

# FAITH at WORK

February 2023

Sisters and brothers –

This Lent we will be using materials from Sanctified Art called Wilderness in our worship and devotionals. We do this to engage our faith with art, with study, with devotion. Every year in Lent we hear the same story: Jesus pointed towards Jerusalem, knowing that there he will face all the powers of the world arrayed against him.

Each year we are invited to pick up our cross and follow him. Each year we are reminded of how much we are like the disciples, falling asleep in the garden of Gethsemane. And each year we are reminded that Jesus loved his disciples, despite all their failings and loves us too. He claimed Peter, James, Mary Magdalene and even Judas as his followers, he claims all of us.

As we journey through Lent we are reminded that Jesus wouldn't let anything stand between us and his love. As we go through the wilderness, the Lamb of God guides the way.

Here's what Sanctified Art says about the series: *Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God's love. This Lent, we welcome you to the journey.*

This February, March and April, join us in the wilderness as we follow the one at the heart of our faith.

Pastor Mark



## Faith Lutheran Church

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## In This Issue

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The history of Valentine’s Day – and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance and that St. Valentine’s Day, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still, others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor’s daughter—who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure.

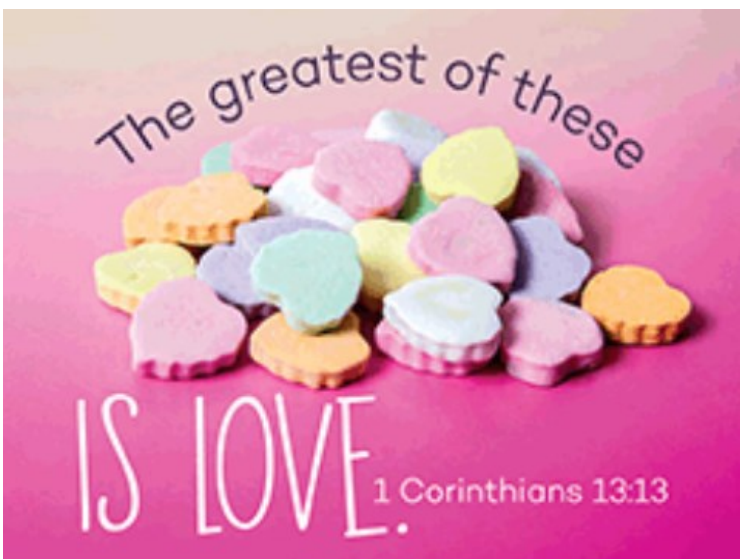
-*The Bribie Islander*



## A Valentine's Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the wonderful gift of love you have given to mankind and each of us. Thank you for blessing us every day with your love. Without your love for us, we couldn't be who we are. We need your love every day. It's like food for our souls.

Please continue to let us feel your love in our lives. Lord, we give ourselves over to you to perfect in us this gift of love. We want to share it with others. Lord, please teach us to love and make our hearts like yours. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.



Faith Lutheran Church		2023
<b>STAFF</b>		
Pastor	Mark Bringman	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Vacant	
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b>		
President	Terry Virnig	
Vice President	Bob Buswell	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Denice Rickard	
Property Management	Jon Aaberg	
Stewardship & Resources	Wally Oster	
Worship & Music	Diane Buswell	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



## Financial Update

Undesignated Income: \$5,693.00

Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$8,166.67

Net Undesignated Income: **(\$2,473.67)**

Total Expenses: \$3,279.66

Total Net Income: \$9,112.34

# *Church Announcements and Events*

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## **Pastor Mark Vacation & Light Week**

**Saturday, February 3—11 & 13—18**

February 3 through 11—Pastor Mark will be on vacation. Please call Pastor Lura at (503)269-1714 for pastoral care emergencies.

February 13 through 18—Pastor Mark will observe his light week. He is part time which means seven weeks off (including a Sunday) each year. Additionally every month, Pastor Mark has a week off without a Sunday. Pastor Mark will lead bible study on February 13, but otherwise will not be in the office that week.

## **Pastor Joe Medley Will Lead Worship**

**Sunday, February 5**

On Sunday, February 5, Pastor Joe Medley will lead our worship service. After service, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome him.

## **Monday Study Group—1:00pm**

**February 13, 20 & 27**

February's focus has not yet been determined. Please check your weekly bulletin for information—the topic will be announced there once it has been decided.

This is a hybrid study meaning that meets both in-person and on-line. If you are interested in joining from home, please contact Pastor Mark and he will provide you with the weekly link.

## **Sunday Cinema: The Chosen (Season 2)—2:00pm**

**February 19**

Join us in the sanctuary as we continue to watch this riveting series that depicts the life of Jesus and challenges us to consider what it means for us in the here and now. This month we have new window shades—the picture quality will be greatly improved!

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Theology Pub**

**February 21**

**The Pancake Supper will begin at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, with Theology Pub following at 7:00pm**

Come eat with us and share fellowship as we prepare to enter in to Lent—then stay and join us for conversation as we explore a list of Bible and brew questions. Please bring your own Bible and beverage (BYOB & B)

.February 21 is the day before Lent begins—in French traditions it is called Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. In some traditions, people would use up all of the fat in their house before the start of Lent; the season of repentance and renewal. The name, Shrove Tuesday, comes from people confessing their sins or being “shriven” before the start of Lent. A Pancake Supper (kind of) embraces all of those; flat cakes are fried in fat (using up the fat), are topped with butter and syrup (symbolizing decadence) and the burning of palms (in repentance) to prepare the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service.

## Ash Wednesday Worship & Soup Supper

February 22

Soup Supper begins at 5:30pm with Worship following at 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent. It is a service rich in tradition of the saints who have preceded us: beginning with a confession of sin, hearing the words of Psalm 51 which reminds us that God cleanses us from sin, receiving the imposition of ashes with the reminder that we are dust. We hope that you can join us as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, Gethsemane, Golgotha and the empty tomb.

## Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting—11:00am

February 26

Our constitution instructs Faith Lutheran Church to have two congregational meetings a year: the first one for 2023 is scheduled for February 26 to approve the Annual Report for 2022 and to elect voting members to attend the Synod Assembly. This meeting is usually brief and is an important part of our being in community together. Please plan to attend.

## Sanctified Art Devotional Book For Lent

This year we will be using “Wilderness” by Sanctified Art as our centering for the season of Lent. These devotional books will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, February 19th, and you are encouraged to pick one up. If you would like to have a copy but are unable to join us in person, please contact the church office to have materials made available to you.

## Quilting and TOMs

Wednesdays @ 9am

Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.



The TOMs (stands for The Old Men, though age and gender are not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOMs will always welcome some help.



## Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.

## Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany

We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entry-way.

**\*\*Please check expiration date markings**

*F.I.S.H. cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.*

**Prayer Chain:** We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. **If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: [pegpreston@aol.com](mailto:pegpreston@aol.com)**



## New Flower Chart

A new year calls for a new Flower Chart! Please take a minute and sign up to provide flowers for a week or two in the new year.



## Co-Dependence Anonymous

**Fridays @ 5:30pm**

Co-dependence Anonymous (CoDA) is a twelve step fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and loving relationships.

For further information contact Denice R. at (541) 974-5060

## Church Office Hours

**10:00am-2:00pm ♦ Monday—Wednesday—Friday**



## A Prayer for Every Day

O Lord, You are the light that guides my feet.  
 You are the map that gives me direction.  
 You are the peace that makes me strong.  
 You are the leader whom I faithfully follow.  
 May your light illuminate my life and your guidance bring direction. May I find inspiration in your word and peace in my heart as I follow you.  
 Amen.

<b>Worship Leaders Team 2023</b>					
<b>February</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>
Assisting Ministers	Ellen	Carol	Diane	Denice	Shirley
		Scouts			
Altar Prep	Aabergs	Denice	Elaine	Pam	Pam
Ushers	Dick	Wally	Kim	Terry	Diane
Sound Technicians	Gordy	Jon	Terry	John	John

## PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:

We encourage you to pray for Ukrainian people, refugees and peace. We pray for an end to war: to all wars. We pray for peace throughout the world: in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, in all places foreign and domestic. Pray for an end to violence.



People ask what can they do? We can pray. We can give. Lutheran World Relief, UNICEF, the Methodist Committee on Relief, Catholic Charities, etc. all are working to help with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. I am sharing the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) link here, please consider giving if you can: (click on the give Ukraine button in the middle) <https://lwr.org/>



## February Worship Schedule

February 5	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
February 12	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
February 19	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming
February 22	7:00 pm Lenten Worship & Livestreaming
February 26	10:30am Worship & Livestreaming

## Prayer List

*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE  
NEEDING STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:*

Tim B.	Chiera Family	Olivia Hunter
Brenda Carroll	Izzy Covalt	Nicholas Glass
Sandy Hina	Garrett Baarsch	Norma Messman
Robert Jon	Stephanie Bauthman	Nancy Goodwin
Linda Gail Voet	Carl Wogomon	Karen Glenn
Melba Wright	John Busher	Peggy Preston
Brandon Crawford	Heather	Jeanette Thorpe
Noah Holman	Julie Shaw	Elaine Wogomon
Pat Norby	Lee Horst	Scot Stockwell
Gigi Douglas	Margaret Rowland	Karen Hoover

*REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:*

Ruth Irwin, Connie Griffis, Izzy Covalt, Cindy Harms, Margaret Rowland, Melba Wright, Sangsau Tran

*OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES*

### A Prayer for Healing and Comfort

Lord of heaven, You have loved me with immeasurable love. You are love. I pray that I will be strengthened in my inner being – in my soul – with the love that is wider than I can understand, deeper than I am able to imagine, and greater than I could ever know. I rest underneath your mighty wings of love. I dwell within your gentle heart and know there is healing in your touch. Through the sufferings of Christ I ask for restoration and trust in your goodness. Jesus, you are my Lord, my Savior, my healer and my friend. I dwell within your gentle embrace. Amen.







# February

## 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 10:00am Reports to Council Due 5:30pm CoDA	<b>4</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation
<b>5</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>6</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation	<b>8</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation	<b>10</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	<b>11</b> Pastor Mark - Vacation
<b>12</b> Scout Sunday 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>13</b> Pastor Mark - Off 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> Pastor Mark - Off 1:00pm Mary Martha Circle	<b>15</b> Pastor Mark - Off 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs	<b>16</b> Pastor Mark - Off	<b>17</b> Pastor Mark - Off 9:00am - 1:00pm String Therapy 1:00pm 20th Century Book Club 5:30pm CoDA	<b>18</b> 9:00am Circle of Friends (Peggy's Gazebo)
<b>19</b> 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming	<b>20</b> 8:00am Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 3:00pm Pancake Supper Set-Up 5:30pm Pancake Supper 7:00pm Theology Pub @ The Church	<b>22</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOMs 5:30pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am - 1:30pm String Therapy 5:30pm CoDA	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:30am Indoor Worship & livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>28</b>				



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**Faith at Work**

**2023**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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