

# ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

Elders: John Greder, John Thies, Steve Gust , Bruce Mohr

March 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas. Our Christmas trees were all out and decorated the lights were hung all around as celebratory decorations, what a joyous time! And now here we are. It's March already and the time has come for us to move from celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord and the revelation of His light to the world. Now we move to that more solemn season of penitence: Lent.

As we consider this coming season of Lent, I found myself thinking about trees. Perhaps an odd thing for me to be considering this time of year, especially as the trees just recently received a fresh coat of snow. But trees have born a fair bit of significance throughout the Scriptures. First we have the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Where Adam and Eve found themselves tempted by the serpent and ate of that forbidden fruit.

After eating of the forbidden tree, God banished them from the garden lest they continue to eat of the Tree of Life. Now we look forward to the day when we are welcomed into God's eternal kingdom, where we will be free once again to eat of that Tree of Life. In Rev. 22, we are promised:

**Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. - Rev. 22:14**

As those whose robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, we know at the last, we will have this same right to the tree of life.

And as we consider these different trees, I can't help but think of the book, "The Tale of the Three Trees". In this book, three trees are dreaming of what they will become. They have marvelous goals aspiring to be something built for a grand hall, or a majestic ship sailing the seas. Each tree seems a bit disappointed when they are chopped down for their various purposes. One is made into a trough from which animals eat. One becomes a

fishing boat, not nearly the majestic ship it was hoping to be. And the third is cut in two and tossed into a pile until one day it is made into a cross.

While this tale is of course a fanciful tale, it leads us to the final tree I ask you to consider today, the tree of the cross. There are times in our communion liturgy that the proper preface (one of the prayers we pray as we begin the communion portion of the service) mentions this tree of the cross, contrasting it with the tree of the garden. There we pray:

"that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome"

St Paul also makes a similar contrast between these two trees although for Paul the focus is on the man not the tree. Paul writes,

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. - Rom. 5:15-16

Christ suffered on the tree of the cross, that we might be redeemed from what happened at the tree of the garden.

The season of lent is one set aside for us to consider our sinfulness, our need for the tree of the cross. It should drive us forward looking to Holy Week when Christ suffered all for you and I. Ultimately leading us to Easter where we celebrate his joyous resurrection from the dead. The tree of the cross was not the end. Christ suffered on that tree so one day he could welcome us to eat from the Tree of Life. Until that day, may God continue to keep us in His grace.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Don't forget to set clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

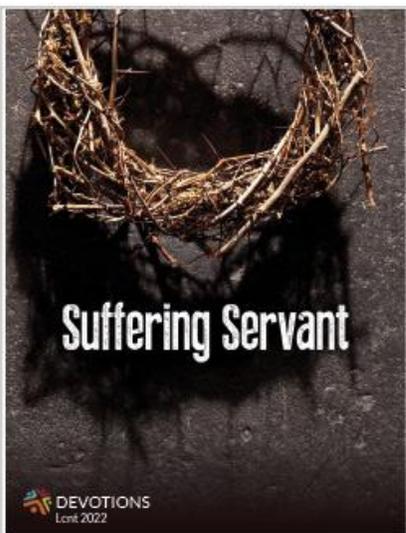


## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On March 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm. During the service we will place ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to reflect on the prayerful and penitential season of the church year.

## **LENTEN DEVOTIONS**

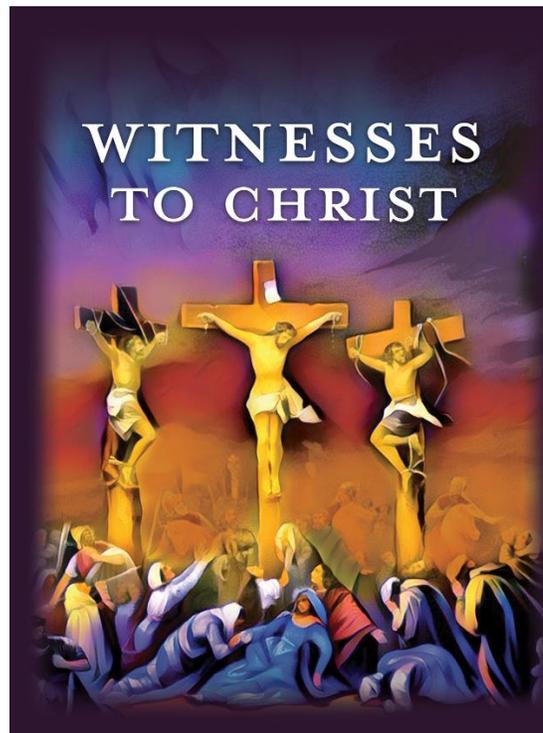
Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Lenten devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up from the back table in church.



In *Suffering Servant*, we encounter Jesus the Man sent to redeem a lost world. Born in the flesh, Jesus became like us. Taking the form of a Servant, He emptied Himself. Bearing our sins to the cross, He gives us newness of life through His victory over death won for us by His resurrection from the dead.

## **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

Lent begins on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Midweek services continue until April 6<sup>th</sup>. Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday.



### *Witnesses to Christ: People from His Passion*

John tells us why he wrote his Gospel: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31). Life! When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, God gives us life—abundant life, forgiven life, and eternal life.

Historically, the Fourth Gospel is likened to an eagle—an image that suggests John soars to heights of glory and grandeur. That's because the evangelist paints a stunning portrait of Jesus, who is the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, and the way, the truth, and the life. Life in Jesus. That's God's gift to you!

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John's Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).

**CATECHISM**

During lent, starting March 2, Catechism class times will be:

- 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. – Catechism Activities
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - 7 & 8 Grades
- 6:30 p.m. – catechism simple supper



**DRIVE UP COMMUNION**

On Monday, March 7 & 21 there will be drive-up communion from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



**LCW**

The LCW Bible Study and meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**MEETINGS**

On Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Elder’s Meeting will meet at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the Church Council will meet at 7 p.m.



**NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of cancer patients & their families.

Please contact the office if you’d like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is \$37.

**“THY STRONG WORD”**

Thy Strong Word is a 5 min. daily devotional message given by LC-MS pastors. It is aired at 6:25 a.m., Mon.-Sat. on KDSN, FM107.1

- Mar. 7-12 Rev. Mark Kluzek  
St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit
- Mar. 14-19 Rev. Josh Keinath  
Zion, Denison
- Mar. 21-26 Rev. Merle Mahnken  
Immanuel, Schleswig
- Mar. 28-Apr. 2 Rev. Chad Trunkhill  
Our Savior/Bethlehem

**GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR**

This program is a ½ hour worship service heard on Sioux City, KSCJ, 1360 AM, at 8:00 am.

**MAIN STREET LIVING**

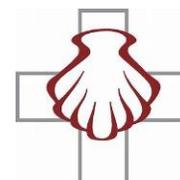
Main Street Living is a television ministry of the Lutheran churches of Missouri-Synod and of the Iowa West District. The worship service is on Sundays at 10 am on channel 9 KCAU, the ABC Network from Sioux City.



**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH**

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays in March are:

Amy Riddle	4
Loretta Hinrichsen, Jaxson Thies	5
Emilee Meadows	8
Kade Ohlmeier	10
Norma Berens, Alyssa Thies	12
Lisa Thies	13
Gregory Hinrichsen	14
Kenley Bretthauer-Stephens, Breyah Kuehl	15
Ryan Goslar	18
Kevin Savery	19
Landon Mohr	20
Carter Leitz, David Pohlman, Rick Knuth	21
Bryan Rosburg, Brenda Savery, Logan Vinke	24
Sharon Gosch, Virginia Keating,	25
Carolyn Seieroe, Kaitlyn Conto, Quintin Conto,	
Zachary Kelm, Joseph Sorensen	
Duncan Purcell, Amanda Thies	26



## **Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries 2021**

LCMS World Mission 40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034 712-882-1029 Gary Thies  
(gary.thies@lcms.org) www.missioncentral.us

- March 29, 2022 – Cindy Wrucke –  
Czech Republic – 1:00 pm



### **PLEASE GIVE US A CALL**

- before going to the hospital
- birth of your baby
- death in the family
- making wedding plans
- address and name changes
- private communion



### **SUGGESTIONS FOR A SAFE WINTER**

As we head into the winter months, realize that snow and cold awaits us. At times, services may be held in less-than-ideal conditions. We encourage those with special concerns for dangerous conditions to use suitable caution. Reasonable effort will be made to have sidewalks clear, and ice melt placed where needed. Be cautious of the north parking lot, especially on mornings after a thaw and refreezing. We understand that for some it may be wiser to listen to services at home and not take chances.

If the weather is so severe that services are cancelled, it will be announced on KDSN radio station, and posted on church facebook and website. We will also use Call Multiplier in the event of a cancellation. Please make sure we have your current phone number.



**SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING:** This year our special mission is Camp Okoboji. Our goal is \$3,000. Their MISSION is: We provide Sanctuary which connects guests with God and His Creation You can find more information at their website: <http://www.campokoboji.org/>

### **CUB WEEK SCHOLARSHIP**

The Camp Okoboji auxiliary will be giving away 6 scholarships for Cub/Jr High/Youth Weeks. You can pick up a scholarship application from the church office or your Sunday School teacher. The application needs to be completed & returned to Camp Okoboji by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Summer 2022 Camps**

- Kids' Kamp (June 3-5)
- Concordia Cub Week 1-Grades 3-5 (June 12-15)
- Jr. High Week - Grades 6-8 (July 10-16)
- Concordia Cub Week 2 (July 17-23)
- Youth Week (July 24-30)

