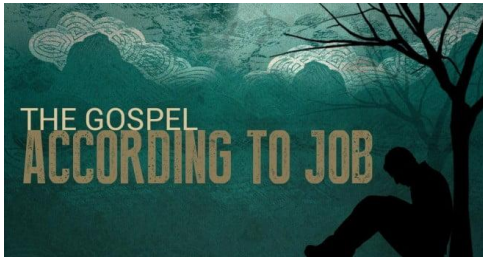


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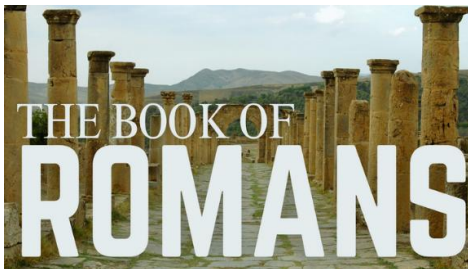


**Pastor Pool's Sunday Bible Study**  
**The Gospel According to Job**

In February, our Sunday class continues our new study of the book of Job.

The Christian life is a struggle. But the struggle is worthwhile. This book is full of surprising answers to some of our most difficult questions about suffering, evil, and redemption. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome. Bring your Bible.

February 1: Eliphaz Continues: Job 5  
February 8: Job Replies to Eliphaz: Job 6  
February 15: Job's Reply Continues: Job 7  
February 22: Bildad Speaks: Job 8



**Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor**

**The Book of Romans**

Our Tuesday Bible Study is just getting started with Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Now is a great time to join us! There is no

cost. Bring your Bible and your questions. We normally meet on the first and third Tuesdays. We have two class options at 9:30am or 7:00pm.

February 3: Written on Our Hearts: Romans 2:12-24  
February: 17: The Advantages of the Jews: Romans 2:25-3:8



## Mary Martha Ladies at Pizza Ranch

Please mark your calendars and plan to eat at the Pizza Ranch on Monday, February 2. The Mary Martha ladies will be serving as waitresses that evening from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Pizza Ranch will donate 10% of sales and all tips on that night, during those hours, to St. John Lutheran Church.

## Mary Martha

Mary Martha **will not** meet in February. The next meeting will be the soup supper on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. Mark your calendar!



## Higher Things:

### It Might Not Be Too Late!

We are attending the Higher Things youth conference June 30-July 3 in St. Louis. Registration is \$150. As far as we know, the event has not yet sold out. Please tell pastor *immediately* if your confirmed young person is interested in attending. See the display in the fellowship hall!

## Membership Directory

The updated Church Membership Directory is now available. You can find it upstairs on the guestbook stand or downstairs on the table in the fellowship hall. If all of the directories are taken, please let Camil know and she will print more for you. Thanks!



## Come Join Our Easter Choir

If you are interested in being part of an Easter Choir on Sunday, April 5, please come for an informational meeting on Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.



## Fasting During Lent

I will be preaching on the Seven Last Words of Jesus during our Wednesday services in the Lenten Season. We will also be reading through the Seven Epistles to the Seven Churches in Revelation. Lent lasts roughly seven weeks, if you haven't figured that out

already. I hope you will attend. Think of it as a Lenten discipline. You will find great benefit.

We have an additional Lenten challenge this year: Fasting. I often get pushback when I encourage fasting. I realize changes in diet, especially as we age, can be troublesome. But the fast I have in mind this year is of a different kind. I would like us to fast from screens.

If you are on social media, I would like you to take a break from it during Lent. By social media, I mean Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, etc. By fasting I mean no scrolling, no posting, no constantly checking your phone. Consider taking the apps off your phone for Lent.

The harm that we are doing with social media is well-documented. Read *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt if you want some depth on the subject. These platforms are highly addictive, they suck our time, and harm our identity as children of God. Experts have begun calling it doom-scrolling.

Even the religious content we see is mostly at odds with our confession of faith. Many make divisive insults on these platforms they would never say in person. Posts are so filtered that reality gets lost. We selfishly look for attention with pictures and posts. And the ads are always selling us something we don't need.

Fasts are supposed to be difficult. It is nice to see pictures of your grandkids. I understand. But there are a thousand other ways to share pictures. Just let them know that you are taking a break and ask for an email or text message.

And with your new free time, pray, read God's Word, read your devotions, pick up your catechism, volunteer, and come to church. If you are not on social media, consider taking a break

from television during Lent. Television has some of the same tendencies as social media.

Remember that as Christians, fasting is something we do. But it is something we do privately. These are the words of Jesus in Matthew 6, "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Join me in setting aside social media in the Lenten season. I will still get notifications from Facebook Messenger, in case you contact me that way. We will keep the Church Facebook page active for our shut-in members and guests.

May God bless our Lenten experience,  
Pastor



## **Sunday School Offerings Mission Projects**

Through the end February, our Sunday School offerings will continue to go to the Clinton Humane Society. Beginning March 1, and continuing throughout Summer Sunday

School, our Sunday School mission project will go to help support the Fedderwitz missionaries. Thank you for raising your children as grateful givers.

*Proverbs 3:27- Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.*



## **Bible Reading Plan**

The new edition of our Three-Year Bible Reading Plan is available in the Fellowship Hall. We are in the third year of this plan that takes us through the Old Testament once, the

New Testament twice, and the Psalms twice a year. The plan began January 1, but it is okay to join with us anytime. Read God's Word with us!



## Lenten Services and Fellowship

Lent Services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and are held each week through March 25. Services are at 1:30 & 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday with fellowship following each service. Every year the congregation is divided into groups,

according to the church directory, for to serve after Lent Services. Families may choose whether they would like to serve after the afternoon or the evening service. Each family serving is asked to bring a plate or two of sandwiches, four dozen cookies, or a pan of bars. Otherwise, a donation toward punch and coffee may be left in the container. Families are also asked to help in the kitchen before, during, and after fellowship. The serving schedule this year is as follows:

- February 18** - **Gina Andresen to Ryan Dell**
- February 25** - **Joe Dykstra to Ann Hansen**
- March 4** - **Tom Hardersen to Lewis Meyermann**
- March 11** - **Craig Miller to Judy Ross**
- March 18** - **Karen Rowan to Angie Stewart**
- March 25** - **Elwood Stewart to Dan Akins**

*You will receive a reminder card in your bulletin slot on the Sunday before you are to serve.*

## Catechesis During Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Each Wednesday we will have Lent Services at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. During Lent, the Youth Catechesis class will meet following the evening Service from 8:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Confirmation students are encouraged to attend the Wednesday evening Lent service before class. Lent Services will be held on Wednesday, February 18 & 25 and on March 4, 11, 18 & 25. There is no class on Wednesday, March 18 because the public schools are on Spring break that week and no class on April 1 during Holy Week. Please mark these dates and times on your calendar. Thanks!





## Altar Flowers

Please take a look at the chart in the Narthex and sign up for a date or two. Altar flowers may be provided in celebration of something, in memory of someone, or in thankfulness for God's blessings. HyVee and Clinton Floral have keys to the church so, if you purchase altar flowers from one of them, all you have to do is order and pay for the flowers and they will take care of the rest. If you are signed up to provide altar flowers for a specific date, you will receive a pink reminder slip in your bulletin slot ahead of time. Please fill out the pink sheet and put it in Camil's bulletin slot asap. We need to know what you would like to have put in the bulletin regarding the altar flowers, and whether you would like to take both altar flowers with you after late service or would like one or both delivered to nursing homes or shut-ins. Thank you!



## Janet's Jungle Seed Fundraiser

Attention Gardners: The Board of Christian Education will once again sponsor seed sales from Janet's Jungle. The sales help to support our preschool. The Seeds & Sprouts sale will be held from February 1 – 28. Catalogs will be available at the church in the fellowship hall, but all orders must be placed online. You may simply scan the code in this article to get to the Janet's Jungle website or, if this is a problem, see Joan Ross or Debby Gosnell for assistance. There is a \$1 fee to cover bank charges on your purchase. Orders will come to the church and will be distributed to those who have ordered. Please consider buying seeds to help support our preschool. Thank you!

*seed sale*  
2026





## **Preschool News**

February! We are officially over half-way through the school year. The children have been busy playing with boxes, using them as forts, TVs, bakeries, office counters, doctor's offices,

vacation destinations, and everything they can imagine! We've read many books, sang songs old and new, created things out of recyclables, and explored play dough, glue, and paint. We've explored the movement of water as we scooped, poured and watched water move through cups on the water wall and through pipes and tubes. Outdoors we've been lucky enough to enjoy the swings, the trail in the woods, mud kitchen, and sand pile. Coming up this month we will celebrate Valentine's Day with an ice cream party. We'll read a variety of fairy tales, bake some bread, and probably have a pajama day if we get stuck inside because of cold weather. During Jesus Time we will learn about Jesus Choosing the 12 Disciples, Jesus Turning Water into Wine, Jesus Healing the Paralytic, and Jesus Walking on Water. Throughout each day we continue to share the never-failing love of Jesus with our little ones and their families.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

Cindy and Gina

## **Raise Right**

Through Raise Right, we raise money for our preschool in places we already shop like Walmart, Jewel, Amazon, Kwik Star, etc. Our next Raise Right order is due February 1. Cards will be available for pick-up by February 8. We will put your cards in your box in the narthex. Thank you for continuing to support our St. John Preschool!



# February Birthdays & Anniversaries

CONGRATULATIONS!



## *Happy Birthday to:*

Tom Brown., who will be 84 on Feb. 5.  
Kenneth Doescher, who will be 81 on Feb. 10  
Donna Crockett, who will be 82 on Feb. 13  
Gary Harmsen, who will be 81 on Feb. 22  
Glen Gray Jr., who will be 92 on Feb. 25



## *Happy Anniversary to:*

Pastor & Sallie Pool, 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on February 9.  
Wayne & Joyce Suehl, 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on February 12.  
Jeff & Sharon Niebuhr, 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on February 17.

*We list birthdays 80 and above and anniversaries for year one and every five years thereafter unless we receive a request not to do so.*

## **Holy Communion at Home**

If you are at home and would like a visit from Pastor, please call the office to set up an appointment. He is glad to come and bring you God's Word and the Sacrament. Pastor also does a monthly service at the Alverno on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30. Visitors are generally welcome.



## THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

### Early

Elders: Kurt Flathers  
Rick Eizenga

Ushers: Craig Miller  
Tom Colschen  
Jon Meyermann

### Late

Elders: Tom Hardersen  
Lucas Krueger

Ushers: Peter Sirna  
Tom McHugh

### Recording

1 – Darlene Paysen  
8 – Darlene Paysen  
15 – Darlene Paysen  
22 – Darlene Paysen

### Acolyte Schedule

1-Early – Elder  
1-Late – Elder  
8-Early – Elder  
8-Late – Aryanna Hagen

### Wednesday Lent Services

-February 18 Elders  
1:30 - Kurt F.  
7:00 - Kurt F., David R.

-February 25 Elders  
1:30 - Rick E.  
7:00 - Troy B.

15-Early – Elder  
15-Late – Ben Leslie  
22-Early – Elder  
22-Late – Lainey S.

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **DEADLINE: FEB. 20**

If you would like to put any information in the newsletter, contact Camil Dell, and get her the information by February 20.

