



newsletter

Northwest Hills Church
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Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator





Vol. 54 No. 2
January 27, 2026

Barb Renicker, Music Director
Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians



February 2026



February 1		9:30 AM Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) <i>"What Are We To Do?!"</i> Micah 6:1-8
February 8 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School <i>"An Unusual Way of Life"</i> Matthew 5:1-12 5:00 The "Big Game" Watch Party—C
February 15		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School Transfiguration Sunday <i>"Actually Listening to Jesus"</i> II Peter 1:16-21
February 18 Ash Wednesday		1-3 PM Crafters—Rm. 128 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
February 22		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School First Sunday of Lent <i>"The Roman Road: In the Beginning"</i> Romans 5:12-19



"The Big Game" Watch Party

Sunday, February 8th – 5:00 PM Commons

Come watch the "Big Game" on Sunday, February 8th at 5:00 PM here at the church in the Commons! Bring your favorite tailgate food or snack to share. Pastor Alex will provide the drinks. No RSVP needed, just come and enjoy!



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!



"Northwest Hills Church,

Thank you! Your generous donation of time and energy is amazing! All of your donated goods will go to the Winter Night Watch Program, aimed directly to the homeless. We appreciate you!

*— Maria Moreno & Todd Connely
Salvation Army"*

"Thank you to EVERYONE who purchased cookies during our November and December Cookie Sales! Our Northwest Hills family is simply the best!

Look for Easter Cookie order forms on the tables in the Commons mid-February; an order form will also be included in the March Newsletter. Thanks again for your support!

— Sarah Circle

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

Have**E** everlasting

Life

John 3:16

Deadline Sunday, February 8th!

FEBRUARY MISSION & SERVICE PROJECT

We are creating hand-made Valentines again this year for those in care facilities in our community! It was such a well-received and appreciated kindness. Our "Valentine's Box" is available the first week of February to collect your hand-made cards to share God's love with others.



We will be collecting home-made Valentine's Day cards through February 8th. (See collection box in the Commons) We will be delivering again to Immanuel Fontenelle on as the residents truly enjoy being remembered in this special way. Thank you SO much for helping out!

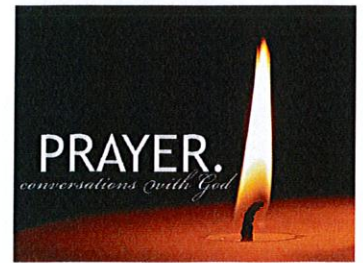
Have you been attending Sunday worship and other church activities for a while now? We would love to invite you to experience the joy of belonging to our faith community through church membership. Pastor Alex will be hosting a membership class in the near future. Our membership class gives folks the opportunity to learn more about our church, what we believe, meet new people, and find ways to get connected. Even if you decide not to join, it will still be time well spent in fellowship. Please reach out to Pastor Alex if you are considering exploring this possibility.



POP TABS: Our pop tab collection was so successful that we've decided to make this a year-round project! Now you can bring your pop tabs to church at your convenience so they don't accumulate in a pile at your home! Look for the big jar in the Commons. Thank you for your participation with our community partners – Ronald McDonald House and the Shriners!



Our church family will continue to collect **non-perishable food donations** for the Holy Cross Church Food Pantry. Our faithful contributions are blessing those in need who experience food insecurity in our immediate neighborhoods and community. Your selfless acts of sharing food with our neighbors makes a lasting impact in ways we may never know on this side of heaven. The bin for collections is located in the Commons for this year-round support. Thank you for your generosity!



Prayer chain requests can be called to Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

REMINDER: we are collecting "**white elephants**" throughout the year for our October sale! No clothes** or broken items, please. There is a large green bin in the Board Room (down the hall across from the main church office) for your items. Thank you for your contributions!

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:

CLOTHES** are being collected year-round for the Open Door Mission. New or clean, gently-used clothing can be deposited in the specially-marked bin in the Commons. Thank you for your kindness!

Continued Prayer Requests: Sandy Christopherson, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Jeff Walton, Cierra Ervin, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Peg Hawkins (friend of Annie Kuti), Steve Swift, Jerrie Wilcox, Nikki Heim, Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Key, Joanne Mears, Vicky (Nikki Heim's daughter); Linda Nelsen, Urban family, Benita Davis, Anusha Ganarajah, Knolan Murray, Artie Koterba



CRAFTERS! After a break during January, we are starting up again this month! All are welcome. Come anytime between 1-3 PM, Rm. 128. Questions? Contact Leigh Powell.

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Gary Dutton, Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Bill Owens, Pat Mixan, Sharon (Judy Cratty's sister), Caroline Williams, Christine Burright

ALL LADIES GROUPS/CIRCLES continue to take a break during the month of February. See you all in March!

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We are starting up early and will resume on Saturday, Feb. 7th at 9:00 AM in the Commons. It is a BYOB: "Bring Your Own Breakfast." All men of the church are invited for this great time of fellowship!

"He sent His Word, and healed them"
— Psalm 107:20



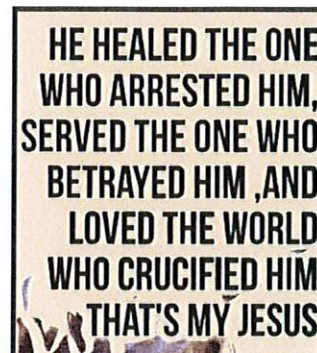
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES continue to take a break during February. We will see everyone again in March!

"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

CHURCH COUNCIL have their meeting on Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 PM in Room 128 (Community Room/Choir Room).

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday,
February 18th, 7:00 PM
Sanctuary



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

Throughout Scripture, the heart is seen as our inner self, our control center, the source of every thought, passion, and decision we have and make. “Everything you do flows from [your heart]” (Proverbs 4:23). “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). “For the Lord sees not as a man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

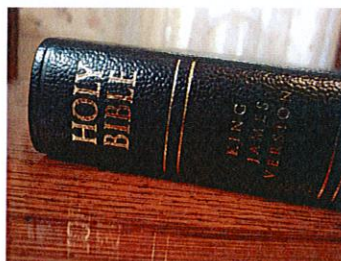
But what about your spiritual heart? Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to “love the Lord your God with *all your heart* and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). Are you deepening your relationship with God, relying on Christ’s grace, and looking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life? Or do you need to refill your heart with love towards God?

I am proud to see how so many of you are keeping your spiritual heart strong by attending worship, faithfully reading your Bible and praying daily, participating in fellowship activities, collecting food and clothing for those in need, and being there for those who need support.

In February and beyond, let's keep our physical and spiritual hearts healthy!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Alex

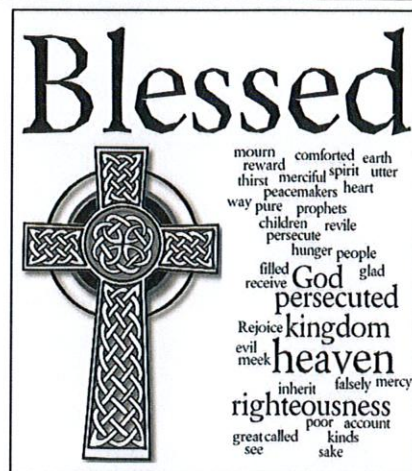


February 2026 Sermons

February 22 (First Sunday in Lent) – Romans 5:12-19,
“The Roman Road: In the Beginning”



SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed.





From our Northwest Hills Preschool...



Our little school is coasting along! The transition back to school after the long Christmas break was very smooth, thankfully! January was spent doing all sorts of winter themed science experiments and learning all about the Arctic and Antarctica.....it is even colder there than here! BRRRRR! We have all sorts of fun Valentine-themed activities planned for February, including a party! Our verse for February is "God is love." 1 John 4:16. Although short, it is indeed a very important message for these young children. Please pray that we can continue to show God's love to these children that have been entrusted to our care!

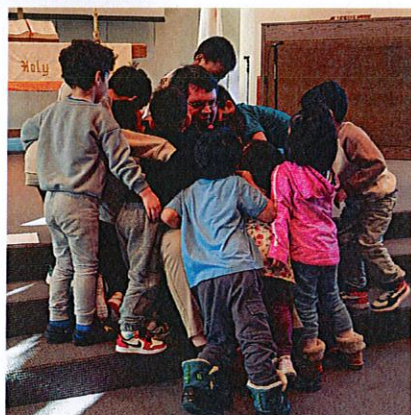
Happy Valentine's Day from the preschool crew!

— Jacque, Lori, and Robin



Every other Wednesday the preschoolers have "chapel" with Pastor Alex.

And of course there is always a big "group hug!"



We had our own indoor snow! We made snow angels on the floor and didn't even get wet!

Every play activity is an opportunity to learn our numbers, letters, shapes and colors!



Be watching for.....

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 will be available beginning March 1st, or via email. There will be two different applications: one for new applicants and another for re-applicants.

Criteria for Consideration:

- New applicants must have participated in church activities at Northwest Hills Church
- 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.





The **CANASTA CLUB** will attend the Alpha Chapter #325 Card Party on Tuesday, February 17th in Papillion (84th and Centennial St, Papillion). The cost for lunch is \$10.00. There will also be raffles and door prizes. Please arrive and be ready to start playing by 10:00 a.m. and have a *great* time!! If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-999-1052 or ddshafer@outlook.com. If you email, please put CANASTA in the subject line. There is just SO much junk mail that comes through, I don't want to miss your email. Also, we still need subs (men or women). Please call Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068.

The remaining 2026 Giving envelopes are available for pick up in the Commons (alpha by last name). If you have not been assigned a set and would like one, please see Leigh Powell. Thank you for your faithfulness.



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!



LADIES MAHONEY WINTER RETREAT

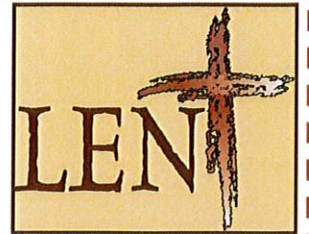
Thursday, January 29th
through
Sunday, February 1st

The ladies will be returning from their retreat. We pray they had a wonderful time of precious fellowship and refreshment to start off the New Year!

Looking ahead.....

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

On Wednesday evenings during Lent (February 25th through March 25th), Pastor Alex will host a time of fellowship followed by a prayer service. Fellowship (potluck style) will begin at 6:30 PM in the Commons area and the prayer service will begin at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome.



Just a few funnies to make you smile.....

"I don't believe that Noah took a pair of every kind of animal into the Ark. I don't believe Noah could round up all the animals in one herd without the skunk causing a stampede."

"Three friends — a surgeon, an engineer, and a politician — were discussing which of their professions was the oldest. The surgeon said: "Eve was created from Adam's rib—a surgical procedure." The engineer replied: "Before Adam and Eve were created, order was created out of chaos, and that was an engineering job." The politician said: "Yes, but who do you supposed created the chaos?"

"It's important for your health to have an attitude of gratitude. When you get up in the morning, do you say, 'Good Lord, morning!?' Or do you say, 'Good morning, Lord!?'"

THANKSGIVING ONE-LINERS...

"Just be thankful you're not getting all the government you're paying for." —Will Rogers

"I remember an elderly lady testifying that she had only two teeth left in her mouth (top and bottom) and she was 'rejoicing' because 'they hit.'" —Sherwood Eliot Wirt

"Joy is really the simplest form of gratitude." —Karl Barth

A cute little true story just to make you smile.....

"The happiest Methodists in Tulsa" (so says the church's slogan) go to Will Rogers United Methodist Church.

Yes, there is a Will Rogers United Methodist Church, named after the great American humorist. And FMC member Larry Jacobson, also a humorist, is the pastor.

The church recently celebrated its jubilee (50th) year.

As might be expected, Will Rogers church members have a lot of fun. "We do laugh a lot," says Rev. Jacobson.

Commenting on Roger's famous remark, "I never met a man I didn't like," associate pastor Terry Ewing suggested the church's slogan ought to be: "We are the folks Will Rogers never met."

Jacobson likes to play satiric little games with his congregation. He recently printed and passed out to the congregation the following list of new books he recommended in the church library:

Perfection and How I Attained It by Rev. L. Jacobson
Join the Crowd: How to Have a Dysfunctional Family
Tithing from Credit Cards
Road to Abundant Life — Jonah's Seaweed Diet
Learn the Bible While You Sleep
Self-Counseling and How to Perform Surgery at Home
Walking by Faith: Climbing Stairs in Bifocals
Building Self-Esteem When You Don't Deserve It
Raising Great Kids on Five Minutes a Day
Learn to Teach Sunday School Without Preparation
Winning Souls Without Getting Involved with People
How to Forgive Without Anyone Knowing It
Gossip in the Spirit
Revival by Video in Your On Home

(Retrieved 01.08.2026 from [Holy Humor](#) by Cal & Rose Samra)



WILL ROGERS (1879-1935)

Who Was Will Rogers? After performing in Wild West shows as a young man, Will Rogers broke into vaudeville and then Broadway. His folksy wit and common sense attitude made him one of the most famous actors and authors in the world in the 1920s and '30s.

Early Life Rogers was born on November 4, 1879, in present-day Oologah, Oklahoma — then part of Indian territory. Rogers grew up in a ranching family. Himself part Cherokee, Rogers socialized with both Indigenous peoples and Anglo-American settlers in the immediate area. He left Oklahoma as a teenager, eventually finding work in the traveling Wild West shows popular at the time.

Career In 1905, Rogers began performing a lasso act on the vaudeville circuit. His charm and humor, along with his technical ability, made Rogers a star. Audiences responded with enthusiasm to his off-the-cuff remarks delivered while performing elaborate roping tricks. Rogers parlayed his vaudeville success into a Broadway career. He debuted in New York in 1916, performing in *The Wall Street Girl*. This led to many more theatrical roles, including headlining appearances in the *Ziegfeld Follies*. Rogers also brought his act to the burgeoning medium of the moving picture. He appeared in dozens of silent films, often playing a country bumpkin trying to negotiate the modern world. In addition to acting, Rogers became nationally-known as a writer. He penned a column for the *Saturday Evening Post* that ran in newspapers across the country. His columns dealt with contemporary issues from a perspective of small-town morality, emphasizing the integrity of working people. It was a viewpoint that resonated in the rapidly industrializing twentieth-century United States. Many of his books, including *The Cowboy Philosopher on Prohibition* and *There's Not a Bathing Suit in Russia*, achieved best-seller status. Rogers's fame had eclipsed his country bumpkin persona by 1930. No longer believable as an uneducated outsider, he was able to voice his characteristic wit and wisdom while playing a professional. Legendary director John Ford worked with Rogers on three of these later films—*Doctor Bull*, *Judge Priest* and *The Steamboat Round the Bend*. After filming concluded on the final Ford film, in 1935, Rogers set out on a trip to Alaska. An avid aviation enthusiast, he planned to explore remote stretches by plane as well as on foot.

Death On August 15, 1935, the plane carrying Rogers crashed in Point Barrow, Alaska. He died on impact. Millions across the country mourned the sudden silencing of a quintessentially American voice.

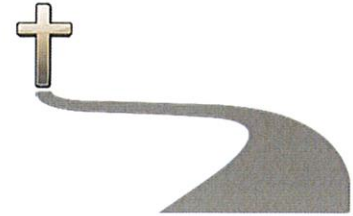
In 1991, a Broadway show based on Rogers brought renewed attention to his life and humor. *The Will Rogers Follies*, starring Keith Carradine, focused on Rogers's performances as a headliner of the *Ziegfeld Follies*. The show won several Tony Awards, including for best musical, best musical score and best direction.

(Retrieved 01.08.2026 from <https://www.biography.com/actors/will-rogers>)

FEBRUARY 2026



KIDS QUEST!!
EPIC Youth
PK-High School

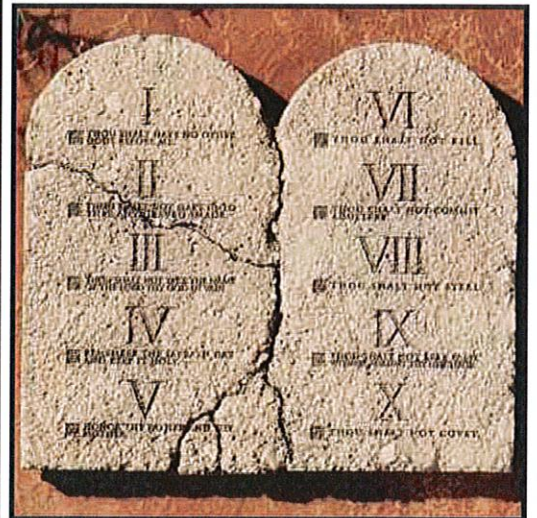


FEBRUARY 1 No Kid's Quest

FEBRUARY 8 "Let My People Go"

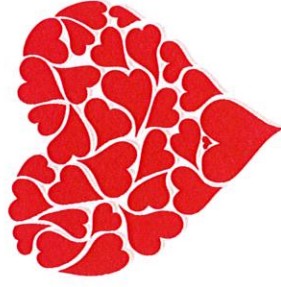
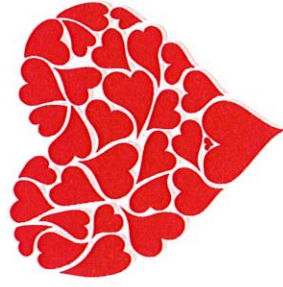
FEBRUARY 15 Mission Project

FEBRUARY 22 "The Ten Commandments"





FEBRUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) (Ladies return from Mahoney)	2 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	3 7 PM Scouts-FH	4 1-3 Crafting—128 6:30 PM Choir	5	6	7 9:00 AM Men's BYOB-C
6:30-8:30 Square Dancing—FH						
8 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	9 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	10 7 PM Scouts-FH	11 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 PM Choir	12 7 PM Church Council Meeting—Rm. 128	13	14
5:00 PM Big Game Watch Party—C 6:30-8:30 Square Dancing—FH						
15 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	16 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	17 10 OES Card Party In Papillion 7 PM Scouts-FH	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 1-3 Crafting-128 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	19 7-9 PM Scout Venture Crew—FH	20	21
6:30-8:30 Square Dancing—FH					6-10 PM Old Dominion Dancers—FH	
22 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	23 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	24 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	25 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 PM Choir 6:30 Potluck—C 7:00 PM Prayer—S	26	27	28 S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall
6:30-8:30 Square Dancing—FH						

NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



3	Joseph Svacina & Kristi Stamp-Svacina
19	Anthony & Jodi Infante

