



# St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

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The season of Lent and Easter is such a wonderful time of the church year. In fact, it could be argued that it is the most important time of the church year. Although, we do well to remember that each Sunday is a mini Easter during which time we are given the gifts of Christ's work for us and respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Nonetheless, Lent and Easter do well to give us pause in our lives with time to recall just exactly what it means to be a Christian.

We begin with the life of Christ. As we celebrate during the Advent and Christmas season, Jesus is the fulfillment of the original proclamation of the Gospel as God promises Adam and Eve a Savior who will reverse the death caused by their disobedience. (Genesis 3:15). Jesus serving mankind through His obedience to the Law and submission to death has freed us from the eternal consequence of sin; eternal death. As a part of our foundational confession as Christians, we stand on the firm truth that Jesus is the means through which we are forgiven for all our sin – sin which is a result of the inheritance of and the inborn inclination to often do what we know we should not and not do what we know we should.

Sin. This is no light matter over which we can simply gloss. It is a necessary part of our confession and a vital realization of who we are. Is it easier to simply say something like, "Well, as long as I do my best?" or, "Well, they are a really nice person otherwise?" or any things else the world convinces us to use as an excuse to explain away sinful behavior? Yes, yes, it is. It is and always will be "easier" to live the way of the world's standards and operation. But being a Christian isn't about having things easier. In fact, Jesus assures us that we will be hated for his name's sake. (Matthew 10:22) Or to put it as Vicar recently preached, a Baptized child of God has a target on their back – a target at which the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh aim on a constant basis.

What recognizing and taking time to reflect upon the life of Jesus does for a sinner is gives him a reminder of the peace that surpasses all understanding. The peace, as odd as it may seem is visualized in the corpus (the body of Jesus) upon the cross. For it is in this image, as Jesus gave Himself completely for us, we have the very peace that was necessary for the broken relationship between God and humanity. The position of our crucifix next to the pulpit is very intentional. For it is the source and foundation of our preaching and teaching.

Upon sin entering the world through the doubting mind, touch of and juicy bite of the forbidden fruit, a great chasm was immediately created between God and man. No longer would man be able to freely abide and walk among the presence of God in the perfect garden that was heaven on earth. Man was sentenced and expelled. Removed from the perfection that was meant to be. What was to come was generations of attempting obedience to the high demands of God's Law and shedding of blood through the sacrificial system that was the redemption for offenses committed.

The sacrificial system saw its completion as the blood of Christ stained the cross and dry dessert sand of Golgotha. "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," as He succumbs to the brutality of the world and damning reality of sin. He speaks His final breath with "It is finished," and breaths out His Spirit in submission and accomplishment of salvation for the world. Christ on the cross.

We don't stay there, however. Christ on the cross is an important part of the entirety of God's work among His people. For as we know the cross would not claim the Savior. The cross was the means of payment for sin which led the defeat of that which plagues us all – death. Three days later Christ would rise from the grave, bursting forth from the tomb so that we who are made just by His work would no longer have to fear the sting of death. Thus, we have upon the altar the risen Christ, showing His wounds for you.

We certainly face the death of our bodies in this world, but Christ's victory over the grave and the eternal undertaker has given us the peace that surpasses all understanding of knowing that we are free. Free from the eternal wages of sin and given an eternal residence in the mansion of heaven.

As we look forward to moving through this season of Lent and Easter, may we ever ponder the reality that is our confession as a child of God. May our hearts be softened by His peace and our minds be ready to hear the truth that is His Word. May we submit to this truth and allow it to form our thoughts and works. May we be ever ready to confess our sin and receive the blessing that is forgiveness for all our sins.

## Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, January 31	72 & 77
Sunday, February 7	74 & 76
Sunday, February 14	46 & 66
Ash Wednesday	42 & 44
Sunday, February 21	76 & 135
Wednesday, February 24	

#### Communion Attendance

Sunday, January 31	108
Sunday, February 7	50
Sunday, February 14	46
Ash Wednesday	40
Sunday, February 21	63
Wednesday, February 24	

#### Funerals

**Helen Zander** on February 6, 2021. She was called to her eternal rest February 2, 2021 at the age of 101 years, 1 months, and 5 days.

**Marcella Peterson** on February 16, 2021. She was called to her eternal rest on February 11, 2021 at the age of 88 years, 8 months, and 16 days.

#### Baptism

**Henley Ellen Bobrowske** infant daughter of Tom & Nicole Bobrowske on February 7, 2021 by Pastor Loder. Henley's sponsors are Jake Diers, Josh Diers, and Christine Bobrowske.

#### Transfer Out

**Tammy Schmieg-Hatcher** to St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted, MN on February 2, 2021.

**Ethan Hatcher** to St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted, MN on February 2, 2021.

#### Easter Flowers

Order your Easter flowers in the church narthex or by calling the church office.

Lille's \$9, Tulip's \$8, Mums \$9, Pink Hydrangea's \$16, 10" Pansy Bowl \$10, and 12" Pansy Bowl \$15. Deadline is March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

"The cheerful heart has a continual feast." Proverbs 15:15

In 1960, the Martha Guild of St. James Lutheran Church, Howard Lake, Minnesota, was organized. Members catered weddings, sewed layettes for babies around the world and participated in other church activities that women often are called to do.

During one of their 1961 luncheon meetings, unusual food was served and everyone wanted the recipes. This led to other members recalling certain dishes served in the past, and the conversation turned to the possibility of putting out a cookbook. The women did just that. More than 10,000 "Lutheran Favorites" (the red cookbook) were sold, and part of the proceeds went to missions. Some of the money built an education building for a church in Taipei, Taiwan.

Fifteen members of the Ruth Guild were encouraged by the success of the first book, and collected recipes again to put together "Cherished Recipes" (the white cookbook), printed in 1984. The nature of the recipes changed in 25 years. The newer book has more accent on Mexican, Chinese and Italian dishes. More stir-fry recipes reflect the growing interest in wok cookery.

(The above article appeared in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune on Sunday, June 21, 1987, written by staff writer, Mary Hart.)

Six "Wallpaper Cookbooks" were printed and sold from 1975 to 1980. The name was chosen because each book was bound with colorful wallpaper covers. Each book contained recipes of a different theme: Salads, Holiday Treats, Bars, Desserts, Main Dishes and Quick and Easy Recipes. In 2008, an LWML committee compiled these little books into one book, "The Wallpaper Cookbooks."

"Homemade with Love" was a 2004 collection of recipes by the LWML members. This cookbook was sold for several years at the Fall Country Store, as part of the LWML Fall Dinner event. "LWML Favorite Recipes" was a unique collection of recipes in 2013, as each entry was printed in the handwriting of the member submitting the recipe. "Spud" tacular Recipes appeared in 2014, and is a great source of potato recipes.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League



Lutheran Hour  
Ministries

## THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo.

The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO -830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public marketplace. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

### March 2021

March 7

**"A Place to Belong"** A house is not a person—but, could a Person be a house, a place to belong? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about finding that place, in Christ. (Mark 11: 1-26)

March 14

**"Widow's Mite"** Why did Jesus commend a poor widow who gave all her money to a corrupt institution that oppressed widows? Dr. Michael Zeigler takes a deeper look. (Mark 12: 13-34)

March 21

**"But He Is Strong"** (Mark 14:10-72)

March 28

**"TBD"** (Mark)

## *Stewardship-* An Article from LCMS

### The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

#### LCMS Stewardship Ministry

#### Newsletter article – March 2021

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the

obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family.

You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

3/9 Erland & Linda Hoese  
3/18 Gerald & Carol Burau  
3/26 Allan & Donna Munson



**March:** Greta Goede (1), Annalie Kilpela (1), Dwayne Oestreich (1), Lucas Probst (1), Randy Hatcher (2), Larae Ostgulen (2), Gerald Diers (3), Janet Koch (3), Alexis Collier (4), Wes Klammer (4), Rodney Miller (4), Madisyn Remer (4), Christena Dickens (5), Dane Virnala (5), Michael Woolhouse (6), Keith Diers (7), Marilyn Engel (7), Erin Luchsinger (7), Kristen Smida (7), Bill Wickesberg (7), Marlin Diers (8), Cody Utne (8), Deane Cloose (9), Daisy Blanchette (10), Donald Oestreich (10), William Workman (10), Kaitlynn Bickmann (11), Janice Comstock (11), Steve Horsch (12), Wyatt Stoll (12), Leigha Workman (12), Carolyn Dangers (13), Alan Montgomery (13), Madyson Woolhouse (13), Brian Currey (14), Joan Boss (15), Shelby Gabbert (15), Alexandr Kotila (15), Brayden Noethe (15), Sam Gruenhagen (16), Amelia Nowak (16), Mayta Yager (17), Patricia Diers (18), Cheryl Moist (18), Gracie Gabbert (20), Edna Stueven (20), Nicholas Borg (21), Katherine Gustafson (21), Dawn Kliche (21), Lily Koch (21), Kim Koosman (21), Timothy Schmiege (21), Earl Stoll (22), April Stueven (22), Joseph Bickmann (23), Spencer Field (23), Lorraine Luhman (23), Cody Stillwell (23), Allison Estrem (24), Mason Glessing (25), Beatrice Bottenhoff (26), Colton Diers (26), Richard Zander (26), Paul Eklof (27), Angela Gabbert (27), Tanner Glessing (27), Samuel Kittock (27), Hanna Skiles (27), Marey Woolhouse (27), Dennis Frey (28), Darlene Yager (28), Connie Baumann (29), Amy Hooser (29), Eden Koosman (29), Deborah Workman (29), Ella Bobrowske (30), Corene Oestreich (30), Belinda Jo Estrem (31).



3/4 Tyler & Ashley Gruenhagen

## Our Parish Nurse

### GREETINGS,

It is my prayer that this article finds you handling the long winter months and the viruses that are out there without too much stress. As difficult as this might be, we need to lean on each other as much as possible and certainly trust in our Loving God every hour of every day.

### LONELINESS

As a social society, we are not accustomed to spending so much time separated from our loved ones and friends. Due to everything that is going on around us, we have been forced to change how we socialize. Loneliness has attached to many of us triggering depression and dejection. Webster defines loneliness as being without company, cut off from others, and feeling sad being alone. Having a strong social support network is essential to our well-being. This network is made up of family, friends and peers. Having a close relationship with others helps the feeling of being cared for and helps maintain optimism and aids in the stress management. Strong emotional ties help with fighting disease and stress. Loneliness has been noted to lead into depression and even premature death. Being confined to home or even a care facility without family visits leads to loneliness and often depression. A deaf person who reads lips as their form of communication feels isolated when people are wearing masks and they are unable to see the lips.

Is it possible to reach back into some things that people of yesteryear did- such as putting together a jigsaw puzzle, take up knotting, embroidery, or writing? I know a man who after a stroke started doing scandinavian needlepoint. He made some beautiful pieces and sold them.

Loneliness can cause a lack of sleep, or a restless sleep. Drinking a soothing cup of tea or drinking a cup of hot chocolate might help with sleeping. The most helpful would be to reach out to someone who can lift you up with positive thoughts and of course reaching for your bible for words from our LORD. Sending a greeting card or better just write a note to someone you know may be lonely. Also, remember to continue to pray for our acceptance of God's answer for our situation.

Prayers,

Your Parish Nurse,  
*Darlene*

*Dr. Reed Lessing Presents:  
"Jeremiah: Surviving Life's  
Disasters"*

Life's disasters often leave us broken, only to ask, "Is there a road map for taking me from death to life so I can live again?" The answer is yes; there is hope! Based on Dr. Reed Lessing's forthcoming book on Jeremiah, this Bible Seminar is designed for anyone and everyone who has experienced brokenness through personal disaster. The cost is \$10. Register today at [csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies](http://csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies).

## Vicar Dub's Corner

With Ash Wednesday right behind us, we have entered into Lent proper. Proper, we should emphasize, because our last three Sundays, the *Gesima-Sundays* were a form of pre-Lent. We already sang farewell to the Alleluias, ceased singing the hymn of praise, and changed colors from green to our repentant violet. Now, we continue to move deeper into the Lenten season, preparing our hearts and our minds for what is to come during Holy Week.

For some of us, Lent takes a backseat to everything else going on around us. Mardi Gras, shamrock shakes, spring break, and March Madness all threaten to consume our attention and divert it completely. No longer is our focus on preparation or on Christ, but on entertainment and satisfaction. Even then, we must repent and turn back to Jesus, to meditate on His holy life, His perfect obedience, and His atoning sacrifice for us. It is not entertaining, nor is it satisfying, but it is the greatest form of self-denial. He lays down His life for us, His sheep.

In so doing our Lord Jesus sets forth an example of preparation. Lent offers us an opportunity to deny ourselves and to follow after Him. For some, that may mean giving up sweets, pop, carbs, whatever it may be. Some of course give up meat on Fridays and consume fish. These are fine things, particularly when done with the understanding that they are fine bodily preparation. But if that be all, if nothing else were to change, then what good do they serve? Many of you heard Pastor's sermon from Ash Wednesday, and even more of you know Jesus' words in Matthew 6. **Do not be like the hypocrites.** Such bodily preparations, such denials, are nothing, indeed, less than nothing, if there is no faith. Faith must be in Jesus Christ, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, and not in any of our own merits or Lenten practices.

It is because of this, that I'd like to encourage all of you to do something a little different. Rather than denying yourself some food or comfort, make it a habit this season to read more of God's Word. Pick a book of the Bible, and read through it. If it's a longer one like Job or Genesis, read through it chapter by chapter and finish it by the end of Lent. Perhaps you've wanted to incorporate more Psalms into your devotional life, then pray a few of them in the morning and a couple in the evening. By the end of the Lent, you will have prayed through all 150 Psalms!

Another edifying practice to begin would be committing to relearning the Catechism. Many of you perhaps learned it as a child in your confirmation class, and maybe you've been a little lax in refreshing it. Lent would be a wonderful time to do so. With six weeks of Lent, you could completely work through the Small Catechism. Week one, the 10 Commandments. Week 2, the Creed; week 3 the

Lord's Prayer; week 4, Holy Baptism; week 5 Confession, and week 6, the Lord's Supper.

Regardless of what you do or don't do, do it in faith, remembering that the blood of Christ Jesus has been poured out for your sake. Remember too, His words to St. John: **"Surely I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

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✠ **Bible Trivia** ✠  
See answers below

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1. Who said the following, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."?
2. Finish Jesus' prayerful request in the garden, "Oh, my Father, if it be possible, let..."
3. What impetuous act of Peter caused Jesus to reprove him while Jesus was being arrested?
4. What did Jesus tell Pilate that his disciples' lack of fight showed about His Kingdom?
5. As recorded in Matthew, what happened to the earth and the rocks respectively immediately after the death of Jesus on the cross?

**Answers:** 1. The centurion (at Capernaum) (Matt. 8:8); 2. "...this cup pass from me." (Matt. 26:39); 3. He cut off a man's ear. (Matt. 26:51); 4. It was not of this world. (John 18:3); 5. The earth shook and the rocks split. (Matt. 27:51)



Our Hearts for Jesus collection for this year concluded Friday, February 26th. The students have donated \$326.78.

This year's Hearts for Jesus collection will help support Missionary Sandra Rhein. Mrs. Rhein is a sacred music educator for Asia and helps translate Christian songs, hymns, and spiritual songs into various languages. Mrs. Rhein's ministry supports the great commission of making disciples of all nations

by enabling the proclamation of God's Word through the song of the people. It is a blessing that the Spirit can work through this gift of music!

### **March Events**

1~ PTL Meeting

14 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir @ 8:00

Service

21~ Band @ 10:30 Service

28 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Choir @ 10:30

31-Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Spring Break-NO  
SCHOOL

### **Synodical & District News:**

**Synodical Convention Delayed:** The Synodical Convention scheduled for next summer has been delayed until the summer of 2023. This decision was made by the voting congregations of the LCMS, of which St. James voted not to delay. Nonetheless, it will be delayed.

**District Convention Delayed:** With the postponement of the Synodical Convention, this year's MN South District Convention has been delayed until next summer.

**District Board of Directors:** Through a special election to fill a vacancy, Pastor Loder has been elected by the District Board of Directors to serve on the Board. With this appointment, Pastor Loder will no longer serve as the Circuit Visitor for our (Litchfield) Circuit.