

Ascension Lutheran Church of Navarino

“The Visitor”

February
2026

“Joyfully, we invite and equip all people to share Christ’s love”

The Mission Statement of Ascension Lutheran Church.

Ascension Lutheran Church
W6106 Navarino Road
Shiocton, WI 54170

Church Office: (715) 758-8312
Office Hours:
Tuesday 1:00-5:00 pm

In case of an Emergency call
Glen Peebles at (715) 584-3029

Church Email:
Ascensionavarino@gmail.com

Church website:
www.ascensionavarino.com

Pastor Mark Sabin
715-340-3670-Cell
Or 715-445-2097-Home

Visitation Pastor:
Marcia Sabin
715-340-5951-Cell

Valentine to God

Dear God, You are my tried and true valentine. I don't need to buy you flowers, or candy, or a greeting card to express my love. I let my heart send you gifts of prayer and praise and You are satisfied. Thank You for being mine.



prayables.com

Your Church Council

Carmen Wetzel, President	(715) 853-7101
Lisa Wollenberg, Treasurer	(920) 525-2024
Jacob Hartlaben, Secretary	(715) 851-1904
Brad Schuelke, Vice President	(920) 659-2402
Bonnie Weyers	(715) 758-2488
Mike Homan	(715) 853-2996



The council usually meets the third Wednesday of each month. You are welcome to attend.

**The next council meeting will be
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:30 pm.**

Message from the Pastor ~ Learning Opportunities



The busyness of the holidays beginning with Thanksgiving in November, Christmas in December and topping it off with New Year's Day on January 1st, we now get back into our daily routines.

When we get these extended times and our normal routine is interrupted, it's not easy to return to our normal routine. Take for example, a summer vacation. We go on an extended trip, a weekend at the cottage, or camping getaways, where we relax and enjoy the scenery and all the activities that summer brings. I remember as a child when school was out for the summer. I happen to say that I'm on vacation from church. As soon as I said those words, mother walked by and said, "no you're not."

Pack up the camper, car, or the Spyder, and head back home where reality lives. We return to our jobs and school or whatever routine means to you.

Winter has just begun and I'm talking about summer vacations? When you continue your normal routine or your next summer vacation, remember to pack Jesus with you. He is always with us and he wants to have a relationship with us. God does not go on vacation from his people.

When we remember to whom we belong to, we realize how blessed we are and that should comfort our souls. Things happen in life. Tragedies happen every day. Life is turned on its' head. God is with us before we call on his name. There are times of joy when a new baby is born. God is with us in these times also.

Being human isn't easy, but God knows that through his Son, Jesus. Take vacations but remember to take Jesus with you.

Blessings,
Pastors Marcia and Mark



Pastor Mark and the "red" table.



Learning Opportunities at Ascension

Adult Bible Study

Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am
Monday Evenings at 6:00 pm
Tuesday Mornings at 9:00 am



Confirmation & Children's Sunday School

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 pm

Come join us! All are welcome.

Assisting Ministers – Birthdays & Anniversaries

Assisting Ministers

February 2026 (9:30 services)	Communion Server	Reader	Money Counter
February 1	Carrie Daoust	Chris Schley	Ruthann Meiers
February 8	Patty Lorenz	Patty Lorenz	Glen Peebles
February 15	Linda Bubolz	Toni Klemp	Phyllis Peebles
February 22	Pastor Marcia	Darrel Klemp	Rita Olson

If you would like to help out with any of the above tasks, please call the church office (715-758-8312) and we will add your name to the list. If you are unable to be here on the date you are assigned, please find a replacement. Thank you.



Happy Anniversary

Jeff & Laurie Anderson
02/04 (23 years)

Dennis & Kay Fuerst
02/13 (27 years)

William Jr & Helga Kuhnke
02/10 (66 years)

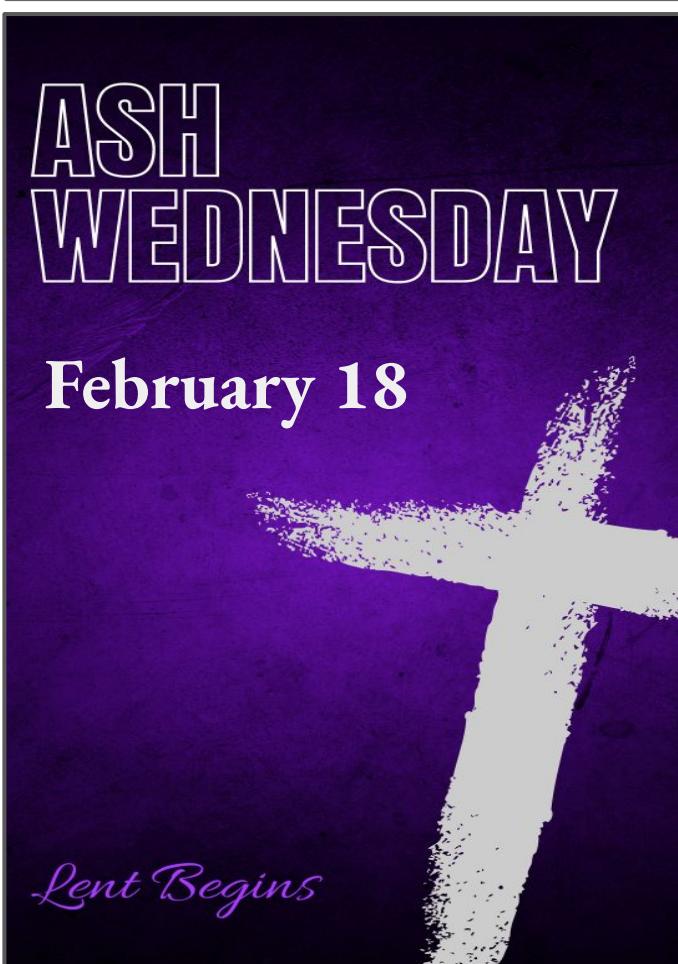
Happy Birthday

02/01	Ioline Nitzske
02/02	Alexandria Wilber
02/04	Ralph Mueller
02/05	Julie Pues
02/07	Haley Ehrle
02/09	Laurie Anderson
02/09	Francis Nitzske
02/10	Navid Kienast
02/14	Mark Christianson
02/15	Chris Pues
02/19	Mark Mueller
02/20	Wallace Duhm
02/23	Pat Nitzske
02/23	Hoyt Doepler
02/24	Ava Lorenz
02/26	Carl Schoettler
02/27	Debora Wilber
02/28	Lloyd Allen
02/28	Phil Daoust
02/29	Mark Wilkinson

Upcoming Events ~ Sunday Fellowship Menu



- **February 18, 2026** - Lenten Soup Suppers begin @ 6:00 pm
- **February 18, 2026** - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 pm
- **March 27, 2026** - Fish Fry



Sunday Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to stay for food and fellowship after worship every Sunday. A free will donation is accepted.

February 1	- Birthday Cake & Ice Cream
February 8	- Scalloped Potatoes & Ham
February 15	- Chili
February 22	- Ham & Turkey Sandwiches



Photos from Latvia ~ Dartball Schedule ~ Loaves & Fishes ~ Budget

Every January, Ascension sends a donation to Martin Luther Church in Saldus, Latvia. Our members, Darrel and Toni Klemp, visited Pastor Raimonds and his family several years ago and still keep in touch. Here are a few pictures of them.

Ascension's Dartball Schedule 2025-2026

Start Time 7:30 pm



- Oct. 20 - Ascension BYE
- Oct. 27 - Black Creek U.C.C @ Ascension
- Nov. 3 - Ascension @ Seymour Methodist
- Nov. 10 - No Dartball
- Nov. 17 - Oneida Methodist @ Ascension
- Nov. 24 - Deer Hunting & Thanksgiving
- Dec. 1 - Ascension @ Cicero Lutheran
- Dec. 8 - Black Creek Lutheran @ Ascension
- Dec. 15 - Ascension @ Seymour Lutheran
- Dec. 22 - Make-up Game
- Jan. 5 - Ascension BYE
- Jan. 12 - Ascension @ Black Creek U.C.C.
- Jan. 19 - Seymour Methodist @ Ascension
- Jan. 26 - Ascension @ Oneida Methodist
- Feb. 2 - Cicero Lutheran @ Ascension
- Feb. 9 - Ascension @ Black Creek Lutheran
- Feb. 16 - Seymour Lutheran @ Ascension
- Feb. 23 - Make up game
- Mar. 2 - Captain's Meeting
- Mar. 9 - PLAYOFFS
- Mar. 16 - PLAYOFFS
- Mar. 23 - PLAYOFFS/CHAMPIONSHIP
- Apr. 6 - BANQUET



From left: Odrija (daughter), Pastor Raimonds, Anda (wife), Oliver (son), Luize (Oliver's fiancee)



Pastor Raimonds with his family and father



Pastor Raimonds with his mom, his sister and his step-father



Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Focus Item for February 2026: Cereal

Stock the Pantry Shelves – help us stock the shelves with items that help provide for families in need in our communities.

Remember...
it never needs to be a brand name!

Ascension Budget



Council would like the membership to be aware of our financial status on a month to month basis.

Through December 2025:

YTD Income received:	\$78,900.00
Expenses paid out:	\$87,646.35
Expenses Exceeding Income:	\$ 8,746.35

Cheryl's Old Fashioned Fish Fry

**Friday, March 27, 2026
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

6th
Annual

Menu:

Deep-fried fish (Pollock)

Baked Potato or Potato Salad

Coleslaw

Fresh Baked Rye Bread

Dessert

\$15 per plate

A Thrivent Team Action Fundraiser



**Dine-In or Take-Out
Pre-orders Preferred**

Call to order by 3/16/26

Ascension Lutheran Church
W6106 Navarino Rd., Shiocton
Corner of 156 & McDonald Rd

Call in or Email (IN ADVANCE) your order:
Church Office: 715-758-8312 / ascensionavarino@gmail.com
Cheryl Wilkinson: 920-340-0410
"Day of" call-in orders accepted while supplies last.

Fundraising & Scrip Information



Share the Love This February with Scrip

February is a month focused on love, kindness, and caring for others—and scrip is a simple way to put those values into action. When you purchase scrip gift cards for groceries, gas, dining, or everyday shopping, you receive the full value of the card while our church receives a portion back from the retailer.

Scrip is perfect for Valentine's Day gifts, winter dining out, or simply covering your regular monthly expenses—all while supporting our church's ministries and mission work.

How to Participate

Scrip cards are available after services or through the church office. Many retailers also offer reloadable or electronic options for added convenience.

Thank you for sharing the love and supporting our church this February!



There are VandeWalle's candy bars on the table by the library for sale. The candy bars are \$1.50 each. Please put your money in the envelope in the box.

If you'd like to sell a box at your place of employment or another business, please see Toni Klemp. All profits will go to the Special Projects Fund.

Looking for Thrivent Members

Any Thrivent member is eligible to apply for two \$250 Thrivent action cards per year which can be used as seed money for our fundraisers or for community service projects. We will help you with the application process and completing your final report for any project you may be involved with.

Fundraising Committee

Do you have a fundraising idea? We have a form for you to complete and give to the Fundraising Committee. You can pick up a copy on the back table in Church.

Committee members: Dawn Dingeldein, Ruthann Meiers, Lois Rohrer. Fundraising supports the Church's Special Projects Fund.



**Our February Benevolence
will go to Ascension's Agape Fund**

Via de Cristo News

Northern Light Via de Cristo

SERVING NORTHERN WISCONSIN AND THE U.P. OF MICHIGAN

Northern Light Spring Camp

March 5-8, 2026

Camp Forest Springs
N8890 Forest Ln.
Westboro, WI 54490



Sonrise Spring Camp

April 23-26, 2025

Prayers for those ill, injured or hospitalized:

- Alice Mueller
- Dave Richter
- Pat Zuiches
- Arnie Kloes
- Russell Kloes
- Beck & Rosie Pues
- Linda Ogi
- Carl Schoettler
- Dave Rohrer
- Jen Erb



Online Worship Services

Ascension's website for online services: <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionNavarino>

OR you can find a link to our online services on our website:

<https://www.ascensionavarino.com>

To view past church services: <http://www.youtube.com/@AscensionLutheranChurch-w11>

If you are worshipping at home and would like to follow along with a bulletin, you will find both the Bulletin and Announcement sheet on our website.

The services are also audio-recorded onto CD's when possible and delivered to the homes of those without internet who are unable to attend worship.

If you have something you would like to be included in the "Visitor", please have the information to the church office by the third Sunday of the month.
Thank you!

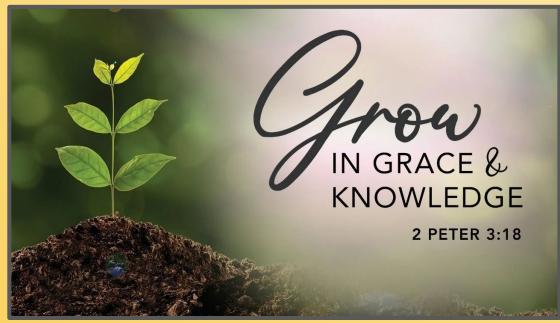
Un-Trimming the Tree - January 11, 2026



Annual Meeting ~ January 18, 2026



“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
2 Timothy 1:7



Annual Meeting Minutes

2026 Annual Meeting Ascension Lutheran Church of Navarino Sunday, January 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Brad Schuelke 11:20 following regular worship service and pot luck dinner.

Pastor Mark Sabin delivered the prayer and devotion. There were 31 voting members in attendance.

2025 Annual meeting minutes were published and read by Secretary Cathy Thomas and upon a motion to accept by Darrel Klemp and 2nd by Mike Homan a voice vote the minutes were passed.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Lisa Wollenberg. The budget for 2025-2026 will be \$82,468.00 as expected income and expected expenses to be \$86,820.04. 2025 Expenses exceeded income by \$8,740.35. Motion to accept treasurer's report: 1st by Mike Homan 2nd by Rita Olson, voice vote passed.

The Property committee report for 2025 by Darrel Klemp highlighting on Parking lot reconstruction and repaving done, Solar electric generation system, two gas furnaces just to mention a few.

Nomination and election of council members for 2 years. The floor was opened for nominations Glen Peebles nominated Lisa Wollenberg 2nd by Lois R. Cheryl Wilkinson nominated Mike Homan 2nd by Marlene Westgor. Rita Olson nominated Bonnie Weyers 2nd by Darrel Klemp. Darrel Klemp made a motion to close nominations, 2nd by Glen Peebles. Upon a voice vote it was unanimous that Lisa Wollenberg, Mike Homan and Bonnie Weyers are the new council members.

Benevolence Agencies were discussed and Lisa Wollenberg made a motion to give \$500.00 per month vs. \$100.00 2nd by Darrel Klemp. Voice vote passed.

2026 budget discussed. Motion to reallocate Thrivent, Fish fry fundraiser and Loud offering to General Fund by Mike Homan 2nd by Dave Hoberg. Darrel Klemp made a motion to approve the 2026 budget 2nd by Rita Olson.

Other business: Electronic deposit was discussed for offering in the future. Mike Homan made a motion for electronic deposits to be discussed at the next council meeting 2nd by Darrel Klemp voice vote passed.

Date for 2027 Annual meeting: January 17, 2027

Closing Prayer by Pastor Mark Sabin

Adjournment Motion by Rita Olson 2nd Dave Hoberg

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Thomas (Secretary)

Council Minutes

Ascension Lutheran Church Of Navarino Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Present: Carmen Wetzel, Brad Schuelke, Jake Hartlaben, Lisa Wollenberg, Bonnie Weyers, Mike Homan, Pastors Mark and Marcia Sabin, **Absent:** None, **Guest:** Glen Peebles

The Meeting was called to order at 6:08pm by President Carmen Wetzel.

Devotion and Prayer led by Pastor Mark Sabin. Psalm 119:33-40

Last Month's meeting minutes approved. Motion to accept by Lisa and 2nd by Mike. Voice vote passed.

Pastor's Report: (7) member home visits with Holy Communion. (2) Youth Confirmation Sessions, (2) Tuesday Bible Studies. Worked on revising 1st year youth curriculum and developing Tuesday Bible Study materials for upcoming sessions.

Treasurer's Report for December 2025; Income received: \$8,234.00, YTD: \$78,900.00. Expenses paid: \$10,733.01, YTD: \$87,646.35. \$8,740.35 Expenses exceeding Income through December.

Project Fund Income \$6,859.02 received from: Loud Offering, Eggs, Thrivent Choice, Scrip Cards Sold, Xmas Candy Sales, Towels, Fellowship, Donations, Investment Interest.

Project Fund Expense \$399.00 paid for Misc. Landscaping

Total available in the Project Fund: \$46,133.49

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Brad and 2nd by Jake. Voice vote passed.

Old Business:

- Upgrade Play Area for grade school youth: Council will table until March to plan for spring/early summer upgrade.
- Reviewed necessary items with Carmen from Annual Meeting help January 18th, 2026
- 2026 Budget – reviewed revised budget after adjustments agreed upon at Annual Meeting. Moved income from Fish Fry, Thrivent Choice and Loose Offering to General income from Special Projects.
- Motion Made to allocate Charlie's Brat Fry proceeds to the General Income Fund and Parking Lot Maintenance will come out of the General Fund Expenses- Church Maintenance. 1st by Jake, 2nd by Mike.

New Business:

- Council Officer Selection for 2026: President- Carmen Wetzel, Vice President- Brad Schuelke, Secretary – Jake Hartlaben, Treasurer- Lisa Wollenberg
- Discussed possible a small laptop for the council secretary to take notes real-time for efficiency. This was a suggestion made by a church member. Jake will let us know if this would be beneficial for him.
- Discussed online giving options. i.e: Vanco, Tithe.ly, Venmo. Will continue to explore options that would be useful giving options for the younger generations.
- Council Installation possible Sunday January 25, 2026. To be confirmed with Pastors

Committee Updates:

- Worship – Ash Wednesday is Wednesday February 18, 2026. Soup Supper will be every Wednesday during Lent. Soup Supper at 6pm, Lent Services at 7pm.
- Fundraising – Pizza Making is Saturday January 31st.

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday February 18th at 5:30pm

Adjournment – Motion by Brad and 2nd by Jake. Voice vote passed

Respectfully submitted by Jake Hartlaben, Secretary

**Church Council
Meeting Minutes**

Recipe ~ My Thoughts in Words

Cranberry Nut Bread

Submitted by: Diane Engel

2 c. sugar

2 eggs

5 Tablespoons shortening (I use Crisco)

3 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon Salt

1 teaspoon baking soda

4 c. flour

1 c. orange juice

1 c. chopped nuts (I use pecans)

(1/2 LB) 2 c. cranberries, cut up (I slice them in a Salad Shooter)*
(** see below)

Dissolve salt and baking soda in 2-4 Tbsp. of hot water.
Blend with sugar, eggs and shortening. Add orange
juice, flour and baking powder. (Start & end with flour)

Stir in nuts and cranberries.

Pour into 2 - 9 x 5" loaf pans that have been
greased and floured (or greased + lined w/ parchment)

Bake @ 325° for 1 hour, until toothpick inserted
comes out clean.

Remove from pans and cool on wire racks.

* I use 2-3 c. cranberries

** I also use 1-2 tsp. grated orange zest (orange
part only, no white pith)

My Thoughts in Words By The Church Lady

As I think about Valentine's Day I think about love. I know there are many different kinds of love but the English language doesn't differentiate.

The greek word for spousal love is "eros." This love is chosen and includes physical desire and emotional bonding. It often starts intense and becomes deeper, steadier, and more intentional over time.

Parental love - "storge" - is one-directional at first (you give more than you receive). It's protective and nurturing. It's the kind of love that will lose sleep, skip meals, and walk through fear without hesitation. This type of love also applies to siblings, cousins, and long-term community members.

You may not always *like* them, but there's a deep "we belong to each other" undercurrent.

"*Philia*" is Friendship Love. This love is built on mutual respect and shared values. It grows slowly and steadily and it thrives on presence, not possession.

A love that is often overlooked is Self-Love. There isn't a greek word for this but it's important nonetheless. This love isn't selfishness—it's recognizing your own dignity. Healthy self-love says: "I matter too, and I will treat myself with care."

And lastly but most importantly, there's "Agape" love. This love is Selfless / Divine Love. It feels like grace, forgiveness, patience, compassion. It's unique because it expects nothing in return. It's love as an *act of will*, not a feeling. In Christian language, this is how God loves. It's what allows people to forgive deeply or love others through hardship.

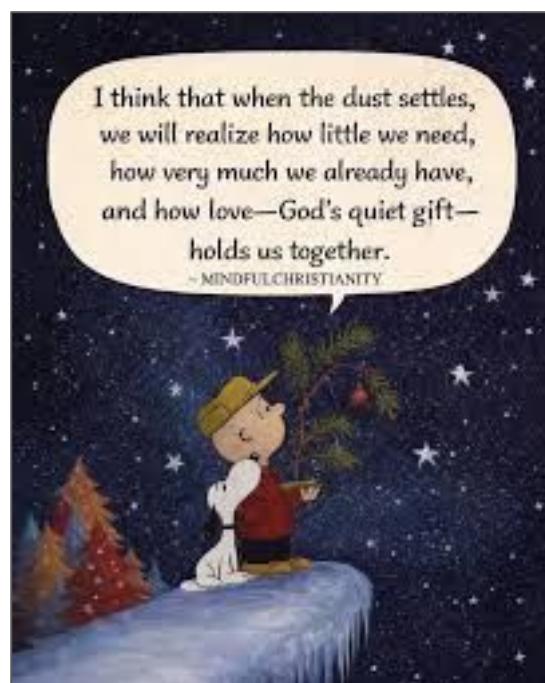
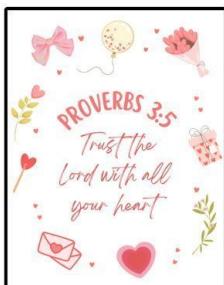
This Valentine's Day I challenge you to think about "Agape" love - a call to love as Christ loves - patient, kind and enduring. "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7) That's agape... and it belongs on Valentine's Day just as much as chocolate roses do.

Love (*Philia*) to you all! Denise

BIBLE CHARACTERS

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

ABRAHAM	JEHOVAH	MATTHEW	SOLOMON
DANIEL	JOSEPH	SAMUEL	DAVID
JESUS	JONAH	MOSES	PETER
ABEL	ADAM	MARY	PAUL
EVE	JOB		



A Valentine's Day Prayer

Teach us a big-hearted love,
 that embraces the pushed aside and powerless,
 the exploited and those in need.
 A love that dares to speak truth to power,
 for their sake.

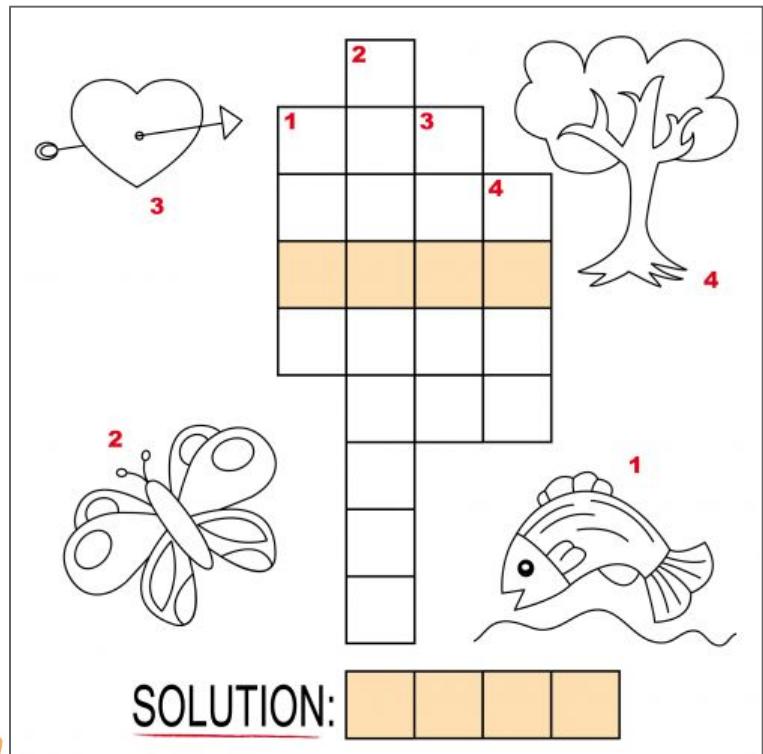
Help us to enlarge the tents of our hearts,
 to share all that we are and have,
 to give freely what we have freely received.
 For all is your gracious gift,
 given for the good of all of us.

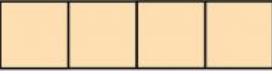
Grant us the openness
 to learn love from each person
 in whom you come to meet us.
 - Sandie Cornish

PIZZA JOKES FOR KIDS

FUN JOKES FROM TWOKIDSANDACOUPON.COM

- Do you wanna hear a joke about pizza? It's rather cheesy!
- What do you call a fake pizza? A pepperphony pizza.
- How do you fix a broken pizza? Use tomato paste.
- What is a poodle's favorite kind of pizza? Pepperoni.
- Why does the mushroom always get invited to pizza parties? Because he is such a fungi!
- Can't decide what type of pizza to order? You are inde-SLICE-sive.
- What is difference between pizza and pizza jokes? Pizza jokes cannot be topped.
- Did you hear about the burned Hawaiian pizza? It should have been cooked on aloha temperature.
- If pizza could talk, what would it say? Cheesy things.
- What is the difference between a good pizza joke and a bad one? The delivery!

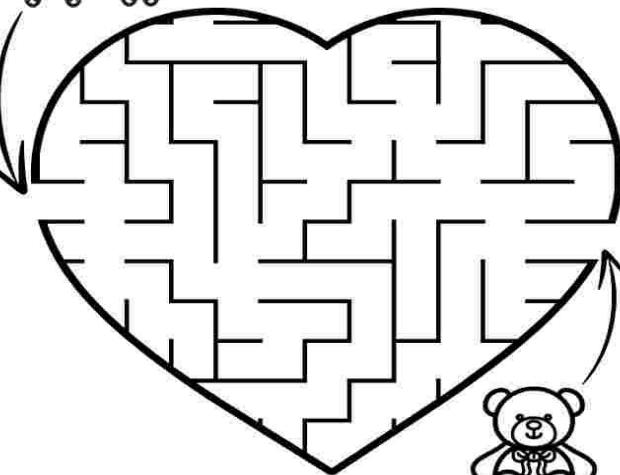



SOLUTION: 

EPZ LEARN

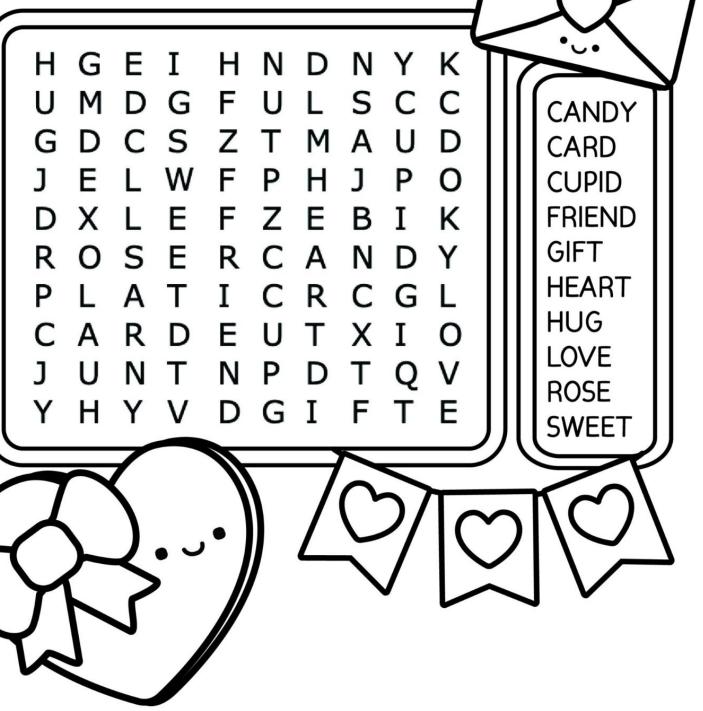
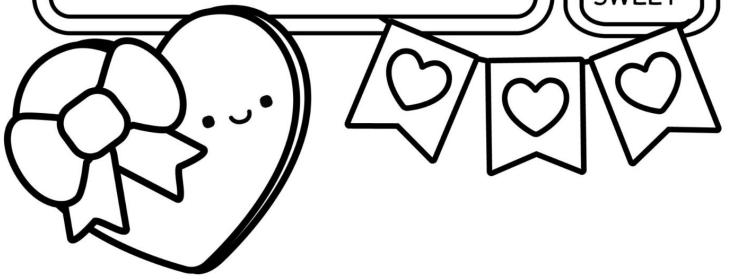
HAPPY Valentine's DAY

Help the children find the teddy bear



ezpzlearn.com

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH



February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Birthday Sunday	2 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Dartball at Ascension	3	4 6:30pm Confirmation & Church School	5	6 	7
8 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Fellowship Meal - Scalloped Potatoes and Ham	9 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Dartball at Black Creek Lutheran	10 	11 9:00am Bible Study	12	13	14 
15 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Fellowship meal - Chili	16 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Dartball at Ascension 	17 9:00am Bible Study	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 4-6pm Loaves and Fishes Distribution 6:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Church School 7:00pm Worship Service	19 	20	21 9-11 am Loaves and Fishes
22 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Service Fellowship Meal - Ham & Turkey Sandwiches	23 6:00pm Bible Study 7:30pm Dartball Make-up game  	24 9:00am Bible Study	25 6:00pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Church School 7:00pm Worship Service	26	27	28 