



Winter 2020 Newsletter

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Opening Devotion — Shrove Tuesday and Lent

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who "make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with."

Shrove Tuesday is exactly 47 days before Easter Sunday, a moveable feast based on the cycles of the moon. The date can be any between 3 February and 9 March inclusive. Shrove Tuesday this year occurs on February 25.

The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word shrive, meaning "absolve". This word began when the Latin verb scribere (meaning "to write") found its way onto the tongues of certain Germanic peoples who brought it to Britain in the early Middle Ages. Because it was often used for laying down directions or rules in writing, 8th-century Old English speakers used their form of the term, scrifan, to mean "to prescribe or impose." The Church adopted scrifan to refer to the act of assigning penance to sinners and, later, to hearing confession and administering absolution.

As this is the last day of the Christian liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations. The term Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Many Christian congregations thus observe the day through the holding of pancake breakfasts, as well as the ringing of church bells to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent.

"*The Bruton Fount*" Spring 2020 Issue from Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, cites the February calendar published in the 1774 Virginia Almanack with these lines:

You Friends, who late on Pancakes Far'd,
For Fasting now must be prepar'd,
'Cause 'tis the holy Time of Lent;
Of all your Sins you must repent,
And you will find your Time well spent.

Source 1: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrove_Tuesday

Source 2: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/shrive>

Source 3: <http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/1318/BPCFOUNTSPRING2020.pdf>

LLF Scholarships

The Lutheran Lay Fellowship of the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area (LLF) is pleased to announce the availability of one scholarship for 2020. One of the five objectives of the LLF is "to initiate and support worthy projects of a religious, charitable, and educational nature." The promotion and encouragement of the pursuit of degree-oriented education among Lutheran students is the purpose of the LLF scholarship program. The application deadline is April 15th. See attached Press Release and click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.org/scholarship/>

Thrivent Financial, Choice Dollars®

Generosity is important to Thrivent and its members. Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Thrivent members, remember that 2019 Choice Dollars® expire on March 31, 2020 if you have not already directed them to your church or favorite nonprofit.

Logon to your account or call 800-847-4836.

<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice>

Membership Renewal

If you have not received a membership renewal form in the mail, you may download the membership application form from our website. Please send to the LLF Treasurer, John Corkill, at the address at the bottom of the form, not Dave Lambert who sends out the newsletters. New members are always welcome to join!

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.com/info/MembershipApplicationForm.pdf>

Fellowship Square News

More and more people turn 65 every day. Many of them lack the resources to afford safe, quality housing. Fellowship Square is working tirelessly to help. Fellowship Square was founded in 1960 and is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Executive Director Christy Zeitz said "We are making tremendous progress to renovate and modernize two of our Fellowship Houses (Lake Anne and Hunters Woods); add more programs and services for residents; and elevate our property management operations to resident-centered and industry best practices. These efforts have taken much dedication and attention from staff – both Fellowship Square staff and the SL Nusbaum staff who manage our properties every day."

"*A Mission to Serve: The Life of John A Scherzer and the Birth of Fellowship Square Foundation*" (ISBN 0-941397-03-3) was published in July, 1989. Last year, LLF assisted FSF with reprinting a limited number of these books. Christy Zeitz said "we received 25 new Scherzer books a few weeks ago and will be providing those to new Board members as part of Orientation."

Fellowship Square Foundation Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for Fellowship Square's 2020 Annual Meeting followed by a reception and dinner to thank our donors, volunteers and friends! It will be held on Saturday, April 18th, with a business meeting (4:00-6:00pm) followed by a wine reception, dinner, live music and awards (6:30-8:30pm). The event will be at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway (Rt. 29), Centreville, Virginia 20120.

Please RSVP to Judy Singer at jsinger@fellowshipsquare.org

No Upcoming Meetings with Fellowship Square

There are no monthly meetings scheduled this Spring. Lutheran Lay Fellowship is reworking its meeting schedule. Once it is finalized, we will print it in the newsletter.

Caring & Sharing

Do you have news to share?

Is there something in your life or in the life of your congregation you would like to share with other members of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship to be published in a future LLF Newsletter? Have you been on a mission trip or taken a special vacation? Is your church doing something new and different that might be of interest to other congregations?

Send articles to webmaster@LutheranLayFellowship.org.

LLF Meetings

LLF Wheaton - The Executive Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at Panera Bread in the Wheaton Mall. All are welcome. Organizer: John Corkill

LLF Tyson Corner - Bob "Sarge" Sargeant invites you to Northern Virginia meetings at Brio Tuscan Grille in the Tyson Corner Mall.

On occasion, Fellowship House Managers or Fellowship House RSC's will be featured. As stated above, Lutheran Lay Fellowship is reworking its meeting schedule. Once it is finalized, we will print it in the newsletter.

Meeting Schedule

1st Monday	Mar 2	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
1st Monday	Apr 6	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
1st Monday	May 4	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
1st Monday	Jun 1	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm

For updated information see www.LutheranLayFellowship.org and click on "Calendar"
