

**Our Saviour's
Lutheran
Church**

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Mason City IA
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In
Touch



FEBRUARY

Our Saviour's Staff
Pastor Emily Horrell
Secretary Gaye Scott
Organist Mary Groh
Choir Director William Grant

Monthly Newsletter
Volume 15, Issue 2
2012

Pastor Emily's Ponderings

I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me. --Psalm 13:5-6

At our house we've been reading a new library book for Valentine's day called ***Froggy's First Kiss*** by Jonathan London. The basic story line is that Froggy had a crush on Frogilina. She was the prettiest frog he'd ever seen and "when she smiled at him his insides got all soft and wiggly, like he'd had caterpillars for breakfast." He finds it's not easy being keen on someone--every time he's distracted by Frogilina's charms, whether he's hanging upside down on the monkey bars or crouching under his desk to make her a valentine, he ends up bonking his head. After too many humiliations, Froggy heads home, his heart heavy. "Was it love? Was it hunger? Was it his backpack full of valentines?" Finally, he decides that maybe it would be a lot easier if good old mom was his special valentine!

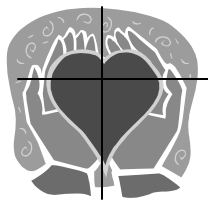
More than the cute frog, the image that grabbed me was this tiny Froggy being captivated by love and so distracted by it that it was as if his teacher and homework didn't matter. Now, of course, this love is *eros* love that comes by way of a crush or romantic love. You may be able to relate this to the first time you had fallen in love. But, what if we were to be so captivated by God's love called *agape* we were to live in such a way that we were laser-focused on it? What if we were lived in a way that God's love was the first thing that mattered to us? Even more so than our work? We know that the best image of God's love is given to us in Jesus Christ. He loved without end and it was a selfless, giving sort of love. This love didn't ask for favors in return. This love from Jesus was and is simply given endlessly and abundantly. This is the kind of love to which we, as His disciples, are called. Wikipedia states that *agape* in the New Testament refers to the fatherly love of God for humans, as well as the human reciprocal love for God; the term necessarily extends to the love of one's fellow man. Many have thought that this word represents divine, unconditional, self-sacrificing, active, volitional, and thoughtful love.

What if we were to be captivated by *agape* love? How would that change things if we were focused on unconditional, self-sacrificing love in our church & in our families? A love that is active and thoughtful? My best guess is that in order to do this and live by *agape* we may need to change, make some sacrifices, or learn to forgive. Ouch! Who wants to change? This is also God's call to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit....to live in *agape* love.

This Valentine's day it seemed appropriate to point out the topic of love, but to also suggest it's more than the romantic love of a husband bringing home a dozen roses to his wife. That gesture is

nice(& fellas we hope you're planning something nice for Valentine's...*hint, hint!*), but it's one that may only come around once in a blue moon. The love that can and will change the world is that grounded in Jesus Christ and that's *agape*--selfless love that puts God and the neighbor first. That's how Jesus lived & we are marked as His, it's a life we're called to.

In His love,
Pastor Emily



DARYL TESCH BENEFIT

Sunday, February 12, 2012

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Daryl was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in September, 2011. he has been undergoing chemotherapy and is having a Stem Cell Transplant as of January 23rd. Daryl will be in Rochester for 5-6 weeks.

FREE WILL DONATION LUNCH STARTING AT 11:30 A.M.

Serving: Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, chips, juice an dessert

Bake Sale



Quilt Raffle



Silent Auction

(need not be present to win the raffle—drawing will be held at the benefit at 5:00)

For raffle tickets or more information contact:

Teresa Roth 641-430-2562

Dawn Horgeshimer 515-290-2272

Tina Price 641-903-9201

*Thrivent Cerro Gordo Chapter #31131 to match funds
for bake sale, silent auction, lunch and monetary donations*

For monetary donations contact:

Daryl Tesch Myeloma Benefit

US Bank

Attn: Barb Brandau

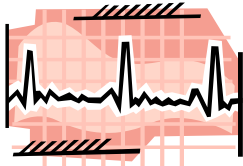
124 N Washington Ave

Mason City, IA

FEBRUARY HEALTH MATTERS

February is Heart Month. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. About every 25 seconds, an American will have a cardiac event, and about one every minute will die from one.

You can reduce your chance of developing heart disease by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk. Unfortunately, your family history plays a big part in your risk factors. But adopting a healthier lifestyle can still cut your risk considerably.



Throughout the Month of February, you will have access to information about several heart related conditions. AND you will also be able to pick up handouts on prevention, lowering risk factors, as well as learning to recognize warning signs and symptoms.

Have you found a way to participate in YES WE CAN yet? A few things have been added that will **qualify for earning food items**. **Some of you don't attend Sunday Bible classes, but go to the Tuesday night group or the new Sunday evening group. THEY COUNT, TOO.** There will be a place to record **your participation at the display table**. **Also, some of you exercise regularly at the "Y", or another location. Just keep track of each time you participate, and we'll count it. Hope you are having fun with this, and that you are improving your health at the same time!** If you haven't found a way to become involved yet, just talk to me, and we'll come up with something.

Remember to bring those unused money-off coupons from your newspapers and magazines. Also remember to check what coupons are available that you may be able to use. This is a great way to save on products you buy regularly, and to try something new at a better price.



Starting February 2, my day at the church will be Thursday instead of Wednesday, due to scheduling changes at my other workplace. GENTLE FITNESS will also be moving to Thursdays, still at 1:00 P.M.



Plans are also underway for the Women's Retreat (Break out the Sunblock and your Flip Flops.....hint, hint).

Watch your bulletins for more information about a HEALING SERVICE which will occur within the next few weeks.

Until next time,
Betty

DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLES - Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 419 N Delaware, Mason City
Thursday, February 16, 2012, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$7 (5 & under—free) - Menu: waffles, whipped cream, butter, syrups, sausages, coffee or juice

Confirmation Corner

Over the next few months we'll be lifting up and sharing some of the fall 2011 Confirmands' papers that they wrote as a final requirement to be confirmed on October 30th. Their words will reflect why they were confirmed, the Lord's Prayer or Apostles Creed, or an interview with an older adult member of our congregation. All articles and interviews are reproduced with permission of Confirmand and interviewed persons. Enjoy!

I interviewed my grandma, Mary Pedelty. There was a question that I asked, it was: was there ever a time it was hard to have faith in God? She replied by saying it was when she had a car accident, but it was also a strength for her because she asked God to help her in her time of need. I asked her how long has she believed in the Lord. She said it was hard for her to remember, but her mother had always taken her siblings and her to church when she was little. So she has always had faith in the Lord even through the hard times. When I asked her if there was another hard time to trust in the Lord, she had said when there was the death of a family member or a close friend. When was the most that you needed God? This ties in with the hard times. She replied with saying it was when her mother had ovarian cancer. And also when my grandpa got ill, when she had to take care of him and see his condition worsen day by day until he died. That would have also gone back to the question when was it hard? She answered this one question in so many way she might not have even known it. I asked this question in many different forms and got so many different answers. Even through the hard times **she has always believed in the Lord. She also said she can't remember a time when she hasn't.** For me it would be hard to not be mad at the Lord for taking things away. She said if **somebody is taken away it is not a goodbye, it's a see you soon. When he takes something away from you it is not meant to be.** Therefore you have to trust in the Lord. I also asked her if she took her children to church. She told me that she did when they were kids. She followed her mom and always taught her children to have faith in the Lord. Through all I have asked her and got an answer, she does have a very strong faith in the Lord. It also taught me something going and asking all these questions. I thought about it for awhile, and I learned that you **shouldn't be afraid of anything. The Lord put the challenge in the way because he knew you could get past the challenge.** She taught me something without ever knowing that she did **teach me something. I also learned that when you're having a hard time, always remember wherever you turn the Lord will be there. When you're in a bad mood or something happened don't let it get the best of you. Talk to the Lord and never lose faith**



in him. Even when you are having troubles with the Lord, never turn away. So in all of this never lose sight of the Lord for he will guide you through and he is always there even when you think he is not. My grandma may not remember any of my questions or the answers she gave me, but I will always remember what it taught me when I went to talk to her. No matter the situation never lose sight of the Lord because he loves you and will help you. - Shannon Klesel

Youth

Are you attending SonRise or Summer Camp? We'll have a fundraiser and general planning meeting on Sunday, February 5th at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The meeting will be approximately 30 minutes so you'll be able to make it to Sunday School classes. Hope you'll join us and bring your fundraising ideas.

Education

BOOK CLUB - will meet on February 28th at noon in the Fireside Room. We'll continue with the book *The Bible that Jesus Read* by Phillip Yancey. If you missed a session, please feel free to join us. We'd love to see some new faces!

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE STUDY - A group of OSLC members have been on the go in getting started a new group Bible study for people with developmental disabilities. We plan to meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at 6:30 p.m. for a time of worship, Bible study, and fun. If this is a ministry you'd like to be a part of, join us on Feb. 12 & 26th or contact Mike Olson at 425-2311 or Pastor Emily at 423-3363.

*By the grace of God and
the call of the Church*

Katie Jo Pals

*will be ordained
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
in Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church*

*on Sunday, the nineteenth day of February
in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve
at three thirty in the afternoon
at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2502 South Jefferson, Mason City, IA*

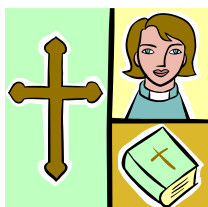
*The Reverend Harold Usgaard,
Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, presiding.*

*Your prayers and presence are requested.
All ordained, consecrated, and commissioned
ministers are invited to process.
The liturgical color of the day is red.*

Reception to follow.



CONGRATULATIONS and God's Blessings to Katie on receiving a call to
Our Savior Lutheran Church
in Kiester, Minnesota!



MUTUAL MINISTRY MEETING - February 12th between services at 9:15 a.m. Join us in the Fireside Room.

T-shirts are READY for pickup! Shirts are \$11 for sizes youth to adult large; \$13 for sizes XL-XXL. Make checks out to **OSLC** and put "t-shirts" in the memo line. **If you haven't already gotten yours, please** be sure to pick it up soon. There are several extra sizes of L & XL available that were ordered for folks who maybe forgot to order. Colors available are magenta or blue. Please call the office at 423-3363 for details.

SNOW—it's finally here!

Be sure to check out television stations KIMT Channel 3, or KAAL Channel 6, or radio stations KGLO, KIAI, KLSS, KRIB or KYTC "The Blaze" for all weather closings.



WORSHIP & COUNCIL - Please make note that our meetings have been changed to February 7th so that all of you can celebrate Valentine's Day with your loved ones on the second Tuesday, Feb. 14th. Worship team will meet at 5:45 p.m. on Feb. 7th and council at



STEWARDSHIP

The most important mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. However, we are also called to minister to those in need, to provide not only spiritual support, but also to provide for physical needs: food, clothing, shelter. We are called to educate, to comfort, to assist in times of disaster, and to provide services for the elderly, the disabled, and others in need.

Each man should give what he has decided

In his heart to give,

not reluctantly or under compulsion,

for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

COMMITMENT SUNDAY - You should have received by now your Stewardship Commitment information for 2012. Join us at the February 12th worship services to bring your offerings forward to God in our special Commitment Service. We will welcome Rev. Mark Holmer back to worship this year to give the Stewardship gospel message.



Our Saviour's Family News...

God's richest blessings be with Samantha Harris & Douglas Williams who will be married on February 17th.

God's richest blessings be with Kristi Winter & Terry McGrane who will be married on February 25th.



We welcome to God's family through the gift of Baptism Finn James Ellertson on February 5th.

SOUP SUPPER - Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you're willing to prepare a Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper. Supper begins at 5 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m.



LENT begins this month on February 22nd with our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. Beginning February 29th & every week of Lent **we'll meet at 5:00**



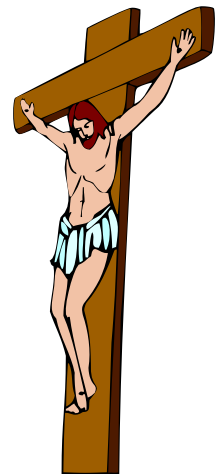
p.m. for a soup supper and 6:30 p.m. worship. **We'll be trying a new**

LENTEN THEME: Our Theme will be *Unbinding the Gospel*. The Adult Sunday School class will be embarking on an 8-week journey of prayer, reflection, and study beginning on *February 19th at 9:15 a.m.* The book is called *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese. Please take note that Adult Sunday School class will meet for a full hour beginning at 9:15. We will need that full hour each week to get through our lessons. Weekly attendance will be needed to get the most out of this book. **SIGN UP** for the book by February 12th in the fellowship hall. **If you aren't a normal S.S. attender, please consider joining us for this session—you won't want to miss it!**

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Meets at Our Saviour's in February. We are just beginning a new study on the books of Ruth and Esther. Interested in joining us??? See Keith or Mary Lou.

URGENT!!! We need 6 more people to go to the Passion Play at North Heights Lutheran Church in St. Paul on March 31st to get a 15% total discount. We have extended the deadline till February 5th, so you need to sign up in the fellowship hall **NOW** to take advantage of this exciting opportunity. **Don't miss it! We'll also stop for a meal on the way up.**



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP OUTING - Sat., Feb. 4

- Meet at Church 1:30 p.m.
- Roller Skate-Roller City 2:00-4:00 \$5
- Bowling-Mystic Lanes 4:30-6:00 \$5
- Pizza at Godfather's 6:30-8:00 FREE
- Back to Church 8:30 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME - ANY AGE!



60+ KOINONIA

We will meet on February 9th for a potluck at 12:30 p.m. Please bring a hot dish or salad—dessert, beverages, and table service will be furnished.



EWOKS

(Evening Without the Kiddos) will gather on Friday, February 10th at the church at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided at the church. We plan to attend supper together at a local restaurant. For any questions, please contact Jill Hill at 422-9850.

Thank You. . .

- * *Thank you to Ron Rachut and our confirmation students Taylor & Ashley Klouse, Zach Stephenson, and Autumn Hill for putting together the delicious free congregational breakfast at the end of January! It was great and we thank you!*
- * *Thank you to our ongoing cleaning crew who has helped to keep our church sparkling clean! We appreciate you all taking the time to volunteer on the upkeep of our church building.*
- * *Thank you to Bart Pals for sharing his gift of faith in making new stained glass in our fellowship hall. There are a total of 4 new stained glass windows on the west and east sides of the fellowship hall. Be sure to check them out today!*
- * *I would like to thank everyone who helped share the love of Christ and the joy of giving by supporting Our Saviour's Sharing Tree. I was amazed to see how our members opened their hearts to give this family a very Merry Christmas. I was so proud of our congregation as I delivered these gifts to the Salvation Army office. I walked through the doors with a large box overflowing with gifts and the eyes of the ladies in the office lit up. When I said there was more their mouths dropped open. After 4 or 5 more trips they were speechless. I only wish we could have seen the children on Christmas morning. Thank you all so much. I am so proud to be a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and you all should be, too. With thanks and praise, Brenda Simon*
- * *Many thanks to all who called, sent cards, brought in food and gave many hugs at the time of Dick's death. Every kind gesture was very much appreciated. A large thank you to Pastor Emily for the many hours she spend with us at the ER, hospice, and funeral home. She was really there for our family. Again, thanks to all our church family. - Barb Berner and family*



Worship Assistants for FEBRUARY

Readers	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolytes	Barb Berner	Betty Maassen
Ushers	Ashley Klouse	Autumn Hill
Communion Servers	Skip Reynolds/Dale Karsjens	Bart & Logan Pals
	Cindy Stephenson	Sue Bowers

Please join **Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp** for Gala 2012 on Saturday, Feb. 25. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres; dinner is served at 7:00. Enjoy live music by the Al Welsh Orchestra as well a a silent and live auction to support Riverside's growing ministry. Tickets are \$100 per person. Call the Riverside Office at 515-733-5271 for tickets. Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp is north of Story City at 3001 Riverside Road.