

# *The Beacon*



**“Purge me  
with hyssop,  
and I shall be  
clean;  
wash me,  
and I shall  
be whiter than  
snow.”  
Psalm 51:7**

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## ***Pastoral Ponderings ...***

What an unusual winter we are having this year! Still being relatively new to the Grand Forks area and experiencing the radical cold and heaps of snow during the last 3 winters, it seems strange, but certainly not unpleasant!

Nevertheless, just like most years at this time, I find myself ready for spring because spring brings new life and hope for warmth. I love walking through our yard in the spring and seeing if all the trees have survived yet another winter. I love watching the early flowers like the crocuses poking up out of the soil with the promise of their coming beauty. I even love the dandelions that threaten to overtake our yard every spring. It's a time for new beginnings and new life and that is something that encourages me and warms me both mentally and physically.

More recently, I've come to look at the snow of winter as a cheap fix for beauty. It may look beautiful and even pristine, but it is just covering up all the brown stuff on the ground. It covers up the twigs and fallen rotting leaves. It covers up the dead vegetation and makes it look lovely. But it is only a cover-up. Reality is just beneath the surface of the snow and in time the real ugliness will come back.

It is kind of like the "religion of moralism" that is so prevalent in our society. Moralism is the belief that if you are good enough, God will like you enough to make it just possible to go to heaven when you die and maybe have some blessings while still living on earth. Moralism is based on how good a person is or how good a person tries to be and is like that snow that covers over the dead vegetation and makes everything look like new.

The season of Lent gives us an opportunity to set aside some intentional time to look at all the dead underbrush that lurks within our lives just underneath the surface. It gives us time to reflect and to acknowledge the ways and places within our lives that our devotion to God has withered up and even died. Lent invites us to quiet the busyness of our lives and to turn back to God.

I'm glad for the coming of spring in the next few months, for it will show the beauty of the earth again and not in a way that just covers it up as snow does. And I am thankful for a God who never gives up on us and **gives us new and real life.**

Blessings,  
Pastor Sonja

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**Ash Wednesday is February 22nd!**



# FEBRUARY

Alicia Erickson	February 3
Grant Boyum	February 4
Jared Clausen	February 11
Jeff Boyum	February 13
Shellie Lundebly	February 14
Amanda Anderson	February 20



**In Loving Memory of:**  
**Sonja Roemeling**  
 From: WELCA  
 and  
**Lyle Finagalson**  
 From: Avis Larsen



**Remember  
in Prayer. .**

Ellis Larson, Tom Hofland  
 Sheryl and Gary Cariveau,  
 Wyn Owen,  
 and Gordon Carlson



## ***Worship Matters...***

### **Ash Wednesday is February 22nd! ...**

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Family of God will be observing the beginning of the Lenten season with a 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday service **that will include Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.**

Ash Wednesday, originally called day of ashes probably dates from at least the 8th Century. In the typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are invited to the altar to receive the imposition of ashes, prior to receiving the holy Supper. The Pastor applies ashes in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each, while speaking the words, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This is of course what God spoke to Adam and Eve after they eaten of the forbidden fruit and fallen into sin. In the context of the Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, they remind each penitent of their sinfulness and mortality, and, their need to repent and get right with God. The ashes used on this evening, will be the ashes of the palms from last Easter. Hope you can be with us.

### **Wednesdays in Lent ...**

Each Wednesday in Lent, you are invited to come and enjoy a Lenten meal from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. This year during our Lenten journey, we will be basing our Wednesday worship services around the ELCA's "***Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Water Marks.***" We will explore God's actions and our life of faith from the waters of chaos and creation to the waters of repentance and redemption. We will dwell on the water that satisfies all thirst, the waters of our Baptism. Please join us for Wednesdays in Lent.

### **Confirmation during Lent ...**

This year, **we will not be having Confirmation at 4:00 p.m. during the weeks of Lent.** But, there is a **Confirmation requirement** that should be met by each student. I would like each student to turn in at **least three worship notes** during this time, which means you will need to come to three of the six weeks of the midweek Lenten worship on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

### **World Day of Prayer ...**

This year's World Day of Prayer is provided from the Women of Malaysia and is centered around the theme, "**Let Justice Prevail**". World Day of Prayer will be on **March 2nd** and will be hosted by the women of Family of God this year. **We need women who are able to help in the planning and implementation of this community worship service.** Please contact the church office if you are able to help us this year.

### **Noisy Can Offering ...**

The Noisy Offering that was taken in December yielded \$71.40 and will be given to the East Grand Forks Food Shelf for those who struggle.



## ***A Little of This and That ...***

### **“Gather” Bible study ... (formally known as Lutheran Women Today study)**

All women of the church are invited to the women’s February bible study. This month’s study out of “Gather” will be Session 6 of our year-long study: **“To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark”**. This month’s study will focus on **“Tough Questions”**. All of the passages in this session includes a tough question. Some are questions asked of Jesus; others are the tough questions Jesus poses for those who encounter him. What it means to be a disciples of Jesus stands at the heart of all of these exchanges. All women of the church and beyond are invited to the study at **9:30 a.m. on 10th**. The coffee’s always on and there’s usually a goodie or two!

### **“The Greatest Story” Bible Study ...**

The “Greatest Story” bible study is on hold until we can schedule a time that works for everyone. Stay tuned ...

### **The Fat Tuesday Spaghetti Feed is February 21st ...**

The Family of God second annual **New Orleans** themed, **“Fat Tuesday Spaghetti Feed”** will be Tuesday **night, February 21st**. Fat Tuesday is the night before Ash Wednesday and traditionally a time of cleaning out and getting ready for the six weeks of Lent. Proceeds will help to fund the Worship and Music Coordinator position that we are so blessed to have Julie Deziel filling. For questions or if you would like to help, contact Sherri Erickson or Lyn Pankratz.

### **Daffodil Sunday is coming ...**

March 18th is Daffodil Sunday, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Daffodils will again be available that morning. For a donation of \$10.00, you may take a bunch of Daffodils home with you to remember someone in your life who has or has had cancer. The Daffodil is a symbol of hope for millions of cancer survivors. Your donation supports research, education, advocacy, and patient services.

### **Via de Cristo’s, Teens Encounter Christ (T.E.C) ...**

Via de Cristo is a Spanish phrase meaning “Way of Christ.” Via de Cristo is a highly structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God’s grace. A Via de Cristo weekend designed primarily for teenagers, will be happening in May. Watch for details about this exciting opportunity for teens ...



# February Sharing Your Gifts

## Ushers

February 5 Trevor Grainger & Sue Clausen  
 February 12 Bob & Barb Quamme  
 February 19  
 February 26 Steve & Kendra Magenau

## Acolyte

February 5 Kendra Magenau  
 February 12 Kendra Magenau  
 February 19 Kendra Magenau  
 February 26 Kendra Magenau

## Lector

February 5 Sue Clausen  
 February 12 Mary Schaffer  
 February 19 Dave Pankratz  
 February 26 Sue Clausen

## Altar Care

February 5 Sheryl Cariveau  
 February 12 Sherrie Erickson  
 February 19  
 February 26 Sherri Erickson

## Liturgy Assistant

February 5 Dave Pankratz  
 February 12  
 February 19 Barb Quamme  
 February 26

## Custodian December

Week of Feb 5-11  
 Week of Feb 12-18 Marilyn Holt  
 Week of Feb 19-25  
 Week of Feb 26- March 3

## Coffee Fellowship

February 5 The Magenau's  
 February 12 Avis Larsen  
 February 19 Sheryl Cariveau & Ann Peterson  
 February 26 George & Paul

## Accompanist

February 5 Julie Deziel  
 February 12 Julie Deziel  
 February 19 Julie Deziel  
 February 26 Julie Deziel

## Communion Assistants

February 5 Dave & Lyn Pankratz  
 February 12 Mary Schaffer & Sherri Erickson  
 February 19 Sheryl Cariveau & Ann Peterson  
 February 26 Sherrie Erickson & Trevor Grainger

## Removal of snow on Sidewalk

February 5 Kendra Magenau  
 February 12 Gavin Nelson  
 February 19  
 February 26 Gavin Nelson



## Council Minutes ...

Council Meeting notes for January are not available, as the Council only met to organize for the Annual Meeting for the following week. The Annual meeting is rescheduled for February 26th as we did not have a quorum in January. For questions, please contact either Steve Clausen or Pastor Sonja.



## Your 2012 Offering Envelopes have arrived ... please pick them up.

Envelopes are available to be picked up from your mailboxes in the Narthex.. Thank you!

~ The Stewardship Team ~



## Finance Update

### December Statistics

**Average Attendance: 40**

Income: \$ 5, 853.45

Expenses: \$ 7,096.98

**Deficit: \$ 1,243.53**

## Year-Round Stewardship begins ...

Stewardship means "belonging to God" - all that we are and all that we have comes from God. We are grateful to God for it all, and responsible to God for how we use it. There is a connection between stewardship and spirituality: generous giving as a spiritual discipline helps us to grow in Christ. "Duty and delight" are both motivating factors for giving - doing what we ought to do as responsible church members, and making cheerful sacrifices out of love for God. The overarching theme of Stewardship is, "This is good news!" The biblical message of financial stewardship is:

- promising and encouraging;
- not (usually) guilt-inducing;
- a way of life;
- for many of us, it just may be the way to a better life.

In February, we will be hearing more about Stewardship as a way of life and not just something that we do in October and November within the church. Flyers for year-round stewardship practices are available in the Narthex.



# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 <b>5 Epiphany</b> 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 1	6 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	7	8 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	9	10 9:30 a.m. Gather Bible Study	11
12 <b>6 Epiphany</b> 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee	13 7:00 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. "Threads of Faith"	14 	15 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	16	17	18
19 <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee	20 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	21	22 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45 p.m. Choir practice	23	24	25
26 <b>1 Lent</b> 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 <b>Annual Meeting</b>	27 7:00 a.m. Men's Group 10:30 Care-givers Group	28	29 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship 7:45 p.m. Choir practice			



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*Come and worship with us!*

Sunday Worship with communion 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Coffee/Fellowship 10:45 a.m.



*The Beacon* is now electronic!  
If you would like to begin receiving *The Beacon* by email,  
just let the church office know!



Please mark your calendars ...



Due to not having a quorum for the January Annual meeting,  
we have had to reschedule.

**The Family of God Annual Meeting will now be held on  
February 26th at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

We hope and pray the majority of members will be able to attend  
the meeting as it is crucial that we have a quorum.