

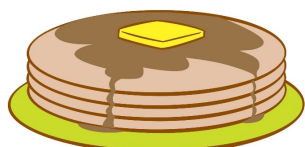


*"I will meditate on Your precepts and fix my eyes on Your ways."  
(Psalm 119:15)*

The newsletter devotion this month arises out of some personal experience. I am currently reading through Psalm 119. This is one of my favorite Psalms. Psalm 119 is all about God's Word. I was struck by the word, "fix" in Psalm 119:15. (The word, "fix" is also found in Psalm 119:6.) The thought came to me that it takes a serious level of commitment and sacrifice to fix our eyes upon the Word of God. How we all need to make such a pledge! What is the core message of the Scriptures? The central theme of the Bible is the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus! A verse from the Apostle Paul says it very well..."The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." (1 Timothy 1:15) That is the greatest news!

Let us all fix our eyes on God's Word!

Pastor Russ



**SHROVE  
TUESDAY**



**A S H  
WEDNESDAY**



Please join us for baked potatoes with pot luck toppings after worship on Sunday February 4, 2024.

If you wish, please bring your favorite baked potatoe topping(s).



**February 2024** led by Les Heron  
Includes Linda H., Al & d'Arcy G., Brenda K., Sharon J., Dave N.



**March 2024** led by Clint Nissen  
Includes Arnold K., Candice V., Pennie W., Deb A., Juanita N.

**February Coffee Crew**  
Elaine & Kurt Kure, Linda & Les Heron, Virginia & Fred Pedersen  
Please refer to "Spare List" for extra help

**March Coffee Crew**  
Gerty Kure, Kristine & Joe Amundrud, Jean & Arnold Kaiser  
Please refer to "Spare List" for extra help

**February 2024 WORSHIP 10 AM**

Sunday February 4  
Baked Potatoes Lunch after worship

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
February 13

Ash Wednesday February 14  
Lenten Services Begin

Good Friday  
March 29

Easter Sunday  
March 31

## Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So, when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.



Your Stephen Ministry Team is privileged to serve this congregation and our greater community. We are trained to walk along side a hurting person during a difficult time in a one-on-one confidential way.

Contact Linda Herron or Pastor Russ if you or someone you know could use a listening ear and a caring heart.

Remember, God is your Care Giver and we are His hands reaching out to you.

## My Solemn Promise

I'll do my best to listen  
Should you want to bare your soul,  
While you sort through all your feelings;  
Yes, I'll gladly play this role.

I'll be a friend to count on,  
And I'll try to understand.  
You are a sacred trust to me  
While you're placed within my hand.

And should you need reminding,  
Just to set your heart at ease,  
Your words are very safe with me—  
You can say whate'er you please.

Don't feel you are a burden,  
For I want to share your load,  
And together in the valley  
We'll search for a better road.

I give my solemn promise  
That I'll hold you up in prayer;  
I'll lift you to the throne of God.  
Always know I truly care.

**Bible Readings for the Week of January 29-February 3**

Monday: Genesis 35-36  
Tuesday: Genesis 37-38  
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:21-31  
Thursday: Psalm 147:1-11  
Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27  
Saturday: Mark 1:29-39

**Bible Readings for the Week of February 5-10**

Monday: Genesis 39-40  
Tuesday: Genesis 41-42  
Wednesday: 2 Kings 2:1-12  
Thursday: Psalm 50:1-6  
Friday: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:1-6  
Saturday: Mark 9:2-9

**Bible Readings for the Week of February 12-17**

Monday: Genesis 43-44  
Tuesday: Genesis 45-46  
Wednesday: Genesis 22:1-18  
Thursday: Psalm 25:1-10  
Friday: James 1:12-18  
Saturday: Mark 1:9-15

**Bible Readings for the Week of February 19-24**

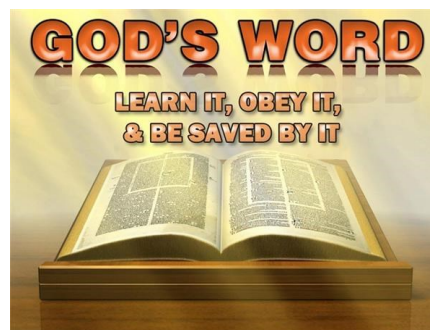
Monday: Genesis 47-48  
Tuesday: Genesis 49-50  
Wednesday: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Thursday: Psalm 22:23-31  
Friday: Romans 5:1-11  
Saturday: Mark 8:27-38

**Bible Readings for the Week of February 26-March 2**

Monday: 1 Chronicles 1-2  
Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 3-4  
Wednesday: Exodus 20:1-17  
Thursday: Psalm 19  
Friday: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Saturday: John 2:13-25



Commissioning Service for Norm and Deb Allan and Fred Pedersen Sunday January 7, 2024 for Team Zion Nicaragua mission project. A total of \$2,135.00 was raised from the sale of 91 apple pies and 2 apple crisps.



April 18, 2024  
September 19, 2024  
November 21, 2024

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