

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH LIGHT

401 Flynn Drive, Milbank, SD 57252 February 2024

"Where do you see God's love in your life?"

In the January newsletter, I asked everyone to answer this question as we continue the reflection of our Mission Statement and think about how we are growing in love. Here are the responses that have been shared so far and added as leaves to our tree of faith. There is still time to add your answer to the question.

- My children's strength and love
- Love of my Lord, family and friends
- Noisy Communion
- My Sunday School kids when they sing
- My faith, our family, and our church
- When my students include new friends
- At my workplace
- My cat and my family
- My family and the church family



These are all great examples of where we see God's love in our life and in our world. However, the very first leaf that was written on brought tears to my eyes. It was written and signed by Royce, one of our 3rd grade Sunday School students. He wrote – "when He died on the cross for us?" That's what it is all about. That is the greatest example of love in the history of the world. That out of His great, immeasurable love for the world, God would send His Son to dies on the cross so that we are forgiven, made holy, and given the gift of salvation.

The Season of Lent begins this month. This season where we journey again with Jesus to the cross. Where we prepare our hearts and minds to witness again the death of our Savior and the glory of the resurrection on Easter morning.

Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 14th (Valentine's Day), a secular day to celebrate love. There is no greater love than the love God has for us. Our love for one another grows out of the love we have received from God. I invite you to come and worship the God of love this Valentine's Day and hear again of the great love God has for you!

Pastor Justin

Return to me with all your heart."

Toel 242

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Sara VanMeter V. Pres: Sara Anderson Secretary: Donita Magedanz Treasurer: Emily Mueller

PROPERTY/ MANAGEMENT

Dan Bohn **Brett Storm** Kevin Schuelke

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Jessica Schuchard **Holly Hilbrands** Sheila Myrum

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Sara Anderson Jacob Knoll

WORSHIP/EVANGELISM

Laurie Strege Sara VanMeter Donita Magedanz

YOUTH MEMBER Howie Zemlicka

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 11 COUNCIL MEETING

Property & Management Committee

Fellowship Hall painting begins January 22. •

Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Directory photos planned for April 3-6
- New Member Sunday being planned.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

- Approved Gift Acceptance Policy, Designated Gift Program, Gift Acceptance Checklist. Brochures are available.
- Annual Audit for 2023 being planned.

Youth & Education Committee

- Preschool Board is working on fundraising. •
- Preschool registration is open.
- Rachel applied for and received a Synod Grant to use for Toddler Time.
- Camp Sunday is planned for January 21.

Other Business (new & old)

The agenda for the January 28th Annual

Listen to the Worship Service:

On the RADIO LIVE at 9 am on KMSD (1510AM/95.1FM)

FACEBOOK Live

"LIVE at 9 am on Facebook""

ALC APP

Worship Service Videos, Bulletins, Newsletter

www.americanlutheran.com

Worship Service Videos & Bulletins

Meeting was approved.

- The office computer and the AV booth computer will be replaced.
- Investment Committee will meet to discuss new retirement program for staff.
- Lenten Suppers discussed and planned.
- Easter Services discussed. Looking at the youth doing a sunrise service in addition to the traditional morning service.
- A group is looking at updating the outdoor street sign. They will put a proposal to-
- Discussed each committee's 2024 council goals.

The next council meeting is after the Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28.

The February meeting will be February 11 at 10:30. The regular time falls on Ash Wednesday.

ewardship Time, Talent, Treasure

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|---------|------------|--------------|
| 1/07/23 | 186 | \$ 10,496 |
| 1/14/23 | 86 | \$ 3,318 |
| 1/21/23 | 195 | \$ 3,882 |
| 1/28/23 | 156 | \$ 4,320 |
| | | |

Online giving: \$ 5,445



Choice Dollars Deadline

THANK YOU Thrivent Members!

We appreciate the Thrivent Choice Dollars you direct each year to American Lutheran Church and American Lutheran Church Preschool. Your dollars make a difference! (The deadline for 2023 dollars is 3/31/24)

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Thrivent Financial members that have Choice Dollars® have until Wednesday, March 31 to direct them

American Lutheran Church Staff Contact Information

PASTOR

Justin Neugebauer

alcpastor@itcmilbank.com Office 605-432-5566 Cell 605-228-8073

PARISH ASSISTANT

Carol Kirchberg

Carol. Kirchberg@american luther an. comOffice 605-432-5566 Cell 605-949-2942

ALC PRESCHOOL

Sierra Daugaard—Teacher

alcps@itcmilbank.com Assistant: Mya Johanson

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Selgeby

alcoffice@itcmilbank.com Office 605-432-5566 Cell 605-467-3831

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rachel Kiley Milbank.alc.youth@gmail.com 605-210-0753

CUSTODIAN

Peggy Mueller

peggymueller580@gmail.com

PARISH NURSE

Diana Dirksen

dirksen@tnics.com 605-949-1403 (leave message)



Jamisyn Kevin Johnson

Baptized January 14, 2024
Parents:
Jessy & McKenzie Johnson
Sponsors:
Jeremy & Lizzie Johnson

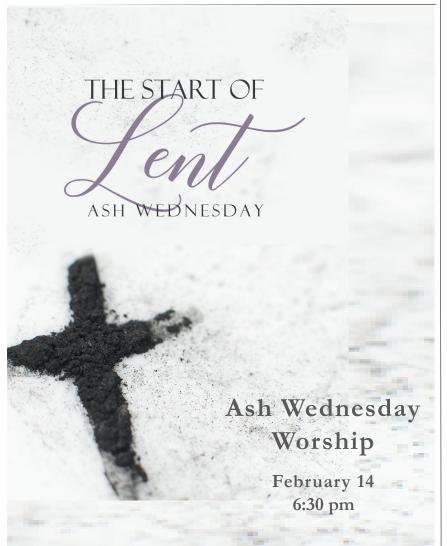




Church Directory pictures will be taken Wednesday through Saturday, April 3-6.

The sign-up for appointments will begin the last week of February.

Wednesday, April 3, 2:00-8:30 Thursday, April 4, 2:00-8:30 Friday, April 5, 2:00-8:30 Saturday, April 6, 10:00-4:00



"It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" Phil. 2:12-13

Summary from the 2023 Annual Meeting January 28, 2024

80+ voting members were present.

Pastor Justin and Ryan Gruba (Council President) reviewed 2023 and then highlighted changes, events and goals for 2024.

The 2024 Budget was approved as written.

New ALC Council members elected are:

Donita Magedanz Sheila Myrum Kevin Schuelke Howie Zemlicka

Committee assignments are listed on a sidebar on the Council Page of this newsletter (page 2)

Members of the 2025 Nominating Committee are:

Ryan Gruba Mark Granquist
Mandy Grabow Peg Dohrer
Mark Leddy Stacy Anderson

Following the Annual Meeting, the council met to elect new officers for 2024. They are:

Sara VanMeter—President
Sara Anderson—Vice President
Donita Magedanz—Secretary

The next council regular meeting is February 11.

THANK YOU to the following Church Council members whose terms ended at the Annual Meeting.

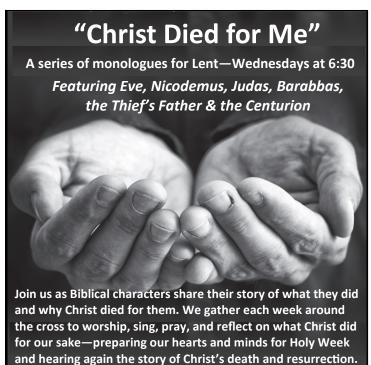
Dave Bergan Amanda Grabow Ryan Gruba Heather Zinter

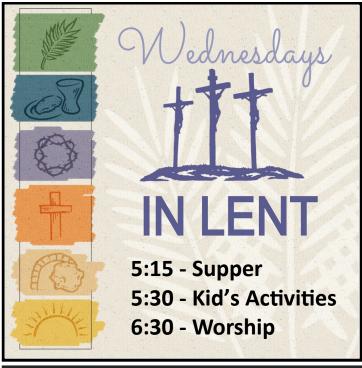
Your service on the ALC Council and to this congregation is greatly appreciated!



March 10

If you are interested in becoming a member of American Lutheran Church, or know of someone who is, let Pastor Justin or the church office know.







Organized by the Church Council Members, Preschool Board & Youth

Watch for Sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center.

February 14—Ash Wednesday Preschool Board

Walking Tacos & Desserts

February 21 Congregation: A-F

(Laurie Strege, Sara VanMeter, Donita Magedanz) Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Desserts

February 28 Congregation: G-L

(Sara Anderson, Jacob Knoll)
Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Mac & Cheese,
Chips and Desserts

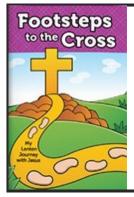
*** Kid friendly sides are provided for all meals.

Lent: a Season of Prayer

A DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

- DAY 1: MATTHEW 6:5-13
- ☐ DAY 2: LUKE 1:46-55
- DAY 3: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11
- DAY 4: PSALM 46
- ☐ DAY 5: JOHN 15:1-11
- ☐ DAY 6: LUKE 5:29-32
- ☐ DAY 7: 1 JOHN 5:14-15
- ☐ DAY 8: 1 KINGS 3:5-14
- ☐ DAY 9: HEBREWS 4:14-16
- □ DAY 10: PSALM 98
- DAY 11: ROMANS 12:9-21
- ☐ DAY 12: PSALM 51:1-12
- ☐ DAY 13: 2 CHRONICLES 7:12-16
- ☐ DAY 14: EPHESIANS 1:14-23
- ☐ DAY 15: JAMES 1:12-13, 16-17
- □ DAY 16: PSALM 27
- ☐ DAY 17: 1 CORINTHIANS 13
- ☐ DAY 18: 1 JOHN 1:5-10
- ☐ DAY 19: LUKE 18:9-14
- ☐ DAY 20: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

- ☐ DAY 21: JEREMIAH10:12-13
- ☐ DAY 22: PSALM 103:1-14
- ☐ DAY 23: JAMES 1:19-26
- ☐ DAY 24: PSALM 25
 ☐ DAY 25: MATTHEW 7:7-11
- DAY 26: 2 KINGS 20:1-6
- DAY 27: EPHESIANS 2:4-7
- ☐ DAY 28: PSALM 1
- ☐ DAY 29: EPHESIANS 6:10-20
- ☐ DAY 30: LUKE 15:11-24
- ☐ DAY 31: JAMES 5:13-18
- □ DAY 32: LUKE 22:39-44
- ☐ DAY 33: ISAIAH 40:12-15, 28
- ☐ DAY 34: PSALM 36
- ☐ DAY 35: MATTHEW 6:25-34
- □ DAY 36: JEREMIAH 31:17-19□ DAY 37: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-8
- ☐ DAY 38: JOHN 17
- ☐ DAY 39: TITUS 3:4-7
- ☐ DAY 40: PSALM 146



Children's Lenten Devotional There will be devotional books for each family to pick up.

Each day, as we take a step closer to Easter, a short Bible passage will teach the children about an event in Jesus' life. Children will then add a footprint sticker to the path to the cross as they grow closer to Jesus.



LENTEN OFFERING The offerings taken at the Wednesday Evening
Lent Services
will be divided between

- ICAP Food Pantry (Grant County)
- St. Dysmas Prison Ministry
- Church on the Street





| | | | <u>-</u> | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 2/1 | Duane Prisinger | 2/8 | Roman Fahleen | 2/14 | Jason Wellnitz | 2/22 | Joan Aho |
| 2/2 | Wynn Boerger | 2/8 | Richard Krueger | 2/15 | Justin Mathiason | 2/22 | Kalli Mielitz |
| 2/2 | Morgan Jones | 2/8 | Aimee Thyne | 2/15 | Karla Wellnitz | 2/22 | Delores Street |
| 2/2 | Lincoln Kiley | 2/8 | Hailey Zinter | 2/16 | Claire Mischel | 2/23 | Carol Forman |
| 2/2 | Kaitlin Knoll | 2/10 | Tara Aho | 2/17 | Bennett Cordingley | 2/23 | Ruth Gulck |
| 2/2 | Mattison Scott | 2/10 | Gretchen Biersbach | 2/17 | Grayson Frogner | 2/23 | Melissa Sackreiter |
| 2/3 | Charlotte Plagge | 2/10 | Kirsten Biersbach | 2/17 | Arnie Kirchberg | 2/24 | Jeryn Bormann |
| 2/3 | Kasi Schlueter | 2/11 | Patricia Jonescheit | 2/17 | Emily Neugebauer | 2/24 | Kristy Dorneman |
| 2/3 | Susan Stinson | 2/11 | Boyd Sussex | 2/17 | Tayla Trapp | 2/24 | Macyn Dunnihoo |
| 2/5 | Bennett Dohman | 2/12 | Bodie Knoll | 2/18 | Cory Harms | 2/24 | Kraig Prisinger |
| 2/5 | Paul Farrell | 2/12 | Scott Myrum | 2/18 | Pamela Prisinger | 2/25 | Paisley Steffensen |
| 2/5 | Holly Hilbrands | 2/12 | Joan Sacrison | 2/18 | Jody Unzen | 2/27 | William Hins |
| 2/6 | Deanna Schaefer | 2/12 | Billy St. Martin | 2/21 | Brad Hodenfield | 2/28 | Neil Pauli |
| 2/6 | Matt Scott | 2/13 | Jackson Bohlen | 2/21 | David Thyne | 2/28 | Jackie Sipe |
| 2/6 | Hal Teske | 2/14 | Nicole Appl | 2/21 | Rhianna Welberg | 2/29 | Dean Wellnitz |
| | | | | | | | |





Please let the Church Office know if there are corrections or additions to the birthday list.



Bible Study, Service, & Mission Opportunities Contact the Church Office for additional information about these



Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets on Wednesdays at 10 am.

Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast Group

Thursdays at 8 am in the library. Great conversation plus they look at the upcoming Sunday's gospel lesson.

Piece Corps Quilters

The quilters meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at 9.

Peace Circle (WELCA)

Bible Study, Fellowship, and Community Service. Meets first Tuesday of each month at 11 am in the Library.

Page Turners Book Clubs

There are two book clubs that meet once a month on the 4th Monday. (2 pm or 5 pm) Books are provided for you.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group crochets or knits prayer shawls (on their own time) to give to members in need of a special touch of love. Yarn is provided.

ALC High School Youth Group

Usually meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

ALC 7-8th Grade Group

This group meets occasionally for events.

Manna Praise Band

Usually practices one evening a week.

ALC Library

It's easy to check out books. No time limit. Two locations: A Book Cart and the Church Library room.

Note-A-Bells

A bell choir that practices most Wednesdays at 5:15.

No set schedule. They send out emails/texts when meeting.

Decorating Committee

This group changes the décor in the church to match the seasons and celebrations.

Event Committee

Plan and help with events throughout the year.

Altar Guild

This group takes care of the altar. They set up the altar for communion each week for worship.

Plant Care

Water and care for indoor plants on a weekly basis.

Boy Scouts

Meet on Monday Evenings

Baking Angels Baking Group

This group meets once or twice a month to bake the treats for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship hours.



The ALC Prayer Shawl Ministry

New fleece prayer shawls, plus crocheted prayer shawls, were recently made and donated to the church by prayer shawl ministry members.

These prayer shawls go out to parishioners who have been in the hospital because of illness, injuries, or surgery, and to members who have lost loved ones.



Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord! Psalm 31:24



The Scouting program at American Lutheran Church is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors. Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to the youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness.

The success of our Scouting depends on our volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so that our young people may benefit from our Scouting ministry.

As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its 114th anniversary (February 11) and Troop 45's seventy-ninth year, we salute the splendid volunteers, both past and present, who have served as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, committee members, and in other positions of leadership to make this year round program a success.

We salute the youth who have joined this outstanding program and are striving to follow the Boy Scout Oath and Law in their every day lives.

"No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys his laws. So every Scout should have a religion."

Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys, 1908

Troop 45 welcomes new membership year round. Young men from age 11 to 18 are welcome to visit the troop at one of their regular Monday night meetings or call/text Jeff Loutsch (949-1354) to join them on one of their monthly adventure outings to check out Scouts.

**Troop 45 is supported in part by Grant County Combined Appeal



The Story of Ruth
"Twelve Moments in
Every Woman's Life"
A new Bible Study starting
Wednesday,
February 7, at 10 am.

We will explore, through this powerful biblical story, a series of twelve defining moments in every woman's life -- moments of loss, change, transformation, aging, independence, respect, recognition, insight, empowerment, self definition, invisibility, and fulfillment.

You are invited!
We will meet in the church library.
The books are provided for you.
Please join us.



Would you like to sponsor
a Sunday Morning
Radio Broadcast?

Would you like to reserve a special date?
The sign-up book is available for 2024.

The broadcast could be given in memory of someone, in thankfulness, in honor of someone, or it can be whatever is meaningful to you.

There is a 3-ring binder in the entry area to register. The cost is \$125. You do not need to pay right away when you sign up.

The funds help cover the cost of the radio plus the ongoing expenses for the equipment needed for the videos and broadcasts on facebook, our ALC App, and our ALC Website

This same binder has a section for flowers at the altar. If you have any questions, check with the office.



Diana Dirksen
Parish Nurse

Currently we have 54 participants in the walking program.

It is not too late to join. If interested contact me by phone 605-949-1403 or send to email: dirksen@tnics.com.

We are walking through the western National Parks of the US. The first stop was the Badlands and Wind Cave. Now we are venturing south into Colorado.

Each participant gets a weekly update on our progress and we may throw in a challenge or two along the way. The First week numbers are not all in, but we may make 600 miles a week.

Blood Pressures will be taken Feb 4.
Please contact me if you are interested in a visit.



Walking Program

2nd Annual "Battle of the Bowl" Sunday, February 4, following the Worship Service.

Do you have a game winning appetizer? Are you looking for new recipe ideas for Super Bowl Sunday? Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall following Worship to sample Super Bowl Appetizers.



Confirmation Youth Project - February 1 - 11







Support our **ALC Youth & the GC Food Pantry!**

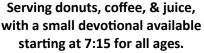
Drop off Items or cash for the Local Food Bank.

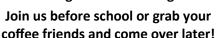


Leap Day - Thursday - February 29



An "Extra Day" to be with friends in faith.









Rejoice in that day,



for behold, your reward is great in heaven. **Luke 6:23, ESV**

PURSES WITH A PURPOSE Save the Date! Sunday, April 7

WELCA Presents an event for girls of all ages. Save your used purses & bags for this - they all have a purpose!



Book Clubs in February

Books are provided. If you would like to attend, Janelle Kelly, Church Librarian, will get a book to you.

The Dream Daughter by Diane Chamberlain February 26, 2 pm Church Library Group 1

Inheriting Edith

FISHMAN







February 25 @ 5:00 in the ALC Holy Word Theatre

Pizza, Popcorn, Soda, Candy A Free Will Offering will cover Food Costs.

Sign up at the Welcome Center (to help us plan for the number of pizzas).



When was the last time you thought about the ten commandments? Was it confirmation? Was it last Sunday while keeping it holy? Can you remember them all?

Confirmation has been discussing The Ten Commandments and Pastor Justin found some fun ways to teach them. Let's do a quick review of most the Commandments.



1) No other Gods before me. It's number one, but I also think it's the hardest! Okay, sure it's easy not to worship a golden calf, but think of all the things we let come between our relationship with God. I'll share a few I struggle with. Do you struggle with these things? Money, travel, work, family, love for our nation, television, sports and even nature.



2) Don't use the Lord's name in Vain! This is hard but should be easy, especially when I am enjoying some of my favorite things like watching a good show, reading a good book, or watching a sports team! I need a constant reminder. No OH MY ___!

here. It's just getting harder and harder in our world. Just as God made each of us and our names unique, his name is also important and requires respect. Let the time we use his name be for praise and worship!



3) Remember the Sabbath Day! Wait...this one is hard as well. I am a busy person, busy people hardly have time to rest. Just like our body needs to be restored at night to prepare for the next day or week, our soul needs to rest too! In our busy world, Sundays aren't always special and neither are Wednesdays, so how are you finding ways to

restore your soul? I enjoy spending a little time reading the Bible and writing in my prayer journal in the morning.



Please share with friends the ways you rest your soul. One option is listening to a biblical podcast. There are many out there. A couple I enjoy listening to are the *Bible Project*, and the *Bible Recap*.

4) Honor your mom and dad. Well, I'd like to say that gets a little easier with age, but I'd be breaking more commandments and lying. I think of the struggles our confirmation students, teens, might be having at this moment, especially obeying their



Rachel Kiley, Youth Director











parents. My teens years were hard years to obey. But honestly, the hardest time to obey my mother and father were my college years. How about you? These were the years when I was considered an adult, where I was mostly independent or desperately wanted to be. Yet I still relied on them at times. Now as a parent, I think of this commandment in another way. Making sure that when I ask my children to obey, to think about what exactly am I asking them? Often it isn't fair, it may require work, but it just might be what's best for them in the end. God is probably thinking the same thing. But HE knows what he's asking for and the sacrifice it required and it might just be what's best for US in the end.



5) Don't kill. Remember life is fragile and we should value it. This often reminds me of the Cain and Abel story, struggling to be the best. My generation is pushing that everyone can succeed, be the other hype person. I heard this the other day when one teen was helping

another. "I got you, bro." It was awesome to see. Even more awesome was when in a competition, they drew a truce. One student chose to say, "we are both winners".



6) Do not commit adultery. Remember those vows you placed on your wedding day to stay committed, but also remember the vow to humankind to love one another. "The greatest is love."

We haven't finished the commandments in confirmation. So, I will let you think on the rest.

The last four establish more on how we are to treat everyone and everything. I hope I got you thinking and maybe reliving your confirmation days!













CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month in Sunday School the youth celebrated Epiphany or Three Kings Day.

The 12th day of Christmas is celebrated in many countries, it represents the day Magi found Jesus.

Some ways they celebrate around the world are:

Spain- The main day to open "Christmas" gifts.

Puerto Rico-Children leave a box with hay under their beds so the kings will leave good presents.

France— Eat delicious "kings' cake" baked with a hidden coin, jewel, or little toy inside it.

Our youth celebrated by dressing up as magi and looking for Baby Jesus or followed a Star Scavenger hunt!

The youth also enjoyed Pancakes on Camp Sunday. They learned about camp, some are talking about attending and some kids are already signed up! Let Rachel know and we can try to coordinate more.

January has been a little different with Sunday School, but into February, we are looking at diving into the Old Testament again.

We will be spending many weeks learning about Moses in many fun ways.







WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Grandparents, parents, teenagers, and others! Can you help just ONE Wednesday during lent? We will have a craft and a game room to bring kids together.

We need an adult to help with each room. You pick, game or craft! These rooms will be open from 5:30-6:15 pm.

Sign up just for one Wednesday! This allows those who help with the children often, to enjoy some fellowship during Wednesdays. Please consider helping!

Contact Rachel about signing up!



















ALC Preschool































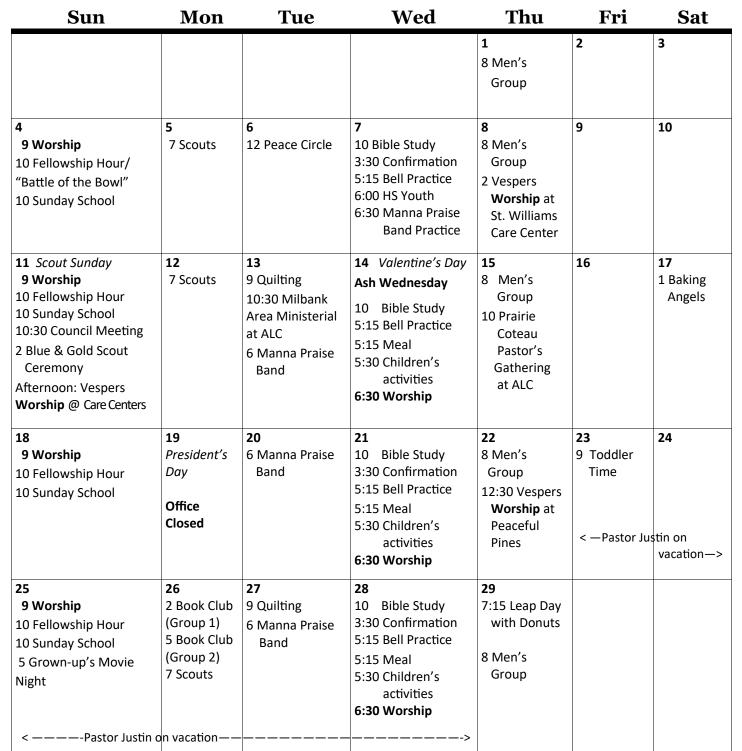


Morning Class: 8:00-11:00 Afternoon Class: 12:15-3:15 Email: alcps@itcmilbank.com





February 2024





A Little Prayer for Snow Fun

Lord, as I go out today
Be with me and bless my play.
Guide the things I do and say,
And lead me in your loving way.

