

Feb/March
2025



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

Notes from David Ingram

St. Valentine, celebrated annually on February 14th, is known worldwide as the patron saint of love and lovers. Historical records identify at least three different saints named Valentine who were martyred in different parts of the Roman Empire. The most famous story attributes St. Valentine as a Roman priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. According to legend, Claudius had banned marriages, believing that single men made better soldiers. St. Valentine continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. His actions were discovered, leading to his execution around 270 AD. Another St. Valentine was a bishop in Terni, Italy. He also performed secret marriages and was martyred for his faith. A third Valentine remains a more obscure figure but shares the same day of martyrdom, February 14th.

Accounts of St. Valentine's martyrdom all emphasize unwavering commitment to his faith and the sanctity of marriage. One popular legend recounts that while imprisoned, Valentine healed the jailer's blind daughter. Before his execution, he is said to have written a note to her, signed "From your Valentine," considered the first Valentine's card.

The connection between St. Valentine and romantic love is believed to have been popularized by Geoffrey Chaucer. In his poem "Parliament of Fowls," Chaucer refers to Valentine's Day as a time when birds choose their mates, thus linking the

day with love and courtship. Over the centuries, St. Valentine's Day evolved into a celebration of romantic love. By the 18th century, it had become customary for lovers to express affection by exchanging flowers, sweets, and notes. The commercialization of Valentine's Day began in the 19th century with the mass production of greeting cards.

Today, St. Valentine's Day transcends cultural and religious boundaries. Despite its commercial nature, the essence of St. Valentine's Day remains a celebration of love and serves as a reminder of St. Valentine's bravery and his belief in the power of love.

While the historical details of St. Valentine's life and martyrdom are fragmented and often debated, he remains a symbol of enduring love and the courage to stand up for what one believes in.

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate all forms of love. But we should start by remembering that God first loved us. God loves us so much that he sent his only son to die and rise for our sins and forgive us through faith. Beginning our love on the foundation that God loves us, we can then go out and love others abundantly as God loves us.



Lent begins soon!

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Dates to Note

Feb 17th: OFFICE CLOSED

23rd: ASWO Retreat

Mar 5th: Ash Wednesday

**Wednesdays: 6:30pm Soup Supper/7pm
Worship**

NO School Lunches in March

Council Minutes

Treasurer's report: Diana reported that she and Heather Markel (incoming treasurer) will begin working on the transition.

David Ingram's report: David has been unable to find supply pastor for February 2 when he is at seminary (John Dart offered to pay for rental car for David); he will ask Bishop Tim Oslovich. Conversation with Jo Schackman is postponed until February meeting. David requested input regarding upcoming Lenten and Easter services.

President's report: Synod Assembly will be held the weekend of April 27, 2025 in the Anchorage area. Curt Renner and Margi Ungrodt will represent Lord of Life Lutheran Church. She will take care of travel, accommodation, etc. Becky offered kudos to those involved with the Christmas program.

Secretary's report: Ranae Browning will update contact information for Council and provide a copy to each member.



Ongoing Business:

- ♦ Lord of Life's 50th Anniversary is scheduled for October 25, 2025. Kyle Renner is coordinating and Brent Strickland offered to join the committee.
- ♦ Evan Keil reports that he continues to work on a plan for tellers following each service.

New Business:

- ♦ Brent Strickland was appointed to the Vice President position by unanimous vote.
- ♦ Becky will attend Synod Assembly and requested that half of her registration be paid by Lord of Life. Council agreed to provide \$300 toward expenses.
- ♦ \$50 will be donated to the 2025 Grad Bash at North Pole High School.
- ♦ Evan Keil reported that there was a water issue involving the pressure gauge. A new one was installed by AK Best Plumbing & Heating. Evan changed the filter, and Eric Peterson will change it quarterly from now on to avoid future problems.

Lenten Schedule

March 5 Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm. The Lenten journey begins with ashes to remind us that we are going to die and ends with Jesus on a dusty path that will lead to his crucifixion. A casual **soup supper** will be served at **6:30pm** prior to worship.

March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. Wednesday evening Lenten worship at 7pm

An informal **Soup Supper** will precede each Wednesday service at **6:30pm** in the fellowship hall adjoining the kitchen. Sign up sheets for the soup supper are posted near the church offices. All are welcome!

Stuff You Didn't Know About Ash Wednesday

Millions of Christians will have their foreheads marked with ashes in the shape of a cross on Ash Wednesday. Some facts worth knowing:

1. Not all Christians observe Ash Wednesday.

While Ash Wednesday is closely associated with Catholicism, Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Baptists also recognize it. Mormons and Pentecostal Christians do not.

2. The ash has biblical significance.

The ashes used represent dust. You will hear:

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is what God says to Adam when exiling him from the Garden of Eden (in the Bible, Adam is literally formed from dust). The saying is a reminder to be humble in the face of mortality.

3. The history of Ash Wednesday is less than 1000 years old. The first Ash Wednesday ceremonies were likely held in the 11th century. The Book of Daniel links fasting to ashes, and some scholars believe this is the origin of the Lenten practice.

4. Ashes are recycled from the previous Lent. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are eco-friendly. On Palm Sunday, churches pass out palm fronds like those used to welcome Jesus Christ to Jerusalem days before his crucifixion. Those palms are burned to make the ashes that are applied to people's foreheads 11 months later.

5. There are rules about the food. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting. That doesn't mean abstaining from food completely. Instead, observers may limit themselves to one whole meal plus two small ones that, added up, don't equal a meal they would eat on a normal day. They should also avoid eating meat like they would on Fridays during Lent. (Fish is fine, though.)

6. In Iceland, Ash Wednesday can look like Halloween.

A child dressed as a dragon —> celebrates Ash Wednesday with his parents, dressed as police officers.

The first day of Lent in Iceland is similar to Halloween. Kids dress up in costumes and sing songs in exchange for candy.

7. You can get ashes without going to church.

Priests and pastors may station themselves on street corners or bus stops—prepared to administer blessed ashes to whoever asks. Many churches offer packets of ashes to take home for loved ones. Receiving ashes isn't a sacrament, so rules are less strict.



An Ash Wednesday service in Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2002.



Hello February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u>	27 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	28 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	29 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	30 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	31	February 1
2 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u>	3 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	4 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	5 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	6 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	7	8
9 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u>	10 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>7 pm</u> <u>Council</u> <u>Meeting</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	11 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	12 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	13 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>12:30 pm</u> <u>School</u> <u>Lunches Prep</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	14	15
16 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u>	17 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	18 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	19 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	20 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	21	22
23 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>School</u>	24 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	25 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	26 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	27 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	28	1

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 10:30 am Sunday Worship 11 am Sunday School	24 10 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	25 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	26 10 am TOPS Meeting 12 pm Food Boxes 5:15 pm TOPS Meeting	27 9 am - 12 pm 17-Mile Homemakers 8 pm AA	28	March 1
2 10:30 am Sunday Worship 11 am Sunday School	3 10 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	4 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	5 10 am TOPS Meeting 12 pm Food Boxes 5:15 pm TOPS Meeting 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	6 9 am - 12 pm 17-Mile Homemakers 8 pm AA	7	8
9 10:30 am Sunday Worship 11 am Sunday School	10 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Council Meeting 8 pm AA	11 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	12 10 am TOPS Meeting 12 pm Food Boxes 5:15 pm TOPS Meeting 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Midweek Lenten Worship	13 9 am - 12 pm 17-Mile Homemakers 12:30 pm School Lunches Prep 8 pm AA	14	15
16 10:30 am Sunday Worship 11 am Sunday School	17 10 am Bible Study 8 pm AA	18 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	19 10 am TOPS Meeting 12 pm Food Boxes 5:15 pm TOPS Meeting 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Midweek Lenten Worship	20 9 am - 12 pm 17-Mile Homemakers 8 pm AA	21	22
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Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Intern Pastor's cell: (907) 322-2065

E-mail

Jo: office@lordoflifeak.com

Office Hours
Weekday mornings

Mission Statement
Sharing the Light &
Warmth of God's Love

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Becky Peterson
Vice President: Brent Strickland
Secretary: Ranae Browning
Treasurer: Heather Markel

At Large: Evan Keil
Members: John Dart
Vacant
Eric Peterson

Intern Pastor: David Ingram
Financial Secretary: Carol Dahl

Next Church Council Meeting: **March 10 @ 7pm**

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.

Get the latest on our website:

www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest

or

Follow our Facebook page, worship live Sundays at 10:30am:
www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

3/1 Paula Fritsche
3/3 Dianna Lindhag
3/12 Lisa Garrison
3/23 Rosie Aleshire
3/29 Sean Garrison
3/30 Tim Schackman



Prayers for:

~ Hoffmann/Fritsche family,
healing and strength
~ Brother of Jo S, embarking
on cancer treatment

~ Those with ongoing health
issues

Contact

office@lordoflifeak.com to
sign up for prayer chain emails

Anniversaries

3/13 Paula Fritsche & John
Hoffman
3/18 Barbara & Bob Thoma

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for March:

Lutheran Church of Hope,
Anchorage, Alaska

Please pray for:

- Lord grant us wisdom to care
for the delicate balance of
nature
- Creator God, we thank you
for the wonders of the Earth
- Compassionate God we lift up
the creatures of the world

*Is your important date missing?
please let us know so we can
celebrate with you!*

