

# VOICE Newsletter

## From the Pastor's Desk



*"O God, our help  
in ages past,  
our hope for years  
to come,  
our shelter from  
the stormy blast,  
and our  
eternal home."  
ELW #632*

On Sunday, May 23, 2010, we will be celebrating our centennial as Ebenezer Lutheran Church.

One hundred years is a very long time. As we remember the past and look to the future, we are thankful that for 100 years Christian men, women, and children of Ebenezer Lutheran have remained faithful to God and His call to bring help and hope to an ever-changing world. We are thankful that those early Christians were not distracted by the events of history but rather shared their faith in the midst of it. Here are some of the major events that took place in 1910:

- **January 2** - 1<sup>st</sup> junior high school in U.S. opens (Berkeley, CA)
- **March 1** - 3 passenger trains buried at Steven's Pass; 118 died (worst snow slide in U.S. history)
- **March 10** - China ends slavery
- **May 18** - Passage of Earth through tail of Halley's Comet causes near panic
- **May 23** - Ebenezer Lutheran Church founded
- **June 22** - 1<sup>st</sup> airship with passengers sets afloat—Zeppelin Deutschland
- **September 10** - Great Idaho Fire destroys 3 million acres of timber
- **November 8** - 1<sup>st</sup> Washington State election in which women could vote

- **December 3** - Neon lights 1<sup>st</sup> publicly seen (Paris Auto Show)

I invite you to reflect on the prayers and service that our foremothers and fathers were called upon to offer during their unique time in history. As we begin the new year of 2010, I imagine that our prayers will remain the same. Our prayers, too, are that God will protect us from all harm, grant us wisdom to know His will and strength to do it, guide us in paths of righteousness, create in us clean hearts, renew our spirits, lead us to daily repentance for our sins, and bestow upon us His mercy.

In every generation this is our prayer both for ourselves and for the world. No matter what changes, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I pray that this centennial year might be one of reflection and renewal as we remember that in all generations God is our help and our hope.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and joyful expectation that I announce to you the beginning of our Centennial Year!

In Christ,  
Pastor Lewis Benson

### Inside this issue:

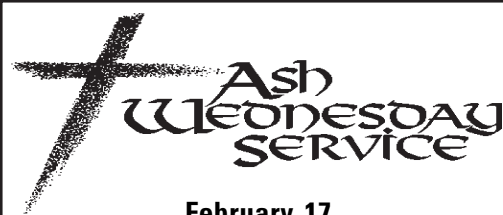
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### New Members' Class

See page 4 for details.

### Special points of interest:

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**February 17**  
**Soup Supper: 6:00 pm**  
**Service: 7:00 pm**

**Lenten Service ~ February 24**  
**Soup Supper: 6:00 pm**  
**Service: 7:00 pm**



# Sunday Education Preschool

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Your students in grades K-8 will be reviewing the following during the month of February:



- 2/7 - Parable of the Sower
- 2/14 - Feeding the 5,000
- 2/21 - What Is Lent?
- 2/28 - Baby Moses

Parents are encouraged to talk with their youth regarding these lessons. Such interaction will help strengthen their understanding.

## SUNDAY ADULT FORUM, 9:40 AM

Don Wilson will continue an introduction and discussion about genetics and faith. The ELCA is preparing its next social statement that addresses the issues in genetics and biotechnology. Everyone is encouraged to come and explore how genetics affect us today.

## EDUCATION NEWS



We will start planning for our 2010 Vacation Bible

## VBS Planning

School soon. It will be a daytime program tentatively scheduled for the last week of June. There are opportunities for you to assist. If you have a particular interest, please let us know by contacting the church office. We will start making contacts soon.

Our thanks to Bob Aikman for his work with our education program as a teacher for these past years. Bob has provided a wonderful example to our youth with his knowledge, enthusiasm, and caring attitude. During the current year Bob teamed with Eric Stewart to teach youth in grades 6-8. His resignation at the end of 2009 leaves a void—he will be missed.



Wow, February has arrived! Even though we still must wear warm coats and take our umbrellas, we are so blessed with God's beautiful scenery just outside our windows for all to see and enjoy.

- Our Pre-K classes will start off the month with a safety unit. They will have a visit from our Lake Stevens Fire Department. The firefighter will come in uniform to show the students what a real firefighter looks like in his/her gear. They will go over fire safety and the stop, drop, and roll drill. The children will practice this technique and receive a fire safety certificate for their participation.
- The 2-day classes will start with a transportation unit. They will have a visit from Mr. OXY-GENE from the community transit station. He will educate the children about ways to keep our air clean and the benefits of riding the city bus. Then, the preschoolers and teachers will take a short city bus ride around Lake Stevens to experience first hand how the city bus can help us get to our destinations. Each child will receive a special Mr. OXY-GENE coloring booklet to take home and share with their families.
- All Preschool classes will have parties to celebrate Valentine's Day. They will be eating yummy treats and exchanging Valentine cards.

## 2010-2011 Fall Registration

As of February 1 registration is open for our church families *and* the community. Please make sure to pick up your registration forms and turn them in to the Preschool office to secure your child's place for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions, contact Miss Lisa at 425-397-6374.

# W.A.T.C.H.

WATCH classes will continue on Wednesdays through February 10. Ash Wednesday is on February 17. (Reminder: If Lake Stevens schools are cancelled, then WATCH is cancelled.)

WATCH (Wednesdays At The Church) is an evening program where we enjoy a simple meal served from 5:15-6:00 pm, devotions and prayers, class sessions for education and service projects from 6:00-7:30 pm, ending promptly. Classes include:


- Eagles (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades): Led by Doris Qualey. The children have Bible stories, games, and service projects.
- Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades): Students meet with Pastor Benson and Anya Hennig.
- High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades): Led by Dianne Major.
- Young Adults (ages 18-30ish): They lead their class and choose the studies.
- Adults:
  1. Led by Ken Cross. This class is studying the Book of Exodus.
  2. Led by Betty Bauer and Shelly Benda. This class is making quilts for LWR. Our goal is 100 quilts for our Centennial this year. Can you help sew quilt tops at home, on Tuesday mornings, or at WATCH?

## Health Kits Service Project

Our goal is 100 kits for 100 years. We will put them together for LWR on February 10. Each kit contains 1 dark-colored hand towel, 1 dark-colored washcloth, 1 new bar of bath soap (in wrapper), 1 toothbrush, 1 wide-toothed comb, 1 metal nail file (not emery board), 6 Band-Aids (rubberbanded together). Please bring the supplies to WATCH on February 10 or put them in the Missions Table bins in the Narthex before the 10<sup>th</sup>.

## WOW (WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS)

### Prayer service ~ Wednesday,

 **February 3, from 7:00-7:30 pm.** This is a short contemplative service with quiet time to pray, hear God's Word, and reflect. Come to see how time with God is good.

# Events Page

## **FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**



The first Sunday of each month Social Ministry is selling Fair Trade items such as coffee, tea, and chocolate bars after services in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please call Diana Cross, 425-334-8540.

## **NORWEGIAN PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 20 ~ 7:30-11:00 AM**

Enjoy a wonderful breakfast while visiting with friends. Come to the all-you-can-eat breakfast on the third Saturday of the month. Suggested donation of \$5 per person.



The Norwegian Pancake Breakfast is donating \$500 toward Haiti disaster relief. Your support of the breakfast as well as that of the Lake Stevens community makes this possible. Our thanks.

## **CONFIRMATION REUNION**

As a part of our Centennial celebration, we are coordinating a Confirmation reunion. We want to contact as many confirmands as possible, and we need your help. If you were confirmed at Ebenezer, have a relative who was, or know someone who was, we need names and addresses so we can contact them. Please leave your list in the church office or call Loydeen Chapman, 425-334-3557.

## **LEAH CIRCLE IS HOSTING A TEA SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

"Our Scandinavian Heritage" will be the theme of the tea on Saturday, March 6, in the Fellowship Hall.

All women are invited and encouraged to invite friends and neighbors. Tickets will be available in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, February 21 and 28. Look for more information, including times, in future bulletin announcements.



## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Are you interested in helping plan an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3? Easter is on April 4. It's coming up fast, and we need to start organizing. If you are interested, please call JoAnn Cross, 425-334-8540.

A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15, at 7 pm. Lots of help makes this a fun event for the children of our community. We must have a planning team for this event to happen.

## **HELPING OTHERS!**

Are you interested in helping others in our community, in the United States, or around the world? An easy way to help is by providing quilts. Many opportunities are available at Ebenezer to work with other members to make simple quilts.

1. A daytime group meets two times a month on Tuesdays from 10 am-2 pm.
2. An adult class puts together quilts during WATCH from 6:00-7:30 pm.
3. Take home material or squares to sew quilt tops. Return the tops later to be put together. For material, talk to Betty Bauer, 425-334-6332.

Donated quilts are sent to local shelters, Camp Lutherwood, Holden Village, and Lutheran World Relief. Let's set a goal for making quilts to see if we can make 100 quilts for our Centennial.

## **WHAT'S UP WITH FELLOWSHIP?**

- Game Night & Potluck~ Saturday, February 6, 5-8 pm. Come to enjoy the evening—fun for all ages. We will learn a new game called "Farkle." Bring a potluck dish to share. Questions? Please call JoAnn Cross, 425-334-8540.
- Pinochle ~ Saturday, February 13, 5-9 pm. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. We'll begin promptly at 5 pm. Bring a dinner snack to share and a friend. If you have any questions, please

contact Pat Jackson, 425-334-7781.

- Holden Village ~ July 29-August 5. Are you interested in going this summer with a group from Ebenezer? No cell phones, TVs, fast food, or traffic congestion, just a beautiful setting in the Wenatchee National Forest above Lake Chelan with hiking, crafts, speakers, and many activities for all ages. Hikers will leave on Thursday, July 29, others will leave on Sunday, August 1, and everyone will return on Thursday, August 5. Look for the registration forms in the Fellowship Hall or go to [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org). Registrations will be mailed on February 15. Interested? Talk to Ken or JoAnn Cross, 425-334-8540.
- Lenten Angels ~ Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17. During Lent a basket will be in the Narthex with the name of each person from our congregation on a tag inside a colored egg. (Please recycle the plastic egg after you have removed the tag.) The Fellowship Committee is asking everyone to take one to three names and to say a simple blessing for them during the Lenten season until Easter.
- Cribbage ~ Sunday, February 28, 2-5 pm. Bring your cribbage board; a snack to share; and family, friends, and neighbors. Join us. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Council Corner**

We ended 2009 by borrowing an additional \$2,199 for the year from our savings account (borrowing from designated funds). Don Venolia submitted his resignation from Council effective January 31. The Congregational Annual Meeting will be January 31. In addition to our usual business of electing new Council members, adopting the budget, and receiving ministry reports, the results of our recent survey will be announced. We look forward to seeing you all there.



# Ministries of Ebenezer

## CAN WE GROW FRUIT HERE?



According to Galatians 5, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,

kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

While we should recognize these gifts, often we don't spend time trying to use them. From the time we are little, we hear our parents try to encourage these traits, while the secular world tells us to have it for ourselves, have it all for ourselves.

The response for the Haiti earthquake victims clearly shows we have great capacity to offer our gifts to help others who are facing great human devastation. Now, we also need to work on supporting our church infrastructure which can be so helpful during times of local need.

## NEW MEMBERS' CLASSES



Are you interested in becoming a member of Ebenezer? Please talk to Pastor

Benson. The first members' class will meet between services in Pastor's office on Sunday, February 7, at 9:40 am.

## FELLOWSHIP NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

Paper napkins, paper plates, gallon Ziploc bags, and aluminum foil are being collected for fellowship activities (e.g., FAST Team meetings). Please write "fellowship" on all donations and leave them in the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who provides these supplies!

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

In Matthew 22 Jesus only spoke in parables. Why did he not speak plainly?



## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



Pastor Benson will continue leading the *Daily Discipleship*

Bible study on Thursday mornings from 10-11 am in the Fireside Room. Pastor highlights the historical background of each lesson. Refreshments are served.

## LEAH CIRCLE

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, AT 7 PM

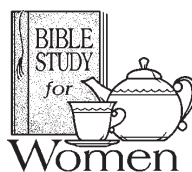
All women are invited to join the ladies of Leah Circle in the Youth Room as they continue the Women of Faith Study Guide Series titled *Discovering God's Will for Your Life*. Questions or need a ride? Please contact Carole Fett, 425-334-7899.



## MAR-CILLA CIRCLE

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, AT 11:30 AM

The ladies of Mar-Cilla Circle enjoy fellowship, a delightful lunch, and Bible study. They are continuing their Bible study, *Growing Older & Wiser*. All ladies are welcome!



## FAST TEAMS HOST LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Each week a FAST Team will need three people to set up and cook four pots of soup and four people to help clean up so everyone can make it to the service on time. The schedule for FAST Teams:

- 2/17 - #1 (Cross): Ash Wednesday
- 2/24 - #2 (Shultz)
- 3/3 - #3 (Shephard)
- 3/10 - #4 (Charlot)
- 3/17 - #8
- 3/24 - #9 (Gross and Albertsen)

Please call your FAST Team leaders to ask how you can help.

## F.A.S.T.

### (Faith And Service Teams)

The **FAST Team #5** leaders for February are **Harold and Dotty Ronnestad**. The following members will be called to help with the Sunday morning duties:

### FEBRUARY

**Backstrom**, Jim & Jeanette, David  
**Bauer**, Betty  
**Beers**, Dan & Karla  
**Briske**, Gary & Jane  
**Brothers**, Susan  
**Coryell**, Ethel  
**Eliason**, Kathy  
**Espeseth**, Howard & Annie Fallon  
**Hoover**, Gary & Mary  
**Jackson**, Pat  
**Johnson**, Hazel  
**Ren**, Margaret  
**Ring**, Bill & Sally  
**Ronnestad**, Harold & Dotty  
**Severson**, Roger & Carole  
**Silcox**, Annetta

### THANK YOU, FAST TEAM #4

Led by Lynn Charlot, FAST Team #4 served in January. They did a wonderful job to make our worship fulfilling and meaningful. Thank you.

### FAST TEAM #6 MEETING

Leaders Don and Sue Wilson and the members of FAST Team #6 will help with Sunday morning duties in March. Look for a mailing in February.

### COMMUNITY SUPPER NEEDS

We are collecting peaches, pears, applesauce, and fruit cocktail. Please leave all donated items in the baskets under the Community Supper signups in the Fellowship Hall. Ebenezer serves on the fourth Thursday of each month. To help, please sign up on the Supper board. Thank you for serving.

## Our February Birthdays

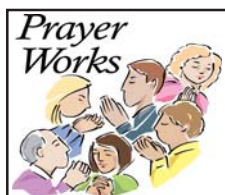
Name	Birth Date (month/day)	Name	Birth Date (month/day)	Name	Birth Date (month/day)
Egtvet, Brennan	2/1	Smith, Lucille	2/16	Johanson, Crystal	2/25
Galioto, Andy	2/1	Johnson, Carol	2/17	Martuch, Dominic	2/26
Brandstetter, Meredith	2/2	Ives, Dennis	2/18	Brothers, Susan	2/28
Zehrunge, Marjorie	2/4	Crowley, Connor	2/20	Marks, Sandy	2/29
Anderson, Marnie	2/6	Feizbakhsh, Eileen	2/20		
Jorgensen, Shirley	2/7	Staffenhagen, Wyatt	2/22		
Nearhoff, Marcia	2/8	Chapman, Katy	2/23		
Olson, Andrew	2/14	Parzyk, Kathy	2/23		
Werner, Alice	2/14	Stuart, Colton	2/23		
Zehner, Ryan	2/14	Bear, Tamara	2/25		

"I give you this commandment, that you love one another."  
John 13:34



## The Prayer Corner

If you have an urgent need, call Alice Werner, 425-334-6845, or Margaret Ren, 425-334-3843, the prayer chain leaders, who will contact members of the prayer chain to begin praying. All members of our



congregation are encouraged to pray for the following members to strengthen and bind the Body of Christ:

### Members of the Congregation:

David Backstrom - recovering from surgery  
Ellen Bersas - recovering from surgery  
Tyler Caulfield - life's issues  
Janine DiMonda - medical tests  
Ellen McDougall - health concerns  
Lee Turcotte - continued healing

### Homebound or Special Care Residents:

Waleene Gardner Louise Hoefler  
Connie Miller Allan Patchett  
Charlotte Petty Lucille Smith  
Maggie Smith Bill Wilson

### Extended Family with Needs:

Jim Bruins (Eileen Bruins' son) - leukemia  
Curt Carlton (Marj Zehrunge's nephew) - upcoming cancer surgery  
Duane Doyle (Dianne Major's father) - lung

cancer  
Aubrie Ewell (Betty Brown's niece) - severe brain/head trauma  
Kayla Gay (Helen Hendrickson's niece) - medical testing  
Ron & Margie Kickert (Cheryl Nelson's parents)  
Roger Koepsell (Betty Bauer's father)  
Buzzy McGee (Kathy Huber's brother)  
Phyllis Miller (Betty Brown's mother) - hospice  
Pat Morgan (Pat Jackson's friend) - heart aneurism  
Larry Nolan (Alice Werner's neighbor) - cancer  
Malia Osborne (Anna Lee Kirtley's granddaughter)  
Linda Ourso (Becky Hampton's friend) - bruised & sprained foot  
Marilee Payne (Waleene Gardner's sister-in-law) - rare blood disorder  
Lisa Pearson (Ken Cross's niece) - radiation  
Leonard Peterson (Truman Peterson's brother) - recovering from surgery  
Sam Peterson (Marilyn Peterson's son)  
Viña Phelps (Kathy Parzyk & Debbie May's aunt) - cancer  
Mark Rice (Alice Werner's nephew)  
Lauren Salaises (Kathy Parzyk & Debbie

May's cousin) - chemotherapy  
Doug Schuchard (Pam Schuchard's brother-in-law) - upcoming surgery  
John Schuchard (Pam Schuchard's husband) - health concerns  
Linda Shoemaker (Ken Cross's sister) - chemotherapy  
Laura Signorello (Kathy Parzyk & Debbie May's stepsister) - cancer  
Sheri Silcox (Annetta's daughter)  
Tristan Sirisin (Andi Holmes' friend) - newborn with lung & liver problems  
Vicky vonBargen (Monika Galioto's friend) - health issues  
Meggi Ward (Susan Shephard's friend)  
Fred Werner (Alice Werner's son) - recovering from heart attack  
Dick Wright (Dorothy Morgan's son)

### For All Our Military and Their Families:

Jason Parzyk & Jessica Palmer  
Afghanistan: Daniel Mitchell & Rachel Perry  
Japan: Sid Hendrickson, Jr.

### For Those Who Grieve:

Chapman Family - Albert Anderson, Loydeen Chapman's uncle, passed away  
Hampton Family - Mavis Hamre and Lee Bottjen, Becky Hampton's friends, passed away



# YOE News

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Event</u>
February 7		Ebenezer	Souper Bowl of Caring
February 14	5-7 pm	Fellowship Hall	YOE Spaghetti Dinner
February 26-27		Ebenezer	30-Hour Famine Lock-in
May 15-17		Holden Village	HS Holden May Youth Weekend

**All articles are written by members of YOE.  
If you have any questions, email  
yoe@ebenezerlakestevens.org.**

### **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**



Look for the YOE SOUP BRIGADE after services. They will be stationed outside the Sanctuary

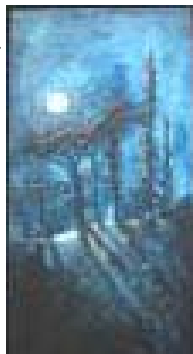
with their soup pots ready to receive your generous donations of money and/or canned food.

Each year you have helped our YOE join with millions of other youth in raising money to help people in need. The youth have decided again this year that the donations will be given to the Lake Stevens Community Food Bank.

Souper Bowl of Caring is mobilizing and inspiring youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Since this special nationwide, youth-led event began in 1993, more than \$60 million has been raised. In 2009 youth across the country generated over \$10 million for local charities through the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 2010 they hope to mobilize even more youth and generate even more money for those in need and to act on Jesus' call to care for our neighbors.

### **UNDER THE TUSCAN MOON ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, AT 5 & 6 PM**

"Under the Tuscan Moon" is the theme for the annual spaghetti dinner. The youth will be serving salad, spaghetti, bread, a wonderful chocolate dessert, and drinks.



Reservation forms are on the counter in the Narthex or in the Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$5 each or \$20 for a family of four or more. **Please return your completed form with your payment to the church office as soon as possible. Make your check payable to YOE. Thank you for supporting our youth.**

This event is one of two main fundraisers sponsored by the Youth Of Ebenezer. Enjoy a wonderful evening with the ones you love. Make your reservations TODAY! Thank you for supporting our youth.

**Children are the living messages  
we send to a time we will not see.  
—John W. Whitehead**

### **30-HOUR FAMINE LOCK-IN FEBRUARY 26-27**

Some of the youth will be participating in the 30-Hour Famine on February 26-27. This is an international youth movement through World Vision to raise money and awareness for children, families, and communities worldwide who are suffering from hunger.



The youth will go 30 hours with no food, only water, to experience what it's like to go hungry. If anyone would like to make a donation to the 30-Hour Famine fundraiser, please make your check payable to World Vision and put it in an envelope marked 30-Hour Famine.

### **HS HOLDEN MAY YOUTH WEEKEND MAY 15-17, 2010**

Holden Youth Weekends are sponsored by Trinity Lutheran College in cooperation with Holden Village and local congregations in the Northwest. The program includes speakers, music, worship, small group conversations, free time activities, and many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and wildlife, the recreation center, and an ice cream parlor.

## Readings for Worship

### February 7 (Communion)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson:** Isaiah 6:1-13

**Psalm:** Psalm 138

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson:** I Corinthians 15:1-11

**Gospel:** Luke 5:1-11

### February 14

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson:** Exodus 34:29-35

**Psalm:** Psalm 99

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson:** II Corinthians 3:12-4:2

**Gospel:** Luke 9:28-43

### February 21 (Communion)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

**Psalm:** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson:** Romans 10:8b-13

**Gospel:** Luke 4:1-13

### February 28

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

**Psalm:** Psalm 27

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson:** Philippians 3:17-4:1

**Gospel:** Luke 13:31-35



## Worship Services



February 7	8:30 & 10:30 am
February 14	8:30 & 10:30 am
February 17	Soup Supper - 6:00 pm
	Ash Wednesday Service (C) - 7:00 pm
February 21	8:30 & 10:30 am
February 24	Soup Supper - 6:00 pm
	Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
February 28	8:30 & 10:30 am

### Education Hour

**Sunday School: 9:40-10:25 am**

**Adult Forum: 9:40-10:25 am**

## Church Office Hours

Monday	Office Closed
Tuesday	9-12 & 1-5
Wednesday	9-12 & 1-4
Thursday	9-12 & 1-4
Friday	9-12 & 1-4

## Young at Heart

### February Senior Luncheon

The theme for our luncheon on Thursday, February 4, at noon is

"Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Our entertainment will be Larry Alsbury who sings and plays the guitar. This will be Larry's first time with us. Invite your friends to our Valentine's Day party.

We will have orange chicken with rice; you can bring a side dish to share. For dessert we will have chocolate, chocolate, chocolate. If you have a special chocolate recipe, bring it to share with everyone.

If you need a ride or have questions, call Bill and Carolyn Lund, 425-334-2535. Thank you to the wonderful friends who stay to help clean up. We appreciate you!



## Special Thanks

### Safe at Home

Special thanks for all the prayers for our three grandsons Josh Main, Karlin Swearingen, and Mike Alley. All three are now safely home from Afghanistan and Kuwait. —Truman & Phyllis Peterson

### Taking Down Decorations

Thank you to everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 3, and brought a delicious potluck dish to share with others. You made this annual process quick and easy!

### Uplifting Worship

Thank you to the Praise & Worship Team that led us in uplifting worship. The service was led by Kathy Parzyk and Debbie May on January 20. The Worship Team members were John, Beth, and John Vickery; Angie Kimball; Peggy Schultz; Amy Cross; and Tyler Springer.

## St. Valentine

We probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes. That's fine, but there's more to the story than that.

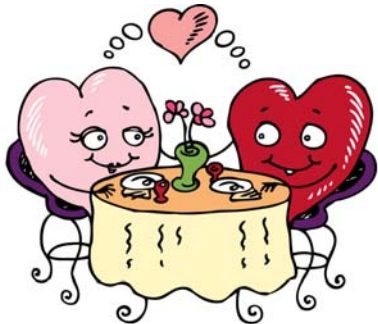
St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remember him and our loved ones.

While he was in jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew from that heartfelt gesture.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
The VOICE Newsletter  
2111 - 117th Avenue NE  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

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## Valentine's Day Spaghetti Dinner

February 14 ~ 5:00 or 6:00 pm

JESUS LOVES ...

Remember to post your calendar!

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## In the News

### Open House



Ken and JoAnn Cross are hosting an open house for daughter Amy on Saturday, February 6, from noon to 4 pm. Amy graduated from Pacific Lutheran University last year and is now going to Malawi, Africa, for 26 months to work with the Peace Corp. She is already packed and has no more room in her suitcase. So the family is asking, "No gifts please." Amy wants to say goodbye to friends and family before she leaves on February 25.

### Movie Night Thank You

Thank you to the 34 people who attended and brought the delicious potluck dinner. Out of the 22 movies provided, we selected *Narnia* to watch on the BIG screen. What a fun night meeting lots of new friends and watching a great movie.

### Book Nook

Check out Ebenezer's Book Nook located in the hall just before the Sunday School classrooms. During the December Adult Forum, we discussed the book, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson. This book and Greg's most recent book, *Stones into Schools*, tell one person's mission to promote peace in Afghanistan and Pakistan through building schools for girls. His books are filled with adventure, humor, and suspense as he relates his personal adventures in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It's easy to check out a book in the Book Nook.

### Into the Family of God



Addison Moore was baptized on Sunday, January 3, at the 10:30 am service. She is the daughter of Rodney and Brandy Moore and sister of Brianna. We pray God's blessings on Addison and her family.

### Haiti Earthquake Relief



*Members:* To contribute to the victims of the Haiti earthquakes, you can (1) send gifts to ELCA Disaster Response, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764; or (2) simply add to your offering and mark "disaster" and the amount you're designating on your check.

*All Thrivent members:* Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$2 donated before March 31 by Thrivent members to one of the following organizations: Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, LCMS World Relief/Human Care, and WELS Committee on Relief. To donate, go to [Thrivent.com/helpinghaiti](http://Thrivent.com/helpinghaiti) or call 800-236-3736 between 7 am and 6 pm Monday through Friday (Central Time). When prompted, say "directory" and enter ext. 83003.

Thank you for your caring and generous support!