

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February is here. Just a few short weeks ago we were celebrating Christmas enjoying the New Years break and now we look at February.

Easter is late this year as Ash Wednesday is not until March 5<sup>th</sup>.

But that does not mean there is no special day in February.

This year the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February is on a Sunday, and we will celebrate the Purification of Mary and Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. Forty days after a woman gave birth she was to purify herself with a sacrifice at the temple, plus the child was to be presented at the temple and in the case of Jesus a first born male a sacrifice was to be made. The Feast of the presentation is also called Candlemas. The lessons for this day were read on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas is when those lessons are assigned, and they tell of Jesus being brought to the temple on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after birth and being presented. Simeon and the Prophetess Anna are the two center characters.

Forty days is a familiar theme in Scriptures, Noah, Jonah, and the Temptation in the desert. It is a time of completeness. For Jesus the 40 days before his presentation was to allow the mother to be ready to take him to the temple and also time for her purification. For Jesus it was kind of like his coming out party as he was presented in the temple with an offering (1<sup>st</sup> born son). Simeon who had been waiting for the Messiah, saw him and blessed him. Our Liturgical song, the Nunc Dimittis comes from his song in the Gospel of Luke. Anna is the widow of who has been at the temple everyday prophesying the coming of God.

After the presentation of Jesus, we have the Feast of Valentine. Yes, Valentine's day is also a feast day of the church. Granted it is not a high feast day and the present celebration of Valentine's Day seems to have over run the feast day, but it originally was a feast day of the church. The evolution of Valentine's day started already with Chaucer, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The concept of it being a day to celebrate love started in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

There are various stories of a Valentine that go back to Roman times (Valentinus) and to try and discuss the historical background is almost impossible.

The main commonality of all the Valentines is that it celebrates a Saint who fostered love and gave of themselves for the sake of love.

Yours in Christ

*Pastor Marshall*

# OTHER NEWS



## Birthdays for the month of February

4 Rod Jacobs  
11 Harold Jacobs  
27 Bonnie McClure

*If we forgot you, we apologize, it means we most likely don't have it. Please see that the office receives it. Thanks*



## Baptismal Anniversaries for the month of February

Ainsley Riederer  
Espen Riederer  
Rod Jacobs  
Adam Shorts  
Andrew Raddle



**Sunday Average Attendance for last Sunday of December & first half of January— 47**

**Sunday Average Attendance online for last Sunday of December & first half of January— 5**

**Views – 13**

**Last Sunday of December & first half of January Offerings – \$15,790.28**

## Perfect Attendance!

### Sunday School Attendance for the month of December

#### Students:

Kaleigh Frye  
Baleigh Mizell

#### Adults:

Tricia & Harold Jacobs  
Bill Witt  
Phyllis Dunger  
Cathy Webb  
Phillip & Amanda Dunger  
Donna Marshall  
Dan Riederer  
Susan Marshall  
Pastor Marshall

LOVE IS PATIENT,  
LOVE IS KIND.



*1 Corinthians 13:4*

## Craft Day in the Fellowship Hall

There will be a craft afternoon on Saturday, February 1st in the fellowship hall starting at 1:00 p.m. These are such enjoyable afternoons with other crafters from our church. We really enjoy creativity and fellowship. Please join us with whatever craft you like and a snack.

If you would like to come to the craft afternoon but don't feel you have a craft that is fine. Just come along and visit with us.

# LWML NEWS

## MARY GUILD

The first Mary Guild meeting of 2025 was opened with a devotion by Arleen Parsley. Even though we know not what the year may bring, we should not fear the future because Christ will take care of us. Thirteen people attended the meeting including visitor, Danelle Riederer.

After the officers' reports, Phyllis Dunger reported on the delivery of crackers, candy, etc. to Tucker Prison. The men at Tucker welcomed our collection of goodies. We thank J.P. and Phyllis Dunger for taking the crackers for the men to enjoy and to let them know they were not forgotten.

Kaye Meins read a letter written by Rev. William Danowski, Pastor/Principal of Evergreen Lutheran Church and School LCMS, Detroit, Michigan. The church and school by the grace of God are celebrating their 80th year ministering to Detroit. They serve in a broken community of poverty-stricken families who feel hopeless. The Holy Spirit has empowered His faithful workers to keep the Gospel alive. Evergreen Lutheran School is the last Lutheran (LCMS) elementary school in Detroit. Mary Guild donated \$200 to aid in the ministry at Evergreen Lutheran Church and School.

Julie Shorts was our birthday girl for January. We sang well-wishes to her. Pat Baughman, along with Pastor Marshall, presented the topic, "The Lord's Prayer-- Dialogue." It was very thought-provoking. Phyllis Dunger was the hostess.

In February: Devotion--Julie Shorts  
Topic--Cherrie Bradley  
Hostess--Dallas Cossey  
Mission Project--Monetary  
donation to Lutheran Indian Ministries

We closed with the League Pledge.

Submitted by  
Kaye Meins



## Esther Guild Mailbox Member Program

Esther Guild continues with the Mailbox Member program. Our January email went out with a theme of "Happy New Year" of course. There was a devotion attached entitled "You Look Like Your Father" which reminds us that we were created in his image and even though fallen into sin, we should continue our work to serve him by witnessing to others.

Our project this month is collecting small fleece blankets, small stuffed animals, child-sized stocking caps, winter hats, gloves, mittens, or supporting the collection with a monetary donation, and/or praying for the children who will be receiving these items. These will be collected by Erin Foster during the month of January and donated to Neighbor to Neighbor. Please consider supporting our efforts by contributing what you can.

If you are not on the Esther Guild mailing list and would like to be, please let Erin Foster know and she will add you to the group.

Submitted by  
Erin Foster



### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT JAMAICA

- + It is the third largest island in the Caribbean
- + The island sits on top of a large underwater mountain.
- + A third of all Jamaicans live in Kingston.
- + Jamaica got independence from the United Kingdom in 1962.
- + The Jamaicans drive on the left side of the road.
- + The island cultivates one of the world's rarest and most expensive coffees.
- + 250 bird species call the island home.
- + Jamaica is home to one of the largest butterfly species in the world.
- + The first Caribbean country to launch a website.
- + Pray for the Lutheran Church of Jamaica!

## HAVE A BLESSED 2025!

Warm greetings in the name of the Lord. We pray that you had blessed Christmas and New Year's celebrations. The coming of the Christ Child gives hope and salvation to all nations. Accordingly we proclaim the birth of Our Savior to all nations.

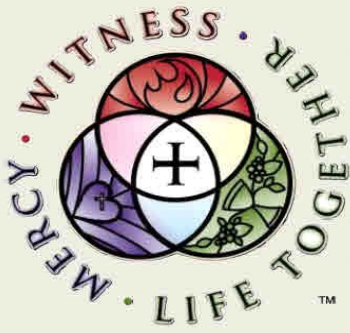
The missionaries and seminarians celebrated Christmas and New Years Eve s with food, fellowship and prayer. We thanked the Lord for a blessed 2024 and we prayed for a blessed 2025. A blessed time of Christians fellowship was enjoyed by all.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> until the 10<sup>th</sup> of January the annual Hispanic Formation Conference took place at Seminario El Reformador in the Dominican Republic. At this conference professors gave presentations on pastoral formation in the Latin American context. Representatives from 13 different Latin American countries attended this event.

On Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, The Winter Academic semester at the semiary got underway. Dan is teaching Biblical Greek II this semester. The students were a bit rusty on their first day of class, but they made a great effort and will soon be up to speed again. Keep these future pastors in your prayers as they prepare to preach the Gospel throughout Latin America.

We thank you for your prayers. At the same time, the churches of Latin America pray for needs that exist in all parts of the world. Accordingly the missionaries and members of the churches of the Dominican Republic continually pray for those who are affected by the tragedy of the Los Angeles fires. May the Lord through his mercy strengthen and give hope to those who are suffering losses.





### We Pray For

- + The Lutheran Church of Mexico.
- + Those affected by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area.
- + A blessed semester at our seminary.
- + Our seminarians as they begin their academic semester.
- + Ongoing prayers and financial support for our missionary work.

### We Give Thanks For

- + Dan's progress with his broken ankle.
- + Our mission donors who make our mission possible.

## Personal Notes

The healing process of Dan's ankle continues to go forward. Dan had a screw removed from his ankle and is now going to therapy sessions. His doctor read the latest xray and concluded that the healing process is coming along just fine.

We thank God for the mission in Latin America. Your support provides Biblical training for national pastors, deacons, and deaconesses. Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to support this vital mission. The Lord provides the funding for his mission efforts through the donations of His local churches and its individual members. Through your financial donations national pastors and deaconesses will be formed and mentored that they may spread the Gospel throughout Latin America. Together we partner with God to take the Gospel to the far ends of the earth. We thank you for supporting the mission in Latin America. God's richest blessings! Have a blessed 2025 for the Lord!



*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3)*

**Soli Deo Gloria**  
*Daniel and Kathy*



These Latin American pastors wish you a blessed 2025!

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089 Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Daniel Conrad."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [www.lcms.org/conrad](http://www.lcms.org/conrad) or call 888-930-4438 to speak with one of our Donor Care representatives.

You may also donate through Mission Central:  
<https://missioncentral.us/conrad/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!






# February 2025

	Elder	Ushers	Acolyte	Lector	Flowers by...	Counters
SUN 2	Phillip Dunger Bill Witt	Harold Jacobs Dan Riederer	Ainsley Riederer	Erin Foster	Dan & Danelle Riederer & Family "Blessings"	Judy Clinton Julie Shorts Sharon Calabretta
SUN 9	Steve Lochmann Phillip Dunger	Andrew Raddle John Alexander	Brennick Riederer	Steve Lochmann	Bill & Karen Witt "Blessings"	Phillip & Amanda Dunger
SUN 16	Steve Shorts Steve Lochmann	Robert Floyd Phillip Dunger	Espen Riederer	Robert Floyd	Steve & Julie Shorts "In thanks to God for many blessings"	Tricia Jacobs Cherrie Bradley Lynne Russell
SUN 23	Bill Witt Steve Shorts	Harold Jacobs Andrew Raddle	Kaleigh Frye	Cherrie Bradley	Kaye & Waymond Meins "62nd Anniversary—Thanks to God for our years together"	Joyce Anne Green Charleen Weathers

**Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Service Attendants**  
**Altar Care: Kaye Meins & Phyllis Dunger**

# February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 1:00 Craft Day in the Fellowship Hall
<b>2</b> Groundhog Day 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Elder's Meeting 5:00 Worship in Hamburg 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study 1:00 Mary Guild	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Super Bowl 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30 Pastors Circuit Meeting First Lutheran in LR	<b>12</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>13</b> 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Council Meeting 5:00 Worship in Hamburg 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>17</b> Presidents Day 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 Newsletter Committee	<b>20</b> 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Washington's Birthday
<b>23</b> 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study	<b>28</b>	

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Trinity Lutheran Church

Pine Bluff, Arkansas



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