

FebRUary

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word “February” before in a press release! When I was teaching my children how to spell February I made it into a question. First spell *Feb*, then ask the question, *RU ary?*

The month of February is mostly recognized for Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day, the Superbowl, National Black History Month, Washington’s Birthday, National Chocolate Lovers Month. It was in February 1964 when The Beatles made their first American television appearance on the “Ed Sullivan Show.” Sadly, on February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle “Columbia” broke apart in flight, which killed all seven crew members.

What happens in February on the church calendar?

In December it was mid-week Advent services leading up to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Celebrations when we remember Christ the Savior is born.!

In January it was the continuation of the 12 days of Christmas leading up to the season of Epiphany. When some new insight hits someone they may say, “*I had an epiphany,*” as if some new thing had been revealed to them. Jesus' epiphany by God through a star to the Magi shows that He is the Savior of all the world.

Then there is February.

What happens in February? The past two years Ash Wednesday fell in February, but not this year.

The only thing that happens on the church calendar this year is the Transfiguration of our Lord on Sunday the 27th.

That is when Peter, James and John hear God the Father say, “*This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!*”

With these words, the disciples are given a directive: listen to Him.

Want to grow in your faith and be ready for what is next?

Then listen to Jesus. Open your Bible and listen.

You’ll be blessed you did!

Pastor Ray

Deacon's Digest,

Ahhh February, the month of valentines, the month of love. This is the fourth in a continuing series of commentaries on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together." Today we are concentrating again on chapter 4, Ministry. Bonhoeffer is telling the reader what we must do individually to uplift the Christian Community. Last month we discussed the ministry of "Listening", which really means listening to people expressing their needs. This may be a lot more useful than speaking. As Christians, the need to put others before ourselves is a primary virtue that could use more listening than just keeping the conversation growing.

Today we will talk about the ministry of "Helpfulness". When Bonhoeffer talks about this he is saying that God wants us to downplay the importance of the things we are trying to get done and find opportunities to do the trivial but helpful things that people need in their everyday lives. Speaking of the month of love, when we love someone we are always looking for ways to do nice things for them. Things like helping with the dishes and folding laundry come to mind as things which increase domestic tranquility if we are concentrating on our home life. If we get outside of home life and think about what we do during the day, there may be a lot of things we typically don't see because we are trying madly to get our "to-do's" done. Just think if you were at work and you were having to change the printer ink or refill the paper towels and someone said: "Hey looks like you need some assistance, step aside and let me help out". That would sound pretty good if you faced a task of a half hour or so. What about at church, if you are arranging some chairs and tables for a get together and someone says, "Hey let me give you a hand with that." It sure would take some of the pressure off wouldn't it? How about in the grocery store and a mom is wrestling toddlers and can't get her goods out of the cart very easily? "Hey, can I help you empty your cart?" would be a welcome offer. I believe people would like to hear someone offer help with trivial, seemingly menial, tasks to get them done promptly. Again, like so many other things, this means putting God's schedule in front of your own. After all, nobody is too good for the tiny chores that make up daily living. If you worry about the loss of time such small tasks entail then you are taking the importance of yourself way too seriously. I admit it, I am guilty. I get pre-occupied with my "important" tasks and may miss an opportunity that God is providing me to help someone. As Jesus' hands and feet, we may be the answer to someone's prayer -- we should not miss a chance to do the helpful work Jesus needs. Being more helpful sounds like it might be a "helpful" New Year's resolution. It's kind of tough to measure but we need to downplay how "important" our "to-dos" are in the big scheme of things.

Deacon Joe

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really was who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (Preface to the Book of Romans)

Let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

LCMS Southern District Disaster Response Volunteer Center

2 February 2022

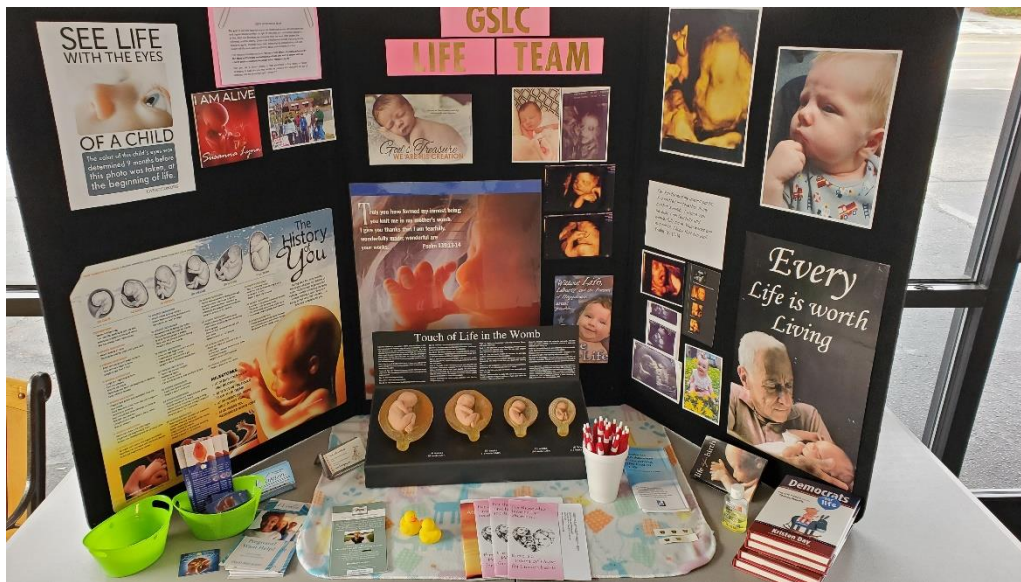
- In early January, 2022, Pastor Ray received an Email from Pastor Ed Brashier, the Southern District Disaster Response Coordinator asking for our willingness to receive a site assessment team visit the next week at Good Shepherd to determine the feasibility of our congregation serving as a disaster response volunteer center. This would involve building several sites for Recreational Vehicles (RV) at our campus, at no cost to the host congregation.
- They scheduled a visit Tuesday, 4 January at 9 AM, and asked for Church Properties Board members to attend. The team arrived with a super-sharp group of 6 experienced disaster response people who walked the promising areas with quick conclusions, conversation, and our and their selection being the large open, grassed area, North of our single-story Fellowship Hall section, reaching out to the boundary with Meigs Drive. Shortly after this, the Church Council, at their January meeting, voted to approve support of this project and assigned leadership of this effort to the Church Properties Board.
- Things have moved swiftly with continuing discussions between us and their experienced leader, Steve Lockhart, who led Southern District disaster response teams at the New Orleans hurricane aftermath, and several follow-on hurricanes in the Southern District. We met with an engineer from Florida Power and Light (FP&L) the following day after their visit, he outlined what he needed from the team to get ready, made direct telephone contact with Steve and began what was needed to be ready to get underway when the team arrived to install buried electrical power, water, and sewer lines to all 8 RV parking locations. FP&L is preparing for the arrival of the team.
- GOOD NEWS- We just received notice from the team that they will arrive the 3rd week in February to start their construction work. HALLELUAH!!! STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES!

Human Care Board - The United Methodist Church of Shalimar is going to begin a Respite Program for Caregivers of those with dementia and other diseases this spring. They will be open on Tuesday and Thursday, 10am – 2pm. Price is going to be \$40/day. For more information call Leigh Rice at 850-865-5125

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has begun helping feed the homeless at “One Hopeful Place” on nights that drop below 40 degrees. Please visit www.onehopefulplace.org and see the master plan for this homeless complex assisting those less fortunate.



Thank you to Greg and Linda DeVore who celebrated 35 years of service in December 2021



Visit the Life Team Display in the Narthex



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|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| 2/1 | Brian Dailey | 2/15 | Charlene Artman |
| 2/3 | John Gronning | 2/15 | Weldon Brinkley |
| 2/5 | Bre Ring Anderson | 2/22 | Peter Zipfel |
| 2/6 | Vivian Bier | 2/23 | Ron Artman |
| 2/6 | John Wright | 2/26 | Don Haggerty |
| 2/7 | Jill Baughman | 2/27 | Marty Bates |
| 2/12 | Natalie Gray | 2/27 | George Day |
| 2/14 | Mary Ann Day | 2/27 | Don Hagel |
| | | 2/28 | Garry Haase |



**February 1 *Making Life's Toughest Decisions
Dealing with Dilemmas***

**February 8 *Modern Romance
That crazy thing called love***

**February 15 *Can This Union Be Saved
A marriage counselor's advice for our divided country***

**February 22 *The Heroin Addict Next Door
One man's painful story***

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	2 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 1st Year	3 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 3:00 Confirmation 2nd Year 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting	4 1:00 PM Lutheranism	5 8:00 AM Praise Band
6 8:00 AM Traditional 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	7	8 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	9 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 1st Year	10 3:00 Confirmation 2nd Year	11 1:00 PM Lutheranism	12 8:00 AM Praise Band 10:00 AM LWML Bible Study
13 8:00 AM Traditional 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Noon Puppet Practice 4:00 PM Youth Super Bowl	14	15 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	16 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 1st Year	17 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 3:00 Confirmation 2nd Year 6:00 PM Council Meeting	18 1:00 PM Lutheranism	19 8:00 AM Praise Band
20 8:00 AM Traditional 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Puppet Show 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	21	22 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	23 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 1st Year	24 3:00 Confirmation 2nd Year	25 1:00 PM Lutheranism	26 8:00 AM Praise Band
27 8:00 AM Traditional 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	28					



Regular Sunday Worship Times
Traditional Worship @ 8:00 AM
Contemporary Worship @ 10:45 AM

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Family Life Minister Curtis Wiese
Music Director Lois Henry
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