



THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

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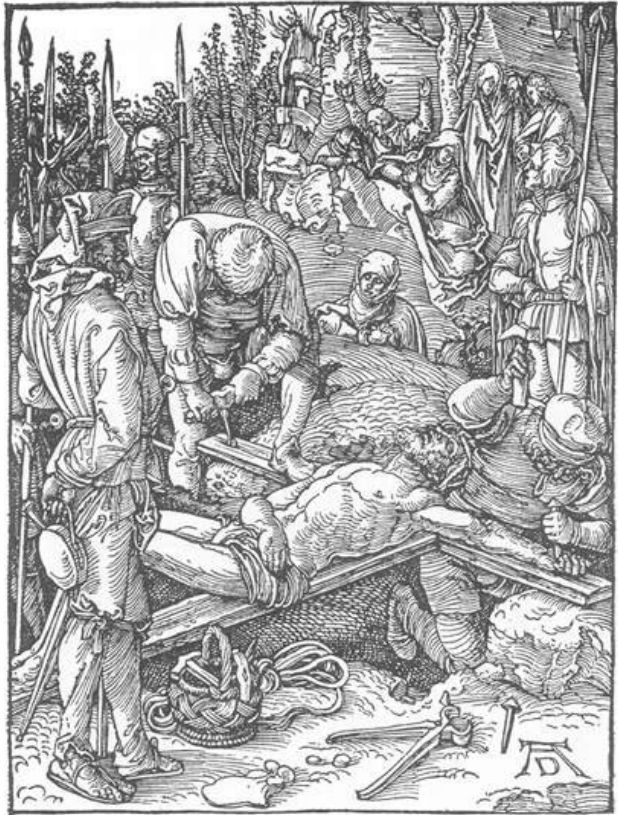
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“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.” - Jn 10:17-18

FROM THE PASTOR

The Lenten Season



The Lenten season of the Church year begins with Ash Wednesday. The name, “Lent” is an old Anglo-Saxon word Lencten or Lenchthen, which means the lengthening of the days approaching spring.

In the first century, Lent was only a period of forty hours in remembrance of the forty hours that Jesus’ Body was in the tomb. That forty-hour observance ended with an Easter service at 3 a.m. In the third century, the forty hours expanded to six days, known as Holy Week. These were days of strict abstinence. The observance of Holy Week began in Jerusalem in the fourth century, when the days of Holy Week were designated as follows:

- Palm Sunday – Jesus’ Triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-17)
- Monday – Jesus’ cleansing of the Temple (Jeremiah 7:11; St. Matthew 21:12,13)
- Tuesday – The Olivet Discourse (St. Matthew 24:1-25:46)
- Wednesday – Judas agreement (Zechariah 11:12,13; St. Matthew 26:14-16)
- Maundy Thursday – Institution of the Lord’s Supper (St. Luke 22:1-38)

- Good Friday – Our Lord’s Crucifixion (St. Matthew 27:32-56)
- Holy Saturday – The rest in the tomb (St. Matthew 27:62-66; 1 Peter 3:19)

Eventually, Holy Week grew into thirty-six days, as a tithe of the 365 days of the year. In the time of Charlemagne, approximately 731 A.D., four days were added to the thirty-six to make the present season of forty days. The number forty is appropriate for a time period of purification, as our Lord Jesus fasted and was tempted for forty days in the wilderness, Moses fasted forty days on Mount Sinai, Elijah traveled for forty days on the way to the mountain of God, and the Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness.

You may wonder why Lent consists

of forty days when Ash Wednesday is actually forty-six days before Easter. This is because Sundays, being festival days, or little “Easters,” are not a part of Lent. Lent is a time to remember Jesus’ suffering and death. The pilgrimage during that time involves discipline and self-denial. During Lent we learn to die to self. Sundays, although not considered part of Lent, are affected by the mood of Lent, in that most liturgical churches drop the Alleluia, the Gloria in Excelsis, and (from Judica to Easter Vigil) the Gloria Patri for those Sundays. In the past, weddings were forbidden during Lent. Organs were silenced, public entertainment was outlawed, and often royalty dressed in black during Lent.

-Pastor Parent

Sunday’s Readings

(Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Mar. 5	Gen 32:22-32	1 Thess 4:1-7	Mt 15:21-28
Mar. 12	Ex. 8:16-24	Eph 5:1-9	Lk 11:14-28
Mar. 19	Ex. 16:2-21	Gal. 4:21-31	Jn 6:1-15
Mar. 26	Gen. 22:1-14	Heb..9:11-15	Jn 8:46-59
Apr. 2	Zech. 9:9-12	Phil. 2:5-11	Mt. 26:1-27:66

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

What does the Christian life look like? I have seen examples in the lives of my brothers and sisters at Our Savior: visiting the sick and shut-in, feeding the hungry, showing mercy when someone makes a mistake, listening to each other with patience and compassion, being a considerate neighbor, making a phone call, sending a card, providing a hug, and most importantly, sharing the Gospel with those we encounter in daily life.

We desire to freely and to joyfully serve our neighbor out of the abundant love God has for us. This Lenten season let's pray for eyes to see where God would have us share His love.

Blessings, Jennifer Currid

Getting Around OSELC

- Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the fellowship hall
- Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall
- Directories—on the back counter in the nave (where Service is held)
- LWML mite boxes—on the back counter shelf in the nave
- Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco
- Serve on a board—See that board's chairman (list is on the back of the newsletter)
- Make Offerings Electronically—See Brian Hull
- Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull
- Websites:
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org
 - Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org

FROM THE LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

February mites totaled \$17.62. Mite Box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month Mite donations are sent to the LWML Gulf States District to pay for District mission grants and district operations and national mission grants.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!! The 2021-2023 biennium national LWML mission goal of \$2,150,000 is reached and will fund 28 mission grants worldwide.

February mites totaled \$17.62. Mites are sent monthly to the Gulf States District LWML to pay from national and district mites and district operations.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mission project making homemade Easter cards for Crestview Manor residents and staff, Saturday, March 18, 2023, 10:00 am.

LWML Emerald Coast Zone Christian Life Workshop, April 29, 2023, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pensacola

-Times TBD

LWML National Convention, June 22-25, 2023, Milwaukee, WI

-Registration is available on the LWML Website <https://www.LWML.org>

Gulf States District LWML Retreat, October 13-15, 2023, Cullman, AL

LWML Gulf States District Convention, April 26-27, 2024, Prattville, AL

-Linda Urda

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSELG

Serve on a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.

Sign up for Flowers—See sign up list in the Parish Hall

Sign up for Refreshments—See sign up list in Parish Hall

Serve on the Altar Guild—See Dcs. Heather Bien

Ongoing Project on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee

Care Group—Jennifer Currid/Dcs. Heather Bien

Serve as an Usher—See Julie Blaylock

Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall

Coffee with Pastor and Women's Study—9:00 a.m. Thursday

FROM THE DEACONESS

During my study of “Sprit, Mind, Body” and how loving God and loving our Neighbor is integral for “wholly living”, I came across this article. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. —Dcs. Heather

Loving Your Neighbor in Lent (in Wittenburg)

On March 9, 1522, Martin Luther climbed into the pulpit in Wittenberg and preached the first of a week’s worth of sermons. Luther had been in hiding at the Wartburg, but returned to Wittenberg because the people had begun to be led astray by the erroneous teachings of Andreas Karlstadt and others who were following him.

In the sermons that Luther preached – a famous set of sermons known as the *Invocavit* Sermons, named after the first Sunday of Lent on which he began to preach – we see a pastoral approach that is expressly concerned with the consciences of the people of Wittenberg. Luther wanted to make sure that the people turned aside from a developing fanatical desire to serve God by keeping com-

mandments of men, and instead serve God by believing the Gospel and loving their neighbors.

Luther begins in an ear-opening manner: “The summons of death comes to us all, and no one can die for another. Every one must fight his own battle with death by himself, alone.”[1] This brings to mind the truth of salvation – one man cannot have saving faith for another, but can only receive Christ’s righteousness for himself. As the Lord speaks in Ezekiel 18, “The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” (v. 20, ESV)

The foremost task of the Christian preacher is to preach the Law of God’s Word so that the hearers would know their sin and guilt, and of the punishment due to them because of it; yet also to preach the Gospel of God’s Word, so that the hearers would know that their guilt is covered over by the righteousness of Jesus Christ, gifted to them by the grace of God.

In his sermon on *Invocavit* Sunday, Luther quickly communicates this truth to his hearers. “In the first

place, we must know that we are the children of wrath, and all our works, intentions, and thoughts are nothing at all...Note this well; and though there are many such in the Bible, I do not wish to overwhelm you with many texts. 'We are all the children of wrath.'"[2]

Immediately Luther follows with the Gospel – He lifts the burden of sin and wrath off of the hearer's shoulders. "God has sent us his only-begotten Son that we may believe in him and that whoever trusts in him shall be free from sin and a child of God, as John declares in his first chapter, 'To all who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.'"[3]

However, the circumstances in Wittenberg that had caused Luther to return and teach the people himself were not that they were doubting the Law's declaration of their sinfulness, nor of the promise of the Gospel's declaration of forgiveness of their sin. Rather, the people of Wittenberg, under Karlstadt's teaching, had become enamored with holy living to the *detriment* of their neighbors instead of to their help.



"Thirdly, we must also have love and through love we must do to one another as God has done to us through faith. For without love faith is nothing, as St. Paul says (I Cor. 2 [13:1]): If I had the tongues of angels and could speak of the highest things in faith, and have not love, I am nothing. And here, dear friends, have you not grievously failed? I see no signs of love among you, and I observe very well that you have not been grateful to God for his rich gifts and treasures."[4]

What was lacking amongst the Wittenbergers was a love for their neighbor. They were being taught to make significant changes in the practice of their piety – and were in fact making those changes – and were scandalizing the weaker brothers and sisters in Christ among them in the process. Luther spent the vast majority of the rest of the sermons in the next week (eight in all!) preaching the Law to his hearers, instructing them in how to guard the consciences of their neighbors and in not creating stumbling blocks for them.

What is especially fascinating about Luther's teaching is that,

while he is greatly concerned with the saving faith of all the people, he insists that coercion is in no way helpful in bringing them to that saving faith. Luther instead takes his cue from God's way of working: through the Word. Our love for our neighbor should reflect the careful patience and teaching of God's Word, both in terms of our action and in our relying on nothing *but* the Word. Luther cites the example of St. Paul in Athens: "Rather [Paul] stood up in the middle of the market place and said [the various statues and shrines] were nothing but idolatrous things and begged the people to forsake them; yet he did not destroy one of them by force. When the Word took hold of their hearts, they forsook them of their own accord, and in consequence the thing fell of itself." [5]

This is a good example for all Christians, including us today. In the midst of a world which continues in sin, we are called to proclaim the Word and love our neighbors. Yet Luther's words of instruction are just as applicable to us today as to his hearers in Wittenberg 500 years ago. "In short, I will preach it, teach it, write it, but I will constrain no man by force, for faith must come freely without compulsion." [6]

"I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything." [7]

The Word of God never changes, and as we hear from Isaiah 55, it always accomplishes that for which He purposes it. May we have the same bold trust in the Word of God as the blessed Dr. Martin Luther as we live our lives in faith toward God and love toward our neighbor!

The Rev. Michael Schuermann is pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sherman, IL.

[1] Luther's Works, American Edition, Vol. 51, p. 71

[2-4] *ibid*, p. 71

[5-7] *ibid.*, p. 77

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Study of
Psalms

Come join us for a good
time of learning and
fellowship!

Birthdays:

Rich Urds 3/9

Dianne Shaheen 3/22

Emily Bien 3-31

Men's Group

March 21
7:00pm

Pastor Parent's house

All men of the church are invited for a
great time of study and fellowship.

6481 Wallansee Way
Laurel Hill

COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Coffee with Pastor

begins with

Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to
know him and for him to get to know his
flock!

Women's Book Club

Thursday, March 16

11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

See Jennifer Currid for details



Saturday, March 18th

OSELC LWML Service Project

We'll be making greeting cards to
give to the residents and staff of
Crestview Manor. All ladies are
invited to participate!

Lenten Midweek Services:

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Soup and Sandwich Supper begins at 6 p.m.

(sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall)

Service begins at 7 p.m.

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Agenda (In-Person)

Feb. 15, 2023

President – Alex Franco

Vice-President – Brad Bien

Opened in prayer at 6:30 by Pastor Parent.

Attendance – Pastor Parent, Alex Franco, Brad Bien, Heather Bien, Jeannie Harrison, Julie Blaylock, Linda Urda, Alan Widener, Becky Williams, Jennifer Currid.

The January 10, 2023 minutes were read and approved with one correction: the Voters' Meeting will be held on Feb. 19th, not Feb. 14th.

Reports:

Pastor's report- Thank you to Becky Williams for organizing the Feb. 10th dinner at the Bavarian Wirtshaus. The new missal stand is now in use. The previous wooden stand was falling apart. Brad Bien is going to restore it and place it on the altar in the Parish Hall. Pastor has spoken to Deaconess Bien about purchasing two 7-candle floor stands for the chancel. Thanks for all the help with the Winkle hosted by our church on January 10th. Pastor has asked Sean Widener if he would serve as an acolyte; Sean is thinking about it. The Sunday morning Bible study on the Gospel according to Matthew is eight from completion. The next study will be on the Liturgy and on early Christian heresies. Pastor and Cindy will be on vacation from Monday, April 10th to Monday, April 17th. We will need a supply preacher on Sunday, April 16th.

Deaconess report (Heather) – see attached. Additional comments: newsletter deadline in Sunday, Feb. 19. The Sale for the Sem will be held on Saturday, April 22.

Treasurer report (Brian)- see attached. An amended Dec. report to include the entire month is now available. Due to our ordering frequently from Amazon, Brian is investigating applying for a church Amazon credit card which will earn the church 5% cash back to be used to make future purchases.

Financial report (Jeannie)- see attached.

Board of Security (Julie)- On Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 10:00 p.m., during a routine security check, Julie spotted a young man who appeared to be using drugs sitting by the Sanctuary back door. She called the police, but when they arrived and confronted the young man, he fled the scene. She believes this is an isolated incident due to the deterrents we have in place: security cameras, posting about cameras, and the lack of available water or electricity from the outside of the buildings. LWML report (Linda)- see attached.

Board of Christian Life (Jennifer)- The Care Group (Heather Bien, Jennifer Currid and Linda Combs) have been in touch with those in the congregation who need an extra touch of love. Alex asked that the Care Group notify the “chain saw” group of congregational needs in the event of a hurricane. Alex will also check with Steve Kamradt. to assure that he has received the latest congregation contact list.

Education report (Gervase)- Heather is going to check with Gervase about ordering a classroom set of children’s catechism books.

Elders report (Alan)- no report.

Trustee report (Brian)- The trustees are focused on felling trees and cutting firewood. The community is invited to take all the firewood they need.

Social ministry report (Becky)-Becky was pleased with the German restaurant outing on Feb. 10 and will be planning more eating adventures. She proposed that every 5th Sunday we plan a fellowship meal around the meats that are in the freezer. The congregation will bring sides. As always, we will need volunteers to cook the meat and to set up the Parish hall. The first 5th Sunday is April 30; the meal will be ham.

Unfinished business –

At the Voters’ Meeting on Feb. 19th, Alex will make a motion for the incumbent LCMS President, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, for the office of LCMS President. This was approved by the council at the Jan. 10th meeting. He will also present for nomination the Rev. Peter Lange for LCMS 1st Vice-President. In addition, he will for nomination Rev. Randall Ehrichs and Kevin Wendt for Southern District Vice-President. At the next voters’ meeting, we will have the slate to be voted on by Brad Bien and the pastor, our congregational voting representatives for the office of president of the LCMS.

The accounting services cost will be addressed at the Voters’ Meeting.

New Business-

The council voted unanimously to close the kitchen fund and move the \$422.09 remaining in the kitchen fund to the maintenance fund. Brad proposed the motion and Jeannie seconded it. It was approved.

Alex asked which council members want to present at the Voters’ Meeting on Feb. 19th: Pastor Parent, Brian, Jeannie, Jennifer, Becky and Julie.

Pastor Parent reminded the council that a CPR refresher course is due. Alex will make the arrangements for this to take place in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 and closed with Compline.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Currid

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Voters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

February, 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Alex Franco, opening prayer by Pastor Parent.

The attendance sign-in sheet – see attached.

The minutes from the November 13, 2022, Voters' Meeting were read and unanimously approved by motion (Linda/Frank).

Pastor's report –

Lenten services will begin Wednesday, Feb. 22 and will go through March 29.

The next adult Bible studies will be on the liturgy: why, what and when we do things during the worship service, followed by a study of early Christian heresies.

The Pastor and Cindy will be on vacation April 10-19. He will find a preacher for the April 18th worship service. If he cannot locate one, he will provide a sermon to be read during a Matins service.

Treasury report (Brian) – Brian proposed a motion that we hire a professional tax service to do the church's taxes for a maximum cost of \$1,500. Brian has filed the taxes in the past for the church, but with new IRS targets, he recommends we use a professional service. The motion was unanimously approved (Cindy/Carleen).

Financial report (Jeannie) – see attached. Additional comments: Even though the Grace Café (Soup Kitchen) has been suspended, it is still listed on the designated funds list. If at the point where we have enough volunteers, Grace Café can be reinstated; therefore, the funds will stay in the designated fund for now.

Board of Christian Life (Jennifer) –

Note that the monthly council minutes with attachments are now posted on the board in the Fellowship Hall.

Please notify Heather Bien or Jennifer Currid if you or someone you know in the congregation needs some help due to sickness or other challenges.

At the Feb. 25 workday, we need lots of help to help the trustees with the tree project, to weed the garden beds, and to organize the kitchen.

Board of Social Ministry (Becky) – We need volunteers to cook the main dish and host our new fifth Sunday feasts. The meat in our freezers will be the main dish. The congregation will provide sides. Note: there are some packages of chicken available for congregation members.

LWML (Linda) –

Linda Urda, who is our LWML president is also the Zone President. Our Zone goes from Pensacola to Panama City along with Bonifay, Marianna, and Florida.

Linda reminded us that the Mite Box funds are used for world and district missions (25% to National LWML mission grants, 50% to District mission grants, and 25% to District operations). We send our mites to the Gulf States District, and they send 25% to national. Linda reminded us that coins, cash, and checks can be placed in the mite boxes.

We at OSELC will be doing a local mission project on March 18, at 10:00, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making cards for the residents and staff at Crestview Manor.

Board of Security (Julie)- see February council meeting minutes concerning the uninvited campus visitor.

New Business:

Synodical Nominations- Alex made a motion to nominate the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, incumbent LCMS President, for the office of LCMS President and the Rev. Peter Lange for LCMS 1st Vice-President. These were the council's recommendation from the Jan. 10th meeting. Both were approved unanimously and Alex submitted the nominations to the Synod following the Voters' Meeting. At the next Voters' Meeting, we should have the slate to be voted on by Brad Bien and the pastor, our congregational voting representatives for the office of president of the LCMS.

If you are interested in taking the CPR refresher class to be held in June, please see Alex as soon as possible. Cost can be covered if needed.

The meeting was adjourned by motion (Brian/Julie) at 12:33 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid

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