

February  
2026

# The Messenger

GALILEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greetings,

This letter is about changes. The new year is bringing with it few changes to this newsletter and a change in my healthcare plans for the year.



At our January Council meeting we discussed various ways to keep the congregation better informed of what is going on; not only with the major (or minor) issues that Council is dealing with on behalf of Galilee but also to keep the congregation better informed of our financial situation. Both of these will be addressed with new features in our newsletter. Each month you will see a new column labeled "Church Council" and in this space I will list items that Council discussed at our last meeting. They will not be official minutes of the meeting, as those will not be approved until the next month. They'll just be timely notes to let you know what's going on and if you have any questions you can speak to me or to a Council member. On a quarterly basis you'll also see an article outlining our year-to-date financial information. This will give you an idea of where we stand with expenses compared to income for the year. The next change that 2026 has brought is a change in my healthcare plans. I spent three months taking classes and preparing for Bariatric Surgery but after prayerful consideration of the options before me, I have decided that surgery is not right for me. Later this month I will be returning to the care of my original weight loss doctor and the program that he and I developed that I know works for me. In the end, this path is a better fit for me and my future. Your continued prayers on this journey to better health and wellness is most appreciated.

Blessings, Pastor Karen



## P R A Y E R R E Q U E S T S

Bear (Jamie's daughter) continues to suffer from seizures

Dale B (Carol's husband) lung cancer

Steve Hanger

Lisa Partin (Paula's daughter in law) being treated for cancer

Patsy as she nears her journey into eternal life

Nancy as she receives treatment for cancer

Peggy as her disease progresses

Colin as he battles a cancer

Scot Duncil treatment for cancer

Amanda Westrick breast cancer



After worship on **Sunday February 1st** we will have our Annual Meeting to adopt a new budget and accept the Book of Reports for 2025. Please plan to stay after church for a few minutes for this important meeting.



### KRAFTEE KRAFTERS

You are invited to join the Kraftee Krafters every Tuesday morning from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. They work on various projects and even if you're not crafty come join the ladies to enjoy a cup of coffee and wonderful fellowship. If you have any questions call Nancy at (740) 341-8452



**2/7 Leslie Bowman**

**2/11 Betty Brandeberry**

**2/11 John Warren**

**2/14 Sheila Westrick**

**2/28 Theresa Grant**



**No Anniversaries**



In the back of the church there is a bookcase with a wide variety of books available to be read. Just grab a book and return it after you finish



Pastor Karen is in the office on Thursday mornings from 9:00 am to 11:45 am. She is able to meet on Mondays during the day and on weeknights if you'd like to schedule a meeting.



Our Bear it Bears are just waiting to be given to someone who is hurting in any way, physically, mentally or emotionally. They are sitting on the chairs in the front of the church. Just be sure to sign them out in the logbook on the bookcase in the entrance way of the church. This is one of our outreach programs, so let us bear one another's burdens and fulfill the love of Christ.



## CHAIR YOGA

**EVERY THURSDAY**

**10:00 TO 10:45 AM**

**\$1.00 per class**

Grab a friend and join us for 45 minutes of stretching exercises. Chair Yoga is great for working the soreness out of muscles, strengthening our core and improving our balance as we age.



## WOMEN'S *Fellowship*

**Monday February 16th  
at The Landing  
10:00 AM**

All ladies of the church are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion around a faith based question.

Few things in life are more uplifting than gathering with sisters in Christ, sharing food, fun and fellowship.



## February 1 Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

## February 8 Matthew 5:13-20

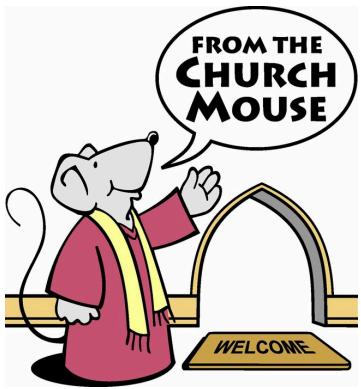
In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

## February 15 Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration..

## February 22 Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.



Hi Everyone, Burr, Burr, and more Burr,

The new year has started with the largest and deepest snowfall since 1978, so of course you couldn't get to church one Sunday. Thankfully, Lucy and I are already home so we just got to sleep a little later.

We did decide to take the leap and check outside just to be sure. Let's just say because of our size "the leap" wasn't big enough. We don't do "deep."

Nancy turned over the council president job to Sheila and then promptly left for Florida with some lady friends. They all got stuck there because of the bad weather in the north and had to stay another week. I'm not sure about this story, oh well. She better come back all rested up and with some super, duper, craft ideas for our Krafter Krafters.

We had another reason for a cake party, and we love cake. Bob and Carol celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. What a life story. We sure miss them being in church with us every Sunday, but we send lots of love and hugs.

We have a new office printer, one that actually works. Thanks to Don Berlin for getting it up and running.. I don't go close to the office when its making all that noise. It appears you could come out smaller than I am now and a lot flatter. He's a man of many talents. I overheard him say when he stopped in he was plowing people out of the snow. He has this new truck with snow blade, thanks to one of his kids, and he's been putting it to good use. I know he stopped over to get the Frobese's back on the road. Jean doesn't deal well with being trapped in. I know they had a lot of laughs over these two 80 plus people digging out the driveway. Whatever happened to the kids that used to come around banging on the door trying to earn some extra money? I know for a fact that Pastor Karen slid into a BIG snowdrift on her street and had to call the tow truck. All of this from the Galilee pipeline.

Hopefully things will get better by Sunday. We really miss the donut crumbs.

Love and Hugs,  
The Church Mouse



**Pancake Dinner  
5:30 PM**

We will kick off our evening with a free Pancake and Sausage Dinner.

Join us for a wonderful meal and fellowship



**Ash Wednesday Service  
6:30 PM**

Join us for a traditional service with communion and the imposition of ashes

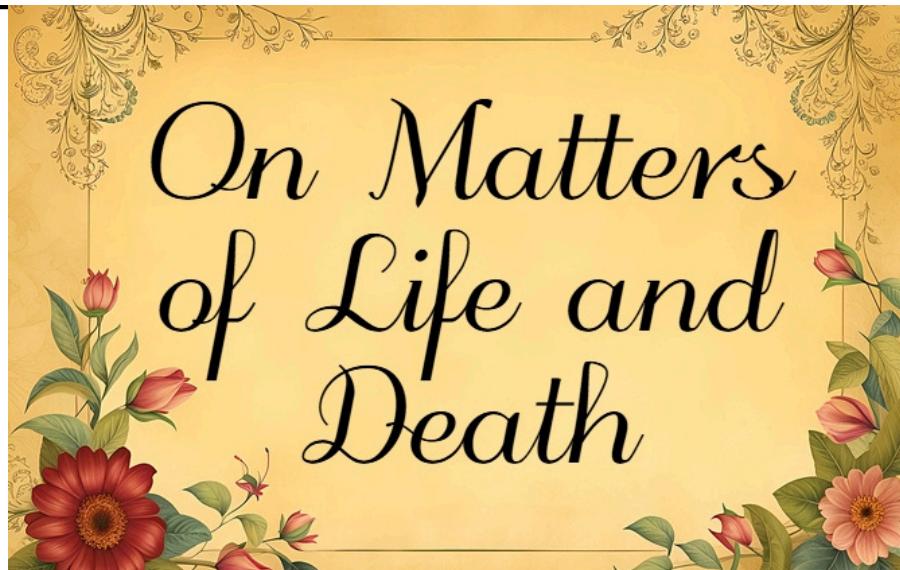


**We will start each of our Wednesday night gatherings with dinner at 5:30**

We will be asking for volunteers to supply the food each week. We will offer Sandwiches, Soup or Salad, and Dessert. If you sign up for Soup or Salad it's your choice whether you bring soup to go with the sandwiches or salad(s).

Please plan to feed about 20 people if you sign up to donate part of our dinner





The subject of our mortality is a hard subject to think about, let alone to talk about. Our hope is to create an atmosphere where we can face the subjects and death and dying in a way that brings us hope and comfort. Lent is the perfect time to embark on this journey. As we walk the 40 days of Lent with Jesus towards his death, we will let him walk with us as we journey towards the new life promised to us through him.

Each week we'll start the evening with dinner served from 5:30 to 6:00. We'll start the class at 6:00 with the goal of ending about 6:45 so everyone can be on the road headed home by 7:00

**Wednesday February 25**  
**Cultural and Spiritual Perspectives of Death**

**Wednesday March 4**  
**Preparing for End of Life**

**Wednesday March 11**  
**The Natural Dying Process**

**Wednesday March 18**  
**What Happens After We Die?**

**Wednesday March 25th**  
**Paranormal and Near Death Experiences**



**Thursday  
February 26th  
5:00 PM**

Our evening will kick off with a free dinner at 5:00 PM. We will then enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship and laughter.

Join us for enough fun games, fascinating trivia and prizes to put a St. Patty Day smile on your face



**Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day is commonly linked to the legend of Saint Valentine, but the Catholic Church recognizes several saints by that name. Some believe the holiday honors Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, while others associate it with a priest who secretly officiated unions for couples when Emperor Claudius II banned marriages for young men.

Legend has it that the oldest known valentine was written by Valentine himself to a young girl who visited him during his confinement. Shortly before his death, he allegedly penned her a letter signed, "From your Valentine."

According to [Hallmark](#), 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making it the second-largest card-sending holiday of the year. (Christmas tops Valentine's Day with approximately 1.3 billion cards sent annually, per [Hallmark](#).) The average American spends almost \$200 celebrating Valentines Day each year.



Council has approved the replacement of one of our air conditioning units that no longer works.

We will be updating our Constitution in 2026. Council will go through one section each month so that by the end of the year it will be done and we'll be ready to present it at our next Annual Meeting for approval by the congregation.

A new copier for the office has been delivered and is now up and running

We were working with a company to generate a QR code for Galilee that would allow visitors to the church, our website or our Facebook page to donate money to the church using their debit cards and cellphone. After further feedback from other congregations and research on hacking potential we decided that the risk far outweighed the potential benefits and decided against the idea.

## **55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Lutheran Women**

Short history of Lutheran women ordination

The ordination of women in the Lutheran tradition began in the mid-20th century, with significant milestones including the ordination of Antoinette Brown in 1863 by the Universalist denomination and the ordination of Antoinette Louisa Blackwell in 1970 by the Lutheran Church in America. These events marked the beginning of a new era for women in the Lutheran Church, allowing them to serve as ministers and leaders. The ordination of women has continued to evolve, with the ELCA celebrating the 55th anniversary of U.S. Lutheran churches' decision to ordain women in 2025. This anniversary year also marks the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to officially ordain people in same-gender committed relationships.

# 40 Days of Lent Kindness Journey



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Speak gently today Eph 4:29	Thank someone unnoticed 1 Thes 5:18	Offer a sincere compliment Prov 16:24	Pray for someone difficult Mt 5:44	Write an encouraging note Heb 3:13	Listen without interrupting Jas 1:19	Let someone go first Phil 2:3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Do a quiet chore Col 3:23	Practice patience today Rom 12:12	Encourage a coworker 1 Thes 5:11	Put your phone away Ps 46:10	Leave a kind note Prov 12:25	Choose understanding Prov 18:2	Make life easier Gal 6:2
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Give anonymously Mt 6:3-4	Donate something useful Lk 3:11	Support a small business Prov 14:31	Leave a generous tip Lk 6:38	Share what you have Heb 13:16	Help someone in need Prov 19:17	Offer help first Rom 15:1
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Forgive quietly Mt 18:21-22	Release a grudge Eph 4:31	Apologize sincerely Mt 5:23-24	Choose compassion Col 3:12	Pray for someone avoided Lk 6:27-28	Assume good intentions 1 Cor 13:7	Be kind to yourself Ps 139:14
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Hold the door Rom 12:10	Smile and connect Num 6:24-26	Check in on someone Prov 17:17	Leave a kind review Phil 1:3	Care for your surroundings Gen 2:15	Welcome someone left out Rom 15:7	Say thank you Col 3:17
36	37	38	39	40		
Serve without recognition Mt 23:11	Give your time Eph 5:15-16	Practice patience and silence Lam 3:26	Pray for peace Jn 14:27	Celebrate kindness seen Phil 4:8		

**He is RISEN**

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  <b>ANNUAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH</b>	2  <b>Groundhog Day</b>	3 <b>Krafty Krafters 10-12</b> <hr/> <b>AA 7:30</b>	4	5 <b>Yoga 10:00</b> <hr/> <b>AA 6:00</b>	6	7  <b>Happy Birthday Leslie</b>
8  	9	10 <b>Krafty Krafters 10-12</b> <hr/> <b>COUNCIL 6:00</b>	11  <b>Happy Birthday Betty and John</b>	12 <b>Yoga 10:00</b> <hr/> <b>AA 6:00</b>	13	14  <b>Happy Birthday Sheila</b>
15  	16 <b>Ladies Breakfast at Woody's 10:00</b>	17 <b>Krafty Krafters 10-12</b> <hr/> <b>AA 7:30</b>	18  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Dinner 5:30</b> <b>Service 6:30</b>	19 <b>Yoga 10:00</b> <hr/> <b>AA 6:00</b>	20	21
22  	23	24 <b>Krafty Krafters 10-12</b> <hr/> <b>AA 7:30</b>	25 <b>LENT Dinner 5:30</b> <b>Study 6:30</b>	26 <b>Yoga 10:00</b> <hr/> <b>ST PATTY PARTY 5:00</b>	27	28  <b>Happy Birthday Theresa</b>