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## THE MESSENGER - February 2025



Welcome to a very abbreviated version of The Messenger. With the Annual Meeting scheduled next Sunday, February 23, you will receive much of the information you have been missing the last couple of months. Within the Annual Report will be committee/team updates, financials and more. Regular Messenger to return in March.

### ASK THE PASTOR ANYTHING...

*If David is known as a great king, what about his affair with Bathsheba?*

Good question. For one thing, David is like the rest of us, a paradoxical combination of good and bad. In fact everyone and everything is a paradoxical combination of good and bad. The Bible calls this the Fall.

But back to David specifically -- The Bible includes two accounts of David. The first one records an idealized view of David as he defeats the armies of the Philistines, forges the Nation of Israel, and creates as its capital Jerusalem. This idealization reaches its pinnacle when God promises David that the Messiah would emerge from one of his heirs.

But then, smack dab against this, is David's dalliance with Bathsheba. And dalliance is a bit of a euphemism. David was on his roof top, and Bathsheba was on hers. Bathsheba was bathing. David was captivated. So, even though he knew Bathsheba to be the wife of Uriah, one of David's most loyal and valiant warriors, he called for her and committed adultery with her. The plot thickened when Bathsheba got pregnant. Now David had a problem on his hands. Uriah was on the battlefield. He could not have impregnated his wife. So David asked a henchman to murder Uriah, which he readily did. So to call it a dalliance is to put it mildly.

The fact of the matter is that David grew corrupt late in life, and the Bible does not hesitate to admit this. The Bible is doing something extremely bold and honest here. It is recording history from an idealized perspective and then admitting to the backstory. We should be able to understand this. We tend to record history from an idealized perspective. But we don't admit to the backstory. We tend to evade sin -- in our history and in ourselves. And why does the Bible admit to the backstory? Because the Bible does not flinch from realism. In fact, it is the most realistic document ever written. Because knows that God has it all covered.

With you in His service,

Pastor Rebecca

### **Hannah's Monthly Message**

I would like to take the time to give a huge shout out of thanks to everyone that prayed for us and sent their love through cards and texts after we experienced our schools worst tragedy in December. We feel surrounded by the love of an amazing church family and are very grateful for all of you.

As February is now here I know many people have hearts on their minds. This month not only holds the holiday built to celebrate love, Valentine's Day, but also marks American Heart Month, which is a great time to educate yourself on heart health.

Led by the American Heart Association, this federally designed awareness month sets out to remind people to focus on maintaining healthy hearts.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, remains the leading global cause of death with more

than 17.3 million deaths each year.

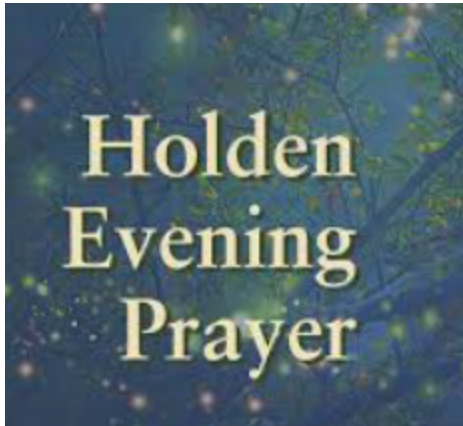
Keeping a healthy heart is key to continuing to have a highquality of life as we age. Here are a few simple ways you can help preventheart disease.

- Eating healthy
- Staying active
- Quit smoking and staying away from secondhand smoke
- Controlling your cholesterol and blood pressure
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation
- Manage stress

It is also important to make regular visits to your doctor. Early diagnosis of any heart disease or irregularities can help save yourlife.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone! Hannah

## Short Takes...



### Ash Wednesday and Lent

**Ash Wednesday** - Service on March 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm

**Lent** - Services will be March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9 @ 7 pm preceded by "Soup Suppers" in Fellowship Hall. Services will be held in the Gathering Place with Pastor Rebecca and Paul Ohlrogge leading us through the Marty Haugen "Holden Evening Prayer."



**Legacy Prairie & Woodland** - Much work has been done on the hillside and the creek area by EC3. Check out the article in the Wisconsin State Journal at [Vermont Creek Restoration](#)

Use login: vermont\_church@tds.net / Password: Today123



**Cabin Fever Relievers** - Peter, Kris, Bo and Susan held “Awesome Alaska” the first in a series of Cabin Fever Relievers a couple of weeks ago. Up next is Paul Ohlrogge’s trip to Kenya on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Place.



### Thursday Yoga

Yoga with the Pastor and Hannah continues to be a popular event. A variety of yoga poses and breathing exercises easy enough for most. Give it a try if you haven't already! Thursdays at 10:30-11:30 am in the Gathering Place.



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