

Happening in February

W'ELCA Meeting—

On Wednesday, February 7th at 1:30 p.m., Hannah Circle will host our monthly meeting. The program will be provided by Lois Hartman, who will be showing slides and telling us about her trip to Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum located in Williamstown and Petersburg, Kentucky respectively. The main attraction is a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark! Snacks will be served. YUM!

Serving Teams—

Team #4, co-chaired by Kathy Duerr, Kate Trowbridge and Kathy Bowers, will serve at the next event. Thank you to Team #3 for serving at a funeral on January 6th.

Altar Guild—

Lois Hartman's team will be preparing The Lord's Supper in February. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help in January. For some this was their first time, but Barb DeFrang taught them how to set up communion, so don't be intimidated. It's not difficult, but it is **essential** to our worship! Please say yes when called.

The Chosen—

While this is a Church-wide event, W'ELCA would like to remind you that this wonderful series about Jesus' life will continue to be shown on Sundays, February 11th and 25th at 1:00 p.m. What a wonderful way to ready our minds and hearts for Lent!

January in Review

W'ELCA meeting—




Pastor Guy installed the officers for 2024. Jan Bauman is our only new officer, replacing Marianne Kutrieb as treasurer. Marianne was given a picture of a beautiful waterfall, featuring the Bible verse John 7:38, to thank her for 23 years of service to W'ELCA as our previous treasurer. Your board hosted the January meeting, and entertained with a skit entitled *Walking Shoes*. In this skit, Lily was shopping for comfortable and supportive walking shoes for a 5K Walk for Needy Souls. Tilly was the voice of reason, helping her focus on the this goal. The Saleslady (aka the Holy Spirit) was trying to help Lily make the right decision, and shows her a sturdy walking shoe with a light to help her see while walking through the evening on an uneven wooded path with stumbling blocks. Meanwhile, a Shoe Model (aka Temptation) was trying to distract Lily from her goal by offering shoes with BLING that were not at all practical, nor would they fit her needs. In the end, Lily finds that the walking shoes are very comfortable, and is happy for the light to mark her way through her walk. As our Saleslady remarks, "His word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path." Temptation, though she made a beautiful Vanna White, was not victorious! See picture on next page.



Focus on Lent

Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter . We remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying, while being tempted by the devil. We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday, when Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in the sign of the Cross. These ashes are the burned palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This reminds us to "Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return." This solemn day signifies humility, mortality, and the acknowledgement of our human frailty. We recognize that we need God every minute and are encouraged to develop a more disciplined, intimate and authentic prayer life. As we prepare spiritually to celebrate Easter, we reflect on our lives, confess our sins, and seek repentance. What is repentance? "A regretful acknowledgement of sin with a commitment to change." Sin separates us from God. As we contemplate what our Lord did for us on the cross, we realize the enormity of his gift to us. Not only are we cleansed from sin, but we are freed from shame! Instead of setting our own self-motivated New Year's Resolutions, perhaps we would do better to listen for God's leading. God's lead might be more difficult than any resolution, and we realize we cannot do His will by our own strength. In 2 Corinthians 12:8 Paul is told by the Lord, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, as we reflect, pray, and listen for God's guidance, we strengthen our spirituality and grow closer to God. That is what Lent means to me.

Fat Tuesday—

Before we enter Lent on February 14th (Valentine's Day)  we fortify ourselves with a special meal. Once again Chetek Lutheran will provide a meatball, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and dessert meal! On Tuesday, February 13th beginning at 4:30 you can purchase a meal for \$10.00 by following the signs to our drive through, where your takeout meal will be delivered right to your warm car. Don't be late—meals sell out quickly!

Did you know?

If you visit www.womenoftheelca.org, you will find a lot of information about our ministry and free resources, such as daily devotions, blogs, and publications!