

# Currents

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 2015

to the saints...

...baptism begins the whole matter. Oh, I suppose that first breath, the first gasp of air drawn in by tiny, wet lungs starts this part off. A beginning that, by definition, includes somewhere far off an ending to finish it. Life. Beginning, middle, ended. A complete cycle of what it means to be alive. A being that is, and at some point, will be was.

But, in faith, in the church, baptism begins it over again for and toward another point, toward another end, and filling it all with a different middle. Baptism makes in us, announces and creates in us, death and life — in that order — that we should be, at the end, alive. Risen.

Lent is the liturgical season that does the exact same thing. Ash Wednesday, with a thumb of ash and oil, announces your end. It affirms your beginning too, dust and

dirt made animated literally by the breath of God. Your first clayed-gasp draws in that which God has exhaled-out. An exchange of Spirit and spirit, life for non-life. Being for non-being. But Ash Wednesday also says plainly in life, with hot breath still leaving us, that somewhere along the way, an end is imminent — sure, without doubt. Breath will betray us finally and we will be exposed as dust, clay, and ashes. The “us” of us will be only this — silent, breathless dirt. Lent tells you so, to your face, to your breath, with a smudge of ash and a dirty thumb — “remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Likewise, even with clean, fresh water, your end is soaked, drowned sure into the death of Jesus. Death and death and death. Dust and a stirred water that smear and splash a unified truth, muddy — your beginning has an end.

But, here is the better part of Lent and baptism — that your end also has a grand, good beginning. Life and resurrection is yours already, so that all those things that make in us tears, temptations, and terrors also have an end.

## Mark your calendar

**Feb. 8** 11 a.m.

### Coffee and fellowship

**Feb. 14** 10 a.m.

### Women’s Bible study

**Feb. 16** 6 p.m.

### Congregation Council

**Feb. 18** 12:10, 5 and 6 p.m.

### Ash Wednesday worship

**Feb. 24** 1 and 5:30 p.m.

### Lent Bible study

**Feb. 26-28**

**Host at Beacon House**

## Ash Wednesday Feb. 18

Join us at the ERC for Ash Wednesday services at 12:10, 5 and 6 p.m.

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Forever. Swallowed. But, please, make no mistake: This hope does not make these things less — less in importance or affect or degree. In fact, it makes them more by the very fact of their ending. They must end to allow life finally. The large and imposing must yield finally to what is most consuming — life and love. Tears are tears as they tear from us a sense that what is best about life has somehow ended, failed. But a smudged thumb also wipes away a tear with the promise that it is death that has failed finally. That sadness has ceased to be sad. That all that remains is more than clay and fragile tragedy — all that remains is the breath and Spirit of God in us.

Here at the beginning. There at the end that is not an end at all.

Baptism.  
Lent.

Easter.  
“Remember ...  
... what Christ said ... that on the third day he would be raised?!”

shalom,  
Pastor Buresh

#### Join us ...

Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. for coffee, treats and fellowship following worship in the Fireside Lounge.

#### Women's Bible study

The ULC Women's Group will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, in the activity room at Grace Willowbrook at 4868 Otteson Lane (it's north of the Goodwill Store on Gateway Drive).

#### Lent Bible study

Pastor Buresh will be leading a Bible study during Lent from the Book of Faith series called “The Greatest Story/ a Bible Introduction” — we will meet on Tuesdays at 1 and 5:30 p.m. - Feb. 24 and March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Let pastor know if you wish to participate and we will order the appropriate number of books.

#### A note of thanks

Dear University Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your donation of \$500! This contribution enables us to continue to assist abused women and children in the community.  
The Board, staff and volunteers thank you!  
Happy New Year,  
Bolton Refuge House, Inc.



University Lutheran Church  
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Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Phone: 715-834-8026

#### ULC Staff

Alan Buresh, Pastor  
Jennifer Lange, Choral Music Director  
Todd Johnson, ULC President  
DeAnne Swenson, ULC Assistant

#### Weekly Schedule

- **Sundays**
  - Choir 9 a.m.
  - Worship 10 a.m.
- **Wednesdays**
  - Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m.
  - Choir 5:15 p.m.
  - Meal 5:45 p.m.
  - Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m.

#### ULC Offering

Offering received - 01/04/15 \$5,180  
Offering received - 01/11/15 \$1,988  
Offering received - 01/18/15 \$1,518  
Offering received - 01/25/15  
Simply Giving  
Total offerings \$7,786

Average weekly offering needed to meet budget  
\$2,320

Average weekly offering needed to meet annual expenses: \$2,110

#### Contact:

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Web: [www.universitylutheran.org](http://www.universitylutheran.org)

To see the online calendar of events, go to our website link: <http://universitylutheran.org/wordpress1/events/>.

# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.	2	3	4 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m. Confirmation 4 p.m. Choir 5:15 p.m. Evening meal 5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship 11 a.m.	9	10	11 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m. Confirmation 4 p.m. Choir 5:15 p.m. Evening meal 5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10 a.m.
15 Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.	16 Congregation Council 6 p.m.	17	18 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Worship 12:10, 5 and 6 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Choir 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.	23	24 Lent Bible study 1 and 5:30 p.m.	25 Bibles and Bagels 8 a.m. Confirmation 4 p.m. Choir 5:15 p.m. Evening meal 5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m.	26	27	28