

**FEBRUARY
2019**

THE LOG
a newsletter of
**Lamb of God
Lutheran Church**



A Message from our Pastor

It is February, the shortest month of the year. In Erie, however, February with its continued snow and chilly temperatures can seem to be the longest month of the year. Scrambling for a newsletter article I thought, "why not do something on the history of Valentine the saint?" I had no idea how little actual information we have on the man or his true story. Everything I read seems to be a lot of legend mixed up with tradition. That is to say that Saint Valentine's actual story remains a mystery and probably will remain a mystery until we all meet in heaven.

The best-known legend is that Valentine was a priest in the Roman Empire during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, late 200 CE (AD). Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers than married men so he outlawed marriage in the Roman Empire. Valentine, believing that marriage is one of God's great gifts, refused the order and married couples who came to him in secret. When Claudius found out about this, he ordered Valentine put to death. Hence a martyr for God's gift of community in love.

Another legend says that Valentine was martyred for helping Christians escape from the prisons of Rome where they were tortured for their faith. The story goes that Valentine was placed in one such prison where he fell in love with the prison guard's daughter. He supposedly wrote to her on the day before his death, signing the letter "from your Valentine". It is thought that he was finally beheaded on February 14th.

Continued on page 2

**Lamb of God
Lutheran Church**

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
606 East 38th Street
Erie, PA 16504

Rev. Kimberly A. Hirsch, Pastor
Church e-mail: lambogod2@verizon.net
www.lambogoderie.org
Lamb of God Lutheran Church at FACE BOOK

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

Lamb of God Lutheran Church is a loving, compassionate, forgiving Christian family; children of God, caring for each other, strong and united in their witness of Jesus Christ and his holy Gospel.

We have been called by God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to work as an evangelistic, faithful congregation in teaching and spreading the Gospel and witnessing Christian love within the community and the world through service to others, care and concern for God's creation, and the uplifting of word and sacrament.

Office Hours:

Monday
Wednesday
Friday
9 am to 12 pm

814-825-8830

Church Staff & Leaders

Pastor Kim Hirsch
814.218.4569

Organist, Shirley
Dennis

Janitor, Terry Grossman
Office Secretary:

Sandee Krivonak (M-W)
and

Carol Kroh (F)

2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Dave Belczyk
VPresident, Sandy Cook

Sec., Nancy Serwinski
Treas., Sandee
Krivonak

FinSec., Carol Kroh

Pastor Kim Hirsch

David Belczyk

Jean Moses

Kim Bowden

Barb Malinski

Joe Harayda

Transportation for Elderly to Church call:

Jerry & Mary Ellen
Heeter

825.2868

Carol Kroh

866.2747

Donna Wright

899.8107

The LOG

PAGE 2

From page 1

Saint Valentine's story is both gory and tragically romantic if the legends are true. But, let's not forget that this man was martyred for his love of God, his faith in Jesus Christ, and his willingness to help his brothers and sisters in the faith. So, let's do something different this February 14th. Remember your sweethearts, your kids, your grandkids, your friends. Tell people how much they mean to you. Remind them of your love. But also remember that God loves you – very much, unconditionally, just as you are. Remember that God calls us to love in the way of Jesus our Lord.

"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."

1 John 4:10 New Revised Standard Version

Peace,
Pastor Kim

Council Highlights - January

New Church Council Officers were voted. (see column on left for details)

Finance: Thanks to members our year end current giving was \$60,145 which exceeded the \$60,000 budget amount for 2018. A motion was made to pay the large gas leak repair bill from the Pastor's Discretionary Funds which still has the Rummage Sale income.

Social Outreach: Souper Bowl on Feb 3 will have a "Golden Spoon Award" this year. The dates for Shelter Meals are: Monday Feb 25 & Sundays: March 31, June 23, Sept 22, Nov 10.

Property: Church office is having an ant problem & traps have been placed. Office carpet is worn & faded should be replaced.

Old Business: Pr Kim has decided to order Advent Banners along with the white parament for the altar.

Council installation Jan 12 & 13. Pr Beth Siefert will be asked to speak to our smaller congregations about her experience in small Pittsburgh congregations.

New business: Will there be a Rummage Sale this year??? Need committee chair.

Next Meeting: Tuesday Feb 12
(6:00 PM)

Meeting adjourned to undecorate the church.



Facts & Figures

Attendance		Giving
Sat. Dec29 - 05	Sun. Dec30 - 33	\$ 1,324.00
Sat. Jan 05 - 11	Sun. Jan 06 - 36	\$ 1,797.00
Sat. Jan 12 - 12	Sun. Jan 13 - 29	\$ 1,384.00
Sat. Jan 19 - 02	Sun. Jan 20 - 08	NO SERVICE SNOW
Sat. Jan 26 - 11	Sun. Jan 27 - 27	\$ 2,077.00



Women of the ELCA

The S.O.A.P. project

S.O.A.P. stands for “**Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution**” and is a hands-on outreach to fight sex trafficking at large events and in communities.

S.O.A.P. was founded by author, advocate and survivor, Theresa Flores. On her worst night, after being auctioned off to nearly two dozen men in a dingy, dirty, inner city Detroit motel, Theresa recalled the only item that would have reached out to her, a bar of soap. With that in mind, she created S.O.A.P. — Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution — to help reach out to other victims.

NWPA SWO/WELCA with the help of Thrivent, have purchased 900 bars of soap, labels, and literature about the program. WELCA is working on ways to distribute the bars of soap in restaurants, hotels, and bars. Currently they are leaving bars of soap among our interstate rest stops. If you would like to help or for more information please contact: *Mary Alice McMunn* at mary-al57@yahoo.com.

***Update on Human Trafficking. Our ladies continue to drop soaps off at various rest stops. When speaking with Betsy Wiest, SSJ, I learned that she is taking data that will be used to support Human Trafficking legislation, on how many restrooms on the Pennsylvania interstates actually post the help-line posters as they should be – in the stalls and/or by the sinks. They should NOT be in the lobby or by the opening of the restroom doors. The handlers will not let girls/boys in there if they see that the help-line posters are available. If you are interested in being part of the data collection, please see me. You will not be hanging posters or moving what’s already there, you will just need to note on a document what you observe. This data is used by Pennsylvania only and only PA facilities are counted.
By Pat Bellingham



Save the date to attend the June 7-8, 2019 Convention in Ludlow, Olmsted Manor.

For more information on the above or the many other ways to get involved in the mission of the Women of the ELCA, contact Lamb of God’s representative, Caroline Wolff, or Pat Bellingham, President, SWO/NWPA, 814-528-5675, or pat.bellingham@hotmail.com

Our church bulletin will have the names of those having a recent surgery or an immediate need.

Please continue to pray for these folks:



Remember to pray for:

Ed and JoAnn Schomer, Melanie Chow, Jim Klapthor, Mikki Bort, Addison Beauclerc, Steven Ebert, Ruth Dennis, Dorothy Serwinski, Connie Stanbro, Jimmy Matson, Cindy Belczyk, Alex Delamater, Robin Smith, Vicky Hall, Dinah Urbaniak, Sandy Goldsmith, Karen Davis, Ruth Ann Morse, Virginia Delo, Linda Adams, Sandy Cook, Ben Szobody, Janice Donahue, Bob & Pat Kelly

Prayer Chain

Contact

Caroline Wolff

825-8585

cwolff835@gmail.com

Souper Bowl

New for 2019 Golden Spoon Award - Voted the best soup for 2019.

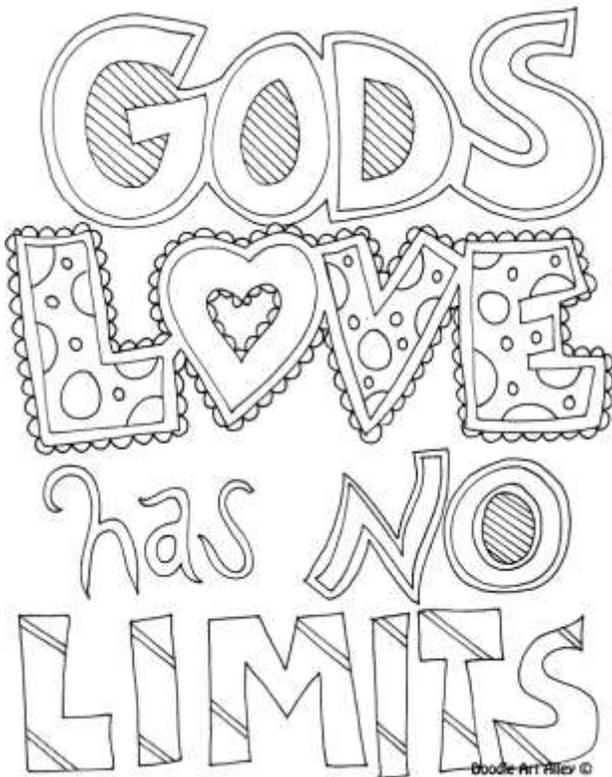
*Sunday February 3
Soup-Salad-Dessert*



Start checking out those recipes now. Social Ministry will be hosting this event. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board to bring your favorite homemade soup, bread or dessert. On Sunday February 4 following worship we will all meet in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy the delicious food. A Free Will Offering basket will be available so the donations can be sent to ELCA World Hunger.

DONATIONS FOR ELCA WORLD HUNGER!

Help those less fortunate



Overflow Shelter Meals

February 25 Monday night we are serving the meal at Church of the Covenant. Pr Kim is organizing the meal which will be for only 50. Please let Dave Belczyk or Pastor Kim if you would like to help.

March 31 is the next time we are hosting the Overflow Shelter Sunday Supper for 200. Wendy Kinross is organizing that meal.

Volunteers are needed for both.

Other 2019 Overflow Shelter Dates:

6/23
9/22
11/10

Lay Worship Leader

What is a Lay worship leader?

The Authorized Lay Worship Leader...

leads a gathered community of Lutherans in worship, according to the practices of that congregation and the ELCA. This may include entire leadership for the worship service, or providing a reading of the Gospel lesson and bringing the proclaimed word in the form of a sermon. Lay Worship Leaders may be contacted by congregations beyond their community or conference, but within the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod for service. Lay Worship Leaders do not provide the Sacraments or counseling as a part of this ministry.

The instruction program for new **Authorized Lay Worship Leaders (LWL)** will begin this March with the Introduction to Scripture course. This course, taught by Pastor Jake Jacobson, completes the first two requirements (Old Testament and New Testament) of the LWL Instruction Program. The classes will be offered on Saturdays:

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**The location will be St. John's Lutheran Church,
200 Pleasant Avenue, Warren, PA 16365.**



Thank You

Community Shelter Services thank you for the \$692 gift in support of our programs. Thanks to your support Community Shelter Services remains open and offering shelter every day and night to men, women & families.

Bethesda Foundation for Children thanks for donation of 4 Scarves, 35 hats, 31 pairs of gloves to our Trinity Center. We truly appreciate your support, especially during the Holiday Season. Bethesda touches the lives of over 900 kids and families in Crawford and Erie County.

Thank You Card from Pr Kim & Phil for the generous Christmas Gift. God's Blessings & Peace be with you all.

Sunshine Group of Erie would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your very generous donation of \$50. Last year we distributed over 10,000 Sunshine Boxes to needy individuals & families in homeless shelters, hospitals, nursing homes & those utilizing food pantries & church programs.



**Our prayers are
with the family
of
Maxine
Barninger
who passed
away
January 6, 2019.**

Spring Travel Opportunity

WE ARE considering taking a bus trip with Anderson Travel to Lancaster this spring to see the Jesus Production at the Sight & Sound Theater.



There are two dates available. The **April 5-6th** trip includes a Dinner Theater of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, the Jesus Production, overnight stay and 5 meals for \$459.00 or there is a trip on **March 15-16th** that includes the Jesus Production, overnight accommodations and 3 meals for \$368.00.

Please let Pastor Kim or Sandee Krivonak know if you are interested in going.

Save
the
date

Marnie Minds the Library

The snow has started to fall, so what better time to do the book review for this month! I decided to choose a book that would possibly interest the guys in the church. This month's book is "Playing for Pizza" by John Grisham. No, it's not the usual mystery that we expect from Grisham. This one is a rather unusual football story that fits in with the current playoff games and Super Bowl).

The main character is Rick Dockery, a third string quarterback for the Cleveland Browns (interested, Dave?). As the book opens, the Browns are in an AFC championship game with Denver and they have a 17-point lead. Rick comes into the game and blows the lead. Overnight he becomes the most hated player in the country.

The Browns let Rick go, and his agent can't find an NFL team that will hire him. Then his agent finds a team that will take him as a starting quarterback, the Parma, Italy Panthers. Rick decides that he will take the job until a better offer comes along in the states.

Upon his arrival, Rick finds out that the Italian players aren't paid, work other jobs and play for love of the game. He is the only one getting paid. After practice they all go to a restaurant for pizza, thus the name of the book.

As to story unfolds, we meet the interesting players on the team. We find out that the Panthers are like the Browns of their league...they rarely if ever win. Yet as the season progresses that begins to change, and as that happens Rick begins to change. He no longer sees this as just a holding pattern until something better comes along, but starts to believe in the team and himself.

Grisham spends a lot of time describing the games and the plays that the Panthers use. I think this will be very interesting to anyone who loves the game as I do. At the end of the novel Grisham writes a note in which he tells us that the Parma Panthers really exist. Grisham traveled to Italy and actually spent time with the team including attending one of their games.

I hope you will give this book a try. It is a short read, and if you like the game of football, I think you will really enjoy it. Good luck to the four teams that play tomorrow and to the two victors who will play in the Super Bowl!



NW PA
Synod
Assembly
2019

June 13-15

Flowers

2019 Flower Calendar

The new Flower Calendar has been posted on the bulletin board. Please sign the calendar or call the church office to request your day to honor a special person or occasion or to memorialize a deceased love one.

MANY DATES REMAIN!

Cost is \$40.00 for 2 vases

Share the flowers for half the price!



Monthly Special - January/February/March

The Mary Rose Sanctuary opened its doors in February 2018, as a shelter for women. Their stated mission is "to empower women and keep them safe." They have 12 beds, which are consistently full, especially in the cold weather. The executive director is Dr Grace Kennedy, daughter of local missionaries Rev Charles Kennedy Sr and Mother Mary Beth Kennedy. They are requesting our prayers for this desperately needed mission.

Please fill the offering basket at the altar rail with these items: toiletries-deodorant, soap, shampoo; toothpaste & toothbrushes; feminine hygiene products; laundry detergent; bed linens and blankets for single beds.

Monetary donations are also needed to assist them in paying their utilities. Please consider donating through our pew envelopes, and ask any member of social ministry for further information. Thank you.

Erie Lutheran Parish

Next meeting we will meet on Tuesday, February 5th **6:00 PM** at the Tippy Bean Coffee Shop just prior to the Pub Theology gathering at 7:00 PM. Please note the time change to accommodate the gathering for Pub Theology.

Confirmation Class continue to meet once a month. Next class is February 9 from 6-9 at St John's for all the ELP Confirmands.



Pub Theology:

If you have an interest in discovering more about the bible, the church and theology as a whole, you are invited to attend the Pub Theology. Pub Theology is a gathering of ELP members who talk over a cup of coffee or a mug of beer. It is held on Tuesday evenings starting at 7 PM at the Tippy Bean. The Tippy Bean is a new coffee house/ brewery found on Federal Hill, 2425 Peach Street. The Tippy Bean is just south and on the other side of the street from Saint John's Lutheran.



Birthdays

February 2019

Layla Johnson 2/04

Kimberly Bowden 02/19

Donna Wright 2/23

Delilah Heutsche 2/25

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
606 E 38 St
Erie, PA 16504

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 EAST 38 ST
ERIE PA 16504



**Worship Services with
Holy Communion
Sunday 10:30 am
Saturday Spoken 5:00 pm**
Healing Service 1st Saturday

814-825-8830

Rev. Kimberly A. Hirsch, Pastor
Church e-mail: lambogod2@verizon.net
www.lambofgoderie.org
Lamb of God Lutheran Church at FACE BOOK

