

*Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church*



**February 2024**  
**Banner of Faith**  
763.537.4523 | [faithlilacway.org](http://faithlilacway.org)  
5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

# Pastor 's Article

Welcome to the season of Lent.

We still have several Sundays of Epiphany to go – so I don't mean to rush the season. But on this cold below-zero January day, I'm thinking about and planning for Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. Unfortunately, often it is seen as a dreary time of giving up something that you don't want to give up and of God – or you--beating yourself up when you fail. If that is your image of Lent, let me assure you, it's not that!

The word "Lent" is a shorten form of the Old English word "lencten" – which means spring season. You can also think of lent as short for "lengthen"... as in the lengthening of days. Maybe you haven't noticed yet, but the days are beginning to become longer. Spring will come.

One of the things that I love about Lent is that it is just long enough– six weeks –to explore ways we can learn about following Jesus. It is a time for us to *lengthen* our imagination of ways we can live into the promises of God. What ideas, hopes and dreams for drawing near to God can we nurture and germinate in six weeks as we notice the lengthening of days? What new faith practice could we try?

During Lent, we will have a table in the narthex with ideas to try such as:

- + a new devotion book geared towards the 40 days;
- + a new prayer practice such as contemplative prayer
- + "lectio visio" – seeing God in a new way through art (adult coloring sheets will be available)

There will also be time for Wednesday night Lenten soup suppers and a time to connect with your neighbors as well as worship.

Spring – lencten – is coming. May this time in between now and Easter be a blessing for you!

*Pastor Pam*

## Every Meal "Marty" Gras Fundraiser

Saturday February 10, 2024

Noon-3:00

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 3900 Winnetka Avenue North, New Hope

**It's a pizza party, bingo (with fun prizes), bake sale, and "heads or tails" afternoon.**



**Credit cards accepted.**

FLW will be in charge of the bake sale and can use your help! We need people to donate homemade baked goods and help package baked goods for the sale. Donations can be dropped off at FLW on Thursday, February 8th before 4pm **and/or** on Friday, February 9th from 9-11am, **or** Friday after 2pm at Holy Nativity. If you can help package baked goods, Linda Fernelius would appreciate any and all help starting at 2pm Friday at Holy Nativity.

**Please join the fun while supporting FLW's mission to raise funds for Every Meal.**

# Vicar's Article

February, for me, is synonymous with Valentine's Day, love, romance, and poetry. I've been writing poetry since I was six years old, about anything and everything—whatever, whenever and wherever it hits me. My mom used to tell stories of how I would come running in the door after school breathlessly demanding paper and pencil with great urgency, because a poem had come to me, and I needed to write it down before I forgot it. Sometimes poetry still comes to me like that, out of nowhere, often in the middle of the night, and if I don't record it right away, it escapes me. Of course, having started writing decades before the advent of computers, most of my poetry still exists only on hundreds of sheets of loose paper, so I have begun typing them into word documents, when I have spare time with nothing better to do. I recently came across the one below. I wrote it in the 1980s. Consider it my valentine to all of you.

With love... *Vicar Karen*

## If You're Going To Dream

If you're going to fly your dreams like a kite, don't be surprised if they get tangled in the trees.

If you want to ride the crests of the mightiest of waves, then you're going to have to sail some stormy seas.

If you decide to play the game, but fail to follow all the rules, then you might lose or have to forfeit your next turn.

And if you're going to ride your heart like a rocket to the stars, then you take the risk that you might crash and burn.

If you're going to build your castles in the sand, then the tide just might carry them away.

If you aspire to acquire all the finer things in life, then there's a price that you're going to have to pay.

If you choose to cast your nets out in the open sea, then there's a chance you just might catch a great white shark.

If you're going to give your love to anyone who comes along, then you're bound to incur a broken heart.

Baby, you're a dreamer and a fairytale believer in a world where happy endings are seldom found.

You must be less fanatical, and a little bit more practical to keep your tender heart safe and sound.

It's alright to walk about with your head up in the clouds, but keep your feet anchored firmly to the ground.

If you ever hope to find your handsome prince, then you'll likely have to kiss a lot of toads.

Before you arrive at your intended destination, you may find you have to travel many roads.

On the journey to attain your dream of happy-ever-after, you're bound to experience some heartache and some pain.

You'll never find your pot of gold at any rainbow's end without first getting baptized by the rain.

## Pastoral Acts

Celebration of Life for James Dahmen— January 3

Celebration of Life for Frederick (Fred) Starke-January 13

Celebration of Life for Gayland Halter-January 27




**God of compassion, help us care for those who are hurting or in need of healing prayers. In our congregation, we remember: David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Jackie Mueller, Betty Schmidt, Linda St. John, Jackie Woolgar, Vic Woolgar. We ask for your comfort for those who have lost loved ones, including the Swanson family, the Overman family, Larry Geer on the death of his friend Fred Starke and the family of Gayland Halter on his passing. We pray for these and all who need care, in Jesus name. Amen.**

## Announcements

### **Join us for Treats and Talk on Sunday Mornings!**

Join us in the library after worship on Sunday mornings for treats and conversation.

**Mission of the Month** for February will be determined at the Annual Meeting on January 28th.



Community meal and fundraiser to benefit PRISM & NEAR Food Shelves through an effort of volunteers and local businesses!

*Tuesday, March 19th, 2024*  
*Cooper High School*  
*5:00pm - 7:30pm*

To sponsor, donate, or volunteer  
<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Robbinsdale-Public-School-District>  
<https://ced.rdale.org/community/empty-bowls>  
[www.facebook.com/EmptyBowlsRAS](http://www.facebook.com/EmptyBowlsRAS)



**Movie and games (and popcorn)**

**for all Ages!**

**February 25 at 3:00pm**

### WELCA UPDATE!

On January 11th, 7 FLW women gathered in community to discuss ways to revive the group focusing on having fun together (#1 priority) and identifying service projects that are naturally fun and social in nature. Lively brainstorming resulted in a list of interesting and meaningful activities that are open to all who want to join the fun! That is how this happened!



Sign up sheet to attend in the narthex or contact the office.



You are invited to a night of

## Cards, Cookies,

and Cabernet & Chardonnay

Brought to you by WELCA.

Come and make "easy" Valentines cards for our shut in's and you could make a few for yourself for friends and family.  
 Everyone is welcome!!!





THURSDAY, FEB 8, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

CARDS AND COOKIES

SUE'S HOUSE  
3111 DREW AVE. NO.  
ROBBINSDALE

## Thank you!

**NEAR's 2023 Holiday Toy Distribution Event** - We want to extend a huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's event; whether it was by donating toys, gifts, winter hats etc., fleece blankets or financial support. Also, thanks to all who volunteered to plan, prepare, set up at the community center and helped on the day of the event. With your assistance, we were able to provide toys and gifts to approximately 460 kids (140 households)!!

Thank you for your continued support of the NEAR Food Shelf!

With Gratitude,  
Thea Bruley

Food Shelf Manager/Afternoon Volunteer Coordinator

**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota:** Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

With gratitude,  
Jesse M. Stremcha  
Vice President of Development

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:** Thank you for your monetary gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,  
Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity

**CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Programs):** Thank you for your recent gift to CEAP! CEAP continues to see an increase in need for our Food Market and Mobile Market and an increased demand for Meals on Wheels as winter weather approaches. Your gift ensures that we can nourish every neighbor.

Thank you again,  
Clare Brumback  
CEAP President

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:** Thank you for your gift to ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

In Christ,  
Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity

### **Online Live Streaming and Recorded Worship**

For those who prefer at home and online worship and have wondered how to access it, we're here to help! Start by going to [www.faithlilacway.org](http://www.faithlilacway.org) On our main web page, click on Worship Online With Us, this will take you to the ONLINE WORSHIP page. Click on the LIVESTREAMS button to watch worship services. If you log on shortly before 9:30am, you will most likely see the date of the service displayed. When service begins you will be able to hear and see Sunday's worship service. If you wish to take communion, please have your elements of bread and wine or juice gathered prior to the start of service.


If you weren't able to watch a Sunday service at 9:30am, you would be able to access the recorded service a day or two after the worship service. Follow the instructions above and on the ONLINE WORSHIP page, the video will be accessible by clicking on the forward arrow.

There is no charge for live streaming or recorded services access. Need assistance? Contact the office and we'll be happy to help! 763.537.4523

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February			
Cori Vallis	2	Christine Evenson	18
Kyle Anderson	3	Grace Whitney	18
William Rosenberg	10	Ruby Henkels	19
Mesa Vierzba	11	Joyce Merkel	20
Brian Blackman	13	Miranda Hortenbach	21
Dave Fernelius	16	Sarah Peloquin	28
Larry Geer	17		

We apologize if your name is missing. Please call the office, we are probably missing your birthday in our system.



**American Red Cross** | Blood Services

American Red Cross Blood Drive  
 Thursday, February 29th  
 FLW Fellowship Hall  
 Schedule an appointment to donate at:  
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>



**You're invited!**  
 Bingo at Robbins Way  
 Thursday, February 22, 2024  
 4:30pm  
 Snacks, prizes and lots of fun!

It's hard to think of Spring with the cold weather but Easter will be here before we know it. ↓

## 2024 EASTER FLOWERS

Order your Easter flowers now to beautify the church and then your home! **Orders with payment due March 3!**

Here are the prices:

		Qty	Total
<b>Easter Lily</b>	<b>\$9.25</b>	_____	_____
<b>Tulips</b>	<b>\$8.75</b>	_____	_____
<small>(choose color: red/purple/yellow/assortment) Assortment is selected by Lynde Greenhouse &amp; Nursery</small>			
<b>Mums</b>	<b>\$9.25</b>	_____	_____
<small>(choose color: purple/yellow/white/assortment) Assortment is selected by Lynde Greenhouse &amp; Nursery</small>			
<b>Hydrangeas</b>	<b>\$16.25</b>	_____	_____
<small>(pink only)</small>			
<b>Pansy Bowl</b>	<b>\$16.50</b>	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>		_____	_____

In memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Given by: (please include your phone number)

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### Be a part of the Snow Team!

This year we are creating a "Snow Team" of dedicated volunteers to take care of snow-blowing the sidewalks around the church. Sign up in the church Narthex or call the church office to sign up for a week at a time to keep the sidewalks clear and safe. 763.537.4523



**Wednesday Midweek Lenten Soup and Services**  
**Lenten Soup and Supper**  
**February 14, 21,28, March 6,13,20**  
**5:00 PM Soup Supper**  
**6:30 PM Worship**

**Come for soup and fellowship and then stay for the service!**

**Soup Supper and Conversation:**

Sign up in the narthex or contact the office to sign up to bring a soup or a salad. Don't like to cook? Come anyway. There's plenty to share. All are welcome!

**Wednesday Midweek Lenten Theme: Altered by the Spirit**

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, we are going to look at a kaleidoscope of stories from the Book of Acts around this theme: "Altered by the Spirit." As we engage with the Book of Acts, we will explore ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us.

Pastor Pam, Vicar Karen, Pastor Colin Grangaard from First Lutheran, Pastor Gretchen Rode from House of Hope, and Pastor Jason Walstrom from Holy Nativity have each chosen a scripture from Acts and will rotate between our churches, exploring the work of the Holy Spirit, and finding ourselves:

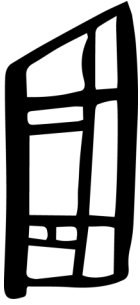
- + Altered by the Spirit;
- +Altered Through God's Creativity;
- +Altered on the Edge of Belonging;
- +Altered Alongside Our Enemies;
- +Altered by Disruption;
- +Altered Through Stories We Don't Trust?



**Curious? Come and see how the Holy Spirit is at work.  
 Come and See what God has in store for you!**

**Robbinsdale Events**

**ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED!** There will be four elections in Robbinsdale in 2024 and we need Election Judges! The first election, the Presidential Nomination Primary, is on March 5, 2024. Election Judges are needed to administer all elections in 2024. Election Judges are PAID officials who staff our voting locations, administer election procedures, and ensure voting rights are protected. Election Judges provide an essential service to our city and our democracy. To apply, please visit [robbinsdalemn.com/elections](http://robbinsdalemn.com/elections).



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**. Ash Wednesday - February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day!**  
Happy Valentine's Day! A blessed Ash Wednesday to You!

This Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday. On a day that is arguably the most solemn day, a day in which we remember our mortality, we will also be remembering God's great love for us. After all, it's Valentine's Day! So, come and receive an ashen cross on your forehead as a reminder that you are God's beloved. Come and see how the Holy Spirit is at work, altering our hearts and the world because, while the weather may be cold, God's love is warm enough to make you melt. We're giving away both ashen crosses and chocolate hearts.

**Robbins Way Ash Wednesday Service at 12:00noon**

**You are invited:  
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Lenten Soup and Supper  
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6:30 PM Worship**

**Come for soup and fellowship and then stay for the service!**