

Blest be the

TIE

that binds our hearts in Christian love

First American Lutheran Church

Celebrating 142 Years in 2016
511 Madison Street
Oconto, WI 54153
TEL: 920-834-2460
E-Mail: falc@bayland.net
pastor@firstamericanlutheran.org
www.firstamericanlutheran.org
Pastor Mary after hours: 920-671-4338

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Mary E. Zupansic
Office Manager: Bobby Jo Lipp
Youth Minister: Kelli Tiegs
Property Manager: John Stamsta
Musicians: Bonnie Schultz
Council President: Jeremy Neta
Treasurer:

Sunday Worship

September — May
Sundays—8:00am & 10:15am
June — August
9:00am
(Holy Communion every week)

Wednesday Chapel

September — May
7:00pm
June — August
6:00pm
(Holy Communion every week)

Christian Education

Wednesdays: Sept - May
Intergenerational Meal—5:20 pm
High Five, Confirmation,
Senior High Youth
5:50 pm—6:50 pm

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Mission Statement

Because we are a part of the family of God, saved by grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are empowered by God, to provide the means for Christian growth, and to equip the members, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

A Prayer for the New Year



O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW MEMBERS!

On December 6, 2015, we were pleased to receive the following individuals into full membership at First American:

- Michael Doll**
- Sharon Klapperich**
- Sara Moss**
- Teresa Nelson**
- Erin Rosenfeldt**
- Janelle Roske**
- Nicola Wolf**



VOLUNTEER TREASURER

VOLUNTEER TREASURER POSITION AVAILABLE— The treasurer will have accounting responsibility of all funds of the congregation and shall receive and disburse such funds in accordance with the decisions of the Congregation Council. The treasurer shall submit regularly a financial statement to ascertain that the expenditures are within the budget approved by the congregation. The treasurer must attend regular council meetings or report by special means to be determined by the Congregation Council.

Please Contact the Church Office:

920-834-2460
falc@bayland.net

High Five

Faith Formation, Focus
on Family and Fun



Our High Five students worked hard preparing for the successful Christmas Program held on Sunday, December 13th. A very special thank you to Paula Moe who directed the Christmas Program for the final time this year. We thank her for the many wonderful years she has given. Thank you to the teachers and parents who also helped our children prepare for this delightful program. A special recognition to Bonnie Schultz for providing the music for our program. Also, thank you Robin Fonder for making the cake for our event.



DECEMBER 2015 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	11/25 7 pm Ecumenical Eve of Thanksgiving Service	98
	11/29 8:00 & 10:15 am	53/45
	12/02 7 pm	30
	12/06 8:00 & 10:15 am St. Nicolas Visit & New Members Received	66/47
	12/09 7 pm	29
	12/13 8:00 & 10:15 am	41/51
	12/16 7 pm	50
	12/20 8:00 & 10:15 am	38/46
	12/24 3:00, 5:00 & 7:30 pm Christmas Eve	190, 142, 63
	12/25 10:00 am Christmas Day	25
12/29 10:00 am Lessons & Carols	59	

THANK YOU!

- * Sally Krueger for making a beautiful Christmas banner for our sanctuary.
- * Thank you Bonnie Schultz for sharing your musical gift again this year. We are blessed to have you as our church musician.
- * Thank you Lloyd Heier, Kelly Votava, Kari Moody, Ihde, Keith & Seaburg Families, Nicola Wolf, Val Filz, Carol Newbury, Sara Hurtado, Katie Hiott, Robin Honish, Balin Welch and La-Vonne Brown for special music on Christmas Eve.

LADIES OF FIRST AMERICAN



The Ladies of First American held their annual Christmas party on December 3rd. They played an exciting game of “take away” and enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

2016 offering envelopes are in. They may be picked up in the back of the church.

MID-WEEK LENTEN ACTIVITIES

W E D N E S D A Y

February 10, 17 & 24 March 2, 9 & 16

Join our High Five children at 5:20 pm for soup and sandwiches.
Or, come at 6:00 pm for a quieter setting.

A sign up board is in the Narthex for VOLUNTEERS to bring soup, sandwiches and/or desserts. Hope to see you there!



BASKETS OF PROMISE

This will be our second Lenten season supporting Lutheran World Relief’s **Baskets of Promise** appeal. Each week, we’ll collect a different item that we’ll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life’s most challenging situations.

February 24

Bath Towels (light-weight, bath size towel, between 20”x 40” & 27”x 52”, dark color recommended)

March 6

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

March 9

Combs (Please—only sturdy combs, remove packaging)

March 16

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

March 20 (Palm Sunday)

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



CROSSWAYS CAMP

*****On-line registration opens on January 4th*****

Check out our website www.crosswayscamps.org to view our 2016 Summer Calendar.

Please don't hesitate to call us at 920-882-0023, or email us at

www.info@crosswayscamps.org if you have any questions.

See you at camp this summer!



PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW IF YOU HAVE SIGNED UP FOR CAMP
A COMPLETE CAMPING GUIDE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT THE CAMP WEBSITE UNDER
SUMMER— YOUTH CAMP— 2016 YOUTH CAMP RESOURCES

TIE DEADLINE

The date for TIE articles to be submitted is the 21st of each month. If you are able to have information into the office prior to the 21st it would be much appreciated. Articles may be submitted via email. Thank you.



As we get ready to begin classes in 2016, I'd like to reflect on the blessing High Five has of kind and talented teachers for our children here at First American Lutheran. We are further blessed with the smiling faces of volunteers, Diane Motiff as well as Frank and Kathy Votava to provide and serve meals for our children and families during the fellowship time prior to classes. A reminder that, all children and family are welcome to join us for this meal each Wednesday at 5:20 pm.

Special thanks goes out to Paula Moe for providing the leadership for a well presented High Five Christmas program and continued music with the children throughout the year.

Our hat and mitten collection was a great success. The generosity of all is greatly appreciated. These will be shared with Oconto schools for anyone in need.

Starting in January we will again have "kick off" for *Souper Bowl of Caring*. This is a charity based program to help feed the hungry. The children are encouraged to bring a can of soup each week to class. The soup will be donated to Bread by the Bay. Through this program we hope to raise awareness and fulfill the needs of the hungry in our area.

Our adult church members are asked to donate cans of soup during January as well. There will be kettles provided near the altar. Let's see through a little friendly competition which group can collect the most; the children or the adults?

Sally Krueger,
High Five Coordinator

BUCK-A-CHICK



During Lent (February 10, 2016), High 5 will be supporting Buck-a-Chick. Buck-a-Chick is an ELCA World Hunger program. For each \$1 donated, families in other countries will receive a chick for eggs to eat and to sell at market. We would like to invite the congregation to get involved in this worthy cause by purchasing foam eggs to place on the High 5 bulletin board in the church entrance. Donations may be placed in the box located next to the bulletin board. Take one of the colored eggs and write your name on it; peel off the back and stick it on the bulletin board.



Cans for a Cause!

Our Youth Group (SHY), is collecting aluminum cans. The money goes to support youth ministry. The collection bin is next to the dumpster at the east end of the church parking lot. We appreciate your support!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH...S.H.Y.

Our youth group was very busy in 2015. We helped with the Letter Carrier Food Drive, attended the National Youth Gathering in Detroit and the Senior Youth Gathering in Manitowoc, participated in a 30 hour famine, participated in Oconto's National Night Out by making caramel apples and setting up a selling booth at City Hall, served breakfast to all the bikers in SAGBRAW, helped with the Harvest Supper, worked with the High Five kids during Reformation night, hosted movie nights once a month and we had the chance to meet Bishop Jerry Mansholt!

In December 2015 we decorated a tree at Holtwood Park for all to enjoy and for Christmas we visited with our homebound and sang them carols.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kelli Tiegs

Youth Worker



Bringing a little holiday cheer to our homebound members!



Decorating our church Christmas tree at Holtwood Park!

OFFICIAL NOTICE!

Q & A

January 24, 2015

Budget Question and Answer Session
Between 8am & 10:15am services.

Annual Meeting

January 31, 2015

One Service @ 10:00am

Potluck to follow the annual meeting.
Please bring a dish to pass.

All Ministry Teams

Please have your
Annual Report into the church office
no later than

January 4th! You may email your report to
Bobby Jo at: falc@bayland.net.

Reminder

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Christian Formation Ministry Team

December 14, 2015

Present: Heiser, Krueger, Tiegs, Pastor Mary

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:05 p.m.

Reports:

High Five classes continue to move forward and attendance at all levels has remained strong. The Christmas Program on December 13 filled the church and was enjoyed by all. Students will be treated to pizza and a movie on Wednesday, December 16. Sally has scheduled a Teacher Meeting for December 17.

Confirmation students are progressing well with their Confirmation studies. There are three new students in the 7th Grade Class. Pastor and Kelli are looking into a Junior Youth Gathering for Grades 7 & 8 in February.

SHY: Kelli and four students attended the Senior Youth Gathering in November. The youth are planning to go caroling on December 19th and are also looking at ideas for a fundraiser in conjunction with Super Bowl Sunday.

Adults: On November 22 a group met to discuss the book Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber. The next book discussion will be in later January and will feature the book Pastrix by the same author.

Other discussion: "Soup & Sandwich" will be held throughout the Lenten season on Wednesdays. Pastor will conduct a "Longest Night" worship service on Thursday, December 17.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. Next meeting is **January 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm**

MINSITRY OF BUILDING & PROPERTY

December 8, 2015 6:00 pm

Members present: Dick Jacquart, Jeff Werner, Ron Frease & Pastor Mary

Meeting opened with prayer by Ron Frease

- ❖ Discussed the trim in the Parsonage
- ❖ Discussed the 5 year plan



Next Worship team meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2016 6:00 pm

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

December 2, 2015 6:00 pm

Members present: John Carson & Pastor Mary

Members Absent: Linda Welch, Natalie Flint & Beth Tachick

- ❖ Opening prayer
- ❖ Advent decorating completed
- ❖ Plan open Christmas decorating event for everyone after the second service on December 20, 2015



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Next Worship team meeting January 5, 2016 at 6:00 pm

MINISTRY OF CARE

Meeting December 8, 2015

- ◆ Discussed Blue Christmas— Scheduled for December 17, 2015
- ◆ Give out Bibles for adult baptisms
- ◆ Mentor is in full swing
- ◆ Home Communion is great—could use more volunteers

Next CARE team meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30pm



January 18—February 7

Join the hundreds of youth groups and churches across the country as we show God's love by caring for our neighbor through "Souper Bowl of Caring". High Five students may bring cans of soup/food with them to class to fill up a kettle in their classroom. Adults may bring cans of soup/food or drop a \$1 or 2 in the kettles near the altar at the front of church. All donations will be donated to Bread by the Bay.

COUNCIL REPORT

Congregational Council Meeting Notes of December 15, 2015

Present: Berry, Carson, Connell, Garrigan, Heiser, Jacquart, Neta, Werner, Yudes, Pastor Mary and Treasurer Tammie McCarthy. Excused: Flint, Riley, and Tachick.

Call to order with prayer at 6:00 p.m. by Neta.

Agenda set after additions under *New Business*, item *d. Resignation of FALC Treasurer* and item *e. Request for use of gym*.

Council minutes of November 17, 2015 were accepted as written. M/S/C Werner, Carson.

Treasurer's report – giving is still down, but expenses are being met because of due diligence in spending. M/S/C Carson, Garrigan to accept report as presented.

Pastor's report: 1) Seven individuals were received into membership on Sunday, December 6th. There are currently four more families considering membership; 2) The Nominating Team met and made a list of potential candidates; 3) Ministry Teams need to submit their December reports ASAP and their end of year reports by January 4th; 4) "Longest Night" worship service is scheduled for Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.; 5) Pete Moody has requested use of the gym for 4th grade girls' basketball practices.

Ministry Team Reports: as noted in the TIE.

Book discussion – tabled.

Old Business: a) Altar Renovations – need a clear plan with approximate costs to present at annual meeting. Cary is working on this and will share with council at the next meeting; b) Computer purchases will not come out of "Maintenance" but rather will be drawn from "Undesignated Memorials." M/S/C Pastor, Carson to approve that change.

New Business: a) Jeff presented the proposed FALC 2016 Budget followed by discussion and questions. M/S/C Yudes, Werner to approve 2016 budget as proposed for final presentation and vote at the annual congregational meeting of January 31, 2016. (There was one No vote.); b) Annual Meeting – Jeremy presented the agenda for review and some changes were made. M/S/C Connell, Jacquart to approve the agenda with revisions; c) Appointment to 2015 Audit Team – one more member is needed for this year since Jeremy cannot serve on the team due to his current capacity as council president; d) Tammie McCarthy submitted her resignation as FALC Treasurer, effective January 31; e) Request by Pete Moody to use gym on Mondays and Thursdays for 4th grade girls' basketball practices. M/S/C Heiser, Yudes to approve the request and waive the fee.

Correspondence – none.

Publication Items: a) FALC is in need of a Treasurer. If you are interested please contact the church office; b) Mark your calendars for the annual meeting on January 31, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., followed by a potluck dinner. On that Sunday there will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m.; c) A listening session for the proposed FALC 2016 Budget will be held between services on January 24th. Please attend if you have questions about the budget.

Next meeting is **Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**

M/S/C Yudes, Garrigan to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. with prayer.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

1st: Scott Marquardt & Danielle Lubus
2nd: Leo Dumke
3rd: Zachary Marquardt
4th: Terry Frease
6th: Graedy Martin
7th: James Garrigan
8th: Leonard Schaut Sr., Bobby Jo Lipp, Douglas Exworthy & Cameron Boucher
10th: Carole Bartanen & Tom Olson
12th: Valerie Feldt
14th: Dick Rogall
16th: Adam Filz & Sophia Moody
17th: Ronald Filter
18th: Sophia Lipp
19th: Scott Miller, Jill Salacinski & Joey Tieg's Jr.
21st: Bruce Bartanen, Kelli Tieg's & Devin Donlevy
23rd: Kamren Fuller
24th: Brian VandenLangenberg
25th: Scott Boucher
26th: Sue Jacquart, Debbie Larsen, Sarah Ackerman, Tara Knopf, McKenna Garrigan & Katelyn Marquardt
27th: Mike Belongia
28th: Joe Bailey
29th: John Moe & Kirsten Tesch
30th: Gunder Thompson
31st: Marilyn Hanson

BULLETIN / TECHNOLOGY SPONSORS

JANUARY

3rd
 SPONSORSHIP OPEN

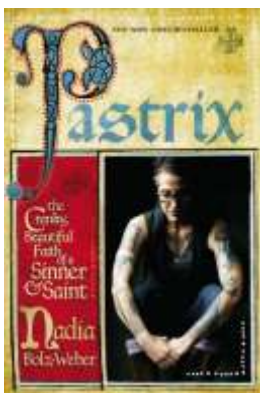
10th
Alex Lipp & Family—
 In celebration of Bobby Jo's
 birthday on January 8th

17th
Bobby Jo Lipp & Family—
 In celebration of Sophia's 6th
 birthday on January 18th

24th
 SPONSORSHIP OPEN

31st
 SPONSORSHIP OPEN

You can become a bulletin/
 technology sponsor too! It's
 easy, just pick a date and
 write your name on the sign-
 up sheet in the back of the
 church or contact the church
 office at 920-834-2460. The
 cost is only \$20.00 per date.



JOIN US FOR BOOK CLUB!

On February 7th between services to discuss
PASTRIX by Nadia Bolz-Weber

Wildly entertaining and deeply resonant, this is the book for people who hunger for a bit of hope; for women who talk too loud, and guys who love chick flicks; for the gay man who loves Jesus, but who won't allow himself to be talked to like that again. In short, for people like Nadia, and for every thinking misfit who is as suspicious of institutionalized religion as they are of themselves, yet are still seeking some transcendence and mystery in their lives.

We pray daily for the following:

For Safety, Courage and Perseverance for those serving our Country: Michael Dorn, Brian Zenz (Iraq), Brandon Zielinski (Okinawa), Aaron Larson (Colorado), Jeremiah Dettman (Maryland), Edward Ellman (State-side) and Samantha Jepson

For Help and Healing: Don Rhode & John Evans

Homebound/Shut-In: Veiga DeBenedetto, Carroll & Leo Dumke, Marceil Schumacher and Willie Wittkopf

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, know of someone serving in the military, or of someone who would like to be prayed for, please call the office at 834-2460. Other than those in the military we will maintain people on the prayer list for a two week period, unless notified otherwise.

Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name. If your name is removed in error, please accept our apologies and contact the office to let us know. Thank you.



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Church Office Closed on January 1st in Observance of New Years Day						1	2
<p>3 Second Sunday of Christmas 9:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship w/HC</p> <p>4:30pm Boy Scout Mtg. 5:00pm Cub Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>4 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 9:00am Sewing Min.</p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>5 10:00am Electric Cooperative Meeting</p> <p>6:00pm Worship Mtg.</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00am AA Mtg.</p> <p>5:20pm High 5 Meal 5:50pm High 5, 7/8th Confirmation & SHY Classes</p> <p>7:00pm Chapel w/HC</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>10 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00am Worship w/HC 10:15am Worship w/HC</p> <p>4:30pm Boy Scout Mtg. 5:00pm Cub Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>12 <i>Pastor Out of Office Shawano Conference</i></p> <p>6:30pm Care Mtg.</p>	<p>13 10:00am AA Mtg.</p> <p>No High 5, Confirmation or SHY Classes</p> <p>7:00pm Chapel w/HC</p>	<p>14 1:30pm Sun Valley Holy Communion</p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice 6:00pm Christian Formation Ministry Team Mtg.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00pm SHY Open Gym</p>	
<p>17 Second Sunday after Epiphany 8:00am Worship w/HC 9:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:15am Worship w/HC 11:30am 9th Grade Confirmation Class</p> <p>4:30pm Boy Scout Mtg. 5:00pm Cub Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>18 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice 7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm Executive Council Mtg. 6:00pm Council Mtg.</p>	<p>20 10:00am AA Mtg.</p> <p>1:30pm Naomi Circle 5:20pm High 5 Meal 5:50pm High 5, 7/8th Confirmation & SHY Classes</p> <p>7:00pm Chapel w/HC 7:00pm Omega Circle</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>24 Thrid Sunday after Epiphany 8:00am Worship w/HC 9:00am Budget Q&A 10:15am Worship w/HC</p> <p>4:30pm Boy Scout Mtg. 5:00pm Cub Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>25 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p> <p>5:00pm Manna Meal 7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 10:00am AA Mtg.</p> <p>5:20pm High 5 Meal 5:50pm High 5, 7/8th Confirmation & SHY Classes</p> <p>7:00pm Chapel w/HC</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:15pm Zumba 5:15pm Girls Basketball Practice</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Worship w/HC 11:00am Annual Mtg. followed by Potluck</p> <p>4:30pm Boy Scout Mtg. 5:00pm Cub Scout Mtg.</p>							

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

DATE:	USHERS:	ACOLYTES:	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	LECTORS:
01/03 10:00am	Jack & Phyllis Donlevy	Jeremy Neta Lillyan Neta	Jean Rockwell	Sally Krueger
01/06 7:00pm	N/A	Justice Mitchell	Kelly Sikma	N/A
01/10 8:00am	Paul & Linda Welch	Alexis Witak Breanna Duncan	Liz Duket	Paul Welch
01/10 10:15am	Ron Frease	Bryce Hosking Abigail Mahoney	Sandra Riley	Robin Fonder
01/13 7:00pm	N/A	Louden Woodworth	Sue Jacquart	N/A
01/17 8:00am	Don & Irene Nerenhausen	Alison Earley Isabelle Tieg	Donna Draeger	Lloyd Heier
01/17 10:15am	Jeff & Kitty Werner	Collin Ebben Phleecee Young	Diane Motiff	Pam Meisner
01/20 7:00pm	N/A	Logan Klein	Cathie Connell	N/A
01/24 8:00am	Ken Cisar	MacKenzie Honish Hayden Honish	Mary Heiser	Mary Heiser
01/24 10:15am	Tim & Karen Cox	Hannah Moe Caleb Moe	Helen Weber	Charlotte Ihde
01/27 7:00pm	N/A	David Exworthy	Rueben Meisner	N/A
01/31 10:00am	Frank & Kathy Votava	Makayla DeGrave Cameron Boucher	Linda Welch	Val Filz



MUSICIAN ON SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: Bonnie Schultz	CHANCEL HOST: Bobby Jo Lipp
MONEY COUNTERS: Debbie Heimke & Sandra Riley	COMMUNION BREAD MAKER: Logan Klein & Sophia Lipp

JANUARY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS/HOSTESSES
17th: Host/Hostess Needed

*For anyone interested in hosting our Coffee Fellowship and not quite sure what's expected, there is a list in the kitchen (on the cabinet door) of suggestions of what to bring and how to go about setting it up.
 If you have questions you may contact any member of the CARE Team or the church office.*

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Nonprofit Org.
Carrier Route Presort
U.S. Postage Paid

Return Service Requested



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January 2016

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Lenten Mid-Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday
February 10, 2016

12:00 Noon

Simple service of Confession with Imposition of Ashes

6:00 p.m.

Children's Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.

Traditional Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of
Ashes and Holy Communion

Midweek Lenten Services @ 7:00 p.m.

February 17, 24

March 2, 9, 16

*Soup & Sandwich on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. or at
6 p.m. for a quieter setting

