First Lutheran Church
521 N. 8th Street
Manitowoc WI 54220 USA

Messenger

February 2023

What a Valentine

When we count all our blessings Lord,
it's really plain to see,
there would be none without your love,
For loving is the key!

A valentine became the way
To show someone we care,
And it all started with our Lord,
He has so much to share!

He is the perfect Valentine,
To you He gives his heart;
Reach out to Him with open arms
And never from Him part!

Happy Valentines Day to you,
You're special did you know?
The Lord has claimed you for is own,
The bible tells us so!

Elaine Kestly 2014

INCLEMENT Weather Policy

FLC's Inclement Weather Policy

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, again... First Lutheran will follow the Manitowoc Public School district's policy regarding closings, cancellations, etc. SO...If schools are closed.. FIRST LUTHERAN is closed (church & office) no activities, worship, etc If they dismiss classes early or cancel after school activities, FLC also cancels evening activities. (Please tune into WOMT 1240am radio for cancelations.) No need to wonder, no need to get all bundled up. Simply put- stay put!

What about Sundays?.. If the worship service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be announced on WOMT-1240am ASAP.

WHO'S WHO

THE STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Ron Jurgens
Church Administrator

Connie Dorner
Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman
Contemp. Music Coor.

Rebecca Konik
Church Secretary

Brenda Leick
Church Secretary

Patricia Nickels
Bookkeeper

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: David Bowman 629-5487
V.P.: Tyler Fellows 901-2273
Treas: Brad Oxton 905-3824
Sec.: Yolanda VanHaren 860-5053

BOARD' REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Education
Nichole Rabitz

Christian Fellowship
Karin Jaeger

Christian Outreach/Servanthood
Patty Greene, Conrad Sonneman

Christian Stewardship
David Bowman, Karin Jaeger,
Jean Olson, Patty Greene

Congregational Care
Harry O'Connell

Finance
Nick Port, Brad Oxton

Music & Worship
Beth Seizert , Lorene Jakel

Personnel
Tyler Fellows, Yolanda VanHaren

Property
Karyl Rommelfanger

Youth Ministries
Nichole Rabitz, Ned Jerabek

Missionaries in Japan
Rev. James & Carol Sack

February 2023

From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you in the name of our living and loving savior, Jesus the Christ!

"As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight." Luke 24:28-31

From that beautiful moment in the gospel of Luke unto today, people have been craving community with our risen Savior. It is part of the reason why the community of the church can be such a powerful thing. When we gather with one another, sometimes share a meal with one another, and stop what we are otherwise so busy doing, we can find that our eyes are opened to new ways that God in Christ is working in our lives.

This is one of the many reasons why, as your Pastor, I strive to visit with you, build relationship with you, spend time getting to know you. Not only am I curious and desiring to do those things but together we find more ways to move forward in the world as God's people than we ever could on our own.

And I want to thank you for receiving me, during these early days of our time together, into your homes, into your lives and into who you are. I look forward to initiating more of these times together during my ministry here and hope that we will continue to find and discover how God is moving in our world.

What I do want to encourage you to do though, is to know that you can also reach out and invite me into your lives as well. What I mean is, I welcome your phone call inviting me to your child's school program or activity. I welcome an invitation to have a cup of coffee in your home or at your favorite spot in town. I welcome an invitation to lunch or just a phone call to see if you can stop by. I know that people can sometimes assume that a Pastor's schedule is too full and that they don't want to be a bother. And while it is true that my schedule fills up, it is never a bother to visit and spend time with you. Indeed, it is one of the great gifts and aspects of this calling to be your Pastor that I treasure the most.

So give me a call and let's find a time to visit. It may take a few days to figure out or it may be that something is free quite soon. Regardless though, please know that I welcome your reaching out to me and inviting a relational moment where we can laugh, cry, pray, share in who God is in your life, in mine and the life of the world.

Together we can gather as one, grow in faith and go out into the world as the body of Christ.

In Peace,

Pastor Andy

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Sunday School, Confirmation and High School Faith Formation
Connie Dorner, Faith Formation Director
First Lutheran Church 682-7742 ext:106 cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org

Galatians 6:10
So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Greetings First Lutheran Family!

As of this writing, February will be here in a few weeks. It's hard for me to believe at times. These last few days have been bleak and gloomy – but not inside the halls and rooms of our church! Sunday school, Confirmation classes, Youth and Spark Groups have all resumed and keep me hoppin', and I love it!

These upcoming weeks bring many exciting events during the normal quiet mid-winter. I look forward to tubing/sledding at Kewaunee Park in a few days with some of our wonderful families. I watched with amusement as our teens debated new paint colors for the youth room – a successful compromise was achieved! Painting starts on Monday and I'm eager to share the new look with all of you. I wish to give a huge thank you to John and Marlene Allen and Jim and Annette Brown for their generous sponsorship of this project. We are so very grateful to you for this blessing!

Additionally, February brings activities such as the 30-hour famine, our new Youth gathering at Imago Dei for 6th – 12th graders (so exciting!) and the beginning of the Lenten season. Pastor Andy and I have also been planning for 1st Communion for our children in grades 3 through 5. Both he and I are eagerly looking forward to doing some long-range planning for new opportunities for all of our children and young people to grow in their faith stories and to find new ways of connecting and serving both here at church and in our community.

Be sure to check out other Faith Formation announcements in this newsletter and reach out to me as needed.

Grace and peace,

cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org
(920) 682—7742 ext. 106
Cell phone: (920) 901-2584

HaPpY BiRtHdAy!!

Congratulations to those young people who celebrate their birthdays in February!

Noah Stryzewski	Feb. 23
Grace Willems	Feb. 24
Molly Taylor	Feb. 27

Baptismal Anniversaries

Blessings to the following babies, Sunday School Students & Youth who are celebrating their Baptismal birthdays in February

Olivia Hoefner	2/08/2009
Melodie Hoefner	2/12/2017

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School students will continue our Lectionary Lessons for the entire month of February from 10:15 – 10:50 a.m. each Sunday morning. We will always meet in the chapel to begin our time together.

Confirmation News

Confirmation students meet on Wednesday, February 1, 8 and 15 this month from 6:50-7:30 p.m.

**Please note that there will be NO Confirmation classes on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Looking ahead, we will begin our new Lenten season Confirmation class times beginning on March 1st when we will meet at 7:15 – 8 p.m. after services.*

** A reminder that if you are in confirmation and have not yet sold donuts during fellowship hour, please sign-up ASAP.

First Communion Classes... to Start in March

To support our children's faith and strengthen our congregation, we are going to offer First Communion classes for all families with children who are in grades 3 to 5.

These classes will take place on Thursday evenings, March 2nd and 9th. The evening will include a meal, instruction and engagement for all. *1st Communion Sunday will take place on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.*

Youth Group / Spark Times

Youth Group: *2nd & 4th Sundays of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm* (Feb 12 & 26**)

1st & 3rd Weds. of the month 7:30 – 8:15 pm (Feb 1 & 15)

Spark Group: *2nd & 4th Weds. of the month from 4 – 5:30 pm* (Feb 8 & 22)

*** Please note that I may have to cancel Youth Group on the 26th as I may be out of the state visiting friends. Our travel plans are not complete yet, but I will let all families know about any change as soon as our plans are confirmed.* Again, please call or text if you have any questions regarding any youth meeting times.

upcoming events

What the Lock! - Postponed!

Because of expenses for the tubing/sledding day and the Youth gathering at Imago Dei, we have decided to postpone this event for March or April to give your pocketbook a break!

The 30-hour Famine is an advocacy campaign that gives us an opportunity to raise our voices for those living in hunger and poverty.

This year, students in grades 7 – 12 are invited to participate in this event on February 10 – 11 beginning at 4 p.m. Students will participate in a "lock-in" at church and sleep overnight from Friday through early Saturday evening. During this time we'll participate in activities and games related to hunger and poverty. We will also be making soup to sell at our fellowship hour for our **"Souper Bowl Sale."** (Did you know that the Super Bowl is the second highest food consumption day after Thanksgiving?) Besides selling soup, our students will be looking for pledges from family, friends and confirmation to help raise funds. We will also have our "noisy" offering after church on February 12th. *All proceeds will go towards organizations in our community and World Hunger organizations.* **I hope many teens will join us and don't forget – friends are always welcome at any Youth activities here at First!**

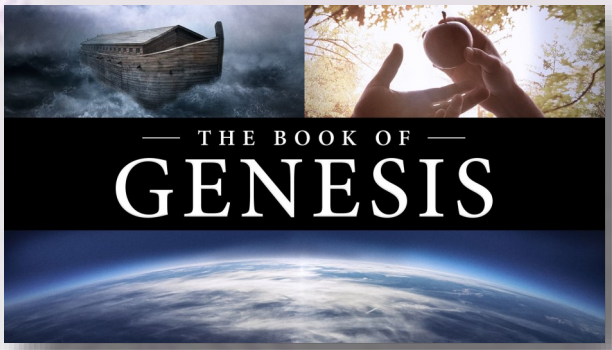
Journey with Jesus (Formally JYG and SYG).

This NEW Synod youth gathering is being offered for middle school and high school youth. It will be February 17-19, 2023 at Imago Dei Village in Clintonville.

Parents, if any of you are able to help with chaperoning or transportation for that weekend, please contact me.. Thank you in advance for your help!

February Scriptures

Feb. 5	**First**	**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**
	Psalm	**112:1-9 [10]**
	Second	**1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**
	Gospel	**Matthew 5:13-20**
Feb. 12	**First**	**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**
	Psalm	**119:1-8**
	Second	**1 Corinthians 3:1-9**
	Gospel	**Matthew 5:21-37**
Feb. 19	**First**	**Exodus 24:12-18**
	Psalm	**2**
	Second	**2 Peter 1:16-21**
	Gospel	**Matthew 17:1-9**
Feb. 26	**First**	**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**
	Psalm	**32**
	Second	**Romans 5:12-19**
	Gospel	**Matthew 4:1-11**



Our Origins of Faith

The Story of Genesis (or just the really big parts)

Beginning February 12th on Sundays after church, we will gather to explore the beginning of our faithful story as told to us by Genesis. This study will not, and could not, cover every chapter of this wonderful book but will seek to help us explore together the truly seminal stories of Genesis and how this first book of the Bible begins the faithful journey of the Israelites and all of us today.

Come on Sunday mornings, beginning at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall, for this class that will run through the season of Lent! See you there!

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Donuts!

We are now serving coffee on a regular basis. Come on down and join the Fellowship hour after the service! The Confirmation students will continue to sell Kwik Trip Donuts for $1 and the proceeds will go into the Youth fund to help supplement camp and trip expenses. So please be sure to stop down for a cup of coffee and yummy treat!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30am-11am

Everyone's invited! (non members too) to our Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 9:30am . Join us for a great morning of good news based on the upcoming week's scripture readings.

First Lutheran Prayer Chain

To join prayer chain or leave a prayer request please call Mary Gammelin (682-2250) or email mgammelin@lsol.net.
You can also leave a prayer request by emailing Betsie Auchter eauchter@comcast.net

Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church 920-682-7742
office@flcmanitowoc.org

Pastor: PastorAndy@flcmanitowoc.org Ext.104
Pastor Andy Wendle can also be reached for Pastoral support on his cell phone # 541-490-6703.

Ron Jurgens: Church Administrator Ext. 105
rjurgens@flcmantiowoc.org

Connie Dorner: Faith Formation Director Ext. 106
cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org

Stay in Touch with us!
Call or Email Office @ flcmanitowoc.org so we can make sure your address, phone numbers, and Emails are up to date in our records and you won't miss any weekly Emails.

Let us Gather Together

The Fellowship Board and Pastor Andy are hosting a series of dinners and/or lunches for members of the church to attend. We will be reaching out and inviting different groups of people to these events.

The purpose is to continue to get to know one another, build relationships amongst us all and share a little bit in the nature of what "being church" today looks like given how our world has changed over the past several years.

This isn't an answer session but one to begin to explore and wonder together, given certain realities, how we move forward as God's people. These times together will continue throughout the spring so look for an invitation in the mail or in the newsletter to attend one of these times together. We hope to see you there!

Soda Sales

Remember, if you wish to buy a soft drink, they are available in the Youth Room refrigerator for .50 cents. All proceeds go to support Moises, our compassion child from Bolivia.

We are beginning to run low on soda. If you wish to donate soda, please contact Connie – thank you! (Fruity flavors such as cherry, orange and grape are big hits with the youngsters.)

financial news Offerings

As of January 16, 2023

Regular Giving	$12,046.41
Total Receipts	$15,115.41
Total Expenses	$24,680.10
2022	
2021 Reg Giving	$ 8,905.84
2021 Total Receipts	$10,466.84
2021 Total Expenses	$13,047.39

-Patricia Nickels

How can I give?

Four (4) ways to give! We now have four (4) safe and secure options available.

- You can continue to mail your check;
- Instruct your bank to mail a check through online banking;
- Call the church office to set up electronic giving through your bank account.
- **You can now also give by credit card, if it's easier for you.**

We use tithe.ly, an ELCA-preferred and secure vendor. Just click the green "Give" button on our homepage: www.flcmanitowoc.org.

Ministry continues, and we are grateful for your generosity.

Offering Envelopes For 2023 are here!

If you haven't yet picked yours up, stop in during reg. office hours M-Th 10-3 and Fri. 9-12. Thank you!

FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES*

SPONSORSHIPS

[ ] Rev. Sack Mission Fund $40
[ ] Altar Flowers $25vase/$50 (2vases)
[ ] Prayer Shawl Ministry $25
[ ] Radio Broadcast [Sunday on WOMT1240am] full sponsor= $450 (1/2 sponsor= $225)

Your gift sponsorships can be posted in our weekly 'Life at First' insert- Deadline for announcements is 10 AM Tuesday *prior to the Sunday of choice*. Forms are also found in the 'Life at First' and in/or phone the office, 682-7742

Sunday of Sponsorship desired:

_____

Your Message (if any):

_____

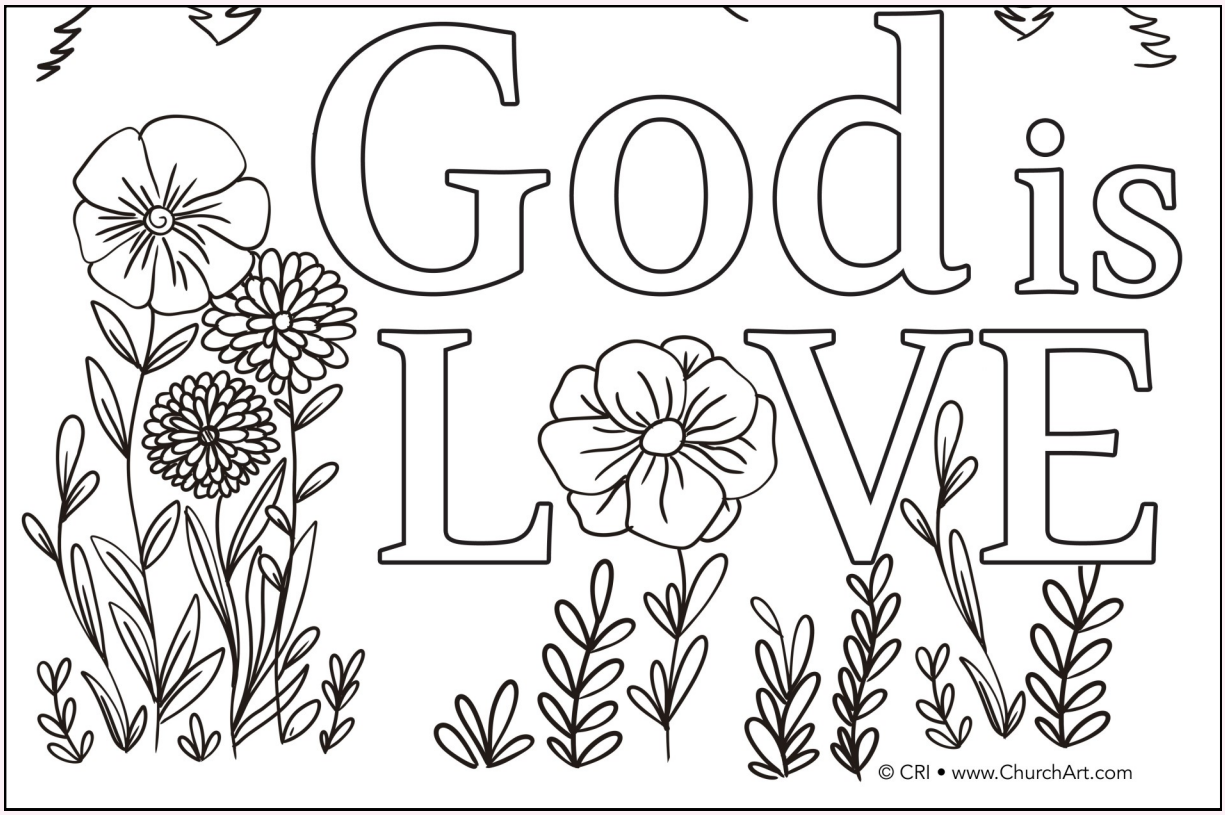
_____

_____

_____

Name & phone:

_____



Valentine's Day
WordSearch

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February
Friendship
Fourteenth
Hug
Love
Lovebirds
Doves
Card
Red
Chocolate
Candy
Cupid
Beloved
Date
Pink
Poem
Holiday
Balloon
Be Mine
Hearts
Gift
Party
Kiss
Presents
Rose
Romantic
Valentine
Tulips
Envelope

Caring & Sharing 2022

Your Caring & Sharing orders this year brought in $4,650.00 worth of gifts. *Thank you so much for the giving of these gifts.* Following is a list of the distribution of your gifts:

Our Community Ministries:

Peter's Pantry	$640.00
Hope House	$570.00
The Haven	$435.00
In Courage	$480.00
Crossways Camp	$285.00
CareLink (Salvation Army)	$675.00
ELC World Hunger	$435.00
ELC Disaster Response	$550.00

First Lutheran Church Ministries

Sunday School Compassion Child	$285.00
Christ in Home	$ 50.00
Snip & Sew	$100.00
Prayer Shawl	$145.00

Thank you for Caring & Sharing!

Board of Christian Servanthood

First Sunday Food Collection for Salvation Army

These Black Cloth bags printed with (part of our mission statement) "First Lutheran Church Gather, Grow, Go…" are now available in the lobby near the office. These were secured through a Thrivent Grant.

Please take them home and when you return them with your donation, simply take another bag with you. The Salvation Army has agreed to return the bags to us each month.

And remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, just call or leave a message for Harry O'Connell at 920-242-2489

Next collection Feb. 5!

Special needs at this time:
Soup! SOUP! And Soup! Fruit juices. Continue with food and personal products, pop-up canned goods (fruit, soups, meals, etc.)

Hope House Manitowoc County

Hope House
1000 S. 35th St.,
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920)686-1436
hopehousemc.org

First Lutheran's Host Week Feb. 12-18

*****Come & meet your Hope House Staff!*****
They will be making a brief presentation and answering any questions you might have .
Sunday February 5, 2023 10:15am -Fireside Room
First Lutheran Church

SPF Youth Ministry

I enjoyed presenting to St. Peter the Fisherman Youth Ministry group in Two Rivers this week. They made tie blankets for our families as they put the Works of Mercy in action. It is inspiring to see you bringing comfort and hope to our community! We thank you!

OUR WISH LIST *for our Guests…*
**Our immediate needs are:*

- **Laundry Detergent (most immediate need)**
- **Walmart Gift Cards**
- **Kwik Trip Gas Cards** ($10 or $20 increments.)
- **Twin bed sheets and comforters**

Thank you for the continued support of donations!

Follow us on Facebook **Learn more about us at Hope House (hopehousemc.org)**

Hope House is a United Way Funds Recipient

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February is NATIONAL CANCER Prevention Month	FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH		**1** 9:3a Bible Study 6:3 Choirs 6:5– Confirm. Classes 7:3-Youth Grp (7-12gr)	**2** Ground Hogs Day eepbew	**3**	**4**
5 9am Worship Trad-HC [womt] FB–'Scout Sunday' First Sunday Food Collection 10:15 Sunday School 1015-Fellowship Coffee 1015 Hope House Meet/QA	**6** 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells	**7** 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3 Snip n' Sew 6p Bd Music/ Worship	**8** 9:3a Bible Study 4-5:30–SPARK gr5&6 6:3 Choirs 6:5– Confirm. Classes	**9**	**10** 30 Hour Famine 4PM->	**11** To -630pm
12 Souper Bowl/Noisy offering 9am Worship Trad-HC 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 6:3 -Youth Grp (7-12gr)	**13** 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells 6:3 Bd Fellowship 7p Bd Outreach/ Servanthood	**14** VALENTINES DAY 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3 Snip n' Sew	**15** 9:3a Bible Study 6:3 Choirs 6:5– Confirm. Classes 7:3 -Youth Grp (7-12gr) Messenger Deadline	**16**	**17** Journey with Jesus	**18** —> thru 2/19
19 9am Worship CC—HC [womt] FB 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15-Fellowship Coffee	**20** President's Day 9a Bd of Personnel 1p Snip n'Sew 4:3 Bd Christian Ed & Youth 6p Handbells	**21** 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3a Snip n' Sew 6p Exec. Comm. 6:3p Council	**22** ASH WEDNESDAY 9:3a Bible Study 4-5:30–SPARK gr5&6 6pm Lent—WORSHIP	**23**	**24**	**25**
26 9am Worship Trad–HC 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 5pm Dinner Gathering 6:3 -Youth Grp (7-12gr)	**27** Lunch Gathering 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells	**28** 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3a Snip n'Sew	"Be kind and compassionate to one another..." –Ephesians 4:32			

Key:
T= Traditional
CC= Cross Current Contemporary
HC= Holy Communion
FB= Facebook

Please note: changes may arise after printing. Always double check the weekly "Life @ First" announcements , Emails, etc.– for updates, cancelations, etc.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

February Messenger 2023

521 N. 8th Street
Manitowoc WI 54220

Phone: 920-682-7742
Web: FLCmanitowoc.org
E-Mail: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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To:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Andy Wendle

Sunday services at 9am

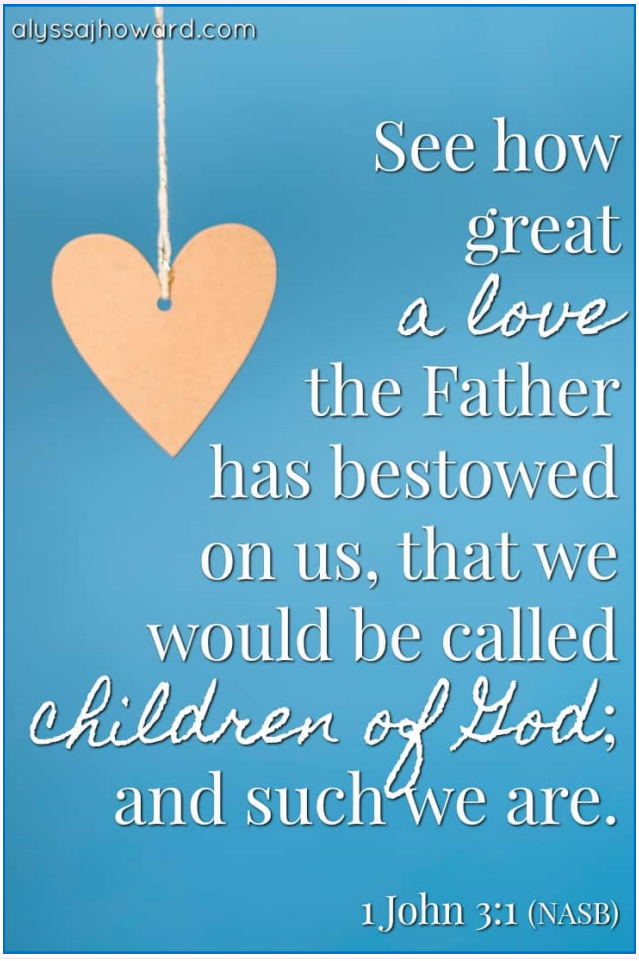
WOMT 1240AM/107.9FM, womtradio.com
YouTube, Facebook Live www.facebook.com/ FLCManty521

Holy Communion – Every Sunday

10:15 Sunday School (Sept.-May)

Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs: 10:00-3:00
Friday: 9:00-12noon

920-682-7742
Email: Office@flcmanitowoc.org
Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

Our God-given mission is to…

Gather *in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,*
Grow *in faith and love,*
Go *out to serve and invite others to faith in Christ.*