



St. John's Lutheran Church



From the Pastor

The age at which children are invited to full participation at the Lord's Table varies greatly within Lutheranism: Some congregations do not have any age or education restrictions and others have First Communion be a part of a young person's Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation). In our experience, the average seems to be third-fourth grade. If you have questions, just ask.

Here is our position: If you have a child who you believe is spiritually ready to learn about and receive communion, we will be offering two sessions first communion class:

February 26, 2023 at Hope Lutheran or March 19, 2023 at Bethesda. Pick one. The classes begin at 11:17 AM and run approximately two hours and begin with something to eat. A child must be accompanied by a parent at the session.

Wednesday Worship Schedule for Lent 2023

All are welcome to join in the ACT Parish-wide observance of Ash Wednesday and the subsequent Wednesdays with supper and worship. The location will alternate between Mamrelund, Pennock and Hope, Sunburg.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Serving</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| February 22 | Mamrelund | St. John's |
| March 1 | Hope | Hope |
| March 8 | Mamrelund | Buffalo Lake |
| March 15 | Hope | Bethesda |
| March 22 | Mamrelund | Mamrelund |
| March 29 | Hope | Monson Lake |



Lent: An Overview

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent – the time Christians reflect on their own failings and to the journey that Jesus Christ took to the Cross and beyond to save God's Creation. The forty days doesn't include Sundays; Lent is a time of grief that can only end with the incredible celebration of Easter, Jesus risen from the dead: A victory once and for all over sin, death and the power of the devil.

The Apostolic Constitutions, a series of books written around 375 AD in modern day Syria, we know that Lent was practiced by the early churches and various traditions had already emerged: Some early Christians gave up eating meat, others alcohol and still others would devote an hour a day to prayer and meditation through the 40-day period. This is where your Catholic friends and family's 'Giving up something for Lent' comes from. If the Spirit calls you to a practice like this, we encourage you to follow along.



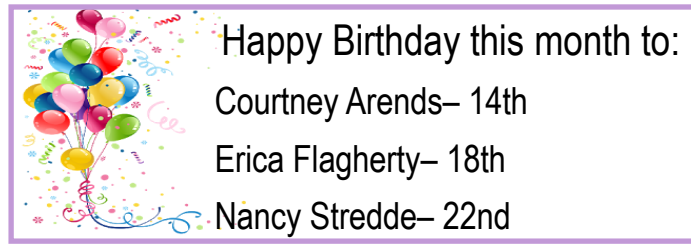
Carb loading for the Lenten Journey: Hope Lutheran

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, so it should come as no surprise that traditions would spring up on the day prior. Shrove Tuesday –meaning ‘Absolution Tuesday’ – historically involved individual confession/repentance of sins to a priest and hearing of God’s forgiveness. Many modern Lutherans, Methodists and Anglicans see the day as a day of preparation for the Jesus’ Journey to the Cross, often coming together as a community to eat a meal and share time with friends before the next day’s pronouncement: *“Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return!”*

The other name associated with the day is Mardi Gras and New Orleans is famous for its debauched celebration of the gateway night into Lent (drink now, because you can’t for the next forty days ...).

So rather than beads and booze, churches in England and the United States began offering pancakes on Fat Tuesday. This is the third and last name given for the same day.

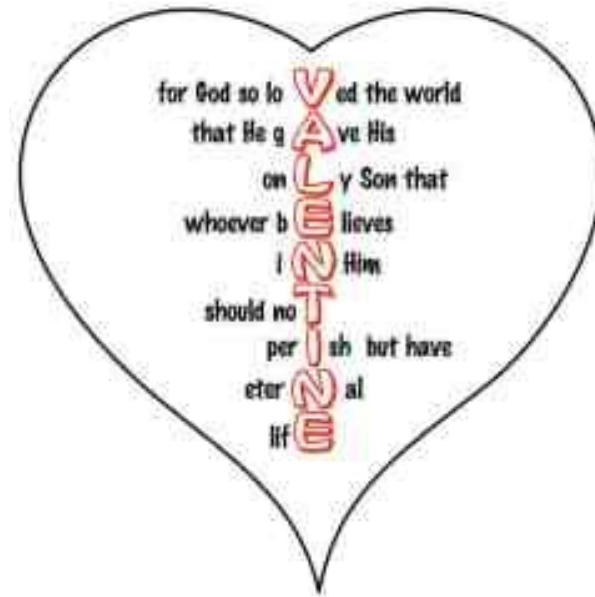
Let’s come together as a community to eat a meal! The ACT Parish will come together in a Pancake Supper at **Hope Lutheran from 4:30 to 6:30 on February 21, 2023.** The proceeds of the meal will go to parish-wide activities for people of all ages. Pancake, sausage, juice, coffee (gluten free options available).



February

Need usher and reader for February

John 3:16



Annual Meeting February 5th
Following condensed worship service
then brunch.