



# The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

## Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ FEBRUARY 2026

### *Encourage One Another...*

**Encourage...**is something everyone needs during this time of year. Actually, it is what we need the most of in our daily walks of life. Wow...the news can be so horrible, terrible to watch these days; car jackings, killing of innocent people, murder-suicide, the economy bouncing all over the place, and not knowing from one day to the next about the availability and price of products we need in our life. We do need to read and hear something that is beneficial and encouraging for our lives. The word encouraging is defined from the Oxford Languages as “**give support, confidence, or hope to (someone)**” which is desperately needed in our lives and our world today.

**Encourage...**is something that is needed even if we put aside all the trouble our world is going through and the mess of the economy. It is needed by each and every one of us as we pore over the bills that need to be paid for the mortgage, needed utilities, clothing, and shelter. That doesn't include those Christmas gifts that we bought for each other. We hope that prices for those various things that we need to live on will drop and we will find relief from the worry and anxiety that life deals out to us. We need to have some encouraging words spoken to us.

**Encourage One Another...**the Apostle Paul writes: “**Therefore encourage each other with these words**” (1 **Thessalonians 4:18**). The Apostle Paul was writing to the Church at Thessalonica about the last days, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and about grieving with hope the death of someone in our life. He is encouraging us to be different than those who have no hope, for we do have hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul is helping us to understand that we are God's instruments in the world to share a word of encouragement with those around us, to help, support one another in life.

**Encourage One Another...**as we navigate through these challenging times we need to reach out to others with words of hope, peace, and the love of Christ our Lord. You see, we have been created by a gracious and loving God to be those people with encouraging words of hope for others to hear. Our Lord God is traveling with us and encouraging us as well so that we can share the love of Christ Jesus with others around us. It is the testament of a loving Savior who through the power of the Holy Spirit enables and empowers us to encourage each other and those we see each and every day.

**Encourage One Another...**as God has given us those opportunities during this Epiphany season of sharing the Light of life, Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Yes, we do live in challenging times of lives and that of our world. It is during these times that the Lord uses us with His Word of Life in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to bring hope and encouragement to a world and live that are tearing apart. May the Lord use you where you are and the words that you speak, to be an encouraging force in the life of others, bringing the hope and joy of Christ Jesus to be that encouraging word of life.

In Christ's Service  
Pastor Fiege



## LCMS Stewardship

### Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.



**Electronic Giving:** Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at [dtvosberg@gmail.com](mailto:dtvosberg@gmail.com)



The next **LWML meeting** will be announced at a later date.

**Prayer Chain:** Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / [ardig775@gmail.com](mailto:ardig775@gmail.com)



Bob Walbruch	February 23
David Welsh	February 23

Brian & Kristie Hahn	February 17
----------------------	-------------



**Visiting Pastors** --- Many of you already know that **Pastor Fiege** will be away on vacation on Feb. 8,15, and 22.

**While Pastor's Away**

Schedule follows:

Pastor Maurer	Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>
Paster Heining	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>
Pastor Chase	Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>

They will be doing the Worship Service & Adult Bible Study. Please help them feel welcome! Pastor Fiege will be gone for Ash Weds. so it is suggested that our congregation attend worship at Trinity.

**Special Dates for February 2026**

- Groundhog Day, *February 2, 2026*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2026*
- Presidents Day, *February 16, 2026*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 18, 2026*



## Memory Verses

Worship Ministry • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

. The LCMS invites everyone to memorize a verse together each week. The LCMS Verse List from Sun., Feb. 1 thru July 26, is posted outside of the office.

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct their Choice Dollars for charity. We would be most pleased if you would designate them to Mount Moriah!

Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



**Rochester Zone**

**LWML Invites**

**YOU  
to the 2026**



**Winter  
Retreat**



**GOING FOR THE  
GOLD  
WITH GOD!**



Hebrews 12:1

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

**DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026**

REGISTRATION: 8:30 A.M., PROGRAM: 9 A.M.,  
LUNCH INCLUDED, COST? FREE WILL DONATION

**LOCATION: REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
869 7<sup>TH</sup> AVE SE, ROCHESTER MN**



### Worship Assistant Schedule for February 2026

### Altar Guild for Month of February --- Kim Amundson

<b>2/1/2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. after the Epiphany</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder – Don Vosberg    Reader – Dave Welsh</b> <b>Music – Dave Welsh</b>
<b>2/8/2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. after the Epiphany</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship – 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Maurer</b>	<b>Elder – Brant Klepel    Reader – Kristie Hahn</b> <b>Music – Margaret Karst</b>
<b>2/15/2026 – Transfiguration</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Heining</b>	<b>Elder – Don Vosberg    Reader -- Shelley Arett</b> <b>Music – Ruth Benning</b>
<b>2/18/2026 – Ash Weds. No Service at Mt. Moriah</b>	
<b>2/22/2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. in Lent</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship – 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Chase</b>	<b>Elder – Shane Amundson    Reader – Kim Amundson</b> <b>Music – Dave Welsh</b>
<b>2/25/2026 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds. in Lent</b> Worship 7:00/p.m. Dinner 6:15 p.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder – Brant Klepel    Reader -- Dennis Karst</b> <b>Music – Margaret Karst</b>

# Valentine word search

N S U V B F F S S Z T D W F V Z V P E M  
 W T P R I H L N R Q Y R Y R A U R B E F  
 N R N Y W G O U U A K V U H G K N T H Z  
 F A R G D M W G S U S Z J E W Q A D M O  
 X E A R V J E P W D D Q K W L I C L E U  
 P H E I K V R U E A R V R J C O O P C L  
 S Y B N D H S G E F Y W O P H A V B N O  
 C D Y G I H J P T F Z P A J O Z O E A V  
 M N D C P E Y I Z E C M J S C S W S M E  
 C A D O U A L N L C A I H M O F R Z O X  
 E C E U C R W K F T R D Y R L T Z I R K  
 O W T P E T N J P I D I M B A O X C S I  
 Y W M L P V R Y E O W E P W T G F H Y S  
 H R H E R A D U K N W N M X E A O U M S  
 K W P I H S D N E I R F Q U R U D O V C  
 D S E S O R X C G T R A E H T E E W S K  
 A A K U O K K E F V A L E N T I N E C Z  
 M K D Z M M G H S T M C G F A M I L Y J  
 L E S L K R C S D N O M A I D O K C U V  
 X Z G E F H E Z X F Z Z Y L H U G P D J

- HEART VALENTINE DIAMOND
- CUPID CHOCOLATE CARD RING
- FRIENDSHIP CANDY HEARTS ROSES TEDDY BEAR
- KISS FEBRUARY FAMILY ROMANCE
- SWEETHEART PINK LOVE SWEET
- TRUE LOVE HUG FLOWERS AFFECTION

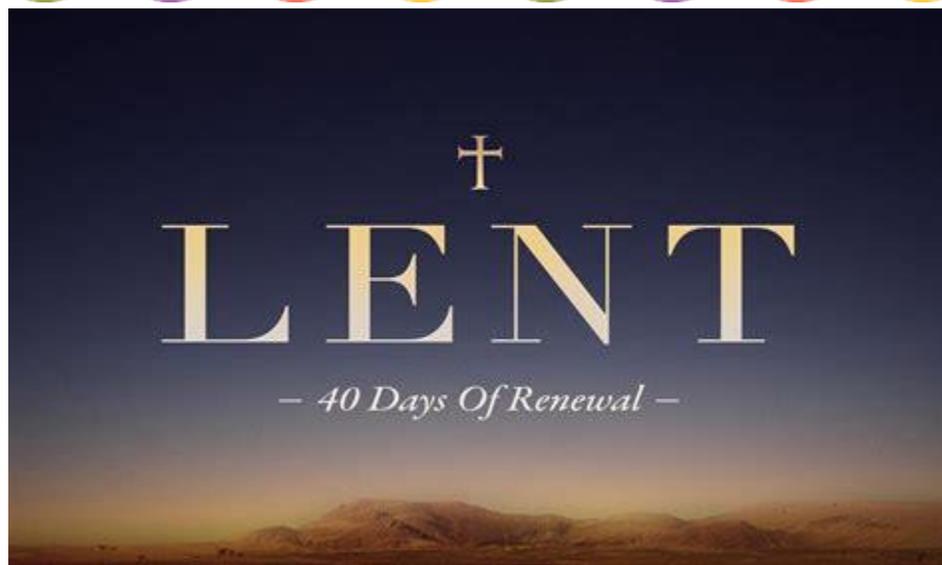


# Lent Word Scramble

- ROYTF ASDY \_\_\_\_\_
- PTENAECCENR \_\_\_\_\_
- SIGTNAF \_\_\_\_\_
- MURALEJSE \_\_\_\_\_
- TEBYARLA \_\_\_\_\_
- NIRES \_\_\_\_\_
- SEDTRE \_\_\_\_\_
- ODGO DIFYRA \_\_\_\_\_
- HSA NDYASEDWE \_\_\_\_\_
- CILSIPEDS \_\_\_\_\_
- OSRCS \_\_\_\_\_
- GRISFOVNESE \_\_\_\_\_
- HSAE \_\_\_\_\_
- EAPNECN \_\_\_\_\_
- YOHL USDYRTAH \_\_\_\_\_
- REYARP \_\_\_\_\_
- XCIRONUIFCI \_\_\_\_\_
- ATRESE \_\_\_\_\_
- MPAL ASYDUN \_\_\_\_\_
- SUJSE \_\_\_\_\_
- FICGRECIA \_\_\_\_\_
- NORSURITECRE \_\_\_\_\_
- LOYH EKEW \_\_\_\_\_
- LSBES \_\_\_\_\_

## Word Bank:

- ASHES
- ASH WEDNESDAY
- BETRAYAL
- BLESS
- CROSS
- CRUCIFIXION
- DESERT
- DISCIPLES
- EASTER
- FASTING
- FORGIVENESS
- FORTY DAYS
- GOOD FRIDAY
- HOLY THURSDAY
- HOLY WEEK
- JERUSALEM
- JESUS
- PALM SUNDAY
- PENANCE
- PRAYER
- REPENTANCE
- RESURRECTION
- RISEN
- SACRIFICE



**Mount Moriah Lutheran Church**

923 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW, Byron, MN 55920

Phone: 507-775-2460

Web Site: [www.mtmoriahluth.org](http://www.mtmoriahluth.org)

[www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth](https://www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth)