

# February Announcement Letter



## **2/4- Birthday Sunday**

We hope you can join us as we celebrate those with birthdays and anniversary's this month!

Thank you to our treat volunteers, The Hagemeyer's.

## **2/7- LOTC 6:30PM**

All LOTC Members, please plan to attend so we can finalize details on some upcoming events!

## **2/20- Rebecca Circle 2:00PM**

We will continue our study of Nehemiah. Teresa Berg will be our Bible study leader. All women welcome.

## **2/14 Ash Wednesday 6:30PM**

Join Hope Lutheran & Cloverdale and Portage United Methodist Churches at Hope Lutheran Church for service beginning at 6:30PM

Hope & Cloverdale/Portage UMC will continue to meet at Hope to have services every Wednesday at 6:30PM as we move through the Lenten season.

## **Council Meeting- Following Ash Wednesday Service**



# Happy BIRTHDAY

**Brian Berg: 5th**

**Jane Allison: 6th**

**Tony Morlock: 6th**

**Karen Hagemeyer: 11th**

**Kennedi Mahler: 14th**

**Chris Nitzsche: 14th**

**Teresa Berg: 25th**

**Michelle Morlock: 26th**

**Zane Hagemeyer: 28th**



## A Message From Shea:

*“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”*

*Lamentations 3:25*

For some people, winter is a time of waiting. That’s especially true for those who dread the post-holiday period, as it seems endless. They can hardly wait for spring. I used to work with a woman who, like me, grew up in Ohio and then spent time away, eventually returning. She would say, “Someone should write a song about winter in Ohio...here’s the title: Endless Gray”.

Lately, that seems especially accurate. The chilly, gray days have followed one upon another. It is well-known that seasons and weather can affect peoples’ dispositions, particularly the winter with its diminished natural light. The symptoms: a “low” mood, anxiety, and restlessness. The wait for spring continues.

God’s chosen people, the Israelites, knew something about waiting. They waited and hoped to be rescued from slavery in Egypt, then wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Centuries later, they were sent into exile by Babylonian conquerors, trying to endure as they hoped for a return to their home. It happened, but the wait went on for decades.

As believers, waiting is part of our lives. We wait for answers to our prayers. We wait for Jesus’ promised return, when He will take his people, his church, with Him for eternity.

What does God want us to do in our times of waiting for Him? The verse from Lamentations tells us. We are to seek the Lord. What does that mean? It means to center our minds and hearts on Him. It means to spend time daily with scripture, and in prayer. It means to attend worship and spend time with other believers. And, we are to be alert to how he is moving in our lives, touching us, nudging us, caring for us.

So, as we wait for Him, for any reason, He wants us to come ever closer to Him. The Lamentations verse also tells us there is the Lord’s goodness for us in the waiting and seeking. That’s what He wants for us, always.

Sounds like just the right thing for the next chilly, gray day.