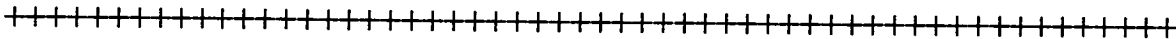


Holy Communion Lutheran Church

February, 2016

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The Rev. Dr. David N. Mielke, STS, Pastor
The congregation of Holy Communion, Ministers
Mrs. Judy Townsend, February Children’s Sunday school teacher
Mrs. Edna Russell, Organist
Mrs. Pat Townsend, Council President



Pastor’s Letter

Dear Friends in Christ, our Church family,

I don’t have to tell you that we are in the throes of winter. It was mild up to mid-January but then it hit and, as I write, we haven’t had our cars on the road for ten days. To some folks winter speaks of a time of barrenness and frigid feelings of discomfort. Heavy gray clouds and harsh winds sting our faces and steal our smiles. But with grim determination we trudge on within our own world of heavy coats and frosty windows. For them it is truly the “dead of winter.”

But not all agree with this assessment. The highways are busy as ski buffs are at our resorts to do their thing. They think of winter as a time to warm up to a crackling fire. They toss Christmas, New Years, the Super Bowl and St. Valentines Day all together and celebrate. A salesman at Lowes told me Friday that one skier bought a gas grill so he could prepare his hamburgers out doors.

What a difference a perspective makes. But winter is the ideal season to slow down. It is a time to give an extra few hours in quiet reverence. It is a time to take a walk on the snow to remind ourselves that “our God is in the heavens and He does whatever He pleases.” (Psalm 115:3) It is winter right now. Are you wondering if your soul will ever thaw? Take it by faith, my friends, that God is here. When this season ends, not too long from now, we will all be wiser, deeper, and stronger.

Sue and I had a wonderful January visit in Kansas with Laura, Scott, and our grandchildren, Henry and Ellen. Their lives are very involved around school, organized sports and their church. We also had an opportunity in late December to visit with Matt and Shawna and our grandson Levi in Durham. God has blessed each of us with the gift of family.

You have called me as your pastor. That means I am a professional person in your life. I need to know when you have medical problems and other personal needs. I do not share your confidences with others. I will ask you if you want me to mention your concern with the congregation through the bulletin. So why do you need to let me know? So I may include you in my daily prayers and help you through any difficult times you may have. That's one of the reasons I am here. Please let me know when you are facing medical treatment or other situations on which prayer may be focused.

You must recognize that Sue and I also have a personal life beyond my role as your pastor. We thank you that you respect our privacy and see that we also have pursuits separate from Holy Communion. We love each of you and thank you for the "space" you have allowed us to have. You are our family and within a family we have respect for each other's boundaries.

We are approaching the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 10. Plan to usher in Lent with worship at our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. Lent is a time of personal "cleansing" as we focus on our Lord's extreme sacrifice and His Resurrection on Easter. May God bless each of you.

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor David Mielke+

Ask Ms. Townsend

(Each month Ms. Townsend will answer questions which have been asked by members of our congregation or respond to issues which come up in general conversation.)

Dear Ms. Townsend,

Why do Lutheran pastors wear special robes when they lead worship? In my son's church the pastor just wears a suit and tie – and sometimes jeans and a "T" shirt?

Just Wondering

Dear Just,

Worship is the most important act for a Christian. We gather in the sanctuary with Christian symbolism all around us – including what the pastor wears. In the very early Church the priests tried to be as inconspicuous as possible to avoid detection by the Roman authorities so they conducted worship in street clothes. After the Roman Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity the church adopted vestments for its worship leaders. Services consisted primarily of Scripture, Prayer, and Holy Communion and the priest wore an alb, stole, cincture and chasuble, each with its own symbolism.

The **alb** is a floor length robe with full sleeves and is always white. The name “alb” comes from the Latin *albus* or white. This is the garment Jesus wore (John 19:23) and is distinguished from other garments worn at the time. In the Sixth Century the alb was established as the Christian leader’s vestment. Worship leaders, both lay and ordained - anyone leading an aspect of worship may wear an alb. For worship services not including Holy Communion, and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, our pastor wears a black cassock, the historical every-day clothing of a pastor. During worship it is covered by a white surplis and a stole.

The **stole** is a long narrow piece of cloth worn around the pastor’s shoulders like a yoke. It is symbolic of obedience to God (yoking with God) and represents the authority of a pastor. The stole may reflect the color of the church seasons or may have a special significance. Reaching back into Bible history, the stole reminds people of the towel worn by a town official around his neck as he greets weary travelers and washes their dust-covered feet. The stole is a sign of humility and servitude and speaks of the pastor’s responsibility to serve his/her congregation.

The **cincture** is a rope to hold the stole in place. It is a reminder of Christ’s scourge ordered by Pilate and is a symbol of self-restraint and suffering. “Cincture comes from Latin and means “girdle.”

The **chasuble** is a Eucharistic (Holy Communion) vestment. It literally means “little house” in Latin and in the early Church was considered like a “bib” to protect the pastor if any Communion elements were spilled. It is worn over the alb and stole. Chasubles reflect the liturgical color of the day and are worn during the Holy Communion (Liturgy of the Baptized) portion of the worship service.

The familiar **clerical collar** goes all the way back to the First Century when it was the practice of public speakers to wrap a white cloth around their necks to protect their voices from cold weather. Soon the clerical collar was adopted by the Church as a simple and inexpensive symbol of the pastor. The word “collar” comes from the Latin word for neck.

Ms. Townsend

News and Celebrations

On **February 7** the children’s focus will dwell on the needs of the hungry in our society as we get ready to watch the “Super Bowl.” An offering will be received and given to the Hospitality House in Boone to assist in feeding the homeless.

On **February 14**, St. Valentine’s Day, we will have a special dinner of Lasagna or Spaghetti following worship. This dinner will be SERVED by our youth and proceeds used to support the summer Cherokee trip. We urge you to buy tickets in advance, \$8 person, \$15 couple, \$2 children. You may assist the youth in providing a dessert, or if you cannot attend, a monetary donation.

Prayer Concerns and Lists

Those in need of prayer for healing: Dorothy Greene, Willie Mae Hege, Joey Hogan, Arnold Keener, Sandy Trexler, Jennifer Watson and Gary Weant. We also pray for all others who need the touch of God's healing hand. **Those confined to their homes:** Gaynell Campbell, Evelyn Hoilman, Earl Johnson, Betty Townsend and Nancy Townsend.

Birthdays in February

Feb 4 – Chloe Eller	Feb 20 – Kenzie Eller & Phyllis Chester
Feb 5 – Ray Townsend	Feb 22 – Michelle Daughtry
Feb 6 – Michael Miller	Feb 23 – Joshua Townsend
Feb 8 – Jackie Mitchell	Feb 25 – Faith Townsend
Feb 12 – Sharon Townsend	Feb 26 – Rick Townsend
Feb 18 – Lisa Lail	Feb 28 – Hannah Presnell
Feb 19 – Nora Chapman, Ruby Church, & Braden Greene	

Anniversaries in February

None – (Was it too cold or snowy to marry in February)

February's Activity Schedule

February 7	Sunday School (10am) / Holy Communion (11am) Sunday of the Transfiguration & "Souper Bowl" offering
February 10	Ash Wednesday Service (7pm) Disposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
February 14	Sunday School (10am) / Word and Prayer (11am) St. Valentines Day Lunch (tickets \$8 and \$2 for children) Congregation Council meeting following worship
February 21	Sunday School 10am / Holy Communion (11am)
February 28	Sunday School (10am) / Word and Prayer (11am)

Pastor's Humor for February - Bulletin Bloopers

February is Boy Scout month. They are collecting aluminum cans and other recyclables. The money raised will be used to cripple children.

Don't forget the church yard sale. It is a great opportunity to get rid of those things you don't need to keep around the house. Ladies, bring your husbands.

Ladies, please bring your electric girdles for the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

Mary Smith said "I will Not Pass this Way Again," giving much pleasure to our congregation.

The Conference on Peacemaking scheduled for this week has been cancelled due to a conflict.