

News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

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February 2026

Inside This Issue

A Pastor's Message	1-2
Every One His Witness	2
February Devotion	3
LWML News	4-5
Stewardship	6
Worship Schedules.....	7
Council Minutes	7-9
Activities Page	9
Calendar	10



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Pudge Springer, Secretary



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Q & A on Ash Wednesday

Q: Why do Christians observe Ash Wednesday?

A: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of repentance and reflection. It reminds us of our mortality and our need for Christ.

Q: Why do people have ashes placed on their foreheads?

A: The ashes, in the shape of a cross, are a visible sign of repentance and a reminder of the words spoken: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Q: Isn't it strange to have ashes smeared on our heads?

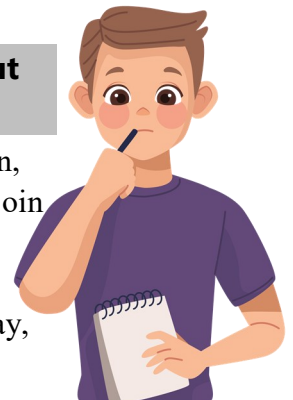
A: It may seem strange, but it is a deeply meaningful act. From baptism onward, we daily practice dying to self, and Ash Wednesday is a public acknowledgment of that truth.

Q: Didn't Jesus say we shouldn't disfigure our faces when fasting (Matt. 6:16-18)?

A: Yes, but his warning was against hypocrisy, not visible signs of faith. If applied to Ash Wednesday, it would also forbid outward Christian marks such as cross necklaces or Bible-verse clothing. Wearing a cross—whether on our forehead, our neck, or in our front yard—is a way of proclaiming that we belong to Christ.

Q: What does Ash Wednesday teach us about life and death?

A: Remember that we, mortal creatures, beset by sin, weak and failing and falling apart, will one day join those innumerable others who have gone before us, whose bodies now lie beneath the soil. We live in repentance and faith, knowing that one day, to dust we shall return.





February

- 14 Ron and Linda Meyer
- 14 Kyle and Tammy Wright
- 17 Judy Slough
- 22 Enzo Estes
- 23 Noah Estes
- 24 Linda Meyer
- 24 Cindy Niebur

Q: Is Ash Wednesday only about death?

A: No. The ashes also remind us of Christ's sacrifice. Just as the cross is traced on our foreheads, a crown of thorns was placed on his brow as he bore our sins.

Q: How does baptism relate to Ash Wednesday?

A: The same heads that bear ashes today were once washed in baptism. We are dust, but we are dust that has had water poured upon it, Spirit breathed into it, so that in Jesus we became the ever-living, ever-forgiven, ever-beloved children of our Father.

Q: What makes Ash Wednesday both strange and beautiful?

A: It is a day of contrasts—mourning our sin yet rejoicing in salvation, acknowledging our death yet remembering eternal life in Christ. It is a day to repent, reflect, and rest in the love of God.

by Chad Bird, Scholar of 1517

Every One His Witness The "I" in Lassie Stands for "Invite"

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, Come and see." (John 1:45-46)

Inventing generally involves sharing God's Word and is intended to keep the conversation going so the person has more exposure to God's Word.

Invitations are driven by:

- the context of your relationship with the person,
- the person's response to what you've already shared,
- the options available,
- the likelihood of continuing contact, and
- other factors.

There are no standard invitations. Instead, invitations need to be crafted for an individual person or circumstance.

You may be inviting a person to keep the conversation going or inviting him to keep the conversation going with someone else.

In other words, there are times when handing a person off to another witness of Jesus is best. It's not just a "Jesus and me" exercise. It involves the whole Body of Christ. Connecting the person to another believer may be the best way for him to keep hearing the Word of God.

Another way of understanding the "invite" of LASSIE is as an invitation for a person to "come and see."

After Philip encountered Jesus and spent some time hearing

Him teach, he wanted his brother Nathanael to meet Jesus too. His reaction to Philip's invitation was quite dismissive; but rather than try to convince him through reason or argument, Philip extended the simple invitation, "come and see." Nathanael accepted the invitation and became one of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

Some kind of "come and see" invitation is often the most effective way of keeping a person engaged in a conversation about Jesus.

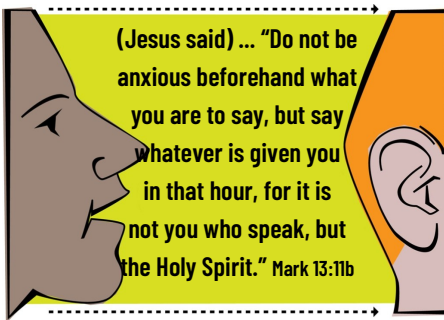
Next month: Invitations that appeal to the **head, heart, and hands**.

by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry

February Devotion



In Season and ...



Every once in a while, as I'm preparing the Daily Devotions, a story comes across my desk which is, quite frankly, most unusual.

That is certainly true for the narrative of 32-year-old Lindsay Wood of Shelby, North Carolina.

Recently, Wood and her young son came home from attending Wednesday evening worship at their church. While the boy was bringing in a trash can, she was attacked by a knife-wielding assailant.

The man did more than wield the knife; he used it and slashed her throat.

And what did Wood do? Before I answer that, let me ask, what would you have done? Would you ... struggle ... fight back ... try to escape ... look for a way to get help ... call out for your son to run and call the po-

lice? There are all kinds of things you and I might do.

Now let me tell you what Lindsay Wood did. She read the Bible to her assailant. That's right. While her son hid in the bushes, for more than an hour, she read the Bible to the man who continued to hold his knife to her throat.

She read the Bible and then she invited the man to her church.

Would you like to know the rest of the story? Here it is: the attacker began to apologize. Again and again, he apologized. He apologized and then he slipped back into the night. The police are still looking for him. And Lindsay Wood -- she was taken to the hospital where she received 25 staples to close the wound in her neck.

Commenting about the incident, Wood's father said, "She

was doing what her faith led her to do." I would like to add, she was making a witness, which was directed by the Holy Spirit.

Now you may wonder why I have told you Wood's story. There is a reason beyond asking what you would do in her situation. No, I'd like to take that question one step further and ask, what Scripture would you read to someone who hated you and the Savior? What passages of the Bible would be helpful in a time of difficulty, persecution or personal threat? Now I pray you will never find yourself in Lindsay Wood's circumstance, but I know someday you will find yourself in a situation.

Before that day comes, I encourage you to search the Scriptures, so you may be prepared to make your witness to the Savior.

The Prayer: Dear Lord, I give thanks that most people do not have to suffer the life-and-death moments that Lindsay did. For all the peace and day-to-day safety You give us, I am thankful. For a Savior who is with me in every situation, I praise You. Now, while there is time, may I study the Scriptures, so the Holy Spirit may use their power to touch lost souls. In Jesus' Name I ask it. Amen.

Pastor Ken Klaus

(Pastor Klaus 1948-2023, archived devotions, February 28, 2012)



November & December Highlights

2025 Officers:

President Dawn Hedberg, **Vice-President** Cindy Neibur,
Treasurer Susan Kral, **Secretary** Jayne Marie Trick

We did not have a society business meeting in the month of December.

Instead, we participated in and hosted the following events:

Christmas Decorating for Peace:

- Several society members helped to decorate the church for the Advent season on Saturday November 29th.

Advent Soup Suppers:

- December 3rd, a chili supper hosted by Dawn Hedberg, Susan Kral and Carol Croft.
- December 10th, vegetable beef soup supper hosted by Jayne Marie Trick and Rhonda Stalcup.
- December 17th, hot dogs and macaroni and cheese supper hosted by Candi and Bob Tostenrud, and Cindi Neibur.

All Advent suppers were well attended. There was no charge for the meal, but rather a donation was requested. The money donated will go towards the sponsorship of a Missouri student attending Concordia University, Seward Nebraska. Rev. Dr. Kristopher Morris will look into locating for us a Missouri student in need. He has 2 students in

mind for us to consider and “adopt”.

Christmas Party:

Our LWML Christmas party was held Saturday December 23rd in the Peace Fellowship Hall. Society members were encouraged to bring a guest, a \$10 wrapped gift, and a dish for the salad luncheon. Dessert was provided by Deb Mayes. The party was well attended with 24 members and guests. Hosts were Paula Emery and Peggy Callahan. The party decor and theme were exceptionally wonderful with the theme of “Everything Christmas!”

Gathering of Non-Perishable Food Items:

Starting on November 30th through the month of December we collected non-perishable food items for the Community for Christ food pantry in Sunrise Beach. All members of the church were encouraged to participate. A decorated box was located in the Narthex for items to be gathered.

Respectfully submitted by
Jayne Marie Trick, Secretary

LWML Meeting January 12, 2026

2026 Officers:

President Dawn Hedberg,
Vice-President Cindy Neibur
Treasurer Susan Kral,
Secretary Jayne Marie Trick

We began the meeting with a reading by President Dawn Hedberg entitled “What Does This Day Contain?”. Roll Call word for the month of January was blessing. Eight members were in attendance and answered the roll call with their chosen Bible verses. Members recited the LWML Pledge.

The secretary’s November meeting minutes were briefly examined, and a few high points were mentioned. Highlights were also covered from November through December. We did not have a society meeting in December. Treasurer Susan Kral read and discussed the November and December Treasurer’s Report. Both reports were approved. Collection was taken for Mites and General Fund.

President’s Report:

- Members voiced their delight over such a wonderful Christmas party. Reminder was made of our hosting the Spring Rally April 28.
- There will be a District meeting at Trinity Cole Camp to

create a ballot for zone officers. Dawn Hedberg will attend the meeting.

- Dawn Hedberg and Cindy Neibur volunteered to be our delegates for the Missouri LWML District being held June 12 through the 14 in Cape Girardeau. Jayne Marie has agreed to be an alternate.

Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker was Christina Williams from Hope Chapel in Osage Beach. She informed us of their mission project called “Swaddling Clothes”. They provide quality used and new clothing and care items for babies and children up to age four. Our society agreed to give the “Swaddling Clothes” a monetary gift and discussed the possibility of setting up a collection box for them.

Correspondence: We received:

1. A request from the Missouri District of the LCMS to consider giving a monetary gift of support to the Synod for their continued outreach work.
2. A thank you letter from Community for Christ Outreach Center.
3. A Christmas greeting and request for a monetary donation to Zoe’s Home in Clinton Missouri.

The following correspondence was sent out:

1. Invitations to our Spring Rally were sent to Sheryl Bald and Sara Anderegg.
2. A thank you note to Hope Lutheran for their donation of postage stamps.

The Mites Reading was presented by President Dawn on “Growing Old Together”.

Committee Reports:

- **Pop Tabs:** No report
- **Best Choice Labels:** No report
- **Kitchen Committee:** We decided to meet on Saturday January 24 to clean and re-organize the little kitchenette in the Narthex.
- **Human Care:** We looked over the monthly standing mission projects and were asked to consider possibly adding new mission projects for the new year of 2026.
- **Stamps Committee:** We received a box of stamps from Hope Lutheran.
- **Photography Committee:** No report
- **Visitor Bag Committee:** Five visitor bags were given out between December 21 and January 4.

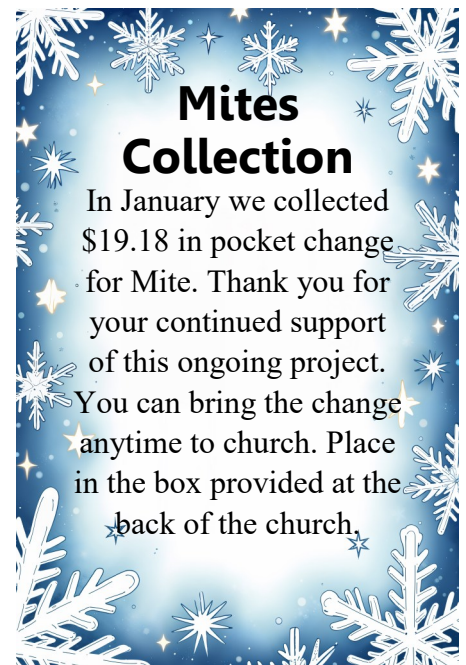
Old Business:

We would like to get together for a craft project with the old hymn books, and a possible salad luncheon.

Bible Study: Members sang together the Doxology, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”. The Bible study was titled, “Fountain of Blessing”, taken in part from a 2015 LWML Bible study.

We closed our meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Jayne Marie Trick, Secretary



Christian Symbols



Cornerstone —

The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. The IHC and XP on the stone’s sides are abbreviations for “Jesus” and “Christ” in Greek.

Tau Rho—The symbol of salvation is composed of the Greek letters tau (T) and rho (P). It was first used in ancient New Testament manuscripts as an abbreviation for the Greek word for “cross.” The symbol also seems to visually represent Jesus on the cross.

Stewardship

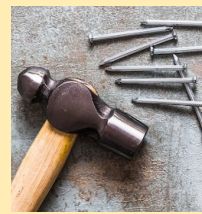


Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!



But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens,

husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of **who** he is, but rather **what** he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display



as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to

pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each



his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

Reprinted from the LCMS Stewardship website

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

- **Elders—First Sunday of Each Month**
Chairman: Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Larry Trick
- **Council—2nd Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm**
 - ♦ **President:** Brock Kliewer (two yr term)
 - ♦ **Vice President:** Noah Estes (two yr term)
 - ♦ **Secretary:** Susan Kral (two yr term)
 - ♦ **Financial Secretary:** Brett Niebur
 - ♦ **Treasurer:** Peggy Callahan (two yr term)
- **Stewardship:** Candi Tostenrud
- **Evangelism:** Paula Emery
- **Education:** Open
- **Organists:** Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab
- **Trustees:** Kyle Wright, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan, Chuck Kral
- **LWML—2nd Monday of each month 9:00 am**
 - President:** Dawn Hedberg
 - Altar Guild:** Dawn Hedberg
- **Bible Studies** As announced
- **Elected Offices**

Serving in God's House

	Elder	Altar Guild
January –	Jeff Hedberg	Dawn Hedberg
February –	Jeff Emery	Paula Emery
March –	Larry Trick	
April –	Jeff Hedberg	Dawn Hedberg
May –	Jeff Emery	Paula Emery
June -	Larry Trick	
July -	Jeff Hedberg	Dawn Hedberg
August –	Jeff Emery	Paula Emery
September –	Larry Trick	Diane Borgmann
October –	Jeff Hedberg	Cindy Niebur
November –	Jeff Emery	Paula Emery
December –	Larry Trick	Dawn Hedberg
Minister	Rev. Gary Brandt	
Organists:	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, Russ 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
4th Sunday	Matt & Deb Mayes
5th Sunday	Pudge Springer

1/2026

Council Meeting January 13, 2026

Vice President Noah Estes called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Pastor Brandt opened with prayer.

The following board members were present: **Pastor** Gary Brandt, **President** Brock Kliewer, **Vice President** Noah Estes, **Financial Secretary** Brett Niebur, **Secretary** Susan Kral, **Elder** Jeff Hedberg, **Trustee** Chuck Kral, and **Cemetery** Diane Borgmann

Absent: **Treasurer** Peg Callahan, **Evangelism** Paula Emery and **Stewardship** Candi Tostenrud

The minutes from the November 11, 2025 meeting were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary: Brett reported that the budget is in the black except for the purchase of a new furnace. That expenditure came from a different account. Brett submitted a budget for 2026 and then a revised 2026 budget in December 2025. Brett's report was accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report at this meeting.

Board of Elders: Jeff reported the following:

- The elders met on 12/28/2025. The attendees were Pastor Brandt, Jeff Emery, Jeff Hedberg, and Larry Trick.
- There was discussion regarding medical concerns of several members and ways to arrange for assistance for those people.
- Jeff Emery presented some photos that showed how our sanctuary would look if a rock wall were installed behind the altar. Paula Emery will present the photos at the January 18 voters' meeting.
- Pastor Brandt will not be present for the February 8 service.
- Jeff Emery made a proposal for congregation members to repaint the nativity figures this coming summer.
- Emergency Management in Camdenton is holding a meeting January 29 with local churches to discuss how to handle emergencies. Jeff Hedberg plans to attend.
- The officer terms were reviewed.
 - **Brock's President's** term began 1/1/2026 and expires on 12/31/27.
 - **Noah's Vice President's** term began on 1/1/25 and expires on 12/31/27.
 - **Susan's Secretary's** term began on 1/1/26 and expires on 12/31/27.
 - **Brett's Financial Secretary's** term began on 1/1/26 and expires on 12/31/27.
- **Elders:**
 1. Jeff Hedberg's term began on 1/1/26 and expires on 12/31/28.
 2. Jeff Emery's term began on 1/1/25 and expires on 12/31/27.
 3. Larry Trick's term began on 1/1/24 and expires on 12/31/26.
- **Board of Trustees:**
 - Chuck Kral's and Kyle Wright's terms began 1/1/25 and expire on 12/31/27.
 - Pat Callahan and Rodney Schulz volunteer as needed.
- **Evangelism:** Paula Emery's term began on 1/1/26 and expires on 12/31/27.
- **Stewardship:** Candi Tostenrud's term began on 1/1/26 and expires on 12/31/27.

Jeff's report was accepted and approved.

Trustees: Chuck reported the following:

- Chuck noticed a propane odor in the furnace room. Tom's Heating and Air replaced a valve on a furnace.
- Kyle burned leaves where needed.
- The gentleman who performed snow removal for us moved to Iowa. Chuck located a replacement. Kent Morris was hired. Jeff Hedberg will contact Mr. Morris as needed. (Phone# 573-216-1127)
- Chuck changed the water filters leading from the well.
- Chuck will get a kit to check the water quality for the water softener.

Chuck's report was accepted and approved.

Evangelism: There was no report.

Stewardship: There was no report.

Member at Large: Vacant

Cemetery: Diane had no report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brandt reported the following:

- Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas were celebrated with beautiful worship services. Three of the Advent services were preceded by food and fellowship. Pastor thanks everyone who prepared food, decorated the sanctuary and put up the outdoor Nativity scene. All of you are a blessing to everyone around you, especially to me.
- Pastor conducted a funeral service at his former parish in Ada, Oklahoma.
- Pastor made many phone calls to members who were ill or experiencing difficult personal situations.
- Pastor attended the December Circuit Pastors' Conference held at Immanuel Lutheran in Honey Creek, MO. He attended the January Circuit Pastors' Conference held at Immanuel Lutheran in Booneville.
- Pastor has made hymn selections for all of 2026.
- Pastor is grateful for Pudge for her cheerfully performing office duties and Diana Schwab for her dedication in playing the organ for Sunday and evening services.
- Pastor Tony Alter will cover the February 8 service.
- "All of you are a true blessing from God. May He continue to shower His love upon each of us in 2026."

Pastor's report was accepted and approved.

President's Reports

Old Business: Susan gave council members a copy of the October Voters' Meeting minutes.

New Business:

- Peace Lutheran officers will be installed on the January 25 Sunday service.
- Brock and Pastor Brandt will discuss the nomination of officers for the Regional Missouri Synod District.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M. Pastor Brandt led the closing with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kral, Secretary

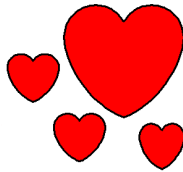
Activity Page

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Valentines & Love Anagram

Word list:

agape, always, cross, enemies,
forgive, God, neighbor, respected,
special, unconditional



aalswy _____

acdiilnnnootu _____

dgo _____

aceilps _____

aaegp _____

corss _____

eeeimns _____

ceeprst _____

beghinor _____

efgiornv _____



In the Garden



Find these words in the above puzzle.

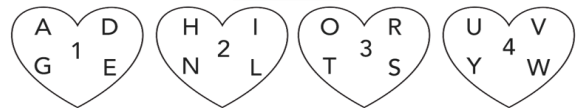
Adam, Earth, Garden, Ground, Man, Woman, Commanded,
God, Heavens, River, Created, Eve, Gold, Knowledge, Streams

Puzzle

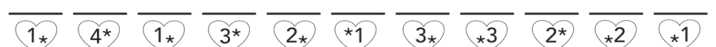
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



"



Jeremiah 31:3

Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

FEBRUARY

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Elders Mtg. Mites Collection	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3 Pastor's Circuit Mtg.	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	9 LWML Mtg 9 a.m. Roll call word love	10 Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	16 Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m. President's Day, no mail	17	18 Ash Wednes- day Service 6 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25 Lenten Service 6 p.m.	26	27	28



News of Peace is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; **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."

