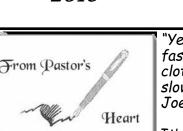
Fellowship Family News

February 2018

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor 7350 Sawmill Road | Columbus, OH 43235 [tel] 614. 889.0113 [pastor] 937. 725.4930 Email: *flc7350@gmail.com* | Website: *flccolumbus.com*

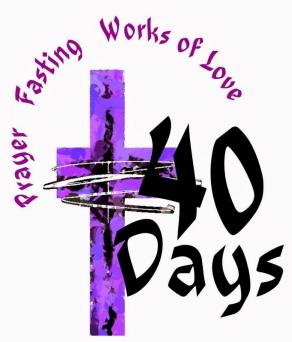


"Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning: rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing." Joel 2:12-13

It's hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner.

As I write this, we still have the wise men from our nativity set on the table in the narthex for the season of Epiphany. Just a month ago, we took down the Christmas decorations! But on February 14th, Valentine's Day, we begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service.

What comes to mind for you when you think of Lent? It might be repentance or giving things up or a focus on the cross. For some it brings to mind a heavyhanded season of inward focus that feels dark. For others it has been experienced as a time for excessive guilt. It is not uncommon for Lent to be a six-week meditation on the crucifixion, as if Holy Week and especially Good Friday weren't enough for the church's deep contemplation on Jesus' death. Not everyone loves Lent because of how it has been observed in some times and places. But Lent can also be a high point of the church year for the faithful.



In spite of all the baggage some people still bring to the season, Lent can become a time of celebration. That may sound strange and unexpected. The key is that the celebration is restrained, is expressed in subdued and anticipatory ways, and is geared toward preparing to celebrate with exuberant joy the paschal mystery at Easter. Lent is a season of fasting, and fasting is about a discipline of restraint so that one can celebrate more deeply and extravagantly something wonderful later. But even in that time of preparation, the joy that is to come is known now. This is Lent.

Consider the origins of Lent: a time of intense preparation for baptism at Easter. What could be more joyful than to prepare for one's life to be transformed into a new life in Christ? Yet Lent was for preparation and expectation, not the full expression of celebration and joy. The disciplines and rituals of preparation all say to the baptismal candidate: get ready, God is about to do something wonderful in you through the death and resurrection of Christ at baptism. So in Lent, we gain new strength and vitality by returning to the living waters of baptism. (excerpts from Sundays and Seasons 2018, Year B, Augsburg Fortress.)

See you in church!

Pastor Robin



Sunday Evening Worship and Praise Services continue on Sundays

at 5:00 p.m. Please help us spread the word! This is a 45-50 minute, "come as you are" service with singing, a short message, and communion.



Women's Activities

Women's Dinner - Our next women's dinner will be on Monday, February women's ministries 26th, at 6:00 p.m., at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 5141 Tuttle Crossing, Dublin, OH 43016 (614) 659-9400. Please sign up if you're interested in attending and let Pastor Robin know if you need transportation (cell. 937-725-4930).

Women's Bible Study - Monday, February 5th, at 7:00 p.m. is the next meeting for the women's Bible study series, Encouraging One Another, by Christa Kinde. Susan Wolfe facilitates the discussion, and meetings occur on the first Monday of the month through April. Please read Chapters 8 & 9 for the January study.

Do You Order From Amazon? If so, then try Amazon Smile to support Fellowship Lutheran Church! First, go to Amazon Smile and choose Fellowship Lutheran Church. Columbus. OH as your charity. Then, shop as usual and Fellowship will receive a percentage of your purchase. It's that easy!

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser! We received over \$1,000 last year! Also our youth continue their printer cartridge recycling fundraiser. There's a collection box in the narthex.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available. If you have trouble with the regular communion wafers or with the bread served, please let Pastor Robin know. We do have gluten-free wafers available. Large print bulletins are also available for worship. Please ask the usher for assistance.

Meals on Wheels Schedule for January and February

Friday, February 16	Sumner	Friday, March 16	Engen
Saturday, February 17	Biemel	Saturday, March 17	Wolfe

If you would like a home visit by Pastor Robin, please let Pastor Robin or Tracy know so we can get one scheduled. It does not need to be a pastoral emergency... just an opportunity to get to know you better.

Attendance Information

Date	Atter	ndance	Date	<u>Attendance</u>	
112/3	6	7/6	1/7	79/8	
12/10	6	9/10	1/14	66/5	
12/17	7	8/15	1/21	70/6	
12/24	10:00 am	55	1/28	77/7	
12/24	7:00 pm 1	169			
12/31	•	57			

Welcome to our new members!



Janet and Curtis Fleisher (David Fleisher's parents) joined Fellowship as associate members in November. They reside at Court House Manor in Washington Court House.



Karen Kline transferred to Fellowship this past month from the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church.

2018 MIDWEEK LENTEN/HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" (midweek Lenten series)

> ASH WEDNESDAY -- February 14th 7:00 p.m. The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion "Open My Heart, Lord, to Reconciliation"

WEDNESDAY -- February 21st @ 7:00 p.m. "Jesus Meets Us In Unexpected Places"

WEDNESDAY -- February 28th @ 7:00 p.m. "Jesus Meets Us In Unexpected Invitations"

WEDNESDAY – March 7th © 7:00 p.m. "Jesus Meets Us In Unexpected Yet Unrecognized Places"

> WEDNESDAY – March 14th @ 7:00 p.m. "Jesus Meets Us In Our Everyday Lives"

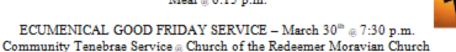
WEDNESDAY - March 21st @ 7:00 p.m. "When Did We See You, Lord?"

Light Lenten meals beginning at 6:15 p.m. to be offered prior to all Wednesday evening services, except Ash Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK PASSION/PALM SUNDAY – March 25th

10:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 29th @ 7:00 p.m. Joint Service with Calvary Korean Presbyterian Church Meal @ 6:15 p.m.



THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Easter Sunday – April 1st

Early Easter Service with Communion @ 8:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Traditional Easter Service with Communion @ 11:00 a.m.



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19 (NSRV)

Thank you to all who were able to attend the congregational meeting in January. The topic of the meeting requiring a vote was to approve the 2018 budget. Hopefully, whether you attended the meeting or not, you had an opportunity to review the budget and the annual reports. We discussed the budget versus the estimated income for 2018. Like most of the last few years, the estimated giving is below our estimated expenses. PPC and the Board of Administration have reviewed the options to close the gap and these were discussed at the meeting. PPC recommended that we pursue refinancing our mortgage to reduce our monthly cash expenses to enable us to better fund our mission. The congregation agreed. We had hoped to have heard a positive response from Chase bank on our application before this newsletter went out, but they have given us an initial rejection of our request. We have asked them to reconsider, given our cash position and the very low debt to value that the mortgage would entail. We are also looking into other lenders. We hope to have a positive response soon. When we do, we will have a short congregational meeting to approve the refinance terms. Keep an eye out for that!

The congregation also approved the budget. While the estimates are that we will have a deficit, we have been in a similar position at the beginning of the last few years. Each year we have managed to finish the year with a positive balance. This congregation has a way of making the ends come together. Refinancing the mortgage is one way to help, but we will find a way, I am sure.

Probably more important during the meeting, we reviewed the many ways that Fellowship has lived its purpose of sharing God's love and grace through our words and actions in 2017. As I put together the photographs for the presentation, I was surprised by all of the things we have done. There are many opportunities to participate in those words and actions, if you aren't already.

Karen Espe shared a book with PPC that was highlighted in a recent ELCA Seeds of the Parish newsletter, *From Surviving to Thriving*, by an ELCA pastor, Rev. John H. Krahn. He offers a large number of suggestions. Many of them revolve around how to do enable members to invite people to church. PPC will be working in the next month or two to implement some of those ideas and bring them to the congregation. We will also be looking at some of the other practical ideas he had to improve our congregation's ability to attract new members. Ask one of us in PPC about these ideas. These are exciting times for us. There is tremendous opportunity to us to live the call from God to make disciples of all nations.

Your servant in Christ, Todd Engen "You my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command; love your neighbor as yourself. If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Galatians 5:13-15

As Paul wrote this passage to the church at Galatia, he really emphasizes "Love your neighbor as yourself. We have heard this statement many times in the Bible but in the world today it is of utmost importance that we remember it.

I have never seen our country so divided as it is today and I grew up in the sixties. We need to listen to each other and be compassionate with all. If we do not, this country may be on the decline.

Please pray for our leaders to keep us in the right direction.

The adult Sunday School class will begin very soon reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. There will be a discussion each week followed by a lecture we'll see on the screen. Details will follow. These classes will be taught by Steve Espe and Bruce Johnson.

We are looking for a person to be the coordinator of the Amazing Grace Day Camp from July 15 - 20. This would be an administrative position supported by five other adults. Please see Pastor Robin, Todd Engen, or me if interested.

Our next men's breakfast will be on Saturday, February 10, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. We had twelve last month and hope to see more men in the future.

In His service, Bill "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?" – Isaiah 58:6-7

This year both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year. Both are celebrated for different reasons. Ash Wednesday commemorates the beginning of the Lenten season (40 days), where we observe a period of fasting, repentance, and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection of Jesus- his suffering, his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

Also on February 14th we observe Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14 of each year. The reason why it is celebrated on this day is because this was the day that the Patron Saint of Lovers, "St Valentine" was supposedly executed. On Valentine's Day we celebrate love.

Why not do both celebrations! As we begin this special season of Lent, why not begin with small gestures of love to your fellow neighbors in the Columbus community. Beginning Ash Wednesday until March 18th, we will be collecting personnel hygiene products, then deliver them to the community. We will be collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, dental floss, bath sponges, mouth wash, razors, hand sanitizer and combs. We will provide a large container in the narthex to place donated items that will be bagged on Sunday, March 18th after the 10:00 AM service.

I continue to challenge every family to sign up for one slot on the 2018 host list. It is a very easy way for each of us to help bring our Fellowship family together.

As always, please add these activities to your personal calendar.

See you in church!

Karen Espe

Director of the board of Evangelism and Fellowship

Dates To Remember: 2/10/18 Sat. Mardi Gras Dinner/Movie Night at 6PM 3/18/18 Sun. Service Project & Pizza after 10 AM church service 4/1/18 Sun. Easter Breakfast

Generosity

By Rev. Serena Sellers

www.elca.org

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia;" – 2 Corinthians 8:1

Grace is a central concept of Lutheran faith. We know that we receive what we do not deserve because of God's love and generosity. Grace is God's unmerited favor. Grace is a gift of what we cannot earn or pay for.

The Macedonian Christians were not wealthy. In fact, in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he refers to their "extreme poverty". Paul also refers to "a severe ordeal of affliction" that the church in Macedonia experienced. We don't know the details, but Paul's choice of words makes clear that it was pretty bad. It sounds like the Macedonians were not exactly lucky. Yet Paul is eager to tell the Corinthian church about the "Grace" that God poured out on the Macedonian church!

"for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part." - 2 Corinthians 8:2

The Macedonians were asked by Paul to make a contribution to the collection for the church in Jerusalem. The "grace of God" Paul wrote about was not an end to their financial struggles, or an end to their affliction. What had God generously given to the church in Macedonia? God gave them an opportunity to participate in the mission of Christ to love and serve the world! Nobody expected the Macedonians to give much of anything. People saw the poor Macedonians as needy, not as a valuable resource for serving others. But God saw them differently. The Macedonians did not only believe in God, they rejoiced to know that God believed in them!

The Macedonian church members, extremely poor and undergoing great affliction, were overcome with "abundant joy" that God had confidence in them. They were inspired and thrilled by the realization that to God they were valuable partners in ministry. They responded to the opportunity to give to the collection for Jerusalem with an enthusiasm that astounded everyone.

"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints — and this, not merely as we expected;" - 2 Corinthians 8:3 - 5b

The generous gift of God to the Macedonians was the gift of God's mission. This was a gift that God had paid for with the life of his Son. Nothing could be more precious to God. The Macedonian congregation recognized what a precious gift they had received and they were filled with abundant joy that overflowed in surprising generosity. The financial gift of the Macedonians was generous. The gift of God's trust in the Macedonian church was priceless!

How has God been generous in your life? How will you return the favor?

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you." 1 Peter 5:6

Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept of Lent remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week. Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modeled after Christ's forty day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday.

We will observe **Ash Wednesday** on February 14, with a 7:00 p.m. service that will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Midweek Lenten services and soup suppers

The theme of our midweek Lenten services is "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord."

Midweek Lenten suppers and services begin Wednesday, February 21, and continue through Wednesday, March 21. We will meet each Wednesday evening at 6:15 pm for a soup supper followed by a service at 7:00 pm.

Please consider hosting a soup supper.

We encourage all families to help provide Wednesday evening Lenten suppers. This is to be a light supper (soup and sandwiches or salad), served just prior to our service. Everyone is invited to attend these meals to share in what Lutherans like best... **fellowship and food**.

We hope to have 2 or 3 families work together to provide each meal. Paper and plastic ware are provided, in addition to peanut butter, jelly and bread as a meal option. Supports begin at 6:15, and the church will be open at 5:00 so you can begin preparations. Plan to serve 25–30 people. If you are willing to assist another family to prepare a meal, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Maundy Thursday Agape meal and Holy Communion

We will join members of the Christ from Calvary Korean Presbyterian Church for our Agape meal and service of Holy Communion on Thursday, March 29. Supper begins at 6:15 pm, followed by the service at 7:00 pm.

Please volunteer to help with the meal. We are looking for volunteers to provide the Maundy Thursday ABC soup (recipe will be provided) and muffins for our traditional Agape meal. We also need volunteers to assist with setup and meal preparations on Wednesday, March 28. Please let us know how you will help by completing the flyer in your bulletin on Sundays.

Community Good Friday service

Our congregation will participate in a community Good Friday service on the evening of Friday, March 31. The 7:30 pm Tenebrae service, organized by the Sawmill Ministerial group, will be hosted by Church of the Redeemer Moravian Church, 3883 Summitview Road, Dublin. Participating congregations include: Fellowship , St. Andrew, Smoky Row, Church of the Redeemer and Highlands.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 14
February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21
March 4
March 29
March 30
April 1

Human Trafficking



Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. Genesis 37:26-28

CAUTION: This article may be inappropriate for young children to read. But, parents should beware and try to educate their children.

The <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u> estimates that sex trafficking victimizes more than 200,000 children in the U.S. annually. Children caught up in human trafficking often wind up in brothels, mail-order bride agencies, sex tourism, pornography, prostitution, stripping, lap dancing and phone sex companies. This can happen anywhere. In December 2013, 7 men were arrested in a human trafficking sting in Perrysburg, Ohio, <u>http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2013/12/07/6-arrested-in-trafficking-sting-in-Perrysburg.html</u>. Child exploitation happens close to us, all over the country and all over the world.

Young people without good support systems can be targeted by traffickers. They often manipulate the children to gain their trust. They take advantage of social media or other online sites to communicate with them. But, it's not only "bad-guys" out on the web. In Minnesota, a cheerleader recruited her own younger teammate into prostitution. It often starts innocently. It not only affects girls, but also boys. Sometimes it is family members who exploit their own children. It is hard to imagine!

There is a strong correlation between prior sexual abuse and prostitution. About 90% of children were abused prior to getting into prostitution. And, less than 1 in 5 victims will ever report the sex abuse or trafficking to police.

Living Lutheran magazine, <u>https://www.livinglutheran.org/2015/08/happens-close-home/</u> has an article about Cherish All Children, <u>http://www.cherishallchildren.org/home</u>. Cherish All Children is an ELCA organization that works to prevent human trafficking and help the victims. They've been active for more than 10 years. They recommend making sure that all of the organizations that your children participate in follow child protection guidelines. For example, LOMO requires us to do background checks on our volunteers for Amazing Grace Day Camp.

Todd Engen – Mission Interpreter

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Fritzi Bear Maxine Brunner Sam Brunner Bob Drake Curtis Fleisher Janet Fleisher Leena LeMay Joshua Mott Shannon Paro Sue Perry Susan Robinson Dianna Roll Mark Roll Martha Sampson Shawn Turnbull

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Michael Brunner, Maxine and Sam Brunner's son... Jeff Bycyinski, Craig Robinson's friend... Jan Chapman, Tracey Nave's mother... Rosemary Craig, Cindy Frey's mother... Lyn Fitzer, Bill Lude's friend... Louise Gordon, Robin and Fred Neumeier's friend... Bob Haas, John McDaniel's brother-in-law... Carol Horner, Steve Espe's aunt... Margaret Karjalainen, Frank & Leena LeMay's sisterin-law... Jody Miller, Cathy Votino's friend..

Tom Mosler, Neumeier's brother-in-law... Gene Oliver, Sonya Thelin's ex-husband... John Sagle, Andrea Sumner's family friend... Berniece Schaffer, Susan Robinson's great aunt... Jo Ann Schindelar, Don Johnson's and Jan Wilhelm's friend...

Arnold Shuff, Mike Sumner's uncle... Pat Steube, Dottie Haggard's neighbor... George & Irene Sumner, Mike Sumner's parents... Carol Swank, Pastor Robin's friend... Hayden Valeski, Cathy Votino's great nephew... Jennie Whetstone, Jim Jaeger's friend...

FOR OUR SHUT-INS:

Lynn Brown, Debbie Bear's mother Joan Clark, Susan Lee's mother

DEATHS:

Leonard Leach, Karen Harris' uncle Lynn Romo, FLC visitor Joe Ryan, Bob Drake's friend Brian Tucker, Jim & Carol Jaeger's friend

February Birthdays

Bob Wilhelm	2/02
Zach Jaeger	2/09
Erling Lee	2/11
Caitlyn Votino	2/11
Clayton Hobbins	2/13
Levenia McBride	2/13
Bob Drake	2/15
Kathleen Wolkan	2/18
Lillian Cardimen	2/22
James Votino	2/22
Paul Wargowsky	2/22
Katie (Wahl) Diede	2/23
Craig Robinson	2/25
Leena LeMay	2/28



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

February Anniversaries

Bob & Jan Wilhelm

2/18



Church Staff & Leadership

Church Staff

Pastor Treasurer Financial Secretary Office Secretary Organist Sub. Organist Sunday evening pianist Choir Director Custodian Rev. Robin Wargowsky Tracey Nave Tracy Farel Tracy Farel Andrea Sumner David Fleisher, Cathie Brown Amy Wargowsky George Biemel Dave Schneider & Family, Robert Hensley (volunteers on off weeks)

Board of Administration

President Vice-President Secretary

Board of Education & Youth

Director Members Bill Lude Megan Cardimen, Major Crispin Jr. Carol Scantland (ad hoc.)

Board of Evangelism & Fellowship

Director Members

Board of Property

Director Major Crispin Sr. Members Bill Farel, Craig Robinson Peter Meighen (tech. support), John McDaniel (special projects)

Board of Stewardship & Service

Director Members Jim Jaeger Pete Cardimen, Missy Hensley Bruce Johnson (ad hoc.)

Board of Worship

Director Members Robin Neumeier Karen Harris, Dianna Roll, Sonya Thelin

Mutual Ministry Committee

Kathy Farel, Carol Jaeger, Chad Laucher

Thank you for your leadership!!!

Karen Espe Susan Wolfe

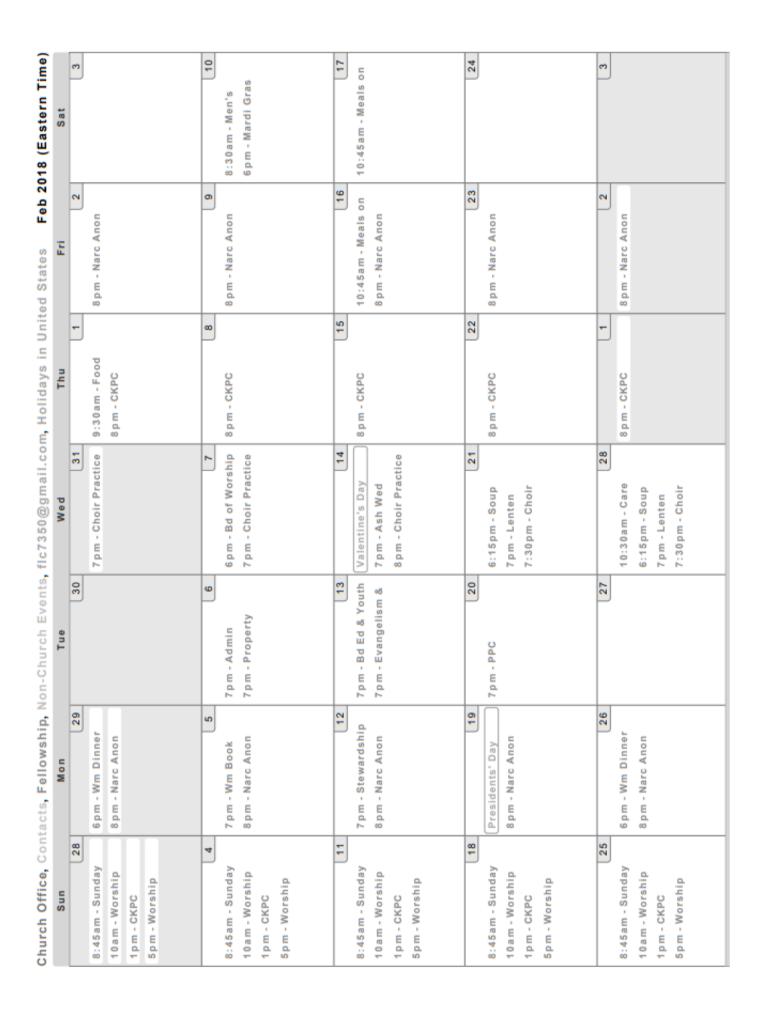
Todd Engen Mike Rankin

Ruth Albert Pastor Robin

Date	4-Feb	11-Feb	14-Feb
Time	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	7:30 PM
Assist. Minister	Paul Wargowsky	Todd Engen	Mark Roll
Acolyte	Aleigha Crispin	Alexis Colombo	
Comm. Assist.	Chad Laucher	Missy Hensley	Bill Lude
Lay Reader	Sam Sgro	Robin Neumeier	Karen Harris
Ushers	Bill Lude & Major N Crispin	Chad Laucher & Tom Mott	
Altar Guild	Carol Scantland & Dianna Roll	Carol Scantland & Dianna Roll	Carol Scantland & Dianna Roll
Hymn Sel.	Cindy Frey	Cindy Frey	Cindy Frey
Counters	Bill Farel & Dianna Roll	Steve Espe & Mike Sumner	
Greeters	Votino	Bear	
Host			

Date	18-Feb	25-Feb
Time	10:00 PM	10:00 AM
Assist. Minister	Chad Laucher	Missy Hensley
Acolyte	Lilly Cardimen	Lorien Crispin
Comm. Assist.	Bruce Johnson	Sam Sgro
Lay Reader	Dave Anderson	Dottie Haggard
Ushers	Hensley	Leah Anderson & Laura Powell
Altar Guild	Carol Scantland & Dianna Roll	Carol Scantland & Dianna Roll
Hymn Sel.	Cindy Frey	Cindy Frey
Counters	Pete Cardimen & Lori Hobbins	Bill Farel & Robin Neumeier
Greeters	Jaeger	Lude
Host		

Worship Server Schedule for February



Fellowship Lutheran Church 7350 Sawmill Road Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





- *Our Purpose:* To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.
- *Our Vision:* To be a "called and gathered" family of faith whose members so fully experience the undeserved love of God that we are moved to express that same love of God, in our relationships with one another and our whole community . . .

February 2018 Newsletter