

## PASTOR'S PAGE

*Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)*

February is a month dedicated to love—long-term love, infatuation, butterflies in the belly, only having eyes for you, at first sight, the apple of my eye, men writing poetry, and love that makes the world go round. The love that we celebrate in February is that personal love that makes the world go round, and hearts skip a beat.

All this love that we enjoy and celebrate comes from God as a gift for us to enjoy and delight in. God IS love, and therefore, true love always touches the divine and brings us closer to the people God created us to be. That connection to God is a big part of why love gives us so much life.

God's love is far more profound than our emotions, though. All those definitions of love we read in Corinthians only come true in Jesus. Jesus keeps no record of wrongs as His blood washed away our sins. He is patient and filled with grace for us. His love never fails us and it always perseveres.

Our love is not like God's. Our love is often fickle and based on what others give us. We frequently extend ourselves in love only to others who reciprocate that love or do something to cause us to love them. But when that love is not reciprocated, or the person commits some wrong against us we are quick to withdraw our love. We are all too quick to anger, rarely patient, and often remember all the ways our spouse has hurt or disappointed us. When we treat others this way it makes us unlovable back.

This February, let us celebrate the love that God has for us. His love is found in service to the unlovable. He loves the sinner and the enemy. He does not demand that we make ourselves lovable first, He makes us lovable by giving us faith and forgiveness. He is not self-seeking but is always working to build us up and make us better than what we were by forgiving our sins and then creating in us new and clean hearts. God's love knows no ends or bounds. His love is so great that He willingly sent His Son to redeem us by His own death.

No greater love has a man than that he would lay down his life for his friends. This is the love that God has for you, and this is the true love that we celebrate this month.

Pastor Johnson



### **CHURCH CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the case of bad weather this winter, please check TODAY'S TMJ4 TV station for church cancellations. You can also go online to [tmj4.com](http://tmj4.com) or 620WTMJ on the radio. Any cancellations will also be announced on Facebook as well as our church website [www.bethanylutherankohler.org](http://www.bethanylutherankohler.org)

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

3 - Elsie Reinbacher  
Cindy Fisher  
5 - Richard Johnson  
7 - Peggy Keller  
14 - Thomas Yang  
15 - Andrew Kraus



17 - Steve Perry  
18 - Caleb Cox  
23 - David Prange  
Noah Fibiger  
25 - Joe Wychesit  
28 - Madison Fibiger

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

8 - James & Barbara Herzog  
15 - Ken & Liz Buesing



Blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office, and let us know.

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## **JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Orphan Grain Train**

During the months of January and February, all money collected from your "Designated Offerings" contribution envelopes will go **Orphan Grain Train**. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. For more information, visit their website at [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org)

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## **LWML MITES - LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**

The change in your pockets or purses (pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters) can multiply to support Mission Grants that help spread the love of Jesus to the hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people of the world.

Pick up a small donation box or just put your change in the LWML Mite Box on the counter in the back of church.

Some of the 2023-2025 Mission Grants:

- Serving God's children with special needs at Journeys Lutheran School in Milwaukee WI.
- Care for street children of Western Kenya.
- A healing space for at risk children. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota.

***WILL YOU PLEASE HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MISSION PROJECT?***

\*\*\* There is more information on the Mission bulletin board in the lower narthex\*\*\*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start! It's hard to believe January is just about over already. As I look at friends' pictures from their Florida vacations over the past couple of weeks on Facebook, I see a lot of snow. I hope if any of you took a vacation over the past few weeks, you had better weather than them!

For those that don't already know, Pastor Daub, who we extended our first call to, came to visit us on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We got to spend some time with him over those two days and learned a lot about him and his ministry in NC, as well as got to meet his wife, Megan. I'd like to thank all of the members who attended the meet and greets, both Thursday night and Friday afternoon, and made him and his wife feel welcome. He really enjoyed meeting everyone and noticed what a close and loving congregation we are. Unfortunately, he has since responded to our call and respectfully declined, as he felt his work in NC was not done yet. It truly was a pleasure meeting them and I pray his ministry continues strong as he carries out the Lord's work. Since then, the call committee has been working to do a more in-depth financial analysis as we put together a compensation package for the next pastor we call. Stay tuned for the date of the next voter's meeting, where we will pick who we call next.

Lent will be starting a little later this year, with Ash Wednesday falling on March 5. We do plan to kick off our Lenten season with our traditional soup suppers! Please consider signing up to host a dinner, or at least come attend and share some good food and fellowship with other members of the congregation! The soups are always delicious and a great way to lead into our Wednesday night services. Hope to see you all there!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our Lenten series "Reflections on Repentance" will begin with the Ash Wednesday service on March 5. Bethany will again be participating in the Round Robin Pulpit exchange as well as Soup Suppers prior to the midweek services. Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for more information including Pastor schedule, meal menus, and ways to volunteer to help with soup suppers.

### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

All Thrivent members at Bethany please remember to direct your "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to Bethany Lutheran Church if you have not already done so.

Thrivent cards on the shelf near the Pastor's office will help guide you. If you are unsure if you have funds available to direct just call 1-800-847-4836 to check.

Thanks to those who have already directed their dollars. These dollars help fund programs, events and missions for Bethany.





KITCHEN KIT MINISTRY & REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

# DONATIONS NEEDED



## \*\* CURRENT NEEDS \*\*

- Pots
- Frying Pans
- 9x13 Pans
- Casserole Dishes
- Measuring Cups & Spoons
- Mixing Bowls
- Baking Sheets
- Kitchen Knives
- Cutting Boards



**Donations can be dropped off at the Love Inc office at 807 Forest Ave in Sheboygan Falls or in the Love Inc bin located near the elevator lift at church.**

# THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025

**Sunday, February 2**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlman
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Steve Marotz
Streaming:	Todd Matte

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**Sunday, February 9**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Steve & Alaric Hazen
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Madison Fibiger

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**Sunday, February 16**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Steve & Diane Marotz
Altar Guild:	Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger
Streaming:	Brianna Meyer

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**Sunday, February 23**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Mattes
Altar Guild:	Julie Steele & Rachel Johnson
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Diane Marotz
Streaming:	Andy Fibiger



# FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
						
02 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC (Pastor Krause)	03	04 10:30 am Bible Study  6:00pm Elders	05	06 7:15pm Dartball (away)	07	08
09 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship (Pastor Johnson)	10	11 10:30 am Bible Study  6pm Bible Study 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	12	13 7:15pm Dartball (away)	14	15
16 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC (Pastor King)	17	18 10:30 am Bible Study	19	20 7:15pm Dartball (away)	21	22
23 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship (Pastor King)	24	25 10:30 am Bible Study  6pm Bible Study	26	27 7:15pm Dartball (away)	28	