

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

Action at Asbury



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Pastor's Pondering

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18), you are doing right. – (James 2:8)

Love your neighbor is at the very core of our faith. I am absolutely convinced of that. Our faith is not about ourselves, but the community which we share.

Jesus' entire life's ministry was grounded in doing the will of his Father. It was grounded in caring for EVERYONE he encountered, whether that meant healing the sick, feeding the hungry, or eating with sinners. He was the master of loving those whom no one else would love.

But the greatest example Jesus offers to us of him valuing community over individualism was his willingness to go to the cross for folks like you and me – sinners that he loved enough to lay down his life. People he never physically met yet held a place in his welcoming heart.

Remember Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane? It was the night that he would be arrested. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me? Yet not as I will, but as you will."

If Jesus valued his life over ours, if he valued individual choice over communal good, then his prayer would have been very different. He would not have prayed that last sentence, but instead would have asked his Father, for whom all things are possible, to save him from death. He, as an individual, would live, he would never have faced the cross, and we, as a community, would die an eternal death.

But Jesus valued community first. Life was not about him; it was always about "the other." That is the example he has left us to live by.

What sacrifice will you offer, as followers of Jesus, for the good of those around you – for the good of community? What individual rights or privileges will you give up to best love your neighbor? I pray that we all take a moment, and think about it... pray about it...

Blessings,

Pastor Will



February Worship Schedule and Themes

February 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany The Sacrament of Holy Communion 10 a.m. Worship

Scripture: Luke 4: 21-30 & Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Sermon: "Jesus of Nazareth: Who Do You Think You Are?"

The people who knew Jesus and his family when he was a youngster, had a difficult time accepting him as their Messiah. After all, he was nothing more than the carpenter's son. Who is Jesus to you? A Biblical character? A friend? Your Savior? You must decide.

February 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10 a.m. Worship

Rev. Duane Andrus will lead worship.

February 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 10 a.m. Worship

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 & Luke 6: 17-26

Sermon: "It's All About Resurrection"

Resurrection is what sets us apart. Resurrection means that we have hope for our eternal future. Today, we will focus on that resurrection promise of Jesus; the promise on which our faith rests.

February 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 10 a.m. Worship

Scripture: Luke 6: 27-38 & Psalm 37: 1-11 & 39-40

Sermon: "The Greatest Challenge"

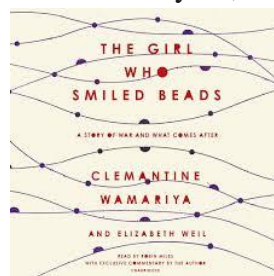
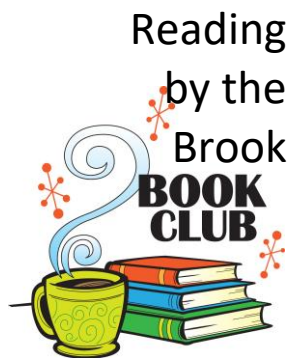
Love your enemies. Nothing in life can be more difficult. Yet this is what Jesus commanded. How can we make this happen? How can we grow our faith to carry out this directive? We will explore the greatest challenge this week.



Continuing Care List

Ardis Bender, Winfred Bold, Jerriann & Larry Burns, Harriet Christopherson, Dale Clark, Lloyd Coulthard, Darlene and Richard Coulthard, La Vita Fanta, Don Isbell, Diana Jewson, Russ Kuykendall, Janet Luiting, Shirley Martin, Shirley Nelson, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Arlette Walker, and Ione Watson.

We will meet at 4:30 p.m. on February 18, at Kathy Dahlke's home.



This month the Asbury Book Club will be reading *The Girl Who Smiled Beads* by authors Clemantine Wamariya and Elizabeth Weil.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “The plot provided by the universe was filled with starvation, war and rape. I would not—could not—live in that tale.”

In *The Girl Who Smiled Beads*, Clemantine provokes us to look beyond the label of “victim” and recognize the power of the imagination to transcend even the most profound injuries and aftershocks. Devastating yet beautiful, and bracingly original, it is a powerful testament to her commitment to constructing a life on her own terms.

Readers that are interested in joining us are welcome! For more information, please contact Kathy Dahlke at (608-295-7623) rkdahlke@yahoo.com



Please note the time change for our Soup and Salad during Lent. During Lenten Wednesdays we will start with a Soup and Salad Luncheon at noon. Followed with a 1 p.m. Lenten service.

Amy will place the Soup and Salad Sign-up sheets in the Narthex during February since Lenten starts at the beginning of March.

Soup and Salad will be on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9.



 School District of Ja... 5h · 

On Jan. 18, six students from the School District of Janesville participated in the Wisconsin Concert Band Association's 2025 All-State Junior Band at UW-Whitewater!

These students were nominated by their band directors to be part of this ensemble based on their musicianship and leadership skills. Pictured from left are: Kelsey Goodger ([Marshall Middle School](#)), Ruth Eddy (Marshall), Violet Rosburg ([Edison Middle School](#)), Emma Cugno-York (Edison), Parker Fuhrmann (Marshall) and Isaac Krug ([SDJ Franklin Middle School](#)).

Congratulations musicians!



December saw income of \$20,169.69 and expenses of \$16,746.88
Unrestricted Net Assets is at \$22,771.26

Missions

House of Mercy Homeless Shelter \$203.00
YWCA Rock County \$203.00
GIFTS Men's Shelter \$204.00
ECHO \$150.00

Thank you for your generosity

Julie Polzin, Asbury Bookkeeper
asburybookkeeper@charter.net



**I will sing of
the Lord's great
love forever.**

PSALM 89:1

Prayer Shawl Ministry

You are invited to share in this caring ministry. Shawls can be created from any pattern, knit or crocheted, any shape, any color, and approximately 24 x 60 inches to wrap around a loved one. Yarn is available in a tote under the counter in the narthex.

Asbury's Prayer Shawls have been blessed and prayed over, then draped on the pews in the sanctuary. These are available for anyone to take and share with a friend or loved one who may need a soft, warm, shawl as a display of God's Love, His hope, His peace, and His comfort.

Come join our stitchery group and share in the joy of creating together every Wednesday 9 to 10:30 a.m.



CARE Team is always in need of people willing to volunteer to send out cards to those who are unable to get out and about.

If this is something you are interested in, please contact the church office or Linda Sailing.

Remember the happiness of opening up your mailbox and seeing a beautiful card with warm wishes inside instead of those bills or grocery flyers.



Ministry Matters Moments: Thank you for your monetary support of the January Ministry Matters focus on **Red Bird Mission**. Our February core will be **LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry®**

RETHINK CHURCH ASBURY UMC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Ministry Name: LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry®

Ministry Location: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 210 Ringold St., Janesville, WI. 53545

Ministry E-Mail: www.lutherchurchcharities.org

LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry®

Launched in August 2008, the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are working animals, trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need. The dogs participate in scheduled and special events. Dogs are permanently placed with churches, schools and other ministries involved in Christian human care by LCC. Permanent placement includes full training for handlers and caregivers along with ongoing support, coaching and training. LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs live in the homes of assigned caregivers.

The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serve every day in the community in which they are placed and are deployed in times of disaster and crisis to bring comfort to all those affected, including first responders and the volunteers who serve them.

Lutheran Church Charities currently has over 130 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serving in more than 27 states. LCC operates three training facilities in Illinois. LCC never charges those we serve. We are able to do that with the support of donors.

God
demonstrates
his own
love for us...

ROMANS 5:8





Date & Name(s)

- 1st - Brent DeRemer
- 12th - Mark McKinney & Alexis Nelson
- 13th - Cari Croft & James Foss
- 14th - Austin Laufenberg
- 15th - Dave Hubbard
- 20th - Jeff North
- 25th - Andrew Cresswell
- 26th - Duane Andrus & Arlie Ellis
- 28th - Will Jewson



Reminder - Asbury's Money Counters Need Your Help -

Please place your contributions in an envelope found either in the pews or on the counter in the Narthex. Please be sure to include your full name, date, your envelope number if known, and the amount of your contribution.

Contributions for missions can be added to "OTHER" with the mission noted on the line below.

Contributions for Pledges can be added to "GENERAL FUND".


Please add your total contribution on the "TOTAL" line.

Please do not tape your envelopes shut.

If an envelope is not filled out, we need to fill out an envelope for you which extends the amount of time it takes for us on Monday mornings.

We thank you for your help.

Vicki Jo Barlass and Connie Nelson

	An Offering To God Through The United Methodist Church	General Fund \$ <u>45-</u>
	<i>"...we give thee thanks, and we praise your glorious name...everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is yours already." 1 Chronicles 29:13-14</i>	Building Fund \$ <u>100-</u>
	Name <u>John Doe</u>	Other \$ <u>20-</u> <u>Red Bird Mission</u> <small>(Please Specify)</small>
	Date <u>1/19/25</u> Envelope No. <u>500</u>	Total <u>3 cks</u> \$ <u>165-</u> <small>Cokesbury</small>



Do you enjoy walking?

But not in this cold winter weather.

- We would like to open our church doors to create a walking group or time.
- If you are interested, you can call our office or email us.
- Please make sure to include your name, days, and times that you would like to walk.

Hope to hear from you soon. 😊

Thank
You!



Asbury Mitten Tree

Our Asbury Mitten Tree was once again very fruitful.

Your donations totaled 135 hats and 91 pairs of mittens/ gloves. Elementary schools receiving the winter gear were Adams, Jackson, Lincoln and Roosevelt. In addition, hats, scarves and slippers were donated to the YWCA women's shelter. Also, this year small sized hats were delivered to the Community Kids Learning Center. A bag of hats was given to ECHO to be used in their outreach program. GIFTS men's shelter also received a bag of warm hats.

Thank you for donating with love!



Sunday, January 12, 2025, The Mejia family was present for Pastor Will to baptize the little fella Valencio Tomas Mejia. If you get a chance, you should watch the video cutest baptism ever.



ALL ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

Draw a picture of what God's love means to you...

What's your favorite Bible verse about God's love...

JESUS LOVES ME

God's love is...

© CRI • www.ChurchArt.com

JESUS LOVES ME

THINGS I LOVE...

H	Z	F	N	C	O	Q	N	A	Y
E	P	R	O	Z	J	Q	E	B	I
A	R	J	E	L	G	R	D	K	H
T	Y	S	G	O	O	N	N	H	
A	B	U	J	E	L	I	W	D	O
H	N	S	O	E	N	O	C	S	P
J	Q	G	Y	Q	T	T	V	E	E
W	U	R	E	F	F	S	L	E	S
T	W	X	H	L	L	N	A	E	A

REJOICE
HEART
LOVE
FOLLOWS
ANGEL
HOPE
GENTLE
JESUS
KIND
JOY

START

SPY...

Find & color the below images on the page



How many hearts can you find on the page?

a. 12 b. 14 c. 9

AS THE FATHER HAS
LOVED ME,
SO HAVE I LOVED YOU.
NOW REMAIN IN
MY LOVE.

John 15:9, NIV



COLOR THE BOOKMARK
& THEN CUT IT OUT.



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Jazz Band Practice @ 9 a.m. Praise Band Practice @ 10 a.m.
2 Choir Practice @ 8:30 a.m. Community time @ 9 a.m. Sunday Service w/Communion @ 10 a.m. 	3 Pastor Will is on vacation	4 Pastor Will is on vacation	5 Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m. Pastor Will is on vacation	6 Pastor Will is on vacation	7 Pastor Will is on vacation	8 Pastor Will is on vacation
9 Choir Practice @ 8:30 a.m. Community time @ 9 a.m. Sunday Service w/Rev. Andrus @ 10 a.m. Pastor Will is on vacation	10 Pastor Will is on vacation	11 Men's Breakfast @ Eagle Inn @ 8:30 a.m.	12 Women's Covenant @ 8 a.m. @ Eagle Inn Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	13	14 	15
16 Choir Practice @ 8:30 a.m. Community time @ 9 a.m. Sunday Service @ 10 a.m.	17	18 Book Club @ 4:30 p.m. @ Kathy Dahlke's house	19 Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	20 Historian meeting @ 9:00 a.m.	21	22 Jazz Band Practice @ 9 a.m. Praise Band Practice @ 10 a.m.
23 Choir Practice @ 8:30 a.m. Community time @ 9 a.m. Sunday Service @ 10 a.m.	24	25	26 Stitching Group @ 9-10:30 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	27	28	

* Newsletter articles are submitted to Amy Powell at asburyumc@charter.net



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FEBRUARY
2025