

February 2015

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,


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I confess that February isn't my favorite month. As I look out my office window late in the afternoon, the light is fading, and the branches of the locust and ash trees of the parking lot are bare and don't hold out any hope of greenery for quite some time. When I talk to people about their winter travel plans, February seems a popular month to flee our northern locale for warmer climes. In February, we are deep into winter, and yet spring still seems a long way off.

February is also a good reminder of our life in the church. We are a people called to be there when times are dark or when life is fading. We are called to support others in their times of grief and illness and sadness. We are called to enter into those difficult situations when our natural inclination might cause us to run away.

So embrace February this year, and remember your calling as a child of God. The cards you send do make a difference. The phone calls and visits you make speak of your supportive presence. The prayers you pray bring healing. We bring to these situations a word of hope. Even though the nights are still long, the light is coming and on the increase every day. God promises us that the *light shines in the darkness, and that the darkness will never overcome it* (John 1:5). That's a word we are called to share, as well as a promise made to each one of you.

A blessed February to you all,  
Pastor Tim

	<p><b>Ash Wednesday</b> February 18 <b>Noon and 7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes</b></p> <p><i>Please note that there is no soup lunch or supper served on Ash Wednesday.</i></p>
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## Women of the Word Bible Study

We gather on Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. at ALC. We'll spend the next two months diving deep into the stories of Lent and specifically the Passion- Easter narratives. Come if you think you know the stories well, come if you need a refresher course, come if you don't know what stories make up the passion.



## Lenten Worship

Wednesdays, February 25-March 25

Noon and 6:30 p.m.

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At our noon service, with Mike Everson providing organ accompaniment, we explore the history behind five of the great hymns of faith. A soup lunch follows each service.

Each evening, a soup supper begins at 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 we share an in-depth look at five different characters from the Bible through our popular monologue series.

Join us as we enter this time of reflection during Lent.

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## Adult Forums in February

### Feb. 1, 8 **Discussion on same-gender marriage:**

Now that same-gender marriage is legal in the state of Montana, what are the implications for life at American Lutheran? What are your fears or your hopes for us as a congregation? Join us on these two Sunday as we discuss these and other questions pertaining to this new practice. On February 1, this forum will meet in the fellowship hall. On February 8, we will gather in the Upper Room. If you haven't taken the new elevator, give it a spin.

### Feb. 8 **Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast:**

Come and support Boy Scout Troop 10 as they raise funds for troop activities with their annual pancake breakfast. **Please note:** the breakfast will take place at the same time as the same-gender marriage discussion going on in the Upper Room.



### Feb. 15 **Pastor Elisabeth Daniels, St. John's Chaplain**

Pastor Elisabeth, who has recently joined our congregation, will lead the forum with an update on what is happening at **St. John's**, and a discussion of **Vigil Care Training**. Vigil caregivers sit with St. John's residents to be present with them near the time of death. The goal of the program is that no one dies alone but instead surrounded by caring community.

### Feb. 22 **Cabin Fever Sale:**

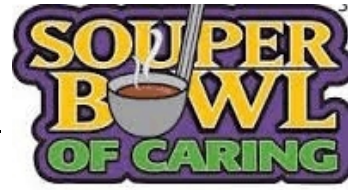
Set aside your toys and games, books and puzzles, DVD's and CD's for this annual sale. Proceeds will benefit the ministry of the church. Along with the sale, this is always a Sunday of good fellowship and fun.

### March 1 **New Member Brunch:**

Join us for a delicious brunch and meet our newest members.

## Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 1

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Come out and support your favorite Super Bowl team by donating to a worthy cause. Our youth will be collecting donations in soup pots, representing the Seahawks, the Patriots, or for the commercials, if that's your favorite! All donations go to support local high school and junior high food pantries. Thanks for helping our youth "tackle hunger" in Billings.

**MNO!** After last month's cancellation due to snow and cold, the moms of Moms Night Out are long overdue for a night of catching up over appetizers and beverages. We'll gather Tuesday, February 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Windmill. As always watch the ALC Billings Moms page on Facebook for updates and cancellations. We'd hate to miss telling anyone of changes.

## Connecting with Your Ministry Partner

St. John's Lutheran Ministries would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation to come and learn more about one of our Independent Living areas, Chapel Court. You will have an opportunity to visit with staff and residents from Chapel Court and discover what makes St. John's so unique and special.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 4

**Time:** 4:30-6:30

**Location:** Chapel Court (on the North side of St. John's off of Rimrock Rd)

**Questions?** Call 655-5636

## Lending an Arm

We want to make sure that worshipers arrive safely in our building on snowy and icy Sunday mornings, so we're collecting a list of names of people who could be parking lot escorts. These escorts would be available for 15 minutes before and after worship services, to lend an arm to those who would like someone to hang on to as they get out of their vehicle and make their way into the building. Can you serve as a parking lot escort when it's slippery outside? If so, please email [Kristin@amluth.org](mailto:Kristin@amluth.org), or sign up at the reception desk.

## Narrative Lectionary Bible Study

We'll meet Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m. and as we look ahead to the readings for the Sundays in March we'll pay particular focus on the stories that we will hear on Palm Sunday. The confirmation kids have appreciated the opportunity to read these stories slowly—getting into the nitty gritty of them. I hope the adults are just as curious. See you on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Coffee, Chocolate and Christikon

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We are looking for donations for a Fair Trade coffee and chocolate basket to be raffled off in April at the annual Christikon Auction. Donations of any dollar amount would be greatly appreciated or if you want to donate a specific item please purchase it at the coffee table and we will put it in the basket. Please ask Kris Fears if you have any questions.



Also, we have dark chocolate candy hearts and hot cocoa in stock which would make perfect Valentine's Day gifts.

Thanks for supporting Fair Trade coffee and chocolate sales and we look forward to having an awesome basket to donate to the Christikon auction.

-Kris Fears

## New Member Sunday & Congregational Potluck Brunch

Sunday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall

- New members will be introduced, and we'll all enjoy a delicious brunch
- Please bring an egg dish, bakery item, or fruit to share.
- Let's celebrate one of the best days of the year at American Lutheran



### Chocolate Lovers Lunch

*The light lunch with heavy desserts*

Sunday, February 15,

at noon in the fellowship hall at ALC

Everyone invited: adults, kids, singles, couples, new-comers, long-timers!

On the menu: your choice of soup, and over a dozen chocolate desserts

## Calling all parents of our college age members

Again this year our youth will be sending care packages to our college age members, and we need your child's address. Please email Rochelle at [rochelle@amluth.org](mailto:rochelle@amluth.org) asap to be sure your child gets one of these fun packages in their mailbox.

**Thank you, Sewers!** A huge thank you to all sewers who took quilt kits. Now we need someone who can wield a rotary cutter to cut squares. We'll supply tools and material. Contact the church office if you can help. The Lutheran World Relief Quilters thank you.

## New-Comers Class

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If you are new to American Lutheran, or just want to learn more about the programs and ministry of our congregation, we invite you to our upcoming New-Comers Classes. Plan on attending both sessions, February 15 and 22, at 9:45 a.m. in the Shepherd Lounge (located at the end of the office hallway).

These classes are a great way to:

- meet the staff and others in our church
- find out about events and activities
- learn more about what it means to be "Lutheran"

No pre-registration is necessary—just join us. Childcare is provided in the church nursery. If you have any question, please call the church office at 252-4171, or email [kristin@amluth.org](mailto:kristin@amluth.org). We look forward to meeting you.

## Calling All Lectors, Ushers, Greeters & Communion Assistants

*Please Mark Your Calendars....*

Volunteer Training Sunday on March 15, 2015

Choose your session: 9:30 a.m. or noon

This will be a brief, but important time for all volunteers  
(even if you have served a long time)

Review of procedures, answering of questions, making needed adjustments

Who should attend? All Lectors, Ushers, Greeters and Communion Assistants,  
...as well as anyone who is interest in becoming a volunteer for these ministries



## Summer Mission Trip

ALC's Summer Mission Trip 2015 will be an adventure you don't want to miss! This year Pastor Elizabeth and Rochelle will be taking our youth on another trip into "God's Country." That's right...it's time for Mission Minnesota – Part 2! This trip is being organized through the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, and each day we'll be serving in downtown Minneapolis with a different organization. Our youth will discover what it's like to live and serve together in Christ's love. This trip is planned for Sunday, July 12, to Saturday, July 18. This mission trip is open to all youth who are currently in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and space is filling up fast. Please let us know immediately if your child is interested in joining us on this week-long adventure. We are asking for a \$50 deposit by February 15 to hold your spot (scholarships are available). Contact Rochelle at [rochelle@amluth.org](mailto:rochelle@amluth.org) or Pastor Elizabeth, [pastorelizabeth@amluth.org](mailto:pastorelizabeth@amluth.org), if you have any questions.