

VOICE Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

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The season of Lent is perhaps one of the most important and significant in the church year. It is the time when the passion and death of Jesus come into focus. It begins with a special day of repentance, Ash Wednesday (this year on Valentine's Day, February 14), and ends in the depth of sorrow and tragedy of Good Friday.

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word "lencten" meaning "spring" and is related to our word "lengthen." Taken literally, the word means that this is the time of the year when the days lengthen. For Christians, the Lenten season is a time of preparation, reflection, growth, and change. Lent can be seen as the springtime of the soul—a time of growth in faith and a time to nurture the faith that is already ours.

In the early church, Lent became a time to prepare people, who were new to the faith, for baptism on Easter Sunday. By the middle of the fourth century, a 40-day preparation period had been established. During that time, candidates for Baptism fasted and heard lectures from early church leaders. Later, the season of Lent became a time for all Christians to prepare for Easter. It remains a 40-day period, not counting Sundays,

Continued on page 5 column 3

Our Journey Through Lent

LENTEN THEME:
SIX LIVES -
SIX STORIES



FEBRUARY 14

Soup Supper:
6:00 pm

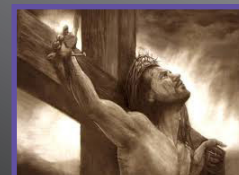
Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes & Communion:
7:00 pm



FEBRUARY 21 & 28

Soup Supper:
6:00 pm

Lenten Service:
7:00 pm



Special points of interest:

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Council President's Corner

At the January 9 Council meeting, we discussed the plans for 2024. We thank the congregation for their generous giving in 2023; we were able to get our budget into the black before the end of 2023. On January 14, our bookkeeper, Paul Brandstetter, shared the Council recommended 2024 budget and answered questions at the Budget Workshop.

Thank you to all our congregation members who attended our Annual Meeting on January

28. We accepted the nomination of four new members to the 2024 Church Council!

I would like to extend my thanks to all the Council members for their service this past year and a special thanks to Stephanie Schoenborn for her 5 years on Council. I also am ending my two terms on Council and would like to thank everyone for their support over the past 6 years.

Yours in Christ,
Melissa Probst



Education

THIS IS OUR SACRED SPACE

This is our sacred space.

We need to get ready.
Each child greeted by name and asked,
"...are you ready?"

An invitation, a choice that's all theirs
With a yes or a nod or a smile,
Into the room, greeted again by name,
Making a comfortable circle to sit for a while.
A story is told, Liturgical, Old Testament,
New Testament,
Or maybe one of the parables.

This is our sacred space.

When the story is complete, we have
wondering so deep,
We wonder where we see ourselves in the
story.

We wonder what part is the most important.
We wonder what could be left out and still
have all we need.

No answer is right, no answer is wrong,
Here, our thoughts can just ... be.

This is our sacred space.

Now we can work and play with God,
Some color, draw, or write,
Some use clay, or paint with colors both dark
and bright.
Some work with a story until it sings in their
heart.

We work together, we work on our own.

This is our sacred space.

We come back to the circle and enjoy a
small feast.

Gathered as a family
our work, for now, has
ceased.

We offer up prayers,
out loud or silently.

Together, together,
with our Godly Play® family.

This is our sacred space.

A blessing or sending as we say our
farewells,

Until next time, my friends, until the next
story we tell.

One by one, loved and deeply known,
How special they are, they are shown.

This is our sacred space.



GODLY PLAY® TRAINING FOR EBENEZER'S VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM FEBRUARY 23-25

Friday ~ 5:00-8:30 pm

Saturday ~ 8:30 am-5:30 pm

Sunday ~ 10:30 am-1:30 pm

This will be free training for Ebenezer members and an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding about children's spirituality and how we nurture it in Godly Play®.

If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the office, 425-334-0421 or ebenezer@ebenezerlakestevens.org. Joy will need a head-count to prepare all the materials *and* meals. Thank you!

6TH-12TH GRADE CLASS

Sundays at 8:45 am in the Youth Room

We'll meet
on February
4, 11, and
18. We

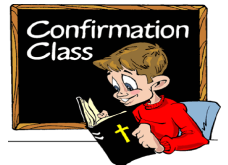


enjoy treats, learning, discussion, and
other activities. Questions? Please talk to
Virginia or Anya.

EDUCATION MINISTRY

WATCH (Wednesday At The Church)

Students (7th-8th
grades) will meet
with Pastor Benson
and Anya at 6 pm on
February 7. Questions?



Call the church office, 425-334-0421.

Snow Policy on Wednesdays

If Lake Stevens School District is closed, Confirmation and Worship services are canceled. If Lake Stevens School District is late, call the church office after 12 pm to see if we are having class and worship.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, at 6 pm

We welcome you to join us in Room 3 for discussion and planning our education opportunities.



Youth of Ebenezer

6th-12th Grade Youth Contacts:
Virginia & Andi
Check your Ebenezer Phone Directory

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024



Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide fundraiser supporting hunger issues and organizations. The Youth of Ebenezer are collecting cash, coins, and checks to support Lake Stevens Hungry Hearts this year. Canned and packaged food items will be donated to the Lake Stevens Food Bank.

Watch for the youth with soup pots before and after the service on Souper Bowl Sunday. Thanks for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS, ABBI!

YOE congratulates one of our own for being recommended by the Nominating Committee for Ebenezer's Council Youth position. Excellent, Abbi!

YOUTH COMMITTEE (EYC) MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 ~ 8:45 AM

We will meet in the Youth Room. Youth and families, welcome!

NORWEGIAN PANCAKE BREAKFAST SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

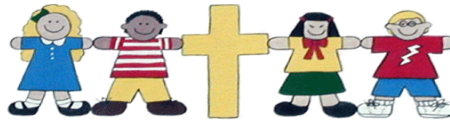


All 6th-12th grade youth will be able to help at the breakfast! It's on the third Saturday of each month October through May and is a great community event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

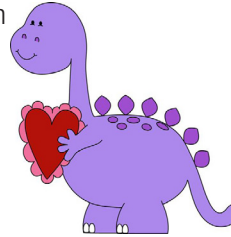
- Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser ~ Sunday, April 21, 2024. Keep watch for more information about this event. Proceeds will go toward sending three youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July.
- Synod's Children, Youth, & Family Ministry invites all 8th-12th graders to May Youth Weekend at Holden Village on May 17-19. Registration begins February 1. See Virginia to have a group attend.

Preschool



PRE-SCHOOL NEWS!

Our theme this month will be focusing on love, friendship, and families—and, of course, Valentine's Day. Each class will have a Valentine party celebrating with yummy treats and special Valentine's cards they will share with each other.



We will also be going over our safety unit. Preschoolers will learn about fire fighter and police officer safety tips and that fire fighters and police officers are our friends and are here to help us.

Our Bible lesson will be on the Good Samaritan learning how we can help others in their time of need.

Here's a Valentine song to sing together to the tune of *Three Blind Mice*:

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

Love, love, love – love, love, love
See how it grows, see how it grows.
I love my friends and they love me.
We love each other that's plain to see.
There's plenty for a big family.
Love, love, love – love, love, love

FALL 2024 REGISTRATION

It's time to register for the upcoming school year. Registration is open to all families.

Preschool families, please be sure to turn your registration forms in by the week of February 12 to ensure a spot for your child.

Spread the word! Tell your family, friends, and neighbors. Call the Preschool desk, 425-397-6374, or email, preschool@ebenezerlakestevens.org, for a registration form or if you have any questions.



Worship & Music

FAST MINISTRY

FAST Team Wilson members will serve during February. Team Papworth/Bauer, watch for the postcard coming in the mail in February.

FAST TEAMS HOST LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Each week a FAST Team will serve a simple meal of soup and bread. For their week, they will need the team's help to set up, to provide four pots of soup, and to help with cleanup so everyone can make it to the service on time. Call your leaders to ask how you can help. Here is the schedule for teams who serve:

- Team Cross on February 14 (Ash Wednesday)
- Team Shultz on February 21
- Team Shephard on February 28
- Team Wilson on March 6
- Team Briske on March 13
- Team Hoffmann on March 20

W.O.W. (Worship On Wednesdays)

Worship on February 7, in person or livestreamed on Facebook or YouTube, from 7:00-7:30 pm. The worship style changes each week and is very different from our Sunday worship. This service will be:

- Contemplative Prayer service

Join us to hear God's Word and receive His blessings.

LWR Quilts & Kits

A woman from Kharkiv, Ukraine, received a Personal Care Kit and a quilt during a distribution. "War can be so isolating," said LWR's Rev. Krick. "I continually heard at the distribution, 'Thank you for remembering us. Thank you for praying for us.' The quilts and kits are not just a material possession. They really do represent love and kindness and hope that there are other people in the world who care."

—Rev. Tim Krick, Lutheran World Relief



Events Page

ELCA 40 DAYS OF GIVING

ELCA World Hunger's 40 DAYS of Giving Join ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving this Lent! Your donations will work to address hunger and poverty through education, advocacy, relief, and sustainable development.

ELCA World Hunger works to address hunger both domestically and globally. Here in the United States, they offer hunger grants to address local issues such as food security, clean water, housing, job access, and more. Recently, they provided a \$75,000 grant to Faith Lutheran Church in Everett to help create Faith Family Village, a temporary housing community.

Please prayerfully consider donations to this effort to support innovative solutions and get at the root causes of hunger. Make checks payable to Ebenezer Lutheran Church and use the World Hunger envelope found in the Narthex to designate your gift. Place it in the offering plate or mail your own envelope from home. Ebenezer will forward all donations to the ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving campaign. Give a gift. Change lives.

CELTIC PARTY! EBENEZER'S FELLOWSHIP HALL SATURDAY, MARCH 9 ~ 5:30 PM



The Choir is preparing for this annual event to benefit their music program and to give to Ebenezer's General Fund. A full sit-down dinner with authentic Irish food including lamb stew and corned beef with cabbage. Raffles! Irish Music!

You can purchase tickets from any choir member; the church office, 425-334-0421; or on Sundays, February 18, 25, and March 3, in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets: \$18 for adults; \$15 active military, students, and seniors. Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

If you have any questions, please contact Iris Ingram Forbus.

NORWEGIAN PANCAKE BREAKFAST BENEFIT: COMMUNITY RESOURCE CTR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 ~ 7:30-10:30 AM

The all-you-can-eat pancakes are delicious! The cost is ages 13-99 ~ \$10, 5-12 ~ \$5, 4 & under ~ FREE, 100+ ~ FREE.



You're encouraged to bring friends and neighbors to the breakfast to support the Lake Stevens Community Resource Center. It is hoped we will be able to partner with Thrivent in this endeavor.

The January benefit for Community Supper Program generated \$1,000. Thank you for your support and generosity.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 ~ 10 AM-12 PM



Bring your project or start a new one with yarn we provide. Patterns can be knitted or crocheted, your choice. Questions? Call Lynn Riggs. To give a prayer shawl as a gift, please ask.

BUILDING SECURITY

Recently a Fellowship Hall door was left unlocked while the building was unoccupied. It's important that everyone with a key please double check that a locked door is secure. Contact Ken Cross if you need help.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

- **Pinochle ~ Sunday, February 4, beginning promptly at 1:30 pm.** This event is for those who love to play pinochle. New this month, we will have a pinochle refresher time from 12:30-1:30 pm. Check out upcoming events on our web page at www.ebenezerlakestevens.org. Questions? Call JoAnn Cross.



- **Wits Workout ~ Monday, February 5, at 2 pm.** This is a time to laugh, have fun with friends, and maybe even sharpen your thinking skills. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Call Jane Briske.

- **Ebenezer's Book Club Discussion ~ Monday, February 5, at 4 pm.**

If you have read or are interested in reading *Forty*



Autumns: A Family's Story of Courage and Survival on Both Sides of the Berlin Wall by Nina Willner, join us for a short discussion of January's book.

During February we'll read *LaRose* by Louise Erdrich.

If you have questions or to learn how to obtain copies of these books, please contact Jane Briske.

- **Snowshoe or Cross-country Ski ~ Saturday, February 10, leaving the church at 8 am.** The destination may be weather dependent. We have snowshoes to lend if you need them. Contact Grey Robinson or Ken Cross.

- **Valentine's Day Potluck ~ Wednesday, February 14, at noon.**

There will be a potluck lunch for EVERYONE. Bring a dish to share and let's enjoy fun and fellowship. Questions? Call Jane Briske.



- **Summer Holden Village ~ July 15-19.**

A group from Ebenezer is heading to Holden this summer. Register NOW online at www.holdenvillage.org. Note on your reservation that you want to be with "Ebenezer Group." There are no cell phones, TVs, fast food, or traffic, just a beautiful view, hiking, crafts, speakers, and many activities for all ages. Interested in going? Please talk to Ken and JoAnn Cross for travel arrangements.

- **Save the Dates:**

-Everett Aquasox Game - July 4
-Camping at Lutherwood - August 16-18

Ministries of Ebenezer

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Required Minimum Distribution



If you have an IRA and take minimum distributions, this will help both the church and

you. Ask your tax adviser about this option especially in light of recent tax law changes which have raised the standard deduction amount for all taxpayers.

If you are over 72, the funds paid to Ebenezer Lutheran Church may be “Qualified Charitable Distributions” (QCD). This may be an important way to eliminate taxes paid on minimum distributions if paid directly to the 501(c)(3).

Offering Envelopes

You can recycle your old offering envelopes at any time. Just put them in the box on the door of Office #3 or give them to JoAnn.

JoAnn Cross

finance@ebenezerlakestevens.org

COMMUNITY SUPPER



Community Supper is currently serving FREE take-out only meals every Thursday from 4-6 pm. Since serving take-out meals, we have served an average of 300 each week.

“Like” us at Lake Stevens Community Supper on Facebook to see what is happening. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support for this program. For more information, contact supper@ebenezerlakestevens.org.

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Living Lutheran concluded their printed magazine at the end of 2023. There is no cost to sign up for the magazine’s e-digest where readers can get links to stories, based on their preferences, delivered to their inbox weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Sign up today!

PASTOR’S NEW MEMBER CLASS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 ~ 10:30 AM



Membership Class

Pastor’s New Members Class begins on the 18th. If you are interested in becoming a member of Ebenezer, talk to Pastor Benson after the 9:30 service or call the office, 425-334-0421.

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Benson’s Thursday morning Bible Study will begin at 10 am. Join us every week in February in the Fireside Room as we dig deeper into the lessons that will be read on the following Sunday.

MAR-CILLA CIRCLE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 ~ 10:30 AM

All women are invited to join in fellowship and Bible study in the Fireside Room. On February 6 the Mar-Cilla Circle will meet at 10:30 am. Bring a lunch—dessert and coffee will be provided. Study topic for February is “Wisdom from Proverbs 2-9.” Copies of the study will be in the Mar-Cilla Circle mailbox at church. Welcome!

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

EBENEZER’S FIRESIDE ROOM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 ~ 10 AM

ALL women are invited to join us for this Bible Study from *Gather*, the wonderful women’s magazine of the ELCA. Questions? Please call Lynn Riggs.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

KIRK CLAPPER ROOM TUESDAYS AT 9:00 AM

The Birth & Growth of the N.T. Church.

Pastor John is teaching this Bible Study—ranging from John the Baptist and Jesus to Stephen, Peter, Paul, John the Apostle, and others. We’ll explore the foundation and mission of the Church and those whose lives proclaimed the Good News that is God’s gift to us. All are invited to attend. Questions? Call the office, 425-334-0421.

From the Pastor’s Desk Continued

because all Sundays are considered “little Easters” and are festival days.

During the Middle Ages, Lent became a time of self-discipline and harsh self-examination. The season was so strict that most people dreaded its coming. Through time, the harsh demands and expectations have been softened and relaxed. People today look to Lent as a time of growth and change. They often include fasting or restriction of some of their favorite foods or drinks during the 40 days of Lent. Some people spend more time in prayer and meditation, while others give up habits they think unnecessary. Still others search to discover how they can share God’s love with others in the world in meaningful ways.

Purple is the color associated with the season of Lent and is used in churches, like Ebenezer, that observe liturgical traditions. Purple is a solemn color, reminiscent of royalty and repentance. It reflects the serious and somber nature of this time in the life of the church.

As we turn to God during this season of Lent, we are aware of our sin and rejoice in the forgiveness promised to us through our baptisms. I encourage you to make and keep a resolve to pray daily, read a passage from Scripture every day, and worship on Wednesdays and Sundays. You’ll be richer spiritually if you do.

May God bless you richly and deeply during this Lenten Season.

Pastor Benson

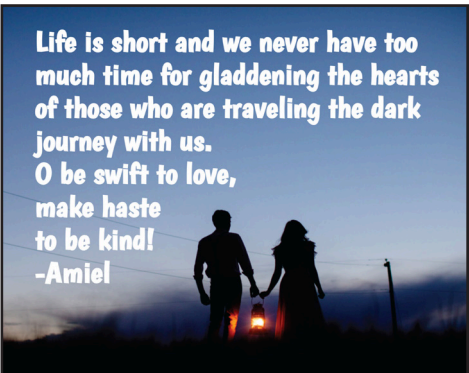
BOOK NOOK LIBRARY

Check out the new books in the library by the upstairs bathrooms. There are shelf labels with “New Books” and “Ebenezer Book Club Favorites.” Check out is simple: Write your name and the title of the book on the clipboard and enjoy reading. When you are finished, return the book to the box marked “Returned Books” and enter the return date on the clipboard.



Our February Birthdays

Name	Birth Date (month/day)	Name	Birth Date (month/day)
Egtvet, Brennan	2/1	Matthews, Alexis	2/17
Anderson, Marnie	2/6	Graff, Mary	2/22
Papworth, Diane	2/6	Nicholson, Katy	2/23
Large, Emma	2/13	Parzyk, Kathy	2/23
Appelgate, Diane	2/14	Schoenborn, Justin	2/25
Werner, Alice	2/14	Martuch, Dominic	2/26
Ballard, Elizabeth	2/15	Marks, Sandy	2/29
Johnson, Sherene	2/17		



The Prayer Corner

Prayer Chain:



If you have an urgent need, please call Prayer Chain leader Ken Cross. He will contact Prayer Chain

members to pray for your request. Please pray for the following:

Members of the Congregation:

Mary Alstad	Mary Lamb
Dennis Anderson	Terry Lambert
Marcella Bergerson	David Large
Gale Brandstetter	Barb Lyon
Neil Brandt	Debbie May
Jennifer Flax	Joe Probst
Sheldon Hendrickson	Margaret Ren
George Hughes	Keith Saathoff
Pat Jackson	Leah Tate

Homebound or Special Care Residents:

Ethel Coryell	Nancy Poremba
Bob DeFrang	

Extended Family/Friends with Cancer:

Paul (Kay Caulfield's friend)
 Dennis Aikman (Hannah Sellars' cousin)
 Kristine Andersen (Iris Ingram Forbus' friend)
 Dan Bagwell (Melissa Probst's brother-in-law)
 Heather Bland (Kathy Parzyk's niece)
 Marin Drage (Betty Bauer's friend)
 Mary Jo DuBeau (Betty Bauer's friend)
 LeRoy Ettlin (Fran Clapper's friend)
 Bill Flansburg (Fran Clapper's brother)
 Chris Grigsby (Kathy Larsen's great-nephew)

Ron Gunter (Kay Caulfield's friend)
 Ron Herzog Sr (Jackie Herzog-Robertson's friend)
 Curt Johnson (Neil Brandt's nephew)
 Wyeth Larson (Robin Lindsay's cousin)
 Peggy Layne (Terry Lambert's sister)
 Mary McLeod (Molly Ballard-Delgado's mother)
 Carol Mohn (Fran Clapper's friend)
 Bruce Mullikin (Fran Clapper's friend)
 Mike O'Connell (Cindy Sheppard's brother)
 Susan Pratt (Fran Clapper's cousin)
 Norma Reynolds (Fran Clapper's daughter)
 Jodi Sanders (Pam Shultz's friend)
 Carole Thorngate (Fran Clapper's cousin)
 Sean Walker (Kay Caulfield's nephew)

Extended Family/Friends with Needs:

Helena (Kay Caulfield's granddaughter)
 Jillian (Bill & Janine DiMonda's daughter)
 John William (Sally Yates' grandson)
 Jonas (Bill & Janine DiMonda's grandson)
 Melissa (Sally Yates' daughter)
 Zack & Riley (Mary Alstad's grandchildren)
 Hans Bersas (Ellen Bersas' husband)
 Kenny Blake (Pat Jackson's godson)
 Terrie Bright (Patty Myntti's sister)
 Danny Cooper (Erlene Cooper's son)
 Logan DiMonda (Bill & Janine DiMonda's son)
 Rose DiVittorio (Joe & Paula Olson's daughter)
 Bob Dyer (Sally Yates' brother)
 Henry Dyer (Sally Yates' brother)
 Kate Everley (CC Kuehl's daughter)
 Heather Garbes (Mary Lamb's friend)
 Kayla Gay (Helen Hendrickson's niece)

Ryder Jacobson (MaryJo DuBeau's nephew)
 Ron Koepsell (Betty Bauer's brother)
 Eric Mittag (Patty Myntti's nephew)
 Sue Pryor (Helen Hendrickson's niece)
 Mark Rice (Alice Werner's nephew)
 Elinor Shultz (Alice Werner's sister-in-law)
 Diana Thomsen (J & A Wesling's daughter)
 Meggi Ward (Susan Shephard's friend)
 Bridget Wellen (M Ren's granddaughter)
 Cale Werner (Alice Werner's grandson)
 Fiona Werner (Alice Werner's granddaughter)
 Tom Wood (Ken Holmes' father)
 Karen Young (Betty Bauer's cousin)

Preschool Director, Staff, & Families

All Our Military and Their Families:

Hunter Gardoski, Sid Hendrickson Jr, Ethan Stuart, Alec Zimmerman, Tyler Perry

Those Who Grieve:

Bauer, Vache, & Rock Families - Betty Bauer's friend, Barbara Vache, passed away
 Iffrig & Shephard Families - Susan Shephard's father Bill Iffrig passed away
 Kuehl Family - Wayne Kuehl's mother Marilyn Kuehl passed away
 Perry & Larsen Families - Carol Perry passed away
 Peterson Family - Phyllis Peterson's cousin Roger Hartman passed away

Readings for Worship

February 4 (Communion)

1st Lesson: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

2nd Lesson: I Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

February 11

1st Lesson: II Kings 2:1-12

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

2nd Lesson: II Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 18 (Communion)

1st Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

2nd Lesson: I Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

February 25

1st Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

2nd Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38



WORSHIP

February 4	9:30 am
February 7	WOW Service - 7:00 pm
February 11	9:30 am
February 14	Soup Supper - 6:00 pm
	Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 pm
February 18	9:30 am
February 21	Soup Supper - 6:00 pm
	Lenten Service - 7:00 pm
February 25	9:30 am
February 28	Soup Supper - 6:00 pm
	Lenten Service - 7:00 pm

Sundays ~ Check the calendar:

- 8:45 am ~ 6th-12th Graders ~ Youth Room
- 9:30 am ~ Godly Play® starts in Sanctuary

Church Office Hours

Monday	Office Closed
Tuesday	9:00-12:30 & 1:30-5:00
Wednesday	9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:00
Thursday	9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:00
Friday	9:00-12:30 & 1:30-4:00

Living Lutheran

We are a church who welcomes all people. At least we hope we do. In the online edition at livinglutheran.org, an article describes a program of the ELCA for indigenous leaders and pastoral candidates to serve their communities in ways that respect their culture. Indigenous people who are followers of Jesus will have college and seminary studies that relate to their needs.

Lutherans of African Descent gathered in Minneapolis last fall to connect with one another, receive new skills, share resources, and rejuvenate leaders. One of the participants said he wanted them to reclaim “whose we are and who we are: unashamedly African Descent and unapologetically Lutheran.” Welcome to all.

Read other faith stories on your computer or phone at www.livinglutheran.org.

Special Thanks

Amazing and Beautiful

The Worship & Music Committee would like to thank all who purchased poinsettias this past Christmas. The Sanctuary looked amazing and beautiful for us and our guests! –Blessings! Jeanette Backstrom

Generous Donors

With sincere gratitude, I would like to thank you for your generosity. In 2023 Ebenezer donated \$1575 to the Food Bank. Your donations help us provide healthy food and staples as well as toiletries and diapers to our friends and neighbors who may be struggling. Your gifts have a deep and lasting impact for the betterment of all in our community. –Anthony Hawley, Executive Director Lake Stevens Community Food Bank

Greatly Appreciated

Thank you for your recent donation of

\$356 (Bake Sale proceeds) to Lake Stevens Community Resource Center, a private non-profit organization. Your donations totaled \$1,156 in 2023. Because of donors like you, VOAWW is able to serve over 300,000 individuals right here in Western Washington each year, providing food, shelter, and support to our most vulnerable neighbors.

–Jessica Moore

Vice President of Development

Volunteers of America Western Washington

Awesome Work!

Thank you to the hardworking Norwegian Pancake Breakfast team for the dedication at the January breakfast to provide a delicious meal benefiting the Lake Stevens Community Supper Program, serving our community free meals. You are an awesome team doing awesome work!

–JoAnn Cross, Leader

Lake Stevens Community Supper Program

Ebenezer Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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Lake Stevens, WA 98258

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Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14
Lenten Theme: Six Lives - Six Stories

Join us each Wednesday for
Soup Supper at 6:00 pm
Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 pm


Remember to post your calendar!

JESUS LOVES ...



In the News

God-Shaped Hole



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life,

and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with—and to find our fulfillment in—our Savior!

Easter Chrysanthemums


We'll be ordering mums for Easter this year. Information will be available in the Sunday announcements and March *VOICE*.

Ebenezer's 2024 Phone Directory

The church office is getting ready to print the annual Ebenezer Phone Directory. If you have changed your name, address, phone number, or email, please notify Roseanne in the office, 425-334-0421, by March 1.

If you are interested in having the announcements emailed to you weekly or the *VOICE* newsletter emailed monthly, please let Roseanne know, 425-334-0421 or ebenezer@ebenezerlakestevens.org.

Watch Out ~ Check Washing Fraud



Though other payment modes are replacing them, checks are still used often enough for scammers to exploit. One trick is "check washing" in which crooks steal checks from mailboxes and bathe them in household chemicals to erase the original name and dollar amount, leaving blank spaces they can fill in. It is possible to convert a \$25 check to one for thousands of dollars.

How to stay safe: The U.S. Postal Inspection Service recommends depositing your outgoing mail in blue collection boxes before the day's last pickup, so it does not sit for as long. At home, avoid leaving mail in your own mailbox overnight, and have your mail held by the post office or picked up by a friend or neighbor if you are going to be away.

—Melissa Probst