

FEBRUARY

2025

To me, February has always felt like a month where we're in the "in-between." It comes each year after January and before March. February has unique holidays, events, and commemorations: Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Black History Month, sometimes Ash Wednesday, the Super Bowl, and Leap Day (every four years). It is also the shortest month of the year, which is a nice reprieve for those of us who can't wait for the first signs of Spring to appear in March. This year, I am reflecting on what staying present to all that February brings during this "in-between" time might entail. What if February was the month where we lean into life and pay close attention to the life and wonders in the world around us?



I think of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34. This teaching is a part of the Sermon on the Mount—the famous discourse that begins with the line, "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." After talking about the Beatitudes and other concerns on what we all experience as humans, Jesus tells his audience, "Do not worry." He speaks specifically of nature and how God always provides for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? (Matt. 6:28-30)."

I see in these words an invitation from Jesus—an invitation to be present and to notice the world around us. To be still in nature and witness the silence that comes on a crisp winter's evening. To see the crows and hawks and eagles soaring through the air. To imagine what is happening beneath the hard frost as tiny organisms work in the soil to prepare flowers to spring up in a couple months. To pay attention to what we are feeling in our bodies: maybe it's exhaustion or a tightness from anxiety over the state of the world, maybe it's joy about a moment in your life or the life of a loved one, maybe it's renewed energy and focus to accomplish a goal or task set before you, or maybe it's a sense of calm because you feel at peace about where your life is at the moment. Whatever you are feeling this month, pay attention to it, and get curious about why you are feeling the way you are. Share with loved ones in your life about what you are going through—they may relate. Believe that you can always bring whatever you are feeling or experiencing to God—through prayer, through writing, through any form of art, through speaking aloud—and trust that God will hear you.

Know that you are also supported and celebrated by our congregation here at First Lutheran Church. This month, I invite you to show up and be present for the many services and events we have planned: Sunday worship, the Hymn Sing and Supper at 4 pm on the 2nd, Open Prayer at noon on the 4th, committee meetings, a 5 pm dinner prior to the Copper Street Brass Concert on February 24, and others as they arise. And, try to go to some community and school events, too! Please continue to pray for the ministry we share together, for our Kenyon community, and for the world around us—that we may all share in Jesus' invitation to be present and attuned to even the lilies lingering beneath our cold Minnesota ground.

In Peace, Pastor D.J.

FEBRUARY THOUGHTS FROM YVONNE

Dear friends,

Winter can be so long. I'm wondering how you keep your heart warm in these winter months. We bundle our bodies in layers of scarves and hats, coats and gloves, boots and wool socks, but how do you warm your mental health and soul in these days? Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) affects millions of people in our country, especially those of us in more northern climates. This probably isn't a modern phenomenon.

One of the reasons that northern Europeans—pre-Christian groups first—celebrated a festival in the winter was simply to keep their spirits up, to give people something to look forward to in the dark, cold days. When the Church looked for a date to celebrate the birth of Christ, Christ's Mass, it made sense to leadership to place it near the winter solstice, when many communities already held a celebration. Just as the winter solstice is the longest night and every night forward grows shorter, so also our Light dawned that first Christmas. We light our trees and porches with colorful lights to reflect the star seen by the magi.

What about now, though, when all but the most stubborn of us have unplugged those glowing lights of hope? Maybe you, like my great aunts, have a cozy evening tradition of Ovaltine before bed—warmed in the winter months. Perhaps you enjoy lighting a fire and watching it dance in the glass. I like to snuggle up under a blanket with my cats and watch a couple minutes of *Call the Midwife*.

In the middle of February, our society celebrates love, especially romantic love. This could be a difficult day for you, but I hope you take solace in the memories and joy of the love you have shared. In the show *WandaVision*, Vision asks the profound question, "What is grief, if not love persevering?"

In these months, when everything can feel cold, reach out to someone with a warm thought. Check in on your friends and loved ones to see how they are getting through. Love can be as simple as a phone call, as profound as the box of brownies we baked to warm up the house, and as easy as a smile.



In Christ - Vicar Yvonne

I COR. 13:8 LOVE NEVER FAILS. KJV

"Souper Bowl of Caring" – Through Sunday, February 9

What if everyone watching the Super Bowl Game on February 9 were to donate \$1, \$2, \$5 or more dollars to tackle hunger? "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" is a national nonprofit that mobilizes communities to collect monetary and food donations traditionally during the weeks leading up to and after Super Bowl Sunday. All of the money and food is then given directly to charities of the group's choice.



First Lutheran Stewardship will be asking for monetary donations through Super Bowl Sunday with proceeds going to ELCA World Hunger. Give generously out of the abundance God has given you!

Help us TACKLE HUNGER!



A Note from your Organ Fund Raising Committee

The fundraising committee is overjoyed at your enthusiasm for repairing our historical pipe organ. It was fun to unearth facts for writing an article about our organ and have it published in two local newspapers in January. In February, the first installment of the repair contract will be paid, with subsequent payments occurring this spring, summer, and again when the work is finished. Updates of the total funds raised so far can be found on our stand in the Narthex. If you have other ideas or want to join the committee, please talk to any one of us - Tanya Short, Chris Cordes, Eric & Susan Hoversten, Carmen Nesseth, Heidi Haugen or Pastor D.J. Many thanks to our members joining in with the work of the following -

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- FEBRUARY 2** 4 -6:30 pm (Rescheduled) **HYMN SING** and **LASAGNA SUPPER**, Freewill Offering.
- FEBRUARY 24** 5 pm **PRE-EVENT PULLED PORK MEAL**, at First Lutheran.
\$10 per plate/tickets available.
Followed by Copper Street Band Concert at the high school, 7 pm.
- MARCH 19** **KWHS BAND Vespers Service** at First Luth. / Free will offering.
- MARCH 29** **Get-ORGAN-ized Garage Sale** - See Below ↓

GARAGE SALE DONATIONS:

Will be accepted at the church Mondays thru Thursdays 10-3, and Fridays 1-3. Calling the church office 507-789-5261 is recommended to confirm it is open due to unexpected appointments.

Gently used items accepted. Clothing must be clean and free from stains/holes/excessive wear. No tube televisions, refrigerators, air-conditioner units or mattresses.

Donation boxes at church entries & also in totes located in East side basement classrooms.

For donation pick up or large item/furniture questions—call Susan Hoversten 907-854-5959 or Christine Ersland 507-319-4754.

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This month, we WELCOME through BAPTISM:

Marshall James Kaufmann

Son of Kayla Musgjerd Kaufmann & Michael Kaufmann

Avery Lynn Eggert

Daughter of Sarah Collins Eggert & Brice Eggert

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – January 15, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: Vice President Erica Aronson @ 6:04 pm

Devotions: Carmen Nesseth. Stewardship is a gift, Psalm 24:1

Present: Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Erica Aronson, Candy Herrlich, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Eric Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Tanya Short, Lindsay Short, Amy Lee, Bryana Lothert

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions Amy/Eric/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's Report: Reviewed as printed in the December Church Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Annual giving was \$8000 less than last year but that was better than anticipated. Only paying pulpit support for a few months this summer helped our financials. We were able to pay our full benevolence pledge due to a large donation in December. Thank you to everyone who gave generously in 2024. Records show 126 'giving units' contributed, but 12 of those giving units account for 54% of all the giving. Please consider increasing your giving, even by a small amount. The globe loose change for 2023 & 2024 combined was approximately \$600. ½ was sent to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Columbia and ½ to ELCA Disaster Response Hurricane Relief.

Pastor's Report: Continuing to make home visits. Visited Carol Lozon for the last time prior to Christmas. We discussed arrangements for her memorial service. Continue to hear appreciation for online service streams from homebound folks. Kenyon Community Connections: Held open prayer time on January 7. Candle lighting, prayer jar, meditative music: 2 participants. Also received a \$5,000 check from the Fire Department for organ repairs: they want to be kept in the loop on the project, as they are interested in helping with construction needs. Co-wrote with Tanya an article for Kenyon newspapers about organ restoration. Confirmation: Acolytes ongoing. Resumed class after December's focus on worship. Students learned about Joseph last week and will continue with the Old Testament. Date arranged with Temple of Aaron Synagogue in St. Paul for Confirmation students to visit and attend Shabbat service on Saturday, May 10. Letter about mentorship opportunity will be sent to Confirmation students soon. Synod events: First Call Retreat at Gustavus: January 12-14. Upcoming: Cannon River Conference Assembly here on Sunday, February 16 from 2-4 pm. Need up to 6 delegates plus 2 youth/young adults (under age 30). Upcoming: Council as Leaders on Saturday, March 8 from 9-3 at Trinity in Owatonna. Plan to attend if you are available. Synod will send more info out soon. Funerals: Nordis Luebke Memorial Service on Saturday, December 21; Mary Skundberg Memorial Service: January 4; Maurine Olson: January 6; Carol Lozon: January 10. Special thanks to all who helped with food, service, and preparing the building, especially Don, Candy, Peyton, Chris, Julie, Coralee, Donna, Heidi, Carmen, Brad, Sharon, Paul, Tammy, Trudy, Sherry, FLCW, others I may have missed, and all who have kept the families, our congregation, and me in prayer. Other: Figured out health insurance change for this year. Minimal change, if any. First Communion will happen on Maundy Thursday: more info to be communicated to parents. December 19-January 15 Mileage (\$53.60) + Movie for Confirmation (\$16.10). Total: \$69.70

Motion to approve the consent agenda including mileage and other expense reimbursements.

Eric/Carmen/pass

President's Report: No report

Ongoing Items:

1. Cannon River Conference Assembly: First Lutheran is hosting on 2/16 from 2-4pm. FLCW will arrange for cookies and coffee.
2. Council as Leaders: Still planned for March 8th. No updates at this time.
3. Organ Repair Fundraising: Fundraising continues. Planning a Hymn sing & Supper on 1/19, Pre-event meal on 2/24 prior to Copper Street Brass concert at the KW High School, Get ORGAN-ized garage sale on 3/29. Donations being accepted now! Approx \$16,000 will be paid by January 31st, next payment due will be around May. Currently have \$51,070 in the music account.

New Items:

1. Annual Report: Tammy is preparing and will send to Annette. Annette to email out to congregation, Will plan to project the report on the screen at the annual meeting and have a limited number of paper copies available.
2. Kenyon Farmers Market: Parks and Rec has asked to use First Lutheran's parking lot again for 2025 Farmer's Market. Market will be the 1st and 3rd Thursday from June 6th through the end of September. Motion was made to allow the Kenyon Farmers Market to be held in the parking lot.
Tammy/Carmen/Pass

Youth Rep. Report: Boys basketball is 9-3, girls BB is 3-8. Wrestling is 2-1. The speech team season is on-going. The high school wraps up semester this week. The KW band is looking forward to performing at the MMEA event in Minneapolis on 2/14. This is a very big deal and many guest directors have been coming to the school to help them prepare. There is a fan bus available for any community member who would like to attend. Triple A winners this year are Joseph Mills and Carmen Nerison. Elsie Braaten and Olivar Breyer won the ExCEL award for juniors.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- Christmas gifts for staff distributed, Love Day sent a check to Good Earth Village Gala. Thankoffering \$780 will be sent to Women of ELCA. Lefse profit was \$460. Mitten tree donations will be delivered to KW schools. Yearly disbursements discussed and giving finalized.

Worship/Evangelism- Assisted and provided Pastor with previous traditions in regard to Lenten season, first communion and Palm Sunday. Shared and discussed new ideas including transitioning to baked bread for communion. Will begin planning for Palm Sunday and Lenten services including a breakfast. Outgoing committee members thanked. Committee will provide servers for Hymn Sing and supper for organ fundraiser as able.

Property and Management- Video camera went down and Fette was able to repair remotely. This should be covered by warranty.

Stewardship- Planning Souper Bowl of Caring, Carmen will do a temple talk, considering stewardship opportunities: possible videos about why we give. Thanks for all your Stewardship in 2024.

Youth and Education- December events: Annual Christmas shopping, family movie night, and Christmas program/live nativity. Upcoming Events: Family outing snow tubing on January 18th, with alternate date of January 25th. Planning for February events: packing party for local food shelf, welcoming new EDYou members, Lent Soup suppers. Also, Intergenerational activity on March 16th, possibly Bingo. Looking ahead to summer camps: VBS, Good Earth Village, and Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Next meeting 2/12. Youth email address: flcyouth45@gmail.com

KAIC- No December KAIC meeting. From Pastor DJ's report: Met with a few of the pastors and Intern Yvonne on Sunday, January 5 to discuss midyear progress and areas for continued collaboration.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Endowment met and awarded 2 scholarships.

Next Meeting: February 19th, 6 pm

Devotions: Erica

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Carmen/Tammy/pass Time: 7:14 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

February

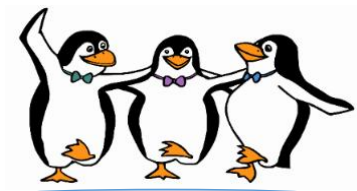
2025

Season: **AFTER EPIPHANY**



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<p>2 Presentation of Our Lord</p> <p>9 Worship Baptism</p> <p>10 Sun School</p> <p>10 Coffee</p> <p>4-7 Hymn Sing & Lasagna Supper</p>						
<p>3</p> <p>5:30 Worsh- Evang</p> <p>Organ Fundraiser</p>						
<p>4</p> <p>12-1 Open Prayer Time- In Sanctuary</p>						
<p>5</p> <p>Confirmation at home</p>						
<p>6</p> <p>7 AA</p>						
<p>7</p>						
<p>8</p>						
<p>9 5th Sun aftr Epiph</p> <p>9 Worship Baptism</p> <p>Souper Bowl of Caring</p> <p>10 Sun School</p> <p>10 Coffee</p>						
<p>10</p>						
<p>11</p> <p>Pastor Gone Today</p>						
<p>12</p> <p>5-30-7 Confirmation</p> <p>6:30 EdYou</p>						
<p>13</p> <p>1 LOVE DAY</p> <p>7 AA</p>						
<p>14</p> <p>8:45 am KWHS Band performs at Convention Center</p>						
<p>15</p>						
<p>16 6th Sun aftr Epiph</p> <p>Bell Choir</p> <p>9 Worship</p> <p>10 Sun School</p> <p>10 Coffee</p> <p>2-4 Cannon River Conference Assembly at FIRST</p>						
<p>17</p>						
<p>18</p>						
<p>19</p> <p>5-30-7 Confirmation</p> <p>6 Council</p>						
<p>20</p> <p>7 AA</p>						
<p>21</p>						
<p>22</p>						
<p>23 7th Sun aftr Epiph</p> <p>9 Worship</p> <p>10 Sun School</p> <p>10 Coffee</p>						
<p>24</p> <p>5 Pre Event Meal @First</p> <p>7 Copper Street Brass Concert @ KHS Aud.</p>						
<p>25</p> <p>Organ Fundraiser</p> <p>7 KAIC</p>						
<p>26</p> <p>5-30-7 Confirmation</p>						
<p>27</p> <p>1 LOVE DAY</p> <p>7 AA</p>						
<p>28</p>						
<p>MARCH 2</p> <p>Transfiguration w/Intern Yvonne</p>						
<p>MARCH 5</p> <p>Ash Wed.</p>						

CAN FEBRUARY MARCH ? NO, BUT APRIL MAY !



Days/Events in February

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 O C F G D J R A L N E T A L O C O H C U Y N T K

george washington
 lemon meringue
 black history
 quarterback
 super bowl
 chocolate
 rohit

chinese new year
 presidents day
 interception
 oscar night
 heartthrob
 affection
 cupid

national anthem
 valetines day
 boston cream
 placekicker
 touchdown
 football
 hugs

defensive back
 groundhog day
 underwriters
 maroon five
 oceanwide
 genie

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FEBRUARY

Newsletter



HELLO, FEBRUARY!

*The month of love is here.
Spread it around and make it
LOVE-LY!*