

The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church

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2024

Celebration is a part of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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FROM THE PASTOR

When I was a kid, my claim to fame was that I was born on February 29th, Leap Year Day. I got my picture in the paper, it made me unique, being only one of four million world-wide born on this day. And I liked being born on Leap day. And like dog years in reverse where you multiply your calendar years by seven, we leapers divide our calendar years by four. (Otherwise, this would be my 476th birthday!)

Why does the Leap Day occur only once every four years? Well, it's in order to keep our calendar in sync with the seasons and the solar year, or the length of time it takes the earth to complete its orbit around the sun, which is about 365 and ¼ days. Therefore, every four years we have 366 days on the calendar. If we didn't observe leap years, our seasons would be messed up as our equinoxes and summer and winter solstice would not long align with the seasons. In other words, if there were no leap year, the seasons would completely swap every 750 years, meaning that the middle of summer would become the middle of winter – calendar climate change, if you will... So, you're welcome.

Leaping. To take a jump into the future. The philosopher Soren Kierkegaard coined the phrase "taking a leap of faith." This means that taking a leap of faith is the act of believing in or accepting something not on the basis of reason.



LEAP YEAR

Continues next Page ->

Do you remember the movie “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade?” In it, Indiana Jones (well, actually, his father) is searching for the Holy Grail – the cup reported to have been used by Christ at the Last Supper. Jones, comes at last to a cliff’s edge and a vast cavern lies beneath him. The Holy Grail is on the other side. Looking at the situation, Jones says, “It really is a leap of faith.”

Once there was a man dying of thirst in the desert, when he came upon a pump. There was a baking soda can tied to the handle with a note inside. The note read “This pump was all right the last time I used it. I put a new sucker washer into it which ought to last a good long while, but the washer dries out and the pump has to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water. It’s out of the sun and all corked up. There’s enough in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. So pour about a quarter of the water in and let it soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest medium fast and then pump like crazy. You’ll get water. Have faith. When you get all you want, fill her up for the next fella. BUT, don’t go drinking up the water first, you have to prime the pump.

It is a leap of faith when you believe that there’s someone out there. It is a leap of faith when you believe that someone cares. A leap of faith goes far beyond belief and into active commitment.

If belief seeks security, faith accepts risk. Faith is grounded in hope; faith is never final nor certain, but always asking and seeking and living and moving. Life has taught us to hold on. But God invites us to let go. We don’t just want to enjoy the goodness of life. We want to own it, store it up, expand it, manipulate it for our own purposes.

We cling onto our possessions, opinions, theories, beliefs, attitudes, hurts, grievances, money - fearful that losing our grip will mean defeat. But, all along our salvation lies in looking up and letting go!

So, my family in the faith, this Leap Year, I encourage you to look up to God, and let go of those things that are keeping you from fully being surrounded by God’s never-ending love, and to make that leap into the future God truly wants for you!

See you in church!

Pastor Fogle

Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.



A Note of Thanks

My family and I would like to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of our dear Roger. A special thank you goes out to all who helped with the luncheon by setting it up, cleaning it up, and preparing food. To all of you who assisted me in getting Roger into church once he was wheelchair bound, please know how greatly I appreciated your efforts.

Sincerely,

Trudy Buelow

Thank You

I would like to thank you, not only for your generous gift this Christmas, but for your support throughout the year. I love working at Celebration. The people here are more than congregation, they are my friends and family.

I wish you all the best during 2024. May God bless you and keep you healthy and safe.

Jodi Reed

A great big thank you to the Women of the ELCA for the very generous, thoughtful and delicious cookies. God bless you all.

Hewitt Hammer



Change of Address

Marion Jones
42600 Cherry Hill Rd
Apt 104
Canton, MI 48187

Crafting Connections

What's better than doing crafts? Crafting with friends! Crafting Connections is a small group of crafters who meet the second of the month at 7:00pm and the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. During that time, we inspire each other to try many crafts. We are there to answer questions, give encouragement and help when one of us has gotten a little lost on a project and again to give praise and celebrate a finished item. We are a warm and friendly group and we would welcome some new friends to join us and share their craft journey with us. In February, we are meeting on Monday, February 12th at 7:00pm and Wednesday, February 28th at 10:00am. We would love to see you!



Bring One Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. This month it is February 11th, near Valentine's Day. What a perfect way to spread God's love, donating food to those who need it. The Good Hope food pantry is in need of cereal (hot, oatmeal or cold), canned meat (chicken, tuna ...), canned fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail, pears, pineapple, mandarins...). Any non-perishable items are greatly appreciated as well as monetary donations, please make the checks out to *Good Hope Lutheran Church*. There has been a greater need for these donations as many people are no longer working, and are in need of help. If you have questions regarding this ministry, contact Greg and Gloria Tapper at 734-427-1142 or Gtapper@yahoo.com.

The following is a letter Cyndi Sweier received from the social worker at Cleveland Elementary School who gives us the list of families for

Hi Friend!

I wanted to take a minute to send you a quick email thanking you and your community again for their continued support of our Cleveland Families. I really cannot express to you how much their support has meant to me and the families here at Cleveland. I know our families are not great about sending Thank you notes, even though they always say they will, so I wanted to take a few minutes to share with you some of the comments that I received while making deliveries as well as after.

The blended family that had lost everything and were trying to rebuild mentioned that this was the first year that all the children would be receiving Christmas gifts. He mentioned that in the past, he would make sure there was something under the tree for the smaller children, but the older ones would go without. He cried as he assisted us in unloading the gifts from the car. It truly was heartwarming to see how much joy he was experiencing.

One of the homeless families emailed me over break to share how excited the children were on Christmas morning. She spoke of the joy on their faces and how much it meant to them, because they knew that a few days after Christmas, they were going to lose their hotel room and they were not sure where they would be moving to next. (They are currently residing with another family member). They said knowing that they didn't have to worry about Christmas brought so much peace to them.

The last one that I feel I need to share was regarding my family that mom had cancer. It's with tears in my eyes that I report that mom passed away on December 28th. However, because of the church's efforts, the family was able to celebrate one Last Christmas. I cannot thank the family that bought the Air Jordan's for the upper elementary student. He was literally wearing them at the memorial and proudly showed them off to everyone. Every time anyone asked about his shoes, his smile was beaming. This family would not have had Christmas without you. The little ones here were telling all their friends about the gifts that were under the tree and how even though they forgot to put cookies and reindeer food out, Santa came anyway and left them everything on their wish lists.

Every year it's hard to hear of the struggles our families are going through, but I wanted you to know that your efforts have a huge impact on these families. Saying THANK YOU really isn't enough. But I wanted you to know that I can't imagine how I would support all these families without you. And I'm truly not sure any of them would have been able to receive the support needed in order to make this such a special Christmas. So, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you and every single one of your congregation members.

Hugs to you all!!!
Richelle





Women's Bible Study

Scripture and Nature: Teachers of faith

Creatures: Our siblings in praise and trust Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we'll get to know biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We'll look at biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God.

The Women's Bible study group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 21st at 1:00 pm. Copies of the Bible study are available in Lauren Preston's mailbox. All women are invited to join in the study and fellowship.



Pill Bottles Collection

We are again collecting empty pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries. All pill bottles are accepted. They need to be cleaned out and the label removed. (Goo Gone might help with that) Place your donations in the big pill bottle container under the mailboxes.

Pancake Supper



As we prepare for the Lenten season, the Women of the ELCA will again be hosting a pancake supper on Tuesday, February 13th (fat Tuesday) from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

A signup sheet will be posted in the narthex so that we can plan how much food to prepare. There is no charge for this event, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray the costs.

Days for Girls

We received a really nice thank-you letter for our recent donation from Susan Smith at Days for Girls.



They are in the process of sending 100 health kits to Peru and another 300 to the Philippines.

Please continue to support Days for Girls by donating the following items for the kits:

- 100% cotton flannel and quilting fabric
- Girls underwear, colors if possible Brief style only, 100% cotton
- Sizes 8, 10, 12 or 14

Gallon Ziploc freezer bags (original Ziploc closures; not sliders)

HELP WANTED: Temporary, part-time pill-wrangler needed to sort, box and mail pill bottles. No roping skills needed. See Lauren Preston for details.

Altar Flowers

Please consider sponsoring flowers for a Sunday service. Each vase is \$23, and may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up; on the Communication Board, call the office (734) 582-4112 or email the office (officelc@celebrationlc.com).

Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed directly to the church.

This month's sponsors are:

February 4:

Carol Gregg

February 11:

Robert and Janet Clisch in celebration of Janet's birthday

A reminder that per tradition, during the Lenten Season we do not put live flowers on the altar.



Live-Stream Broadcasts

Please consider sponsoring a week or more of live-streaming for \$15 per Sunday. The live-stream broadcast may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up; on the Communication Board, call or email the office at: (officelc@celebrationlc.com),

Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed directly to the church.

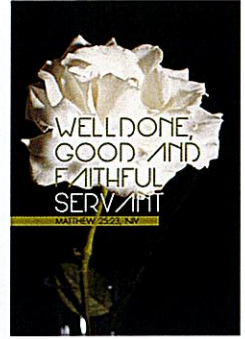
February's live-streaming is being sponsored by:

February 4 and 11 : Barb Heidmann

February 18 and 25: Diane Yagerlener

Funeral

On January 1, we celebrated the life and eternal life of Roger Buelow. We offer our sincere condolences to Trudy and his family in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.



We Remember in Prayer

Each week we pray for members of the congregation on a rotating basis.

February 4

Estelle and Ken Zoller
Bill and Lisa Albert
Leo and Sandy Albert
Michael Albert

February 11

Robin Albert
Steven Albert
Jane Alder
Mike Bierbaum Jr.

February 18

Mike and Linda Bierbaum
Larry and Esther Bowers
Scott and Cheryl Bowker
Dennis and Deborah Bramigk

February 25

Marilyn Briegel
Randy, Jill, Megan, and Andrew Brown
Bill Buckeyne
Trudy Buelow



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 4 Dick Lieberknecht
- 7 Eva Miner
- 12 Phil Sweier
- 13 Marilyn Briegel
- 14 Janet Clisch
- 14 Carol Gregg
- 15 Jane Alder
- 18 Michelle Lair
- 22 Dan Reid
- 25 Devonna Snowden
- 26 Jenna Hardy
- 26 Mike Villemure
- 29 Pastor Fogle

FEBRUARY

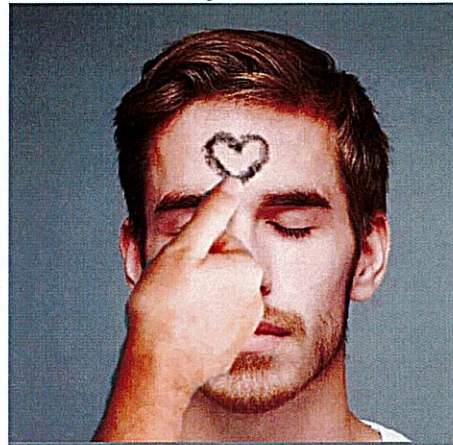
Anniversaries

- 2 Chuck and Tina Truskowski
- 25 Gary and Lori Fernyhough



"We'd love to have you speak, Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."

When Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday



It's always a strange juxtaposition when Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday both occur on the same day. But do you remember what happened the last time

this happened? It was in 2018 and on that day when seventeen students and staff were shot at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida

A local Episcopal priest told of seeing two women with their arms around each other, waiting for news about their children. The thing that caught this priests attention, however, was that one of the women had ashes on her forehead in the shape of a cross. Evidently, she had attended an Ash Wednesday worship earlier in the day.

She had been marked with a sign of mortality and the fragility of life, the same sign with which you and I will be marked on Velen-tine's Day. And, outside that High School, she now stood among the ashes of uncertainty, fear, death, sorrow, and loss. My guess is that when those ashes were being put on her forehead earlier in the day she never thought she would be standing where she was. Probably none of us would have either. We don't want to consider that possibility, let alone face that reality. And yet, that's the truth Ash Wednesday holds before us. "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

On Ash Wednesday, We will receive a mark our forehead in the shape of a cross. A symbol, like a tattoo that is upon our heart. That we belong to Jesus.

Join together, Wednesday, February 14th at 7pm as we affirm together that, even though life is short, we belong to Jesus FOREVER!

FEBRUARY DEVOTIONS

Thursday, February 1
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Friday, February 2
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Saturday, February 3
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14

Sunday, February 4
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Monday, February 5
Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7

Tuesday, February 6
Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41

Wednesday, February 7
Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12

Thursday, February 8
Psalm 30
Leviticus 13:1-17
Hebrews 12:7-13

Friday, February 9
Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:1-20
Acts 19:11-20

Saturday, February 10
Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:21-32
Matthew 26:6-13

Sunday, February 11
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

Monday, February 12
Psalm 6
2 Chronicles 26:1-21
Acts 3:1-10

Tuesday, February 13
Psalm 6
2 Kings 7:3-10
1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1

Wednesday, February 14
Psalm 6
Job 30:16-31
John 4:46-54

Thursday, February 15
Psalm 41
2 Chronicles 7:12-22
3 John 2-8

Friday, February 16
Psalm 41
Isaiah 38:1-8
Hebrews 12:7-13

Saturday, February 17
Psalm 41
Isaiah 39:1-8
Luke 4:38-41

Sunday, February 18
Isaiah 43:18-25
Psalm 41
2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Mark 2:1-12

Monday, February 19
Psalm 38
Isaiah 30:18-26
Acts 14:8-18

Tuesday, February 20
Psalm 38
Micah 4:1-7
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Wednesday, February 21
Psalm 38
Lamentations 5:1-22
John 5:19-29

Thursday, February 22
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Friday, February 23
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:44-52
2 Peter 1:1-11

Saturday, February 24
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:53-63
John 7:53—8:11

Sunday, February 25
Hosea 2:14-20
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
2 Corinthians 3:1-6
Mark 2:13-22

Monday, February 26
Psalm 45:6-17
Hosea 3:1-5
2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11

Tuesday, February 27
Psalm 45:6-17
Hosea 14:1-9
2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Wednesday, February 28
Psalm 45:6-17
Isaiah 62:1-5
John 3:22-36

Thursday, February 29
Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 11:26-40
2 Corinthians 2:12-17

February Sunday Helpers

	February 4	February 11	Ash Wednesday 7:00pm February 14	February 18	February 25
PLEASE NOTE: Worship is at 10:00am					
Assisting Ministers	Jane Alder	Robert Clisch	Jane Alder	George Evalt	Heather Fogle
Communion Assistants	Laureen Preston	Estelle Zoller	Stew Israel	Cindy Sweier	Jane Alder
Greeters	Charlene Tennant	Julie Livingston	Marge Ross	Carole Hakala	Luan Purcell
Ushers	Chris and Arne Wommer	Cindy Sweier, Rick Reed	Georgia and Larry Hartsell	Christine Snowden, Cliff Switzer	Justin and Madeline Lair
Acolytes	Bella Gray	Arne Wommer	Charleigh Truskowski	Catherine Holt	Charlie Lair
Altar Guild (People in bold are set-up)	Carol Gregg, Katie Frank, Luan Purcell	Laureen Preston, Robert & Janet Clisch	Heather Fogle, Carole Hakala, Sally Evalt	Marge Ross, Rick & Jodi Reed	Georgia Hartsell, Greg & Gloria Tapper
Flagon Bearer	Tina Truskowski	Kristine Wommer	Chuck Truskowski	Deanna Holt	Robert Clisch

Please notify the office by **February 12th** if there are any Sundays in **March** that will not work for you.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, **please arrange a trade and notify the church office** prior to your designated Sunday.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<h1>February</h1>					 2 5pm AA mtg	3 8:30am Men's Ministry
4 Worship at 10am 11am Fellowship 11am KidsZone	5 5:30pm Martial Arts 5pm AA mtg.	6 6pm DHE 7pm Scouts	7 6:45pm Scouts 7:00pm Adult Forum on Zoom	8 9:30am Quilters 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Vocal Choir	9 9am-3pm Blood Drive 5pm AA mtg	10 4pm HSOJ	
11 Worship at 10am 11am Fellowship 11am KidsZone	12 10am W/ELCA Planning Mtg. 7pm Property Mtg 7pm Crafty Connections 5:30pm Martial Arts 5pm AA mtg.	13 6pm DHE 7pm Scouts 5-7 Pancake Dinner	14 6:45pm Scouts 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	15 9:30am Quilters No Choir Rehearsal	16 5pm AA mtg	17 8:30am Men's Ministry Gathering Space Rental	
18 Worship at 10am 11am Fellowship 11am KidsZone	19 5:30pm Martial Arts 5pm AA mtg.	20 6pm DHE 6:30pm Council Mtg. 7pm Scouts	21 1pm Women's Bible Study 6:45pm Scouts 7:00pm Adult Forum on Zoom	22 9:30am Quilters 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Vocal Choir	23 5pm AA mtg	24 4pm HSOJ	
25 Worship at 10am 11am Fellowship 11am KidsZone	26 5:30pm Martial Arts 5pm AA mtg.	27 6pm DHE 7pm Scouts	28 10am Crafty Connections 6:45pm Scouts 7:00pm Adult Forum on Zoom	29 9:30am Quilters 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Vocal Choir Pastor Fogle's Birthday			

Easter Plants Orders 2024



Flower	Quantity	Price	Total
Lily		\$13.00	\$
Tulip		\$10.50	\$
Hyacinth		\$10.50	\$
Mum		\$12.00	\$
Total Amount Due			\$

All orders must be submitted by Sunday, February 18th

Your completed form with payment can be dropped off at the office on Monday or Thursday between 9-1 or placed in the offering plate or mailed into the church:

Celebration Lutheran Church
 39375 Joy Rd
 Westland, MI 48185
 734-582-4112
 officelc@celebrationlc.com

Payment

- Cash
- Check *(Please make checks payable to Celebration Lutheran Church earmark "Easter Flowers")*

Pick Up

Your flowers will be ready for pick up on **Sunday, March 31st** after the worship service.

I would like to purchase my plants in Celebration/Memory of:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

$14 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$ Father

$10 + 9 = \underline{\quad}$ heavenly

$9 + 9 = \underline{\quad}$ the

$12 + 12 = \underline{\quad}$ blessing

$2 - 1 = \underline{\quad}$ Praise

$7 + 7 = \underline{\quad}$ has

$11 + 11 = \underline{\quad}$ every

$13 + 13 = \underline{\quad}$ Christ

$8 + 8 = \underline{\quad}$ us

$10 + 10 = \underline{\quad}$ realms

$8 + 9 = \underline{\quad}$ in

$5 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$ Lord

$10 + 11 = \underline{\quad}$ with

$10 + 15 = \underline{\quad}$ in

$10 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$ God

$6 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$ to

$12 - 6 = \underline{\quad}$ and

$6 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$ Christ

$18 - 9 = \underline{\quad}$ our

$22 - 11 = \underline{\quad}$ Jesus

$1 + 1 = \underline{\quad}$ be

$7 + 6 = \underline{\quad}$ who

$2 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$ the

$10 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$ blessed

$4 + 4 = \underline{\quad}$ of

$10 + 13 = \underline{\quad}$ spiritual

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

HEART

strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.