

THE LAMPLIGHTER

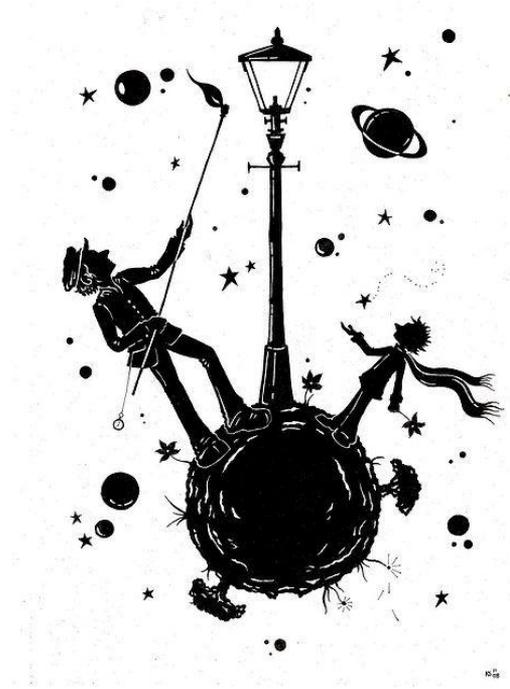


image courtesy of Cate Simmons

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 2026

Fastnacht Day
Fat Tuesday
Shrove Tuesday
Mardis Gras



As we look forward to the season of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, this last day of pre-Lent has a religious angle, and not unlike Christmas, a tradition that has seeped into the secular world. A brief internet search provides these summaries:

Mardi Gras is a celebratory day marking the close of the pre-Lenten season. It's celebrated in France on Shrove Tuesday – which is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday – according to brittanica.com.

Fat Tuesday is a feast before fasting for the Lenten season begins, according to dynamiccatholic.com. The concept is to make it easier to fully engage in Lent and experience spiritual growth.

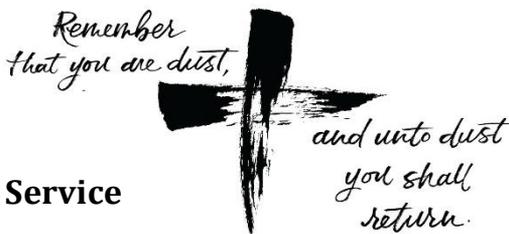
Shrove Tuesday (also known as **Pancake Tuesday** or **Pancake Day**) is the final day of Shrovetide, marking the end of pre-Lent. Lent begins the following day with Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrove_Tuesday

However, in reviewing our Liturgical Calendar, this day is clearly off the grid, in spite of the specific references to Lent in these descriptions. Leafing through *Sundays and Seasons*, our worship guide published by Augsburg Fortress, we move immediately from the height of Transfiguration on Sunday, February 15th to the penitence and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday.

Do you have a specific tradition for celebrating this day? It might be fodder for conversation during the fellowship hour this Sunday.



**Ash Wednesday Service at St John's
will be at 7:00pm
Wednesday, February 18, 2025**



**Worship Service
with
imposition of ashes and Holy Communion**

FELLOWSHIP

If you have volunteered to host for fellowship time in the coming weeks (and we do hope that you'll consider doing so), please know that a recent kitchen cleanup revealed a surplus of quite a few items that do NOT need to be purchased:

- Artificial sweetener
- Paper products
- Plastic cutlery
- Creamer
- Coffee

If it seems like the obligation might be overwhelming, know that it can be very simple – just cookies, coffee cake, or something similar. Also know that it is not expected that the hosts bear the costs of any food or supplies that they prepare or purchase. We have a Fellowship Fund from which to reimburse anyone who has chosen to host.

It encourages a really nice social interaction that provides the opportunity for us to learn more about one another.

And help is available. If you'd like to bring something but need assistance getting the coffee set up, or other details, just let that be known when signing up. The sheet is next to the kitchen door across from the bulletin board, but you can also just email the church office to select a convenient date (greenviljestjohns@gmail.com)

There are always willing hands to help with clean-up afterward! The fellowship is the focus – the details can be quite simple.

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle will meet at 9:30am on Tuesday, February 3rd.

JOY CIRCLE

Joy Circle is schedule to meet at 10:00am on Tuesday, February 17th.

THE BRUNCH BUNCH

The Brunch Bunch continues to meet at Mama Jane’s restaurant, 36 Hadley Road, Greenville, on the third Thursday of each month at 11:15am. The next meeting is set for February 19th. The time and location have been added to Google calendar so that reminders are provided.

MEN’S LUNCH

Men’s Lunch meets at 12:00 noon, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting date is February 25th at Jules Tavern, 34 Ohl Street, Greenville. The time and location have been added to Google calendar so that reminders are provided.

Birthday Celebrations this month:

Nichole Stahl	February 1
Kim Baker	February 2
Daniel Baker	February 5
Jamie Weary	February 10
Chuck Heck	February 13
Christine Cadman	February 25
Brenda Campbell	February 26
Dottie Heck	February 26

CHURCH SEXTON

David Lineman has worked diligently over the last three years to keep the church in good order. With multiple commitments, he has decided to ask us to find a replacement. In the meantime, he is making sure that the basics are covered.

If you know someone who might be interested in this work, please contact Anne Bayer: 724.992.9680

Good Shepherd Center Requests for February

Breakfast Items
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Canned Tuna Fish

The ongoing program needs shopping list includes:

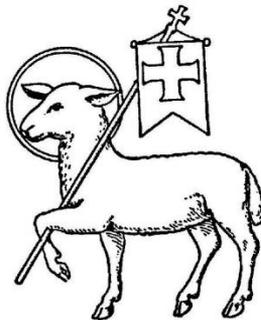
Canned Pineapple
Canned Fruit Cocktail

Kid Friendly Cereal
Peanut Butter & Jelly

Kleenex
Hygiene Products

Please mark your calendars to attend the **Annual Congregation Meeting** on **Sunday, February 22nd**, after the worship service.

Annual Donation Statements have been printed and are available in the narthex. If you were expecting a statement and don't find it, or think there is an error in reporting, please let Anne Bayer know. This is a tedious responsibility and we're grateful for the time and attention that she gives to the process.



ELCA Faith Tradition

<https://www.elca.org/about/what-we-believe/elca-faith-tradition>

What should I know about the ELCA faith tradition?

We are a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new. Our roots are in Scripture and a collection of writings called the Book of Concord, as well as in the rich histories of our congregations. We're a church that strives to be faithful to the gospel and work toward more justice and wholeness in the world.

We are equipped to live and serve in the world with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities. All are welcome here.

What do Lutherans believe?

We believe that all people are imperfect and are saved (made right with God) by God's grace and God's grace alone, through Christ. There is no special prayer you need to pray, no special state of mind you need to achieve and no good deed you need to perform. We believe that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God became one of us and took upon himself the sin and suffering of all the world. God did this to demonstrate God's love for us. We believe that we receive the gift of grace by faith alone on account of Christ. We live in the tension of still being sinful but trusting that we are forgiven and that God is at work in us. The gift of grace expresses God's unconditional love, and in response to that love we are set free to live gratefully and lovingly.

An important date in the Lutheran tradition is Oct. 31, 1517, when a German monk named Martin Luther started a movement known as the Reformation. He insisted the Bible showed that salvation could not be earned or bought, which was contrary to church teachings at the time. Luther believed salvation was a gift and a sign of God's never-ending love. The most influential documents for our church were written by him and other Lutheran reformers. These are compiled in the Book of Concord. Key writings there include the Augsburg Confession and Martin Luther's Small Catechism. We don't

believe that you are born or are baptized Lutheran, but if you participate in the Lutheran tradition, you identify as a Lutheran Christian.

What does the Lutheran tradition have in common with other Christians?

We believe it's important to have relationships and understanding with other Christian faiths, and with other religious traditions and worldviews too. With other Christians we read the Bible, gather in congregations for worship services and affirm core Christian beliefs.

The ELCA has established "[full communion](#)" agreements with six Protestant denominations: the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Moravian Church in America (Northern and Southern Provinces), The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church. These agreements mean that we share enough essential understanding to participate in common mission. We exchange clergy and encourage opportunities to work together toward justice and peace. We acknowledge that differences remain, but we can talk about these, learn from each other, challenge each other and just agree to disagree.

In our multireligious world, the ELCA is committed to working with people of other religions and worldviews toward mutual understanding and for the common good.



Serving in Worship this Month

February 1st

Anne Baver – Assisting Minister
Debbie Yoos – Lector
Jessica Aley – Usher
Mary Liz Suddoth – Greeter

February 8th

David Lineman - Assisting Minister & Lector
Ron Shollenberger – Usher
Karen Shollenberger – Greeter

February 15th

Tom Redfoot – Assisting Minister & Lector
Dolly Heim – Usher
Nancy Cannon – Greeter

February 18th – Ash Wednesday

All service positions for Ash Wednesday are still unassigned. Please volunteer if you're available that evening.

February 22nd

TBD – Assisting Minister
Ron Shollenberger – Lector
Karen Shollenberger – Usher
Ron Shollenberger – Greeter

Crucifer: Nate Stahl

Service Supervisor: TBD

This Month's Lectionary

February 1, The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

liturgical color: **green**

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

February 8, The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

liturgical color: **green**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

February 15, Transfiguration of Our Lord

liturgical color: white

FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

February 18, Ash Wednesday

liturgical color: **purple**

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22, The First Sunday in Lent

liturgical color: **purple**

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

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