

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 43 — Number 03
March 2022 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

March 2022

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

--- Matthew 7: 7 & 8

The month of March will soon be upon us as I write this Pastor Michael's Musings. When I was a child, for some reason, I loved the month of March. As I have grown older, I have come to see it as a less than favorable month due to the usually nasty weather and seemingly useless continuation of wintertime that my “cabin-feverish” mind wants to get rid of. I look outside and dream of fishing, kayaking, motorcycle riding and camping adventures to come. Surely, there must be something to do with this time of year?

Of course, the Pastor in me realizes the precious nature of the month of March because it usually encompasses the discipline of Lent either in part or in whole. This year, we get to take a huge bite out of the Lenten “sandwich.” I don't think it is possible to cram more Lent into a single month than we are doing during this Lenten cycle in 2022. Ash Wednesday starts on Wednesday, March 2nd and the Lenten Worship services, all on Wednesday Nights at 7 p.m., continuing on the 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and then into April for one more Wednesday. What to do with this “downtime” at this sloppy time of year, we might ask ourselves? Well, how about adopting the Discipline of Lent during the 40 Days that it lasts?

Discipline. We might conjure thoughts of getting either physically, or verbally punished as children with that word, but in reality the word discipline should conjure up its root word “disciple.” As disciples, we take on a discipline voluntarily, for if it is not voluntary, and of one's own accord, then the learning from

it (which is the goal) will be largely useless. The Discipline of Lent...hmmm...what might that look like and what might it be for? Of course, entire books have been written on this topic, and what it might look like has changed through the centuries depending on one's culture and lineage. For us in the United States, in 2022, Lent might resemble that time in which we tune out the noise and cacophony of the world (as I write this, Kiev in the Ukraine is about to fall) not to turn away from the world in an uncaring way, but to clearly see the place of God in our lives and, yes, in the life of the world. To accomplish this, we must set aside time that is holy, Sabbath time, if you will. For yourself, this is time that you designate specifically to spend with God. The world will not do it for you, because it doesn't care if you focus on God and would rather not have you do it anyway. The world wants you to admire, and become fixated with, it alone. We take the Discipline of Lent and then do something counter-cultural and revolutionary with it. We focus in on ourselves, not in a way of aggrandizing ourselves, but instead in looking at our sinful flaws and shortcomings in the realization that we are not the be-all and end-all in all the ways of the world. Yes, a lot of times we are called to "give it up to God" and trust him for the answers. With the concentration on our sinful self also comes the awareness that we are creatures with a limited span of time in which to live. Ash Wednesday reminds us that "from dust we have come and to dust we shall return." Although a stark message, it is not a depressing one if we have been blessed with a kind of spiritual maturity which is also a gift of the process. We then see, and experience, our spiritual place in proper perspective with God, and through it all the message of the Gospel rings clear where oftentimes the message of the world falls flat. The Discipline of Lent also reminds us that we are not alone, that there are others facing the challenges of life just as we are. Through the words of Jesus Christ we see the light at the end of the tunnel at the end of those very same 40 days as we see that mirrored in the grander scheme that is our life. We may experience great challenges right now, but there is a day coming when all will be transformed in the light of the Resurrection.

Experiencing various disciplines can cause pain as we experience growth. If you've ever lifted weights, or done anything else athletic for that matter, you know the cost of growth. Lent calls us to exercise our spiritual muscles, not to keep us in the doldrums, but to show us that through the challenges of life Jesus' message shines through.

Make sure to use the month of March to experience the Season of Lent in all its 40 days, or only in part if that is all you can do. You will emerge stronger, more grounded, less fearful and more hopeful as God's plan for you becomes clearer. Our theme for this year is Healing, and we all know we can use plenty of that.

Lent—what's it all about anyway?

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year comes on March 2nd. For most Lutherans, that's all you need to know to "get ready" for the season, but still, sometimes it's good to ask "WHY do we do this?", so here is a quick overview of the Lenten season and its practices that make the approach to Easter different from normal days.

Why is Lent 40 days long? Actually, it's 40 days, NOT including Sundays. Historians generally agree that the 40-day period before Easter, known as Lent, emerged shortly following the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. (that's the council from which we also got the Nicene Creed). The 40-day period is in observance of the 40 days Christ spent in the wilderness following his baptism.

Why do some people fast during Lent? Earliest observances of Lent seem to have focused on the practice of fasting. Jesus expected His followers to fast, and He said that God rewards fasting. Fasting, according to the Bible, means to voluntarily reduce or eliminate your intake of food for a specific time and purpose. It doesn't mean you starve yourself, and it is NOT a "requirement" of Lent; it is just a self-imposed discipline many Christians use to help them remember the sacrifices Christ made for us, starting with his 40 day fast in the wilderness, and of course, ending when he was crucified. The Bible tells us that if we fast, do not make a show of it and do not mope around saying "Whoa is me, I'm fasting". Some people "give up" a favorite food during the season; others might choose to skip one meal a day; others "give up" some of their leisure time by volunteering at a charity or food pantry. One way we can ALL observe this is by "giving up" our leisure time on Wednesday evenings by coming to Lenten Worship.

What's the deal about getting marked with ASHES on Ash Wednesday? The biblical connection between prayer, fasting, and ashes is found in Daniel 9:3 (NRSV) *Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.* The ashes symbolize death, which is a nod to the verse in Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 (NRSV) *For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.* The ashes also symbolize repentance and mourning for our sin. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are created by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration!

OK, now you know the WHYs of Lent. On the next page, we'll review the WHATs of the season.

Sundays during Lent

You'll notice a few minor changes to Sunday worship during Lent:

- ✠ The altar colors are PURPLE. Traditionally, the color purple is associated with repentance and it is also a color associated with royalty, so it calls us to repentance AND reminds us that Jesus is King of Kings!
- ✠ ALLELUIA disappears! Traditionally, liturgical churches are careful to not use ANY music containing the word "Alleluia" during Lent. That word is put "on hold" until EASTER SUNDAY...when we can all sing "Alleluia, He is RISEN!". This also means we sing a different introduction to the day's Gospel instead of "Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?"
- ✠ NO "Hymn of Praise". Since Lent is a more solemn season we do not sing a "Hymn of Praise" (such as "This is the Feast") during Lent. The service goes from the Kyrie directly to the prayer of the day.
- ✠ We will still serve communion every Sunday, but we do not serve communion at the mid-week Lenten services.

Midweek Services

During Lent, we have mid-week services every Wednesday at 7 pm until Holy Week (which starts on Palm Sunday), when we have services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday instead of Wednesday. Attending these services is a great way to escape the everyday world and spend some quiet time drawing near to God.

This year we will be using services built around "reflection and healing". Each service is designed to provide additional reflection on the Gospel from the preceeding Sunday, and includes a time of silence for prayer and reflection. Pastor Jones will enlighten us with his popular dramatic presentations in place of a typical sermon.

These services will include music, gospel, teaching, reflection and prayer. What more could you want? Usually, these service last about 45 minutes.

We will not be having any "Lenten Suppers" this year, because we are not yet ready to get "back to normal" until COVID is more under control.

So, please come each Wednesday during Lent at 7 pm.

Until Next Month...

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said this about fasting:

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:16-18 (NRSV)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Lenten Season is Upon Us:

Please make it a point to attend these worship services as part of your Lenten discipline. There will be no Lenten meals this year. Worship starts at all Lenten services at 7:00.

Ash Wednesday: March 2nd 7:00pm

Lenten Week 1: March 9th 7:00pm

Lenten Week 2: March 16th 7:00pm

Lenten Week 3: March 23rd 7:00pm (Chosen People Ministries)

Lenten Week 4: March 30th 7:00pm

Lenten Week 5: April 6th 7:00pm

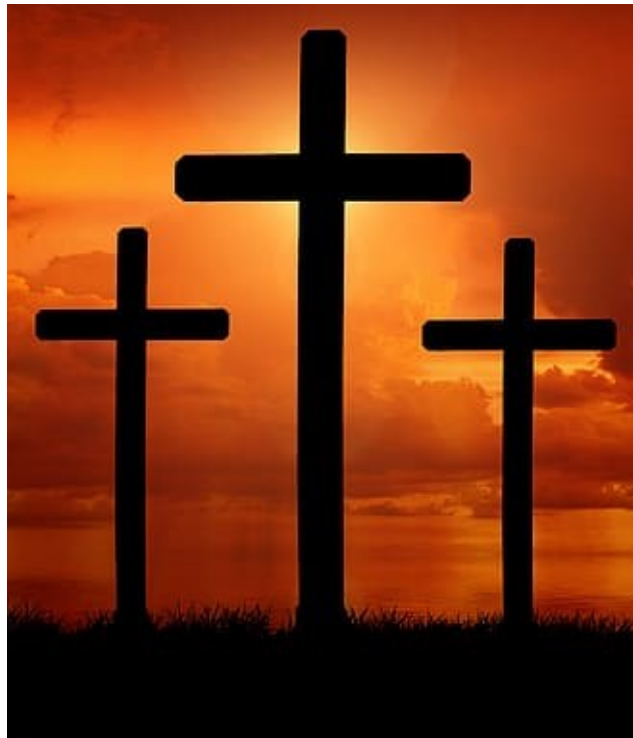
Palm Sunday: April 10th 8:00am & 10:30am

Maundy

Thursday: April 14th 7:00pm

Good Friday: April 15th 7:00pm

Easter Sunday: April 17th 8:00am & 10:30am



Look what is happening in Sunday School

St John Sunday School offers Sunday School in-person and remotely starting at 9:15 a.m. **IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR CHILD LEARN REMOTELY, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE SO SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS CAN BE MAILED.**

There are currently three classrooms:

3 years old-PreK	Kathy Ellis
Kindergarten-3rd grade	Becky & Shannon Sanders
4th-8th grade	Fred Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, March 6th and throughout the spring months, our lessons will follow the Year C Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermon.

March 6 th	Tempted
March 13 th	God's Promises to Abram
March 20 th	Parable of the Fig Tree
March 27 th	The Prodigal Son
April 3 rd	Mary Anoints Jesus
April 10 th	Holy Week
April 17 th	The Empty Tomb
April 24 th	Doubting Thomas
May 1 st	Saul to Paul
May 8 th	Peter and Tabitha
May 15 th	Peter's Dream
May 22 nd	Lydia
May 29 th	Paul and Silas
June 5 th	The Holy Spirit

Middle School aged children are taught from the Augsburg Fortress ECHO curriculum, the SPARK Bible, and Luther's Catechism. The lessons in this curriculum include topics that are relevant to their age group and prepare them for Confirmation.

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John Wetterauer
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell

Homebound List (as of February 28, 2022)

Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Thelma Hartseil	Snyder Village 404 Flag Metamora, Il. 61548
Anna Bontz	Autumn Accolade 13516 Townline Rd. Room 314 Green Valley, Il. 61534	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Alice Johnson	Evergreen Senior Living 404 Stillwater Dr. #101 Chillicothe, Il. 61523
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Millie Carlson	207 N. Eisele Dr. Peoria, Il. 61604-5120	Don Norvill	1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614		

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank You: Thank you so much to everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and expressions of kindness regarding the illness and passing away of my brother, Wayne Schmidt. He passed away January 14, 2022. Everything was very much appreciated.
Alice & Terry Lopez

Wednesday evening Bible study: We will be having a recess from meeting until April 20. In the meantime we are encouraged to attend weekly Lenten services. I have 2 copies of Where Do We Go from Here? if you're interested. Thank you.
Text or call Jane Rosenbohm 309-645-9009

Usher Schedule for March:

March 6th	8:00am - Tim Sammis	10:30am - Andy Look
March 13th	8:00am - Roger Shafer	10:30am - Jodi Miller
March 20th	8:00am - John Grafelman	10:30am - Leora Day
March 27th	8:00am - Teri Sammis	10:30am - Carol Alwood

(Usher) Lent Schedule (Wednesday Evening):

March 2nd (Ash Wednesday)	7:00pm - Roger Shafer
March 9th (Lent Week 1)	7:00pm - LaVonne Sammis
March 16th (Lent Week 2)	7:00pm - Carol Alwood
March 23rd (Lent Week 3)	7:00pm - Teri Sammis
March 30th (Lent Week 4)	7:00pm - Eric & Sue Jones

Readers Schedule for March:

March 6th Sandy Behrends
March 13th Marilyn Hartseil
March 20th Rick Allen
March 27th Mark Ingram



New and Gently Used **LUGGAGE COLLECTION**
for children and youth in foster care and residential settings
Why? Because most Lutherans have extra baggage!

ELCA congregations in the Northern Conference are collecting new and gently used luggage for children and youth entering and moving through foster care and residential systems for the Children's Home Association of Illinois and Lutheran Social Services. In the past, many children have come into care with all their belongings in large black garbage bags. As you can imagine, these transitions are difficult enough on kids without all their possessions being stored in a garbage bag! These local agencies have improved this process over the years through luggage donations but we've learned their inventory is low. And, that's how we can help!

Congregations are encouraged to start their own collection of new or gently used modern luggage to donate or pass this project along to individuals and families who may wish to participate. Carry-on through full size luggage is needed. Modern features such as wheels and handles are ideal. Please do not donate antique, damaged or out of date luggage from the back of your attic to this project. However, if you've upgraded your luggage in recent years or are planning to – why not pass on your extra baggage to this great cause!?!?

You can take your donation directly to the Children's Home, 2130 N Knoxville in Peoria, or contact Deacon Jill Goldhammer at 309-688-9212/jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com to arrange drop off at Salem Lutheran Church. She will even pick up from your congregation as necessary. We will actively collect luggage together through April 1, 2022. Contact Jill with any questions!

PRESS RELEASE:

Messiah in the Passover Demonstration

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER, a vivid and exciting demonstration showing how Jesus fulfilled the ancient feast of Passover, will be held on _____

MARCH 23rd at ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
6614 W. SMITHVILLE RD. BARTONVILLE, ILLINOIS

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER will be conducted by

KIRILL SWIDERSKI.

Chosen People Ministries is an over one hundred-year-old mission that was founded in 1894 by Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian rabbi who came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised by the Hebrew Scriptures. From humble beginnings in Brooklyn, New York, Chosen People Ministries has grown into a worldwide ministry to "the Jew first and to the Gentile."

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER begins with the traditional Passover Seder table – complete with all the articles of this important Jewish celebration. The speaker will explain the symbolic meanings of the various items of the Passover feast and highlight their relationship to the Last Supper that Messiah celebrated with the disciples, giving special emphasis on the redemptive significance of the crucifixion.

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER gives the Christian community insight into Jewish traditions so that the Jewish roots of Christianity can be better understood. This program also helps the Jewish and Christian communities understand their common heritage.

This meeting is open to the public, and ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Church would like to invite the Christian as well as the Jewish community to attend. The church is located at 6614 W. SMITHVILLE RD For more information please call (309) 697-1440. BARTONVILLE, IL

A love offering will be received.

St. John Lutheran Church
6614 W. Smithville Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436
(309) 697-1440



Current Resident or:

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Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Please make sure to attend Lenten Services on Wednesday Evenings at 7:00pm

Service Times: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Communion every week

Please travel safely as the weather begins to change.