

# *Svea Evangelical Lutheran Church*

## *FEBRUARY REMINDER*

*12651 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Svea MN 56216 320-995-6500*

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame. -Song of Solomon 8:6*

How pleasant it is brothers and sisters to be embraced and to be treasured! How wonderful to be adored and to return these affections to one who enjoys our very presence. February is fondly thought of in this country associated with St. Valentine's Day. It is a day of sweets, notes, and other such pleasures. The origins of this celebration come from a story to commemorate a man who was torn apart by lions. According to the legend a man named Valentine encouraged others in the faith through the sharing of food. St. Valentine also included notes of hope and God's unfailing love with fellow persecuted Christians. According to legend he signed the notes "Your Valentine." Other myths suggest he was courting a woman he shouldn't have been and ended up at the wrong end of a sword.

Sometime later, this semi-religious commemoration added imagery of the Roman god Cupid. (Apparently, the image of someone being torn limb from limb doesn't sell much chocolate.) This is a rather cloudy story from a dark period of history with very little that can be verified. More recently this is day of expectation for singles to find a date and couples to enjoy opportunities for romance. And why not? There are few days intentionally set up for people to be together full of affection.

Too often amorous relationships and affectionate practices are a subject of shame and ridicule in the church. We forget that all of the emotions we enjoy in the pursuit and practice of relationships are emotions created and designed by God for human enjoyment. The humorous discomfort of finally admitting ones feelings for another, and the warm passion enjoyed between lovers are reminders for us all that we are beloved creations of God. We are formed in the love of our parents created to love and be loved by one another.

In honor of this day, perhaps, we can endeavor to work on remembering all that love can be in our lives.

For those would find themselves alone it is an excellent opportunity to call on those you love who also may find themselves alone in a cold month such as this.

For those hoping to begin a relationship, remember you are loved by God who has given you the strength and power to share that love with someone else. Go ahead, ask that one person on a date. Those of you who are married, committed, and coupled, it may be cliché but why not take the time to remember your vows, or plan your future? You might simply just relax together? Love is about

(Pastor's letter continued)

Sharing what has been given to you from above, not the pressures placed on us from the outside. Whatever your situation brothers and sisters, I encourage you to find the opportunities to share the love you have with others or one other. Greet more, Love more, Sleep more, Be more with another. Remember you are loved and treasured above all else in creation. God's Blessings to you all.

Pr. Erik

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## **True U** Video Series starting Sunday, February 5, 9:00 am.

### Tentative Schedule for True U Series

9:00 - 9:15 start time with food and beverage and a short discussion

9:15 - 9:30 questions from previous Sunday

9:30 - 10:00 video presentation

10:00 – 10:30 discussion

### *Equipping young people to stand strong*

TrueU is a DVD-based apologetics curriculum, Dr. Del Tackett, architect and voice of Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, Describes this endeavor this way:

“Produced by Focus on the Family in conjunction with Coldwater Media, TrueU is an apologetics training series primarily geared to help prepare high school students for the rigorous challenges and attacks that will confront them on the university campus. My guess is that it will end up benefiting a whole lot more folks than just high school seniors.”

It is important to clarify that TrueU is not “The Truth Project for teens.” As envisioned by Dr. Tackett and our staff, TrueU will be in essence a series of “prequels” (or lead-in studies) to The Truth Project.

TrueU is designed primarily to help students solidify their Christian Faith with foundational apologetics training. This will equip young people to stand strong in the university environment, and also serve as a precursor to the in-depth study presented in The Truth Project of how to live out a Christian worldview in everyday life.

We would encourage those who complete TrueU to immediately join a Truth Project small group, if possible, and continue exploring the practical day-to-day application on a biblical worldview.

## **Svea Lutheran Church: Council Agenda- January 19, 2017**

**Present** Pastor Erik, Tammy Garberich, Jessie Gatewood, Tracy Gorans, Matt Erickson, Lois Nelson,  
Absent- Kathy Lindblad, Doug Johnson, John Burks, Courtney Carlson, Laura Christianson

### **1. Opening 7:00 pm**

### **2. Devotions – Pr. Erik**

### **3. Council meeting minutes – December –approved by email**

### **4. Pastor's Report-** to be printed in the reminder, verbally given to council, No Ministerial acts, Will be on vacation April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and at conferences from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April

### **5. Election of Officers**

**President-** John Burks

**Vice President-** Doug Johnson

**Secretary-** Lois Nelson

Also Adopted Roberts Rule of Order.

### **6. Committee Assignments/ Reports**

- a. *Stewardship, Finance, and Estate-* Doug Johnson assigned to committee. Full report will be published in the reminder. Year ended with a \$6,000.00 surplus. SFE will discuss on recommendation to where these dollars will be applied.
- b. *Parish Education-* Lois Nelson assigned to committee. No report.
  - i. *Adult Ed-* John Burks/ Lois Nelson/Jessie Gatewood assigned to committee. No report
- c. *Property-* Matt Erickson /Doug Johnson assigned to committee. The Custodial Position and the Property Manager position were discussed.
- d. *LMM-* Continuing to meet
- e. *Worship and Music-* Kathy Lindblad assigned to committee
  - i. *Visual Arts-* Tracy Gorans assigned to committee. Met in January and talked about what month's people would like to take. Looking for more help. Suggestion was made from council if the youth would be able to help. The suggestion will be brought to the next Visual Arts Meeting.
  - ii. *A/V committee*
- f. *Global Missions, Evangelism, Social Ministry, and Scholarship-* Matt Erickson/Tammy Garberich/ Kathy Lindblad assigned to the committee. There was no report
- g. *Library-* Lois Nelson was assigned to committee. There was no report
- h. *Memorial-* Tracy Gorans/Jessie Gatewood/Tammy Garberich assigned to committee. There was no report
- i. *Youth board-*Courtney Carlson/Laura Christianson assigned to committee. Youth are going to Give Kids the World this summer. They have been there in the past. Play practice has started and dates have been set for March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Super Bowl Subs are on sale on Sundays, last Sunday to order is 1-29-17 to be picked up on Sunday 2-5-17.

## 7. Continuing business

- a. Property's suggestion of a care taker –Council discussed the Custodial Positions and the Property Manager Position. Direction was given to visit with Jordan Gatewood as property manager and Lynn and Paulette Ascheman as custodian's for positions to begin on or before February 15, 2017. Council would like to send their thanks and appreciation to all who have stepped forth to clean the church in the interim, Thanks and kudos go to Karen and Sherman Schueler, Dan and Louise Swenson, Doug and Holly Hopp and to Pastor Erik. Thanks so very much, your hard work has not gone unnoticed.
- b. VANCO- online payments. The Vanco payments are up and running on line. Payments have been made on line and this service is going well

## 8. New Business

- a. Strategic Planning / All Committee Meeting Date. The date has been set for the 26<sup>th</sup> of February after church with the council providing a Soup Lunch. The Council will meet on February 19<sup>th</sup> after church at Parsonage for planning of the meeting. Installation of officers will be on 1-22-17

## 9. Communion Assistants

**Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>** Lois  
**Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** Matt  
**Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>** Tammy

10. **Thank You cards** – four were sent

11. **Next meeting date:** February 16, 2017

12. **Closing prayer** The Lords Prayer

## **Pastor's Report for January 2017**

Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas services.

Stephen's Ministry has started its initial course in Lake Lillian. Hopefully offering another Course this summer.

Annual Meeting went smoothly, thank you for your participation.

Making Plans for 2017 and beyond. The word for the year is "invitation"

Assisting Luther League with summer plans for Give Kids the World.

Currently attending Fire 1 training course through March 18

Para Church Activities: Lutheran Campus Ministry Board Member, Family Promise Fundraising Committee. Matthew Timothy House Devotional Leader, Willmar Area Ministerial Association-board member

Ministerial Acts: There were no ministerial acts this month

Pastor's Dates:

April 7-8 vacation

April 18-28 continuing education. Retread at Wartburg Seminary and the Valparaiso Institute of Liturgical Studies

## FEBUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 12<sup>th</sup> – Matt Erickson; 26<sup>th</sup> – Tammy Garberich  
USHERS: Sam Bowen & Jon Burks  
VISUAL ARTS: Stacey Vlaminck & Tracy Gorans

DATE	ASST MINISTER	LECTORS	GREETERS & OFFERING
February 5	Gene Gatewood	Dan Swenson	Deb & Dale Tonsfeldt
February 12	Jessie Gatewood	Doug Hopp	Dave & Patti Chambers
February 19	Jordan Gatewood	Sherman Schueler	Bob & Linda Roelofs
February 26	Marny Behrends	John Christianson	Shannon & Gary Christopher

DATE	PROJECTION	SOUND	ACOLYTES	TELLERS
February 5	Scott Johnson	Erin Johnson	Zach Flannigan & Ashely Behrends	5
February 12		Brian Gorans	Courtney Carlson & Mckayla Hopp	6
February 19	Jake Vlaminck	Kim Gorans	Zach Flannigan & Philip Stadem	1
February 26		Jon Burks	Emily Behrends & Kaylee Vlaminck	2



### Yearbook for 2017

The yearbook will be published in February. If you have had any address, e-mail or phone changes, please let the office know so we may get the yearbook updated for the year. Just e-mail or leave a message on the phone. Thank you!



### *Do you want to make your offering easier?*

We can now offer paperless offering. If you are a “snow bird”, busy parent/grandparent or can’t make it to church one Sunday, your offering will. In addition to making it easier for you, the church will also save on the cost of offering envelopes and time making deposits. If you are interested, please contact the church office for more information.



### Christ in our Home

Christ in our Home is a free daily devotional booklet available for anyone that would like to have. The booklets are located in the Narthex on the table coming into church.

### Valentines Dinner



The Church Valentines Dinner will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> after Church Services. There’s a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You may also call or e-mail the church office. Please sign up by February 8.

### Saturday Morning Coffee & Treats



Where: Parsonage  
 When: February 11, March 11 & April 1  
 Time: 9:30 – 11:30 am  
 Come and join in fellowship, enjoy a cup of coffee (or two) and have some yummy treats!  
 Please let Rachel know if you are interested or plan to come to the coffee times.



### Ash Wednesday

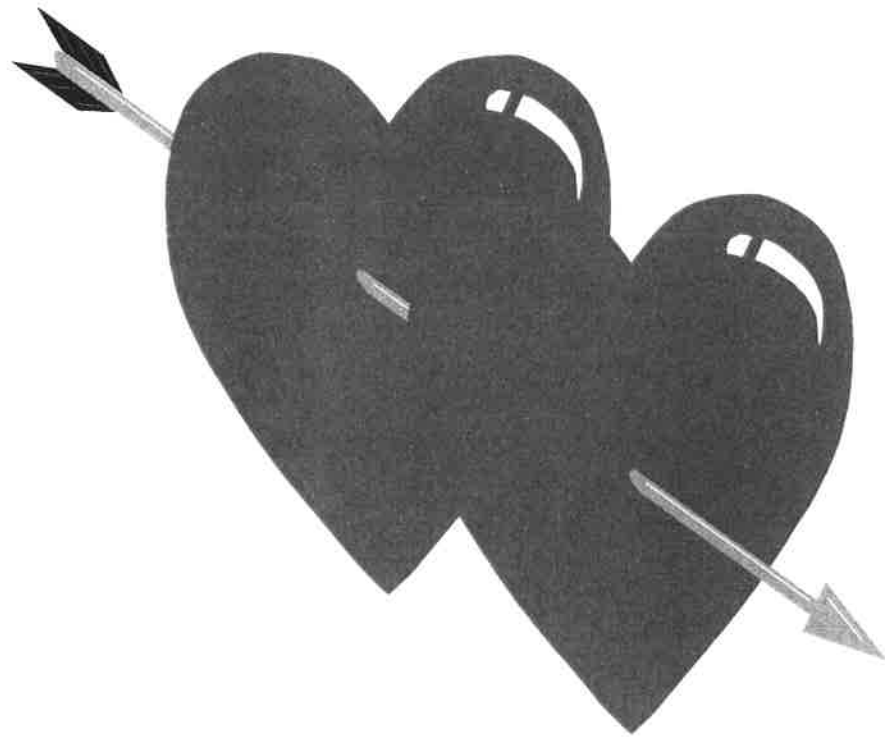
Ash Wednesday is March 1. Imposition of Ashes and Communion. Lenten Services each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm until Holy Week. Coffee fellowship at 7:30 pm hosted by League Families.

Happy Valentine's Day

Dinner

Sunday February 12, 2017

After Church Service



This is for all Families in Svea Church!

Entertainment provided!

Free will Offering for

Kandiyohi County Family Promise

# Equipping Congregations Day will be February 25<sup>th</sup> 2017



Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- **The (Ongoing) Work of Reformation: Uncovering, Recovering and**



### **Discovering the Call of 21st Century Disciples.**

Reformation for Lutherans is not a one time event. It's a way of life informed by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. Not unlike the time of Martin Luther, society is on the precipice of many cultural shifts. Now is the time to reclaim the spirit of reformation in ways that speak to the changing contexts and needs of society. **Rozella Haydée White** will be out keynote speaker.

*Those interested in attending should speak to Doug Hopp or Pr. Erik. There is no cost for this event.*

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## SLC Committees

SLC has many committees that meet periodically during the year. They are:

**Adult Education**, Jake Vlaminc, Chair

**Finance-Stewardship-Estate**, Pete Swenson, Chair

**Memorial**, Holli Hopp, Chair

**Library**, Mary Hinthier, Chair

**Mission-Evangelism-Social Ministry- Family Promise, Scholarship**, Karen Schueler, Chair

**Parish Education**, Patti Flannigan, Chair

**Property**, Mike Lindblad, Chair

**Sanctuary Update Visual**, Brian Gorans, Chair

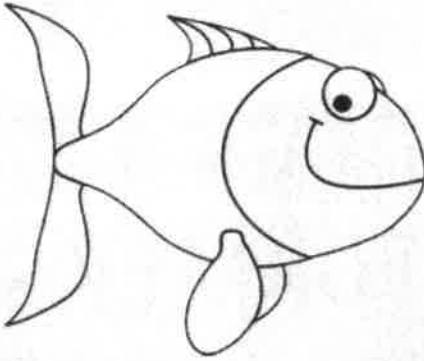
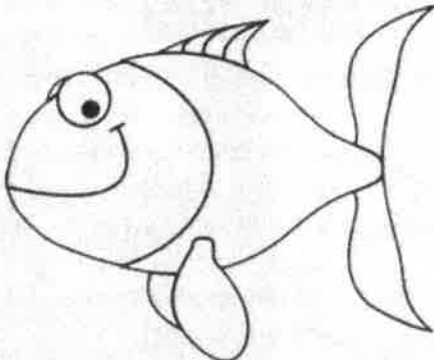
**Worship and Music**, Pr. Erik, Chair

**Visual Arts/Altar/Flowers/Acolytes**, Stacey Vlaminc, Chair



*If anyone of these committees interest you, please see one of the Chairs above. Everyone is welcome to join. It's a good way to engage and learn about the many functions of the church.*

*BLOMKEST FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION*

**FISH**   
 **FRY**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

*Your Choice of*

**2**

*Serving Times*

**11 AM - 1 PM**

*and*

**4 PM - 7 PM**

***Dine In or Take Out!***

**Deep Fried Fish**

**French Fries or Baked Potato**

**Cole Slaw**

**Bread and Butter**

**Coffee and Lemonade**

**\$12**

Recommended  
Minimum  
Donation

**SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

***BLOMKEST  
Community Center  
Blomkest, MN***

***WINTER RAFFLE***

*Drawing February 18, 2017 \* 7 p.m.*

*1st Prize: Over/Under Duck's Unlimited Edition 12 Gauge Shotgun*

*2nd Prize: Otter XT Cabin Fish House*

*3rd Prize: Ion Electric 8" Ice Auger*

*Additional Prizes sponsored by Runnings of Willmar*

*Tickets \$10 Each - Need not be present to Win*

*Gambling Permit #04455-17007*

*Bake Sale sponsored by the Blomkest Commercial Club during the morning meal.*



# FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 9:00am True-U Series</b> 9:30 am SCS & Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Praise Service <b>Pick-up Subs for Super Bowl</b>		<b>7</b> 6:00 am LMM/Prayer 1:30 Patience Circle at Delphie's/Potluck 7:30 pm Worship/Music Mtg	8	9	10	11
				1:00 pm Quilting 8:00 pm SFE Meeting		9:30am-10:30am / love Coffee with Rachel at the Parsonage.
<b>12 9:00 am True-U</b> 9:30 am SCS & Coffee Fellowship; 9:45 am Luther League Mtg 10:45 am WOV Service/Communion <b>12:00 pm Valentine's Dinner</b>		<b>14</b> 6:00 am LMM/Prayer 	15	16	17	18
				1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Council		11:00 am – 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Fire Depart. Fish Fry at Blomkest Community Cr
<b>19 9:00am True-U</b> 9:30 am SCS & Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Praise Service <b>12:00 pm Council Mtg at Parsonage</b>		<b>21</b> 6:00 am LMM/Breakfast Prayer	22	23	24	25
				1:00 pm Quilting Reminder articles due!		Equipping Congregation Day at Bethel Church
<b>26 9:00 am True-U</b> 9:30 am SCS & Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am LBW Service/Communion <b>11:45 am Soup lunch &amp; 2020 Congregational Mtg following</b>		<b>28</b> 6:00 am LMM/Prayer	1			
						 <b>Save the Date:</b> <b>Youth Church Play</b> <b>March 10, 11, 12.</b>

**February 2017**  
**SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REMINDER**  
**SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**12651 15<sup>TH</sup> ST SE**  
**SVEA MN 56216**

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**February Birthdays**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Madison Lindblad       |  |
| 3. Dorothy Blomgren       |  |
| 5. Levi Lindblad          |  |
| 7. Kent Jacobson          |  |
| Jon Burks                 |  |
| 8. Bruce Nelson           |  |
| Gary Christopher          |  |
| 10. Taryn Moran           |  |
| 11. Christopher Swierenga |  |
| Braiden Landin            |  |
| 14. Pearl Berg            |  |
| 15. Dawn Oslund           |  |
| Mackenze Eischens         |  |
| Jack Christianson         |  |
| 16. Glendon Pregler       |  |
| Andrew Swenson            |  |
| Joshua Mott               |  |
| 17. Tina Bloch            |  |
| Tyler Arhendt             |  |
| 19. Stephen Stuhr         |  |
| 21. Joshua Boone          |  |
| 22. Evelyn Mikes          |  |
| 24. Lindsey Elliott       |  |
| 25. Julie Newberg         |  |
| 27. Liz Gorans            |  |
| 28. Katie Ross            |  |