

# Chronicler

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Trust in the

LORD

with all  
your

proverbs 3:5



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Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

February is the shortest month of the year, and is marked with many holidays this year. Of course, there is the cultural tradition of Valentine’s Day, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, which we in the church mark by remembering the love of God in Christ Jesus for us, and the love that we show toward others in a dim reflection of that compassion that He has shown us. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month, we mark the beginning of our Lenten pilgrimage by observing Ash Wednesday, with all of the attendant repentance and knowledge of our sin, and knowing that our sins are forgiven by the actions of Christ on the cross of Calvary. We’ll talk about Ash Wednesday and our Lenten journey through the special services and sermons that are intended for this purpose – please plan to join us! But, there’s another milestone that takes place in February, one which actually showed up on my CPH-approved church calendar this year – Super Bowl Sunday!

For those of us who had their team lose this last Sunday, after coming so close to the big game, it’s a bit of a bittersweet day. (We will, however, remember at least one team during pre-Lent this year, with the green paraments, until we get to Ash Wednesday! 😊) For those who have their team playing in the upcoming contest, it’s exhilarating. (After all, a consecutive repeat as Super Bowl champions hasn’t happened in about 20 years or so.) While mindful that it’s only a game, and that such metaphors are limited in scope, I’ve been pondering life in the church as similar to the makeup of a football team. With apologies to some that don’t follow the sport nearly as much as I do, I’d like to share some of the ruminations that have been going through my head these past couple of weeks.

Most people think that the pastor is the quarterback of the team; I’d like to submit that this is not actually the case. The pastor is really more like the running back – he gets the plays (doctrine, teaching) from the quarterback (the Holy Spirit), and then depends upon the offensive line (the members of the Christian church) in front of him to be able to advance the ball even a half of a yard. The linebackers are just as important as any other player on the team – they listen to the calls, make the way for the running back smooth and possible, and deflect the flaming arrows of the evil one that try to block out the path of the runner. [Now, I know that you have a hard time envisioning me as being a fleet and fast running back, and rather more of the build of a nose tackle on the defensive side, but bear with me – it proves that God can use all kinds and sorts of men to be His pastors!] Trouble develops if the pastor tries to be the quarterback, too inventive and innovative with the Word of God or with the implementation of that Word in the church – a lot of interceptions get thrown. The pastor should never forget his role, nor should anyone try to shoehorn him into another role – disastrous things can happen.

Some that observe the game of football see the role of the running back as not flashy or noticeable; his job is to advance the ball 3-4 yards per play, keeping “the sticks” moving to another first down, and then another, and then another. Everyone once in a while, the Holy Spirit finds the wide receiver, and allows for a long-range pass and completion. The crowd roars its approval, and both are at least momentary heroes. But, we are reminded that for every one of those great, exuberant plays, there are at least that many incompletions or interceptions that occur, just off the fingertips of the intended receiver.

The Holy Spirit blesses us with this excitement when and where He wills, such as at the Day of Pentecost, where THOUSANDS WERE CONVERTED to the Christian faith in one day. However, the more common happening is that one or two at a time hear the truth and are CAUSED to believe, much like the Ethiopian eunuch, who in response to Philip’s preaching of the Word of God was brought to the waters of Holy Baptism and saved. I’ve heard it said that members are gained into the church in ones and twos, and those who transfer out or leave go in threes and fours. We aren’t promised that the growth of the church will be flamboyant or noticeable, but that the Holy Spirit will sustain and maintain His church in His own way and in the way in which He desires. We are just His willing instruments, His hands, His feet, His mouths, to further the spread of faith in Christ for the salvation of those in our sphere of influence.

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The greatest thing that we can strive for as the church of Christ in our day and age is to be known as faithful – to the Word of God that we have received (as Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 11), to the teaching and doctrines that He has handed down over the centuries through His church, and by being obedient to His call to be His disciples, by baptizing and teaching. I hope that this analogy is helpful and educational to you, and that I see you in church, in Bible study, and around the community.



In Christ's Service,  
Pastor, Daniel M. Provost

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES:

The tentative plan is to begin to transition back to one service. The recommendation is to start the transition on Ash Wednesday (2/17) with the traditional Ash Wednesday Service and the current Wednesday worship services through Lent to become the midweek Lenten services.

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 21, regular worship services will be offered each week on Sunday only. After Easter, God willing and mindful of the Covid risk, we will officially transition to the Sunday services only and discontinue the Wednesday night services. The precautions already in place — wearing of masks and pew separation for social distancing will continue.

**THE CONGREGATION'S INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT—PLEASE LET YOUR ELDERS KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS REGARDING THE RECOMMENDED PLAN.**



LWML Faith Society will meet on **Monday, Feb 15 @ 4:00pm**. Remember to wear your mask when you attend.

It was so refreshing to resume meeting in January – and surprise! – we were able to hold the session to just *under* an hour, like I promised! 😊 We discussed some ideas on what our society can do to show our love and caring for our OSL church family and our Newton community. Our opening devotion reflected on our 'left-handedness' and how God uses us not only through the gifts He's given us, but He also finds ways to use us through our point of greatest weakness as well. That is where His power is made perfect! The bible study of *Gold, Frankincense, and Me!* continued that point of discussion of the physical gifts that were given to Jesus and the gift that God desires from us (to love Him with all our hearts.) In February, our bible study will be "Live a Sparkling Life", pg 18 from the winter edition of Lutheran's Women Quarterly.

As a side note, if you've ever found this LWML magazine in your OSL mailbox, I hope you've taken time to read some of the articles and bible studies. The folks who are featured in these stories are just like us – they have a heart for Jesus, they struggle with challenges of this world, they want to share ideas and prayers and blessings. Our society intentionally orders a couple extra copies so that we can share this LWML experience with the ladies of OSL who may not be as familiar with LWML.

### Coming up .....

- Feb 7 Mitebox Sunday
- Feb 9 Trustees Mtg 6:30p
- Feb 10 Quilting 9a
- Feb 11 Elders Meeting 6p
- Feb 12 Quilting 9a
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 LWML Faith Society 4p
- Feb 16 Council Meeting 6:30p
- Feb 17 Ash Wed Worship 7p
- Feb 24 Lenten Worship 7p



From the Secretary's Desk: We will be updating the member picture board in the coming month. We would like to add new member photos and at the same time, if you have any new photos you would like to share or just want to submit an updated photo please contact me at the office or send me an email with the photos.



January Quilting .....

The January group (few in number, but still productive!) tied several lap quilts, finished topstitching 4 lap quilts, prepped 5 quilts ready for tying, and assembled 2 quilts ready for sewing. Thanks to Randy for bringing Krispy Kremes and good conversation on Friday. Maybe next time we can put a sewing needle in his hand?!



**February Quilting Dates**

Wed, Feb 10 and Fri, Feb 12 at 9 am

We may add more sewing days for the end of the month. Watch the bulletins for those additions. Remember when you attend – masks required, bring your own lunch, and there’s plenty of room for social distancing.



**Library News .....**

Please see if any of these titles are something you might want to check out. Put your name on the check out card with month and year in the date area. Put the card in the card box. Please try to bring the book/dvd back within a month or so.

**ADULT NON-FICTION**

Title and call number

Teaching kids to love the earth 500 Her

The lie evolution 575.01 Ham

Pain: the gift nobody wants 610 Bra

Sex and the new you (ages 11-14) VTR 612.2 Bin

Love, sex & God (ages 14+) VTR 612.6 Ame

How to talk confidently with your child about sex 612.6 Bat  
 Coming of age gracefully 612.6 Com  
 I wonder, I wonder 612.6 Fre  
 How you got to be you 612.6 Gra  
 How you are changing (ages 8-11) VTR 612.6 Gra  
 Why boys & girls are different (ages 3-5) VTR 612.6 Gre  
 Where do babies come from (ages 6-8) VTR 612.6 Ham  
 Home sweet home book 612.6 Hom  
 How to help older adults be independent VTR 612.6 Hom  
 Wonderfully made 612.6 Hum  
 Skim the fat 613.21 Hoe

"Never make fun of someone if they mispronounce a word. It means they learned it by **READING.**"  
 by Anonymous

