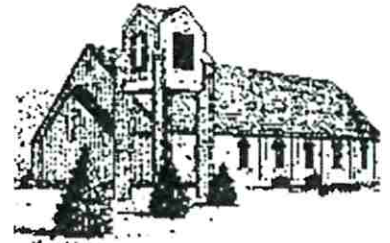


St. Peter's Epistle



February 2026

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
145 S. 6th Street, Waterford, WI 53185

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Confession & Absolution/

Imposition of Ashes

8:00-9:30 AM

Divine Service 6:30 PM

Lenten Midweek Vespers

Wednesdays

February 25-March 25

6:30 PM

With soup suppers at 5:00PM

Chosen Bible Study

Starts Feb 1st after service

Men's Bible Study

Feb 7 & 21

Movie Night

Feb 13 (Dinner & A Movie)

Be sure to follow us on facebook
and visit our website at
www.stpeterswaterford.com

Sign up for updates by emailing
Pastor Conradt and asking to be
put on the list.

CHURCH

Telephone: 262-534-3639

Rev. Joshua P.H. Conradt, Pastor
pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com

Church Office

secretary@stpeterswaterford.com

PRESCHOOL

Telephone: 262-534-6066

Mr. Melvin Beversdorf, Director
director@stpeterswaterford.com

From the Desk of Pastor Conradt

Pre-Lent (Gesimatide) to Lent

Pre-Lent aka Gesimatide begins this year on February 1st with Septuagesima. Pre-Lent is the time of transition from the Epiphany season to Lent. It includes Septuagesima (within 70 days), Sexagesima (within 60 days), and Quinquagesima (within 50 days). It counts down to the highest festival of the Church year: The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord aka Easter (named for the direction of the Sun rising) or Pascha (Jesus is our *Passover* Lamb).

There are many similarities between Gesimatide and Lent. During Gesimatide the paraments and vestments are violet as they will be in Lent. The Alleluia is gone (having been buried at the celebration of the Transfiguration) and replaced with a Tract for the "70" days. The Gloria In Excelsis is omitted (reserved for the celebration of Easter) and often replaced with an extended Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy). This year we are singing the expanded Kyrie used during Luther's life: "Kyrie! God, Father" (TLH 6/LSB 942).

The "70" days recount the 70 years (586-516 BC) that Judah was in Babylonian Captivity for their adulterous relationship with false gods.

So... what's the difference? Historically the difference is the amount of fasting.

In December's newsletter I mentioned Memento. The traditional spiritual disciplines put together by Missouri Synod pastors and designed for men across our nation. We currently have 13 men from our congregation enrolled, with over 3,000 men nationwide. It is All designed to get our bodies to submit to our souls. This includes a fraternity of accountability, less screen time, no alcohol, daily devotions/prayer, and fasting.

Fasting is Biblical. On Ash Wednesday we hear this from Joel, "Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation.... (2:15-16a). Moses fasted 40 days on Mt. Sinai. After His baptism Jesus is driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted for 40 days and 40 nights (Matt. 4). In speaking to His disciples during the sermon on the mount, Jesus lays out three disciplines which the church has traditionally focused on during Lent: Almsgiving, Prayer, and Fasting (Matt 6).

Regarding preparation for receiving the Sacrament of the Altar, Luther writes in the Small Catechism, "Fasting and bodily preparation is, indeed, a fine outward training" (SC VI.5). In the Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession our church believes, "[R]epentance should produce good fruit for the sake of God's glory and command. Good fruit, true fastings, true prayers, true alms, and so forth, have God's commands" (Ap XII.139). Another helpful read is Augsburg Confession XXVI Distinction of Meats.

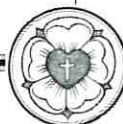
Please do not misunderstand. We are not doing this in order to earn salvation or believe that we are better than others. This does not earn salvation; only Jesus's atoning sacrifice does that. Faith and salvation are gifts from our God. Now free in Christ, they are beneficial for us in this life. The Church has always made exception for the infirm, pregnant and nursing mothers, and children; as well as for the sake of hospitality. We follow the Lord's words to pick up our cross and follow Him. To crucify and drown the old Adam that wars against our soul daily. Fasting is a helpful way to make the body submit to the soul. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8 to the devil during His own fasting, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4 NKJV). This is for us.

While an all you can eat beer battered fish fry isn't what was in mind, the tradition of fasting on Friday (the day of our Lord's crucifixion) and Wednesday (the day Judas sought to betray Jesus) have been set aside since at least the Second Century A.D. (*Didache*). Fish has long been the food of choice. As Pastor Kinney (Memento) explains, "The main thing is not eating meat. There are various reasons but the spiritual one is that Christ gave up His flesh. So we give up eating flesh. But fish has always been an alternative because it is the only thing Christ eats in the Gospels after the Resurrection. It is a food of victory confessing that now, Jonah has not been swallowed by the fish of death. Now, Jonah (Jesus) has swallowed up the fish of death!"

Soli Deo gloria! (To God alone be glory!)

In Christ,

Pastor Conradt



Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

Announcement of the Movable Feasts of 2026 A. ✠ D.

Traditionally connected with Epiphany was the publication on January 6 of the annual letter of the bishop of Alexandria announcing the date of Easter for the current year. The scholars of Alexandria were considered most competent to make the difficult computations and observations necessary to determine this date, and thus the whole East followed their findings, which were sent to all churches by the bishop. In the sixth century, the same procedure was adopted in the West. During the Middle Ages the dates of other movable feasts observed in the Church were added to the date of Easter and all of them announced to the people on Epiphany. Traditionally, this was chanted following the Gospel.

Dearly beloved brethren, know that as we have rejoiced in the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, so there is announced to you by the mercy of God the joyous observance of the Resurrection of the same our Savior:

In this year of Our Lord **TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX**, which commenced on Thursday the First day of January, being the Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Our Lord, there will be three Sundays after the Epiphany, until Septuagesima Sunday, which will occur on the **First of February**.

The **Eighteenth of February** is Ash Wednesday, and begins the sacred forty days of Lent.

On the **Fifth of April** we shall celebrate with great rejoicing the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven will be recalled forty days thereafter, on the **Fourteenth of May**.

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost will be celebrated on the **Twenty-fourth of May**.

The Feast of the Most Holy and Blessed Trinity will be observed on the **Thirty-first of May**.

There will be twenty-five Sundays after Trinity, until on the **Twenty-ninth of November**, being the first Sunday in the Advent of Our Lord, a new Year of Grace will begin.

To our Lord Jesus Christ be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

OFFICIAL ACTS



BAPTISM

Mack Luther Hein
12/9/2025 1/4/2026

NEW MEMBERS

Profession of Faith:

Andrew Ewert



RELEASED:

Jean Abramowski
Glen & Valerie Kimball

2025 MISSION OF THE MONTH UPDATE

January – A Place of Refuge	171.41
February – Love Inc.	241.11
March – Trinity Lutheran Restoration	579.75
April – LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces	212.50
May – Food for the Poor	46.00
June – Transitional Living Center	101.42
July – POBLO International	106.00
August – Rainbow Preschool	8,762.00
September – Faith Hope and Love	223.53
October – Luther Classical College	464.90
November – Friends of Jesus (80 gifts) value greater than	1,200.00
December – Orphan Grain Train	138.00
Total Mission of the Month donations for 2025	\$11,046.62

**March Newsletter Submissions Due
by February 23rd.**

ST. VALENTINE'S PARTY The Senior Group along with LWML and Ladies Aid will be

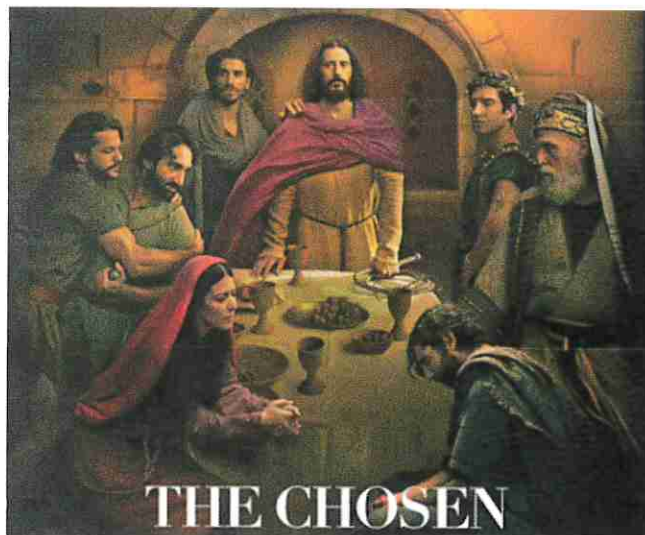


Celebrating
Saint Valentine

having their annual St. Valentine's Day Party on Monday February 9th at 11:00 am. All Ladies and Seniors in the congregation are invited. We will have sub sandwiches, and everyone is welcome to bring a dish to pass; however, it is not necessary. Please sign up by Feb. 5th.

YOUR CHURCH FAMILY NEEDS YOU

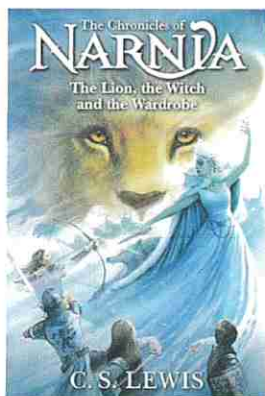
Three of our boards need more members, the Board of Parish Fellowship, the Board of Parish Education and the Board of Trustees. Please see Jim Dumke (Chairman of the Board of Stewardship) and let him know which Board you would like to join.



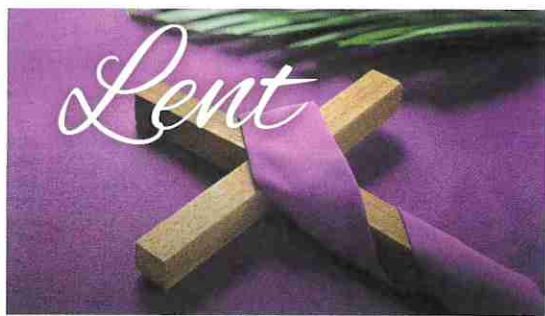
"THE CHOSEN" We will watch episode one on February 1st. This season is called "The Last Supper" and follows Jesus and His disciples during Holy Week. Pastor will have Bible Study after we watch the show to help us sort the truth from fiction. Light lunch or snacks will be planned. Plan to join us every Sunday after service through March 22nd.

DINNER AND A MOVIE!!

Parish Fellowship will be hosting a pizza party on Friday, February 13th, 5:30pm The movie "Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will be the featured film for this month.



Storyline: Four children from the same family have to leave their town because of the bombings of WWII. A woman and a professor take the children to their house. While playing a game of hide-and-seek, the youngest member of the family, Lucy, finds a wardrobe to hide in. She travels into the back of the wardrobe and finds a place named Narnia. After going in twice, the four children go in together. They meet a magnificent lion named Aslan. Aslan, the great lion, serves as a direct representation of Jesus Christ. His character embodies sacrificial love, authority, and the role of a savior. Aslan sacrifices himself to save one of the siblings, Edmund, paralleling Christ's sacrifice for humanity's sins. This act of self-giving love reflects John 3:16, where God gives His Son for the salvation of the world. The theme of redemption is prevalent, particularly through the character of Edmund, who betrays his siblings but ultimately seeks forgiveness. This mirrors the Christian narrative of sin and redemption, emphasizing the importance of repentance and grace. Aslan's resurrection after his death on the Stone Table symbolizes the resurrection of Christ, reinforcing the message of hope and renewal.



LENTEN MEALS The board of Parish Fellowship is looking for groups to host a light Lenten meal before (at 5:00pm) the five Lenten services following Ash Wednesday. Volunteer groups, boards, committees, families, or individuals are encouraged to call the church office to select their date. Available dates are: 2/25, 3/04, 3/11, & 3/18.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

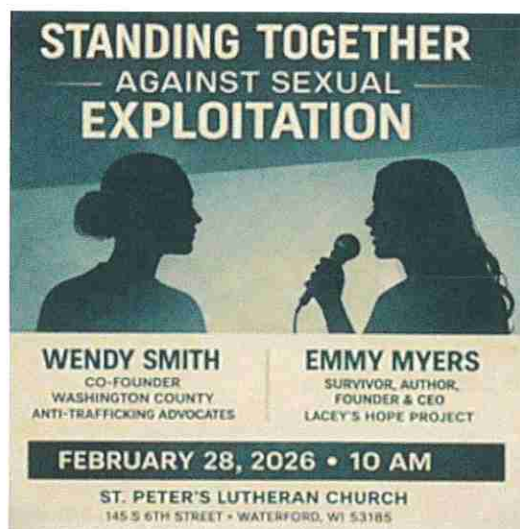


Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, is the day before Ash Wednesday and marks the end of the pre-Lenten season. It is traditionally a time for Christians to confess their sins and indulge in rich foods, particularly pancakes, before the fasting period of Lent begins. Please join us February 17th at 5:30pm in the parish hall.

FEBRUARY 2025 MISSION OF THE MONTH



Lacey's Hope Project, located in Jackson, Wisconsin, is hosting an event to raise awareness in our community about trafficking and exploitation. One of the speakers, Emmy Myers, is the founder of Lacey's Hope project. A community awareness event will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, Feb. 28th at 10:00am. This month we will collect money to help her organization continue to raise awareness on this topic. Emmy is a leader, community advocate, speaker, and source of knowledge and inspiration for others. She founded Lacey's Hope Project to help end the social justice issues of exploitation/trafficking and drug abuse. Named in tribute to a friend who lost her life to a trafficker, Lacey's Hope Project represents the promise of change, restoration and healing.



2025 YEAR END FINANCIALS

	<u>TOTAL 2025</u>		<u>TOTAL 2025</u>
Actual Offerings:	\$ 322,638.80	Actual Income	\$ 324,698.48
Giving Goal	348,000.00	Actual Expense	311,629.66
Difference	- 25,361.20		+ 13,068.85

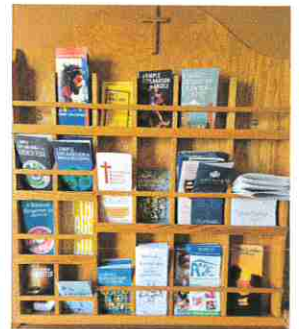
COOKIE WALK PICTURES

Pictures from December 6, 2025



TRACTS

Tracts are a great resource to use while sharing God's Word with others, or if you or someone you know is going through a difficult time. Please check out the assortment of tracts found in the racks in the narthex and feel free to share with your family and friends.



A LOST & FOUND BOX is on the glass case near the office. This box holds items found around the area. Please take what's yours.



EAST ENTRANCE/ HANDICAP DOOR when it is cold out, please try to use the "other" door, when possible, to reduce the amount of cold air entering the building. When you do need to use the handicap door, be sure to press the button if the door is already open, otherwise it could start to close before you are through. The door will automatically shut on its own, please do not force it shut.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Please join us February 26th, 6:30pm, 945 Terrace Drive Elm Grove WI. Founded three years ago, Trinity Lutheran Classical High School offers a classical, Christ-centered education that emphasizes academic rigor, logical reasoning, and the formation of character. Trinity's classical model encourages thoughtful discussion, deep reading of texts, and meaningful engagement with history, literature, mathematics, science, and theology. The goal is not only academic excellence, but also the cultivation of wisdom, virtue, and a lifelong love of learning. Please register in advance at www.trinitylutheranclassical.org.



EAST MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION



The Village of Waterford main street project includes reconstructing East Main St. from Milwaukee St. to STH 36 and relay the water main from Milwaukee St. to 6th St. We will update in the newsletter and weekly bulletins as information becomes available.



Food Pantry

St. Peter's is partnering with St. Thomas to help stock their food pantry. Please continue to

bring in your non-perishable food items to the basket in the narthex and we will be sure they get delivered to St. Thomas. Another option also is to take your food donations right to the St. Thomas rectory located on 1st Street. The office opens at 8:00am, Monday through Friday. Please drop off donations by noon. The pantry itself is open on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 1 to 3 pm. The entrance to the pantry is Door #3 off of Second Street labeled "St. Thomas Uhen Center Gym." Open to all those in our community that need our help.

Needed Pantry Items

Canned Vegetables (14-18 oz)
Canned Fruit (14-18 oz)
Canned Tuna/Chicken/Spam/etc. (5-10 oz)
Canned Beans (15-20 oz)
Canned Soup (10-20 oz)
Mac & Cheese (7-12 oz)
Pasta (16 oz/1 lb)
Tomato/Marinara Sauce/etc. (15-20 oz)
Spaghetti O's/Ravioli/Chili, Beef Stew etc. (15-20 oz)
Peanut Butter (15-20 oz)
Jelly/Jam (15-20 oz)
Cereal (10-15 oz)
Salad Dressing (15-20 oz)
Ketchup (10-15 oz)
Mustard (10-15 oz)
Mayonnaise (10-15 oz)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following members are celebrating
February Birthdays:

Taylor Himebauch	2/03
Colin Szymankiewicz	2/04
Isaac Brintnall	2/05
Carie King	2/05
Sydney Krueger	2/05
Chesney Bankenbush	2/06
Kelsey Domke	2/06
Jaime Multhauf	2/07
Jenna Keeling	2/08
Pamela Fesko	2/09
Robert Somers, Jr.	2/09
Nicholas Szeklinski	2/10
Paul Collins	2/14
Nicholas Ulbing	2/14
Kathy Scott	2/15
Charlene Eisenhut	2/17
Eden Conradt	2/18
Hella Goering	2/18
Dwight Jutrzonka	2/18
Matt Froehling	2/20
Boaz Beversdorf	2/21
James Dumke	2/21
Cora Ciszewski	2/22
Steve Grindeland	2/22
Joseph Schauer	2/22
Janice Kafer	2/23
Kevin King	2/24
Jan Christiansen	2/25
Jill Grindeland	2/25
Pastor Conradt	2/26
Travis Pikus	2/26
AJ Hayden	2/27

For God
so loved the world,
that he gave his
only
begotten
Son,
that whosoever
believeth
in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.



John 3:16

Trust in
the Lord
with all
your heart

Proverbs 3:5



**St. Peter's Lutheran - Rainbow Preschool
& Genesis Project Update - February 2026**
From the Director - Melvin Beversdorf



Blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. Matthew 13:16

What could God be doing for the children of St. Peter's Lutheran Church?

<u>Lutheran Classical School</u>	<u>Homeschool Hybrid</u>	<u>Homeschool Co-op</u>	<u>Classical High School</u>
<p>K - 8th Starting with a small school model, even a one room startup, this school would feature Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric, as well as additional Language study (Latin) and the mathematical sciences, music, ancient and modern history and literature, and the arts.</p> <p><i>For all options - staffing would grow with enrollment and support.</i></p>	<p>Options include:</p> <p>A) Pay as you go - one off classes (in person). Possibly for Music, Latin, Art, P.E., Science, Literature</p> <p>B) Collaborative style - students come to school 2 days a week and are homeschooled with tasks to complete for the weekly check in. This requires a consistent schedule and curriculum that is agreeable to families and school.</p>	<p>A) Social gatherings - fun activity based gatherings for kids to play and grow together</p> <p>B) Focused enrichment - Adults lead learning sessions on an agreed upon schedule to enrich the lives of the children.</p> <p>C) Service focused - find places in the church and community where Christ's love can be shared through the children and families.</p>	<p>9 - 12th This could be self-standing (independent) or in cooperation (satellite) with Trinity Lutheran Classical HS (Elm Grove).</p> <p>Focusing on the further teaching of the mathematical sciences as well as development and use of rhetoric, this education can utilize local (and sometimes online) experts to round out the educational experience.</p>

Classical learning is not entirely teacher directed (not a powerpoint presentation), rather it is training (memorization) and practice in knowledge and how to learn. Utilizing wonder (asking questions) and reflection, with frequent writing and revision, students gain confidence and the will to learn more. ***A Lutheran Classical education teaches what is true, beautiful and good, starting from Jesus and the Bible, and helping students to grow in wisdom with a profound background for life.***

The Genesis Project Consultants visited St. Peter's Lutheran on January 23 & 24th. It was great to have two meetings with them that included congregational members / leaders as well as some from the community. *St. Peter's Lutheran Church is exploring a new educational model, including a Lutheran Classical School for grades K-8, emphasizing Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, and various subjects. A recent SWOT analysis indicated favorable preliminary discussions, with a focus on strategic planning and financing.* Helping determine how St. Peter's wants to invest in this ministry is key as well as hearing from congregation members the dreams and challenges related to this endeavor.

The consulting team will prepare a report and recommendation based on the discussions, survey results, demographic study, and their own experience and perspectives that will be sent to St. Peter's in the next few months. The steering committee will continue to talk about options (based on the meeting minutes) and ongoing discussions. Please take some time to consider sharing your thoughts if you didn't get a chance with the consultants or through recent surveys.

Preschool update - Fall 2026 Enrollment is at 10 (re-enrolled from our current 27). Enrollment will be ongoing and more is expected from some of our current students and from recent Open House and other inquiries. Please continue to tell your family and friends that we are accepting registrations for the fall. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Candlemas: Candles, Crepes and Compline

The month of February can feel dull and drab after much of the merriment of Christmas and Epiphany has passed. Winding down from a season of festivity and anticipating a season of fasting during Lent is a challenge. However, February includes another joyful moment that earns Lutherans' attention with glittering light in a time of darkness: the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of our Lord, also known as "Candlemas."

Coming toward the end of Epiphany, 40 days after Christmas, this holiday on Feb. 2 can be easily forgotten. Yet the biblical reference for the day is likely familiar: Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the temple, and Mary is purified from childbirth — both in fulfillment of Old Testament law. There Simeon recognizes the babe as the long-awaited Messiah, confessing the words of the Nunc Dimittis, "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:32 KJV).

This phrase might be familiar to you, since we sing it after receiving the Sacrament of the Altar within the Divine Service; profess it at the end of Compline; and speak it at Lutheran funerals on behalf of the departed, who has already gone to behold Jesus in the culmination of Simeon's words, "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace" (LUKE 2:29 KJV).

Moreover, Simeon's prayer offers the basis for the feast's nickname of Candlemas, which Christians have lovingly given it because of its customs. Alluding to the "light" that Simeon saw in Jesus, congregations have long made this feast a day of illumination, marking it with the blessing and lighting of new candles to be used throughout the rest of the year in the church, and also distributing them for parishioners to take home. Christians then keep the candle out in their homes to represent Christ's dwelling with believers as a manifest piece of Emmanuel, "God with us." Further, these candles symbolize Jesus' light to the world and His purity and newness.

But this is not the only Candlemas custom that proclaims a message of light and reinforces the joy of Epiphanytide. Besides attending a church service or bringing home new candles, join with the Christians who for centuries have made Candlemas crepes to celebrate this day. Since at least the fifth century, these circular treats have been connected to the feast because of their round shape and golden color, which remind us of the sun and of Jesus, the Epiphany "morning star."

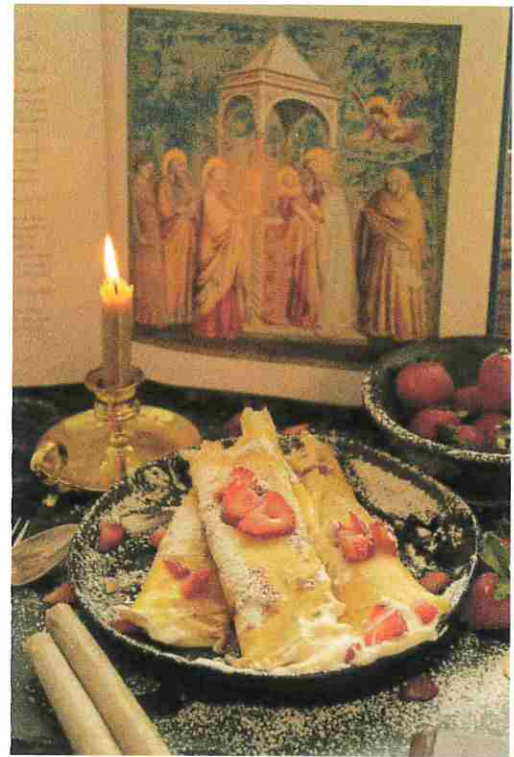
Candlemas Crepes

Ingredients:

1 cup milk
4 eggs
1/2 cup water
4 Tbsp. butter, melted
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup flour
3 Tbsp. powdered sugar

Instructions:

1. Mix the milk, eggs, water, sugar, butter, vanilla, salt and flour in a blender.
2. Heat a frying pan over medium-high heat and lightly grease it.
3. Pour just enough mixture in the pan to cover it, swirling the pan to ensure the mixture spreads evenly. You want it to be coated with a thin surface but not so paper-thin that it will tear when you flip.
4. Flip after about 1 minute, 30 seconds, then wait until the other side is done before taking it off the pan.
5. Cool the crepes on wax paper, top with powdered sugar and enjoy!



Ladies Aid/LWML - February News

Prayer Service - Sunday March 8, 2026 - 2:00pm

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Racine - Pastor Lockie & Pastor Otten

P.R.A.Y.E.R. --- Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice

Praise Him for His goodness and love to you.

Remember you deserve nothing good from Him except through Jesus' grace!

Ask of your loving Father whatever is on your mind.

Yield to His will, wisdom, and timing.

Excitedly look up to Him with an expectant heart.

Rejoice as you trust His gracious working and bask in His peace!

The 2026 LWML Prayer Service, based on the acronym P.R.A.Y.E.R. is a classic, yet updated, service from over a decade ago.

Rev. Henke wrote that the service "prompts" the participants to remember that God does not speak to His children in prayer. Rather, His children speak to him, assured that He readily speaks to them in His Word and in the Sacraments, as the Holy Spirit gives His divine counsel through very clear direction or sometimes, His "nudging."

+++++

The New Year is often a time to reflect on daily practices. One daily practice I plan to focus on in 2026 is prayer. The apostle Paul reminds us to be "constant in prayer" and to "pray without ceasing." I keep a prayer journal next to my computer and jot down prayer requests I receive by email. I often pray for LWML volunteers and office staff. This year I am committed to praying for each of 2025-2027 mission grants. Our LWML Grant Committee is writing mission grant resources that include prayer guides for each mission grant. All the information you need and suggestions for prayers are right at your fingertips. Won't you join me in prayer this year?

I wish you a blessed New Year.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12. Pray without ceasing (1Thessalonians 5:17).

Debbie Yocky
Public Relations Director
Lutheran Women in Mission
lwml.org

**Lutheran Women in Mission
Prayer Service 2026**



ICYMI — IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Devotion

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”
(Matthew 16:26a).

Acronyms abound in the texting world we live in and some, like ICYMI, have become almost a second language to many. It is a shorthand that often does not even need translation for either the sender or receiver. FYI (For Your Information), LOL (Laughing Out Loud), TBD (To Be Determined) are other ready examples that most of us know and use often.

In case you missed it, ICYMI stands for “in case you missed it.” The ensuing message, of course, shares an event or news-worthy tidbit that might have slipped by you. “In case you missed it” gets your attention. What if it is something important? What if this is your only chance to find out about it? It is hard to keep up and we often do miss it.

The Bible offers an ICYMI reference in Matthew 16:26, *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”* Talk about missing it! This is not about a world event or a social opportunity. Forfeiting your soul is the ultimate, eternal ICYMI. The biggest ever “oops” — the everlasting “I missed the boat” — the worst-case scenario for humanity.

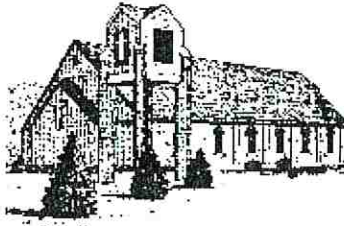
This verse is preceded by Christ’s admonition to His disciples in verse 24: *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* He is telling them, and us, in no uncertain terms that there is a price to pay for being His disciple. Self-denial is certainly not an easy sacrifice to make.

Then verse 25: *“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”* This comes across as some sort of doublespeak — saving means losing and losing means finding??? Such are the higher thoughts of God. This makes no sense in human terms, but it immediately becomes clear with verse 26: *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”* Bingo! It is in following Christ that your soul, your spiritual life, is saved! It is not **your** work to save your life, but only in **losing** it for Christ’s sake, is it **found**. In Christ, you have not forfeited your soul. It is safe for eternity!

For the Christian, ICYMI can mean **In Christ, you made it**. It is Christ’s work of redemption that paves the way to heaven for each of us believers. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life — the Gate — the Shepherd who leads us sheep to the safe haven of eternal life.

Christ promises that His death and resurrection assure salvation for us redeemed sinners. We are saints only because **He** has paid the price and the Holy Spirit works faith in believers. Only in Christ have we made it!!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that **in Christ**, we make it to safety to Your promised eternal glory! Keep us ever mindful that You are our source of salvation, that we follow You and You alone from this earthly life to life eternal. Continually draw us to You through Your Word and Sacraments, that we remain faithful to the true Gospel. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.



February 2026

Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

Waterford, WI

Abbreviations

B.C. Bible Class
 S.S. Sunday School
 M.B.S Men's Bible Study
 W.B.S. Women's Bible Study
 N.M./A.C New Member/Adult
 Catechesis Class

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.1 after worship	2	3 W.B.S. 10:00am Steering Committee 5:30pm Parish Ed. 6:30pm	4 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	5 N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	6	7 Men's Bible Study 8:30am
8 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.2 after worship	9 Valentine Party Sr.Group/LWML/ Ladies Aid 11:00am	10 W.B.S. 10:00am	11 Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Finance 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm Council 7:30pm	12 N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	13 Homeschool ice skating 11:00am-1pm Movie Night 5:30pm – "Narnia the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe"	14
15 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.3 after worship	16	17 W.B.S. 10:00am Shrove Tuesday 5:30pm Pancake Dinner	18 Imposition of Ashes 8-9:30am Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	19 N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	20	21 Men's Bible Study 8:30am
22 S.S./B.C.8:15am Worship 9:30am "The Chosen" Season 5, Ep.4 after worship	23 Sr. Group 11:00am	24 W.B.S. 10:00am	25 Lenten Dinner 5:00pm Youth Catechesis 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm Elders 7:30pm	26 N.M./A.C. Class 6:00pm	27	28 Anti trafficking presentation 10:00am