

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

February 2018

A Heart No One Wants On Valentine's Day

This year two calendar events join together in an uncommon confluence. February 14 marks both the celebration of Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. Valentine's Day is often celebrated with pink and red construction paper hearts and the exchange of those little 'conversation hearts'—candies that have little Valentine's Day messages printed upon them. The color associated with Ash Wednesday, however, is black: black ashes, hearts stained black with sin.

As you celebrate February 14, it is somewhat fitting to hear what God has to say about your heart:

Thus says the Lord God: I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses....Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. ³² It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel. (Ezekiel 36:22ff).

So when February 14 rolls around, and you give and receive those sweet little valentine hearts, pause and think about what it means when we hear people say, "I've given my heart to Jesus," especially when Jesus says, "Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person" (Matthew 15:19-20).

You see, God tells you that your heart is unclean, full of wickedness and sin. It's a heart that no one wants, let alone God. But God has sprinkled baptismal water upon your hearts so that you may be washed and cleansed (Ezekiel 36:25, Hebrews 10:19, 22). He takes away your cold, dead heart and creates in you a new heart by Jesus' blood.

“First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart So when Valentine’s Day arrives and you see those pink and red hearts, and you see the black of Ash Wednesday, remember how your heart was stained black with sin, but that through the blood of Jesus, you have been washed, justified, and sanctified. You have been given a clean heart, one that is continually cleansed by Jesus’ gracious word of absolution. And so we remember Luther’s explanation of His seal:



will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).”

-- Pastor Lorenz

News and Notes of St. Peter



Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit, and or send a card or note to the following:

Jimmy Barnhart (cancer) relative of Laurie Trlak; Jay Beekman; Niki Boswell (stroke), niece of Diana Mason; Peggy Broderick (cancer treatments) friend of Larry Baade; Bertie Brooks (cancer), aunt of Leah Hiers; Frank & Nancy Cozzen, brother-in-law & sister of Dewayne Anderson; Carol Dinius, (breathing problems) grandmother of Cindy Smith; Terry Fields, (brain tumor), cousin of Bruce & Sue Holtz; Don Fox (health concerns), brother of Barba Eickhoff; Ronald Gamble (hospitalized) nephew of Ruth Guy; Kent Gremel (car accident), son of Pastor Gremel, Good Shepherd Church Kokomo; Pam Hite (terminally ill breast cancer), friend of Pam Wertemberger; Hazel Jackson, (back problems) sister of Ruth Guy; Dolly (Ahlschwede) Kikuchi (cancer), relative of Diana Mason; Linda Manchy (cancer), friend of Sue Holtz:

Dennis Miller (heart & stroke), friend of Ruth Moon; Adam Neumann, friend of Laurie Trlak; Steven Spear (stroke), nephew of Donna Smith; Susie Sprowl (cancer), friend of Jeff Derr; Geneva Stetzel (stroke), aunt of Leah Hiers; Brent Trlak (health problems), brother-in-law of Laurie Trlak; Brandon Trlak (cancer); Christy Trlak (treatment); Steven Welker (stroke), son-in-law of Donna Dennis.

Englewood Health & Rehabilitation – Mildred Craig

Heritage of Huntington – Maxine Stetzel; Robert Gernand

Heritage, Warren – Edward Campbell, Jr.

Miller’s Merry Manor – Neil & Sandy Stonebraker; Charles Weicht

Markle Health & Rehabilitation – Jean Simmons

Norwood – Wilbur & Ginger Van der Zee

Home – Jason Cozad; Shirley Powell; Pete Weicht

If you discover that the information has changed, please call the Church office so we can update this list.

Tape Ministry

If you are unable to attend the worship services for any reason, including short-term recoveries, we would be happy to drop off a copy of the sermon or tape of the service which includes a bulletin. Please call Pam and Jack Wertenberger at 356-8139 or Pam's cell phone: 260-388-2507 to arrange for delivery.



Greeters

Greeters for the following months are:

MARCH

Sat 5:00 Jim and Barbara Spreen
Sun 10:15 John and Valerie Hughes Family

APRIL

Sat 5:00 Richard and Ellen Prange
Sun 10:15 Harold and Janet Bennett



A Little Heavenly Humor

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world."

The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world."



2nd Annual Soup Cook-Off

Soup/Dessert Cook-off: This year desserts will be included in the cook-off. So be sure to register for the soup/dessert cook-off to be held on Sunday, February 11 after church (11:30) in the lower level of the education building. Please use the form on the bottom of the flyer available in the church office or back of church. Enter your favorite soup or dessert OR both. If you don't want to enter a soup or dessert, please come to taste and judge. If you plan to attend please sign the sheet at the back of the church so the committee will know how many sample cups and plates of each soup and dessert to get ready for tasting.

Organizations

Ladies' Guild: will meet on **Tuesday, February 6th at 6:30 pm** in the lower level of the education building. Please note this change of day and time.

St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS) – The lucky winner of the drawing at the January meeting was Holly Cuttriss. The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14th at Moe's.

Dorcas Circle: Will meet February 21st with Janet Bennett as hostess. We will meet at church in the reception room of the education building. Please RSVP regrets only to Janet at 358-0401.

LYF: Will meet on Sunday, February 25 at 5 p.m.

Deaconess Visit

On February 17 & 18, 2018 Deaconess Christel Neuendorf will attend our church service and will speak about her work after each service. Christel is a missionary in the Latin America and Caribbean region. She ensures that the other LCMS missionaries serving in the region are properly oriented, trained and cared for during their time of service. Her deaconess training brings valuable specialized care to the more than 70 LCMS missionaries and their family members living and serving across the region.

Happy Anniversary

February Anniversaries

Date		# Years
2/16	Ronald & Marcia Brown	60
2/23	Roger & Judith Turgeson	55

Beginning with this issue only milestone anniversaries will be recognized.

Hospitalization

Should you find it necessary to be admitted to a hospital, please be sure to list Pastor Lorenz on your information list. Because of HIPPA, hospital staff have turned pastor away even when family have let the church office know about your hospitalization.

Did you Know?

New Craft Group

Did you know that there is a new group meeting on the Third Thursday of each month at 1PM in the lower level of the education building? This is a craft group doing different crafts each month making things for the Fall Bazaar. In January the group made eight different items. February they plan to finish some of the items started. Ideas, help or fellowship are always welcome.



80 Plus Birthdays this month! *February*

Date		
19	Bernita Schmalzried	2/19

Thank You

If you have not already read the "Thank You" notes from the seminarians and their families, please do so. They are all very thankful and grateful for our Christmas donations and all that we do for them. The Thank You notes are on the bulletin board in the hallway from the church building to the education building.

SERVING THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2018

ELDER

SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS

SUNDAY: RICHARD SMITH

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Dianne Campbell

SUNDAY: Jack & Sandy Slusser

ALTAR CARE:

COUNTERS: Joyce Gravley & Jim Hoch

FEBRUARY			
SAT FEBRUARY 3	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Adrian Brown
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jordan Jones
		ACOLYTE	Erika Brown
SUN FEBRUARY 4	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Richard Winkelman
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Chris Durham
		ACOLYTE	Brianna Thomas
SAT FEBRUARY 10	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Samantha Weicht
SUN FEBRUARY 11	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	Andrew Crider
WED FEBRUARY 14	7:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Josh Reber
		ACOLYTE	Josh Reber
SAT FEBRUARY 17	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ted McElhaney
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Norman Kochensparger
		ACOLYTE	Ted McElhaney
SUN FEBRUARY 18	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Harold Bennett
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Chris Durham
		ACOLYTE	Ian Crider
WED FEBRUARY 21	7:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Jase Gunn
SAT FEBRUARY 24	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Miranda Spitler
SUN FEBRUARY 25	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	Drew Dorsett
WED FEBRUARY 28	7:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Brianna Thomas

If you are scheduled at a time that does not work for you, please contact an acolyte or communion assistant listed to take your place and let the office know so changes to the bulletin can be made. Thank you for your commitment to serve at St. Peter Church.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 PEP Meeting 6:30 Jr. Confirmation	2	3 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 2:00 Adult Confirmation	5 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:30 Elders	6 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 6:30 General Guild	7 9:00 Quilters 7:00 Choir 6:00 BPLE	8 10:00 PEP Gathering 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Jr. Confirmation	9	10 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Soup Cook Off 2:00 Adult Confirmation	12 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	13 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	14 9:00 Quilters 12:00 SPARKS 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	15 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Jr. Confirmation	16	17 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
18 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 2:00 Adult Confirmation	19 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	20 11:00-1:00 Diaper Store 4:00-6:00 Diaper Store 9:00 Pastor Circuit Mtg. 2:00 Messenger Deadline	21 9:00 Quilters 12:00 Dorcas Circle 7:00 Lenten Service	22 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Jr. Confirmation	23	24 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
25 9:00 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 2:00 Adult Confirmation 5:00 LYF	26 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:00 Evangelism Committee	27 10:00 Chapel @ Norwood	28 9:00 Quilters 7:00 Lenten Service			

NOTES