

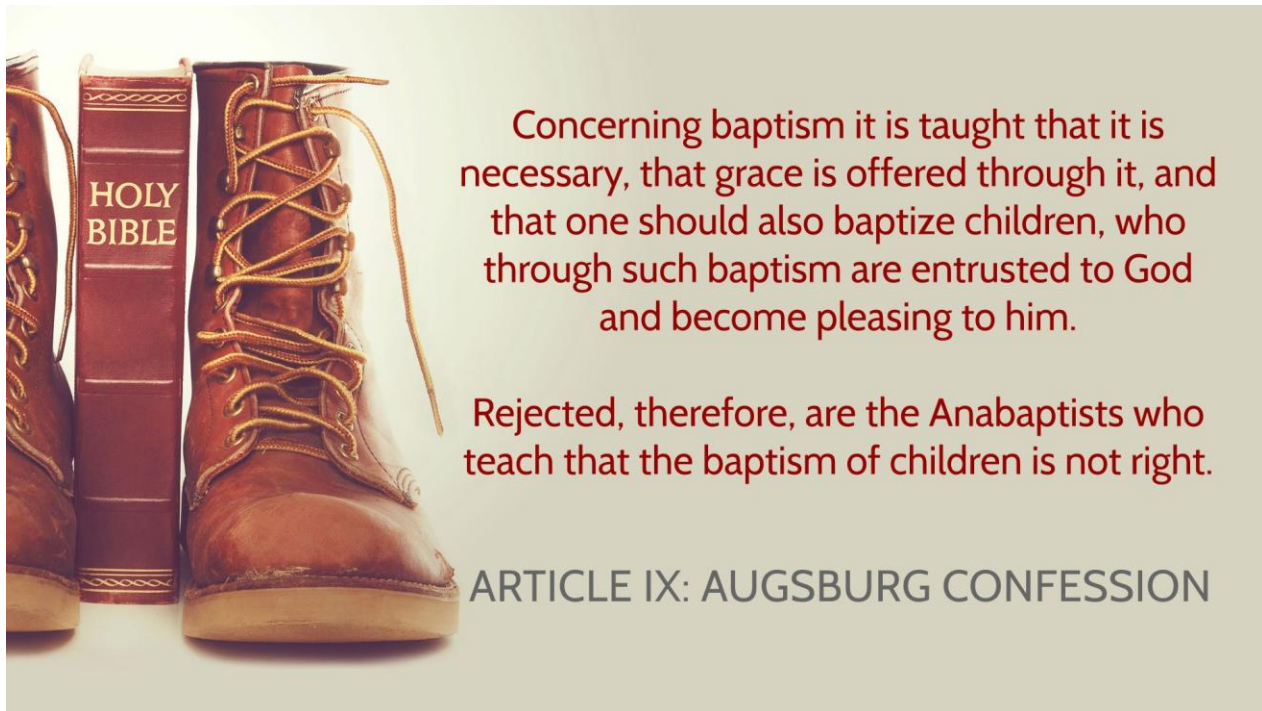


February Newsletter 2026

Ah February, the month remembered by the celebration of Valentine's Day! Personally, I have a few other things that take precedence over the modern conception of Valentine's Day: the birthday of my beloved wife Danielle, the birthday of my dear son Judah, and the birthday of my faithful father Clark. Oh, I should mention they are all on the same day! So, with Valentine's Day coming just a few days after their birthday, I'm not always focused on sharing chocolates, cartoon-shaped red hearts, or other gifts like others are on Valentine's Day. But I'll never forget when my wife and I first started dating, I realized that her birthday and Valentine's Day were so close together. I knew they both should probably remain separate and special in their own way, but I figured I should ask. Maybe there was some way she liked to celebrate the two that I should know about! I was told very clearly that the birthday and Valentine's Day should in fact remain separate and special. Imagine if I didn't keep Valentine's Day and the birthdays separate because it just makes sense to combine them all. It's the most logical, isn't it?

Now that's my own unique set of circumstances. In the IX Article of the Augsburg Confession, we get a set of circumstances that applies to all of God's church — a set of circumstances regarding baptism that still affects the Church today. Article IX addressed an attack on the doctrine of Baptism during the time of the Reformation. The attack was coming from the group known as the "Anabaptists," which literally means "re-baptizer" or "again baptizer." This teaching was important to address because historically the Lutheran reformers needed to show they were not teaching this rebaptism for the sake of working together to overcome differences with the Roman Catholic Church. If Lutherans were teaching this, it would be a serious deal breaker with the Roman Catholic Church.

The article in the Augsburg Confession and the Apology of the Augsburg Confession is quite short, unlike previous teachings. This shows you won't find disagreement between Lutheran Reformers and the Roman Catholic Church. But that doesn't mean the Anabaptist teaching is ignored. Perhaps seeing the Article will help you understand why allowing this teaching would create such a problem. Here it is:



Imagine being taught that God's grace offered through baptism to a child is not right. We can't teach anything other than God's word. Matthew 28:19 is where Jesus commands to "baptize all nations." This includes all men, women, children, and yes even infants. Salvation by God's grace through faith is offered with Baptism. So as believers in Jesus, we reject the teaching that baptism of children is not right.

We as Lutherans don't just teach "infant baptism," we teach Baptism for all nations because it shows all people who God is and says he will be for them! The Large Catechism puts it plainly: "Everything depends upon the Word and commandment of God. My faith does not make baptism, it receives baptism. We bring the child with the intent and hope that it may believe, and we pray God to grant it faith."

As we have once obtained forgiveness of sins in baptism, so forgiveness remains day by day as long as we live..." Children, infants, adults, men, and women need God's grace through forgiveness won by Jesus. And all people have that in baptism!

Let me take you back to my Valentine's Day/Birthday conundrum. Why is it important for me to highlight two days that are so close together in special separate ways? It isn't about the day, but it's about the person who I have come to know in relationship to those days.

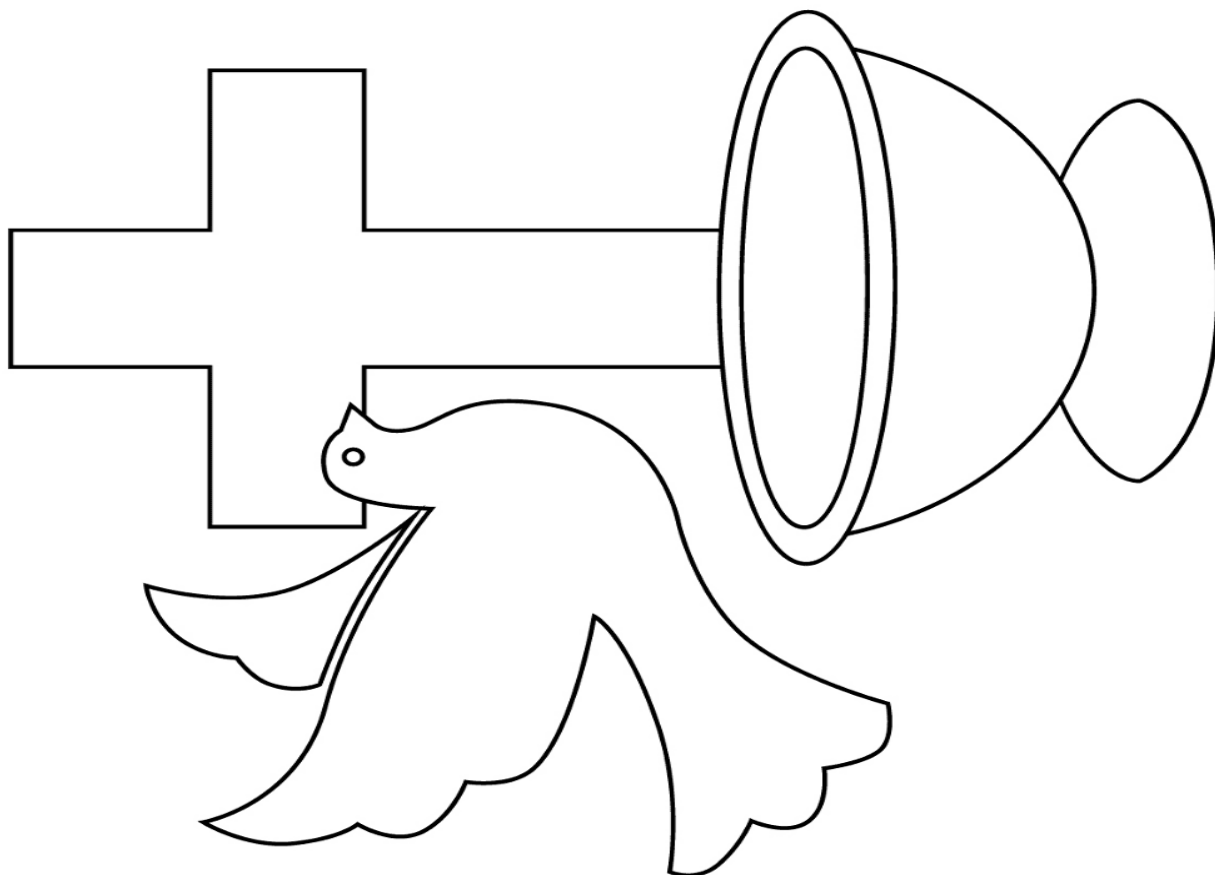
In the same way, we don't reshape Baptism according to what seems logical or convenient; we receive it and give it just as God himself has given it for us to receive — full of his grace and promise meant for all who call on him because He has called them. May we continue to treasure God's gift of love in baptism because it reveals, for all nations, his loving heart.



Joyfully His,

Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

**Baptism for all
nations**



ELDER'S CORNER

The Lenten Season

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Lenten season in 2026 begins on Wednesday, February 18th and ends on Saturday, April 4th. This period lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays, and is a time of preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the Start of Lent, during which we engage in prayer, penance and for some fasting.

As we enter the holy season of Lent, the Church once again turns our hearts toward repentance, reflection, and renewal. Lent is not merely a time of self-denial, but a sacred journey that leads us to the cross of Christ, where our Savior bore our sins in His body and won for us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The word *repentance* means more than sorrow over sin. It is a daily turning away from ourselves and a daily turning toward Christ. In this season, we are invited to examine our lives in the light of God's Law, to confess our sins honestly, and to cling in faith to the Gospel promise that "the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

As an elder of this congregation, I encourage you to make faithful use of the gifts Christ gives His Church during Lent. Gather around God's Word in worship and in your daily devotions. Receive the forgiveness of sins in Holy Absolution. Come to the Lord's Table, where Christ gives His true body and blood for the strengthening of your faith. These are not works we offer to God, but gracious gifts He gives to us for our salvation.

Some people give something up for Lent(self-denial). 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.

Is there something you enjoy that you want to sacrifice for a while, like your daily latte? Or is it a bad habit you want to conquer, like running in late to meetings with co-workers? Or perhaps it would be good for you to give up alcohol or chips or chocolate? Find something that works for you, and whatever it is, may it help you to turn towards God in this holy season of Lent.

Lent also calls us to lives of humble service and love toward our neighbors. Forgiven sinners are freed to serve, reflecting Christ's mercy in word and deed.

May this Lenten season draw you ever closer to Christ crucified and risen for you. We walk this journey together, confident in the hope of Easter.

In Christ's service,

**Gary Christianson,
Elder Good Shepard
Lutheran Church**



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Keith Ramsay
320.219.2129

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Greeting from the Executive Council,

Here are the highlights of the January Executive Council meeting:

- 1) Voting process and getting a lay person to help Pastor nominate LCMS president for Good Shepherd
- 2) Promise Act Grant - applying for it in January
- 3) Trustees will be putting a committee together to decide flooring for the fellowship hall
- 4) Goals 2026 for Good Shepherd. The council members will be compiling some short term and long-term goals for our February meeting. We will compile them into categories and discuss and compare to items on our list in 2025.

Please speak with an Executive council member if you have ideas of either long-term or short-term goals for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Thank you to Dave Nelson and all the trustees for all that they do keeping up with the maintenance of the church. Trustees are-Dave Nelson, Pete Kremer, Jan Hausmann, Henry Huhnerkoch, Paul Gesell, Lynn Murray, Gary Lips.

If you would like to help with maintenance of our building and grounds, please see Dave Nelson to see how you can help.

Yours in Christ,
Loren Boysen



Pastor
Jonathan Jahnke



Loren Boysen
Chairman



Dave Bertek
Vice Chair



Justin Girard
Secretary



Eric Wenz
Treasurer



Gary Lips
Council Member



Kevin Mork
Financial Secretary



Denise Norheim
Council Member



Bill Teschendorf
Council Member



Pam Reese
Council Member

GIVING YTD

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance December 2025			
		FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings		\$34,477.37	
Year To Date Total Offerings		\$409,704.47	
Thrivent Choice Dollars-YTD		\$3,721.00	
Miscellaneous Income-YTD		\$4025.40	
LCEF Account Transfer-YTD		\$0.00	
Current Month's General Expense			\$33,487.91
Year to Date Total Expense			\$386,547.83
Current Month Net Less Expense	\$3,558.46		
Year to Date Net Less Expense	\$30,903.04		

Did you know? The Executive Council Monthly minutes and Treasure reports are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hallway. Check it out- also posted there are the T.I.M. Missions Newsletters see how our Missionaries are sharing God's Word.

Online Giving

VANCO MOBILE

(Support our ministries from anywhere.)

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GET STARTED
Scan me

1) *Create your*

login and password

2) *Search for Our Church*

Enter our church's name and click Search/Then, select our church

3) *Select Your Fund and Amount*

Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.

4) *Enter Payment Method*

You can save this payment method for future donations.

5) *Choose to Cover Processing Fees*

You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.

6) *Complete Your Donation*

Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.

Pick up a flyer in the Narthex on the CHURCH communication wall for step-by-step instructions!

Stay up to date on the weekly giving and attendance. Informational email is sent every Thursday around 12:30pm. If you are not receiving this email and would like to please inform the church office to be added to the list.

ALTAR GUILD



We have some time, ordinary time until the Eve of Transfiguration, before the second division of the Church Year begins, which is Easter. The first subdivision of this is Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday; the exact date depends on the date of Easter, which is April 5th this year, with Ash Wednesday being on February 18th. The name "Ash Wednesday" comes from a practice originated in the Middle Ages of ashes being sprinkled over the heads of those who came to church and went to confession. The ashes come from palms that were blessed on Palm Sunday the year before, (today the ashes are ordered). Both this rite and the traditional readings for the day call for an attitude of humility and repentance, a somber time.

Lent consists of forty days of abstinence and fasting, excluding the Sundays in between, which are not Sundays of Lent but Sundays in Lent. The fourth Sunday is called Laetare, which means "rejoice." This Sunday was introduced to relieve some of the rigors of observing the Lenten fast, it can be considered the anticipation of the joy of Easter. This season continues until the eve of Palm Sunday.

Please Thank Denise Armbruster for her care of the Altar during the month of January.

Danielle Meinert and Marian Brelje will care for the Altar during the month of February.

REMINDER: THERE ARE NO FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR DURING LENT.

Submitted by,



Amory Anderson

Library Highlights

Terri Blackstock is a Christian mystery writer. I believe "Predator" has to be one of her best stories. People are being targeted and murdered based on what they have put on a social media account. Krista's sister was killed and she pursues the killer eventually being pursued by the killer. Lots of prayers and trust in God are all that will get her through this.

Want help finding a book that interests you? Check the synopsis of all the books that have been shared in the Newsletter, located by the sign out book!

HAPPY READING!!



Marian Brelje

LOVE PATCHES

Love Patches group is back in full swing making lap quilts and baby quilts for baptisms. We are very thankful for the sewing machine that was donated to us by Gloria. We enjoy both the creating and fellowship that we have Thursday mornings. Please let one of us know if you have someone who would be comforted by receiving a quilt.



Marian Brelje



LWML

Greetings in the name of Christ!

The LWML will have our February meeting on Monday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in the education wing of the church.

Our speaker will be Keith Melrose talking about the Polar Plunge and the fundraising that this event is for.

Our district convention is coming up in June and will be held at The Park Event Center in Waite Park. We will be approving our delegates to send to this. Also, our zone sends Young Women Representatives to the convention with all their expenses paid. If you are a young woman (age 20-40) and are interested in this, please let me know.

We did not have a regular meeting in January, however, the board met to plan our calendar for the year, and we have a lot of fun things on the schedule! If there is anything that anyone would like to see or do or have any suggestions for speakers we can still add to our calendar. Just let one of the board members know so that we may get this set up.

Looking ahead, in March we do not have a regular meeting, instead we do the prayer service with Zion. It is their year to host so it will be on their regular meeting night which is Tuesday March 10th. Please be sure to mark the date on your calendars.

Blessings,



Tracy Boysen,

LWML President

"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Psalm 100:2

Sunday School

Thank you to everyone for the continued prayers going into the new year. It is such a blessing to get to see the kids grow their faith each week.



The past few weeks Decker, our friend the decorator crab, has been helping us learn a new bible verse.

John 13:34 says, "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." The kids do a great job demonstrating this verse each week. The children of all ages have been enjoying their treat time by gathering in the main area of the education wing, to enjoy each other's company before each week starts. This trend was started by the kids one-week last fall and has stuck ever since. It is so fun to see the kids all choose to spend time together.



Myah Kremer

Mom's Group

Grow in God's Word with other mom's and a play time for our children.

We would love to have you!



February 9 • 23	April 13 • 27
March 9 • 23	May 11

If you have any questions please
contact: Danielle Jahnke 507-273-7436

Good Shepherd Directory

Good Shepherd Family Members You now have the ability to update your contact information, your family photo and more by logging into the Members Instant Church Directory Site at <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com> *login is the email address you have on file.

What is the *Instant Church Directory* Member App and Website?

The **Instant Church Directory Member App** is a free tool that allows members to view the church's directory on their iPhone, iPad, iPad Mini, Android device, or through a web browser.

Members can:

- View church and staff information
- Search and view family listings
- Call, email, or text directly from the app (if contact details are available)

Any updates made in the online Admin site will automatically sync to members' devices, ensuring they always have the latest version of the directory. Iphone users-

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221>

Android users:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members&pcampaignid=web_share

Fellowship

The Good Shepherd Fellowship group met in the library on January 13th opening with prayer. We talked about how the Cookie Ministry was going, and how the Hot Dish Cook Off went. What can we do better to promote this kind of activity to get more participation? We moved on to activities for the upcoming year, what kind of things do we think will work.

Looking forward into the year, we have a Concert by the Adult and Teen Challenge Choir scheduled for April 19th, with a family meal provided after the concert. Farther into the year we are hoping to have a church picnic and then a little later will be the Polka Fest and Trunk or Treat. Please join us for these fun activities, all are welcome to participate.

**JOIN US
TODAY**
for

- ✦ Bring Snacks to share
- ✦ Bingo and other games
- ✦ Prizes given



Door Prize Drawing-Quilt
quilt donated by "Love Patches Quilters"
see the real thing in the Narthex



Marian Brelje



“THE HOUR HAS COME FOR THE SON OF MAN TO BE GLORIFIED.” (Jn 12:23)

In the gospel of John, there is this theme of destiny with time. On seven different occasions there are references from John and from the lips of Jesus of his hour not yet having arrived, and then it finally does come. It is a tension that starts building with the very first miracle of Jesus, and when his disciples first put their faith in Him. Jesus says to his mother, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” (Jn 2:4)

This tension mounts until Jesus comes into Jerusalem riding a Donkey, and some outsiders, Greeks to be exact, come asking to see Jesus the promised one. Then Jesus says, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

This Lent season we will be exploring this tension in the life of Jesus, and consider our own appointed times in life to consider the mercy of God in Christ. We too know what future God has in store for us, and even though it may go through suffering and death, it will lead to resurrection!

Lent Services will begin Wednesday February 18th 7pm with a meal at 6PM.

Lent Service Schedule:

- February 18 “My Time Has Not Yet Come” John 2
- February 25 “Stubborn Jesus” John 7
- March 4 “Protected for that time to not be Protected” John 8
- March 11 “Divine Necessity” Matthew 16
- March 18 “The hour has Come” John 12
- March 25 “One More Thing to Do” John 13

Holy Week Schedule

- April 29 Palm Sunday Worship will be 9am
- April 2 Maundy Thursday service will be 7PM.
- April 3 Good Friday service will be at 7PM.
- April 5 Easter Sunday services will be at 7am and 9am *with a free will offering*
Easter Breakfast served in between.



Feb-01 Charlotte Clitty

Feb-02 Deanna Griesse

Feb-02 Janet Teschendorf

Feb-03 Val Christopherson

Feb-05 Kevin Mork

Feb-06 Aiden Kluver

Feb-06 Jason Norheim

Feb-07 Angela Lipp

Feb-08 Don Wilke

Feb-08 Luke Samari

Feb-10 Myah Kremer

Feb-11 Jan Grosenick

Feb-11 Peggy Erickson

Feb-11 Richard Duncan

Feb-12 Danielle Jahnke

Feb-12 Judah Jahnke

Feb-13 Kaia Christianson

Feb-14 Kay Nibbe

Feb-14 Kendra Swenson

Feb-18 Marly Nolz

Feb-19 Brittany Torgrimson

Feb-19 Dan Gieselhart

Feb-19 Quincy Luedeke

Feb-21 Matt Johnson

Feb-21 Pamela Reese

Feb-24 Lynn Murray

Feb-25 Cydnee Luedeke

Feb-25 Gene Meier

Feb-25 Stephanie Bertek

Feb-27 Wade Schimmelpfennig



HELLO February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Hour 2:00pm Family FUN Day 6:00pm TIM Fishing Meeting	2 6:00pm DART BALL GS @ VILLARD 6:30pm 2026 VBS Kickoff	3 4:30pm Worship Team practice	4 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study	5 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria	6 10:00am LIFE CO-OP	7
8 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Hour	9 9:30am Mom's Group 4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting 6:00pm DART BALL GS @ Home	10 4:30pm Worship Team practice 5:15pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet	11 10:00am Bible Study	12 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	13 10:00am LIFE CO-OP	14
15 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour	16 6:00pm DART BALL Make Up Games 6:30pm LWML Meeting	17 4:30pm Worship Team practice 7:00pm Elders Meet	18 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Supper Group 1 7:00pm ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Group 1	19 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria	20 10:00am LIFE CO-OP	21
22 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour 12:00pm DART BALL TOURNAMENT @ Good Shepherd	23 9:30am Mom's Group	24 4:30pm Worship Team practice	25 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Lent Midweek Supper Group 2 7:00pm LENTEN WORSHIP	26 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches MARCH NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO CHURCH OFFICE	27 10:00am LIFE CO-OP	28