



February 2026



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

LCMS Health Ministry

January is usually the month when people devote themselves to forming new habits or revisiting old ones that have gone by the wayside during the busyness of the holiday season. But New Year's resolutions, if we're being honest with ourselves, rarely get "resolved" with the start of a new year. By February, it's easy to lose our zeal. That's because we are prone to have a "sprint" mentality when the reality is that the Christian life is more akin to a long-distance race. Paul says this in Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Godliness is waking up every day remembering your baptism and walking throughout the day in baptismal grace. Godliness is self-control of body and discipline of spirit for the sake of God's name and for the good of neighbor. Godliness is having hope in the life to come while living faithfully and joyfully in the life we live now. Follow the ways and rhythms that Christ has set for His people in worship, in prayer, in community, in feasting and celebrating, and your year will be filled with the richness of Christ's good gifts. Visit lcms.org/health.

LCMS Stewardship

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace,

through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

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But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY *continued*

The Table is much more than a “how-to” tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a “me and Jesus thing!” In fact, it ends with these words: “Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare.” This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry. (2026, January). LCMS National Mission – Bulletin Blurbs and Newsletter Articles – February 2026.
<https://resources.lcms.org/worship-planning/national-mission-bulletin-blurbs-and-newsletter-articles-february-2026/>



The Mountaintop Experience

As Epiphany comes to a close, our Lord offers us a true mountaintop experience—a glimpse of heaven—in His transfiguration

by Peter J. Scaer

We live much of our life in the valley and on the plain. In the valley, we walk through the woes of life: loneliness and fear, sickness and sorrow, regret and failure. On the plain, we experience the routine and often humdrum nature of life: getting up early in the morning, getting tired kids ready for school, getting stuck in traffic, cleaning the house, doing the laundry, attending meetings, answering e-mail, making supper, and getting ready to start the whole cycle again tomorrow.

Not that life's all bad and boring. We do well to count our blessings, little and large.

Still, every once in a while, it's good to put away the sorrow and break out of the ordinary. Now and again, we crave a little taste of heaven.

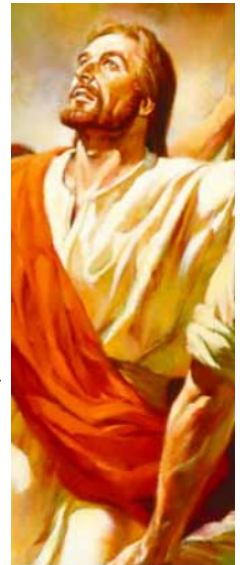
Peter had just confessed Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16). Our Lord was just beginning to teach His disciples that it would be necessary for Him to suffer and die. What's more, the disciples learned that they too would have to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. It was all a bit much for the confused and overwhelmed disciples to digest. So Jesus took aside Peter, James, and John and led them up onto a high mountain, a place where the earth seemed to be reaching up into heaven.

What happened next was extraordinary, like some fantastic movie special effects. On that mountain, Jesus underwent a type of metamorphosis. His face changed in appearance, and His clothes became dazzlingly white (Luke 9:29). Those of you who do the laundry might say, like Mark, that Jesus' clothes "became whiter than anyone on earth could bleach them" (Mark 9:3). For one wonderful moment, Jesus allowed His divinity to visibly radiate His glory. He didn't need a spotlight; He was the Light!



Things only got better. Alongside Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared. With characteristic enthusiasm, Peter proposed building three tents, one each for Jesus and the two great prophets. Peter's suggestion drips with irony. Having just confessed Jesus to be the Son of God, he now thought he was honoring Jesus by putting Him on the same level as the great prophets of old. Peter still had a lot to learn. God gave His word through Moses, but Jesus was Himself the very Word of God made flesh. Moses freed Israel from Pharaoh's cruel bondage in Egypt, but Jesus would lead His people in an exodus out of sin and Satan's tyranny, out of death and into the life of heaven.

Just then, the heavenly Father descended in a cloud and cleared up any confusion, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him" (Matt 17:5). Though Moses was marvelous, and Elijah was extraordinary, Jesus was greater. God, who in former days had spoken through His prophets, fully reveals Himself in His Son. For this reason, the Church stands in reverence for the reading of the Gospel. It is in the Gospel that we hear Jesus, God in the flesh.



THE MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE *continued*

Moses freed Israel from Pharaoh's cruel bondage in Egypt, but Jesus would lead His people in an exodus out of sin and Satan's tyranny, out of death and into the life of heaven.

When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, his face shone like a moon, reflecting the glory of God. The face of Jesus, however, "shone like the sun" (Matt 17:2). Appropriately, then, Moses and Elijah faded away, and the disciples saw Jesus alone (Matt 17:8).

Naturally, Peter wanted to stay on the mountain, to bask in the glory of the Lord. But it was not to be. The Son of God came not to shine in glory, but to walk through the plains and valleys of our life. He came to this earth to experience hunger and thirst, loneliness and sorrow, not to mention all the daily frustrations of living in this fallen world. He came to walk in our shoes, to live the perfect life on our behalf. So, as He came down from the mountain, the very Light of the world was intent on walking to the valley of the shadow of death. Indeed, this is the true glory of Jesus. Though He was God's glorious Son, He allowed Himself to be bruised and beaten, spit upon and mocked, and nailed to a tree—all for our sake. In the cross, we see the glory of love.

What does the transfiguration mean for us today? As the glory of the Lord is seen in Christ crucified, even now the Lord of glory comes in lowliness. With the ordinary water of Baptism, God's Son forgives our sins and makes us heirs of life eternal. In ordinary bread we feed on heavenly food. True glory is not found in the glitz of Hollywood or Las Vegas, or in any ecstatic experience, but rather in any church, large or small, where Christ crucified is preached.

All who embrace the lowly Savior will one day join Him on the mountain of salvation. There we will gaze upon the face of Jesus, and upon the glorious scars by which He won salvation for us. What does the transfiguration mean for us today? We don't need to run this way and that, searching and hoping for some unattainable spiritual, emotional, or physical "high." All of life's moments, even the most mundane, have been transformed. Our lives have purpose; they have been sanctified by His holy service on our behalf.

So daily and willingly, we pick up our crosses, whatever they may be, and we follow Jesus wherever life may take us. In the valley and on the plain, Christ is with us. His presence makes everyday life worth living. Thank God for the really special and wonderful moments in your life. Then remember that even in life's valleys, we have hope, as we await the day when the Lord who loves us comes again in glory.

Dr. Peter J. Scaer is assistant professor, Exegetical Theology and dean of Distance Learning at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

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LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Life Quotes for February

February 1 “You may have a messy story. Your family may have a dysfunctional past. Your past (or present) may be filled with greed, sexual immorality, or other idols. But Jesus won’t let that stop Him from reaching out to you with the message of His unconditional love. You might be far from good, but you are not too far gone for God.” *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

February 8 “God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today ... remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother’s arms. God’s peace be with you this day, this night.” *Andrea Delwiche – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

February 15 “The message of Jesus’ transfiguration—the fact that Jesus is God and Savior—has the power to transfigure you, to give you metamorphosis, to transform you from a bug to a butterfly! That’s what metamorphosis means. So, this week—and forever!—live a new life, one worthy of Christ, in whose sunshine and light, in whose transfiguration, you now bask.” *Rev. Paul Marggraf – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

February 22 “God created us anew in Baptism. We are the work of His hands, and He will not forsake us. Guided by the Spirit through the wisdom of His Word, we learn to walk in His ways, even when we must ‘walk in the midst of trouble.’” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org



Announcements



2026 Lenten Service Schedule

The Lenten Season will soon be upon us. Join us on Wednesdays for our midweek Lenten services starting Ash Wednesday, February 18th, at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday: Feb 18th @ 7:00 pm Communion celebrated

Midweek 2: February 25th @ 7:00 pm

Midweek 3: March 4th @ 7:00 pm

Midweek 4: March 11th @ 7:00 pm

Midweek 5: March 18th @ 7:00 pm

Midweek 6: March 25th @ 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday: Apr 2nd @ 7:00 pm Communion celebrated

Good Friday: Apr 3rd @ 7:00pm

Easter Vigil: Apr 4th @ 6:00pm Communion celebrated

Easter Sunday: Apr 5th @ 9:30am Communion celebrated

The "Be in the Word" Bible Challenge

Reading your Bible is VITAL!

Did you miss the Bible Challenge in January? Well if you did, you can still do it in FEBRUARY! (And if you did it in January, and want to do it again in February, that is great too!) The challenge is to read one book (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, etc. etc.) in the month of February and then pick out three (3) verses that stand out to you. Write them down with the book name and verse number and put it in Diane Wayner's mailbox. You will then receive a sweet reward!

(P.S. This is for kids too! Parents, help 'em out!)





Lutheran Women in Mission PRAYER SERVICE 2026

February 28th

PRAISE
REMEMBER
ASK
YIELD
EXCITEMENT
REJOICE

HOPE LUTHERAN

456 South Chillicothe Rd,
Aurora, OH

Coffee & Fellowship @ 9:30am

Service @ 10:00am

Mite offering taken

Luncheon following service

Registration due February 23rd

Janet Marz

JanetMarz4@gmail.com

216-513-6073

Registration fee- \$6.00



Mite Giving for 2025

Mite giving for 2025 was \$3210.25. A little down from last year but in the ballpark for the last several years. As of January 1, the LWML Ohio District needs \$ 22,444.48 to meet its budget goal of \$171,400.00 by the end of March. Please continue to prayerfully fill your mite boxes with coins and cash and deposit them in the large mite box by the Friendship Circle board. If donating by check, please make it payable to St. Paul's

Friendship Circle. To learn more about the LWML Ohio District visit <https://www.lwmlohio.org/>



Crochet

for Christ
WORKSHOP

Creating Prayer Shawls for "little Girl Wishes and Butterfly Kisses"

**HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO LEARN THE ART
OF CROCHET? JOIN US!**

ALL MATERIALS AND DESIGNS PROVIDED

All experience welcomed!

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
250 BOWHALL RD
PAINESVILLE, OH**

February 5th, 2026 @ 6pm

**PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30TH
BY TEXT 440-321-0659**

Altar Flowers

Is there a date or event you would like to celebrate or a special someone you would like to honor or remember. Donating altar flowers is a great way to do that! All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend on the altar chart, add the occasion or person and who the flowers are from. Be sure to print clearly. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary. Altar flowers are \$40.00. The cash or check can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and placed in the collection plate.



A close-up photograph of a white ceramic bowl filled with a thick, dark red chili. The chili contains chunks of ground meat, beans, and vegetables. The bowl is set on a dark, textured surface. A single red chili pepper with a green stem is positioned in the foreground, partially overlapping the bowl and the text.

Do you have the *BEST CHILI*?

Chili

COOK OFF

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 15TH

12:00PM, ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
250 BOWHALL RD, PAINESVILLE, OH

Do you think you have the BEST Chili? Come and join us at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Painesville to compete against local cooks to see who holds the trophy! Any chili is welcome, let the people decide who has the BEST!

Tastings begin at 12:00pm, judging will be People's Choice with a First Place and Runner Up!

Make the
best chili to
win a prize!

FREE TO ENTER
(MUST REGISTER NO LATER THAN FEB. 8TH)
\$5.00 TO TASTE & JUDGE

Register online by February 8th
www.SPLCPainesville.org/events

A small, stylized illustration of a red chili pepper with a green stem, positioned at the bottom center of the flyer.



January Meeting Minutes

Reports

1. President's Report. (Terry Wakelee)
 - a. Attendance at worship services has increased.
 - b. Pastor Moyer performed 2 baptisms
 - c. Congregational meeting was held on 12/14. Call documents were extended to the called pastor, expecting his response by end of January.
2. Vice President's Report. (Ed Hines)
 - a. Worked with snowplow company to clarify current and future invoices.
 - b. Vendor to plow parsonage driveway going forward.
3. Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton)
 - a. Provided financial report as of November. Offerings for the current fiscal year are down, as are expenses. Overall, it shows a net positive.
4. Education Report. (Eric Drake)
 - a. Averaging 5-6 students per week in Sunday School.
 - b. Adult classes have about 5-6 per week in 8:30 class and 7 in the 10:45 class.
5. Preschool Report. (Starshine Graziadei) – report provided
 - a. Preschool board will meet next week.
 - b. Registration and class rates to be determined.
 - c. New evaluation forms are being developed for staff
7. Elder's Report. (Dale Kerver)
 - a. Eight people are being reinstated as members.
 - b. Pulpit supply in place through Easter
8. Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner)
 - a. Giving Tree taken down and items will be dropped off at Project Hope and Subzero Mission.
 - b. "Be in the Word" Bible challenge started in January
9. Financial Secretary's Report. (Jenn Drake)
 - a. Sign-up sheet is posted for counters
10. Outreach Report. (Kelly Hines) – report provided
 - a. Website updates are in planning stages
 - b. Crochet with Christ session to be held on Thursday 1/8
 - c. Next committee meeting will be 1/13

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES continued

11. Building & Grounds Report. (Dennis Concoby)
 - a. Pine tree in front yard has been removed and oak tree trimmed. Stump grinding will be in spring.
 - b. Parsonage – main bath under way, thermostat / furnace repairs completed.
 - c. No feedback has been received regarding sanctuary flooring
12. Contribution Secretary's Report. (Tom Cardina)
 - a. The amount of contributions has decreased. The number of contributors has increased. Parsonage fence repairs. On hold until spring

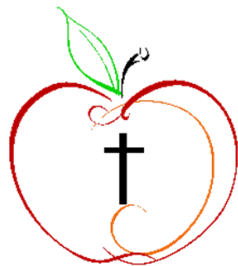
Old Business

1. Potential candidate for the preschool treasurer (appointed) – position remains open
2. Parsonage fence repairs. On hold until spring
3. Call Committee update – awaiting response from outstanding call
4. Commercial refrigerator replacement – new appliance received and to be installed soon
5. Replacement of church office computer - pending
6. Sanctuary carpet replacement
7. Parsonage tree trimming in fall - complete

New Business

1. Ash Wednesday is February 18

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 4 @ 6:30pm



From the Preschool

PRESCHOOL

2026-2027 Preschool Registration



Registration

It's that time of year again. St. Paul's Preschool will be planning the 2026-2027 school year. We will begin registering students in February and new brochures will be available soon.

As we start our planning we will be looking for assistant teachers for the fall. If you or someone you know may be interested in being a part of our program please contact Amy Marizek in the Preschool Office (440)354-3000.

February Birthdays

Allie Szoradi	1-Feb	Sidney Atwell	17-Feb
Tom Clark	1-Feb	Jonah Shaw	18-Feb
Jane Swank	2-Feb	Helen Stegh	19-Feb
Pippa West	3-Feb	Roxanne Walton	19-Feb
Michelle Lindrose	4-Feb	Ken Chaffe	24-Feb
Danielle Kiel	7-Feb	Billie Lelle	26-Feb
Charlotte Hines	14-Feb	Zachary Wilhelm	15-Feb
Carl Graziadei	28-Feb	Tim Stegh	28-Feb
Jeffrey Kiel	16-Feb	Jared Sundbom	28-Feb
Dolores Grem	17-Feb	JoEllen Graziadei	29-Feb



February Anniversaries



Eric and Pam West	44 years on Feb 7th
Bob and Peggy McDonnell	37 years on Feb 25th

December 2025 & January 2026 Baptisms

Olivia Rey Peters December 22
Andrew Michael Stegh January 4



Those Who Serve: February 2026

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Dale Kerver
9:30 A Sunday Jeff Troutman

COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Laurie Srebernek

LECTORS:

01-31-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
02-01-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Dennis Concoby
02-07-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
02-08-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake
02-14-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
02-15-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
02-18-26	7:00 P	Ash Wednesday	TBD
02-21-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
02-22-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West



Scripture Readings for February

Jan 31/Feb 1

Micah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Feb 7/8

Isaiah 58: 3-9a
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

Feb 18 [Ash Wednesday]

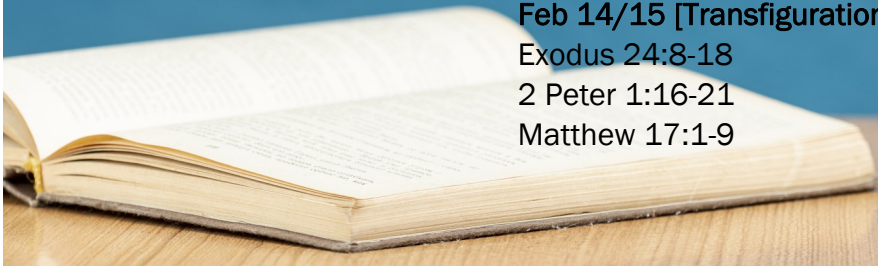
Joel 2:12-19
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb 14/15 [Transfiguration]

Exodus 24:8-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Feb 21/22

Genesis 3:1-21
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11





February Word Search—Most Common Pets

F	E	R	R	E	T	L	I	A	R	T	C	M	A
D	N	I	R	U	I	I	K	P	A	K	C	S	E
L	O	I	H	Z	A	U	E	N	T	E	T	K	G
N	R	N	A	E	G	U	B	I	R	D	A	T	E
E	S	R	D	K	O	I	T	E	S	L	I	K	L
K	D	H	B	T	D	T	H	T	L	T	G	N	I
C	A	S	N	A	K	E	H	I	R	A	U	K	B
I	R	I	H	G	K	E	H	I	E	K	A	H	R
H	E	S	R	H	T	C	R	F	E	T	N	A	E
C	T	H	A	H	N	A	A	I	A	N	A	I	G
D	S	T	S	I	E	L	T	R	U	T	M	T	I
U	M	N	H	I	M	R	T	A	C	N	F	Z	R
I	A	C	I	R	F	I	H	M	O	U	S	E	R
H	H	E	T	F	G	I	P	A	E	N	I	U	G

BIRD
GUINEA PIG
IGUANA
DOG
RAT
HAMSTER
CHINCHILLA
TURTLE
LIZARD
GERBIL
SNAKE
CAT
FISH
CHICKEN
FERRET
MOUSE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8/>

© thewordsearch.com

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Preschool
250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077
440-354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1

Staff

Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



St. Paul's Preschool



A Great Place To Grow

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Preschool Chapel	4 6:30 pm Council Meeting	5 6:00 pm Crochet for Christ Workshop	6	7 
8 	9 No Preschool—Teacher's Conferences	10 No Preschool—Teacher's Conferences 7:00 pm OSLS Delegates Meeting	11 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	12 Preschool Valentine's Day Parties	13	14 
15  TRANSGURATION of the Lord 12:30 pm Chili Cook-off	16  No Preschool	17 2026-2027 Preschool Registration Opens	18  6:00 pm Pizza Dinner 7:00 pm Service w/ Communion	19	20  March Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due	21 
22 	23	24	25  7:00 pm Lenten Service	26	27	28
<div> <div>  <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p> </div> <div> <p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am</p> </div> <div> <p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>February Birthstone Amethyst</p> </div> <div> <p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>February Flower Violet and Primrose</p> </div> </div>						