*
Razors*/Shave Cream
Lotion/Lip Balm
Q-tips/Cotton Balls

Children's Pain Meds/Pedialyte
Antibiotic Ointment/Band-Aids
Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
Cold & Allergy Meds
Antacids
Anti-Diarrheal Meds

* Urgently Needed

Denture Care



******* Attention *******

Vacation Bible School 2024 is in need of a new leader or group of leaders. Planning usually begins in January so hoping this can get going soon...

~Suggested dates for VBS this summer is July 7th-11th

~Suggested times is 5:30 pm-8:15 pm, sack suppers at 5 pm

You can continue to run VBS as it has been the past several years or you can reimagine and completely change VBS. This would be entirely up to the new leadership. Kelly Look and Sarah Ashbeck are willing to help. If you are interested, please contact the church office, Chris Klopotek, Kelly Look or Sarah Ashbeck.



"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

PLEASE help tackle hunger of people in the community as we demonstrate God's love by loving our neighbors through the *Souper Bowl* of Caring. It's simple, just bring in your spare change and add to the soup pot on February 11th, or bring in some canned goods! Donations go to FOCUS!



**Wednesday,
February 14th**
1pm Worship
5:30pm Soup Supper
Bethlehem Room
6:30pm Worship
In the Sanctuary

CROSS OF ASHES – On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers’ foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus’ death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



"Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7

"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19

"Abraham answered, Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the lord, though I am but dust and ashes." Genesis 18:27



LENT

Take your Lenten journey with FELC

SOUP SUPPERS - Wednesdays starting 2/14 - 3/20 @ 5:30pm in the Bethlehem Room

LENTEN WORSHIP - Wednesdays 2/21 - 3/20 @ 6:30pm in the Gathering Area

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday, 3/24 @ 9:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday, 3/28 at 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday, 3/29 at 1:00pm

EASTER - Sunday, 3/31 at 8:30am & 10:30am

All are welcome here!

Lenten Wednesday Evening Services

There are over 100 Hebrew names given to God in the Old Testament. Each reveals something about God's character, purpose, promises, and intent. Although we won't have time to cover 100 names in our Wednesday evening services, we'll study several of them and discover how God's ancient names are still vital to our daily faith lives today. What difference will this make in our relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? And what difference will it make in how we relate to others?

February 21: The God Who Forgives Me (Yahweh Heseb): Understanding the Name of God

February 28: The God Who Sees Me (El Roi): Love without Fear

March 6: The God Who Guides Me (Yahweh Roi): Trust without Misgiving

March 13: The God Who is Faithful (El Hanan) Obedience without Regret

March 20: The God Who Provides (Jehovah Jireh): Provision without Disappointment



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7am Yoga	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class Scout Sunday 	5	6 7am Yoga 3:30pm GLOW	7 10am Zoom Bible Study 12:45pm SHINE 2:45pm River Run 7pm Choir	8 7am Yoga	9 Office Closed	10 5-7pm Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet
11 9:30a Worship W/SS 8am Confirmation Class Souper Bowl of Caring The Family Radio's	12 ~ Help for the Homeless	13 7am Yoga 3:30pm GLOW ~ Hygiene Drive → 3/3	14 10:30am SHINE 1pm Ash Wed Worship 1pm Quilters 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Ash Wed Service ASH WEDNESDAY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	15 7am Yoga 5:15pm Christ Ed Mtg	16 Office Closed	17
18 9:30a Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class	19	20 7am Yoga 3:30pm GLOW 6pm Council Mtg	21 10am Zoom Bible Study 2:45pm SHINE 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7pm Choir	22 7am Yoga	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:30a Worship w/SS 8am Confirmation Class	26  Welcome Back Pastor Cheryl!!	27 7am Yoga Vicki OFF 3:30pm GLOW	28 10am Zoom Bible Study 12:45pm SHINE 1pm Quilters 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7pm Choir	29 7am Yoga		

FELC INFO

Address:

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Dave Mueller
Tammy Parzewski

Diaconal Intern:

Vicki Peterson Jenks
vickipjenks@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am in person
FB Live & YouTube

Televised...

Sunday @ 11am from
The previous Sunday
WR Community Media,
Charter 985 &
Solarus Channel 3

For church closings
TV Channel 7 WSAW

February



Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.

Give up worry – trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement – be full of hope.

Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred – return good for evil.

Give up anger – be more patient.

Give up pettiness – become mature.

Give up jealousy – pray for trust.

Give up gossiping – control your tongue.

Give up sin – turn to virtue.

Give up giving up – persevere.

~Author unknown

BIRTHDAYS

2-1	Bernice Ormstead Mark Stultz Walter Wright Brandon Franz
2-5	David Laspa
2-6	Charles Wallen
2-8	Michael Schoenholz Eunice Matthews Tonya Manning
2-9	Alida Gross
2-11	Jessica Edwards
2-13	Gail Grzadzielewski
2-14	Valerie Nygaard
2-16	Debra Franz Silas Manning
2-18	Jaxon Chambers
2-19	Corinne Klopotek
2-21	Michelle Lipke
2-22	Daisy Saylor
2-24	Jennifer Vetrone Dylan Saylor
2-25	Jayson Ross
2-27	Michael Schill

Happy Birthday!

ANNIVERSARIES

2-7	Richard & Mary Bronson
2-14	Randy & Debra Franz
2-26	Pat & Jodi Waltenberg

Happy Anniversary!

BAPTISMS

2-8	Jacob Barnett
2-12	Dylann Kulas
2-19	Maggie Dallman Cameron Mancl



Wood County Empty Bowls Event

Saturday, February 17th

11am~2pm

FOCUS

2321 West Grand Ave, W.R.

Purchase a simple meal of soup, bread, and a dessert, and take home your one of kind soup bowl! Take a chance on some nice raffle baskets too!

Help support food insecurities in our area!

If you're interested in helping at this event, please contact Don Mancl at 715-451-1404.

HEART

strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.



"We were on the way out the door before I remembered I needed something for the Valentine party at Sunday school."

Coloring Page...

