First Lutheran Church

105 Village Road

Hot Springs, AR 71913

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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First Lutheran Church - LCMS

105 Village Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913 501-525-0322 E-mail: office@flchsar.com Website: www.flchsar.com Worship Services—Fridays @ 6 p.m. Saturdays @ 4 p.m. Sundays @ 8:30 & 11 a.m.



FIRST WORD



CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH WITH JERRY & VALERIE BACKUS

We'll be serving a special lunch on Sunday, March 9 following the 11:00 service (12:30 pm.) Jerry and Valerie Backus will be here with Baby Tommy the week of March 5-11. They are traveling the coun-

try to visit supporters, and have a doctor visit in Detroit. Tommy's right eye is developing well and no surgery is needed at this time! Everyone is invited to come for fellowship and to support this missionary team! They have a supply of soaps, lotions, deodorant, and even shaving cream, all made from natural ingredients in Tan-

LENT to EASTER!

Mid-Week Lenten Services each Wednesday 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Our Lenten mid-week series "Guided to the Cross" begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Throughout the Holy Season of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust, and perseverance. Each week, in our Lenten services, it will be revealed how Jesus and His cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior. Join us each Wednesday!

*	March 5	Guided to Forgiveness
••	i iai Cii J	Quided to 1 of giveriess

March 12 Guided to Hope

March 19 Guided to Love

March 26 Guided to Peace Guided to Trust ❖ April 2

Guided to Perseverance ❖ April 9

Holy Week Services

+ Maundy Thursday April 17 10:30 am Traditional 6:30 pm Contemporary

+ Good Friday April 18

10:30 am Traditional 6:30 pm Contemporary

+ Easter Sunday: April 19 & 20

Saturday-4 pm Sunday—8:30 & 11 am





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Registration begins soon!!

lune 16-20, 2025 5:30—8:00 p.m.

See more details on this Alaskan adventure theme on page 5!

Today's Light Bible Reading

Week 62-March 3-8 Monday Lamentations 2-3 Tuesdav Lamentations 4-5 Wednesday Ezekiel 1-2 Thursday Ezekiel 3-5 Friday Ezekiel 6-7

Week 63--March 10-15 Monday Ezekiel 10:1-11:25 Ezekiel 12:1—13:23 Tuesday Wednesday Ezekiel 14:1—15:8 Ezekiel 16:1-17:24 Thursday Ezekiel 18:1-19:14 Friday Saturday Ezekiel 20:1-21:32

Ezekiel 8-9

Week 64-March 17 -22

Ezekiel 22:1-23:49 Monday Ezekiel 24:1-17 Tuesday Wednesday Ezekiel 25:1-27:36 Thursday Ezekiel 28:1-26 Ezekiel 29:1-32:32 Friday Saturday Ezekiel 33:1-34:31

Week 65-March 24-29 Ezekiel 35:1-36:38 Monday Ezekiel 37:1-39:29 Tuesday Ezekiel 40:1-42:20 Wednesday Ezekiel 43:1-27 Thursday Ezekiel 44:1-31 Friday

Ezekiel 45:1-46:24

Saturday

Week 66— March 31—April 5 Monday Ezekiel 47-48 Tuesday Daniel 1 Wednesday Daniel 2 Thursday Daniel 3-4 Friday Daniel 5 Saturday Daniel 6

Week 67--April 7-12

Monday Daniel 7-8 Tuesday Daniel 9 Daniel 10-12 Wednesday Thursday Hosea 1-2 Hosea 3-4 Friday Hosea 5-6

> Week 68-April 14-19 Hosea 7-8

Monday Hosea 9-10 Tuesday Wednesday Hosea 11-12 Thursday Hosea 13 Friday Hosea 14 Saturday Joel 1

Week 69-April 21 -- 26

Monday Tuesday Joel 3 Wednesday Amos 1-2 Thursday Amos 3 Friday Amos 4-5 Saturday Amos 6

Week 70—April 28—May 3

Monday Amos 7: 1-17 Tuesday Amos 8: 1-14 Wednesday Amos 9: 1-15 Thursday Obadiah 1-21 Friday Jonah 1: 1-2:10 Jonah 3:1-4:11

FIRST WORD Page 2



This month we begin the season of Lent as we follow lesus to the cross where our redemption was won for us by his once for all sacrifice for our sins. I love this season because it helps us to make and keep the

main thing, the main thing! Our connection to the cross, to Jesus, and to his gift of salvation is the main thing in life. Without it we are doomed to destruction, now and forever. But with it we are blessed to live each day as God's forgiven children and as heirs to eternal life with him in heaven where we will be blessed forevermore.

This is why the season of Lent is mostly a somber and sobering time of year. It is somber and sobering because it was our sins that led lesus to the cross to suffer and die. It brings to the front and center of our lives that sin, our sin, is serious business that had to be dealt with and punished to the full extent of the Law. It also opens our eyes anew to the fact that there is still sin in our lives that needs to be dealt with God's way. We need to acknowledge our sin and turn from it in repentant faith so we can find grace and mercy in our time of need at the cross. Repentance is one of my favorite words in the Bible because it implies a turning away from sin to live wholeheartedly for God, to obey Him in every area of our life. In fact, the Old Testament word "repent" was God's way of inviting His people to "Return to Him."

The season of Lent is also a joyful and impactful time of year. As we "Return to the Lord," we find that His arms are open wide to receive us, forgive us, bless us, affirm us, restore us, heal us, and empower us to live as His chosen, redeemed, set aside people, who now carry His presence into the world. In the season of Lent, amazing things happen as dead things come alive, broken

things are made new, and empty things are filled to overflowing with the life He gives. All of this happens as we come to a place in our lives where we see the cross for what it is and see Jesus for who He is.

Therefore, I want to invite you to join I am the resurrection me on this Lenten journey where we and the life." "Return to the Lord" in a wholehearted way, in repentance, in faith, in awe, in joy, in obedience, and in thanksgiving. Join me as we...

Return to the Lord in His Word! Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is there throughout the whole Bible! Just look for Him! That is his invitation to us in returning to him. If we will but seek him in His Word, we will find him. Start this season of Lent by turning off the news and turning your eyes toward Jesus in his Word. Start each day reading the Today's Light Bible readings assigned for each day. Open your Portals of Prayer and meditate on

his goodness and grace that is shared in each day's devotion. Attend a Bible Class or two, or three, each week (we offer several throughout the week) and join your brothers and sisters as together we seek more ways to "Return to the Lord," and to encourage each other in

Return to the Lord in Prayer! Prayer is one of the best ways to "Return to the Lord," as it builds intimacy with him. He is just waiting for us to turn to him in this way that is intimate and personal. We can return to him with words of praise, thanks, honor, glory, humility, and requests to see his Kingdom come and his will be done in our lives, church, nation, and world. What a blessing this is. You can even join me every Tuesday at 7:00 am in the sanctuary for a time of intimate prayer.

Return to the Lord in Worship! As we begin this Lenten season, we will hold our Lenten services every Wednesday at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. This is in addition to our worship services on Friday at 6:00 pm, Saturday at 4:00 pm, and Sunday at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Worship is where we have the joy and honor as God's people to gather in His name and draw near to Him as He draws near to us.

Return to the Lord in Service! We have all been created, redeemed, and blessed in unique and personal ways for the purpose of serving our Lord according to the plans he has for each of us in this world. Serving is what God's people do with their lives as an expression of obedience, thanks, and praise to him! We serve because we want to honor him with our lives devoted to Him. We serve because people need Jesus too!

I want to encourage you to invite people to join you on this Lenten journey. People are actually hungry for a relationship with God or New a deeper one than they are experiencing at Life in the moment. Be bold in stepping out to invite Christ people to more of Jesus. I will be there with you every step of the way. Can't wait to get started!

Pastor Jon

NEW MEMBERS



1/26 Glenda Wallace **Kenneth Cullier**

> 2/23 Pam DePew **Doris Roberts**

3/2 Michelle Williamson



Ron Clark	3/1
Oliver Steven-Assheuer	3/1
Odis Burroughs	3/4
Lin Carnahan	3/4
Linda Rath	3/7
Wayne Rowland	3/8
Emmerson Walls	3/10
William (Jack) Crosby	3/11
Barney Bond	3/12
Kay Helmich	3/16
Rob Snider	3/16
Mason Wittnebert	3/17
Stan Clayton	3/18
Michael Hughley	3/19
Clyde Hughley	3/21
Jennifer Shelor	3/22
Jessica Ellis	3/23
Courtney Martin	3/23
Dona Smith	3/25
Terry Maghan	3/27
Kevin Archer	3/30



3/1 3/1 3/4 3/4 3/7 3/8 3/10	March: Jordan & Beth Lynch Jason & Angela Looney Doug & Judy Field Don & Carrie Thompson	3/13—6 yrs. 3/20—20yrs. 3/23—52 yrs 3/30—29 yrs
3/11 3/12 3/16 3/16 3/17 3/18	April: Jacob & Erica Stoker Wayne & Donna Rowland Paul & Nancy Roberts Steve & Bea Sims	4/13—1 yr 4/16—41 yrs. 4/19—55 yrs. 4/24—42 yrs.

PROVIDING ALTAR FLOWERS:

choose to provide one or both.

Each week the fresh flowers on our altar are

provided by people remembering or celebrat-

ing special people and events in their lives.

The Flower Calendar is located in the office

hallway. Each bouquet is \$28. You can

BITTHDAYS	8
Vicki Holzhauer	4/1
Elaine Raines	4/1
Elizabeth Vaughn	4/1
Ginny Boudro	4/3
Arin Thompson	4/4
Elliot McNew	4/5
Trish Masini	4/6
Westin Vaughn	4/8

Elaine Raines	4/1
Elizabeth Vaughn	4/1
Ginny Boudro	4/3
Arin Thompson	4/4
Elliot McNew	4/5
Trish Masini	4/6
Westin Vaughn	4/8
Suann Clayton	4/8
Sharon Ludwig	4/1
Walker Vaughn	4/13
Caren Knabe	4/1
Linda Thompson	4/1
Andrea Fletcher	4/1
Leo Gustafson	4/18
Alan Barthel	4/2
Lauren McNew	4/2
Kim Wilkinson	4/29
Duke Wittnebert	4/30

FALCO'S CHILDREN'S VILLAGE- TANZANIA NEWS: Last month, we reached out in desperation regarding our broken water pump, which supplies water to our entire village, livestock, and farmland. Thanks to your generous support and God's grace, we were able to cover the cost of the repairs! We are so thankful that it only cost \$1,000 and we now have running water again. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

While we rejoice in the blessings we have received, we must also share our urgent need for ongoing financial support. Our monthly budget remains over \$20,000 to provide food, clothing, education, staff salaries, and maintenance for our growing family. While one-time donations are deeply appreciated, it is our faithful monthly supporters who sustain us and allow us to plan for the future.



We are reaching out especially to those who may feel called to join us in this journey as a monthly donor. Whether it is \$25, \$50, or more each month, your steady support ensures we can continue to care for these children and invest in long-term sustainability. By going to Falco's website: www.falcoschildrenafrica.org you can see different support options.

If you choose to partner with us monthly, we will gladly keep you updated with reports, pictures, and specific ways your support is making a difference. There are so many areas where help is needed—our farm, agricultural improvements, livestock care, plumbing, and general maintenance. We also ask anyone with ideas to help us grow.

LAWN CARE NEEDED:

Now that Spring has arrived, the grass will start growing! Our church members take care of keeping our church property beautiful during the growing months. We have good lawn mowers and other lawn equipment to be used by volunteers. Please consider helping us this spring/summer! Contact Pastor Anthony for more information.



FIRST WORD

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MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Bruin Snider: General Fund by Mike & Stacey Steven-Assheuer In memory of Robin Wilson: General Fund by Juanita Metzler, Ann Conrad, Randal & Peggy Brockett, Nancy Rabeneck; Youth Fund by Nancy Slay



In memory of Sherry Buck: General Fund by Juanita Metzler, Randal & Peggy Brockett, Darlene Collins, Hardman Lumber of Arkadelphia: Bereavement Fund by Odis & Lorene Burroughs; Touch Team by Nancy Slay; Prayer Shawl Ministry by Kenny & Christy Allen

In memory of Gordon Schuster: General Fund by Juanita Metzler

THANK YOU:

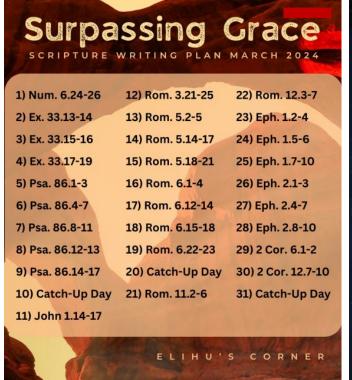
I want to thank Pastors Jon & Anthony for all the visits, communion, and prayers during Sherry's illness. When you brought Communion to us we were always rejuvenated by God's love and power. Thank you for the inspiring funeral service. You did my best friend and love of my life right by the words you spoke. Thank you to all First Lutheran members who attended. God bless you.

To the Touch Team: Thank you for taking time to prepare food for us. It was greatly appreciated. Especially to Odis and Lorene for bringing it to our home in Bismarck. May God bless you all. You are doing a great work for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Sincerely, Randall Buck & the Ytzen Family

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS: The benefits that come from having Thrivent financial products are such a blessing for our congregation. Members can lead two Action Teams each year to serve our church family or people in the community. "Choice Dollars" are given to each member and can be designated to the charity of their choice. If you would like to lead an Action Team in 2025 and need ideas for service projects our congregation can work with, please contact Karen Beyer. We used member Action Teams for the Falco's Chili Fundraiser and the Parent-Teacher Dinner at Langston. We are also buying new basketballs for Next-Level Sports. Service projects can also be done for individuals in need Let's use these benefits to bless others!

Reminder: 2024 CHOICE DOLLARS need to be directed by March 31, 2025.

Scripture Writing for March & April! Join us in writing these Bible verses each day!



MAGN	IFY THE	LORD
APRIL 2024		
1) Psalm 34.1-3	11) Psalm 34.14	21) Luke 1.50-51
2) Psalm 34.4-5	12) Psalm 34.15	22) Luke 1.52
3) Psalm 34.6	13) Psalm 34.16	23) Luke 1.53
4) Psalm 34.7	14) Psalm 34.17	24) Luke 1.54-55
5) Psalm 34.8	15) Psalm 34.18	25) Phil. 1.12-14
6) Psalm 34.9	16) Psalm 34.19-20	26) Phil. 1.15-17
7) Psalm 34.10	17) Psalm 34.21-22	27) Phil. 1.18
8) Psalm 34.11	18) Luke 1.46-47	28) Phil. 1.19-20
9) Psalm 34.12-13	19) Luke 1.48-49	29) 1 Peter 2.9-10
10) Catch-Up Day	20) Catch-Up Day	30) Catch-Up Day

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April

OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN SERVICE

March

SCRIPTURE READERS

4:00 Worship Service

3/1 Wayne Rowland3/8 David Narracong

3/15 Ted Mahn 3/22 Caren Knabe

3/29 Wayne Rowland

8:30 Worship Service

3/2 Suann Clayton

3/9 David Steele

3/16 Jackie Johnson

3/23 Carrie Thompson

3/30 Cindy Gage

Altar Guild Elaine Lienemann

11:00 Worship Service

3/2 Tim Worthington

3/9 Susan Marable 3/16 McKenzie Kimble

3/23 Mark Dillard

3/30 Joyce Swartz

Altar Guild Lorene Burroughs

January Attendance				
	4:00	8:30	11:00	Total
1/5	21	67	73	161
1/12	Services Cancelled—Snow			
1/19	20	65	86	171
1/26	18	78	94	190

February Attendance				
	4:00	8:30	11:00	Total
2/2	27	72	91	190
2/2 2/9	17	65	86	168
2/16	19	73	97	189
2/23	17	75	121	213



PSALM 119:114, ESV

4/12 Ted Mahn 4/19 Caren Knabe 4/26 Wayne Rowland

8:30 Worship Service

SCRIPTURE READERS

4:00 Worship Service

David Narracong

4/6 Suann Clayton 4/13 David Steele

4/20 Jackie Johnson

4/27 Carrie Thompson

Altar Guild Peggy Brockett

11:00 Worship Service

4/6 Clyde Hughley

4/13 Angela Looney

4/20 Tim Worthington 4/27 Susan Marable

Altar Guild Elaine Raines

Worship King

CHURCH FINANCES

Due to the heavy snow in January, we had to cancel our services on the 11th and 12th which affected our January offerings. Please consider helping to eradicate this deficit in the next few months through your generous giving to our general fund. If you have any questions about the finances, feel free to contact David Steele or any member of the Governing Board.

VOTERS MEETING UPDATE

At the annual Voters Meeting in January, the proposed 2025 financial budget was approved as presented.

CHURCH ELDERS FOR 2025

The Elders assisting at the 8:30 service are: Eric Taylor (501-318-2047), Fred Lienemann (501-318-4279), Eric Roe (501-283-9767), Randall Brocket (501-701-0269), and Jason Stachey (501-760-5811). The Elders assisting at the 11:00 service are: Jason Byers (501-282-5493), Mark Dillard (501-617-5391), Clyde Hughley (501-293-4834), Jason Looney (501-627-5889), Greg Rapier (501-416--3485).

CHURCH GOVERNING BOARD FOR 2025

The current members of the Governing Board are: Melissa Guin (501-520-8107), Rob Swartz (501-762-6359), Jimmy Hackelton (870-672-1536), Steve Sims (925-336-1640), John Bond (501-520-7156), and treasurer, David Steele (901-482-2808).

FIRST WORD



Enjoying this Journey

by Jackie Johnson

Waiting is never easy. Whether we're waiting for an answered prayer, a breakthrough, or clarity in a decision, the waiting season can often feel like a time of uncertainty and frustration. However, the Bible reminds us that waiting is not a passive experience—it is a time of growth, trust, and preparation.



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Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." While we may not understand why we must wait, we can trust that God's timing is always perfect. His delays are not denials; rather, they are opportunities for us to develop patience and deepen our faith.

Isaiah 40:31 encourages us with these words: "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Waiting on God requires trust, but it also leads to renewed strength and unwavering faith. During this season, we learn to lean on God's promises, knowing that He is working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28).

Much like a seed planted in the soil, growth happens beneath the surface during the waiting season. God uses this time to refine our character, shape our hearts, and prepare us for what lies ahead. James 1:3-4 reminds us that "the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." The waiting season is a season of preparation, equipping us for the blessings that are to come.

Though waiting can be challenging, we can find peace by focusing on God's presence rather than our circumstances. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to "not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Instead of allowing worry and doubt to take root, we can choose to rest in God's peace, trusting that He is faithful to fulfill His promises. I encourage you to use this time to draw closer to God through prayer, worship, and studying His Word.

JOIN ME IN PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect timing and unfailing love. In this season of waiting, help us to trust You with all our hearts, even when we cannot see the way ahead. We surrender our hopes and desires to You, confident that You will make all things beautiful in Your time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SMALL GROUPS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Small groups meet for Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship during the week.

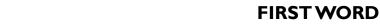
Get connected to Christ's body at FLC. Contact the Church Office to help you find the right small group!

- † **Bible Buddies** —Odis & Lorene Burroughs, Leaders 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:30 pm at Burrough's home
- † ChicChat Sharon Echols, Leader 3rd Wednesday 5:30 pm @ Sharon Echol's home.
- † Men's Breakfast —Jerry Edgin, Leader Thursdays 6:00 am at English Muffin Café
- † Wednesdays in the Word Jackie Johnson, Leader Wednesdays 9:00 am Fellowship Hall
- † Study of Revelation
- † Just for Men—Pastor Jon, Leader Saturdays 8 am Church Fellowship Hall

GOOD NEWS BIBLE CLUB: We are bringing the Gospel of Jesus to children in our community this school year through an after-school club called the "Good News Bible Club" at Langston Elementary School meeting once a month. If you would like to join our ministry team, please contact Lin Carnahan (479) 283-1727.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 5: If you are a fan of the Chosen TV series, about the life of Jesus and his followers, the new season 5 is coming to theaters in late March. In 3 consecutive weeks, starting March 27, you can watch Season 5 at Central City Cinema on Higdon Ferry. Show times are 7 pm. Each evening. Seats can be reserved online. This season features the events of Holy Week.



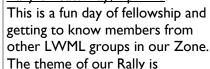


GROW IN

GRACE!

LWML—Lutheran Women in Mission

Our ladies have been busy and are in the end stages of preparations to host the Zone LWML Spring Rally on Saturday, April 26.



"GROW IN GRACE". Let us know if you would like to participate. We would love to have you join us!!



All ladies are welcome to our Bible study/meetings in the Fellowship Hall.

- Women's Monday, March 10 12:30 pm.
- Missions Monday, April 14 12:30 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

All are welcome to this ministry which meets in the Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesday of each month.

March 19 & April 16 @ 1 pm

SUMMER CAMP FOR TEENS AND CHILDREN

Camp Trinity is our Lutheran camp on Petit Jean Mountain. They offer week-long camps this summer for kids in 2nd grade—high school. Check out their website @ www.lutherancamp.org.

Financial aid is available through Camp Trinity and also through our congregation. Contact Pastor Anthony for more information about Camp Trinity!

EASTER LILIES

You are invited to provide a lily plant for our Easter Sunday services. A sign-up sheet is located by Katrina's office. Prices are on the sign-up sheet. You can take your lily home following the Easter Sunday services.



ONE-EIGHTY STUDENT MINISTRY



Our ministry on Wednesday afternoons is going great! We invite students, 5th—12th grade to join us! We do Bible study, recreation, and dinner each week. If you'd like to contribute healthy snacks or desserts, contact Jessica Ellis. We will be studying Jesus' life and the events of Holy Week & Easter during the months of March and April. If you would like to join our ministry to students on Wednesdays, contact Pastor Anthony.

KIDS CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

Children are excused each week during the Sunday worship services for this important teaching time.



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Kids Church is expanding at our II a.m. Service!!! We are starting a class for <u>5-6 graders</u> during Kids Church time!

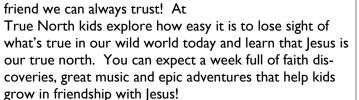
Our pre-teen students will learn many truths from God's word at their age level. This class will be taught by Charmaine James in the Kid's Church Room.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date!!

June 16-20, 2025 5:30—8:00 p.m.

Get ready for the summer event that points kids to Jesus, a faithful



Want to join our team? Contact Karen Beyer 501-318-8632 We have lots of leadership opportunities and decorating prep to make our VBS an amazing ministry for kids!

TWO EASTER EGG HUNTS: There will be an egg hunt following the 8:30 service and another hunt at 10:30 a.m. for families attending the 11:00 am. service. Meet in front of the main church building for this fun event. We have plenty of plastic eggs but we need candy that fits inside the eggs! Donations can be brought to the church office. Thanks!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Monday Evening group is taking a Lenten pause in March and April. Stay tuned for our next study!

"BETTER MAN" BIBLE STUDY

All men are invited to come for a faith-enriching Bible study each Monday night @ 6 pm. in the Fellowship Hall. We eat together and then dig into God's Word to become better men of God. Join us!

