SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 5
In an effort to help support the Ascension Food Ministry, we are asking members to bring in cans of soup, canned goods and other non-perishable items to help replenish the food pantry. Monetary donations will also be accepted to help this worthwhile effort.

LOVINGKINDNESS SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 12
Congregational members are asked to go out into the community and perform random acts of lovingkindness. This is a way to give back to our community and promote Adoration Lutheran Church with our invitation cards.

TANZANIA PRESENTATION – FEBRUARY 19
Our 2017 delegation will give a special presentation from their trip to Tanzania. They will share about the elevation and installation of Elias Kitois Nasari as the new Bishop of the Meru Diocese. We will also get an update on our sister parish, Mulala. An adult forum with video message from Bishop Nasari to follow service.

PRAISE WORSHIP – FEBRUARY 26
Come and Praise the Lord with joyful songs! Our instrument ensemble members will provide special music to enhance our worship service. Invite a friend to church to share this musical Sunday morning.

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. 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.

Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 6:15 pm as we begin our Lenten journey.

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday ........9:00-2:00

PASTOR’S NORMAL WEEKDAY OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday, Wednesday.....9:30-2:30
Thursday........................9:30-12:30
Friday.............................12:00-2:30

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ALL WE NEED IS LOVE

Saint Valentine is a Christian saint of the Third Century AD who is widely celebrated on February 14th and commonly associated with romantic love. Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome in or around the year 273 AD.

The story goes that St. Valentine (a former Bishop) was arrested late in his life for continuing to convert Pagans to the Christian Faith. He was sent to Rome and was martyred during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II). In addition to converting people to the Christian Faith, St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Emperor Claudius II. All three of these acts were considered serious crimes.

While in prison, a relationship between St. Valentine and the Emperor began to grow, until Valentine attempted to convert Claudius. Then Emperor Claudius became enraged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to publically renounce his Christian Faith and reject his Lord Jesus or be beaten with clubs and beheaded. St. Valentine refused to do this and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 273 AD. However, ancient sources disagree on the exact year of his execution, indicating all the following years as possibilities: 269, 270, 273 or 280. Furthermore, one legend says that on the day of his execution he left a note behind to his flock signed “Your Valentine.”

The romantic nature of St. Valentine's Day may have derived from the fact that he illegally officiated at the marriages of Christians while under Roman Pagan persecution. This romantic connection also may have derived from later Christian Church attempts to Christianize the Pagan holiday on February 15th called Lupercalia, which was a holiday celebrating Lupercus (a Roman god sometimes identified with the Roman god Faunus, who is the Roman equivalent of the Greek god Pan). Lupercus was a Roman god of shepherds and flocks, and of nature and the wilderness. And although the exact origin of the Pagan Lupercalia holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is widely recognized that it was a day for romantic love and devotion.

Today, archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine, and he is widely accepted as the Christian Patron Saint of romantic love, engaged couples and happy marriages. He is represented in Christian art with birds, bees and roses.

St. Valentine’s Day also gives us an opportunity to contemplate the New Testament concept of love. In the Greek language (the language of the New Testament) there are six words for love: Agape, Eros, Ludus, Philia, Philautia, andPragma. While eros (romantic love) is mostly associated with St. Valentine, and while pragma (longstanding love) and philia (deep friendship love) are very important, the New Testament of Christ uplifts and emphasizes the divine love of agape for us all.

Agape is the compassionate, charitable and sacrificial love of God that extends to everyone. It is a love that transcends all of our differences of worldview and philosophy. While we might disagree as to what loving in this way might specifically look like within various situations, we are nonetheless called to share in an agape-love and servant-heart for the sake of the world. It is even a love that Christian law enforcement personnel and Christian military personnel (in their own uniquely God-given way) participate in as they honorably work to uphold an orderly and peaceable world. Theirs is a kind of tough agape-love on behalf of human society, but it is nevertheless a necessary kind of sacrificial love.

Agape-love is used throughout the New Testament, but here are some very good examples of this:

JOHN 15: 13
No one has greater love (agape) than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.
FIRST JOHN 3: 16
We know love (agape) by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

FIRST JOHN 4: 7-11
Beloved, let us love (agape) one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

So as we look to celebrate eros-love on St. Valentine’s Day again this year, let us remember how St. Valentine lived the agape-love of Christ, and let us contemplate this agape-love for our own faith and life as Christians. Beloved, as “Valentines” of Christ whom God has agape-loved so much, we also ought to agape-love one another.

Your Fellow Valentine in Christ,
Pastor Tim

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT
The Five Luminous Mysteries of Christ

Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent for Lenten suppers at 5:30 PM, followed by these special worship services at 6:15 PM.

MARCH 8
I. -- The Baptism of Our Lord...(gratitude)

MARCH 15
II. -- The Wedding at Cana...(fidelity)

MARCH 22
III. -- The Proclamation of the Kingdom...(sanctification)

MARCH 29
IV. -- The Transfiguration of Our Lord...(courage)

APRIL 5
V. -- The Institution of The Lord’s Supper...(love)
Here are some of the items discussed at the January Church Council meeting:

* Ted Lazaris gave a brief summary of the history of the We Love Our Church auction. He asked that $600 of the $1934 be used to purchase 10 rectangular tables, and the council approved it.

* Pastor Tim emphasized “Souper” Bowl Sunday & Lovingkindess Sunday. New members were received this month.

* Jim Haas reported that $200 of the $1,153 from the Cookie/Bake Sale will be sent to Ascension Food Ministry. The visitor bags (which are kept under the podium visitors book) are being checked and restocked. New member packets were made for four new members. Greeters list has been completed. The dates of our Rummage & Book sale are June 1-3, 2017.

* Sue Clark reported that $91 was received from the Advent soup suppers. Kathy Albrecht has designated the money for Ascension Food Ministry. Council approved Kathy’s request to begin planning for the Easter breakfast/brunch this year.

* Larry Schultz reported that $4,400 will be taken to Tanzania. $2,400 was money collected by the Sunday School, $100 was designated for the pastor of Mulala and the remaining money will be gifted to the Meru Diocese.

* Sue Clark announced that all Christmas toys were delivered. She expressed sincere thanks to the congregation for its overwhelming responses when support is sought. The Can Malaria Drive will begin after the Super Bowl.

* Judy Johnson presented a recommendation from the Memorials Committee to accept a request from the family of Minnie Hale of a ciborium in her memory. Motion made by Dave Krueger, seconded by Judy Johnson. It passed unanimously.

* Tania Voigt reported that she and Kathy Wakefield will begin sending out thank you letters for pledges received.

* Sandy Eigner reported that the brat fry realized $504 to be used toward the 2018 Youth Convention. Youth group had a great time at the Christmas party/ornament exchange event.

* Work continues on gathering information and pricing on a new Adoration sign.

For more information on any or all of these items, please check the complete Council minutes posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space or contact one of your Council representatives.

ATTENTION: THRIVENT MEMBERS

The deadline for designating your Choice Dollars is March 31, 2017

Eligible Thrivent members are designated choice dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Members can direct their choice dollars to thousands of non-profit organizations nationwide, including Adoration Lutheran Church. Designation does not carry over and must be specified each year. If you have not already designated your choice dollars, we hope you would consider directing yours to Adoration. It is simple to do. Thrivent Direction Forms are available in the church office, or you can complete one online at www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call Thrivent directly at 414-856-9900. To date we have received $944.00 from the Choice Program. Thank you!
**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**
During the month of January we were blessed with three households who joined our family of Christian faith.

- Matthew & Jackie Nichols
- Rose Widmann and her son Arlo
- Shari Katzenmaier

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

**NEW MEMORIAL CIBORIUM**
Our congregation's Memorials Committee approved a generous memorial gift of a new beautiful ciborium in honor of Minnie Hale, and this special memorial was unanimously accepted by the Church Council.

The purpose of a ciborium is to store/reserve the already consecrated hosts in a reverent way, rather than back into a plastic container within the kitchen closet. Like the other altar items, and like our paschal candle, it is a golden brass plating. In addition, the engraving on the bottom of the ciborium will be similar to the one for Arthur Hale on the church sanctuary candle (eternal flame). Lastly, the ciborium will be placed exactly where our old one is currently placed, central between the candlesticks near the front of the altar.

We are very much looking forward to dedicating to the glory of God this special memorial for the church altar in memory of Minnie at a Sunday worship service in Lent!

**OUR SYMPATHY**
is extended to the family and friends of Millie Driscoll. Millie was called home to be with the Lord on January 11, 2017. A Memorial Service was held at Adoration Lutheran Church on January 20. We pray that God will continue to comfort all who mourn.

**WALL OF CROSSES**
We have a new cross on our wall. While visiting friends in Cove Creek, Arizona, George and Gloria Becker were shopping at a “funky” novelty shop called the Town Dump. They found a cross made of tin with 3-D shaped art in the form of flowers. Mostly all of the items in the shop were inexpensively made in Mexico as was this cross. Thank you George and Gloria for your addition to our Cross Wall. (See our cross wall book for a picture of the novelty shop where this cross was purchased.)

If you find a unique cross in your travels, we would love to add it to our Wall of Crosses.

**AAA NEWS**
We have several fun events coming up in the next few months. Check the AAA 2017 Activity Sheet on the kiosk for a list of events and person in charge. All adults are invited to join us for fellowship and fun.

- **February 7**
  General Meeting 1:00 PM

- **March 7**
  Potluck Lunch 12:00 PM
  General Meeting 1:00PM
  Guest speaker

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES**
If you have not picked up this years offering envelopes they are available in the church office.

**Let LOVE guide your life.**
Colossians 3:14
SOUTHWEST INTERFAITH

SW Neighborhood Outreach Program is a non-profit organization for older adults over the age of 60. Their mission is to link older adults with a caring community. Volunteers provide, at no charge, rides to doctor appointments, shopping, and other transportation needs. Other services include minor household repairs and assistance with bills and paperwork. Although there is no charge for these services, individual donations play an integral part in running the program.

You can help support this outreach program by donating $5.00 and you will receive a Boston Store coupon book with $50.00 in coupons. Use your coupons February 23-25. See Judy Goodwin or Betty Wing, our SWI Representatives if you are interested in looking at or purchasing a coupon book.

Valentines for seniors. Children of all ages are invited to Kitchee Coo’s Shop in Greendale on February 15, from 1:30-3:30 PM to make valentine cards for homebound adults. All materials are provided. This is a creative, fun and thoughtful activity for your children or grandchildren.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

God’s work. Our hands.

Year to Date Offerings of $162.00
Thank you!

DIVINE INTERVENTION MINSTRY

An interfaith ministry providing emergency overnight safe sanctuary to the homeless, respecting the dignity of all God’s adult children.

A special thank you to the McGinty, Sheehy & Wing families for serving dinner to our homeless neighbors on Monday, February 27.

THE MILWAUKEE GUEST HOUSE

Providing shelter, housing, education, and services to Milwaukee’s homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose.

We will be collecting the following item to help support the Guest House this winter: Men’s T-shirts and underwear, shampoo, body wash, body lotion, toothpaste, razors, cough drops, twin size sheets, blankets and pillows. All items should be new. Donations may be brought into church through February 19 and placed in the front hall closet. Thank you for your generous giving. Sue Clark, social ministry.

Homelessness in Milwaukee facts

On any given night, there are around 1,500 people who are homeless in Milwaukee.

*39% of homeless men report some form of mental illness.
*26% of homeless men suffer from alcohol addiction.
*22% of homeless men suffer from substance abuse issues.
*20% of homeless men are veterans of the US military.

ASCENSION FOOD MINISTRY

Your consistent donations of food items to our shopping cart are helping to keep the food pantry well supplied. Thank you for your generous hearts. Also a special thank you to Ted & Mardy Lazaris for delivering our food gifts each month.

ADORATION RUMMAGE SALE

It’s not too early to think about how you can support our Rummage Sale. Donating unwanted items to Adoration is what makes our sale so successful. As you take down your Christmas decorations, take note of items you no longer want or need. Do you have items in the basement, or closet that you no longer use? Box them up and set them aside, our big sale will be held June 1, 2, and 3. As we get closer to the sale we will let you know when donations can be brought into church.

As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.
Proverbs 27:19
Pictures of our Tanzania delegation at Elias Kitois Nasari’s Installation as the Bishop of the Meru Diocese on 1-15-17
Mission Statement:
Living in God’s love we share the good news of Jesus through spirited worship, serving God in our daily lives, creating a welcoming space to all, providing outreach, educating the young and old, and creating worldwide partnerships.

Reconciling in Christ:
Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church identifies itself as a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation and publicly welcomes all persons to full membership and participation in the ministry we share without regard to race, ethnicity, social status, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.