



newsletter

Northwest Hills Church
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Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
 Suzy Parsons, Director of Christian Education
 Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 51 No. 2
 January 26, 2023

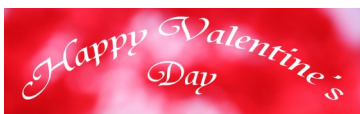
Barb Renicker, Music Director
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

February 2023

February 5		9:30 AM Worship/Communion (no Sunday school) 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Communion 1-4 PM Chin Church
February 12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!		9:30 AM Traditional Worship/Sunday School 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 1-4 PM Chin Church 4:30 -7:00 PM Ristorante Italiano—FH
February 19		9:30 AM Traditional Worship/Sunday School 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 1-4 PM Chin Church
February 22		7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
February 26		9:30 AM Traditional Worship/Sunday School 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 1-4 PM Chin Church 4-8 PM Chin Church—FH

FEBRUARY MISSION & SERVICE PROJECT

We will be creating **200** hand-made Valentines again this year for those in care facilities in our community! It is such a well-received kindness. Our "Valentine's Box" is available for you to drop off your works of art to share God's love with others. We will be collecting home-made Valentine Day cards through February 12th. (See collection box in the Commons). Thank you SO much for helping out!



The return of the Ristorante Italiano Spaghetti Dinner will be on February 12, 2023. We are doing something different this year: the dinner will be buffet style, and price is a can of pasta sauce or box of pasta to be given to the Food Pantry!



See Open Seating sign up sheets in the Commons. **THERE WILL BE A TV ON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THE SUPER BOWL!**

Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!



"We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well-wishes: Duane's heart procedure went well and he is feeling 100% better! We are grateful! Also, to all the women who bake for the bake sales. I keep some in the freezer and bring them out for friends/grandkids/dessert and even sample one on long days at work when I am at home. I'm very grateful for their hard work.... And.... maybe they could do it 4 times a year?"

- Laurie Salonen

"Thank you to my Northwest Hills Church family. I appreciate all the thoughts and prayers from everyone. I believe prayers are the best medicine. I am so blessed to have my church family. My intentions are to be back at church soon, depending on weather, temperatures and wind. Thanks again." - Sheri Swift

"The Church & Ministry Committee would like to thank all of you that gave of your time and energy to take down and pack away all of the Christmas decorations and trees. It's a very big project, but with everyone's help the job was finished much faster!"

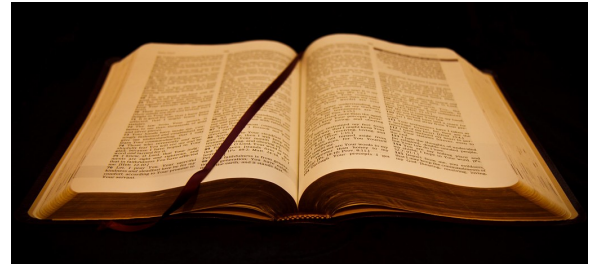
MEMBERSHIP CLASS: February 4th

Have you been attending Sunday worship and other church activities for a while now? We would love to invite you to experience the joy of belonging to our faith community through church membership. Pastor Alex will host a membership class on Saturday, February 4th from 10:30 AM to 12 noon in the Library. Our membership class is an opportunity to learn more about our church, what we believe, meet new people, and find ways to serve. Even if you decide not to join, it will still be time well spent. Please RSVP to Pastor Alex.

CRAFTERS!! SAVE THE DATE!

We're coming baaaaaack! Yes! Getting a "jump start" for the new year! Our craft group will be getting together in Room 128 at the church beginning at **1:00 PM** the second Tuesday of each month, starting March 14th. Please look for information in the church bulletin as the date approaches. We welcome new ideas for the upcoming year and know we are all excited to begin another year of crafting! Anyone who has an interest in helping with craft items is invited to attend these fun and productive afternoons. **No special skills are required!** You can either bring a craft project to work on or there will be many to choose from. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Sherry Mitchell at (402) 498-3597. We look forward to many afternoons of crafting with friends, while working toward our annual Northwest Hills' October Craft Show!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY will not meet during February. We will be excited to resume the Wednesday Bible Studies starting again March 1, 2023. We look forward to our special time of fellowship around the Word!



CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 PM in Room 128.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, RUTH CIRCLE, and HANNA CIRCLE will not meet

during February. However, Hannah Circle invites our Northwest Hills Church family to continue to donate to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Food Pantry (our community partner that we support year round).



During February, their greatest need and requested items are ramen noodles and pasta. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity in

helping provide nourishment to those in need in our immediate community. A bin is located in the Commons for this year round support.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet as needed. For any questions, call Terri Burrig, 402-659-6913.

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We look forward to getting together on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the Commons. It is a BYOB: "Bring Your Own Breakfast."

"The **CANASTA CLUB** will attend the OES Card Party on Tuesday, February 21 in Papillion. Please arrive and be ready to start playing by 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-392-0418 or 402-999-1052.



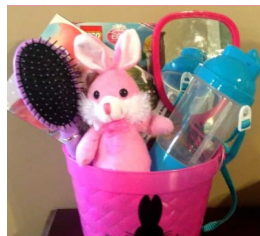
FEBRUARY MISSION & SERVICE PROJECT

We will be creating hand-made Valentines again this year for those in care facilities in our community! **We need 200 valentines!!** It was such a well-received and appreciated kindness. Our "Valentine's Box" will be out again starting this month to collect your hand-made cards to share God's love with others.



We will be collecting home-made Valentine Day cards through February 12th. (See collection box in the Commons). If anyone has suggestions as to where we can deliver them and a contact person at the facility, please let me know. We will be delivering again to Immanuel Fontenelle as the residents truly enjoy being remembered in this special way. Thank you SO much for helping out! — Kathy Caito, Chair

Looking ahead: we will once again be blessing the Lydia House with infant/toddler baskets for Easter! We will assemble the baskets on Sunday, March 26th, and will start collecting items mid-February. Look for details in the bulletins and Midweek emails.

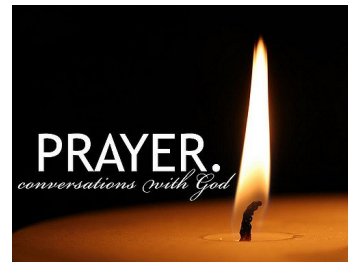
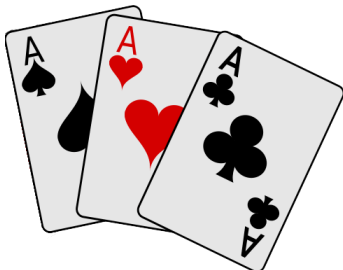


Looking ahead: SALAD LUNCH CARD PARTY!

Thursday, March 16th, 10-2, Fellowship Hall! Anyone can play, but must have had Covid shots/booster. Also need VOLUNTEERS for kitchen and to make salads. The cost for lunch is \$8.00. There will also be raffles and door prizes. Plan to arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM. If you have any questions, or would like

to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-392-0418 or 402-999-1052. We still need subs (men or women).

Please contact Lois Gapen at 402-572-6792 or Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068."



Prayer chain requests can be called to Lois Gapen at (402) 572-6792 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Drew Botsakos, Sandy Christopherson, Carol Scott, Connie Klaumann, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Jeff Walton, Susie Ryan, Cierra Ervin, Kelly Pitts, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Peg Hawkins (friend of Annie Kuti), Amy (Allie Johnson's mother-in-law); Sonja Briggs (Sherry Mitchell's sister)

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Sharon Kirby (Janet Delehoy's sister-in-law), Gail Schroeder, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Gail Formanack (friend of Bev Ambrosius), Paul Nitsick, Gary Dutton, David Arthur (friend of the Vincents), Susan Higginson, Vicki Nolan, (Leigh Powell's sister), Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Tracy Else, Ed Nacey

"He sent His Word, and healed them"

— Psalm 107:20

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

— Isaiah 53:5



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ah, love is in the air. Do you feel it? February is the month of love. Once the calendar turns to February, I immediately see images of Lady and the Tramp eating their spaghetti meal by candlelight and hear Dean Martin singing “That’s Amore” in my mind! Valentine’s Day is the time to celebrate love!

Not much is known about the origins of Valentine’s Day. The saint honored on February 14th is Valentine of Rome. Valentine was either a priest or bishop during the 3rd-century who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was also a martyr. Other than these bits of information, we don’t know much about him. But there are some interesting stories surrounding him. Legends claim that Saint Valentine secretly performed Christian weddings, defying a ban issued by the Roman emperor Claudius II. Also according to legend, Saint Valentine would cut out hearts from parchment and give them to persecuted Christians as a reminder of their marriage vows and God’s love.

Whether these legends are true, we might never know. But this annual festival of love is still celebrated all around the world today. While Valentine’s Day may only come once a year, there is one place where love is celebrated every day: the church. Here in the church, we celebrate love every time we gather. We celebrate God’s love for each of us and our love for one another.

One of the most common words for love in the Bible is the Hebrew word *hesed*, which occurs 248 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, and is usually translated “steadfast love” or “lovingkindness.” I will forever remember the definition one of my seminary professors gave for *hesed*: “a love that goes above and beyond what is required of you.”

This type of love represented by *hesed* is often acted out by God, but human beings can also act out this kind of love. We know that God goes above and beyond for us, but how can we love above and beyond what is required of us? Around Valentine’s Day, we go the extra mile to show our love to others. What if we loved like this year-round? What kind of impact would that make on the world?

We are a people all about love. “We love because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Let’s keep sharing and filling the world with love, a love based on the love God has shown us through Jesus Christ, a love that goes above and beyond.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures for February

EPHESIANS (continued) Who are you? A fundamental part of our being is our identity. In this series, pastor Alex will lead us through the apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, a letter that helps us understand our identity as followers of Jesus.

February 5—“A Mature Church” Ephesians 4:1-16

February 12—“Imitating God” Ephesians 4:21-5:2

February 19—“The Armor of God” Ephesians 6:10-20

The Gospel According to Leviticus: Lent 2023 Sermon Series

The book of Leviticus is full of strange rituals and laws. But Leviticus is a necessary part of God’s story of redemption. The book helps us understand God’s grace and the cost of sin, which makes it a great way to prepare for Holy Week.

February 26—“God’s Pleasure Toward Us” Leviticus 1:1-17

BAD WEATHER

Should very severe weather (dangerous travel and/or frigid temperatures) cause Northwest Hills to cancel a Sunday service, there will be three sources used to communicate a closure to you by 8:00 AM that morning: 1) The three major local television channels (WOWT NBC-6, KMTV-CBS-3, and KETV ABC-7) will have a continually updating scroll of closures at the bottom of the screen. Look for Northwest Hills under "church closures" 2) Facebook post and 3) Email.

Although we would love to see you and fellowship with you at church, please always choose caution and personal safety regarding attendance, even if services are NOT cancelled. If there is a concern regarding walking and driving in the white stuff and frozen patches, we'd rather you be safe and snuggled up at home rather than taking a chance of a fall or accident. We love you and care about you!



SINGLES & FRIENDS



Our February event is to attend the Ristorante Italiano Dinner on February 12th! Please see Lois Gapen to make sure you are added to our reservation list.

Looking ahead we will see all of you on Saturday, March 18th for our Spring Indoor Picnic at the church! Save the date!



Northwest Hills Preschool

SPROUT, BLOOM, GROW



NW Hills preschool is full!! We currently have 11 students. A new 5-year old boy started at the beginning of last month!! According to state regulations if we have additional students enroll we will have to hire a new person! That's a good problem to have. And more good news! We passed our surprise visit from the state. We only have one small thing we need to fix.

We continue to teach the children how to write their names, how to count, about science, art, reading, and literacy AND most importantly how to get along with our friends. The children have fun while learning! Besides teaching the basics, we also have the opportunity/privilege to teach them and their families about our culture. With that in mind we will have a Valentine's party on Feb. 10th.

DR. WERNER P. JENSEN SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships up to \$2500.00 are available for members of Northwest Hills Church who are pursuing a certificate or diploma from an institution of higher learning. This scholarship will be paid directly to the institution of education.

Completed applications should be returned to the church. Hard copies of the application and recommendation forms are available in the Commons or via email.

Criteria for Consideration:

- Applicant must be member at NWHC for a minimum of two years
- Exhibiting an active commitment of faith
- Application to an institution of higher learning
- Completed written application
- Completed recommendation letter(s) (see application form)
- Interview with committee
- Priority will be given to applicant not previously awarded this scholarship

DEADLINE: The **application** deadline is April 30th.

Recommendation forms are also due April 30th.

All documents must be returned to Northwest Hills Church, 9334 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134, attn: Scholarship Committee.



For God

So lo**V**ed the world

Th**A**t he gave his

On**L**y

Begott**E**n

So**N** so

Tha**T** Whoever

Bel**I**eves

IN Him Shall

Hav**E** everlasting

Life

John 3:16

REMINDER: Please be sure to check out our "You've Got Mail" table, especially if you have or will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary. Helps us as a church be wise stewards of our resources with saving on postage. Thank you!



COFFEE: The little blue Commons Coffee Coffe is hungry and needs to be fed....thank you in advance for your kind donations to keep the hot coffee flowing!



Celebrating "Three Kings Day" and learning all about the wise men seeking Jesus!



DID YOU KNOW....

You can watch the Sunday Sermon on YouTube? If you ever have to miss a Sunday due to illness or being out of town, you can still watch/listen the message!

Also, Northwest Hills Church has its own Facebook Page as an electronic outreach to the community! Spread the word and "like" our Page!





Preschoolers having fun playing in the snow! We get all bundled up in our snow gear to keep us warm. With cups and sticks we can create snow sculptures and make pretty marks in the snow. Inside we can make pretend snowflakes without the cold!

February 2023



We are starting something NEW!! The **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month (beginning February 5th) **ALL** kids will be in church for the full service (there will be no Sunday School). The third Sunday of each month there will be a short lesson AND a mission project to work on.

PK-5th Grade

February 5	Join parents for entire church service
February 12	Sunday School: Copy Cat!
February 19	Sunday School and Mission Project
February 26	Sunday School: What is Lent?



6th Grade-12th Grade EPIC Re-Charge

February 5	Church Service with parents
February 11	9-12 noon set up for Spaghetti Dinner
February 12	9:30 Set up and prepare for Spaghetti Dinner 4:00-8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner
February 19	Current Teen Topics in the Youth Room
February 26	Current Teen Topics in the Youth Room

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Choir Practice	2	3	4 9 Men's BYOB-C 10:30 Membership Class-L 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
5 9:30 Worship/ no SS Communion 11 Worship/Communion 1-4 Chin Church-S 6-9:30 Chin dancing-C	6 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	7 6:30 PM Bell Practice 7 PM Scouts—FH	8 6:30 PM Choir Practice	9 7PM Church Council mtg.-128	10 (set up for the Spaghetti dinner)	11 9-12 Youth set up for spaghetti dinner 9-3 Urbans-C 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
12 9:30 Worship/SS 11 AM Worship 1-4 Chin Church-S 4:30-7 Ristorante Italiano-FH 6-9:30 Chin dancing-C	13 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 6:30 PM Bells 7 PM Scouts-FH	15 6:30 PM Choir	16	17 6-10 PM Old Dominion Dancers	18 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
19 9:30 Worship/SS 11 Worship 1-4 Chin Church	20 <i>President's Day</i> <i>No Preschool</i> 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	21 10-2 OES cards at Papillion 6:30 PM Bells 7 PM Scouts-FH	22 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	23 9 AM NSL Crew-C	24	25 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
26 9:30 Worship/SS 11:00 Worship 1-4 Chin Church-S 4-8 Chin Church—FH	27 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	28 6:30 PM Bells 7 PM Scouts-FH			S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall	

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



3	Jim Killion	8	Tony Parsons	19	Theri Evitts
4	Glenda Kalina	10	Barb Renicker	20	Molly McCoy
5	Elizabeth Fiske	10	Maria Urban	21	Jeremiah Urban
6	Tanner Urban	12	Christopher Hunter	21	Chloe Volmer
6	Tyler Urban	14	Jason Key	22	Kathy Owens
8	Calleen Callahan	14	Caden Mahan	24	Nicole Fields
8	Pauline Hughes	14	Taylor Perez	24	Samantha Pitts
8	Allie Johnson	15	Susan Miller	24	Mattie Stricker
				25	Lake Stamp

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



3	Joseph Svacina & Kristi Stamp-Svacina
15	James & Susan Ryan
19	Anthony & Jodi Infante

