



Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 11

9:30 am Worship/Communion
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Soup and Sandwich
Luncheon
6:00 pm South District 12 Meeting

Monday, February 12

6:00 pm Sit Happens

Tuesday, February 13

7:00 pm WELCA

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

1:00 pm Backpacks Packing
7:00 pm Worship/Communion

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS EVENING

Thursday, February 15

7:00 pm Choir
7:30 pm NA

Friday, February 16

Saturday, February 17



Reminder: Articles for the
Messenger are due in the
office by Monday at noon.

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Lent begins

For centuries, Christians have set aside the forty days before Easter to be a time of faithful introspection, careful repentance, and deepened service. In the life of the Church, Lent marks a time of increased awareness of our own mortality, sinfulness, and areas in which we fall short of God's glory. Christians traditionally observe Lent with *prayer*, *fasting* and *almsgiving*. Lent has always been a time for spiritual renewal in anticipation of the great feast of Easter, the center of the church's year. **How do you keep Lent?** Lenten disciplines are a tool in turning our hearts and lives to Christ. Below are some ideas for you, or you may think of some yourself that you will find meaningful.

Take On Study of the Word

- **Ash Wednesday Worship** Ash Wed service February 14, 7:00 pm.
- **Weekly Lenten Midweek Worship** at 7:00 pm with evening Vespers service followed by Bible study and fellowship.
- **Sunday Worship** – make it a weekly practice for the six Sundays in Lent.
- **Daily prayer**
- **Daily Devotions**
- **Do a 46-night journal** for the days of Lent, reflecting each night at the end of the day, how God was at work in your life or how you need Him to come to your aid.

Give Up – Make Sacrifices

- **Give up** coffee (or only brew it at home), give up alcohol, give up certain social media sites, or limited them to certain days/time of day, park in the back of the parking lot, abstain from reading gossip/rumor sites
- **Sacrifice something** – perhaps Dunkins, going out to eat, going to the movies, and give a donation of what you saved to a cause.

Take on Service

- **Look for ways to serve in the church:** join a committee, serve as a lay/communion assistant, be an usher, help with children's ministries.
- **Seek ways to serve in the community:** perhaps through a food pantry, a thrift store, volunteer at your local library (maybe read to children), help at a homeless shelter.

May taking on one or more disciplines for Lent lead to a renewed life of discipleship for us all.

February 11, 2024	Service Assistants
Ushers	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner, Arch Watkins
Lay Assistant	Anita Bair
Communion Assistant	Candy Watkins
Acolyte/Crucifer	Jordan Morris
Torchbearers	Doriann Morris, Karrah Bair
Bannerbearer	Jonathan Hess
Altar Guild	Jody Fullmer, Jean Bower
Greeters/Presenters	Carol Hessert, Pam Eveleth
Cantor	Bob Schweppenheiser
Flower Delivery	Paul Weaver

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Attendance: 91

Offering: \$7,443.91

Cap. Campaign: \$10.00

**Pastoral
Care**

Pastoral Care Number:

Please call (570) 326-9171.

(Available 24 hours a day)

During work hours the office staff will assist you. After hours, please press "3" for a Pastoral Emergency to be connected directly to the Pastor.



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor and memory of loved ones for Valentine's Day.

Bible Readings

Sunday, February 11 – 2 King 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Monday, February 12 – Psalm 110:1-4; Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4

Tuesday, February 13– Psalm 110:1-4; Job 19:23-27; 1 Timothy 3:12-16

Wednesday, February 14–Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thursday, February 15 – Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10

Friday, February 16 – Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Saturday, February 17 – Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13



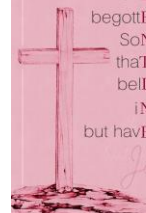
**The shelves are looking better...
Thank you to everyone who has
been donating food to restock
our shelves.**

We are still in need of: spaghetti and sauce, cereal, rice, pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, canned chicken, canned or dry milk, crackers, snacks, cookies, canned potatoes and soup.

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
only
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
believes

iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

John 3:16 NKJV



The Library Corner



Feb. 11 – Family - Family Countdown to Easter - The perfect get-ready-for-Easter book: a day-at-a-glance calendar filled with fun and fascinating facts. Beginning with the day before Lent begins--Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras--and ending on Easter Sunday, this book turns each day of the season into a celebration. Every colorful page is packed with crafts, recipes, activities, and information about the holidays. This is a wonderful book for entire families to share the meaning of the Lenten and Easter season through a variety of activities. Book is found in the Easter section of our Library.



Super Bowl of Caring ~ February 11, 2024

This year we really need your help! In past years we have had one item be selected per team playing in the Super Bowl, but our shelves in the food pantry are bare and need our attention. We will accept any food or monetary donation. You can still put your donations in the box of your favorite team until February 11th. Will your team win? Maybe, but in the end the food pantry will be the winner with all your donations.



This Sunday, February 11th, Invite your friends and family to join us for Worship; immediately following the service we will go down to Shaheen Hall for a Soup and Sandwich luncheon along with some great conversation and getting to know our neighbors. This will be hosted by the Fellowship Committee.



We are planning on holding our annual Lenten KIM on March 2nd from 9 -12 and could use your help. Please let me know if you are available and interested in helping. We greatly appreciate your assistance. Activities will include a story, craft, pretzel making, service project and games/songs. We also need people to move the groups from one activity to the other.

If you know someone you think may be interested, please let me know or contact them directly. It's always a fun morning not only for the kids but for the volunteers, as well! Thanks for your prayerful consideration. Kathryn





Pastor LeCrone will be offering a New Members Class on February 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Luke Church. Interested parties please contact the church office."



Lenten Vespers and Bible study are planned for the five Wednesdays during Lent, beginning February 21st. Vespers will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel followed by a brief bible study. Please make a commitment to join us for Wednesday prayer and the study of God's Word this Lent.



Lenten Self-Denial Folders are now available in the Narthex and in the office. All donations will benefit Shepherd of the Streets.



Copies of *Lamb of God*, a Lenten Devotional Booklet are now available in the Narthex or the church office. Brought to you in partnership with the Lutheran Hour Ministries.



The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will be held on June 14-15, 2024, at Susquehanna University. In acknowledgement of the ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary, our theme will be "Fed by Jesus to Feed the World." Our ELCA Representative will be Norma Malfatti. Registration for the assembly will open in February. Serve your church by being part of this historical event! Talk to your Church Council, about being your congregation's representative. Cost is \$80 before April 15, \$100 after that. Visitors cost \$15 and meals and housing are billed separately.

SHROVE TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP! St. Mark's will observe "Shrove Tuesday" (February 13) the day before Ash Wednesday with a special event. At 5:30 p.m. we will gather in Fellowship Hall for donuts and light conversation. Remember that in some circles "Shrove Tuesday" is also referred to as "Fastnacht" or Donut Day, a day to remove all fat and sugar from the home in preparation for Lent. Our event will also include gathering in our courtyard to burn last year's palms for ashes to be used as our ashes for repentance and mortality on Ash Wednesday. We will conclude our time together with a brief liturgy of prayer and praise as we "Bury the Alleluia" in preparation for Lent. This year we invite other churches observing Shrove Tuesday and/or are curious about this custom to join us! This promises to be a day of fun and meaning as we prepare to begin our Lenten pilgrimage in anticipation of the Easter Season. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



A TASTE OF CAMP



Sunday, February 11 2-4pm
at CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

A taste of Camp. Hungry for camp but can't wait until the summer? Always wanted to try camp but not sure you'll like it? Camp Mount Luther has an event for you! On February 11, 2024, from 2:00 - 4:00p.m., you can get a Taste of Camp! Enjoy songs, food, games, a campfire program, information on the 2024 program, and more!

Those who attend will get Camel Bucks to spend in the camp store this summer. Campersons from synod congregations who attend this event (or sign up to be a camperson with the director) will get Camel Bucks for all their congregation's Summer 2024 campers.

This year's summer camp season will begin on June 23 and run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you're looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. Don't settle for second-rate summer programs. Camp Mount Luther has been giving kids fun, exciting, faith-filled, outdoor experiences for 60 years. If you have questions about our summer programs, feel free to reach out to us at

cml@campmountluther.org

GROW IN THE SNOW — MARCH 15-16

All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 15-16. This year's theme is "Break Forth in Song" based on Psalm 98. Experience your Creator, play winter games, and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$79 for the whole program. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. A flyer and registration form are coming soon!



Summer Staff

Every summer, Camp Mount Luther depends on responsible young people to serve as role models for our campers. Whether serving as a counselor, lifeguard, or kitchen personnel, a job at camp can be an amazing and rewarding work experience. Please spread the word and help us find quality candidates for Summer 2024. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to chad@campmountluther.org

