



The Herald

February 2018

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church~Helena, Montana

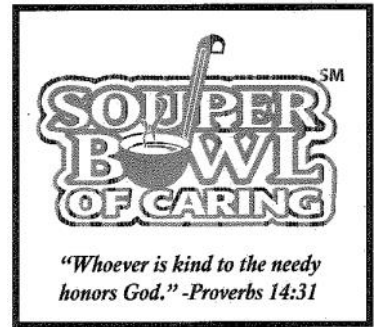
"Growing in grace, walking in faith, serving in love"

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

We already know the score, before the big game even starts: 0-0.

However, the biggest winner that day will be all of the American food banks and soup kitchens! Millions of dollar\$ and pound\$ of food, will be collected at churches across the country, including here at St. John's Lutheran Church. Please remember to bring in your cans and cash when you come to worship on Sunday, February 4th. All gifts will be donated to the Helena Food Share. You may also make checks out to

Helena Food Share. Pretty cool: a church youth group came up with this idea in 1990!



MAKENZIE RIVER PIZZA NIGHT

Take your community voucher (*found in the center of this months Herald on yellow paper*) into MacKenzie River Pizza on Monday, February 26th and St. John's Youth Group will receive 20% of your meal total to help offset the cost of attending the 2018 ELCA Gathering in Houston, Texas! Present the voucher when you pay for your meal and give one to a friend! More available in the narthex. **Applies to dine in or carry out, lunch or dinner. Valid only designated event date. Excludes alcohol.*



Ash Wednesday services with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will take place on Wednesday, February 14th at Noon and 6:30 PM

Lenten Midweek Soup Supper and Worship begins Wednesday, February 21st.

Dinner starts at 5:30 pm & Worship at 6:30 pm

Designated Lenten Midweek Offerings for 2018 found on page 2.

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD: ASH WEDNESDAY ON VALENTINES' DAY

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. At first glance it doesn't seem right to talk about self-denial, repentance, and hear the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" on the day we celebrate love. But when we think about it, the symbolism is perfect. Years ago in the 1970's a movie called Love Story came out and with it the phrase, "Love means never having to say you're sorry." What marriage, family or friendship would survive without making an apology or asking for forgiveness? Love is sustained with the asking for and granting forgiveness. So our love for our Lord is deepened when we come to the Lord asking for his forgiveness and we hear his sweet word of pardon for our sins. That's love.

In the season of Lent we practice self-denial. We give up something so that we may give help to those in need and more fully give ourselves to our Lord. Jesus said, "Deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow me." We sacrifice and deny ourselves to show our love for those we love and the Lord. Love sacrifices, often without conditions.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down one's life for a friend." At funerals during the eulogy memories are shared to honor the deceased. They remind us that life is precious and death comes to all of us. When ashes are traced on our heads on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that life is a gift of God and that Jesus poured out his life on the cross to give us a life that will never die.

Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day? What better day could we have to remember our Lord's steadfast love which endures forever. Come and celebrate love at worship at Noon or 6:30 P.M. on Valentine's Day. Happy Valentine's Day and a Blessed Ash Wednesday to all.

Pastor Brad

MIDWEEK SOUP SUPPER/LENTEN OFFERINGS

Feb. 21 St. John's Youth: "This Changes Everything"

Help send our youth to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

Feb. 28 Intermountain

Begun in 1909 by Rev. Van Orsdel (Brother Van), this ministry provides residential and community-based services to more than 1500 Montana children and families each year. Supported by Presbyterian, Methodist, UCC and ELCA churches. intermountain.org

Mar. 7 Montana Synod House

Ground-breaking took place in April of 2017, and an ELCA Mission Builders crew worked on the Great Falls site in the summer---with lots of help from church folk from around the synod. Here's our opportunity to help! montanasynod.org

Mar. 14 Seafarers International House in NYC

An amazing ELCA ministry for seafarers and immigrants in the Union Square neighborhood of New York City. Tourists are welcome to stay there as well, thus helping to support this 'Harbor of Hospitality'. sihnyc.org

Mar. 21 Senegal and The Gambia: Growing the Church

The young Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Gambia has 2000 members in nine congregations. With a \$100,000. goal, the ELCA plans to establish two Lutheran education centers for training of evangelists, office space, and staff stipends. elca.org

ST JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

What a great Festival of Angels we had. We made \$7,000 dollars and the youth made \$1,000 for their trip to Houston. Most of the money will be sent to Lutheran World Relief for Long Drop Latrines, Sanitation and Education, and some will be given to the Quilters for their ministry.

We made 900 rounds of Lefse, 2,300 Rosettes, 1,100 Krumkaka, dozens of Spritz, 40 pounds of Meatballs, and the many other goods brought from home.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the festival a success. We also thank the Fields for their donation of the meat for the meatballs and Thrivent for their donation.

We have also established a Lending Library located on the metal shelves in the Fellowship Hall.

FEBRUARY WELCA EVENTS

If you have ever wondered about the history of the Women of St. John's (also known as St. John's WELCA Unit) or what they do with the money they raise, come to the General Meeting on Tuesday, February 13 in the Guild Room at St. John's. Lunch will be served starting at noon. Betty Dotson will give a short presentation on the history of the Women of St. John's and the ministries they support.

Circle will be continuing its study, "Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations" on Tuesday, February 27. Morning Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. at Touchmark. Weather permitting, evening circle will meet at the home of Rebekah French, starting at 7:00 p.m. The address is 2155 Alpine Dr., but parking is limited so you may want to consider carpooling. Session two: Prepare the Way of the Lord (Luke 3:3-17) will focus on meaning as both message and effect. Sometimes people find stories meaningful because of the moral or message they think the story conveys; other times they appreciate how the story affects them. The story in the Luke passage is about John the Baptist preaching to the crowds before Jesus comes to him to be baptized. Come and share with other women your thoughts about what this story means and listen to their thoughts.

FEBRUARY NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S AND THE SYNOD

UPDATE ON THE SYNOD HOUSE FROM BISHOP CRIST

Many of you have asked about the status of the Synod House. The answer is, that despite tremendous progress over the summer and fall, we still have a bit of work to do before we can move in. All summer the Mission Builders worked alongside subcontractors and volunteers. We are so grateful to the Mission Builders, who travel around the country as a labor of love. And our volunteers, some from the synod, some from far away, have been so helpful. Special thanks go to Sue and Allan Ost. Mission Builders from Havre, they have stayed on top of the project, and visit every week to supervise the work being done. They are a godsend! What is left is work by subcontractors, to finish up the outside and the inside. And then, of course, is the move. We will let you know when that happens. Even as the building continues, so do the expenses. We encourage individuals and congregations to continue to make contributions to the building, so that we can meet the future boldly, unencumbered by debt. Thank you to all who have assisted with prayer, with work, and with financial and in-kind contributions! We look forward to dedicating the Synod House at the Synod Assembly!

PICTORAL DIRECTORY UPDATES AND MAKEUP PHOTOS

A last call for make-up photos will be on Sunday, February 17th beginning at 8:30 am. We will begin reviewing all of the information received the third week of February. Any questions? Please contact the church office!

February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	We
4 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship 10:30 am-Social Ministry 11:30 am-Stewardship Committee	5 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	6 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 5:15 pm-Evangelism 7:00 pm-Caring Friends 7:00 pm-4H in Fellowship Hall	7 9:00 am-Noon-Quilts 1:30 pm-Executive Meeting MIDWEEK CONNECTION 5:30 pm-Communion 6:25 pm-Worship with Prayers 7:00 pm-Bible Study
11 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship 4:30 pm-Comfort Food Challenge	12 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	13 10:30 am-Staff Meeting Noon-Finance Committee Noon-WOSJ's	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 am-Noon-Quilts 10:30 am-Pastor at Prayers Noon-Worship with Prayers ashes 6:30 pm-Worship with Prayers of ashes
18 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-In house Family Promise Training	19 OFFICE CLOSED- PRESIDENTS DAY 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Men's Group 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	20 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 6:30 pm-Church Council	21 9:00 am-Noon-Quilts 1:30 pm-Book Club 5:30 pm-Lent Soup 6:30 pm-Worship
25 BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship	26 11:00 am-9:00 pm- MacKenzie River Pizza Youth Fundraiser 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal	27 9:30 am-Circle at Touchmark 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 7:00 pm-Evening Circle	28 9:00 am-Noon-Quilts 5:30 pm-Lent Soup 6:30 pm-Worship

d	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>lters Committee ECTION ty Meal-TBA w/communion y (all ages)</p>	<p>8 1:30 pm-Music & Worship 2:30 pm-Memorial Committee 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 3:00 pm-Communion Service at Masonic Home 4:00 pm-Concordia College Band Dinner 7:00 pm-Concordia College Band Concert at CHS</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Y lters Touchmark h imposition of with imposition</p>	<p>15 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>lters @LCPL Supper</p>	<p>22 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 1:00 pm-6:30 pm June Lee Studio Recitals</p>
<p>lters Supper</p>			

FEBRUARY NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S AND THE SYNOD

CARDS 4 KIDS VALENTINES ARE AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 4!!

Send a "little love" to your friends and family members and help support our St. John's Youth Programs at the same time. Valentine cards are handmade and available in packages of 12 (8 valentine cards and 4 general assortment) for \$5. Many thanks for all the recycled holiday cards (all holidays accepted!!) that have no writing on the picture side....also thank you for stickers, envelopes of all sizes, colored cardstock and rubber cement. So far \$200 has been given to the youth for Christmas cards. I also plan on selling Easter cards this year as I now have enough made. There will also be an "Easter Basket" raffled off as well. Many of our Youth will be attending a Youth Conference out of state this summer and the money raised will be of great help. JANICE LARISON

ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB

The St. John's Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 21 from 1:30 to 2:30 at the Lewis & Clark County Library, in the small conference room. We will be discussing *Where We Belong* by Emily Giffin.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

As you may know, Family Promise of Greater Helena had to stop accepting families into the program in late fall of 2017 when it learned that some of its bills had not been paid. With the support of its many partners, including St. John's, Family Promise is now debt free and should be accepting families soon.

Family Promise's biggest fundraiser, the Comfort Food Challenge, is scheduled for February 11 from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from Betty Olaf, Linda Roessner, or Mildred Twingley, who will be serving "Rainbow Jello" as St. John's contribution to the Challenge. If you can't attend the event and want to help St. John's win the "People's Choice Award" you can write a check to Family Promise and give it to Betty, Linda or Mildred to put in our ballot box.

St. John's is scheduled to host Family Promise for the following three weeks in 2018:

April 1 through 8

July 22 through 29

October 7 through 14

Every week hosted by St. John's requires the participation of at least 28 trained volunteers – four for each night of the week. Fortunately, our partner congregation, the Helena Center for Creative Living (HCCL) generally provides volunteers for two to three nights a week.

St. John's will be holding a training session for anyone interested in serving as a dinner or overnight host on February 18, following the service. The Social Ministry Committee will be providing brunch and the training will start at 11:00 and should end by 12:30. Those who have already attended training are encouraged to come for a refresher.

If you have questions about Family Promise, please call one of the St. John's Family Promise Volunteer Coordinators, listed below:

Paula Blessinger: 449-7516 (dinner host coordinator)

Rebekah French: 495-9336 (laundry coordinator)

Bill Harant: 208-3944 (set-up/take down coordinator)

Neal Ruedisili: 459-7671 (overnight host coordinator)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Please Remember in Your Prayers...

New Members Received February 4th:

Michelle Funchess, Sarah Christopherson & Matthew Hoffman,
Paul & Jena Hilchen, Craig & Karin Steenberg

For Healing:

For those suffering devastation from hurricanes, earthquakes, forest fires, and violence, Randy Holmes, Doris Crider, Emma Van Doorn, Thurston Dotson, Sabrina Jensen, The Bernstein Family, Joe Munzenrider, Tom Morrow, Debbie (Barb Muir's daughter), Doug and Beccki Watkins, Jim Kember, Jim Moe, Dave Hanson (Mildred Twingley's Son-in-Law), Zoe B., Barb Knutson, Kris Olson, Lester Anderson, Luke Almas, the children at Intermountain, for those who are alone, for those who suffer from depression, and for all who seek health and wholeness

For The Family And Friends Of Those Who Mourn:

Karen Sloan, Laurie Skillman

For Those In Residential Living Centers, Extended Care Or Homebound:

Pat Tyanich, Esther Fuehrer, Bob Hanson, Dr. Bob & Evelyn Whitesitt, Ken Bolland, Annie Stegmann, Jean E. Munding, Ada Harlen, Maury Knutson, Marge Mihelish, Audrey Anderson, Irene Crawford, Donna Muffick, and Dan Brosten (in Columbia Falls), Phillip Kerr

Missionaries: Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon;
Mark and Marina Dotson in Russia



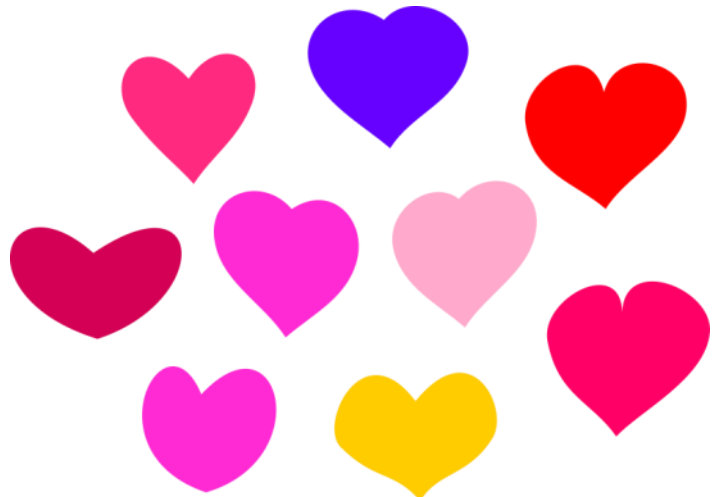
*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
(Romans 12:12)*

February Birthdays

2 Elijah Harant
3 Dawn Valle
4 Justin Tobel
5 Greg Field
6 Samantha Humphrey
7 Kelly Bradley
Angela Conley
8 Thurston Dotson
9 Erin Ford
10 Mait Board
Kristi Skaalure
14 Ron Stegmann
16 Linda Roessner
19 Terry Campbell
Elsa Grebenc
20 Gayle Grimsrud
Karl Kallin
Karen Kallin
21 Mike Kieckbusch

February Anniversaries

2 Larry & Janice Larison
14 Pat & Laurie DeLong



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1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Growing in grace, walking in faith, serving in love"

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Pastor email: pastor@helenastjohns.org
Like us on Facebook!

Worship Services

Sunday

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 am-Sunday School, Adult Forum, Fellowship

Wednesday Lenten Worship Begins 2/21

5:30 pm-Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm-Worship

Office Hours

9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday

Ministering at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Witness to the Gospel	Members of SJLC
Pastor	Brad Ulgenes
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Bell Choir Directors	Renee Slocum Christina Tielking
Director of Youth & Family Ministries	
Office Manager	Gretchen Munding
Treasurer	Karen Hicks
Financial Secretary	Randy Rake
Missionaries	Anne & Willie Langdji, Cameroon Mark & Marina Dotson, Russia
Sexton	Pat Gober

*The Special Monthly Offering in February
will go towards Pastor's Discretionary Fund*