

February Newsletter 2026



Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Donald Welmer
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Gilbert Pingel
Administrative Assistant	Amy Sandy
Director of Music	Justin Hipp
Organist/Pianist	Anna Hipp
Custodian	Denise Topp
President	Adam Weidman
BCA Principal	David Topp

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

**“My God, my God,
why have You forsaken me?**

Why are You so far from saving me,

so far from my words of groaning?

I cry out by day, O my God,

but You do not answer,

and by night,

but I have no rest.

Yet You are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In You our fathers trusted;

they trusted and You delivered them.

They cried out to You and were set free;

they trusted in You and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they sneer and shake their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD,

let the LORD deliver him;

let the LORD rescue him,

since He delights in him.”

(Psalm 22:1-8)

In these beginning verses of Psalm 22 we are reminded of Christ and his cross. The first words of this Psalm are the

same words which Christ proclaimed from the cross as expressed in Matthew's and Mark's Gospel accounts. Our minds are directed to the suffering servant, the one who Isaiah claims, "...on him was the chastisement that brought us peace... (Isaiah 53:5).

As Christ suffers and dies on the cross, he is fulfilling the scriptures. It is quite possible that this was not the only Psalm that Christ repeated on the cross. In pain and agony, his mind was remembering God's Word. In his darkest hour, he becomes the worm and the one scorned and despised by the people. He is taking our sin into himself to be the atoning sacrifice.

The book of Psalms is often referred to as the Prayerbook of the Bible. King David and a few others expressed themselves to God through 150 of them. Yet this one stuck out at the time of Christ's death for the Evangelists Matthew and Mark. Being completely forsaken by God is what we deserve, but Christ makes it not so. He puts himself in our place and incurs the wrath of the Father.

From the cross, we are freed from sin, death, and the devil. Christ has broken the chains that bind us to hell. He has set his enemies under him as his footstool. Baptism now saves us (1 Pet. 3:21) as it is wrapped in his cross (1 John 5).

As we go through the Lenten Season, let us be reminded of our own baptism. That we have been made partakers of the Kingdom of Heaven. That at our beautiful savior's cross we are made righteous to the Father in heaven. That we are not

despised or a worm to our Father in heaven, but perfect in Christ Jesus.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Welmer

JoAnn Cutler, a Lutheran school teacher, shared this summary of Psalm 86 with me many years ago and it has made a lasting impression, "Love is an Act of Endless Forgiveness!". It is posted on my wall in my office and represents the love Jesus has shown, is showing, and will show from now to infinity.

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day and I want to expand its traditional focus. The act of loving our current or future spouse is needed, but this should be happening the other 364 days too. The expansion would be the sharing of gratitude and affection with family, friends, support persons, and any others God has blessed to be in your life. Pray for them and let them know they are special to you.

Each day at BCA we stress the importance of saying the words "Jesus loves you unconditionally and so do I." This is a choice for us in our response to Jesus demonstrating His love for us on the cross. BCA has been blessed with 216 children and their families to carry out our mission in word and deed.

We treasure our relationship with our churches and pray that all your days are filled with the joy and love of Jesus.

With a grateful mindset,

David Topp

February Birthdays

Elizabeth Post	2/2
Alicia Vines	2/2
Inda Oliver	2/5
Bonnie Vinson	2/6
Teresa Petty	2/8
Kathleen Pacenti	2/13
Colin Hipp	2/14
Eric Seiberlich	2/14
Sarah Stroud	2/16

Justin Hipp	2/19
James Norman	2/20
Joyce Enloe	2/21
Paul Schlie	2/21
Sheri Cook	2/22
Joan Ashton	2/25
Noel Parell	2/27
Kevin Schoneck	2/27

February Anniversaries

	Yrs	
Gary & Paula Tallant	44	2/11
Matt & Marie Townley	36	2/17
Paul & Edeltraud Parker	61	2/26

Prayer Requests

Members

Rose Grob
Monty Simmons
Debbie Pfitzer

David Rittenberry (*Curtis*)

Tim Stroud (*Stroud*)

Friends of Members

Cari Chittick (*Morkert*)

Family of Members

Carol & Carl Anderson (J.
Anderson)
Jane Aaron (*Petty*)
Sue Bumgarth (*Petty*)
Page Dover (*Stroud*)
Doug Emmer (*Emmer*)
Sherry Emmer (*Emmer*)
Dusty Martin (*Petty*)
Austin Martin (*Petty*)
Valerie McMullen (*McMullen*)

Gene & Faye Edwards (*Tyson*)
Ava England (*Anderson*)
Jon Freese (*Gatlin*)
Charmaine Goines (*Petty*)
Jeff Hale (*Bumgardner*)
Lisa Hearn (*Cox*)
Jimmy Kroeger (*Bumgardner*)
Stella Kuhn (*McMullen*)
Jollie Reeves (*Simmons*)
Rick Williams (*Williams*)

LONG-TERM

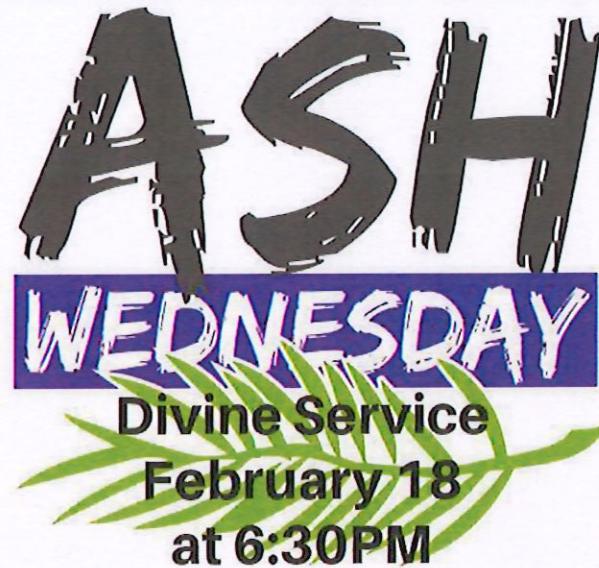
Members: Joan Ashton, Mariann Fretwell, Ingrid Hall, Carolyn Kempson, Ida Jane Larson, Walter Meyer, Peggy Moselage, Judy Nance, Paul Parker, Pastor Pingel, Stan Putterbaugh, David Ratchford, Pat Stroud

Non-Members: Eleanor Aramil (*Piepenbrink*), Robbie & Sue Barnes (*Hyde*), Bonnie Blair (*Nance*), Thomas Caines (*Lowe*), Bethany Dillard (*Johnson*), Marty Gray (*Gray*), Kris Hall (*Hall*), Ashley & Jim Koss (*Schlie*), Bern Langley (*Bumgardner*), Mia Marine (*Cox*), Lloyd Miller (*Uffalussy*), Avery Morkert (*Morkert*), John Rhoads (*Galik*), Becky Whitfield (*Bumgardner*)

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) Sunday February 1

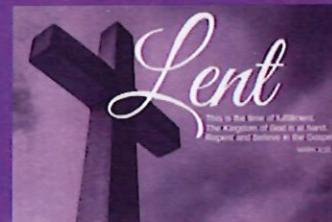
Daily Devotions, video Bible studies, and many other resources

are free because of friends like you. Visit Ihm.org/discoverIhm to find a helpful free resource today!



Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:30 PM

- February 25 – Job 1:13-22
- March 4 – Psalm 6
- March 11 – Isaiah 53
- March 18 – Psalm 22
- March 25 – Romans 5:1-11



SAVE THE DATE

A workshop by yourbekn

**Sat. Feb. 7, 2026
1:30-4:30pm**

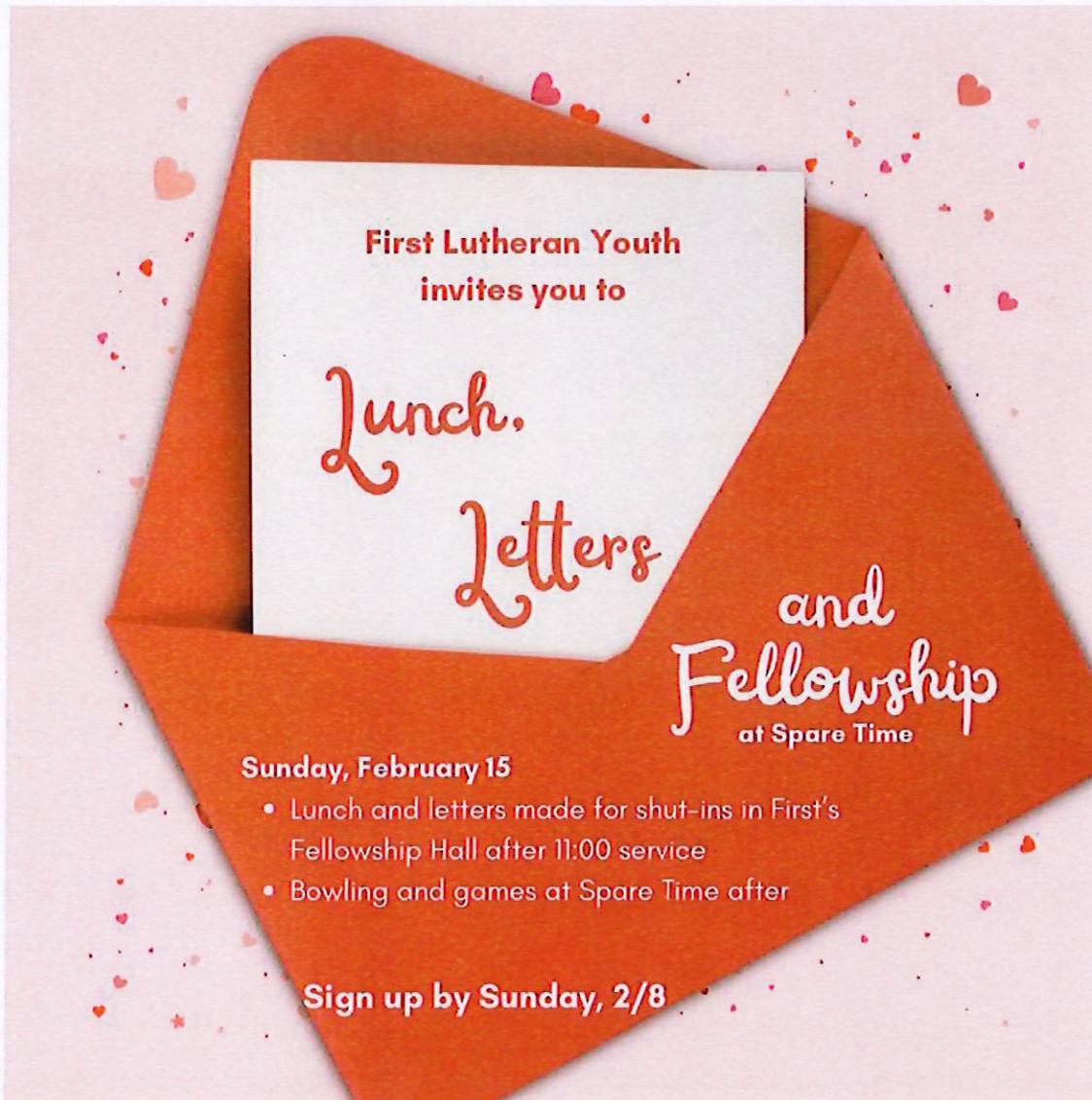


First Lutheran Church 2800 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Supporting Caregivers. Honoring Seniors.
Empowering Churches.

Gain practical tools, resources & spiritual insights through an interactive workshop to help your church become a center of compassion and care for aging seniors & their family caregivers.

Text Nancy Gray at 423-298-3418 to register.



BREAKFAST SNACKS!

Sunday Breakfast Snacks are a wonderful way to bond with fellow church members and create a welcoming environment. We would like to encourage additional members to participate in this endeavor. There is a 2026 signup sheet in the Breakfast Room with many Sundays available. You will even receive a reminder text

the Saturday before your chosen Sunday.
Thank you for your assistance!



The Green Bag is once again in the Breakfast Room for anyone who may want to donate used or new outer wear for the homess at the Chatt Foundation. Blankets, socks, hats & gloves are also welcome.



Ladies' Fellowship
meets at 6:00 on
Thursday, February 19,
at Portofino's
on Ringgold Road.



Men's Fellowship
meets at 6:30 on
Thursday, February 19
at Rib & Loin
on Brainerd Road.



Volunteers to run the AV equipment for Sunday morning services are needed immediately. If you can help, please contact Adam Weidman.

ELDER GROUP LIST

Wonder who your Elder is?

Check the notice board in the Coffee Room!



Grounds Committee

This committee is currently manned by one person: Michael Stephens, chair.

Able-bodied people desperately needed to help with current tasks within the church. Please contact Michael Stephens to help.

In my
dream
world,
fabric is
free and
quilting
makes you
thin!

Quilting!

*Our quilters
meet at 10:00
on the 3rd
Tuesday of the
month. Why
not join them
and see what
quilting does
for you!*

BCA

Helping Hands Work Day

Saturday, February 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you can offer your time and landscaping/repair skills/tools,
please consider volunteering.

Tasks

- Level the playground
- Trim crape myrtles
- Chop cedar tree logs
- Relocate pavilion

- Tree work behind the playground
- Install speed bumps in back parking lot

Tools needed:

- Shovels
- Wheel Barrows
- Chainsaws
- Rakes
- Levels

Please contact Principal David Topp if you can participate -
dtopp@bcacademy.net or 406-270-4917.

Thank you for helping keep BCA beautiful and in good
working repair! We appreciate our volunteers!

Spirit night



20%

of the proceeds
are donated back to
**Belvoir Christian
Academy**

Exclusive Spirit Night pricing:

\$38.99 Platinum Attractions

\$28.99 Ultimate Attractions

\$21.99 Deluxe Attractions

Tickets available at the front desk. Must mention Spirit Night at time of purchase. Urban Air socks not included.

February 6, 2026 // 5pm-8pm

2020 Gunbarrel Rd Suite 182

Chattanooga, TN 37421

423-680-7044



let 'em fly

Mark your calendars for this fun evening of jumping and climbing to help our 7th/8th graders raise funds for their trip to Washington D.C. this April! We will receive 20% of purchases made between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Feb. 6.

February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Septuagesima LWML Mite Box Lutheran Hour Ministry 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	2	3 9-2 Food Pantry 1:30 Bible Class 6:30 Christian Ed Meeting 6:30 "Life in God's Way" Seminar at BCA	4	5 12:00 Evangelism Meeting at Armando's, N. Lee Hwy	6	7 1:30-3:30 Beck Seminar in Fellowship Hall
8 Sexagesima 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	9 6:00 BCA Board	10 9-2 Food Pantry 1:30 Bible Class Meetings: 6:00 Elders 6:00 Parish Fellowship 6:00 Social Ministry	11	12 10:00 LWML 6:30 Church Council Meeting	13	14
15 Quinquagesima 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	16 <i>Deadline for submitting info for March Calendar & Monthly Newsletter</i>	17 9-2 Food Pantry 10:00 Quilters 1:30 Bible Class	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:30 Divine Service 5:30 Children's Confirmation Class	19 6:00 Ladies' Fellowship at Portofino's on Ringgold Rd. 6:30 Men's Fellowship at Rib & Lou in Brainerd	20	21
22 First Sunday in Lent <i>(Invocabit)</i> Food Pantry Offering 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	23	24 9-2 Food Pantry 1:30 Bible Class	25 6:30 Lenten Service 5:30 Children's Confirmation Class	26	27	28
FEBRUARY 2026						

February Worship Assistants

February 1 8:30

Organist	Anna Hipp
Assistants	Jeff Anderson
	Frank Streufert
Ushers	Ralph Meissner
	Chris Douglas
Altar Guild	Linda Cox
	Michelle Bumgardner

February 1 11:00

Organist	Anna Hipp
Live Stream	Charlie Simmons
Assistants	Freer Team
Ushers	Townley Team
Altar Guild	Marcie Little
Acolyte	Shiloh Miller

February 8 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Assistants Jeff Anderson
Frank Streufert
Ushers David Topp
Kurt Piepenbrink
Altar Guild Ralph Meissner

February 8 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Vacant
Assistants Freer Team
Ushers Townley Team
Altar Guild Jodie Hyde
Acolyte Lucas Barber

February 15 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Assistants Steve Kempson
Jim Post
Ushers Tony Seiberlich
Ralph Meissner
Altar Guild Patty Chewning

February 15 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Eric Turner
Assistants Freer Team
Ushers Townley Team
Altar Guild Carla Brooks
Acolyte Audrey Hipp

Ash Wednesday, February 18 6:00 pm

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Adam Weidman
Assistants Freer Team
Townley Team
Altar Guild Patty Chewning

February 22 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
Assistants Steve Kempson
Jim Post
Ushers Chris Douglas
David Topp

February 22 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
Live Stream Adam Weidman
Assistants Freer Team
Ushers Townley Team
Altar Team Carla Brooks

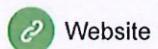
Altar Team Linda Cox

Michelle Bumgardner

Acolyte Colin Hipp

Acolyte

Audrey Hipp



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