



THE SPIRIT

February 2018

Greetings!

What an interesting set of dates for Lent this year. Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Easter is on April Fool's Day, April 1st. Easy enough to remember! We start with a celebration of love and end with the big surprise of Easter. Sounds good to me!

For the midweek services during Lent we are telling the story of one of my favorite bible stories, Jonah, as written by David Clauson. Here's what is said about the series:

"This series is just . . . fun! David Clauson has captured the essence of a desire that all of us have from time to time—to run away from God. In six plays (each averaging about ten minutes to perform), Jonah discovers the futility of running from God's calling. Along his adventures, he meets snarky characters who reveal what God is really about—grace."

I'm looking forward to this time together to look again at the story of Jonah and God's patient grace. Nothing fishy, just a timeless story!

Pastor Dave Sorenson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastors.....	1-2
Education News.....	3
Youth News.....	4
Announcements.....	5
Ministry.....	6-7
Worship Assistants.....	8
Calendar.....	9

Decorah Lutheran Church | 309 Winnebago Street, Decorah, IA 52101 |

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From the Pastors

Dear Friends,

February is already here. While most of us have our decorations of Christmas packed away, the church continues to celebrate. On January 6, we celebrated the coming of the Magi on the Day of Epiphany. The time after epiphany is the time we see the revelation of God in Jesus and it is celebrated through the readings this month. On February 2, we will celebrate Candlemas.

Why was February 2 picked for Candlemas and what is it? The short answer is that it celebrates three occasions: the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Jesus' first entry into the temple, and Mary's purification. Early writings starting around 380 CE talked about the Feast of the Presentation (40 Days after the birth of Jesus) and has been celebrated in many different ways.

Since we proclaim Jesus is the light of the world it is reasonable to see why we bless candles for the year. In the past, people would bring the candles for the church and for the home to be blessed in worship. A candle-lit process started the mass. The Orthodox Christians bring their candles to church to be blessed, some Christians leave their Christmas decorations up until Candlemas, in Spanish speaking countries the person who finds the baby figure in the Kings Cake (on Epiphany) will bring the food for the celebration, and in France the tradition is to make and eat crepes (they are traditionally made while holding a coin in the hand of the cook to bring happiness for the next year).

As a Lutheran, you may not have celebrated Candlemas, but it does happen in ELCA churches. Here is the prayer for the candles from Sundays and Seasons.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Accept these candles which we offer in thanksgiving; may they be to us a sign of Christ, the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Another part of the celebration is flowers. There is a Candlemas Bell flower (*galanthus nivalis*). There are many stories about the flowers, but the folklore is fun to read. One story is that an angel helped the flowers bloom and the bell shaped bloom was to be the sign of hope to Eve and other stories use the flower as symbol of Jesus being the hope for the world ("light of the world"). The flowers are known to bloom in the midst of snowbanks and are showing us that spring is around the corner.



However you celebrate Candlemas, know that Jesus is the light of the world, the light that no shadows can overcome.

Blessings as we begin this new season together,

Pastor Brenda

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR 90+ MEMBERS!

2/1/1927
Francis Peterson
710 Ridge Rd.
Decorah, IA 52101

2/27/1926
Gloria Whitney
Wellington Place
2479 River Road
Decorah, IA 52101

PARISH STATISTICS

Deaths

Anita Hesse	January 3, 2018
Paul Stoskopf	January 8, 2018
Adeline Lillibridge	January 12, 2018
Albert Bernatz	January 12, 2018
Debbie Steine	January 15, 2018

Education News

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES - ALL ARE WELCOME

How Lutherans Interpret The Bible

Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:00 am, Decorah Lutheran Fellowship Room

February 7th “Many Meanings of the Bible”

February 14th, “Devotional Bible Reading”

If the Bible is so clear, why do we still struggle to understand it? Why do we have such conflict around it? How can two people read something and come to hold differing understandings of what it means? In this Bible study we will listen to presentations from Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Also, some great video learning tools from “The Bible Project” will be integrated. Interspersed of course with fellowship, Bible study, insights, challenges, and laughter too! See you then!

Pastor Sorenson

Sunday School offering for 2017 was \$605.30. The students voted to give 1/4 to the Decorah Public School Snack Program and 1/4 to Decorah Lutheran Church Food Pantry. The remaining \$305.30 will help pay for Sunday School supplies.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Bible Study: All are welcome. Sunday’s in the Bonhoeffer room during Sunday School.

Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study: Thursday’s in the Bonhoeffer Room from 9:00-11:00am. All are welcome.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 9:30-11:00 am. Fellowship Room. All are welcome.

Adult Forums:

Needed - volunteer to assist with coordinating Adult Forums. Call the church if you can help.

Text Notifications from Decorah Lutheran Church!



Stay in touch with DLC! Text the following keywords to “81010” to get signed up for text notifications about the following DLC topics:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Keyword</u>
DLC News	@dlcnews
Sunday School	@dlcss
Youth Group	@dlcyouth
Confirmation	@dlconf
Acolytes	@dlcac

*Brought to you by the Remind.com App

Youth News

Soup's On! Starting Wednesday, Feb. 14th!

Decorah Lutheran Church Lent Soup Suppers!

Come enjoy a hot, delicious bowl of homemade soup or two, with fresh bread, dessert, milk and coffee.

When: Each Wednesday during Lent at 6:00 pm

Where: DLC Social Hall

Cost: \$5 (children under 5 are free)

Proceeds to help DLC youth summer trip expenses to the Houston Youth Gathering.

Thanks for your support!



Family Snow tubing Trip!

Sunday, February 25th!

Bruce Mound Wisconsin

Bus Loads in front of church at 10:00 and returns at 6:30.

Snowtubing from 12:30 to 4:00!

Details and registration forms available on our church website or on the table in front of Todd's office.

Walk Dusty!

As we prepare for Ash Wednesday and Lent let us remember that it is a long and dusty road. It is on this journey that we reflect on those who have gone before and those who will come after. We identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we must travel. Just as we walk wet in recognition of our baptism and the promise that it holds, we encourage you this year to Walk Dusty. Remember that in the brokenness, we are healed. While the journey is long and tiresome, resurrection promises are greater. In our dusty walk we claim the promise of new sandals and clean garments. **As we walk dusty we remember that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return. Genesis 3:19.**



GATHERING CONNECTION:

Justice is work for all of us to engage in. It begins with our mindset of righting wrongs and helping give voice to those whose voices are ignored or are not heard. The Gathering seeks to lift up issues of justice in many ways through the Mass Gatherings, in Service Learning, in Interactive Learning and Synod Day. Justice is our work. If we don't know about the injustices in our world, how can we help change these to be a more just society? The Gathering gives us an opportunity to look at justice issues, and we can allow it to shape and form us to change the world through our words and actions.

God of Justice, you call us to your work of restoration. Give us eyes to see your plan for our world and may your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, where "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amen.

Houston Prep Meeting

Sunday, March 4 @ 7pm (First Lutheran Church)

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, February 11 @ 9:45am

KWIK STAR CARDS

\$25, \$50, and \$100 cards are available.
Thanks for your support of our DLC youth!

Announcements

DO-DAY

Ladies - we need your helping hands to pin and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief - on Monday, February 5 and Monday, February 19 from 9am-12pm. Quilt tops/middles (60"x80"), backs (64"x84"), and layette items are always welcome too!

- Sarah Anderson, Jean Iverson and Carol Stoddard - DLCW Stewardship Committee

50+ POTLUCK

On February 25th at 5:00 pm, Lieutenant Steve Nesvik and K9 McCoy will put on our program. Hope you can join us!



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Can you help?

Volunteer to assist with coordinating Adult Forums.
Call Pat at 563-382-3601 if you can help.

Ministry

DLCW MINISTRY



Coffee Hour Schedule:	February 4 & 11	Priscilla Circle
	February 18 & 25	Ruth Circle
	March 4 & 11	Deborah Circle
	March 18 & 25	Priscilla Circle

April 28 – Upper Iowa Cluster Spring Gathering at Big Canoe Lutheran Church

May 4 – LWR Truck Loading – Decorah First Lutheran Church

June 16 – 31st Annual NE IA Synod Women's ELCA Gathering at Wartburg College, Waverly

November 3 - LWR Truck Loading

LSI is asking for support in a special project that they have identified as crucial to the families of Iowa. The projects are client assistance, spiritual life, and God's Work Our Hands. May respond to LSI, PO Box 848, Waverly, IA 50677 with WELCA challenge in the memo line.

Anyone celebrating a special day and would like to furnish treats for coffee hour please call the church office, 382-3601.

Looking for a project? Personal Care Kits thru Lutheran World Relief – These kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. See supply list on bulletin board near the church office or on DLCW bulletin board in social hall.

Save your cancelled postage stamps for Bethel. Cut at least a ¼" border of envelope around stamp. Find containers in Library for stamps and Education Box Tops.

Campbell soup labels no longer being accepted.

Milk tops should be given to your local schools.

Please check Kitchen for pans or dishes you may have left.

Questions, concerns, or suggestions, please call the church office.

Sandy Kittelson & Nancy Spilde, Co-Chairpersons of DLCW

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Working on the church directory coming in the fall. Hope people are using the new daily devotional, "Bread for Life" found in the church pews. We will order more so please enjoy. DLC has been asked to work, bring salads and desserts for the Decorah Community Meal to be held on March 15, 2018. A great way for DLC to work in our great community.

-Tom Little, Evangelism

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

The books on the Reformation given to DLC by Augsburg Fortress for hosting a bookstore last fall have now been added to our library. A listing with a short description of each is available there.

Book #3 in the Belle Meade Plantation series entitled ***To Wager Her Heart*** by Tamera Alexander is now available. Syllas Rutledge, new owner of the Northeast Line Railroad, invests everything he has into this new venture. Syllas needs someone to help him maneuver through Nashville's society, and when he meets Alexandra Jamison, he quickly decides he's found his tutor. Alexandra and Syllas become unlikely allies.

The Shop on Blossom Street by Debbie Macomber features four very different women in a little yarn store in Seattle called A Good Yarn. Brought together by the age-old craft of knitting, these women make unexpected discoveries about themselves and one another that lead to friendship and acceptance, to laughter and dreams.

The Chilbury Ladies' Choir by Jennifer Ryan brings readers to an English village during the early days of World War II. As the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond and "carry on singing." This story tells the home-front struggles of five unforgettable choir members: a timid widow devastated when her only son goes to fight; the older daughter of snooty Brigadier Winthrop drawn to a mysterious artist; her younger sister pining over an impossible crush; a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia hiding a family secret; and a conniving midwife plotting to outrun her seedy past.

DLC Library Committee Members: Sue Boehm, Marian Brynsaas, Marcia Fox, Dianne Fye, Bonnie Gilbert, Cheryl Thompson, Jan Tyler-Blanchard, Jeri Wilson, Laurel Womeldorf, and Lilly Womeldorf.

HEALTH MINISTRY

Save Your Brain!
A Health Ministry Check-Up
By Krista Vanden Brink, RN



The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has launched an online quiz to help older Iowans determine their risk for cognitive decline and what steps to take to reduce that risk. Anyone can take the Save Your Brain quiz online at <https://idph.iowa.gov/save-your-brain>.

The assessment analyzes diet, physical activity, brain engagement and social interaction, and comes up with a list of things an individual can do to lower their risk for dementia or other forms of cognitive decline.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in Iowa and the U.S. and cognitive decline and dementia are often contributing factors in other deaths. Individuals are encouraged to take the quiz and use the online materials.

The suggested risk reductions often work together to benefit brain health and it is important to maintain healthy habits in all areas. The goal of the quiz is to identify areas in an individual's everyday life to improve current and future cognitive health, as well as improve physical health. It is recommended to take the quiz, working on the suggested improvements for six months, and then taking the quiz again to see how their risk of dementia has been reduced.

Having a healthy mind is just as important as a healthy body.

Worship Assistants

Ushers

February 4

8:30 – Kevin Weselmann, Tim Wilson, Daniel Schwartzhoff, Michelle Schwartzhoff, Mike Schwartzhoff, Garrett Sorenson
10:45 – Jim Burns, Kent Kleckner, Mark Franzen

February 11

8:30 – Jim Sims, Dennis Myhre, Don Wurtzel, Duane Larson, Dave Gilbert
10:45 – Mark Steffens, Jake Hildebrand, Jason White, Lori & Thomas Ostlie

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

5:15 – ushers from the past Sunday

February 18

8:30 – Mike Thompson, Randy Peterson, John Boehm, Mark Nelson, Terry Ramlo, Claire Askelson

10:45 – Jon Pipho, Keith Johnson, Andrew Kephart

February 21 – Wednesday Lent

5:15 – ushers from the past Sunday

February 25

8:30 am – Ron Stoskopf, Scott Kirkeberg, Rick Twedt, Ted Wilson
10:45 am – Wayne Petersburg, Gerry & Becky Weiland

February 28 – Wednesday Lent

5:15 - ushers from the past Sunday

Nursery

February 4

8:30 - Ann Grimstad
10:45 – Rachel Schuman

February 11

8:30 – Sarah Chyle
10:45 – Amy Schwartz

February 18

8:30 – Christy Nimrod
10:45 – Joelle Nielsen

February 25

8:30 – Pamela Pahl
10:45 – Beth Guzman

Greeters

February 4

8:30 – John & Linda Christopherson, David Sacquitne, Andy & Christy Nimrod LL
10:45 – Ron & Rebecca Nelson, Jane Hildebrand, Rick & Denise Cook LL

February 11

8:30 – Donald & June Halvorson, Beth McDonough, Raymond & Judy Koshatka LL
10:45 – Larry Moen, Douglas & Shirleen Sturtz, Dwayne & Lisa Lundtvedt LL

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

5:15 – Joan Rulon, Nancy Spilde

February 18

8:30 – Jean Blair, Janice Numedahl
10:45 – Cheryl Frye, Dave Hansmeier, Jon & Becky Curtis Family LL

February 21 – Wednesday Lent

5:15 – Joan Rulon

February 25

8:30 – Laine & Jody Henning Family, Shannon Nielson, Kevin Weselmann LL
10:45 – David & Jill Amdahl, Jason & Bridget White Family, Elaine Ward LL

February 28 – Wednesday Lent

5:15 – Joan Rulon

Readers

February 4

8:30 –
10:45 – Lee Stock

February 11

8:30 – Marissa Nordschow
10:45 – Tiffany Lundtvedt

February 18

8:30 – Laurann Gilbertson
10:45 –

February 25

8:30 am –
10:45 – Katherine Gisleson

Altar Guild for February

Joleen Sorenson

Communion Setup

February 4

8:30 – Connie Kuennen

February 11

10:45 – Nancy Spilde

February 18

8:30 – Darlene Martin

February 25

10:45 – Larry Berland

Communion Assistants

February 4

8:30 – Victor Fye, Ron Stoskopf

February 11

10:45 – Jane & Steve Hildebrand

February 18

8:30 – Marilyn & Francis Peterson

February 25

10:45 – Larry Berland, James Burns

Acolytes

February 4

8:30 – Jade Frye, Riley Wilson
10:45 – Skyler Malone, Mason Hill

February 11

8:30 - Ben & Honore Sparrow
10:45 – Drew White, Grace Gerleman

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

5:15 -Sam Jermier, Ashley Schneberger

February 18

8:30 – Jade Frye, Peter Wilson
10:45 – Hogan Smith, Briggs Duwe

February 21 – Wednesday Lent

5:15 – Sam Jermier, Ashley Schneberger

February 25

8:30 – Scott Leiran, Sam Wilson
10:45 – Scott Leiran, Briggs Duwe

February 28 – Wednesday Lent

5:15 - Ella Kittelson, Emma Johnson

**View our calendar at
decorahlutheran.org
to see the most current
events, service times
and activities.**

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Address Service Requested**



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Purpose: To openly accept God's call to teach, serve, and share His gifts faithfully.

STAY CONNECTED!

Visit us on the web at www.decorahlutheran.org for a current calendar, weekly sermons and much more!

Change of phone number, email address, etc.? Please call the church office or fill out the form on our website to keep our records up-to-date.

Office

Hours: M-F: 8am-5pm

563.382.3601

office@decorahlutheran.org

SPECIAL EVENTS/DEADLINES

- Please pick up your 2018 Offering Envelopes in the hallway across from the Church Office.
- Join DLC for our family snow tubing trip on February 25th! More details on page 5.
- Can you help? Volunteer to assist with coordinating Adult Forums. Call Pat at 563-382-3601 or Kathy at 563-419-0015 if you can help.