

February Newsletter 2017



Continuing the Season of Epiphany

Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
9100 Highway YY Leslie, Missouri
Parsonage 573-459-6432 Church 573-459-6431
Rev. William F. Zastrow, Pastor
Mary Sprick, Secretary
ebenezerlutheran@hotmail.com
ebenezerlutheranchurch.wordpress.com

From the Pastor's Desk:

A True Valentine Gift

Apparently Valentine's Day can be pretty confusing. That's what Reuters News Service reports.

For example, eight million Americans admit to sending themselves Valentine gifts. So, if a person you know gets a valentine present, it may not be from a known or unknown admirer. They just may not want to feel lonely or unloved on Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day can be confusing. According to a recent phone survey there is a big difference between what people want as a gift for Valentine's Day and what they're probably going to get.

For example, twenty-two percent of the men polled said they were going to give their wives or girlfriends lingerie as a Valentine's Day gift. Lingerie was their top choice. Only two percent of the women said lingerie was a gift they would appreciate.

On the other hand, if you think diamonds are a girl's best friend, you may not be wrong. Jewelry was the top gift choice when the ladies were asked. When the men had their turn of rating gift ideas, jewelry ranked no higher than fifth place.

Valentine's Day can be confusing. For example, the survey says many practical (or cheap) men readily agree when their lady suggests she "really doesn't want a gift this year", or "we don't have to exchange gifts this year for Valentine's Day". Those lines are nothing more than that—lines. Because Valentine's Day is so confusing many relationships have a tough time surviving the day. The survey suggested that three million couples have broken up on Valentine's Day.

This leads me to ask, "What will you give God for Valentine's Day?" We already know what He has given us—His Son. We see the Father's love in Jesus' birth, His life, His suffering, death, and

resurrection. Because of Jesus we have been given forgiveness and life eternal. Now the question is, “What shall we give God?”

It’s not an easy question, is it? How do you find a present to give Someone who already owns everything? Thankfully we don’t have to rack our brains for an answer. In the text at the beginning of our devotion, God says what He wants: a broken and a contrite heart. God wants our repentant, trusting hearts for Valentine’s Day, and for everyday.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, we have seen true love in the gift of Your Son’s sacrifice. He may not have been what the world wanted, but Jesus is definitely what we need. In awe and admiration of His gift may we give You the present You most desire: our broken and believing hearts. In the Savior’s Name. Amen.*

Thrivent Dates for 2017

March 5 – Chili, soup and sandwich dinner - Plan to come and bring your appetites. A free will offering will be taken. The recipient will be Lutheran Family and Children’s Services in Union.

April 16 – Easter Breakfast - We hope to again join with the youth to prepare and serve the breakfast. A free will offering will be taken. Recipient will be announced later.

May 14 – Mother’s Day Recognition

June 18 – Father’s Day Recognition

July 23 – Potluck - Watch the bulletin for details.

September 10 – Potluck - Watch the bulletin for details.

December 3 – Senior Citizens’ Dinner

We will be working with the youth and their families to serve and help prepare the food.

Watch the bulletins for changes. There may be deletions and/or additions as the year progresses. Hope to see you at the dinners and other activities!

Remember to check and direct your Choice Dollars for Thrivent. Call the 800 number or go on line. You can direct your 2016 dollars until March 31st.

If you have any fund raising project and would like to have \$250 for seed money to buy supplies, it is available to any Thrivent member just by applying for an Action Team card. It can be done by going to Thrivent.com and click on Action Team. This money is available and relatively easy to get as long as a service is done for some church, some community organization, charity or raising funds for an individual. Hope you give it a try!

Happiness Is a Garden Everyone Can Plant

Want to have more happiness in your life? It's easy.

First, plant three rows of peas: Patience, perseverance, and promise.

Then, three rows of lettuce: Let us be true to our obligations; let us be unselfish; and let us love as though the world depended on it.

And finally, remember to plant two rows of turnips: Turn up with a smile. Turn up with the determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

If you ask someone what makes them happy, more than likely they will say it is being with a certain favorite person or spending time outside in the beauty of nature or doing an activity they enjoy or returning home after being away. Rarely will they say it's having a shiny new car or a big bank account.

Genuine happiness isn't found in "things," but in the love and support of the people you care about, in simple day-to-day activities, and in little acts of kindness and generosity – all of which add up to a lifetime of joy!

February Birthdays

Gilbert Brune	2-7
Dorothy Kasmann	2-7
Samuel Levi Angeles	2-7
Ellie Lou Brune	2-9
Mary Beth Hiatt	2-12
Hugo Nething	2-14
Donna Kirschenmann	2-15
Pat Kappelmann	2-16
Zachary Door	2-16
Shirley Shearman	2-17
Katelyn Bopp	2-17
Jennifer Kasmann	2-18
Art Hohlt	2-19
Aaron Wesche	2-20
Alex Jacob Ward	2-20
Katelynn Sue Lefmann	2-20
Janet Redhage	2-22
Bridget Phelps	2-23
Ava Monzyk	2-23
Sharon Helling	2-24
Cody Adams	2-27
Don Kappelmann	2-27
Christopher Helling	2-28
Ruby Bunge	2-29

February Anniversaries

Alan and Julie Hilkerbaumer	2-18
Brian and Jennifer Kasmann	2-24

Usher Schedule for February

- 1: Donald Hoemann
 - 2: Andrew Kassebaum
 - 3:
 - 4: Alan Hilkerbaumer
 - 5: Elmer Kellmann
- Alternate: Paul Brune
Head Usher: Lee Kassebaum

Bell Ringer Schedule for February

February 5

Cody Adams

February 12

Trent Huellinghoff

February 19

Corey Adams

February 26

Jeff Hohlt

Altar Guild for February

Judy Allmeroth and Joyce Hohlt

Monthly Treasurer's Summary December 2016

Beginning checking balance	\$19,531.67
Receipts	\$22,446.30
Disbursements	\$10,022.28
Ending checking balance	\$31,955.69
LCEF savings balance	\$30,393.87
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,028.67
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$4,800.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	\$5,008.92

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Please come to Bible Class on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. We have Bible Readings, hymn singing, and watch past episodes of the television show produced by Lutheran Hour

Ministries **“This is the Life.”** This is for Men and Women of our congregation and the community.

February 2 - In “Destination Unknown” Paul Werner (Leonard Nimoy) is a nuclear scientist on a mission. Rejecting American society, he’s considering political asylum in the Soviet Union. On board a TWA SuperJet to Frankfurt, Werner engages in conversations with a stewardess and a pastor who raise questions and challenge his assumptions about God, man, and the world at large.

In “Cell of Hope” Flagg Washington (Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs) gets himself a new cellmate in the “big house.” When Jimmy Stricklin (Richard Dimitri) proves himself an obnoxious wannabe, Washington—who has become a Christian in prison—has words, and then blows, with the unruly rufian.

February 9 - In “Undertow” Harry (David Ogden Stiers) is a father wracked with grief and bent on revenge. Losing his daughter in an ocean drowning, he blames the lifeguard Jim (Gil Peterson), who warned him about allowing his daughter to swim in dangerous conditions. Overcome by loss he turns his anger on Jim who’s grappling with his own fatal mistake—one that likely caused the death of his wife a year earlier.

February 16 - In “The Healer” Dave Foreman (Gary Collins) is a slick revivalist casting his spell of miracle healing and instant blessing on an audience primed for immediate answers to its prayers. His antics, originally fueled by anger over his daughter’s death, are like a carnival sideshow. A father’s request to heal his daughter of diabetes (and the dad’s decision to take her off insulin) is too much for Foreman, however.

February 23 - In **“The Flames of Hate”** Betty Blackwood (Angie Dickenson) is stuck between the man she loves, Art (Ed Kemmer), and her obsessive father Nate (Edgar Dearing). With Nate’s opinion of Art placing somewhere between womanizer and deadbeat, there appears no chance of reconciliation, but it’s Betty and Art’s elopement that fulfills Nate’s worst nightmare and with that he cuts them off completely.

St. Louis premiere — One night only!

Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by attending this once in a lifetime event! **(The LCMS Pastors and Elders in our area are trying to get a viewing of the movie at the New Haven Walt Theater)**

Come to the St. Louis premiere of the new movie, “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World,” at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at the Wehrenberg Des Peres 14 Cine, 12701 Manchester Rd., Des Peres, Mo.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets, visit tickets.NewLutherMovie.com.

Learn more about Luther and his time. This film, produced by Lutherans, reflects accurate historical details and the true nature of Luther’s work during the Reformation.

“The goal of the documentary is to lead the nation’s conversation about the 500th anniversary of the Reformation,” said co-producer Mike Trinklein. “On one hand, it’s a great adventure story, with chase scenes, kidnappings, political intrigue and life-or-death decisions.

“At the same time, it’s a story about the most important questions of life, including, ‘Who am I? What is my purpose?’ and ‘How do I get right with God?’ Our goal is to weave both elements together in a way that satisfies Lutherans and piques the curiosity of the secular world.”

The St. Louis premiere is being hosted by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Mo.

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and the Rev. Dr. Erik Herrmann, director of the Center for Reformation Research at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will answer questions following the movie. The Rev. Dr. Jeff Kloha, provost of Concordia Seminary, and the Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas, pastor of St. Paul’s, also will share a few words.

For information on how your congregation can host a similar movie event, visit NewLutherMovie.com/lcms.

Stewardship Thoughts for February

We’ve all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle’s Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us “our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses.” Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, AND treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with

the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

A Call to Prayer

Marriage. Life. Religious liberty. They are all deemed “controversial” in the public square, buzz words for “Don’t talk about this at the neighborhood party” or, “Stick to discussing the weather and sports...just to be safe.”

And yet each topic matters. Fundamentally, they matter because people matter. And people matter to us as Lutherans because they matter to Jesus.

We teach about these issues, we communicate and catechize about them, and we work to establish offices because we desire to bear witness to Christ, even in the public square, even in a culture where people don’t want to hear about Him.

We ask you to join with your fellow LCMS Lutherans in prayer—for our churches, for our members, for our country, for her elected leaders. That, of course, is your joy and challenge in this intensely politically charged atmosphere: to remain faithful, to stay the course, to pray!

Our Lord hasn't left you alone to be a voice for His gift of marriage or to speak for the value of the lives He creates. He remains with you. He is not absent. He is still at the helm, the head of the body, still leading, still guiding.

As you pray, know that as Christians we are together bearing witness to Christ in and by all that we do, speaking truth in the public square, at our own kitchen tables and over our backyard fences, remaining firm in the faith. And we trust that God—in His perfect time and way—will work all things for His good!

We Pray

Holy Father, as Your People, we turn to You, our only refuge in every need. You see how confused and concerned our nation is. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy!

Show us the path forward that we, our elected leaders and those who have authority over us may be faithful in the vocations you have given us to do. Cause us to be uncompromising witnesses to Your will and Your ways, both in our homes and in the public square.

Help us to proclaim in Christ the gift of forgiveness for every sin we have committed, every time we have not spoken the truth in love, every instance where we have remained silent. Give us a voice to speak for the unborn, the joy to lift up the gift of marriage, and the willingness to speak on behalf of people of faith who are, even now, persecuted for their faith in You.

We have no right to ask this, save through the merits and meditation of Him whose blood atones for the sin of the whole world, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pastor at Chapel, Immanuel - Washington Confirmation 6:30 PM	2 Bible Study 10:00 AM	3	4 Worship 3:00 PM with Holy Communion Dining Hall Reserved
5 Sunday School 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Dining Hall Reserved	6 Elders 7:00 PM	7 Adult Confirmation 6:30	8 Confirmation 6:30 PM	9 Bible Study 10:00 AM	10	11 Worship 3:00 PM
12 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 Baptism	13	14 Adult Confirmation 6:30 Valentine's Day	15 Confirmation 6:30 PM	16 Bible Study 10:00 AM	17	18 Worship 3:00 PM with Holy Communion Cub Scouts
19 Sunday School 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Pastor New HavenCare Center Worship 1:30	20 Ebenezer Mission Society 7:30 PM Presidents' Day	21 Pastor's Conference 8:30 AM – Immanuel, Rosebud	22 Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00	23 Bible Study 10:00 Sunday School Teachers/ Education Comm. 7:00 PM	24	25 Worship 3:00 PM
26 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	27	28				