

groups of Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at our facility, one on Friday mornings and one on Saturday mornings both meeting at 11 in Danford Hall.

## Mini January Forward for January 18, 2022

### Message from the Pastor

**What is Evangelism?** Continuing on with our Reformation Day questions ...

One soul asks, “what is evangelism?” Just in case he/she means “what the *heck* is evangelism?” evangelism comes from the Greek *evangelion*, which means “good news.” So to be an evangelist is to be someone who delivers or passes along good news. However, I suspect our questioner is poking at the deeper question of how we be evangelists in a time when our “good news” is not always delivered or received as such. Even the word, *evangelist*, has been coopted by the likes of Rick Warren, Ted Haggard, and Joel Osteen, media moguls who with dazzling, persistent smiles market, package, and sell the gospel to their star-struck fans. For all our faults, most Lutherans have the good sense to steer clear of such exhibitionism. Money always seems to find a way to undermine the gospel – and these media circuses are awash in money.

It seems to me the first rule of evangelism should be (to quote Hippocrates) *primum non nocere*, “first, do no harm.” The good news should always be good news. It should never be used to threaten or control. The gospel is not that Jesus will save you if you go to church every Sunday, tithe your earnings, and generally toe the line. Rather it is that Jesus saves us precisely because we fail miserably at doing these things. Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Evangelism is not about winning souls for Jesus, as if he was somehow too feeble to complete the task himself and needed us to bring it home. Our *evangelion* is not that people *can* be saved, but that they *have* been saved. It is not that Christ has opened the gate to heaven for us to come ambling through if we can, but rather that Christ has scooped us up, run the length of the field, and spiked us into the end zone. To proclaim that we *might* be saved makes for a lukewarm message at best. But to stand before someone who is being consumed by fear, shame, self-loathing, addiction, anger, despair, or just plain ol’ garden variety angst, and to be able to tell them that God loves them exactly as they are, without changing, contributing, or subscribing, well ... that *is* good news.

Of course, to find those who most need this good news, we will need to go where they can be found and that may not be where we want to find them, in our pews or in our neighborhood, and it may be that a sandwich, a sleeping bag, or a loan communicates much more persuasively than words. Some who hear this good news may even what to

join with us in passing it along to others, but I wouldn't count on it any more than Jesus did. How many disciples did Jesus have in the end? Oh, that's right: none. Our job is not to change the world or tally the numbers. Our job as evangelists is simply to tell the good news, and then give thanks for the power of that *evangelion* to change everything.

*Pastor Gehring*

### Sunday Volunteers for February 2022

Position	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Cantor</b>	Juli Rauch	Tim Jordan	Ruth Gehring	Kerrill Foster
<b>Lector</b>	Dick Shiels	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Gerry Billy	Sadie Smith
<b>Usher</b>	Charles Cooperider	Charlie-Laidlaw Smith	Greg Everingham	Don Miller
<b>Counters</b>	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Kerrill Foster, Don Miller

***Flower and Candles are available for January and February. Please contact the church office if you can donate towards the flowers or sanctuary candles.***

In December, flowers were provided on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> by Wanda Cooperider in honor of *Ernest Cooperiders's* 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Nancy Coad provided flowers and candle on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> in honor of *Kay Coad Edman*, on the 19<sup>th</sup> in memory of *Franklin and Hanella Coad* and on the 26<sup>th</sup> in honor of *Dean Pope*.

### February Birthdays

1 - Christopher Logan	Paul Meyers	16 - Clara Hinger
2 - Denise Crews	7 - Courtney Swisher	Connie Rutter
Ryan Green	8 - Silas Engle-Abbott	20 - Marti Kolb-Conner
Tiffany Myers	Emily Ossa	22 - Nick Baker
3 - Gene Crawmer	10 - Carlos McElfresh	Thelma Trainor
Traci Dupler	12 - Dick Daly (83)	23 - Arianna Hinger
Karen Jordan	Susan Enderle	Michael Mumaw
Katherine Plante	Daniel Fuller	Tanya Myers
4 - Troy Triplett	13 - Jeff Kinser	26 - Kate (Daly) Jordan-
Tabatha Trost	14 - Richard Barrett	Downs
6 - Gerry Billy	15 - Matt Godenschwager	29 - Linda Kinser
Kaitlyn Carpenter	Starr Cummings	

### **February Anniversaries**

- 3 - Ernest & Wanda Cooperider (63)
- 5 - Wayne & Margaret Marx (50)
- 6 - David & Elviria Engle (48)
- 8 - Ben & Crystal Stamper (25)
- 9 - Jayson & Megan Thorpe (14)
- 14 - Ron & Mary Howard (58)
- 19 - Francis & Laura Pastorius (17)
- 22 - Chuck & Jane Lawrence (19)

**Please keep the following people in your prayers: *Bill Wittman, Linda Smart, Richard Buse*** (Terri Beamer's brother), ***Lee Sidle***, (friend of Gene Lamp).



**Those with long-term ongoing concerns:** Mary Beamer (now in hospice care), Tambra Simon, Pastor Martin Waack, Milton & Carmella Holman, Ernie Cooperider, Peg Hupp, Starr Cummings, Pamela Graham, Jena Olien-Harris, Logan Johnson, Marshall Rosene, Pastor Betsy, Ruth Swinehart, Ginny Baker, Betty Neighbarger, Wilma Keller, Terry Nelson, Margaret Marx, Rose Godenschwager, Frances Slebodnik, Terrie Baker, Alice Smith.

***If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.***

### **Notes to the Church and Congregation:**

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment.**

**SHUT-INS** – If you are in need of pastoral care, a friendly visit, or would like communion brought to your home, please contact the office and leave a message with Jodie between the hours of 10 and 2. Thanks!

**ARE YOU GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?** – The Grief Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of January and February at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Thelma Trainor or Jean Hovland.

**RUMMAGE SALE PLANS!!!** After a 2-year hiatus, plans are being made to hold the church rummage sale the weekend after Easter in 2022, Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. In order to make this happen, we need volunteers to arrange items on the tables, work during the sale and help box up and move on remaining items on Saturday afternoon. If you can help, please come to a meeting on Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9 a.m. A light breakfast will be provided. If you cannot attend but can help, please see Kerrill Foster or Diane Ganz.

**MITTEN TREE ROUND UP** – This year we collected 80 hats, 105 pairs of mittens, 16 scarves, 22 pairs of socks and 7 blankets!!! Not bad for a pandemic!! Marti Kolb-Conner delivered our donations to the Salvation Army in time for their Christmas distribution. Thank you to everyone and thank you, Marti!

**THE WHEN'S AND THE WHERE'S – If your group is starting up again, please let us know so we can get your information on the church calendar!**

- ***ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB*** meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- ***AA*** meets every Saturday morning at 11 a.m. in Danford Hall and on Fridays at noon.
- ***Friday Fellowship Bible Study*** meets every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- ***Ruth Circle*** meets next on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 to noon in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council*** will meet Monday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.