

the Spirit



What's Inside:

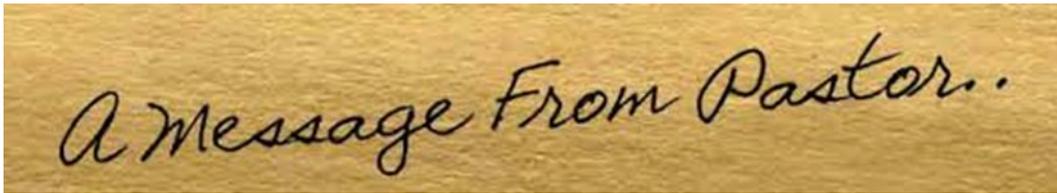
A Preview of our Lent Rotation

An invitation to a Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser hosted by our youth

A save the date for the annual Empty Bowls event

And much more!



A message from Pastor. The text is written in a cursive, handwritten style on a light brown, textured background that resembles a piece of wood or parchment.

Well, the Vikings lost last night.

Not that I cared that much as I don't follow sports, but I know a lot of you were big fans and for your loss all I can say is I'm sorry.

It hurts when we don't get our way and what we want, but that's all part of what it means to live.

Things just don't always seem to go our way.

In fact, sometimes it might seem that nothing goes the way we'd like.

But still we persevere and keep taking one step forward knowing that it's not the end of the world, that things are bound to get better, and that tomorrow the sun is going to come out once again.

The sun will come out just as it always does, unless however, we wake up to the biggest snowstorm of the year and then it just feels like we've been kicked in the gut all over again.

But then again, if you don't have to go out in the storm you've got to admit there's something special, something magical, and something downright extraordinary about looking out your window and seeing everything blanketed in white.

With the tree branches all crystalized and the snow falling down all around you it's as if nature itself is trying to remind you that it's time for a clean start, a fresh beginning, and a new way of looking at the world.

Now, right now, I'm sitting at the orthodontist's office waiting for my son to come out of the back having just had his braces removed.

And this isn't the first time I've done this waiting game as four years ago when he first got his braces off, for some reason he chose not to wear his retainer as instructed.

Thus, the reason I'm sitting here once again.

You see, what Cole learned was that there were some major consequences to his poor decision and so he was told as a senior in high school that the braces had to go back on and wouldn't be coming back off till half way through his first year at college.

Talk about being kicked in the gut.

But maybe it was a good thing he had to do it all over again and maybe, just maybe, in the long run this was a lesson he needed to learn.

Maybe he needed to learn that there is a cost to the decisions we make while at the same time we can trust that even when we make bad decisions redemption is still possible.

It's still possible because God's grace, just like waking up to a winter wonderland, will always cover us in white and with forgiveness.

So, take heart you Vikings fans because if you look around I'm sure you can find something else to smile about, maybe something even more important than just a game.

I know my son will be smiling a lot starting today.

He'll be smiling because his braces are gone, smiling because he was given a second chance, and smiling because he knows he won't be making the same mistake twice.

As for you Vikings fans, only time will tell if you can break free from the bondage of this one loss and look forward to another try next year when redemption might at last come.

But it's going to come at a cost one way or another so be prepared.

Blessings, Pastor Durk



Calendar– February 2018

Thu February 1, 2018

6:30pm N.A. (Green Room)

Fri February 2, 2018

7:00am N A

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun February 4, 2018

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon February 5, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue February 6, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator Room)

Wed February 7, 2018

5:45pm Drop-In Bible Study

6:30pm Men of the Choir

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thu February 8, 2018

6:30pm N. A. (Green Room)

7:00pm Church Council

Fri February 9, 2018

7:00am N A

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sat February 10, 2018

5:30am Shelter Breakfast

6:00pm Valentine's Dinner

Sun February 11, 2018

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon February 12, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue February 13, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Fellowship Hall)

Wed February 14, 2018

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Ash Wednesday

Thu February 15, 2018

Newsletter Deadline

1:00pm Active Adults

6:30pm N. A. (Green Room)

7:00pm Men's Group

7:00pm Prayer Shawl Group

Fri February 16, 2018

7:00am N.A.

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun February 18, 2018

Share the Spirit Sunday

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon February 19, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue February 20, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator Room)

Wed February 21, 2018

5:45pm Drop In Bible Study

7:00pm Worship at Wooddale

Thu February 22, 2018

6:30pm N.A. (Green Room)

Fri February 23, 2018

7:00am N.A.

7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Sun February 25, 2018

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship

11:15am Fellowship

Mon February 26, 2018

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tue February 27, 2018

5:30pm Women's AA (Elevator Room)

Wed February 28, 2018

5:45pm Drop In Bible Study

7:00pm Worship at Prince of Peace



Social Action Calendar – January to March 2018

February 2018

- 10 Shelter Breakfast 5:30 to 7:30am
- 18 Share the Spirit Sunday

March 2018

- 4 Minnesota FoodShare Kickoff
- 9 Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm
- 15 STEP Empty Bowls Event– SAVE the DATE!!
- 18 Share the Spirit Sunday

April 2018

- 14 Shelter Breakfast 5:30 to 7:30am
- 15 Share the Spirit Sunday

Our Saviours Shelter Breakfast - Feb. 10th

On Saturday, February 10th, Spirit of Christ will serve breakfast at the shelter. The dead of winter is the most important time for the shelter residents to have a hot meal as they are sent out into the elements for the day. We will be serving French toast, bacon, sausage, juice, fruit, and milk. If you would like to join us for serving or make a donation, talk to Mark or Carolee at church, email c-cohe@umn.edu or call 952-935-5608 to learn more.

SLP BirdFeeder Donations

During the month of February, we will collect donations for the food shelf at SLP Bird Feeder. Recommended food items are ones that do not involve the use of stoves or ovens. The best type of items you can donate are full packaged meals that require few

out-side ingredients, along with meals that can be made within their packages. These are appreciated by the families who don't have access to other cooking equipment. We hope you will “show the love” in Valentines month and purchase some of the top ten items needed at Bird Feeder.

DONATE TO THE BIRD FEEDER



NOW!

Top Ten Food Items to Donate

1. Canned Fruits
2. Microwavable Meals
3. Bread/ Tortillas
4. Nutritional drinks/ Bottled water
5. Jelly
6. Pasta Sauce
7. Backpacks
8. Snacks
9. Canned Meat
10. Rice

STEP Empty Bowls Event – March 15th!

STEP's annual Empty Bowls event will be held at Westwood Lutheran Church (9001 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park) on Thursday, March 15, 2018. The event is an opportunity for all ages in community to come together and support efforts to eliminate hunger in St. Louis Park.

Community members of all ages are invited to join together for a simple meal of soup and bread provided by local restaurants for lunch or dinner. The event will include music entertainment and children's activities. Participants will receive a hand-made pottery bowl to take home as a reminder of



empty bowls in our community. No tickets or reservations are required. A free-will donation will benefit the programs of the St. Louis Park Emergency Program.

If you would like more information on the importance of this fundraiser to STEP or on its history, take a look at <http://stepslp.org/latest-news/empty-bowls-save-the-date/> and save the date. Stay tuned for more details about serving times. If you want to know more about the experience of a volunteer, find the SOC member in the picture of a recent Empty Bowls event and ask her about it!



Share the Spirit Sunday

How can you share the Spirit? While sharing can take MANY forms, one opportunity we have every 3rd Sunday of the month is to contribute to the "Share the Spirit" fund. These donations are used in many ways: to support the shelter meals, Tree-House, special requests from STEP or Bird Feeder and our 363days.org sandwich making project.



Get involved with Social Action!

The Social Action team (aka SOC SAC) welcomes everyone in the congregation to join us to plan and organize mission and social action events. This could be an ongoing activity or a one-time commitment. Talk to anyone on the Social Action Team: (Mark or Carolee Cohen, Wendi Harmsen, Pat Latvala, Deb Schmitz, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help!

Upcoming Events

Valentine's Dinner

Please join the Spirit of Christ Youth for a Valentine's Dinner on Saturday, February 10th. This will be a fun evening celebrating Valentine's Day (a little early) with a three course dinner served by the Youth Group, music and a photo booth. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards the Youth Group who are raising funds for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

Place: Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church

Time: 6:00pm Social, 6:30pm Dinner

Cost: Suggested donation \$15

Who: Everyone is invited!

Attire: Smart Casual

Questions: Please contact Dina S. at 612-240-0126 or dahlida@comcast.net



Lent

This Lent, we are again joining Prince of Peace and Wooddale for mid-week services. Here's the schedule of where worship will be:

February 14th	Spirit of Christ
February 21st	Wooddale
February 28	Prince of Peace
March 7	Spirit of Christ
March 14	Wooddale
March 21	Prince of Peace
March 29	Spirit of Christ (Maundy Thursday)
March 30	Wooddale (Good Friday)

Ongoing Events/Opportunities

Wednesday Night Drop-In Dwelling in the Word

Feel free to stop by the church office between 5:45—6:45 each Wednesday evening as we take some time to center ourselves in the upcoming week's scripture or revisit the previous week's readings.

We will read and hear the lessons for the upcoming Sunday, ask questions, and just give the Holy Spirit the chance to speak a word of *Law and Gospel* into our daily life.

So come when you can and leave when you must.

View from the Pew

January 9th Edition

A special man – and his generation -- Last week I was talking to a gentleman about the rapid rate at which we are losing our veterans from

WWII, and the conversation then turned to the passing of another member of that exclusive fraternity, SOC's Warren E. (Bud) Bushway, 97, on Wednesday, Jan. 3 – also the date of his birth.

Although the fellow I was talking to is not a member of our church, and at first said he did not know Bud, he immediately took notice when I told him that Bud was the man known for raising and lowering Old Glory every day in front of his home on Cedar Lake Road for more than half a century. "I remember that story – I do know who he is!" he said, almost shouting. "Who does that anymore? Who cares that much?" I just shook my head and mumbled something under my breath, like "remarkable," having no real answers to his quick questions.

I like to think I understand the depth of Bud's patriotism, but do I really? The Band of Brothers from that era, what Tom Brokaw described as "The Greatest Generation," still live on as shining examples for a lot of us of how Americans should carry themselves – even as they approach 100.

Our conversation got me to thinking about that flag story, the one that I remembered but was short on details. Bud's obit is on the Gearty-Delmore St. Louis Park Chapel website, and a link there takes you to the KARE-11 story, "Ode to the Flag," which first aired in July of 2014 (Bud's obituary and another link to the television story can be found in the special email of SOC's Outlook last week). It is worth a look.

With full credit to the Twin Cities NBC TV affiliate, Bud said, 3-1/2 years ago, "Thank you Lord for another day, I sure do appreciate it," he told a re-



porter, as he hoisted the flag up at 7 am. He said it is not about celebrating a holiday or politics; it's just about an Army sergeant beginning and ending his days with "gratitude for life, his freedom and his girl (wife Bev; she preceded him in death). Putting the flag up and taking it down every day is just the proper thing to do."

Bud will no longer need to look to the heavens in the early mornings as he raised his flag skyward and at the same time saying "good morning" to "his girl:" he's back at her side.

Next week: Delayed by a week, our Cedar Lake Road church memories will be featured.

January 14th Edition

The way we were -- Two weeks ago, we delved back into First Lutheran's roots; this week, we'll spend a few minutes paging through Ascension's 40th anniversary booklet, published in 1997. Congregants were asked to submit a favorite memory or two; here are a few. *Good stuff!*

Pastor Dennis and Karen Speetzen: "Things that showed up behind the pulpit: hay, carpet, pink golf ball, etc. And things that showed up in front of the pulpit: wads of paper thrown at me by the choir!" The **Speetzens** listed Totino's Pizza as their "favorite recipe!"

Favorite memories for **Tim, Ann and Jenna Bergin** included **Johnny Engelbretson** walking down the aisle "with his pants"(!?), and "Playing 20 questions with the youth group on the way to Denver in 1985, with one of the answers being, "Ed Rova's big toe."

Don and Ann Larson, among other memories, recalled, ". . . the time the old bathroom backed

up during Vacation Bible School!"

Dave and Pat Latvala and **Nancy, Nicole and Amber**, listed the Ascension choir as a special memory, and also submitted a favorite recipe for Double Chocolate Brownies! Ingredients included 8 tablespoons of cocoa and 6 ounces of chocolate chips! *Yes!*

Renee Compo and Michelle: "We have many, many memories of Ascension, but two stand out: The trip to the youth convention in San Antonio, and the dedication service for parish nurse."

Ken and Lorraine Keiran offered their favorite recipe for "crazy cake," which called for flour, sugar, soda, cocoa, oil and vinegar. Who doesn't like cocoa?

George and Donna Miller: "During an outing of the men's group to an old mission on Washington Avenue in Minneapolis, **Pastor Orin Thompson** (not **Pastor Durk!**) was interrupted during his presentation with a hearty "Amen!" (It was noted that this is *not* something you usually hear in a Lutheran Church!) According to the commemorative booklet, **Pastor Thompson** was stopped cold for a few *minutes* because of the outburst!

And **Pastor Dave Satre** recalled the time that a member of the council volunteered to apply a very generous helping of dandelion poison to the church's prolific crop, and he did such a good job, that when a strong wind came along, it blew a thick plume over to the neighbor's prize vegetable garden, killing a very promising crop of tomatoes! The church ended up giving the neighbor a few shekels for his lost 'maters, **Satre** reported.

