

# The *Celebration!* Connection

**Celebration Lutheran Church**

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



**2023**

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

February 22<sup>nd</sup> is Ash Wednesday. The beginning of Lent. And I've gotten to the point in my life where I've got to confess:

### **I DON'T LIKE LENT**

Now, I like a good fish fry (especially if they're offering fried pollack) and, of course, I look just smashing in purple, but otherwise – I'm just not crazy about Lent.



I mean, come on! Lent reminds me that I'm not the center of the universe, that it's not all about me – and what fun is there in that? Now Advent, that's my jam! The preparation and the lights and the promise of the new baby Jesus, there ya go! But Lent? No bells? No whistles? Only dirges and self-reflection....and on top of that, it goes a full two weeks longer than Advent! At least during Advent, I can feel good about myself by dropping a little change in a red kettle. But Lent continually reminds me that it isn't about me (as it should be), but instead it's about Jesus and what his death and resurrection means.

Bummer.

Talking about death, MAN, what a downer! Forty days building up to a brutal crucifixion. Yep, heckofa downer. It reminds me of things I'd rather not think about. You know, things like martyrdom and selflessness and sacrifice and my own mortality. And I know I'm not the only one. I mean, take a look at what **used** to be called Palm Sunday. It got changed by the wider church into what is now called Passion Sunday because so few people come to church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This was done, they say, in order to make it clear that we don't go directly from Hosanna's and Palm branches into the Alleluia's of Easter morning. What a drag.

Oh, and the whole "giving up something for Lent" thing? Puhleeeeze!

I like my stuff! Remember when you were a kid and in your children's Bible there was that picture of Satan hovering over Jesus on that wilderness mountaintop promising Jesus power over people and the stuff that went with it if only he would just turn away from God?

And we're supposed to be like Jesus? Pretty inconvenient if you ask me! Telling people what to do is awfully appealing, and I'm pretty attached to my stuff. (Not to mention that we just left an awfully materialistic holiday) Lent makes me remember how power and material wealth moves me away from God AND THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY GIFTS AT THE END OF IT! Come on! Just let a guy surf Amazon.com in peace.

Oh, and the whole suffering in silence thing? Fuhgeddaboutit! When I go to the gym I take selfies. When I eat at a really nice restaurant, I check-in. When I finish reading a thick, trendy book, I post about it. The best thing about Lent is Ash Wednesday when I get that thumb smudge on my forehead then I go to the grocery store and broadcast to everybody what I want them to know – that I went to church today! That whole thing that was written in Matthew 6 about how my sacrifice is to be done quietly? That needs a re-write. I mean, if I don't practice my righteousness in front of others, how on earth will it ever go viral? Job ain't got nothin' on me.

Nope, I don't like Lent.

And if you feel the same way as me, let's commiserate together on Ash Wednesday at 7pm and then every following Wednesday at noon for a brief worship service followed by a bowl of soup and fellowship.

Who knows? Maybe over time we can change our minds.

See you in church!

**Pastor Fogle**



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21, 2023

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Good will offering

**Shrove Tuesday** is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent in Western churches). *Shrove*, derived from *shrive*, refers to the confession of sins as a preparation for Lent, a usual practice in Europe in the Middle Ages. As the final day before the austerity of the Lenten fast, Shrove Tuesday also has many customs pertaining to food. Pancakes are traditional in a number of European countries because eggs, sugar, and fat, commonly forbidden during the Lenten fast, are used up so they will not go to waste; the day is known as Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday in Ireland and in many Commonwealth countries. Similarly rich pre-Lenten treats, sweet *paczki* are traditional in Poland, and king cake is an iconic part of Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") in New Orleans.

**THEN, DON'T FORGET TO RETURN THE NEXT DAY  
FOR ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT 7PM!**

## Women's Bible Study

### Session two: Rhythms and Respect (Commandments 3 & 4)

Some might say the Old Testament commands Remember the Sabbath and Honor Your Folks seem outdated and quaint. After all, didn't Jesus routinely break the Sabbath? Didn't Jesus (on occasion) talk back to his mother? Yet these commandments are far from outdated. Find out how these commands offer a source of peace and inspiration in today's often hectic and generationally segregated society and church.

The Women's Bible study will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 1:00 pm. The Bible study is printed in Gather magazine. If you do not get Gather, copies of the Bible study are available from the mailbox of Lauren Preston. All women are invited to join in this study and fellowship.

### Mission: Action

As part of our commitment to engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world, the Women of the ELCA at Celebration is supporting the following ministries.

- Community Homeless Inter-professional Clinic \$200
- Good Hope Food Bank \$400
- Lutheran World Relief \$400
- Kitchen items \$500

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.

The mission of Matthew 25: Ministries is to fulfill Matthew 25:34-40 of the New Testament by providing nutritional food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, affordable shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill, and humanitarian supplies to those in need. Additionally, Matthew 25: Ministries is committed to fulfilling Matthew 25:40 by educating the public on the conditions and needs of the "least of these" and by providing resources for action.

### Mission: Community

#### Pancake Supper

As we prepare for the Lenten season, the Women of the ELCA will again host a pancake supper on Tuesday, February 21 (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.



## Bold Women's Sunday

The Women of the ELCA will celebrate "Bold Women's Sunday" on March 5. Women will be serving in all aspects of the worship service and hosting the social hour after worship.

A special Thankoffering will be taken on Bold Women's Sunday. This offering will go to support the total ministries of the Women of the ELCA:

### Program Resources

Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls

Advocacy-equipping women with tools to advocate justice

Media Outreach connecting men and women to mission opportunities and encouraging bold lives of faith

Cross-cultural Immersion

Racial Justice

Grants and Scholarships

Ecumenical Collaboration

**Live streaming  
sponsors for  
February**



February 5: Hewitt Hammer  
February 12: Steve and Andrea Kolhoff  
February 19: Available for Sponsorship  
February 22: Steve and Andrea Kolhoff  
February 26: Jim and Susan Hardy

You, too, can be a sponsor! Please consider sponsoring a week or more of our live-stream ministry at \$15 per Sunday. Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed directly to the church.



We are welcome new member Teri Thomas into the Celebration community of faith.

Here is her information so you can update your directory.

Teri Thomas  
40334 Newport Dr.  
Plymouth, MI 48170

**If you, or someone you know, would like to be a part of this wonderful community of faith, please see Pastor**



You may sponsor Altar flowers for \$23 for each bouquet. These may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. To do so, Sign-up on the Communication Board, call the office (734) 582-4112 or email the office ([officelc@celebrationlc.com](mailto: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 5:**  
**February 12:**

**February 19:**  
Larry and Christine Snowden in celebration of Dan Reid's Birthday

**\*Just a reminder, during Lent, we do not have flowers on the altar.**



## What's Your Story?

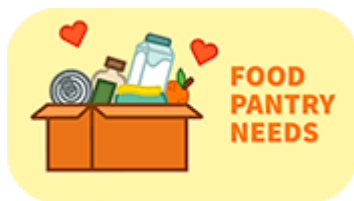


Every donor has a reason. Every reason is unique. If you've donated blood in the past, there is a reason why you've chosen to save lives in this way.

Our upcoming blood drive on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm. If you'll be joining us on that day, share your story with someone. You just may inspire someone else to donate blood.

A typical blood donation takes less than one hour. In that time, you can save up to three lives.

Walk-ins are welcome, but we encourage you to schedule an appointment to ensure a spot and enough staff. Log onto: [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) (sponsor code: celebrationchurch).



"Bring One" Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. This month it is February 12<sup>th</sup>. What a perfect way to spread God's love, by donating food for those who need it.

The Good Hope food pantry is in need of cereal, hot or cold, canned meats, and canned fruit. 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 [Getapper@yahoo.com](mailto:Getapper@yahoo.com)

## Going Out of Our Way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.



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



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

## Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation for your generous Christmas gift. Each year I am reminded how much I am appreciated by all of you. I truly love my job at Celebration and I look forward to coming into work each week. I feel so blessed to be able to work here. Celebration is more than just a place to work, it is a home with a family. I hope 2023 is filled with joy, good health, and many, many blessings.

Jodi Reed

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



This month we lift up:

### February 5th

- Bill and Lisa Albert
- Leo and Sandy Albert
- Rich and Jane Alder
- Mike and Linda Bierbaum

### February 12th

- Larry and Esther Bowers
- Scott and Cheryl Bowker
- Dennis Bramigk and Debby
- Marilyn Briegel

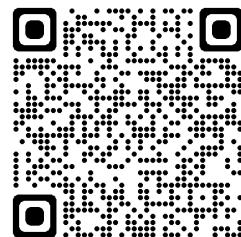
### February 19th

- Randy, Jill, Megan, and Andrew Brown
- Shannon Brown and Lydia Frizzell
- Bill Buckeyne
- Roger and Trudy Buelow

### February 26th

- Jon and Karen Call
- Catherine Carter
- Beth and Tom Codd
- George and Sue Craig

**PLEASE SUPPORT CELEBRATION FINANCIALLY EACH AND EVERY WEEK EITHER THROUGH TEXT-TO-GIVE, 844-332-2948, OR THROUGH THE VANCO APP, OR BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE USING THE CAMERA ON YOUR SMARTPHONE.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY!**

# February Devotionals

Wednesday, February 1  
Psalm 37:1-17  
Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22  
Luke 6:17-26

Thursday, February 2  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
Deuteronomy 4:1-14  
1 John 5:1-5

Friday, February 3  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
Isaiah 29:1-12  
James 3:13-18

Saturday, February 4  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
Isaiah 29:13-16  
Mark 7:1-8

**Sunday, February 5**  
**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**  
**Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**  
**Matthew 5:13-20**

Monday, February 6  
Psalm 119:105-112  
2 Kings 22:3-20  
Romans 11:2-10

Tuesday, February 7  
Psalm 119:105-112  
2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25  
2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Wednesday, February 8  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Proverbs 6:6-23  
John 8:12-30

Thursday, February 9  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Genesis 26:1-5  
James 1:12-16

Friday, February 10  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Leviticus 26:34-46  
1 John 2:7-17

Saturday, February 11  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Deuteronomy 30:1-9a  
Matthew 15:1-9

**Sunday, February 12**  
**Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Si-  
rach 15:15-20**  
**Psalm 119:1-8**  
**1 Corinthians 3:1-9**  
**Matthew 5:21-37**

Monday, February 13  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Exodus 20:1-21  
James 1:2-8

Tuesday, February 14  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Deuteronomy 23:21—24:4, 10-  
15  
James 2:1-13

Wednesday, February 15  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Proverbs 2:1-15  
Matthew 19:1-12

Thursday, February 16  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Exodus 22:21-27  
1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1

Friday, February 17  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Leviticus 6:1-7  
Galatians 5:2-6

Saturday, February 18  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Leviticus 24:10-23  
Matthew 7:1-12

**Sunday, February 19**  
**Exodus 24:12-18**  
**Psalm 2 or 99**  
**2 Peter 1:16-21**  
**Matthew 17:1-9**

Monday, February 20  
Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55  
Exodus 33:7-23  
Acts 7:30-34

Tuesday, February 21  
Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55  
1 Kings 19:9-18  
Romans 11:1-6

Wednesday, February 22  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *or* Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thursday, February 23  
Psalm 51  
Jonah 3:1-10  
Romans 1:1-7

Friday, February 24  
Psalm 51  
Jonah 4:1-11  
Romans 1:8-17

Saturday, February 25  
Psalm 51  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
Matthew 18:1-7

**Sunday, February 26**  
**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**  
**Psalm 32**  
**Romans 5:12-19**  
**Matthew 4:1-11**

Monday, February 27  
Psalm 32  
1 Kings 19:1-8  
Hebrews 2:10-18

Tuesday, February 28  
Psalm 32  
Genesis 4:1-16  
Hebrews 4:14—5:10

