

the sower

... sowing the seeds of a new creation. ...

reflections. ...



To be exact, there are 23 hours, 56 minutes, 4 seconds in a day! 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes in a month! 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 45.51 seconds in a year! Revolutions on an axis! Orbits around the earth! Other orbits around the sun! And the \$64,000 question: How to put them all together into one calendar that, actually, works?

But that's what we've been trying to do with a calendar introduced by Pope Gregory xiii nearly four-and-a-half centuries ago. February 29th – Leap Day – the day at the end of this month is an expression of that attempt. But the real question isn't "How?" It's "Why?" Why bother reforming the calendar in the first place?!? Because of schedules? Appointments? Birthdays? Well, the answer, surprisingly enough, comes from within the church!

Early on, the church couldn't decide when, exactly, to celebrate Easter! Some wanted one date. Some another. Eventually they compromised. The first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox! But with the calendar that had been used since the time of Julius Caesar, days had shifted. All those minutes and seconds, over time, had an effect. By the middle of the 16th century, the calendar was over a week-and-a-half off! So the Pope decided to design a new calendar. One that would remain unchanged, unchanging. Easter was anchored to the Equinox. And, now, the Equinox was to be forever fastened to March 21st!

The sum and substance of the faith we know is Easter! But, now, it seems, the Cross and the Tomb are the rhyme and reason for our calendar, as well!

Till next month!

pastor bob



february a.d.2012

News Briefing

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org

February 2012

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area

April 27-29 in Irving

Mission Assembly – Celebrating!



The 2012 Assembly brings to conclusion a six-year string of assembly themes that have all been focused on *DiscipleLife*. This will be a turning-point assembly. We will celebrate all that we have done together in mission these six years, all that God has entrusted to us as **we are God’s witnesses and hands in this world, and all that we want to**

do in the future as we **“run the race with perseverance”**. First, we will celebrate our own plans for mission in the NT-NL as we hear of the power and progress of the *DiscipleLife Alive! Initiative*. Second, we will celebrate the mission of the whole ELCA as we enjoy the stories and music of our global mission. **Our assembly speakers are leaders in the ELCA’s** global mission effort: the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Sunitha Mortha, and our own Pastor Kate Warn. And, third, we will elect a bishop to shepherd us for the next six years. No wonder the key word of the assembly is *Celebrating!* It will be a busy assembly. Learn more at NTNL.org – assembly.

You’re Invited to a “Glocal” Mission Festival

You may not be a voting member or visitor at the 2012 Mission Assembly, but you may want to enjoy the activities that are a part of their agenda on Saturday, April 28. The day will transform into a “Glocal” Mission Festival (global + local) as speakers, musicians, worship, and a global marketplace invite everyone into a new and deeper appreciation for the worldwide work of the ELCA. Join the fun as we hear, see, sing and participate in the global mission of the church. Learn more at NTNL.org – assembly – glocal festival.



Speak Now and Forever Hold Your Faith

LYO’s Sr. High Gathering features keynote speaker Jason Davis during a fun and eventful weekend, Feb. 17-19 at Briarwood. Jason is a former NT-NL LYO president and currently the Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Mt. Calvary in Boulder. Download the registration packet on the homepage of NTNL.org.

FYI (Go to www.NTNL.org)

February Emphasis: *Fund for Leaders in Mission*

- ❖ **Back to School?** Want to go deeper in your understanding of the Bible and the traditions and teachings of the church? Consider signing up for the next class for the Parish Lay Mission Academy. Learn more at PLMAcademy.org.
- ❖ **The Heart & Soul Gala** on Feb. 24 at the Westin Galleria Dallas benefits the ministry provided by Mosaic on behalf of those with intellectual disabilities. Learn more at MosaicInDallas.org or call 972.866.9989 x321.
- ❖ **Voting Members** at the coming Mission Assembly (April 27-29) will elect a bishop to serve in the NT-NL Mission Area for a six year term. The Committee on the Bishop Election encourages you to be in prayer about the election and nominees. Information about the process is found at NTNL.org – Assembly.
- ❖ **Created by God:** this human sexuality workshop on Feb. 3-4 is for kids in 5th, 6th, and 7th grade and is offered by King of Glory, Dallas. Human sexuality is presented in a safe, warm and Christian context. Register at KingOfGlory.com.
- ❖ **New Visions: Leadership for Mission**, March 5-6 at Briarwood. The event will help congregational leaders increase mission awareness, improve congregational vitality, grow leadership skills and manage change in healthy ways. \$295 per person; housing additional. Instructor: Pr. Jon Lee. Learn more at NTNL.org.
- ❖ **The ALOA Senior Fest** (Adult Lutherans Organized for Action) is Saturday, Feb. 18, at King of Glory, Dallas, featuring The Rev. Walt Waiser on the topic of Prayer. Learn more at NTNL.org.
- ❖ A **Lost and Found** concert takes place March 4 in Edmond, OK. Learn more at NTNL.org.



The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area: *DiscipleLife: Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus*
To receive *News Briefing* electronically, sign up at www.ntnl.org or call 214.637.6865

Fund for Leaders in Mission

NT-NL's Scholarship Fund

The **Fund for Leaders in Mission** is an endowed scholarship fund created by the ELCA to ensure that faithful and promising men and women can accept the call to ministry and provide leadership for the ELCA in the 21st Century. The **NT-NL Fund for Leaders** is a separate account held within the ELCA's Fund and is professionally managed by them. Our fund has given scholarships to four students and will announce its recipient for 2013 at the Mission Assembly this April.



NT-NL Scholarship Recipients (left to right)

Michelle Greenwald & Rebecca Mehl (2011); Jesus Escamilla & Jealaine Marple (2010)



The Challenge: There is a great need in the church and the world for leaders who are thoroughly equipped for mission and ministry. And it is the responsibility of the whole church to identify, train, and support those whom God has called. By 2020, many current ELCA clergy will have retired; we will need an increased number of students attending seminary to replace them.

The Costs of Preparation: To prepare for ordained ministry, students spend three years in seminary and one year on internship after having spent four years in college. The average annual tuition at an ELCA seminary is \$13,000, and the typical student has living expenses of \$15,000 to \$26,000 depending on his or her family situation. That brings the cumulative cost of attending seminary (just the three academic years) to a range of \$80,000 to \$115,000.

Graduates with Debt: Seventy percent of ELCA seminary students take out loans to fund their education. They can expect to face a monthly loan payment of \$300 to \$600 – in addition to other loans from their college days. Understandably, many pastors cannot, then, accept calls to smaller or struggling congregations because the salaries are not adequate for these loan commitments.



The Opportunity: The ELCA created the **Fund for Leaders** to provide financial assistance to seminarians and encourage excellence in ministry. The Fund's mission is to ensure support for the projected 1,400 ELCA students annually enrolled in the ELCA seminaries. Please help in this vital work of the ELCA and NT-NL. To learn more and to donate online, go to www.ELCA.org/FundforLeaders.

The Briarwood Vine

The monthly newsletter of Briarwood Retreat Center
February 2012



Briarwood Retreat Center
www.briarwoodretreat.org
Phone:
(940) 241-2099
Email:
bw@briarwoodretreat.org

Fore!

Please consider joining us for our 2nd Annual Briarwood Golf outing and fundraiser. The event will be hosted once again at the Golf Club at Fossil Creek on Friday, May 4th 2012. This will be an 8:00

AM shotgun start with practice time and breakfast options beforehand. After your round there will be a luncheon and award ceremony with great food, fun, door prizes, and more. All of the information you need to register or sponsor the event can be found on our website under the Upcoming Events menu. Hope to see you there.



2011 ASK Letter

We would like to say a **BIG Thank You** to everyone who participated in our 2011 Ask letter fundraising campaign. There was an incredible response and over **\$12,000 donated**. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Construction has begun on Copper Canyon Road to widen and improve the safety along the corridor. During Phase 1 (January 2012 - April 2012) Briarwood will only be accessible from the North. For detour maps and alternate directions you can see our website. A brief description is included below.

From the 2499/ FM 407 intersection, travel North 2.8 miles, just over the Poindexter Branch of Lake Lewisville to Orchid Hill Rd, head West on Orchid Hill for 1.8 miles where it T's into Copper Canyon Rd. Follow Copper Canyon Rd South 1.7 miles until you reach Briarwood on your left side.



Seniors Retreat March 23 - March 25, 2012

"Making Sense of the Cross"

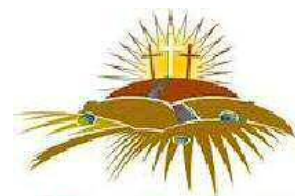
You are invited to join us for the annual Seniors Retreat. Designed for the retired, semi-retired, or still working - there is no age limit.

This year the theme will be "Making sense of the Cross" and will feature Bible studies led by Pastor Mel Hammer. There will be plenty to keep you busy with worships, Bible study, wine and cheese social, workshops, and opportunities for horseshoes, card and board games, and lots of fellowship.

The cost for this year's event will be:
\$90 per person in double occupancy
\$120 per person for single occupancy

Lots of information and a downloadable brochure with registration form are available on our website.

Lenten Retreat March 24 - March 25 4th Grade through Middle School



Lent.... Are you ready?

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. Our time together this year will focus on the idea of preparation and what it means in our lives today.

Cost is \$60 per participant, there is a sibling discount, and adult chaperones are free. Lots of information and a downloadable brochure with registration form are available on our website.

We believe that God's purpose for Briarwood is to provide a natural setting where people experience God's love.
Thank you for your partnership in the camping and retreat ministry of the synod.

Meet Flor

Costa Rica



Most people in El Jardín, Costa Rica, work in the banana and pineapple plantations that surround the village. The work is hard, the wages are low, and over the generations, the villagers have lost their knowledge about growing other crops.

Recognizing the need for more food, income and sources of employment, the Lutheran church in El Jardín, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, uses its land for an ecological agriculture program. Flor and her neighbors learn about soil

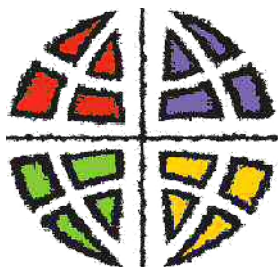
fertility, crop rotation and plants. They're growing vegetables to eat and also plants that can be turned into products like shampoo and insect repellent.

Flor says she didn't know anything about rose hips when they started; now she grows them and uses them to make drinks and jam. "It's nice not to have to buy so many things now, and to be able to make them instead," Flor smiles. She has also become treasurer of the group. Eventually, they hope to sell their products in shops beyond their own village.

Flor's new skills and knowledge have made her very hopeful about the future. But Nehemias, the program's manager, says the changes are much bigger than that. With so many in the village involved — including the children — there is a new sense of community, pride and mutual support that will bring benefits for years to come.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support this program and others like it in more than 60 countries around the world. Please make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and place it in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to: ELCA World Hunger, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. To give online with a credit card, please visit:





www.elca.org/hunger



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

LENT

2012

			feb 22  ash wednesday	feb 23 -39	feb 24 -38	feb 25 -37
feb 26	feb 27 -36	feb 29 -35	feb 29 -34	mar 1 -33	mar 2 -32	mar 3 -31
mar 4	mar 5 -30	mar 6 -29	mar 7 -28	mar 8 -27	mar 9 -26	mar 10 -25
mar 11	mar 12 -24	mar 13 -23	mar 14 -22	mar 15 -21	mar 16 -20	mar 17 -19
mar 18	mar 19 -18	mar 20 -17	mar 21 -16	mar 22 -15	mar 23 -14	mar 24 -13
mar 25	mar 26 -12	mar 27 -11	mar 28 -10	mar 29 -9	mar 30 -8	mar 31 -7
apr 1  sunday of the passion	apr 2 -6	apr 3 -5	apr 4 -4	apr 5 maundy thursday 	apr 6 good friday 	apr 7

apr 8



countdown to the resurrection
(sundays not included)

WE WROTE ABOUT IT LAST MONTH! But it bears repeating! For several months, now, the congregation council has been discussing alternatives to the weekly freshcut, altar flowers. Two arrangements at \$20 each for fifty-two weeks comes to \$2,040 a year. In the past, the expense has been covered by people providing an arrangement as a memorial or honorarium. However, for the last couple years, more than half the time, arrangements have gone unsponsored and the cost has come from the general fund. This year, it's been decided to try something different. . .



Beginning the first Sunday of February, instead of the "usual" arrangements, we'll be using something less costly, i.e., dried arrangements, live plants, flowers from your garden. (The usual arrangements can still be given in memory or in honor/celebration of a special person or event in your life. But you will be responsible for getting them here to the church.) OR, you can make a special offering to one of our continuing ministries and that gift will be recognized in the bulletin just like the flowers were! Some of those "good works" include World Hunger Appeal (the Rice Bowls), Shoes for Students @ Lamar, Kids to Camp, the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, our witness-ing/advertising efforts, or any other ministry of your choice! Like I said, this is something new. So, if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please talk with any of the council representatives or the pastor. There's a signup sheet on the wall in the lobby where the flower chart used to be! Or just give the office a call – **694-1373!**

THE TV AD'S STILL RUNNING ON CHANNEL 9. . .

during Dr. Phil and the 5:00 & 10:00pm news shows! Like I said last month, the best way of spreading the Gospel is face-to-face. . . with family, friends, neighbors, classmates, and coworkers! And we're doing news-letters, newspaper stuff, email, internet, flyers, postcards. But, the council thought we'd give television a try. We don't expect crowds to come pouring through the doors. But a fifteen second ad run fourteen times got three months might just "catch" someone's attention! Our goal is what's called "branding" or name-recognition. Name, address, phone, website. If you're online, you might want to take a look at the ad for February. . .



www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqqsPJ9sNkE&feature=youtu.be

The price tag for each month is \$982 and funds are being taken from the 50th Anniversary Memorial. But, if you'd like to help out with a special gift – above and beyond your regular offering – just mail it in to the office or drop it into the offering plate on any given Sunday, attn: TV ADS. Again, any questions, talk with the pastor or your council!

THE CLUSTER CONFAB between Midland and Christ's Lutheran in Odessa continues! 7:00pm, the first Thursday of each month!



February's meeting will be here in Midland. We'll finalize plans regarding a joint adult retreat held later this month. We'll get you the details as soon as we have them! And, we'll look ahead to planning for a year-long 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation. If you'd like more information or might be considering lending a hand – or a brain! – talk with Fred Behnken, Lonnie Yee, or the pastor!

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SCHOOL'S IN SESSION! Sunday School, that is! Sherice Barndt's been teaching four to six of the younger members each week focusing their efforts on Matthew 28: 16-20: "Growing in Discipleship!" If you know someone who might like to join in, just bring them along to church with you every Sunday morning! Class starts at 10:15. And, of course, you're more than welcome to stay and take part in the adult class. The current topic is "Church and State." In this election year, we thought it would be interesting to discuss the relationship between religion and politics. . . if there is one! Any questions, talk with the pastor.



Otherwise, just drop in. . . any time! We meet in the fellowship hall

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW. . .



Starting at 7:00pm, Thursday, Feb 9th, and continuing on every Thursday evening through the end of the month, anyone interested in talking about the basics of faith are invited to meet with the pastor in the fellowship hall! This is your opportunity to ask those questions you never had a chance to ask before! Members! Visitors! Curious! Everyone's welcome! Any questions, talk with Pastor Bob – **694-1373** or **bbarndt@juno.com**

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THE TUESDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

is back at it! Each and every



Tuesday evening, they're exploring "Why the Unchurched Are Unchurched!"

Migrations! The end of immigration from Northern Europe! Changes in "the family". We'll spend time talking about it all! And, then, try to figure out what it all means. . . for us. . . right here. . . right now. . . There's always a seat! The coffee's hot! You can't beat the conversation! 7-8:00pm in the "Fountain Room" off the west hallway! No need to r.s.v.p. Just stop by! And if you need a ride, give us a call – **694-1373!**

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BREAKFAST IS SERVED. . . AGAIN!

Our 97th 2nd Saturday Pancake Breakfast will be served from 9-11:00am, Saturday, Feb 11th! If you'd like to lend a



hand, come early or stay late! Otherwise, come when you can, stay as long as you'd like, and enjoy! A time, a place, and a reason for people to get together! Bring your newspaper, a book, or you might like to invite a friend or two! A good time will be had by all!

+ + +

IT'S TIME, AGAIN! For our annual Valentine Dinner! Candlelight! Soft music! Good food! And servers!!!! All you have to do is come enjoy! The menu is the same as last year: salad, spaghetti or chicken fettuccini, dessert, and – if you'd like – a glass of wine! Tickets are \$14 each for adults and \$6 each for children. For reservations, call Sherice Barndt (689-9274), Lyne Brown (520-7775), or the church office (694-1373). This will be the **ONLY** fundraiser to send Lanie, Eden, and McKenzie to camp this summer! The cost is \$385 each! If you'd like to help the effort but won't be able to make it to Sunday's event, feel free to mail your contribution to the church office or drop it in the offering plate next time you're at worship. Be sure to "memo": KIDS TO CAMP! And thanks for your support!



+ + +

IF YOU NEED SOME PECANS. . .

Wanda Howell's donated a few pounds toward sending the girls to camp! Shelled and vacuum sealed! If you'd like to help convert her gift to cash, we're going for \$10-a-



pound! Simply pick a bag up next time you're at worship. Or, you might want to give her a call. . . **694-4615** Thanks! To her AND to you!

+ + +

JOSHUA, JONATHAN, and LONNIE

YEE are headed to New Orleans this July for the ELCA Youth Gathering! So, they're raising money, as well! We've set aside for them refreshment time in the lobby



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20

following worship. Whatever goes in the offering tray at the coffee window will help them out. But, of course, even without a donation, you'll still be able to have a cup of coffee and some goodies! And be sure to ask them about their upcoming adventure!

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION was

held immediately after worship on the last Sunday of January! If you'd like to see the annual report, go to. . .



www.midlandlutheranchurch.org

Click on "reports" at the top of the home page. Then on "2011 Annual Report"! There's a copy of the budget approved for 2012 on pages 24 and 25. Officers/council representatives elected are listed on the leadership page of this newsletter. Any "blank" positions can/will be filled by council action. Again, if you have any questions, please contact any council representative or the pastor.

+ + +

WE'RE STILL COLLECTING CANS! to help send the kids to camp and to the gather! So, please, keep 'em coming!

And, also, please keep using

<www.goodsearch.com>

when you're looking for something online. We make a penny with every search you do! Again, it's for the kids! Be sure you type in "Midland Lutheran Church (Midland, TX)" where the home page says, "Choose your cause"!

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AND FINALLY... some of you may remember the house fire back at the beginning of December when a plane crashed taking off from the Midland Airpark. The house belonged to "one of ours"! Estela Trowbridge! She lost just about everything. Insurance has taken care of most of it. But, as a church, we wanted to contribute a little something toward the rebuilding effort. So, the council decided

on a cookie jar! Every household has one! Not filled with cookies, but cash for those little unexpected wants or wishes! So, for the Sundays in February, a cookie jar will sit on a cart in the lobby just outside the

worship area. And you're invited – and encouraged – to drop a little something in as a gift toward Estela's new life! Do it once... twice... as often as you'd like! And if you'd like to help out but won't be able to be here, just drop your gift in the mail and we'll be sure it gets to her! Any questions, give a call. **694-1373!** And thanks for your generosity!



PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE in your thoughts, words, &, **ESPECIALLY, DEEDS...**

Adrian; Marv & Yvonne Armock; Bessie Arthur; Bob Bales; Aunt Betty; Sandra Burress; Speck & Dorothy Chambers; Ted Cheuvront; Ann Cihonski; Burgess & Sally Cooke; Linda Courtice's sister Laura; Doug & Cindy Dirks; Adam Engram; Gene & Terri Gordon; Evelyn Herrera; Wanda Howell; Larry Keene; Lynelle Kestler; Ann Knittle; Bill & Shirley Landureth; Eric Lee; Bob & Nancy Martin; Cassie Martin; Frances Matthews; Jackie & Martin Meissner; Kristen Muehlbrad; Cindy Nelson; Lawanna Nelson; Eden Nicole; Jeanette Price; Bob & Gwen Ristow; the family and friends of Jim Roop; Norma Saenger; Morris Snider; Dave Swenson; Estela Trowbridge; Marie Walker; Mary Yee & family

For telephone prayer chain requests – or if you'd like to be a link on the chain – please call Barbara Porsch (**683-4474 ***

bporsch@sbcglobal.net)

or Ginny Behnken (**262-3374 ***

fred_behnken@grandecom.net)

the BIRTHDAYS

alisha farrington	2/01	norma saenger	2/16
sam eberly	2/05	gerald mendenhall	2/17
bessie arthur	2/06	virginia spaight	2/
rebecca nelson	2/06	david swenson	2/21
mcKenzie howell	2/09	joshua yee	2/26
cyndi stroud	2/14	tom daneker	2/28

if we've – unintentionally – omitted a birthday or anniversary, please let us know

the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

president		vice president
secretary	marylin boomer	carol reinert
		treasurer
ministry team		council representative/team leader
building and grounds		
education		sherice barndt
fellowship		
outreach		fred behnken
stewardship & finance		
worship		
nominating team		delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris	bob barndt
		pastor

the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	acolyte	reader	worship ass't	tellers	altar flowers
feb 05	eden brown	fred behnken	joshua yee	del bowie & lonnie yee	---
feb 12	jonathan yee	marylin boomer	gretchen shults	tom daneker & lonnie yee	---
feb 19	joshua yee	gretchen shults	kay sewell	gerald & ruth mendenhall	---
feb 26	lanie barndt	jonathan yee	fred behnken	fred behnken & alan sewell	---
altar guild	terri gordon & norma saenger		burgess cooke	cantor	
			marylin boomer	lockup	

"Let us keep to Christ,
 and cling to him,
 and hang on him,
 so that no power
 can remove us!"

the rev. dr. martin luther
 1483-1546





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

+++++

midland lutheran church

2705 west michigan avenue * midland, texas 79701-5840

bob barndt, pastor

office: 432.694-1373 * home: 432.689-9274 * fax: 432.694-4631

webpage: www.midlandlutheranchurch.org

email: midluth@att.net or bbarndt@juno.com

sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 * worship @ 10:30**

office hours: monday-thursday, 9am-noon & by appointment

+++++

midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



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february 2012



the PROPERs for february

the **FIFTH SUNDAY** after **EPIPHANY**, February 05

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READINGS**: Isaiah 40:21–31 + Psalm 147:1–11, 20c + 1 Corinthians 9:16–23 + Mark 1:29–39

the **SIXTH SUNDAY** after **EPIPHANY**, February 12

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Almighty and ever-living God, with mercy you look upon our weaknesses. Stretch out your wondrous hand to protect us from danger and restore us to health, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READINGS**: 2 Kings 5:1–14 + Psalm 30 + 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 + Mark 1:40–45

the **TRANSFIGURATION** of **OUR LORD**, February 19

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Almighty God, in signs and wonders your Son revealed the greatness of your saving love. Renew us with your grace, and sustain us by your power, that we may stand in the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READINGS**: Isaiah 43:18–25 + Psalm 41 + 2 Corinthians 1:18–22 + Mark 2:1–12

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



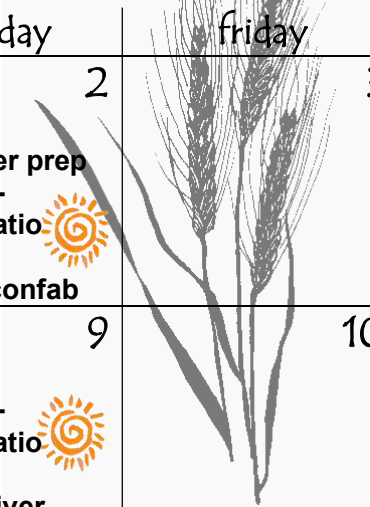














the **READINGS**: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 + Psalm 51:1–17 + 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
+ Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

the **FIRST SUNDAY** in **LENT**, February 26

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READINGS**: Genesis 9:8–17 + Psalm 25:1–10 + 1 Peter 3:18–22 + Mark 1:9–15

february 2012

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
 <p>the rev. dr. martin luther renewer of the church february 18th, 1546</p>			1	2 10:00am – newsletter prep 1-5:00pm – the patio  7:00pm – cluster confab	3 	4
5  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	6	7  7:00pm – study group	8 11:00am – women of e.l.c.a.	9 1-5:00pm – the patio  2:00pm – caregiver support group	10	11  9-11:00am – “2 nd saturday” pancake breakfast
12  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	13 6-8:00pm – valentine dinner 	14  7:00pm – study group	15	16 9:30am – congregation council 1-5:00pm – the patio 	17 7:00pm – talking faith: the a,b,c's of believing	18
19  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	20	21  7:00pm – study group	22  5:45pm – lenten supper 7:00pm – ash wednesday worship	23 1-5:00pm – the patio 	24	25
26  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	27 7:00pm – dreamcatcher's steering team	28	29  5:45pm – lenten supper 7:00pm – evening prayer	<p>"I see a world that hates evil more than it loves good." dr. martin luther</p>		