2016 is almost here!

At least that is what the world would have us believe. The news is all atwitter concerning who will run for president next year. Your tax situation might have you dreading or longing for next year, depending on how the new rules are effecting you.

Maybe you have one more year on your mortgage or maybe one more year until you have one more year on your mortgage!

You feel the pressure to put money away for the future. This is the year you will be able to really put some money away toward your retirement, or toward your children’s education.

The doctor has set goals for you to have completed for next year. The coach has a plan that has you working hard this year to be a starter next year.

2016 is almost here!

Be careful that you are not carried away by the tide of future planning and worry that you do not see the blessings of the present. We should all have some idea with how our present situation will compare to our future situation.

- You are in debt now, but in the future you won’t be.
- You are a student now, but one day you will live on your own and have a full time job.
- You work endless hours to retire earlier.

However, only God is truly capable of holding your present situation and your future situation in his hands. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Our planning goes on, but maybe we can plan with a little more trust and a lot more contentment. Even as we plan for 2015 and 2016 here at Good Shepherd- a new service, implementing a vision for ministry that sticks, building up ministry to children and families, discipling youth, etc.- one thing remains true “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:25-27)

Yes, the future comes quickly, and all of our responsibilities keep us continually busy. Yet, there are some things that do not change. You were once baptized and made his child, and the forgiveness of sins was given to you. You received salvation, and were given a new life. These things were true at the time of your baptism, they are true now, and they will forever be true. In Christ, the future is now!

Bring on 2016!...and the rest of 2015 too!

Pastor Zach
The women of the LWML of Good Shepherd are sponsoring a “Mission Awareness Luncheon.”

Sunday, February 1 at noon.

This year, the mission field to be highlighted includes three countries in Africa. Food indigenous to those countries will be served. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and hear about these mission opportunities in Africa.

Speakers:
Connie Cheren - Kenya
Pastor Zach - Uganda
Phyllis Simila - Zimbabwe

News from our Seminary students, Cody Nimmo and Eric Longman. (see complete letters from both of them on our bulletin board)

Cody Nimmo writes that he is currently teaching Sunday school, working with first through eighth graders, as well as teaching confirmation and preaching twice a month! He is shown here reading a card with a most welcome check from our LWML! (Cody is the son of Steve & Cindy Nimmo.)

Eric Longman is in his final year of seminary. He said this is an intense quarter, as he has packed a lot of the remaining classes into winter quarter so that his final quarter will be a bit lighter; a blessing considering all the other things that will be going on then, including Call Day, his graduation from seminary, his son’s graduation from high school, his daughter finishing up her sophomore year at Concordia Chicago, working out details of a move, etc. He has also helped to form a non-profit organization called “MinistryFocus” that has made 15 grants to help pay down educational debt for pastors and teachers already serving in the LCMS. (Eric is the son of Stanley & Ruth Longman.)
Social Ministry

In December, 52 families were served in the Food Pantry (109 adults & 63 children). This is a total of 172 individuals. Two Bibles were handed out. Totals for the year were 543 families served, 1062 adults, 715 children for a total of 1,777 individuals. Thirty-nine Bibles were handed out.

All families who came to the Food Pantry in December received a ham for the holidays.

I want to thank the congregation for your continued support of the Food Pantry through volunteer hours and through donations of food and/or monetary contributions. Because of your service and generosity, we are able to provide a much needed outreach service to our community.

ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY:
- Peanut butter & jelly

Food Pantry

– Betty Dyarmett

Youth News

We had a great time at the hockey game in January!!! It was a great time for everyone in church to get together and have some fun! We have set a tentative date for our famous and very popular youth dinner. It will be held April 25 at 6:30 pm! Come out and have fun. More details to come. Our trip to Good News was fantastic in January and we really enjoyed having some fun joining God in what he's doing over there! All in all January was fantastic and I am looking forward to a great February! Pray for our students!!!

- Wynn Derong

Creation to Consummation

Classes are being held through March 8, 2015
Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 am

The Christian Faith focuses upon the relation of God to Creation and specifically the relationship of humanity to God. Simply put, the faith addresses:
- the Creation for relationship
- the breaking of that relationship
- the restoration of that relationship
- the struggle of living in and looking forward to life in the midst of death
- the consummation of that relationship

As we cover this story of salvation history, we also quickly realize that the faith is understood from a linear perspective. It recognizes that the relationship with God is a journey. This journey began at the creation of all things and will continue until the Day of the Lord, when this journey will be over and our relationship with God will be brought to consummation. At this point, we will rest from our labors and rejoice in a perfect and complete relationship with God and with all fellow believers.

This class is meant for both members and non-members alike.
Bring a friend!

“He who labors as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands.”
—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

“Pray and read, read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from men.”
—John Bunyan
Senior Men’s Fellowship

The GSLC Sr. Men's Group meets the first Thursday of each month unless scheduling requires changes, which will be announced.

Any and ALL are welcome to come and partake of the fellowship, fun and various activities.

The group also provides help with various, requested services for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church members. The services include providing the "help & aid" to members needing assistance or advice with home repair needs. This service is included as part of the GSLC Sr. Men's Group Activities and is called "Joseph's Sons." The "point of contact" for assistance requests is Don Smith.

JANUARY ACTIVITY

GSLC Men's Group met on January 8, 2015 in the church fellowship hall. The incorporation of "Joseph's Sons," as part of the group's commitment and activity, was officially voted on and approved by all attending.

The group also discussed upcoming activities for 2015. The February activity was decided upon: the group will travel to Spartanburg, S.C., for a visit and tour of the BMW Plant. The group will meet in the church parking lot on Thursday, February 5 at 9:00am, with departure soon thereafter. The trip is a 2+ hour drive time, with lunch planned shortly before the 1:30 scheduled tour. The minimum number for the tour is 10 and the cost is $10 per person. All interested in participating, are encouraged to sign the activity sheet on the church bulletin board and to see Doug Fuge concerning additional information and pre-payment.

After discussions and voting, concerning future activities, the group departed for "Dr. Dyarmett's Auto Museum and Historical Garage." This is a very impressive set up! It is a well equipped facility and loaded with many interesting, well preserved artifacts relating to automobilia/advertising signs/ tools/ bicycles/etc., etc. Dr. Chuck also entertained the group with some of his many experiences and knowledge concerning his "trials and tribulations," with the collecting and restoration of his collection.

Immediately following "The Tour," the group reconvened for a "gourmet lunch" at the world famous (well almost) Rabbit Town Cafe. If you have not visited there, you might want to try it. The servings are generous, with a good variety of items...AND SENIORS GET A DISCOUNT! It is well known that Governor Deal frequents the Rabbit Town Cafe, when he is in town and often signs autographs while there - "no charge" for his signature (are you listening Kato?) at least according to our waitress, who thought (?) she knew him (Kato) from Wisconsin, which of course Kato vehemently DENIED.

NEXT OUTING - as described above:
BMW PLANT TOUR
Spartanburg, SC
February 5, 2015
Departing from the church parking lot at 9:00 - 9:15 am.

SEE YOU THERE (Please use the sign up sheet & wear comfortable shoes)!!

- Paul Clarkson
In Mark 9:2-10, Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain, where his clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah speak with him. Terrified, Peter starts babbling. He offers to construct three “dwellings” — presumably, worship structures. But Peter makes two common mistakes.

First, he fails to treat Jesus as the unique object of worship. Just as Peter would have worshiped Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, we sometimes act as though money, work, another person or even church and Scripture are coequal with Christ. Obviously, family and friends are important, but Jesus is the only Son of God. The church and the Bible, though worthy of devotion, are only vehicles that bring us to Christ.

Second, Peter would have stayed on that mountain indefinitely. Spiritual highs are tempting that way. We resist going back “down” to daily life. Ecstatic glimpses of Jesus’ glory are one way God strengthens us to continue serving in Christ’s name.

Q What is the significance of Lent?

A: Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension. As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well. By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

(LCMS.org)
Praise the Lord! As of the end of 2014 members have donated over 99% of the goal to our Capital Stewardship Campaign (CSC), $720,000. The sacrificially giving of every contributor, large and small, is commendable. Future donations to the CSC/building fund are needed and will be used to service our debt. Additionally, you will note that several new names are listed as members of the church council, and the visioning committee has been re-established with several new members. Other board chairmen have reported new members joining their ranks. While more time, talent and treasure is always needed, we need to also praise the Lord for providing these resources to continue our unique part of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

- Doug Fuge

Red Hat Group

On Saturday, February 28, at 11:30 am the Red Hat group will don their hats and gather for a luncheon at Anastasia’s Tea Room and Day Spa just off the square in Gainesville. Casual dress is fine. There will be opportunities for pictures on the green (the park in the square), services at the spa (suggest booking in advance) and visiting the interesting shops on the square, all within easy walking distance. Please RSVP to this one, as the final number of the group must be available to the staff at the tea room in advance. Looking forward to seeing you there!

- Lili Smith

It’s a great time to join the choir! We’re beginning work for the Lent and Easter season and looking forward to some beautiful music! If you love to sing, please join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00.

- Priscilla Jefcoat

CAR SHOW & BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 14

Our annual car show is scheduled for Saturday, March 14. All proceeds will go to the Harvest Festival - a community outreach program through our food pantry. Registration for the show begins at 9:00 am - the show will wrap up around 12:00 noon. There will be some great cars, music, raffles and a lot of fun - AND we will be offering a terrific breakfast for only $6.00! Please plan to join us - oh, and pray for good weather!

We will need plenty of help for a successful show. Sign-up sheets will be posted later for kitchen and serving help; bakers - we will raffle off cakes and other baked goodies throughout the day. We'll also need parking help/hosts; and - most importantly - customers! Tell all your friends to meet you for a great breakfast and then walk down memory lane by looking at all the great cars. Please save the date and plan to attend! More details in next month's newsletter.
Parish Fellowship

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP  Although we've had to change things around a little, our Sunday morning fellowship is alive and well, and there are plenty of opportunities to serve. Get a friend to help and check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the information hall to choose your date. See Judy Brookshire if you have any questions.

SUPPERS

LENTEN SUPPERS Once again this year we will have Wednesday night Lenten suppers. The suppers will be every Wednesday night from February 18 through March 25, from 5:00 to 6:00 – just prior to the Lenten services at 6:30. The suppers will be hosted by various groups; menus will vary, chosen by the host group. Cost is $4 for adults and $2 for children 6-12. Proceeds to be used by the host group as they see fit. Host groups are:

- February 18 - Parish Fellowship
- February 25 - LWML
- March 4 - (TBA)
- March 11 - Choir
- March 18 - (TBA)
- March 25 - Betty Dyarmett’s group

As you can see, we still have 2 dates to fill. If your group would like to participate, please contact Judy Brookshire ASAP. First come, first served. Support your favorite group and enjoy a great meal! Menus will be posted in the bulletin the Sunday prior to Wednesday's meal. This is really a great deal - a good, inexpensive, dinner without cooking or dishes to wash and great fellowship besides! Please join us as often as you can.

CAR SHOW Our annual car show is scheduled for March 14. Please see separate article elsewhere in the newsletter for further information.

EASTER BRUNCH: We're beginning to plan our Easter celebration. Nothing has been finalized yet, but we'll have our annual Easter Brunch following the Sunrise service. This year we will ask that you sign up to bring some specific dishes so we're sure to have a variety - something for everyone. Sign-up sheets will be posted in March for food items and also for those who wish to help but are not quite sure what to do.

That's it for now. Parish Fellowship hopes you will take advantage of the various events scheduled throughout the year. If you have any suggestions for other outings or activities you’d like to see us participate in, please contact a member of the Parish Fellowship committee. And, incidentally, we’re always looking for anyone interested in serving on our committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, at 9:45 am.

- Judy Brookshire

Church Photo Directory

Have you made your appointment to have your family photo taken for our new directory? In order for our new directory to be an accurate representation of our membership, ALL families need to participate.

Photographs will be taken at the church on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, February 8, 9, & 10. If you have not already done so, be sure to make your appointment NOW! Contact the church office if you need help.

All families participating will receive a FREE 8x10 photo.
Calling Us Home…Lenten Sermon Series

“I’m going home!” Maybe you shouted these words a few times as a child. When the world gets to be too much, home is the one place we want to go. However, the world does not always offer us a place we want to call “home.” The Epistle of First Peter reminds us often that we do have a place called home - an eternal and everlasting city that will be ours on the last day. Yet, in order for us to get home we do have to leave baggage behind.

I invite you and your small group to leave a lot behind this Lenten Season. Let’s leave behind complacency, despair, folly, a downcast spirit, and facades so that we might head home heartened and hopeful!

Each small group will be given six Bible study sessions based on 1 Peter, and the sermons preached during the Sundays of Lent. Each session will include a short video and discussion questions. The video and discussion questions will be tailored to the small groups of Good Shepherd. Whether you meet weekly or monthly, all should be able to participate in the series!

Although small group registration is over, if you would like to join an existing group or start a new group with whom to participate in this series, it isn’t too late! Please contact Janet Fitzgerald or Pastor Zach, and we will find a place for you!

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. _Hebrews 10:24_

- Janet Fitzgerald

Deadline for the MARCH Newsletter: FEBRUARY 23

Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday is February 1

More than ever, God is calling His believers to the work of reaching out to those who don’t yet know Him. That is why Lutheran Hour Ministries, from the time of its first radio broadcast of The Lutheran Hour in 1930, has been on the forefront of sharing the Good News of Jesus to a lost and hurting world. And it’s also why Lutheran Hour Ministries wants to join congregations across North America in reaching the unchurched in their communities.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Lutheran Hour Ministries shares the Gospel message about 1 million times a week in the United States. Around the globe through LHM’s more than 30 international ministry centers, about 350,000 people whose lives were changed by the Holy Spirit responded last year to the ministry’s culturally relevant outreach efforts, ranging from locally-produced radio and TV broadcasts to Bible Correspondence Courses and from performing arts ministry to digital outreach and more. Of these 350,000 individuals, more than 54,000 were referred to a local congregation for spiritual growth and nurturing.

Please pray for God’s continued blessing on the mission and work of Lutheran Hour Ministries as it reaches out into a world that needs to know Jesus

Lutheran Hour Ministries is an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod whose mission is to take the Gospel to the frontiers of our unchurched culture. To learn more about LHM, visit www.lhm.org.
**What is LCEF?**

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is a “ministry through investment” organization that provides low-cost loans and services to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod churches, schools, and Rostered Church Workers. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) obtained a loan from LCEF for our recent renovation and expansion project and benefitted from the Architectural Advisory Committee and Capital Stewardship Campaign services offered by LCEF. Shared Blessings in an interest rate reduction program that applies to our mortgage and GSLC can participate in if we achieve the qualifying number of investors.

Loan Dollars are made possible through the support of LCMS members who invest their money in LCEF and earn a competitive interest rate. Recently introduced investment opportunities include the Y.I. Club for children up to 18 years old, Connect Plus for new investors > 18 years old, and Partners Plus for current LCEF investors wanting to invest new money at competitive rates. Visit lcef.org online or pick up a brochure from the table in the information hallway for more information and applications.

The mission of LCEF is to support the church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered partner of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), ensuring funds and services are available now and in the future.

LCEF + U is a win-win situation for you and the church at large.

*Doug Fuge, GSLC member and LCEF Advocate*

**Q:** Would you please explain the significance of Ash Wednesday. I've seen some people in the past with black ash crosses on their foreheads.

**A:** Lutheran Worship: History and Practice, a commentary on Lutheran Worship, one of our Synod's hymnals, says this about ashes on Ash Wednesday: "Other customs may be used, particularly the imposition of ashes on those who wish it. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God."

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a more recent custom among most LCMS congregations, although some have done it for decades. The ashes are usually derived from the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday. Experience will show, however, that in obtaining ashes this way, it doesn't take many ashes to "ash" a whole congregation. Like sin, they are very dirty and go a long way. One palm leaf will produce enough ashes for several years.

Usually the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshiper, saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This follows most effectively prior (or as part of) the Service Corporate Confession and Absolution on pp. 290-291 of Lutheran Service Book. (LCMS.org)

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

—Anne Bradstreet
Please check to see when you are scheduled to serve and put it on your personal calendar.

January Servers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>ELDER/LAY READER</th>
<th>ACOLYTE</th>
<th>USHERS</th>
<th>ALTAR</th>
<th>GREETERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Brad Jovaag</td>
<td>Renae</td>
<td>Ken Anderson &amp; Ken Jackson</td>
<td>Karen Walker</td>
<td>Ken &amp; Bonnie Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Jim Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>John Taylor &amp; Thomas Gaddy Jr</td>
<td>Denise House</td>
<td>Don &amp; Margie Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Frank West</td>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Dianna Jones</td>
<td>Robin Aikens</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Dianna Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Mike Gaddy</td>
<td>Roy</td>
<td>Jack Enkemann &amp; Ken Jackman</td>
<td>Denise House</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Susan Nierman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Todd Mershon</td>
<td>Evan</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Karen Walker</td>
<td>Karen Walker</td>
<td>Sam &amp; Jean Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Chris Worl</td>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Craig &amp; Jesse Pieschke</td>
<td>Denise House</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Nancy Ponder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Robin Aikens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Haylee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Faye Vogel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Jim Walker</td>
<td>Connor</td>
<td>Chuck &amp; Betty Dyarmett</td>
<td>Cindy Nimmo</td>
<td>Chuck &amp; Betty Dyarmett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Stanley Longman</td>
<td>Haylee</td>
<td>Brad &amp; Alec Zimmerman</td>
<td>Denise House</td>
<td>John &amp; Tabby D'Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Advent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Roy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>REFRESHMENTS</th>
<th>FLOWERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 1</td>
<td>Betty Dyarmett</td>
<td>Don &amp; Margie Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 8</td>
<td>Sam &amp; Jean Miles</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Dianna Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 15</td>
<td>Bev Snyder/Nancy Thiessen</td>
<td>Don Smith/Carrol Mavis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 22</td>
<td>D'Antonio/Moore</td>
<td>LENT - NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the church community, there are many needs. Have you thought about how & where you can help? Here are a few areas that are asking for volunteers:

- Altar Care
- Evangelism Board
- Flowers
- Food Pantry
- Greeters
- Parish Fellowship
- Public Relations
- Refreshments
- Small Group Leaders
- Teachers
- Trustees
- Ushers

Contact any of the board chairmen or the church office if you can help.
Two of our members were recently called home to heaven.

Joe Walters, member since 2006, was called home on January 8 after a long illness. Joe was a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel with 22 years of service. Afterwards, he was employed as vice president of Georgia Loan and Trust. He is survived by his wife, Irene, two daughters and a son.

Barbara Willsey, member since 2010, was called home on January 11, which was her birthday. Barbara was superintendent of schools in Huntington Beach, California. She was the sister of Marie Thayer, member of Good Shepherd. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Frank.

Q: Do Lutherans have to give up something for Lent as some other denominations require?
A: From the perspective of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "giving something up for Lent" is entirely a matter of Christian freedom. It would be wrong, from our perspective, for the church to make some sort of "law" requiring its members to "give something up for Lent," since the Scriptures themselves do not require this. If, on the other hand, a Christian wants to give something up for Lent as a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then that Christian is certainly free to do so — as long as he or she does not "judge" or "look down on" other Christians who do not choose to do this. (LCMS.org)
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all who remembered me with gifts and cards at Christmas, especially the choir, who all are near and dear to my heart, and to LWML. Your gifts were very generous, and I love you all.

- Priscilla Jefcoat
News from the Flock

Morgan is a 9 year-old, witness to her faith! She is the granddaughter of Joe & Nancy Ponder. Morgan’s third-grade teacher told the class to draw a picture of something from the past. This is what Morgan drew:

Vicar Cody Nimmo on his way to church to preach!

A girl asked a boy if he loved her, and he replied, “Yes, of course.” “Would you die for me?” the girl wondered. After a brief pause, the honest lad said, “No, mine is an undying love.”

“I see that the sermon has run a little past noon...”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Souper Bowl Sunday 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 12 pm Mission Luncheon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1:30 pm Food Pantry 3 pm Staff meeting</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1:30 pm Food Pantry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td>8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 12:30-7 pm Directory Photos</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1 - 8 pm Directory Photos 1:30 pm Food Pantry 3 pm Staff meeting</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10 am - LWML Circle Bible Study 1 - 8 pm Directory Photos 1:30 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm Elders</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 am Worship</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>President’s Day 1:30 pm Food Pantry 3 pm Staff meeting</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1:30 pm Food Pantry</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 am Worship</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline 1:30 pm Food Pantry 3 pm Staff meeting</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1:30 pm Food Pantry</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.