



MESSENGER NEWSLETTER
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 "The small church with a BIG heart: Ordinary people
 With an extra ordinary message!
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 Babbtown (Near Meta) 7075 Highway P Westphalia, MO 65085

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 2 **FEBRUARY, 2023**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
 Schubert and Babbtown Newsletter
 Calendar for February, 2023
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
BABBTOWN
 Sunday Worship
 8:00 A.M. Worship
 (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sunday)
 Bible Study and Sunday School 9:10
 A.M.
SCHUBERT
 Sunday Worship
 Sunday school
 9:15 A.M.
 Bible study 9:30 A.M.
 10:00 A.M. Worship with
 (Holy Communion)
 Also Streaming on Vimeo and Facebook

FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

Feb 1	Honey Creek Chapel WkDay/Conf 6-7:30 pm
Feb 6	Ladies Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Feb 7	Pastors Conference, 9:00 a.m.
Feb 8	WkDay/Conf 6-7:30 pm Elders, 7:30 pm
Feb 9	Evangelism 6:00 pm
Feb12	Basement Reserved
Feb13	Ladies Bible Study, 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study, 6:00 pm
Feb14	Valentine's Day
Feb15	WkDay/Conf 6-7:30 pm
Feb20	Presidents' Day
Feb22	WkDay/Conf 6 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm
Feb23	Basement Reserved
Feb26	Babbtown Chili Supper
Feb27	Babbtown Bible Study, 7:00 pm

Dear Friends and Members of St. John's Congregations, Brothers and Sisters in Christ Fellow Redeemed,

February is noted for several different things. It is the shortest month as well as the one that gets an extra day during leap year. We celebrate things like Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, (My wife's birthday), President's day, and certainly many other things. One of the big events—not marked on a regular calendar—which probably overshadows all the others, is Super Bowl Sunday! Now for those of you who know me very well, you realize that I have a limited knowledge of most sports and very little knowledge of football, yet I paid attention to the news when Damar Hamlin's heart stopped on the football field. I paid attention because of the call for prayers by sports announcers and by other football players. I paid attention because of the attention and emphasis placed upon prayer that was instigated because of this serious injury. What sticks in my mind is the number of people who were drawn into this situation with prayer. I found it interesting that this morning I heard a criticism that is being levied against some who have been involved and have used this as an opportunity to witness to the saving power of the Savior. It is not surprising.

This is quite a vivid reminder of the fickle nature of the world in which we live. People like generalities especially in matters of faith. It's acceptable in our society to speak of, Religion, Prayer and Blessing, but don't get specific about the one true God, or praying in the name of Jesus, or sin and repentance and forgiveness—which comes through the message of the cross and Christ crucified!

You and I realize that we are called –not to be vague in our witness about Jesus—but to be bold and specific and intentional in declaring that Jesus is our Savior and the only way of eternal life.

This February, as we celebrate many different events, remember to keep Jesus in the middle of all of them and give witness to His grace and power and mercy for everyone.

In Christ's Love
Pastor

SPEAKING FOR LIFE

“When someone struggles with the overwhelming guilt of a past sin, like abortion, repentance and reconciliation are the only source of relief. There is hope! ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9). Through all our days, the Lord never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is a patient God, waiting and wanting all to come to repentance and be saved.”

*Deaconess Pamela Buhler and
Deaconess Chrissie Gillet,
Word of Hope – A Life Quote
from Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org*



Thank you to all the volunteer church cleaners who have done a great service to the congregation in the past years. We are so thankful to have added six new members to the committee. You are all very much appreciated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The Gift of Time

24 hours in a day, 365 days in a year, I think we can all agree that time is precious. The time that I get to spend with the children in our church is limited, but still precious. The average church has about 40 hours/year to influence the life of a child. The average parent has about 3,000 hours per year.

When we think about that it’s easy to see how we are our children’s most influential teacher. The time that I have every Sunday is miniscule when compared to the time that we have with our children during every other time. You can be a parent, grandparent, godparent, or even have a special child in your life, but all of those roles have one thing in common – and that is the importance of time.

The average church has about 40 hours / year to influence the life of a child. The average parent has about 3,000 hours per year. Think about that again.

We are our children’s most influential spiritual teacher.

The gift of your time will build your child’s confidence and faith in God. Yes, you’ll need the support, encouragement, and expertise of your pastor and church to help you, but without your commitment, the church can only do part of the training.

So I encourage you to give your children the time – who knows – they might actually teach you something that you’ve forgotten.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” – Matthew 19:14



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Who blesses us,

You are blessed for life! That was the theme of last fall's Lutherans For Life National Conference and this year's Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. As good Lutherans we can ask, "What does this mean?" The bulletin insert for Life Sunday explains it very well:

"A blessing is neither earned nor deserved but received. "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:2). Likewise, life ensues as a gift indicating God's grace and a privilege affirming His favor. A blessing means speaking, a promise humbly hidden in simple words. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Likewise, every life has promise and purpose, no matter what size, skills, or circumstances. Blessed amounts to more than being merely happy, healthy, attractive, affluent, or influential. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). Likewise, every human life exceeds just physical functions and emotional assessments.

"A blessing comes from God and connects to Him. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them: (Numbers 6:27). Likewise, every human being embodies God's creation, reflects His incarnation, and ensures His ongoing and increasing involvement. A blessing implies multiplication and abundance. "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore" (Genesis 22:17). Likewise, even at the beginning, every human person makes our heart bigger and our world better. Blessings often issue from loved ones of significant age and experience. [Elizabeth in her old age] exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'" (Luke 1:42). Likewise, every neighbor draws us beyond appearances and expectations. Blessing consists not only of substance but of activity. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them (John 13:17). Likewise, life sets love in motion and puts joy into practice.

"Life is what God blesses us with and what He blesses us for---life together and life forever!" (Lutherans For Life bulletin insert for Life Sunday. Scripture references from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible).

To view and listen to the plenary speakers and workshop leaders from the 2022 National Conference go to lutheransforlife.org/conference and scroll down for the audio and video. And plan now to attend the 2023 National Conference in October near the Creation Museum and the Ark in Kentucky. More details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE, for the Lutherans For Life of Missouri annual meeting to be held on May 6, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia, MO. The speaker will address 'end of life issues'. The essay and poster contest winners and the recipients of the Leonard Wallenmeyer award will be announced at that time. Hope to see you there.

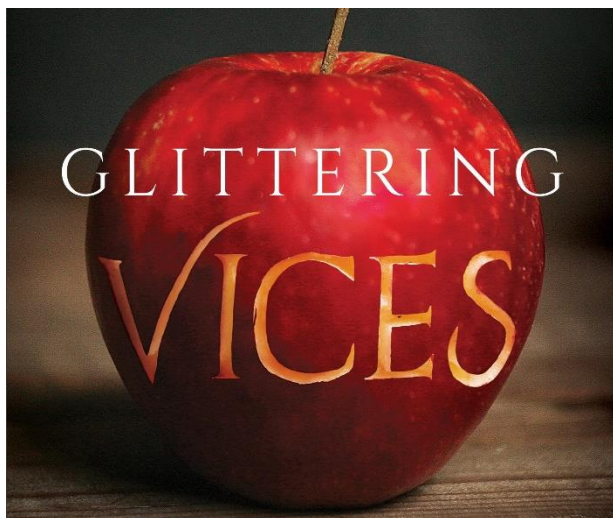
Also, please encourage any young person you know to participate in this year's Lutherans For Life essay or poster contest. The essay contest is for grades 6-12 and is based on the theme "Just As...I Am" from Ephesians 2:10 (For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.).The poster contest is for grades 3-5 and celebrates all life God has created and can be based on a Bible passage, hymn verse or Sunday school song.

The deadline for Lutheran high school seniors to apply for the Leonard Wallenmeyer award is February 10, 2023. For more information all contests are posted on the MOLFL web page: lflfmo.org under outreach. Won't you encourage the young people in your life to take advantage of these opportunities to be Gospel-motivated voices for life?

Blessed for life,

Sylvia Glenn

Feel free to call me (573-592-7866) for information or concerns about life issues. For those who have had an abortion, there is a **word of hope!** "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). For confidential post-abortion *referral, counsel, and reconciliation* call WORD of HOPE, toll-free 888-217-8679, or www.word-of-hope.org.



February 22nd is Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of the Lenten season. This is a special season in the church year which affords us the opportunity to take time to meditate, pray, worship and reflect upon the great sacrifice of Jesus for our sin and the sin of the world.

We have 6 Wednesday evening worship services (At Schubert) then we have Holy Week worship in both congregation before we join in the great celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Our Lenten theme this year is Glittering Vices. The worship service is planned for Feb 22 (Ash Wed), March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

A SERIES OF SERVICES FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

GLUTTONY, GREED, PRIDE, SLOTH, ENVY, ANGER
ABOUT “GLITTERING VICES”

Vices are habitual dispositions of the sinful heart that show forth the reality that we, as people of God, fail to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. In place of God, vices cling to the self, or the things of this world, in an attempt to secure our own good. We seek justice, and don’t trust God to provide it, so we take justice into our own hands and lash out in anger at our enemies. We want status, but instead of seeking our worth in knowing Jesus, we envy others and tear them down. Indeed, vices “glitter” with appearance of providing “do-it-yourself” shortcuts to happiness. But while they look good on the surface, in the end, they turn out to be idols that fail us every time.

In the passion account of our Lord, we find these vices manifesting themselves time and time again as broken people live their sinful lives. The disciples show their *greed* when the Lord is anointed with expensive perfume and they label the money “wasted.” Judas betrays our Lord for the false security of silver he can hold in his hands. *Prideful* Peter boasts his faith is so strong he will never betray the Lord. *Slothful* disciples slumber in Gethsemane, unable to watch with our Lord even a single hour. Scripture says it was out of *envy* the Pharisees and Sadducees delivered up Jesus for crucifixion.

When we do endeavor to fear, love, and trust in God above all things, we increasingly free our hearts from the grips of idolatrous vice, and are enabled to pursue holy habits—habits that run intentionally counter to our unholy penchants. Instead of being greedy, we strive to be generous. In place of pride, we learn humility. Rather than be slothful and lazy, we pursue the tasks of the Kingdom with diligent zeal. Instead of hating our enemies in anger, we forgive them, pray for them, and even serve them in Christian love.

As we journey through the passion account once again this Lenten season, we invite you to peer into the story through the lens of virtue and vice. As you do, examine your own sinful heart to recognize the vices that dwell deep within. Then, listen in for how you might learn holy habits, the virtues that grow and bear fruit from hearts that trust in the reality that the Lord provides for every need of body and soul.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Passion Story</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
Feb 22	Gluttony and Fasting	Giving, Praying, Fasting	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Mar 1	Greed and Generosity	Jesus Anointed and Betrayed	Matthew 26:1-16
Mar 8	Pride and Humility	Peter’s Denial	Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75
Mar 15	Sloth and Diligence	Jesus Prays in Gethsemane	Matthew 26:36-46
Mar 22	Envy and Kindness	The Crowd Chooses Barabbas	Matthew 27:15-28
Mar 29	Anger and Forgiveness	Jesus’ Crucifixion with Criminals	Luke 23:32-43



Tigerfest is quickly approaching! In case you aren't familiar, Tigerfest is Trinity Lutheran School's fundraiser and fellowship event. This year's event is the "Tigerfest Luau" on Saturday, March 4. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Knights of Columbus. Dress in tropical – luau attire, if you desire. For a \$60 ticket, you will enjoy a fully catered meal from Argyle Catering Co. including 3 meats, 2 sides, roll, salad, dessert and all the fixings! Your ticket also includes access to a special "Vacation/Travel/Destination" trivia night – and closes out with a dance party. Both silent & live auctions will take place, along with a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are available at www.tlsptl.com or by talking to Morgan Householder!



A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.


Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.


 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger



 seeds are planted in this

 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____

_____  come up and a _____  causes

_____  to _____  _____, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____  up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

BABBTOWN NEWS

CHILI SUPPER
February 26th, 2023

LWML BOARD MEETING
March 18th 9-12
St. John's, Stringtown

LWML SPRING RALLY
Saturday, April 29, 2023
Faith Lutheran Church
Jefferson City, MO.
(Breakfast will be served. No lunch.)



Schubert

Usher Schedule

Feb 5 Kurt Boeckmann
Andy Beach

Feb12 Kurt Boeckmann
John Hanes

Feb19 Kurt Boeckmann
Mike Forbis

Feb26 Kurt Boeckmann
Matt Belcher

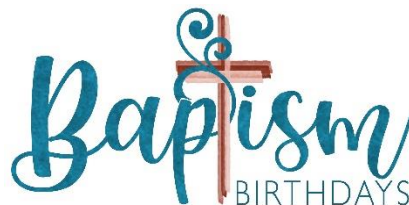
Communion Assistants

Feb 5 Allan Forbis
Mark Russell

Feb12 Allan Forbis
Gary Stroup

Feb19 Allan Forbis
Mark Russell

Feb26 Allan Forbis
Gary Stroup



Feb 1 Carol Pleus
Feb 3 Sarah Spurgeon
Feb 5 Jennifer Hanes
Feb15 Emmitt Carver
Feb18 Kathryn Grothoff
Feb21 Isabelle Marble
Feb23 Jim Kemmer
Feb27 Laiken Bohl
Feb28 David Bartel
Jennifer Murray
Rebecca Welschmeyer

Acolyte

Feb 5 Matt Kollmeyer
Feb12 Ava Willson
Feb19 Landon Marion
Feb26 Graham Boeckmann

MARCH, 2023

Newsletter Items are due
FEBRUARY 19, 2023
Newsletter items may be
placed in either Pastor's or
Jan's mailbox.

Or they may be e-mailed to
Pastor Scheperle—
st.ischubert@outlook.com
Any announcement:
Weddings, birthdays,
anniversaries, personal
notes, pictures or church
related business are
welcome.

MARCH 2023 CHURCH CLEANING

Bob Lorenz
Substitute Cleaner
ALTAR GUILD
Linda Brenner
Ronda Williams

