



The

# Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

## Upcoming Events

### February 2022

**Tues. Feb 1**

Quilting—10

**Wed. Feb 2, 9, 16, 23**

Ladies Bible Study 10

**Sun. Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27**

Worship 930

Sun School & Adult Bible

Study 1045

**Sun. Feb. 6, 20, 27**

Jr. Confirmation 4

**Mon. Feb. 7**

Elders Mtg 7

Support Group 7

**Tues. Feb 8**

No Church Council

**Sat. Feb 12**

Church Council Rolls &

Goals meeting 9

**Sun. Feb 13**

Souper Bowl Sunday

Food Drive

**Mon. Feb. 14, 21, 28**

Support Group

**Tues. Feb 15**

Christian Ed 7 pm

**Thurs. Feb 17**

Fellowship Committee 430

Ladies Night Out Bunco 6

**Sun. Feb. 20**

Movie Night

Pizza—5:15

Movie 6 pm

**Mon. Feb. 21**

President's Day

Office Closed

**Wed. Mar 2**

Ash Wednesday

Worship Service

7 pm



## Church Council Annual

"Rolls & Goals"

Council Meeting

All committee members are  
invited and encouraged to attend!

**Saturday, February 12**

**9:00 a.m.**



# Bigger than the Bowl



## Souper Bowl of Caring

Don't miss your chance to help  
conquer hunger in the O'Fallon  
area.

Bring your donations of  
nonperishable canned and boxed  
goods to church by Sunday,  
February 13. All proceeds to the  
O'Fallon Food Pantry to help  
hungry families in O'Fallon.

## Ash Wednesday

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 2—7:00 p.m.

Lenten Dinners

March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6 - 6pm

Midweek Lenten Worship—7 pm



## LENTEN WORSHIP



## Ladies Night Out Bunco

Thursday, February 17—6 pm

Sign up in the Narthex to play!



Will you be my Valentine?

Do you remember giving out those little Valentine's Day cards to your classmates in elementary school? And how special did you feel when someone gave you a box of those sugar candies in the shape of a heart with loving sentiments imprinted on them? When you began to date in high school or college you continued the practice by giving nicer cards to your girlfriend or boyfriend along with a delightful box of chocolates from See's Candy (my favorite), Russell Stover or Lindt. When you got really serious about your girl, forget the chocolate... show her how much you really care... go to Jared's. And of course, don't forget the heart-decorated card.

I don't have anything against the display of affection through giving cards and candy, especially when Marty shares her chocolate covered strawberries with me. But the question "Will You Be My Valentine" which appears on every Valentine's Day card gives me pause as I consider the sweetness of God's love which is reflected in the life of St. Valentine.

History doesn't tell us much about the life St. Valentine except that 1) he actually existed sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., 2) he was most likely a bishop or pastor, and 3) he was martyred for his faith in Christ. Accounts vary regarding his activities and because there was little to substantiate those accounts in 1969 the Roman Catholic Church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology.

One of the variations of the legend of St. Valentine records that he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine." Not having the kind of historical credulity I would like to have, I still don't object to this annual observance because it reminds me of many other faithful Christians throughout the Christian era who have suffered martyrdom for refusing to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. And I am always surprised that the death penalty is still exercised in parts of our world for simply proclaiming "I am a Christian." Not many of us have that kind of faith!

But back to my initial thought regarding the sentiment, "Will you be my Valentine?" If you ask someone that question outside your immediate family you'd probably get the response, "You've got to be kidding!" St Paul understood this as he wrote to the church in Rome:

"For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die..." (Romans 5:7). He's got that right! But then he follows up that thought with verse 8: "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Maybe I'm overthinking this, but when you send that little card seeking the affection of another, asking to be Your Valentine, are you not asking, "Will you die for me?" Really, I know I'm pushing this farther than most of want to think about, but understanding Valentine's example, the question, "will you be my Valentine?" evokes soberness and somberness, not sentimentality. Dying for someone is a serious matter, *a matter upon which God was willing to act!* He sent His One and only Son, Jesus, who gave His life to redeem not just a special loved one, but for all people, saint and sinner alike. Jesus, as God's unique Son, was the only person who could personally deliver God's love so extensively and so completely.

So while you're writing your notes of endearment to each other on Valentine's Day, consider writing one more Valentine card to Jesus. Remember that when we ask God, "Will You be my Valentine?" His response comes not from a heart-shaped card and candy, but from a cross, soaked in His precious blood, an expression far more affectionate than we could ever imagine and far sweeter than any box of chocolates.

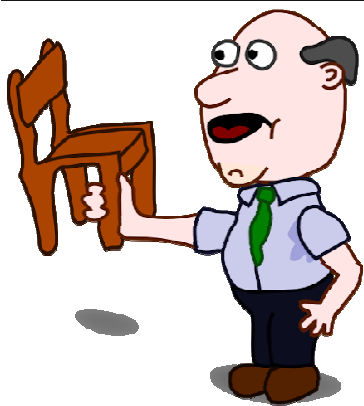
Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Vern

P.S. On Sunday, February 20, we will be showing a very short film based on the legend of St Valentine called "The First Valentine." It's only 25 minutes but worth seeing and we'll have a brief discussion after the viewing. To those who wish to join us for some Little Caesar's Pizza, it will be "Hot and Ready" at 5:15 PM. There will be a sign up in the Foyer. The film will start sharply at 6 PM in the sanctuary.

Bring a friend!





## Chairman's Chat

Well, so far the winter weather (excluding the cold temperatures) has missed us out here in Germantown, IL. Even the last winter advisory (weekend of JAN 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>), we received less than a trace of snow instead of the 1 to 3 inches which was forecasted!

Good news!!! BSLC ended 2021 with a positive amount in the Operating Fund. THANKS to the congregation for the increase in giving as well as helping in cutting expenses!!! I hope the positive trend continues. The church council will resume in determining more ways to cut expenses; however, we need the member giving to keep at the same level or increase. As a congregation, we need to do everything we can

in order to keep the church open and running, so we can continue to be disciples and share the Gospel in our local community and beyond.

The Rolls 'n Goals meeting was scheduled for Saturday, JAN 8th; however, I rescheduled it to Saturday, FEB 12<sup>th</sup> due to the rise in COVID-19 cases from the variant. Plus we did not think a Zoom meeting would be suitable due to the important items we needed to discuss. Also, I cancelled the JAN church council meeting to give everyone a break.

The Post-COVID 19 plan will be focused on the 4 G's: Gather, Grow, Glorify and Go. Under each "G", we will list items, like church services, prayer groups, picnic, trivia night, Thanksgiving baskets, and O'Fallon Food Pantry, which the church already does as well as new items that we would like to do in the future. We will include any uncompleted church goals from the past years as well as the recommendations from the Strategic Committee. As usual, we will present the completed plan to the congregation either at the Spring Voter's meeting in April or earlier.



As we get closer to the month of April, I would like for all of you to start thinking about how you could help out the church by stepping up to be a part of the church council or one of the committees. If you are interested in joining and need more information, then please contact a member of the church council.

Stay tuned for some more exciting information, especially around the post-COVID 19 plan!!!  
In God's Name,  
Curtis Kuppler

**BSLC Congregational Chairman**



# ECHO

UNBROKEN  
TRUTH.

WORTH  
REPEATING.

AGAIN.

JONATHAN FISK



**Hey all 7th - 12th graders!** Join us in Sunday School as we embark on a new journey called "ECHO." We meet in the youth room at 10:45! We hope to see you there!





The Fellowship Committee had their First Ladies Bunco night on January 20<sup>th</sup> and it was very successful! We had 19 ladies participate. Six prizes for Various bunco's were given out.

Appetizers made a great dinner for all of us, as there was plenty of food! We had shared our Bunco night on the Facebook community page and are happy to say many women came and were thankful for the opportunity to get out and have some fun. The next bunco night will be Thursday, Feb 17, 2022 @

6pm. Please sign up again if you would like to attend.

Lenten Dinners will start on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6 p.m. with a Lasagna dinner. Lasagna, bread and salad will be served. Dinners will continue every Wednesday thru April 6, 2022.

If you have a suggestion (s) for the Fellowship Committee on something you would like to see/do, let us know. Gwen Borsch or Ginger Kieffer



## Epicure Fundraiser

The youth will be holding an Epicure Fundraiser during the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, February 13th, and all week following. Sunday we will hold a tasting for some of the items. EPICURE is a healthy way to make quick and easy meals. ALL EPICURE foods are FREE of Gluten, nuts, corn syrup, hydrogenated fat, artificial colors, sweeteners and preservatives. The Fundraiser will consist of an intro packet of 6 items for \$25. These items are Taco Seasoning, Sweet & Sour Stir-Fry Seasoning, Pulled Chicken Seasoning, Southern Baked Gluten Free Crumb Mix, Mac & Cheese Seasoning, and Chocolate Instant Pudding Mix.

We believe these foods will be a huge hit so we will follow up with a show of their full catalog in March. If you would like to order but can't be present, please place an order with a youth or contact Wendi Gorney at 618-972-3300 or [thegorney5@yahoo.com](mailto:thegorney5@yahoo.com)

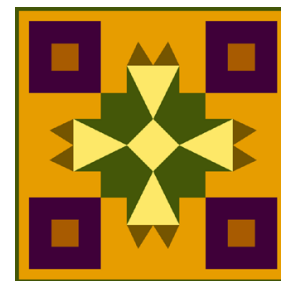
## Beyond Candy Hearts and Roses



The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life

around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesday, February 1, March 1 or April 5** starting at 10 a.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.





## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did.

And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)





# FEBRUARY

## BIRTHDAYS

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Karen Olson                    | 11 John & Joan Gefferth          |
| 2 Isaiah Siron                   | 15 Karen Depping                 |
| 4 Sara Lesire, Annette LaBruyere | 17 Elise Trapp, Thomas Griffin   |
| 6 Barbara Edgar                  | 21 Nancy Schmidt, Reeve Alvarado |
| 8 Elizabeth Lundebly             | 22 Jill Kinsella, Samuel Calzada |
| 9 Brian Gass, Maurine Trapp      | 24 Nate Berens                   |
| 10 Sam Bradfield                 | 25 Margene Jerrolds,             |
| 11 Diane Colvin,                 | 26 Jackson Husemann              |

### No regrets!

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!" To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).



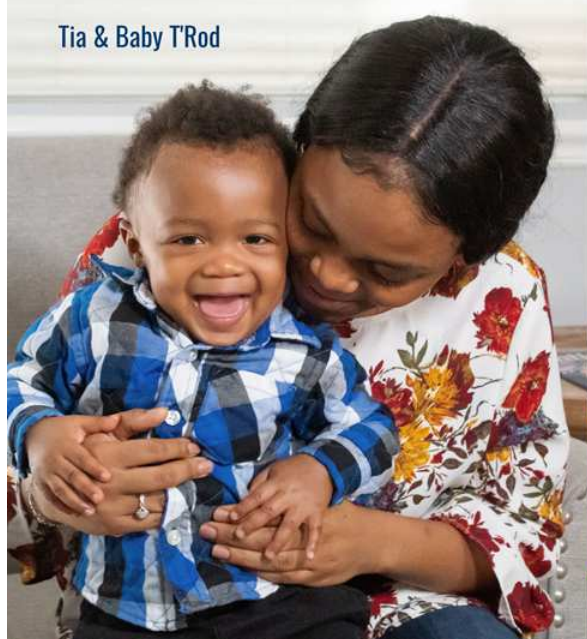
# FEBRUARY

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Tom & Kris McManus  
26 Wayne & Gwen Kemp

We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at [nancy@mybslc.org](mailto:nancy@mybslc.org) so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.

Tia & Baby T'Rod



**mosaic**  
pregnancy & health centers

## Baby Bottle Campaign



You help transform lives and save babies from abortion when you fill a baby bottle with coins, cash or a check!

**PICK UP A BOTTLE TODAY!**

**Baby Bottles are available in the Narthex** for the annual Mosaic Pregnancy and Health Care center fund drive. Grab a bottle today and fill with coins, currency or a check. Return your filled bottles by Sunday, February 13.

**mosaic**  
pregnancy & health centers



## **December Council Meeting Minutes** (Dec 14, 2021)

At 7:08 pm, the meeting was called to order.

**Attendance:** Ed Brandmeyer, Brian Lloyd, Pastor Vern Lintvedt, Ginger Kieffer, Curtis Kuppler, Lyndsey Sherman, Eric Stake', Keith Szolga, and Dave Ziegler.

Pastor Vern led the meeting with a devotion on Mark 12:30 - "You shall love the lord with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength." -Jesus

**Pastors Report** – Pastor Vern Thanksgiving Offerings - \$1100 for the needy in our church and community; \$1500 donation 1/2 of Pastor Daniel Kofi's annual salary in Ghana possible matching contribution by Pastor David Fletcher's Church in Mass.

Advent and Christmas Services

Children's Christmas service and special thanks to Marty Lintvedt for direction; Loriann Reynolds, Kim Lloyd, Mary Stake', Marcie Monaco, & numerous others for their help

New visitor Jennifer Katona has visited 4 weeks and requested to join.

**Secretary Report** – Ginger Kieffer for Cheryl Krantz

NOV Council Meeting minutes were reviewed. Dave Ziegler made motion to accept, Eric Stake' seconded -> motion passed

**Treasurers Report** – Kirk Satrom (via email)

Reflects the church has a positive operating fund with **\$33, 774** Solidly in the black at this time Giving exceeded expenses for year 2021. A discussion was held about where the excess funds should go in relationship to the Strategic Planning Committee guidelines. It was suggested that maybe we could possibly entertain the idea of some excess funds to be used as follows: 10% Missions, 10% Savings and 10% Operating Fund

**Elders** – Brian Lloyd

Made up 30 bags for children attending the Christmas Program A couple of people are interested in the Nursery after the beginning of the New Year Benevolent fund is being used for Christmas Gifts for the Seminarians

Brian received quotes from Hannah Husemann for the Social Ministry Program

Option 1: 4/5 G Campaign includes creation, print, design, etc. for FB would be \$1769.62

Option 2: Social Media Retainer, Graphic Design, etc. for the year \$12,500

**Christian Education** – Lyndsey Sherman

Wanted to THANK Marty, Mary, Marcie, Loriann and the Fellowship Committee for their help with the Christmas program

Family Video Night will be Feb13, 2022.?

**Evangelism** - Pastor Vern Blankets were sent to Mayfield

**Fellowship** – Ginger Kieffer Will be having Advent Dinners

Starting a Ladies Bunco night each month -> first one will be the third week in JAN at 6 pm

**Stewardship** – Keith Szolga

Welcomes Keith Szolga back to Council as Stewardship Committee chairman

T-shirt project on hold

Enterprise Center still has not been heard from -> Curtis will contact them again

Keith wanted to know why the Shoe project was under Stewardship

It was explained it was more of a formality to let them know this project was going on

**Worship** - Eric Stake' Working on computer hardware and software maintenance

**Youth** – Pastor Vern Combining functions with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville

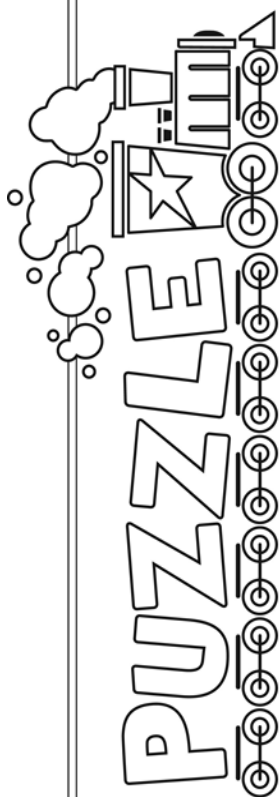
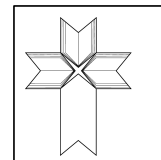
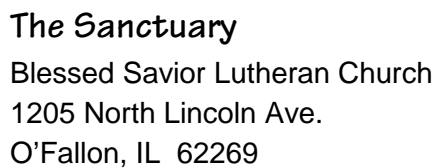
**Old Business** – Chairman Curtis Kuppler Reported that there were approximately 30 people at the NOV Voters meeting

Also discussed the Rolls and Goals Meeting covering the 4G/5G approach Keith expressed his concerns about what that might look like to the rest of the church in respect to how the council is represented. The discussion was tabled until the Rolls and Goals meeting in JAN 2022

Rolls and Goals meeting set for 9 am on Saturday, JAN 2022 with breakfast starting at 8:30 am

At 9 pm, a motion was made to Adjourn the meeting by Dave Ziegler and seconded by Lyndsey Sherman. Pastor Vern led all that attended in the Lord's Prayer.

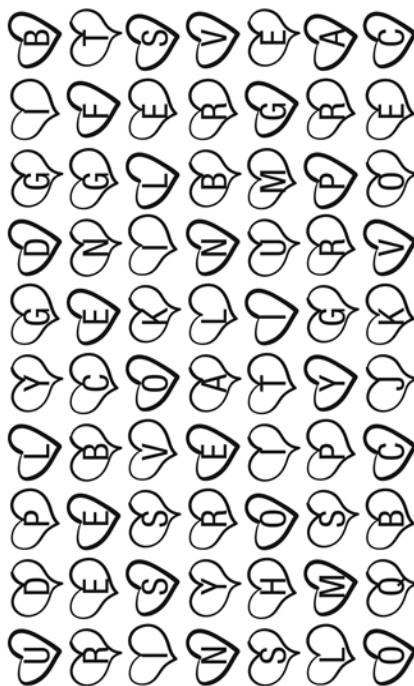
Respectfully submitted by Ginger Kieffer and Curtis Kuppler



# The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

**Directions:** Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D \_\_\_\_\_, because love  
 \_\_\_\_\_ over a multitude of \_\_\_\_\_. Offer  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to one another without  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Each of you should use whatever  
 \_\_\_\_\_ you have received to \_\_\_\_\_ others, as faithful  
 stewards of God's \_\_\_\_\_ in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace