

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are approaching the season of Lent as February 14th will be Ash Wednesday. Now we might consider this as being more than a little ironic—but behind this is a radical truth about our relationship with God. When I was growing up, we always heard that people took Ash Wednesday as being a day of restrictions: Some people go on a fast until they have been through worship, receive



their ashes and receive Holy Communion. Then they will eat a light meal. Then we have others who watch what they eat. In contrast, we have Valentine's Day on which tons of candy gets eaten (I believe that it is third behind Easter and Halloween).

On Valentine's Day, we have the celebration of the love that two people find in each other (I have not been that lucky, I suppose). They have a special date night, offer gifts that include candy—and profess their love for each other. But there comes the truth behind it all—that on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that it is God who created us—and for what purpose?? You guessed it. Love. God created us out of love and for love. Behind the love that we feel for one another is the love that God has first had for us.

Peace.

Pastor Míke

St. John's Lutheran Church

PO Box 819 203 Pearl Street Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman 319-231-6440 mikepstr64@gmail.com **CHURCH WORSHIP:**

5:30 PM - Saturday 10:15 AM - Sunday

Church Office Hours:

Tues: 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Wed: 7:00 AM - 12:30 PM Fri: 7:00 AM - 12:30 PM Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:

stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net

Our Website:

www.stjohnsguttenberg.com



Rejoicing Spirits

Join us for worship!

You're invited to worship at St. John's for a Spirit-filled time together. We will serve a light lunch following the service. Worship will take place at 11 am on Thursday February 8th in the fellowship area downstairs. You're welcome to worship with us! Any questions please contact our church office or Pastor Mike.

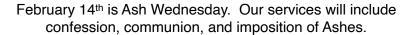


This year once again we will feature people that were around the cross of Jesus—and listen to their stories. Some are touching—others are painful—every single one of them are riveting as they relate their story.

Please join us as we hear from people such as Pilate, Barabbas and Centurion about Jesus and the crucifixion. We will hear how each of plays a part in Jesus journey to the cross.

February 21: Peter

February 28: Judas



We will have the individual packets of Ashes available for those who wish to do it privately.





LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICES start on ASH WEDNESDAY:

ST. PAUL - Noon - Soup Luncheon

1:00 PM - Lenten Worship Service

ST. JOHN'S - 7:00 PM - Lenten Worship Service



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES - 7:00 PM Feb. 22 * Feb. 29 * March 7th

BREAD MAKING CLASS - 10:00 AM
March 23rd



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Keep in your prayers: Ross Abbott, Vera Ashman, Owen Aulwes, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Ron & Kay Bahlmann, Tiffany (Randall) Cichowski, Lois Davis, Marvin Dean, Bob Ferguson, Tammy Goodman, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Juanita Loven, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, JoLynn Moore, Merlin Moser, Randy Moser, Tiffany Moser, Jean Pensel, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny Reth, Pat Rodenberg, Denny Roth, Natalie Schmelzer, Rich Schmelzer, Jim Solomon, Terry Thein, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Al Ullerich, Dennis Zittergruen

River Living Center: Bob Ferguson, Kathy Handke, Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt,

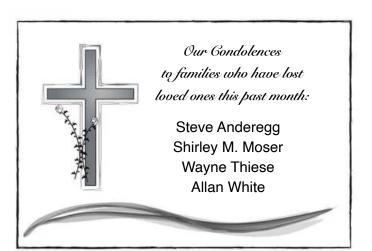
Ed & LaVonne Rodenberg, Virginia Roth

Guttenberg Care Center: Shirley Moore, Judith Olson

Ennoble Nursing Care: Dennis Roth

<u>Garden View Place, Monona:</u> Terry Thein <u>Prairie Maison, Prairie du Chien:</u> Vera Ashman

Homebound: Bill Tielbar





CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Every 1st, 3rd, 4th Monday at 10 AM

RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. Feb. 1 - 10:30 AM

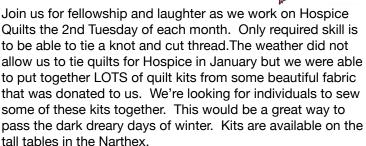


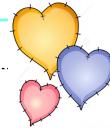
Jovi AndereggDaughter of Joshua & Hilary Anderegg

Haley Bion Daughter of Ron Bion & Sandy Fry

Aliyah Armstrong
Daughter of Antonio & Katelyn Armstrong

OUILTS OF GRACE





Camera Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRIES





SUNDAY

FEB. 4- Jovi Allyn

FEB. 11 - Caleb Bittner

FEB. 18 - Gavin Stoerp

FEB. 25 - Wyatt Kremer

SATURDAY

FEB. 3- Caleb Bittner

FEB. 10 - Lennox Moser

FEB. 17 - Wyatt Kremer

FEB. 24 -Caleb Bittner

SUNDAY

FEB. 4 -Madi Thomas

FEB. 11 - Mason Hinzman

FEB. 18 - Caleb Bittner

FEB. 25 - Myka Bries



During the month of January, we welcomed the following new members:

Paige & Spencer Walters, Oaklynn & Mackenzie Misty Wells, Nicholas Lewin

If you would like to join, or know someone interested in finding a church home, we are very flexible – you are welcome to join on any weekend- just contact Pastor Mike!



LENTEN SERVICES - 7:00 PM

CAMERA

FEB. 14- Wyatt Kremer

FEB. 21 - Caleb Bittner

FEB. 28 - Myka Bries

ACOLYTE

Myka Bries

Myka Bries

Caleb Bittner



Join us

on February 4th as we send Carolyn & Dr. Jeff Hoffman on a missionary journey.

FEBRUARY Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
FEB. 4	Craig & Kari Tuecke	Kari Tuecke
FEB. 11	Ross & Mary Abbott	Mary Abbott
FEB. 18	Audie & Diane Baumgartner	Tara Augustyn
FEB. 25	Rick & Mary Beth Allyn	Mary Beth Allyn



Mark your calendar-

St. John's will host the annual World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st at 1 pm.

This year's material was prepared by the women of Palestine. The theme is "I Beg You, Bear With One Another in Love" inspired by Ephesians 4:1-7. In this scripture the Apostle Paul implores each of us "to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the equity of the spirit in

ADOPT A DAY

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more?

If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of \$45 per day.

Jan. 5 - Mary Esmann, in honor of her parents, Art & Helen Esmann's anniversary
Feb. 2 - Paul & Joni Talsma, in honor of Joni's birthday
Feb. 5 - Kim & Dan Hagen in honor of their wedding anniversary



EASTERMEMORIALS

Honor your loved one by purchasing a lily for the church altar.

Please submit this form to the church office with payment to St. John's no later than MARCH 3, 2024.

I would like to purch Large \$32	nase an Easter Lily:Small \$16	
(please enclose cas	h or a check payable to St. John's)	
IN HONOR OF: IN MEMORY OF GIVEN BY:		
Your Name	You	r Phone
PLEASE PLAN TO) PICK UP YOUR FLOWERS AFTER E	ASTER SUNDAY SERVICE.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



Missing from the photo above: Pastor Mike Ashman, Kevin Hennessey, and Tonya Randall







The theme for Stewardship 2023 was "The Faithfulness of God". It was expressed by the following actions.

Beginning in February, the Stewardship Committee worked closely with the church council to write letters for the capital campaign addressing the Fellowship Basement Remodel Project. Letters were mailed out, a thermometer recorded the giving and pledges received, and updates were shared throughout the process. If you have not had a chance to see the new fellowship area, please take a look. The new space creates so many opportunities for St. John's to share the Good News with others.

In October Stewardship ran a winter gear clothing drive for the local Family Resource Center. Coats, especially children sizes, were collected along with hats, mittens, snow pants, and scarves.

In November Stewardship had their annual "Thank You" weekend for the congregation. A video of 2023 church happenings was created and shared by Erin Bries at both worship services. Special readings and hymns were sung to enhance our theme. Pastor Mike Ashman's sermon keyed in on specific examples from the Bible of God's faithfulness to His people then and now. Fellowship was held after both worship services and St. John's Lutheran pens and totes were given to members.

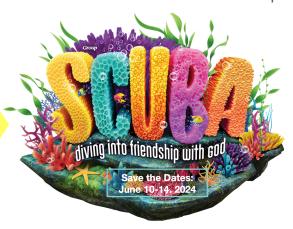
In December Stewardship gave Advent calendars out to members. This calendar seeks to give one suggested food item each day during the Advent season. On January 3, 2024 the collected food will be sorted and then delivered to the local Family Resource Center. This is to replenish their supplies after the holidays.

Thank you to all who participated in the many Stewardship projects.

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF

Name	Position	Phone
Mike Ashman	Pastor	(319) 231-6440 Email:
Brian Rodenberg	President	(563) 252-1600 (563) 880-4460 Email: brivirodenberg@gmail.com
Michele VonHandorf	Vice President	(563) 880-1287 Email:
Deb Preston	Secretary	(563) 252-2310 (563) 880-8688 Email:
Craig Tuecke	Treasurer	(563) 252-1299 (563) 880-9800 Email:
Sherry Oliver	Stewardship	(563) 252-3462 (563) 880-4164 Email:
Penny Rausch	Education	(563) 581-4963 Email:
Jon Thomas	Property	(563) 590-4639 Email:
Diane Thiese	Outreach	(515) 480-5666 Email:
Lynda Schaefers	Fellowship	(563) 252-3456 (563) 329-0920 Email:
	Public Relations	
Mary Streich	Worship & Music	(563) 252-3129 (563) 880-6967 Email:
Jessica Hillers	Children & Youth	(563) 252-1497 (563) 845-1430 Email:
Rabecca Hennessey	Church Secretary	(563) 845-1524 email:
Alan Moser	Custodian	(563) 880-3029

This summer, Vacation Bible School takes place the week of June 10-14th!



Sign up now for best summer camp pricing

Ewalu summer camp registration is open for 2024, and families can sign up now for the best availability and the best prices!



Go to www.ewalu.org/summer-camp to see all the programs and to register. Ewalu also has Family Camp and Grandparent Camp!

Ewalu's **Early Discount pricing** means \$40 off for most full-week youth programs if you register before February 29. This year, the **Sibling Discount** has increased to \$50 off for each additional child from the same family registering for a full-week program (after the first child) —and that's ON TOP of the Early Discount!

Remember, no child is ever turned away at Ewalu for reasons of financial need. Call Diane at Ewalu for more information at 563-933-4700.

Questions about pricing and registration? Please contact the Ewalu office at the phone number above or email camp@ewalu.org. The camp website might have the answers you're looking for, too!

High school youth are invited to Ewalu for a spring retreat that will explore what it means to be a leader who leads with faith. Youth can attend with a church group, or register individually or with a friend... all are welcome! Arrive Friday evening, April 19, and enjoy 2 nights in comfortable cabins at base camp! You'll have a time of intentional worship, Bible study, and faith discussions. There will also be fun camp activities like the high ropes course (weather permitting), hiking, games, crafts, and more, plus meals and snacks. High school students will learn what it means to lean into their faith and what their faith means to them away from their church and home setting. Participants will dismiss Sunday morning.

WHO: Grades 9-12 youth. WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday, April 19, through 11 a.m. Sunday, April 21 COST: \$100/youth (pastors/adult chaperones stay for free). All lodging, activities and meals included! To register, go to www.ewalu.org/high-school-spring-retreat/ or call the camp office at 563-933-4700.

Seed Savers Exchange speaker at Ewalu

All are invited to Ewalu's Creation Center to learn about Seeds Savers Exchange, based in Winneshiek County. Brennan Allsworth, an SSE field technician, will give a presentation from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 9, about what the nonprofit organization does to preserve heirloom seeds and how you can be involved.

To RSVP for the free Ewalu Enrichment Event, call the camp office at 563-933-4700, email office@ewalu.org, or sign up online at www.ewalu.org/enrichment-sse/. Afternoon refreshments will be served.

Based just outside Decorah, <u>Seed Savers Exchange</u> stewards America's culturally diverse and endangered garden and food crop legacy for present and future generations. The organization educates and connects people through collecting, regenerating, and sharing heirloom seeds, plants, and stories. <u>Today</u>, SSE houses the nation's largest nongovernmental seed bank of its kind (some 20,000 varieties) on 890 scenic acres in Winneshiek County.

From the CHURCH COUNCIL

St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 11, 2024

Members present: Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Lorna Moser, Michele Von Handorf, Diane Thiese, Forest Brown, Sherry Oliver, Brian Rodenberg, Penny Rausch, Jessica Hillers, Lynda Schaefers

Members Absent: Frank Davis, Chuck Hemann, Mary Streich

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman

Call to Order: President Rodenberg called the meeting to

order at 7:01pm.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with a brief

reflection and prayer.

Secretary's Report: The Council reviewed minutes of the December council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Michele made a motion to approve the minutes as published. Lorna made a second to that motion.

Treasurer's Report: Craig reviewed the December income and expenses. Diane made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Lorna made a second to the motion.

General Fund:	\$20,370.51
Benevolence:	\$27,723.93
Improvement:	\$34,482.59
Memorial Fund:	\$16,592.95
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,785.92
Sunday School:	\$ 1,094.72
Organ Fund:	\$ 1,078.85
Scrip:	\$ 5,870.94
Luther League:	\$ 5,673.59
Ending Balance:	\$128,674.00

Craig also reviewed the annual treasurer's report to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 21st. Michele made a motion to approve the annual treasurer's report. Lorna made a second to the motion.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ashman provided the highlights of his written report. December was a very busy month. He is preparing for the Lenten worships. Two families will be received as new members this month. Another Rejoicing Spirits worship was held today and well received by all that participated. Following the service, Pastor provided chicken noodle soup for those attending.

Outreach Ministries: Diane was present to report that the Outreach committee is working on several activities which include putting together a prayer group, an informational letter for new members, and the potential for a ministry fair.

Educational Ministries: Penny reported that the Sunday School Christmas program went well and 35 children participated. The council shared with Penny how wonderful the new costumes were. The group is working on VBS to be held this summer. The children will sing again on January 28th.

Children & Youth Ministries: Forest reflected on his time as chairperson of Educational Ministries and thanked Jessica Hillers for assuming those responsibilities. Forest continues to plan for a sledding party at his home for all youth on January 21st.

Public Relations: No report. This position remains open.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry reported that the Stewardship committee will meet the 4th Thursday of this month and discuss goals and visions for 2024. Volunteers will be needed for the mobile food pantry.

Worship & Music Ministries: Although Mary was absent, she did provide a report highlighting the services being planned for Lent, First Communion, Psalm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and potential dates for Senior Recognition Day as graduation this year is on a Friday evening for Clayton Ridge.

Property Ministries: Frank was absent but Brian has been working with Electri-tek to change a light. The new copier should arrive soon.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna welcomed Lynda to the group. They are planning the soup dinner on February 11th.

V.P. Report: No report.

Old Business:

Pledge Report for 2023-99% of the pledges have been received.

New Business:

Annual Audit — Will contract with Anna Moser CPA to complete the record examination/audit of the general ledger. A motion was made by Sherry with a second by Diane to contract with Anna Moser.

Council Approval of proposed budget for 2024 – Craig reviewed the proposed budget for 2024. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Forest with a second by Lorna to approve the 2024 budget.

Meeting Agenda/Ballot items – listed within the 2023 Annual Report

Other Business:

Forest proposed that Council orientation and strategic planning be considered for the February meeting.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, Febr. 8th at 7:00. Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston

Monthly Stewardship Report Amount Needed Weekly \$3,793 Offering Jan. 7 \$3,270 Jan. 14 \$1,094 Jan. 23 \$2,362



Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for lowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in lowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the lowa families we serve.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.lowa



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Have you directed your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to a charitable organization?

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Your congregation can always use additional funding in such places as the organ fund and Improvement Fund—or the General Fund. It's an easy way to support the ministries our church.

Members have until March 31, 2024 to direct choice dollars from 2023.

Thank you!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR		
Thur. Feb. 1	1:00 pm	(SJ) Adult Bible Study
Sat. Feb. 3 Sun. Feb. 4	5:30 pm 8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Worship (SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship / Blessing of our Missionaries - Carolyn & Jeff Hoffmann
Tues. Feb. 6	1:00 pm 5:30 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God (SP). Council Meeting
Wed. Feb. 7	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 5:30 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Confirmation
Thur. Feb. 8 Worship	11:00 am	(SJ) Rejoicing Spirits
	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Adult Bible Study (SJ) Council Meeting
Sat. Feb. 10 Sun. Feb. 11	5:30 pm 8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	(SJ) Worship (SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship (SJ) Soup Dinner
Tues. Feb. 13	9:00 am 1:00 pm	(SJ) Quilts of Grace (SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Feb. 14	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SP). Ash Wednesday Service (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs. Feb. 15	1:00 pm	(SJ) Adult Bible Study
Sat. Feb. 17	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Feb. 18 Tues. Feb. 20	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am 2:00 pm 1:00 pm	(SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship (SJ) SOH Conference Assembly (SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Feb. 21	•	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Feb. 21	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SP). Ash Wednesday Service (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Mobile Food Pantry (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Bell Choir Practice (SJ) Ash Wednesday Service
Thur. Feb. 22	4:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Stewardship (SJ) First Communion Class
Sat. Feb. 24	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Feb. 25	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship / Bell Choir
Tues. Feb. 27	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Feb. 28	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SP). Ash Wednesday Service (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs. Feb. 29	7:00 pm	(SJ) First Communion Class

Church Office Hours

Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm



Conference Assembly 2:00 PM on Feb. 18, 2024 at St. John's Church

Guttenberg



Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.

The next event will be a drive through event at 5 pm on



THANK YOU to the students of Clayton Ridge and to all who assisted with the January Mobile Food Pantry.

Feb. 17

Feb. 18

Feb. 19

Sheryl Bahls

Dirx Reimer

Carrie Niehaus

Vicki Rodenberg

FEBRUARY Baptisms

<u>Feb. 1</u> Kyrie Brown Travis Garlow	<u>Feb. 16</u> Brandon Duwe Barrett Preston LouAnn Urlaub
E 1 0	

Feb. 3 Deb Bries Tim Hillers

Feb. 4 Matt Preston Addison Stoerp

Feb. 5 Dave Bahls Mallory Glawe Kim Heitman Cruz Reimer Alex Hyde

Feb. 7 Jace Moore

Feb. 8 Courtney Finnegan

Feb. 9 Cole Bittner Shirley Meyer Todd Moser

Feb. 11 Carol Tomkins

Feb. 12 M.J. Smith

Feb. 13 **Everd Tuecke**

Feb. 14 **Emily Ertl**

Feb. 15 Bensen Schultz

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Feb. 16 Feb. 1 Janet Lundt Feb. 2 Feb. 17

Alyssa Meyer Joni Talsma

Feb. 4 Juanita Loven Paul Bazyn

Feb. 20 Antonio Lee Armstrong

Violet Zittergruen

Harrison Heitman

Feb. 21 Ellie Preston

Feb. 22 Desiree Walke

Feb. 23 Kari Friedlein Maddex Moser Sara Noack

Feb. 24 Jim Solomon

Feb. 25 Joni Talsma Ronald Troester

Feb. 26 Tom Johnson Carl Pensel Bill Tielbar

Feb. 28 David Sadewasser Jenny Meyer

Harper Preston Josalyn Lewis

Ron Bahlmann Tom Johnson Toni Helle Rod Schroeder

Tim Oliver Bill Peters Rhett Schroeder

<u>Feb. 7</u> Ross Abbott Dennis Horstman Terry Meyer

Feb. 8 Wanda Lacy

Feb. 10 Chris Reth

Feb. 12 **Dorothy Moser** Audrey Thomas Dennis Zittergruen

Feb. 13 **Emily Ertl**

Feb. 14 Abigayle Duwe

Feb. 18 Allie Esmann

Feb. 19 Morgan Meyer Pat Rodenberg

Feb. 20 LaVonne Herzog Carter Judkins

Feb. 22 Mark Urlaub

Feb. 24 Danny Walke

Feb. 25 Cole Dugan Christopher Tuecke

Feb. 26 Andy Heitman

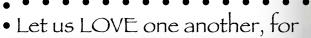
Feb. 27 Dave Brown **FEBRUARY Wedding**

Anniversaries

Feb. 11 Jerry & Cindy Niehaus

Feb. 20 Larry & Dorothy Moser

Feb. 28 Brent & Bev Blanchard



LOVE comes from God.

-1John 4:7