

GOOD NEWS

Volume 36, Number 3

March 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Lent begins...
- March Bible Studies
- Mission & Ministry
- FFPN
- Agnes Table
- Fish Fry
- Women of Faith

Worship Themes for Lent

by Rev. William Plautz

Well, folks, this will be as late a Lenten season as you will ever find. Ash Wednesday is March 9, and culminates with Easter on April 24.

I would like to make you aware of the plans for the Lenten season. I know that there are people who worship on Sundays that plan on coming to the Wednesday worship as their Lenten experience. With that piece of knowledge I plan to offer two different worship services and themes.

The Wednesday eve service will offer a reader's theater style as two readers offer insights into "The Trials of Jesus".

Mar. 9 "Who's on trial here?"

Mar. 16 "Attorney for the Defense"

Mar. 23 "Call the witnesses"

Mar. 30 "Call John Doe"

Apr. 6 "We find Him guilty"

Apr. 13 "Let the punishment fit the crime"

On the Sundays of the Lenten season we will be exploring the answers to a series of questions.

Mar. 13 "Why do I exist?"

Mar. 20 "Is there a God?"

Mar. 27 "Am I unique?"

Apr. 3 "Why is life so unfair?"

Apr. 10 "Why do I feel so alone?"

Apr. 17 "Why don't I do what I know I should?"

Apr. "I there life after death?"

There may be some adjustment to this schedule due to the presentation of the Confirmands' topics.

The bottom line is that these experiences will point us to the true answer and solution to all life's issues—Jesus Christ. It will be a time of self-examination, repentance, and forgiveness through the saving work of Jesus for us.

Christian Humor *Light-hearted humor with a spiritual lesson*

Seen in a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up." My Uncle Joe would say that after a meal at our family reunions: "I'm all fed up."

It is sad that in a world where more than enough food is grown and raised so many people face hunger. We are reminded of our responsibility to meet this need when Jesus said,

"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat."

While physical hunger is unfortunate spiritual hunger is worse. Many are the people seeking for that which will fill their heart and soul; many end up looking in all the wrong places.

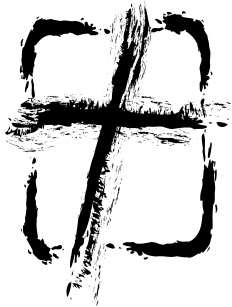
There is only one place where we will be truly fed and nourished—God's service.

Here in the Word and Sacraments He feeds our faith, growing us in spiritual maturity so we can withstand the false teaching of this world. So come to His house and be fed up!

What is Lent?

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent begins on March 9, 2011 and ends on April 23, 2011, which is Easter.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.



*“Prepare
Ye the
Way of
the
Lord”*

(Matthew 3-4;
John 1:35-51)

March Bible Studies

Kingdom Quest (age 3-grade 8)

Class is offered Sunday's at 9am.

Sunday Morn Class

Come Sunday's at 9am for the study of God's word led by Mr. Roy Borseth.

Monday Eve Bible Studies

Class meets on Monday's at 2:30pm for the study called "Faith Weavers". Weave Christ into your life, through study of His word. Leader: Sue Smith

Tuesday Morn Bible Study

Class meets Tuesday's at 6:30am at the Chippewa Family Restaurant. Bring your Bible and your appetite (cost of the meal is on your own). Topic: Romans led by Pastor Plautz.

We should view the season of Lent as an opportunity to reflect on the significance of Christ's death, examine our hearts, and confess our sins. It can be a time of spiritual cleansing and renewal. It is not a "law" that we must follow, and there is a great variety of practices that we can try out. Based on the historic practice of Lent, try doing something in each of these four categories:

1. Fasting

Give up something for God. Fasting is not a means to "earn" something from God, but rather a way to learn to curb your appetites and focus more completely on God.

2. Prayer and Meditation

Read over the Gospel accounts of Christ's arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Reflect on His suffering, and the tremendous love that it represents. Reflect on your own sin and what it cost Him. Take out some time for prayers of confession and repentance. Do some spiritual "house cleaning."

3. Giving to the poor

Use the money that you save by fasting to help the poor. Consider doing some volunteer work. How can you show the love of Christ to others?

4. Prepare for Easter

Lenten season is a time of preparing for the Easter celebration. Reflect on the journey of Jesus, especially as it relates to the activities of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Be nurtured and nourished in His goodness!

Tuesday Eve Bible Class

An In-Home Bible class is being held weekly at the home of Fred & Joan Bargmann's, 11250 27th Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI on Tuesday's at 7pm. Leaders: Dale & Sharon Volrath

High School Bible Class

Come Wednesday evenings at 7pm to consider the topic "Does GOD exist?" Leader: Sue Smith

Junior Instruction (grades 7 & 8)

Class meets Wednesday's at 7pm. We will continue our study of The Lord's Prayer.

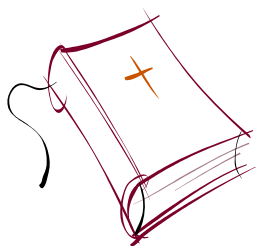
Thursday Morn Bible Study

Come Thursday's at 9:30am to this fun class. If you're thinking about joining a daytime Bible study, this one is for you!

Thursday Eve Women's Bible Class

Class meets weekly at 6pm and will consider the topic "The Heart of Jesus: Women in the Gospel of Luke". Come join this delightful class. Leader Laura Hills.

Young Women's Group meets March 26 at 8:30am (location to be announced). If you are a mother with young children do consider joining this group. This group will be exploring a Bible based resource material entitled "Real Moms...Real Jesus".



Congregational News

MISSION & MINISTRY UPDATE

Council met on February 21, 2011 to discuss various options relative to staffing and funding the consultant. It was decided to pursue a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Information about the Family Friendly Partners Network programming was reviewed. The Facilities team is seeking bids for a heat boiler unit (the main heat source) for our facility. If you have questions or concerns relative to the matters of the church, please contact Mission & Ministry members. They are as follows: Bill Musser, Chairman; Pam Pfankuch, V-Chairman; Bea Newman, Treasurer; Jane Christian, Secretary. Members-at-large: Brenda Musser, Bob Normand, Larry Bohl, Dan Helgeson and Pam Johnson. We pray for God's guidance in their efforts in serving our congregation.

In lieu of the roofing projects, coming up this spring. We would like to report the project bids to be \$14,200 of which \$6100 has been afforded to date. If you would like to donate to this cause please designate it as "Roof Fund". Your continued support in maintaining our facilities would be appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will again be presenting the "Easter Journey" on April 23rd at 11am. This will be an outdoor event, depicting seven scenes from the ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. We are looking for volunteers to play the parts of men, women and children in each scene. We also need behind-the-scenes help and musicians. Please call Sue Smith at 723.8392 if you are interested in being a part of this outreach ministry.

READERS NEEDED!

As mentioned in Pastor Plautz's lead article, we are doing a drama series for Wednesday Lenten services. If you would be available to help out with presenting the materials for a specific week, please let the church office know.

SOUP SUPPER HOSTS

We are avidly seeking groups or individuals who would like to sponsor our soup suppers. Wednesday's available include: March 23, 30 and April 13. Contact Bea Newman for further details.

FAMILY FRIENDLY PARTNERS NETWORK (FFPN) –

We are now looking for volunteers to put what we have learned to work here in our congregation, with the goal of the Church becoming a "partner" to its members, empowering them to take an active role in their families' faith development. If you have a particular interest/passion for family ministry, and would like to be a part of our group as we move forward in 2011, please contact Lynn or Bill Musser at 726-1148.

AGNES TABLE

Come lend a helping hand as we sponsor a meal at the Agnes Table to the less fortunate of Chippewa County on Thursday, March 3 serving 3-8pm at Trinity United Methodist, 201 West Central St., Chippewa Falls. Donations of apple dessert are also needed. Sign-ups are available in the narthex.

FISH FRY

The date of FISH FRY is April 6 at 5pm. Enjoy the tasteful delights of a good ole fashioned FISH FRY. Bring a dish to pass & your appetite.

Other Congregational News...

CHOIR REHEARSAL

It's just about Lenten season and we need voices to sing the ever popular "Alleluia Chorus" Why not join our choir. They will meet March 2 & March 16 at 7pm. Share God's gifts!

FAITH CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Children are celebrating the month of March by "gearing up" for summer. Students are having sunny summer day activities, camping in a tent week, under the sea week and taking a trip to Chippewa Valley Vet Clinic. Remember to remind friends and relatives of the preschool program enrollment for next fall 2011-12. They'll love our program!

THRIVENT WORKSHOP

On Sunday, March 20 at 11:30am Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring a workshop geared to transitioning of retirement and seniors. Whether it be deciding what step to take next in housing, or important matters to manage (Power of Attorney, Wills, etc.). It's good to plan for these things in advance. Bring a dish to pass and meet Jennie Childs & Tom Griebel, our Thrivent presenters. Sign-up for participation in the narthex.

DONATIONS NEEDED

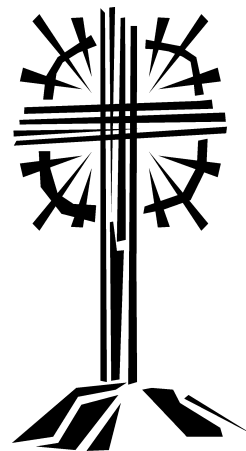
Lee Belmas, Director of "Every Kid to Camp" Ministry for Camp Luther is asking for donations for their annual fundraiser for Camp Luther, Three Lakes, WI. They need silent and live auction items. Silent auction items can range in value from \$25-\$50 and could be theme baskets, collectables, antiques, art, hand-crafted items (quilts, etc). Restaurant and service certificates are welcome too. Contact Lee Belmas, NWD office at 715.845.8241, ext. 16.

WOMEN OF FAITH

The next meeting of Women of Faith is March 15 at 7pm. Bring your mite boxes. A topic from the Quarterly will be presented. Hostesses are: Evelyn Elam, Kathy Turner, and Dee Polzin.

YOUNG AT HEART RETREAT

A young women's and "young at heart" retreat is being held Saturday, April 2 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Stevens Drive, Wausau, WI 54401. Join other women from the North WI District for this uplifting, inspirational retreat. Registration begins at 9am and closing at 3pm. Cost is \$25 (includes lunch & materials). Forms to register are available from the NEWS bulletin board in the hallway.



FYI...

Thanks to the generosity of memorial monies a new sink has been installed. Check it out!

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

1-Kathy Butak, Richard Grant
2-Amber Bakeman, Isaiah LaGesse, Riley Moldenhauer
3-Richard Walders
5-Christina Bichner, Astley Fisher
8-Pamela Underwood
10-Neil Schimmel, Jody Wennerberg
11-Millie Huth
12-Bea Newman, Jeff Peterson
13-Allison Short
14-James Clark
15-Janesa Foslid
16-Daniel Musser
17-Roy Anderson, Helen Crossett
18-Polly Tarris
20-Cathie Chittendon
21-Harold Saxon, LaBrya Silvermail
22-Brittany Normand
23-Ruth Clark, Carol Webb
24-Michael Peterson, Jean Pfankuch, JoAnn Rein

25-Randy Nelson, Merle Quale, Jr.
26-Ruby Schumacher
27-Missy Loebertman, Barbara Missfeldt
28-Brian Musser, Aston Spann
29-Julie Plautz, Kenneth Schaller, Gerald Wucherpennig
30-Susan Roytek, Cleo Zempel
31-Rhonda Goettl, Rhonda Larson, Joel Moldenhauer, Kelsey Parks, Angela Prueher, Donna Schoch, Tami Slowiak

Happy Anniversary!

7-Pam & Astley Fisher
11-Barbara & Ron Krueger
11-Mike & Patti LaGesse
11-Randy & Marianne Missfeldt
13-Alex & Ashley Dietze
18-Dale & Jean Volrath

ASK &
it will be given to you;
SEEK &
you will find;
KNOCK &
the door will be opened to you.

M a t t h e w 7 : 7

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