

# All are welcome in Jesus' love



by Pastor Blake Rohrer

At first glance, February 14 this year may seem like a day of jarring contrasts. We all know February 14 is Valentine's Day. It is a day filled with bright red hearts, flowers, and a focus on love and relationships. This year February 14 is also, in the church, Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day focused on recognizing our sinfulness and of remembering our mortality. Ash Wednesday is the day we receive ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads. Valentine's Day is a day of love; Ash Wednesday is a day of remorse and repentance.

But I see in this unusual coincidence of holidays a meaningful connection. The ashes that trace a cross on our forehead proclaim that we are beloved children of God. In the cross we are joined to the love of Jesus. The cross of ashes is a reminder of an unbreakable relationship we have been given with a God who loves us. The sometimes superficial love of Valentine's Day is definitely not the same as the love expressed by the cross of ashes. Yet, both days can guide our thoughts and actions to ones that recognize the importance of relationships and of acting in love toward one another.

During Lent you are invited to join with us in worship, meals and small groups, taking the opportunity to grow in your spiritual life. These practices connect us deeply in relationship with God and with one another. Our focus in the small groups is on belonging. In Jesus' love, all are welcome to belong and to serve others in love.

What is the symbol of February 14 this year? A heart? A cross? Or both?!?

Inside this Issue  
Wednesday's during Lent 2  
Lent Small Groups 3  
Adult Forum 4  
Midvale Hunger Offerings 5

# PRAISE

## Worship schedule

All worship is offered in person in the Sanctuary

- Saturday at 5:00pm
- Sunday at 8:00am (also on Facebook Live)
- Sunday at 10:30am
- Sunday School and Adult Education at 9:15am



## Ash Wednesday worship February 14

11:30am in the Sanctuary  
7:30pm in the Sanctuary & online on Facebook Live

On Ash Wednesday, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. As we journey through Lent, we remember that we have already been reconciled to God through Jesus. Living in God's grace and freedom, we are challenged again to intentionally live out the mercy and justice of God in our lives and in the world.



## Lent meals

Wednesdays, February 21 - March 20 in the Fellowship Hall

A free will offering will be taken to cover the meal costs for lunch and dinner. No RSVP is necessary. The meals are scheduled so that everyone who would like to do so can also

participate in the small group study and Wednesday worship opportunities.

**Lunch will be served at 12:00pm.** Enjoy this delicious light meal prepared by chef Joel Olson as you share fellowship with others.

**Supper will be served from 5:30-6:15pm.** Enjoy a light soup supper.



## Midvale's Worship Band - Sunday, February 18 at 8:00 & 10:30am

The band is bringing together familiar songs with new arrangements (think guitars

and percussion) and new contemporary and praise music to our worship time. On this first Sunday in Lent, the worship band will be playing at both morning services.

## Midday Lent prayer service

Wednesdays at 11:30am February 21 - March 20

This simple worship features readings, prayers and hymns. It provides a meaningful way to deepen your Lenten experience.

## Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:30pm February 21 - March 20 in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

This beautiful and peaceful liturgy is a Midvale favorite. If you would like a print copy of the liturgy for your use at home, please contact the church office.

## Wednesdays during Lent

**Ash Wednesday February 14**  
worship at 11:30am and 7:30pm

**February 21 - March 20**  
Small groups, meal and worship

10:15-11:15am - *Where You Belong* small groups

11:30am Midday prayer service

12:00pm Lunch

5:30-6:15pm Soup Supper

6:15-7:15pm *Where You Belong* small groups

7:30pm Holden Evening Prayer in person and on Facebook Live

## Lent small group invitation - sign up today!

### Where you *Belong* - Lent small groups for you!

You are invited to join a small group on Wednesdays for five weeks beginning February 21. Small groups are a meaningful way to connect with others and explore your questions and connect faith to your daily life. Make a five week commitment and see what God's Spirit will be about in you!

The small groups will be using the resource *Signs of Belonging* by Mary Hinkle. This booklet looks at how God uses the church to create a community of belonging where everyone is welcomed and valued. It is based on the seven "marks of the church" by Martin Luther. Luther saw these "marks" as a way to help Christians live in community so that they can experience and share God's grace. The topics will be of interest both to those new to the Lutheran faith and those who have been involved for many years. Each section includes personal stories from the author and stories from scripture that highlight the themes.

Each session begins with an introduction from one of the pastors for everyone. Then you will break up into your small groups for conversation. The themes we will explore over the five weeks are:

- The Word: The story where we belong.
- Baptism: The bath where we belong.
- Holy Communion: The table where we belong.
- Forgiveness and Reproof of Sin: The truth where we belong.
- The Office of Ministry: The care where we belong.
- Worship: The song where we belong.
- The Cross: The shadow where we belong.
- Belonging Together: Community, risk and the presence of Christ.

**Small groups will be offered Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21 at 10:15am and 6:15pm in-person. If there is interest, a Zoom only session will also be offered. Please sign up no later than Ash Wednesday, February 14.**

#### How to sign-up:

- contact the church office - [info@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:info@midvalelutheran.org) or 608-238-7119
- sign up on the form in the Gathering Space at church
- sign up online using the link in The Moments email or on the website [midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org) under the "Grow" tab and select Lent 2024
- There is a suggested donation of \$5 per book

## Lent daily devotional

Midvale members and friends have written devotions for every day in Lent - and you can receive it every morning in your email inbox beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14! If you have received the devotional by email in the past, you will automatically receive it again this year. If you have not received the daily emails in prior years, or if you have a new email address, you can sign up online now by visiting the church website: [midvalelutheran.org/lent](http://midvalelutheran.org/lent). If you are unable to receive email and would like to receive a printed copy, please contact the church office at 238-7119 and one can be reserved for you.

## Midvale Youth present "The Journey" - a fundraiser dinner & show

**Sunday, February 4. Meal at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall, and show to follow at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.**

Meal tickets need to be purchased in advance, but everyone is welcome to attend the show, whether or not you are attending the meal. All proceeds from ticket sales and donations will help the youth attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Tickets can be purchased online by clicking the "Give Now" button on our church website at [midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org), and selecting "Youth Fundraiser Dinner & Show" in the drop-down menu. You may also reach out to Brenda Goble to RSVP and a ticket will be held for you: [brendag@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:brendag@midvalelutheran.org) or 608-238-7119.

- \$25 Adult Meal & Show
- \$10 Child Meal & Show (children under 12 may choose to eat the main menu or a brown bag lunch)
- \$5 Suggested donation for attending the show only.

**All meals must be reserved by January 28th.**

## Annual Report of the congregation

The 2023 Annual Report will be available beginning January 27. You can pick up a printed copy in the Gathering Space at church or view and download a digital version on the church website. Go to [midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org) - click on the NEWS tab and select Annual Report.



# Adult Education Sundays at 9:15am -Join us in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom



## February 4 - Preview of the Annual Congregational Meeting with Church Council Officers

Our Congregational Council President, Julie Walsh, Treasurer, Derek Matzke, and other Council members will preview the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 11 at 11:45 a.m. We will cover the 2023 finances and the proposed 2024 Budget, the recommendations for 2024 Endowment Grants, nominations for Church Committees and Council and other key items. This is a great opportunity to get informed about church governance, raise questions, and discuss the future.



## February 11 – "Ancient Echoes" by Walter Bruggeman, Part 1 of 2 with Pastor Larry Pinnow

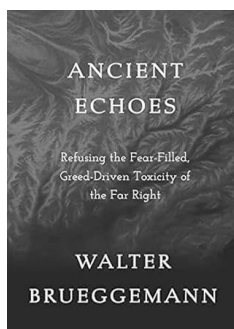
In *Ancient Echoes*, biblical scholar and modern theologian Walter Brueggemann responds to eight "truth claims" made by the radical right in US politics. In the 2020 book, *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America: A Recent History*, Kurt Andersen enunciates eight "truth claims" made by the political right that champion aggressive self-sufficiency and self-security at the expense of the community. In the

process, any hint of "the common good" among neighbors disappears from the scene.

Brueggemann responds to each of these mistaken "truth claims" through the witness of scripture and an insistence upon a common good -- a neighborly practice of generosity, hospitality, forgiveness, justice, compassion, and mercy. The echoes of biblical faith reveal that these right wing "truth claims" contradict our long-running legacy of biblical faith.

In a two-part Adult Forum, Pastor Larry Pinnow will share his reflections on *Ancient Echoes* and ask us to imagine how our faith is intertwined with our daily lives as people, community members and citizens.

Pastor Larry Pinnow grew up on a farm near Brodhead, Wisconsin. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Luther College, Bachelor of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, a Master of Sacred Theology and a Doctor of Ministry from Wartburg Seminary. During his time as a Lutheran Pastor, Larry served congregations in Racine, Monroe and Madison, and served as an interim pastor and visitation pastor at Midvale Community Lutheran Church from 2013-2018.



## February 18 – "Ancient Echoes" by Walter Bruggeman, Part 2 of 2 with Pastor Larry Pinnow

In this second session of a two-part Adult Forum, Pastor Larry will continue the discussion of the eight "truth claims" in political rhetoric that are contrary to the teachings of our Hebrew/Christian scriptures and provide an opportunity to engage and talk with one another about how our faith is intertwined with our daily lives as people, community members and citizens.



## February 25 – Practicing Community in a Divided World with Troy M. Troftgruben, Wartburg Theological Seminary

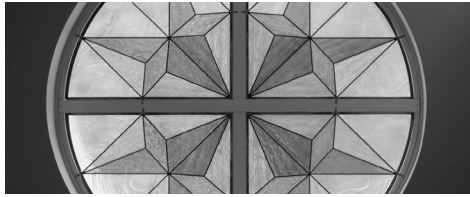
Troy Troftgruben will discuss many of the ideas in his recent book *Rooted and Renewing*, which invites us to ask what it means to be church today and how the historic roots of church communities are important in developing that understanding. *Rooted and Renewing* turns to historical-critical and social-scientific studies to portray everyday realities in the earliest communities, especially the Pauline assemblies. Aimed at church members and leaders alike, the book encourages reflection on the church's past so as to explore how Christians are called to be the church in today's world.

Before joining the faculty at Wartburg in 2013, Troy served for five years as a pastor in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He also served as adjunct instructor of religion at the University of North Dakota. Troy enjoys teaching with technology, whether online, residentially, or in hybrid formats. His areas of interest are Luke and Acts, early church communities, and Matthew. By vocation, Troy sees himself as a pastor, just one with a specialized call: the formation of church leaders through Wartburg Seminary. He is married to Maria, and together they have two children. Outside of work, Troy enjoys playing music, biking, being outdoors, cooking, and practicing the discipline of hope by following Minnesota sports teams and the Chicago Cubs.

**Zoom link** - You do not need to register to attend the Adult Forum on Zoom. Reference our weekly newsletter, *The Moments*, for the Zoom link or contact the church office.

MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, CALLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PRAISE, LIVE AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE.

LIVE



## Annual Meeting of the congregation February 11 in the Fellowship Hall and by Zoom

The Annual Meeting will be held following the 10:30am worship at approximately 11:45am. Members are welcome to attend in person or participate by Zoom. In order to participate by Zoom you must register using the link in *The Moments* or by contacting the church office by February 8 to receive the Zoom link.

The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity to remember all that God has done for and through us in the last year. We will also look ahead to where God is leading us in ministry in 2024. During the meeting Congregational Council members and other leaders will be elected, our budget and spending plan for ministry for 2024 will be approved and endowment grants will also be decided.

## Your Thrivent Choice Dollars make a difference

Members of Thrivent Financial are able to designate Midvale as a recipient of their Choice Dollars. Our church benefits greatly from those who make this designation. Thank you!

In 2023, these funds allowed Midvale to provide:

- Adult Bible study resources
- Children's sermon resources
- Thank you recognitions for volunteers and musicians
- Coffee and refreshments for retired pastor gatherings
- A/V supplies for weddings and funerals
- and resources for other needs that came up throughout the year.

If you would like to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to Midvale, please contact your Thrivent representative or the church business manager, Amanda Mueller, in the church office. Thank you!



## Thank you! Midvale hunger offerings give hunger ministries nearly \$14,000 in additional support!

Thank you to everyone who makes contributions to hunger offerings through Midvale. Hunger offerings can be made through the hunger envelopes mailed to members, through automated withdrawal or through online giving from the website using the "Give Now" tab and selecting the "Hunger Offering" fund.

In 2023, these offerings totaled \$13,952. The Social Ministry Committee designates hunger ministries to receive these gifts. These gifts are in addition to the budgeted support our congregation provides to ministries beyond our church, which totalled \$84,500 in 2023.

The 2023 hunger offerings were equally divided between ELCA World Hunger and the following ministries that serve our local community: Allied Fresh Pantry, Bethel Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Food Pantry, St. Mark's Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Extended Hands Pantry, Elver Park Neighborhood Center, UW-Madison Lutheran Campus Ministry, Triangle Community Ministry, Way Forward Resources and the Lussier Community Education Center.

### *He is With Us Every Day* by Dylan Abraham

*Our Lord and Savior Jesus  
We follow his way,  
Looking after us  
He is with us every day.*

*He heals the sick  
And raises the dead,  
Died on a cross  
Like he said.*

*We should be grateful  
For what he gives,  
Gives us hope  
To help us live.*

*Born a baby  
On Christmas day,  
To forgive our sins  
And follow his way.*

*So let it be known  
To all mankind,  
We search with Jesus  
And we shall find.*

# SHARE

## In case of severe weather or cold

Worship will not be canceled in case of inclement weather, but worship leaders and worship attendees should feel no obligation to attend. When making a decision on whether or not to attend worship, please consider your own safety first and above all. You can worship safely from home by connecting to online worship through the church Facebook page.

Weekday events at church generally follow the decisions of the Madison Metropolitan School District. If schools are closed, church events and the church building will also be closed. For the most up-to-date information check out the church Facebook page: facebook.com/midvalelutheran.

## Memorials

Thank you for the gifts given in memory of these saints of God that support our ministry.

**Phil Engen**  
Kari Cole

**Jane Schultz**  
Fritz and Rosalind Schultz

**Harry Hinze**  
Jane Falk  
Susan Jacoby  
Betsy Hudak

**Steve Thompson**  
Lila Jean Stahnke  
Lucy Vaaler

**Lois Kammer**  
Mike and Ann Albert

## In our prayers remember:

† Hospitality as we welcome friends, visitors and guests.

† Health, comfort and healing for: Bill Weiss (father of Becki Fiegel), Richard LaBrie, Jeff Leeder (brother of Randi Leeder), Tonya Pankov (friend of Karen Bogenschneider), Diane Baima and Yurii Potapenko, Greg Lampe, Julie Underwood (daughter of Linda Crane), Adrian Gutierrez (grandson of Bob & Carol Ostergren), Lois Ludwig (friend of Neal Hamlett), Toni Combs (friend of Neal Hamlett), Samantha Kealey (cousin of Elise Uphoff), Richard and Adelle Johnson, Acadia Bradley (friend of Enid and Frank Erdman), Sylvia Lee-Thompson (cousin of Charles Naeseth), Quentin Engelhart (son-in-law of Rebecca Hagness), Bruce Droessler (uncle of Jennifer Austin), Mary Ann Schulte (sister of Colette Corwin), Walter Sopala (father of Marie Nordeng), Mrs. Robert Lechecht (sister-in-law of Julie Lechelt), Jo Schwenn, Carole Bendtsen, Allen Fager (father of Joshua Fager), Angie Schmidt, Chris Hill, Charles Collins (husband of Elizabeth Radunzel), and Sue Iverson (mother of Elise Uphoff).

† For the safety and well-being of all who serve our community and nation as first responders, healthcare workers and military personnel, giving thanks for their

## Thank you for your regular offerings

Donations to support our regular ministry and mission make a difference in the lives of many who are touched by our ministry every day. Your gifts also are an expression of your faith and an offering of thanksgiving to God. There are several ways to make a gift:

• Give now to our Regular Giving Fund online by credit or debit card or automatic deduction from checking or savings account. Visit our website or use this QR code to access our online giving page.



• Mail a check to MCLC, 4329 Tokay Blvd. Madison, WI 53711

• Use your bank's online bill pay service to send a contribution - this is usually free and you don't even pay for postage.

## Midvale Church Calendar

The church calendar is available on our website midvalelutheran.org under the "News" tab

## February Baptism Birthdays



***Congratulations to our young people and their families as they celebrate the day on which God said to them, "I love you. You are mine!"***

2/8	† Alexander Woolsey	2/19	† Betsy Thill
2/13	† Millie Massnick	2/21	† Fritz Bierke
2/14	† Harriet Waldron	2/28	† Lewis Tasch
2/19	† Felix Kretschmann		

## Midvale Community Lutheran Church

4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison, WI 53711

Telephone ..... 608-238-7119

Email ..... info@midvalelutheran.org

Website ..... midvalelutheran.org

6 Office Hours ..... 8:30 am-12:30 pm



MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4329 TOKAY BOULEVARD . MADISON . WI 53711

Dated Material

*all are welcome!*

Join us on Wednesdays  
during Lent

Worship schedule listed on page 2



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Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



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# Lent Small Groups

February 21 - March 20

This year's study will use the resource  
*Signs of Belonging* by Mary Hinkle

All are welcome!

Sign up by February 14

More info is on page 3

