

## Lent: What's it all about?



# The Beacon

March  
2018

Christ Ev. Lutheran  
Church

320 N 28<sup>th</sup> St E  
Superior, WI  
54880

Office Phone  
715.398.3680

Web Site  
Christlutheran-  
superior.org

### Divine Worship Services

Sunday - 8:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

### Bible Study & Sunday School

Sunday - 9 a.m.



At this time of year Lutheran Christians like us, and others, observe what is known as “Lent.” In regard to this, even long time Christians might ask the questions, “What is Lent?” “What does the word even mean?” “Why do people sometimes give things up for Lent? Does one have to give something up to make God happy?”

I’ll answer the question of what Lent is first. The “season” of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year was February 14<sup>th</sup>. It continues for 40 days, ending on the Eve of Easter which this year is March 31<sup>st</sup>. The season of Lent follows the patterns of the moon—that’s why the dates of the season of Lent and the date of Easter Sunday change from year to year instead of being on a specific day, like Christmas. The word “Lent” comes from the German word “Lenz” and the Dutch word “Lente” which in English mean “spring.” By the way, the 40-day period of Lent is based on Jesus’ own time of fasting and of being tested in the wilderness by Satan.

On to the next question: “Why do some Christians give things up for Lent?” Answer: For hundreds of years, Christians have denied themselves the use of certain foods and entertainments during the Lenten season. They made these small sacrifices as a way of remembering Jesus’ huge sacrifice of suffering and dying on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Some churches, such as ours, hold special weekday services during the seven weeks of the Lenten season. These services focus on the accounts of Christ’s suffering and death.

Finally, the last question: Does one have to give something up to make God happy?” The answer is No; Christians do **not** have to give something up to make God happy. Outward rituals or sacrifices on our part are not how we “get right with” God. On that note, many churches do not emphasize outward customs or hold special services; that’s OK too. The Bible doesn’t say we must do these things or that we must not do them. Psalm 51, verse 17 states *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”*

As I said, the point of Lent is to focus on what God’s Son, Jesus Christ, gave up for us. In the Bible we read about what Jesus gave up, *“...Christ Jesus, who, though he was...God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant. Being born in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”* (Philippians 2:5-8). It’s pretty amazing that God would love us sinners so much that he would send his only Son to die on the cross to pay the price for our sins, but that’s what He wants us to know. We also read this in the Bible *“...God our Savior desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4). Contrary to what folks in the world try to tell us, the truth is that only faith in who Jesus is and what He has done for us saves us from eternal separation from God in hell.

So, during Lent we need not give up anything for God—He doesn't need anything from us. Instead, when we confess our sins and trust in Jesus as our only Savior from sin and eternal death, God is not just happy, He's overjoyed!

## Midweek Lenten Series

### Return from Exile – A Lenten Journey

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14 with services at 12:15 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Soup and Sandwich suppers start February 21 at 5:30 p.m.

#### March 7 (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)

“Out of Egypt: Through the Water”

#### March 14 (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)

“Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross”

#### March 21 (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)

“Death to Resurrection: The Wilderness to the Promised Land”



## Holy Week

### March 29 - Holy Thursday (6:30 p.m.)

“Meal to Meal: The Passover to the Lord's Supper”

### March 30 - Good Friday (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)

“Sin-Bearer to Sin-Bearer: The Day of Atonement to the Atonement”

### Easter Vigil (6:30 p.m.)

“The Pit to the Pit: The Pit of Lions to the Tomb”

### Easter (8 & 10:30 a.m.)

“Welcome Home!”

## Potluck Easter Breakfast

Each Easter we have a wonderful breakfast between the services. As always volunteers are needed to help out and bring the food, especially with clean up.

The Easter Breakfast will start at 9 a.m. on Easter Sunday. It will be a potluck again. Please sign up on the office door (**Note:** sign up will be up a couple weeks before Easter). There are a lot of options to sign up for so please help out.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Once again there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday after the breakfast at 9:45 a.m.

## Easter Vigil Service – March 31

Commit to attending the 6:30 p.m. Service on **Holy Saturday** called **the Easter Vigil**, which is actually our first Easter service.

The Easter Vigil is one of the oldest, most unique of all Christian liturgies (definitely NOT “same ol', same ol'). In it we hear key Old Testament passages, waiting like the ancient people of God as they waited for the fulfillment of the promises. We wait in physical darkness as they waiting in spiritual darkness for God's faithfulness. But then breaks in the light and the glory, as “Christ is risen” breaks out and we celebrate the first remembrance of Christ's resurrection. It is a candlelight service, it may include baptism and will include the Eucharist. The Easter Vigil involves all of our senses and is very moving.

One of the fathers of the church, Chrysostom, issued an Easter proclamation that began with these words: *“Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages!”*

The celebration of Christ's passion and resurrection is worthy of our time for it is the center of our faith and joy. Join us during Holy Week for as many of the services as you are able—and bring a friend!

**Candidates (both infant and adult) for Holy Baptism at our Easter Vigil should immediately contact pastor or the church office to make arrangements.**

## Things to Watch for During Easter

We've celebrated a good Lent and used the 40 days to prepare. We've celebrated Holy Week as a time to walk with Christ in His passion. Now it is Easter, a Pentecost (“fifty”) day celebration of new life.

Notice the *color* on the altar and pastor's stole is white reflecting the heavenly glory of Christ and summoning us to joy. The *paschal candle* is lit during all the services of Easter. It reminds us of the pillar of fire that led the Israelites through the Red Sea and He who led us out of death in the waters of Baptism. (In some congregations *water* is kept in the baptismal font during this season so people may visit the waters from which our life springs). The living *flowers* that adorn the chancel speak of that same life in Christ. The *celebration of Holy Communion* is yet another mark of the paschal (Easter) celebration. The new Passover which brings us a potent medicine of immortality in the holy Body and Blood of the Christ is offered to us by the Savior Himself through his called minister.

## Christ the King Memorial Scholarship

The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship assistance to LCMS students pursuing higher education at LCMS colleges, universities or seminaries. The Fund completed its third year of operation on Dec. 31, 2017. The Fund earned net income sufficient enough that \$2,000.00 is

available for scholarship awards in 2018. Any award granted shall be for tuition purposes only. Any student who is a communicant member in good standing of CLC or another LCMS congregation is eligible to apply for an award. Application forms and related instructions are available from the church office. Students must return completed applications to the church office no later than April 1, 2018. Applications will then be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

## Church Council

**Members Present:** Wayne Ploetz, Pastor Schield, John Robinson, Don Hauser, Len Campbell, Roni Hauser, Jim Lemmerman and Sharyn Vengrin

**Absent:** Liz Hannula, Pastor Schoessow

**Call to order:** Don Hauser

**Call for additional agenda items:** None

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Schield

**Minutes from Council Meeting:** Jim made the motion to accept the November 9, 2017, minutes, Wayne seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

**Pastor's Report:** None

**Pastor Schield: Will send:**

**Treasurers Report:** Ending Balance: \$18,110.91. Jim made the motion to accept the ending balance.

Seconded by John. All in favor. Motion carried

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Board of Deacons:

1. The group reviewed and approved the Deacon's Annual Report. Our thanks to Jim for preparing it for us.

2. Lenten Service Schedule:

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday 12:15 and 6:30 P.M. services.

No soup and sandwich meal.

Feb. 21 Two services with the Deacon's serving the first evening soup and sandwich meal.

Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21 two services with an evening soup and sandwich meal.

3. Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday: There will be two regular services (3/25/18)

Maundy Thursday: There will be one service at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: There will be two services at 12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Easter Vigil will be at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday: There will be two regular services with no Bible Study. Easter Breakfast will be at 9 A.M.

4. Pastor Schield is tentatively planning on doing a presentation on his trip to Germany between services on Jan. 28. A potluck brunch is being planned with hopefully a German focus to go along with his talk.

5. Lois showed us a sample door hanger that could be given out with Easter service. It had service times, web sites, phone numbers and e-mail information among other things on it. It was suggested that the Board of Stewardship should be involved with this idea. Pastor and Jim will follow up on this project

The next meeting will be February 12, 2018 at 5:30 P.M. A review of portions of the Board of Deacon's Manual will be held.

**Trustees Report:** Called Stack Brothers regarding air handler. It has a reset button. They showed John what

to do. The upstairs needs to be organized. The trustees will get this going.

### Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:

Five Volunteers have been scheduled to work the soup kitchen at the Damiano Center for February 12. Of the five volunteers this month, three are Board members and two are members of the congregation. Len created a spreadsheet for scheduling all those on the volunteer list for the Damiano Center. We will also look into purchasing more church logo caps for volunteers.

Mission Donations-Prior to the end of the year, checks in the amount of \$92.50 were written and sent to Orphan Grain Train and Lutherans for Life. The funds were available through the unrestricted Mission budget from 2017. Of the \$185 in the account, \$105 of those dollars were raised from the clothing after sale held in November of last year.

The Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch held on January 7, 2018 was very successful. Twenty-three (23) members participated. Great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all attending.

**New Business:**

Visitor Gifts-Len found that we are down to 9 coffee cups available to give as gifts to visitors to the church. As homework for the Board, Len asked members to think about inexpensive or craft items we can provide for guests and bring back their ideas at the next Board meeting.

The Board will provide a Lenten soup and sandwich supper on March 14.

We discussed opportunities for a presentation by a local needy organization that could provide information and educate the congregation on their mission and role in the community. Additionally, we discussed scheduling another month of donations for needy organizations similar to what we did for CASDA last October. Some agencies to consider are CASDA and the Superior Boys and Girls Club. Len will contact the Boys and Girls Club and report back to the Board at the next meeting. A thank you letter from Orphan Grain Train was circulated at the meeting.

Next Meeting: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 6, 2018

### Board of Education:

Everything is going very well. Planning: Easter egg Hunt-Valentines Dinner, Tubing.

Acolytes are being trained. Bible Bowl Team.

**Memorial Committee:** NBC: \$3,369.77 LCEF: \$4,528.34

**Endowment Committee:** No Activity

**Memorial Garden:** No activity

### Old Business:

a. Church Facility Use Policy; Church Facility Reservation Request: Tabled

b. Church Security: Police Department will be having training for Active Shooter on Feb. 22 at 5:00 at Christ Lutheran. The Council will attend.

November's Voters Assembly: Budget

Request to use Fellowship Hall: None

Next Council Meeting: March 8, @ 5:00 pm

Adjournment: Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by: Sharyn Vengrin

## **Voter's Meeting**

**February 18, 2018**

Call to Order: Don Hauser

Opening Prayer-Pastor Schield

Call for additional agenda items: None

Minutes from November 12, 2017: Jim made the motion that we accept the minutes as written. They were seconded by Wayne. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ending Balance: \$17,110.91. Jim made the motion that we accept the Report as written. It was seconded by John. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board and Committee Reports:

These reports are published in the monthly newsletter

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Next Voters' Assembly: May 20, 2018 after second service-annual Election

Adjournment-Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by: Sharyn Vengrin

## **Stewardship**

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" (Gen. 22:14). 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 are 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.

## **Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy**

### **Why do we make the sign of the cross?**

The making of the sign of the holy cross is perhaps the oldest rubric in the history of the Christian Church, likely dating to the times of the apostles themselves. It is good to know this, inasmuch as there are those who are reluctant to make the sign on themselves, calling it "Catholic." Indeed it is catholic, that is, in the best tradition of the holy Christian Church of all time (for that is what catholic really means; the term is more than a designation for a certain church body).

The sign of the cross is made with the right hand, fingers touching first the forehead, then the breastbone, then right shoulder, then left, and finally both hands coming together in the posture of prayer. This is actually the reverse of the way the sign is made in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches; Lutherans make the sign, rather, in the same manner as the Eastern Orthodox (right to left, rather than left to right). The reason for this is that we consider the making of the sign of the cross on ourselves as a response of faith to the activity of God among us. The sign of the holy cross was made first by the pastor (in the stead of Christ) on the recipient of Holy Baptism, with the words: "Receive the sign of the holy cross, both upon the forehead and upon the heart, in token that you have been redeemed by Christ the Crucified." In Baptism, Christ the Crucified is given to the one being baptized; the giving and receiving of the sign of the cross is a token of this truth. Since the pastor makes the sign with his right hand, he signs toward his own right, which on the recipient is a movement from his right to his left across the heart. From Baptism, faith begins to respond: the new creature born at the font is perpetually returning thereto, in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. Thus it is most appropriate for the

faithful, who have been baptized, to begin making the sign of the cross upon themselves, in effect retracing the sign first made upon them in Baptism. The retracing of the cross moves across the same lines the pastor made; hence, from top to bottom, and then from right to left.

During the Mass, there are several opportunities for making the sign of the cross. These are most easily discerned by paying attention to the times the pastor signs the congregation. At these times it is good also to sign oneself. Also, it is appropriate at the Invocation, which is a repetition of the baptismal formula, at the close of the Our Father and of the Creed, and indeed, whenever the Trinitarian name is uttered. It is also proper just before receiving each kind in the Sacrament: this is a way of saying to oneself, I need not fear unworthy reception of these Holy Things, knowing that in Baptism I am washed in Christ whom I also receive here. The sign of the holy cross, when it is accompanied by faith, is a most powerful weapon for the faithful. Indeed, St. Paul exhorts the Ephesians to take the breastplate of righteousness, which we might consider his own way of saying, as Luther also does in the Small Catechism, Make the sign of the holy cross. T

*(Taken from Burnell Eckhardt's "Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy")*

### The Time of Easter

This is a time God places special people in our lives--a time when the unchurched see the Christian community celebrate Easter. They see every Christian setting aside time to remember their baptism and practice their Christian lives in preparation for Easter with devotion and care.

It is at this time that you can invite the unchurched to learn about Jesus and to be active in the church. A Christian can take this time to really show an act of kindness which may disarm some of the skepticism, hurt feelings and mistrust some unchurched people might harbor.

### Valentine's Dinner

Thank you everyone that came to the Valentine's dinner and helped us support the day camp again this summer. We raised approximately \$600 to help have camperships and to lower the cost of the camp.

### Christ's Men

#### Men, Let's Do Lunch

Christ's Men will meet on Tuesday, December 5 at 12 noon at the Upper Deck Restaurant at the Bong airport. This is an opportunity to gain guidance and spiritual support from God's Word as well as an excellent opportunity for Christian friendship.

### Daylights Savings Time

A reminder the Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11! We'll lose an hour. Move your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night. It is another sign of spring and the changes that are coming our way, we hope.

### Gifts for Easter, Confirmation, Etc.

Concordia Publishing House offers a variety of gifts for Easter, Confirmation and various other events (800-325-3040 for a catalog or to place an order). Help confirmands keep their confirmation day close to their heart by giving them a *Concordia Study* or *Concordia Reference Bible* and their own copy of the *Lutheran Worship Hymnal* engraved with their name on the cover. The new edition of *Lutheran Book of Prayer* is another fine gift. *My Book of Confirmation Memories* is the perfect place for memorabilia, with guest pages and inspiring text.

### The Heating Season

The heating season is upon us again, please double check that all doors are locked, all lights are turned off (including bathrooms), and thermostats are turned down before your group leaves the church. Thank you!

### Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation Solas, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

### Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry

### Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to [clcoffice320@gmail.com](mailto:clcoffice320@gmail.com)

### Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org) or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

### March Birthdays

1	Steven Olson	21	Kayti Flynn
3	Gloria Vreeland		Elizabeth Flynn
4	Chris Filteau	22	Una Privette
8	Jonathan Schoessow		Judy Pohl
	Carol Corrine Evans	23	Amanda Fudally
9	Russell Hagberg	26	Taylor Amundson

11	Jim Kari	28	Peggy Campbell
12	Nancy Durand		Nick Kirchoff
16	Kayla Bedard	30	Belinda Sternberg
17	Caryl Lehto		Grant Thompson
20	Cheryl Harkabus		
	Beverly Strongitharm		
	Brandee Dittbrender		

**Online Information**

**LC-MS Website**

lcms.org

**Minnesota North District Website**

mnn.lcms.org

**Lutheran Witness Online**

www.lcms.org

Click on 'Lutheran Witness' in left column

**LC-MS Synod Radio Stations**

www.kfu.org—or—classic99.com

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

**Information on Pregnancy, Parenting  
& Adoption**

getrealwithyourself.com