

# News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

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## Christian Symbol

**40** This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

**VDMA** "Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum" Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," this motto of the Lutheran arm of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most powerful defenders, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments of his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in defending their beliefs.

## Dust to Dust & Ashes to Ashes

**M**any non-Lutherans wonder why their Lutheran friends or family members wear ashes on their forehead at the beginning of Lent. Are they showing off? Are they trying to stand out? Is it some weird secret church ritual? What does it mean? Should I get them too?

There are three reasons why Lutherans go to church to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. First, the ashes remind people of their sinfulness. Second, the ashes remind people of their mortality. Third, the ashes remind people that they have been redeemed. Let's unpack this a bit.

Since ancient times, God's people have used ashes as a sign of humble repentance (e.g. Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Daniel 9:3; Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13). This tradition was carried on by the early church and remains an important tradition today. When one willingly goes up to a pastor and receives ashes on his/her forehead,

they are admitting that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation. They are admitting that they have sinned not only against their neighbors, but against God Himself. The ashes demonstrate that without God, all people are spiritually dead. The ashes remind the wearer of their need to repent and confess in order to be turned back to God. The ashes demonstrate our pleading that the Lord would purify us. The ashes serve as a tangible and visible sign of our failure to love God as much as He loves us.

The receiving of ashes on Ash Wednesday also remind people of their mortality, which is the direct result of God's condemnation of our sin. God said to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ashes serve as a solemn reminder that the price of sin is death. Man cannot escape death. Often, people today feel as if they are invincible. It's easy to feel like we're at the top of the world, capable of doing anything that we desire. We keep ourselves busy doing "good" things, but fail to recognize that in reality we are dead men walking. People don't like to think about death. Our culture has seemingly sterilized death. We make every attempt to



*continued on page 2*



## February

- 14 Ron and Linda Meyer
- 17 Judy Slough
- 22 Enzo Estes
- 23 Noah Estes
- 24 Sara Anderegg
- 24 Linda Meyer
- 24 Cindy Niebur

“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”

—C.S. Lewis



## Church Office Schedule

Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. Phone number is 573-836-8141

avoid death. Death is uncomfortable. And, that’s why ashes are so important. They are the physical reminder that God created man from the dust of the earth and one day all men will return to the dust of the earth. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust. The ashes force us to remember that we are merely mortal and that God alone is sovereign and reigns for all eternity.

Ashes also tell us the good news of the Gospel! You see, ashes aren’t just smeared randomly or haphazardly across people’s foreheads. The ashes are given in the shape of the cross. In receiving the ashes, we remember that our Lord Jesus took on the fullness of our humanity. He who was sinless became our sin. Jesus the Christ was crucified on a cross. He was crucified for you. Then Jesus conquered death itself through His resurrection. He was resurrected for you. In doing so, He has taken the ashes of our past and created in us new life, allowing us to live forever in the holy presence of God! He has redeemed His children, making us clean and new. Through the cross of Christ, the power of death has been destroyed. Through the cross there is life. The cross-shaped ashes on our foreheads proclaim the good news that sin and death have been conquered through the cross of Christ.



In many Lutheran Ash Wednesday services, the Lord’s Supper immediately follows the receiving of ashes. We, who were once dead in our sins, we who deserve to die, come to the Lord’s Table literally wearing the cross of Christ. Here, at the Lord’s table, those who have humbled themselves before the Lord, who have admitted their sin, who know they deserve death, are instead given the new life that is only found through the body and blood of our loving Lord Jesus. Here, at the Lord’s table, those marked with the cross of Christ are raised up, strengthened through God’s mercy, love, and grace, and sent forth into the world to proclaim the good news!

This year, you are encouraged to attend this special occasion on **Wednesday, February 14 at 6 p.m.** in which we humbly come before the Lord, repent of our sinful ways and receive the free gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. Interestingly, the ashes Lutherans receive are traditionally made out of the palm branches used previously on Palm Sunday, a day when people rejoiced and praised Jesus only days before they turned on him and yelled “Crucify Him!” (Matthew 27:22; Mark 15:13; Luke 23:21; John 19:6) This serves as a powerful reminder that people are sinful, death is real, but Resurrection Day (Easter) is coming! Come, all are welcome. All are in need of salvation. Let the Lord use the ashes of your past to create in you a clean heart and new life in Him.

Reprinted from [lutheranlensesblog](http://lutheranlensesblog.com)



## Lenten Midweek Series

### Living Among the Trees!

**February 14, Ash Wednesday:** Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

**February 21:** Great Trees of Mamre near the Machpelah

**February 28:** Oak at Ophrah

**March 6:** Jesse's Tree

**March 13:** Tree of the Lord's Planting

**March 20:** Good Trees Bearing Good Fruit, Bad Trees Bearing Bad Fruit

**Maundy Thursday, March 28:** Fig Trees

**Good Friday, March 29:** Tree of the Cross

**Easter Sunday, March 31:** Tree of Life

I hope you will join us for this unique Lenten series about Biblical Trees! All Midweek Services begin at 6 p.m., beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and bring your Valentine!

## 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.

From ChurchArtOnline

## Hospitalized?

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, have experienced a death in the family, are home bound, or scheduled to go to the hospital, please contact Pastor Brandt (580-421-8108). Please keep in mind that privacy laws also limit the information hospitals can share with us. Pastor Brandt is available for any emergency, or any issue you and your loved ones might be having. Remember, our pastor is here to serve you.



**Our Elders:** Jeff Hedberg (573-819-4446), Jeff Emery (816-745-0229) and Larry Trick (573-286-4423) will assist in helping the pastor follow up on any issue, not just hospitalization for you, a loved one or a death in the family.

Answering Objections to the Faith:  
The Basics of Christian Apologetics  
**Sharing the Faith With Unbelievers**

**W**e can share our faith with unbelievers along similar lines as believers. We don't need to put them on the spot by asking them questions. But it is easy to tell others that the evidence for Christianity is strong. It's easy to tell others that the historical evidence that Jesus rose from the dead is truly impressive.

When we tell people these important truths, we are telling them something they have almost certainly never heard before. It's amazing but true that we live in a country where Christianity is all around us, but most people have not heard the overwhelming evidence that Jesus has actually risen from the dead.

As a result, it won't appear to others that we are preaching to them when we tell them about the evidence for Christianity. We will simply be giving them information - information that is

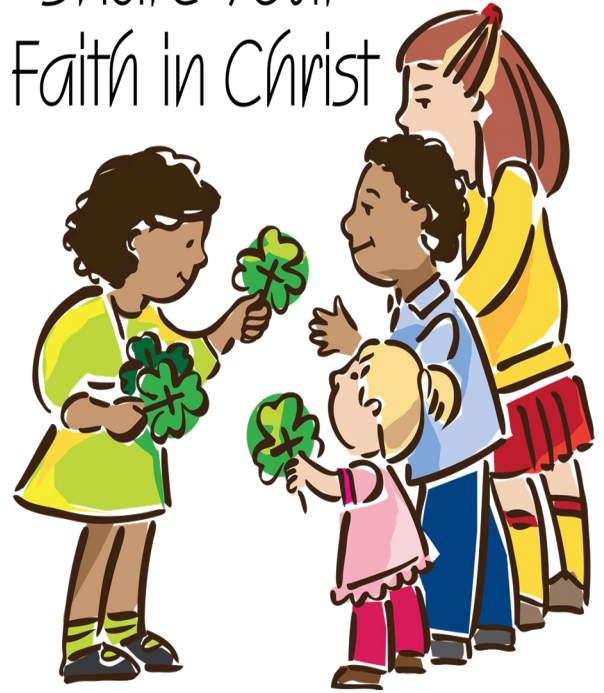
new to them and is fascinating -that has extraordinary importance for their well-being.

Most people are curious and like learning something new. When we tell others about the evidence for the resurrection, we appeal to their natural curiosity. We do need to be ready to back up what we say. Christians who understand the evidence are better equipped to share their faith than others who aren't aware of the evidence.

The apostles used evidence extensively in their mission work. They gave their listeners information that was new to them, explaining and proving to them that God had visited our planet, resulting in the solving of the problem of sin.

We, as well, can tell others that it really happened-that God

Share Your  
Faith in Christ



as the incarnate Son has come, lived, and died in our place so we can be forgiven and restored into fellowship with Him now and forever through eternity.

The apostles included convincing evidence to demonstrate that all they said was true – that God raised Jesus to life to prove He is the Messiah. We should do the same; we should tell others the convincing proof that Jesus really did rise from the dead and that He is alive today. There is nothing that anyone can hear that is more important!

from The Reason I Believe by Allen Quist



# Devotion for February



(Jesus said) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive the greater condemnation."  
Matthew 23:14

**W**ith those words in Matthew 23, Jesus came down pretty heavy on folks who pick on others who are hard pressed to protect and defend themselves. To help the helpless -- maybe that's part of the reason why Jesus went out of His way to reach out to the lepers and tax collectors. He knew if they were going to be given assistance, He was the One who would have to do it. Apparently, the people in Weston, Missouri, feel the same way.

In October, one of their own, Marine Sergeant C.J. Sadell, was killed in an ambush which took place in Afghanistan. Recently, his body was brought home for burial.

Sadly, a group from Westboro Baptist Church decided they would disrupt and picket the funeral. It was something the group has done before -- with painful and embarrassing consequences. This time Westboro didn't fare so well. The people of Weston, joined by hundreds

who had come from as far away as Australia, decided nobody was going to pick on their widow and her fatherless children. To prevent the protesters from having easy access to the funeral, people parked their cars in a



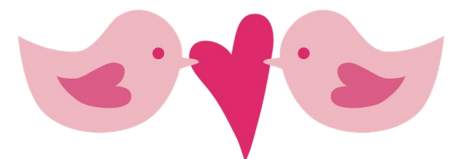
way which took up all the available spots. Then, while half the folks made a human shield at the funeral home, the others lined the intersection where the funeral procession had to drive. Way to go people of Weston!

Without violence or verbal harangues, you have taken a stand to protect those who needed your assistance. It was a brilliant show of community spirit, a

solid Christian example, and a witness to what can be done to make a difference when people set their minds to it. It is an example that other Christians may wish to emulate. All of our communities have those who need assistance, and there is no group more qualified to give that assistance than those from the Christian Church. After all, did Jesus not assist each one of us? Did not He help us when we were helpless? Is He not, even now, protecting us from those forces which desire to hurt us?

**The Prayer:** Dear Lord, in appreciation for Jesus and all He has done and following the example He has given, may I assist as many as I can, as often as I can, as much as I can. In the Savior's Name I ask it. Amen. In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

From the 2021 Lutheran Hour Ministries Devotion by Pastor Ken Klaus (Pastor Klaus 1948-2023 was former speaker of The Lutheran Hour® Ministries [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) archived devotions)



# Prayer and Witnessing

(cont'd)

Luther wrote in the Large Catechism, “We pray that we may find entrance into the kingdom of grace [John 3:5], be made partakers of redemption [Colossians 1:12-14], and be led to it by the Holy Spirit [Romans 8:14], so that we may altogether remain forever in the one kingdom now begun” (Part III, paragraph 52). He goes on to explain, “For the coming of God’s kingdom happens to us in two ways:

- (a) here in time through Word and faith [Matthew 13]; and
- (b) in eternity through revelation [Luke 19:11; 1Peter 1:4-5].

Now we pray for both these things. We pray that the kingdom of God may come to those who are not yet in it, and, by daily growth that it may come to us who have received it, both now and hereafter in eternal life” (Large Catechism, Part III, paragraph 53).

We know that God’s kingdom can’t come through our efforts, but that it comes through the working of the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit uses us to bring His Word of life and salvation to other people, when we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we are actually praying for what Jesus called us to pray when He said “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

In short, we are praying that the Lord would use us and other Christians to proclaim the Gospel so other people would hear, believe, and be received into His everlasting kingdom.

by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry  
Submitted by Russell Schulz



## Support Schedules

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
<b>February</b>	Jeff Emery	Penny Hansen
<b>March</b>	Larry Trick	Deb Mayes
<b>April</b>	Jeff Hedberg	
<b>May</b>	Jeff Emery	Susan Kral
<b>June</b>	Larry Trick	
<b>July</b>	Jeff Hedberg	Cindy Niebur
<b>August</b>	Jeff Emery	Paula Emery
<b>September</b>	Larry Trick	Diane Borgmann
<b>October</b>	Jeff Hedberg	Janet Bartels
<b>November</b>	Jeff Emery	Diane Borgmann first two Sun Dawn Hedberg last two Sun
<b>December</b>	Larry Trick	Diane Borgmann first two Sun Dawn Hedberg last two Sun
<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Gary Brandt	
<b>Organists</b>	Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab	

### Ushers

1st Sunday	Robert & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels
2nd Sunday	Earl Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Diane Borgmann, Rodney Schulz
4th Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz
5th Sunday	Robert Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg

### Counters

1st Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg
2nd Sunday	Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Brett & Cindy Niebur/Pudge McCloud
4th Sunday	Matt & Deb Mayes
5th Sunday	Pudge McCloud

THANK  
YOU



A couple more pictures from the LWML Christmas party held on December 8.

## Mark Your Calendar

The **January Voters' meeting** will be held after worship on **February 18** at 10:30 a.m.

The April Voters meeting will be held on April 21 after worship at 10:30 a.m.

## The Realm of the Impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom

## Church Bulletin Bloopers





# Stewardship

## Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22). Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder.

With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship.



We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

Reprinted from the Stewardship website

And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.

Leviticus 24:17





# WORSHIP



## SCHEDULES

Sunday Worship\* 9:00 am  
 Bible Class/Sun. School 10:30 am

### Wednesday Evening Services:

- Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm
- During Lent 6:00 pm
- During Advent 6:00 pm

### Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday\* 6:00 pm
- Good Friday Service 6:00 pm
- Easter Sunday\* 9:00 am

### Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm

### Christmas Eve

Evening Service 6:00 pm

*\*Holy Communion*

## The Lord's Servants at Peace

- **Elders—Monday before Council Meeting 9:30 am**  
**Chairman:** Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Larry Trick
- **Council—2nd Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm**
  - ◆ **President:** Bob Hansen
  - ◆ **Vice President:** Brock Kliewer
  - ◆ **Secretary:** Susan Kral
  - ◆ **Financial Secretary:** Brett Niebur
  - ◆ **Treasurer:** Peggy Callahan
- **Stewardship:** Dawn Hedberg
- **Evangelism:** Russell Schulz
- **Education:** Open
- **Organists:** Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab
- **Trustees:** Chuck Kral, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan
- LWML—2nd Monday from March—Nov. 9:30 am**  
**Co-President:** Dawn Hedberg and Cindy Niebur  
**Altar Guild:** Dawn Hedberg  
**Bible Studies** As announced
- *Elected Offices*

## January 23 Council Minutes

Vice President Brock Kliewer called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Jeff Hedberg opened with prayer.

The following board members were present: **President** Bob Hansen, **Vice President** Brock Kliewer, **Board of Elders** Jeff Hedberg, **Trustee** Chuck Kral, **Evangelism** Russell Schulz, and **Church Members** Pudge McClure, Larry Trick, and Rodney Schulz

**Absent:** **Pastor** Pastor Brandt, **Treasurer** Peg Callahan, **Financial Sec.** Brett Niebur, **Secretary** Susan Kral, **Cemetery** Diane Borgmann, and **Stewardship** Dawn Hedberg

The minutes from the December 2023 meeting were approved as printed.

**Financial Secretary:** Brett reported that giving is behind last year's income. His report was accepted and approved.

**Treasurer:** Peg submitted her report.

- All bills have been paid.
- The \$5,000.00 payment for the new library window was taken from the church extension fund.

Her report was accepted and approved.

**Elders:** Jeff reported the following:

- He, Bob Hansen and Chuck Kral will meet with Eagle Security to review the contract for our fire and burglar alarm systems. Needed repairs and updates will be made.
- Larry Trick has volunteered to replace Earl Hartenstein as an elder. The council approved the change. Larry placed letters in the mailboxes of the people for whom he has become elder.
- We thank Earl for his many years of faithful service.

The report was accepted and approved.

**Trustees:** Chuck reported the following:

- John and Sons Tree Removal cut down two trees. The cost was \$400.00. The wood was removed by people who needed firewood.
- The library window will be installed on January 24.

Chuck's report was accepted and approved.

**Education:** Vacant

**Evangelism:** Russell reported the following:

- The cost of sending outreach cards in December was \$125.49.
- Two Life Line Screenings will be held here in 2024.
- He is considering sending Easter and Christmas greetings to Missouri Synod churches in our area inviting visitors to the lake to attend our services.
- Russell updated our Facebook page. He removed Richard Anderegg as a pastor. He added Larry Trick as an elder.

Russell's report was accepted and approved.

**Stewardship:** There was no report.

**Member at Large:** Vacant

**Cemetery:** There was no report

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Brandt reported the following:

- He led eight worship services in December. These included four Sunday services, three Advent services and a Christmas Eve service.
- He visited Shelia Hartenstein three times at Lake Regional Hospital and took communion to her home.
- The January Circuit Pastors' Conference was cancelled due to weather.
- The January 28 and February 4 services will be covered by visiting pastors while he is on vacation.
- February 14 is Ash Wednesday. He is preparing for the eight Lenten services. He will coordinate bulletin preparation with Pudge. He asks for prayers for wisdom and good health.
- He would like to see more council members and church members attend Matt Mayes' Sunday Bible study. Matt is a gifted teacher and works hard to prepare his lessons.
- He led a funeral service for a dear friend in Ada, Oklahoma on Jan. 23.
- He welcomes questions and phone calls from all members.

His report was accepted and approved.

**President's Reports:**

**Old Business:** The fire alarm system needs to be repaired. The burglar and fire alarm systems are two separate systems.

**New Business:**

- Our regularly scheduled January meeting was postponed twice due to weather.
- The January Voters' Meeting has been moved to Feb.18, 2024 because of weather. The next Voters' Meeting will be held on April 21, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Jeff Hedberg led the closing with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Kral Secretary and  
Pudge McCloud Acting Secretary

## 10 Biblical Ways to Love

1. **Listen without interrupting.** "To answer before listening — that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13)
  2. **Speak without accusing.** "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19)
  3. **Give without selfishness.** "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
  4. **Pray without ceasing.** "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
  5. **Answer without arguing.** "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
  6. **Share without pretending.** "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
  7. **Enjoy without complaining.** "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
  8. **Trust without wavering.** "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
  9. **Forgive without punishing.** "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
  10. **Promise without forgetting.** "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).
- From various websites; all Scriptures NIV



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.  <b>Mites Collection</b>	<b>5</b> Elders Mtg 9:30 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	<b>12</b> NO LWML Meeting	<b>13</b> Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Service 6 p.m.  Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Worship 9 am  Voters' Meeting to be held after Worship	<b>19</b> Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Lenten Serv 6 p.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Lenten Serv 6 p.m.	<b>29</b>		



*News of Peace* is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-8141; Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: plccamdenton@gmail.com; Website: www.plccamdenton.org

**Our Mission:** "We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."