

# GOOD NEWS

## God’s Good and Perfect Gifts

I write this the day after Valentine’s Day. What gift did you give your sweetie? Maybe you’ve agreed to give special items to each other as the year unfolds.

Most people put thought into their gift selections. Jesus said that as sinful fathers know how to give good gifts, how much more the heavenly Father.

The theme for the Wednesday eve Lenten services is “God’s Good and Perfect Gifts”. The dialogues will focus in on the gifts found in Isiah 56-66.

- 3/1 “A Loving Embrace”
- 3/8 “An Ever-Present Refuge”
- 3/15 “Unlimited Access”
- 3/22 “Enduring Light”
- 3/29 “Perfect Beauty”
- 4/5 “A Clean Heart”

This series was written by Dr. Reed Lessing, former seminary prof turned parish pastor in Fort Wayne, IN. He presented this series at the 2016 Spring Pastors Conference. I pray that it will be a blessing to all of us.

How many other gifts will you give this year? The list could be quite lengthy if you have a large family and lots of friends. This series presents us with a list of significant gifts that God supplies to His people. Each one of these gifts is centered in His Son Jesus who is the greatest gift of all.

It is His willingness to give up all that was His as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity, become man for us, and sacrifice a perfect life and shed innocent blood for our sins. Through faith in Christ, the Father forgives all our sins, declaring us to be right with Him. His grace rests on us, the undeserved favor of God.

Christ...faith...forgive-ness...grace—all gifts from the God who gives “every good and perfect gift”. The season of Lent takes us once again on the journey of reflection, sorrow, and quiet joy: reflecting on the suffering of Jesus, sorrow over our sins that caused His death, and quiet joy that by enduring the cross Jesus brings us freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Join your brothers and sisters in the faith at Faith as we consider God’s good and perfect gifts.



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

Though the ministry has its sorrows, it also has its good times, some of which is humorous. So let’s look at this month’s letter to a pastor.

“Dear Pastor,  
My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something.  
Robert Anderson, age 11”

Do not speak to your children about this. They will ask why they need to go to worship when they get preached to at home. A touch of humor here?!

It is the parent’s responsibility to teach the things of God to their children—not by the power of the Law but by the Gospel, lovingly handing down the truths which enable us to live in God’s Word and way.



## From our DYFM, Valerie Brooks

March has a lot of fun holidays in it: I Want You to Be Happy Day (March 3<sup>rd</sup>), Napping Day (March 13<sup>th</sup>), Pi Day (March 14<sup>th</sup>), World Storytelling Day (March 20<sup>th</sup>), and my personal favorite, Puppy Day (March 23<sup>rd</sup>). But it's also a very important month because we begin the season of Lent on March 1<sup>st</sup> with Ash Wednesday. This is a time where we remember Jesus' life here on earth, his ministry, and his amazing sacrifice to save us all from eternal death and gave us eternal life. So while we're enjoying our fun holidays, we should also take some time to reflect and prepare our hearts for the wonderful joy that Easter morning brings.

I wanted to say thank you to all of you for continuing to support our youth ministries here at the church. We have a group going down to the Wisconsin Dells on the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of March for Youth Quake and we're so excited! The theme of the Quake is "Found", and we will be focusing on Luke 15, the parable of

the lost sheep. I would ask that you would all pray for our group as we travel and experience all of the different programs that we will be partaking in while down there.

On Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, I will be handing out Lenten materials to all of our Sunday School children and youth. This year, the children will have a daily devotional called Journey 'Round Jerusalem, where they go on a 40-day sticker adventure following Jesus throughout the events of Holy Week. The youth will be continuing their Advent See-Son theme with a new devotion called The See-Son of Lent, where they will be learning about opening our hearts to those around us like Jesus did.

I also wanted to put in a little reminder here to the Sunday School/Youth families as well that we will not be meeting on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> for Sunday School due to it being Chipewa Fall's Spring Break time. I hope you all enjoy the time off with your families, whether you stay in the area or go travelling somewhere!

The Sunday School kids have a few special performances coming up for you as well. On Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15m service, the children will be singing "I Just Wanna Be A Sheep", which is an old Camp Luther favorite. Miss Sue's 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will also be playing their ukuleles for us during the offering, and it's always nice to hear them play!

The Children's Handbell Choir will also be performing on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:15am service. Hope to see you all there!

Looking ahead this year, our annual Egg Hunt for the children is going to be immediately following the Palm Sunday (Easter Journey) church service. Invite family and friends to join us!



## March Bible Studies

### Sunday School

Classes for kids ages 3—grade 6, Sunday's 8:45-10am. Singing, Bible time, crafts & activities. Class starts up Jan. 8.

### Sunday Morn Bible Class

Join us for a study at 9am led by Dick Walters. It's a time of nurture and reflection.

### Youth Bible Class

This study is for young adults (ages 13-25) and meets at 9am. Leader: Corey Brooks.

### Monday Aft Bible Class

Consider joining this group on Monday at 1pm as they study Jeremiah 29:11. Leader: Sue Smith.

### Tuesday Morn Study

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

### Thursday Bible Class

This class meets at 9:30am for Donna Pyle's Bible Study series for women. Leader: Pam Pfankuch

### Thursday Men's Bible Class

A group for guy's to study "Christianity & the Competition" meets Thursday's at 7pm. Leader: Pastor Plautz

### Couples Group

We will continue our study "The Art of Marriage" on Sunday, March 26 at 6pm at the home of Justin & Kimberly Musser, Chipewa Falls. It's a time of marriage enrichment and socialization. Contact Lynn Musser at 715.861.5630.

### Confirmation Instruction (gr. 7 & 8)

This is a two-year curriculum teaching the Word of God in preparation for the rite of Confirmation. Class is Wednesday's at 7pm.

### Young Adult Bible Study (ages 18-30)

meets on March 12 (noon—2pm) for "You Lost Me" Bible study and a time to hang out together.

### March's Sermon Series Topics

March 5—Eighth Commandment  
 March 12 —Ninth/Tenth Commandment  
 March 19—Close of the Commandments  
 March 26—Apostles' Creed—I believe

### When is Easter in 2017?

Sunday, April 16 is Easter Sunday. Holy week will begin April 9 (Palm Sunday). We have made a change in that the Easter Journey event will take place during 10:15AM service on April 9.



**Faith Lutheran Church  
Mission & Ministry Council  
February 13, 2017**

**6:30 - 7:40 p.m.**

**Attending Disciples:** Scott Bernette, Larry Bohl, Ed Klotz, Randy Knapp, Bill Miller, Steve Missfeldt, Bob Normand, and Pastor Plautz.

**Call to Order:** Bob Normand called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Plautz led with the opening prayer

**November Minutes:** The December 12, 2016, minutes were reviewed. Scott Bernette made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Ed Klotz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Council reviewed the checkbook register, summary report, and profit & loss year-to-date comparisons for January through February, 2017. Offerings were up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February. Randy Knapp made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Steve Missfeldt seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor will be attending the joint meeting of the North Wisconsin and South Wisconsin Districts February 20-21. Pastor is working on a Facility Use policy for groups using rooms in the church. A woodcarvers group is asking about usage on Thursdays from 1:00-4:00 for a donation.

Need to understand liability and clean up prior to approval. Church has been approached by the Tiny House project in Chippewa Falls. They offer 3 suggestions for how our church can help - prayers, have a special offering, and/or do fundraising. We will be looking at the possibility of doing a special offering on Easter Sunday.

**Annual Meeting:** Three items from the Annual Meeting were presented. Missions – An insert was placed in the bulletin concerning missions. Budget Effectivity Date – With the Annual Meeting now being held in January, the approval of the budget affects the dates when changes become effective. Bill Miller made a motion to set the budget effectivity dates to February 1 through January 31. Ed Klotz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Offering Envelopes – We will continue to order offering envelopes. Members of the congregation may get their number from Alice and use their own envelope or place the number on their check.

**Cloutier Scholarship:** Pastor is reviewing minutes to understand how this fund was set up with LCEF. We need to determine if it can be added to the Endowment Fund, kept separately, or what other options there may be for usage of the fund. Fund was established around 1999 so it will take time

to review. Pastor will report back with his findings.

**Pew Cushions:** Council reviewed a bid for new pew cushions. Cost is \$7,525-\$7,900 with 1/3 needing to be paid at the time of ordering. Prices are set to increase March 1. After discussion the decision was made that we could not go forward with this based on our current financial position and other possible expenditures. We will continue to keep this item in our prayers and look to the congregation for support. We will order new communion rail cushions at the cost of \$985. Hope to have them in by Easter Sunday.

**Action List:** A list of items with estimated costs that need to be considered is being put together and will be shared with the congregation. Items range from those needing action soon, to future items that will need planning to accomplish.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:** Monday, March 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Plautz closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Bob Normand, Council Chairman



**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1st!**

It's a time of devotion, nurture and reflection in the journey of Jesus' life on earth. Come to the Fish Fry supper—March 1st beginning at 5pm and worship at 6pm. The readers theater Lenten series is entitled: "Good & Perfect Gifts". Our Lenten series will continue on Wednesday evenings, March 1 through April 5.

**FAITH'S FABULOUS FISH FRY**

Wednesday, March 1st at 5pm is our delicious fish fry supper. It's potluck, so bring a dish to pass. A sign-up for supply donations is available in the narthex.

**Agnes Table**

The next scheduled date for Agnes Table is Thursday, March 16. Please consider volunteering for this event, serving a meal to the less fortunate of Chippewa County.

**ATTN: Women of Faith**

Ladies will meet on Tuesday, March 21 at 2pm. We will have a Bible study from the Quarterly. All ladies of FLC are welcome!

**March Mite Drive**

Our congregation will be collecting loose change for the National LWML Mite drive, deadline March 31. Simply deposit coins in the "purple" box in the narthex. Thank you!

**Pew Cushions Fund**

Our congregation is currently raising funds for the replacement of our pew cushions. Please designate offerings to "Pew Cushions" and submit to the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

**Faith Christian Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten** is accepting registrations for 2017-18. A informational brochure is available from the church office or check out the registration online at [faithluther-ancf.org](http://faithluther-ancf.org).

**Scrip for Sale—March 5 & 19**

Purchase gift cards from area businesses and proceeds benefit the youth program here at FLC. See Valerie or Corey in the narthex after worship (or) obtain from the church office.

**Easter Journey**

We are looking for volunteers to cast the parts of the Easter Journey, April 9th. Please contact Sue or Pat Smith and volunteer today!

***Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.***  
Jeremiah 17:7

**Return Service  
Requested**

x

**March's Newsletter**

## March's Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday!

1-Kathy Butak  
2-Riley Moldenhauer  
3-Richard Walders  
5-Christina Bichner, Astley Fisher  
6-Landon Bernette  
7-Rebecca Hoepner  
8-Wesley Thompson, Pam Underwood  
10—Jody Wennerberg  
11-Corey Brooks, Millie Huth  
12-Mark Cassellius, Bea Newman  
13-Allison Short, Kaydence Normand  
14-James Clark  
16-Harold Aamodt, Katarina Taylor, Sophia Taylor  
18-Polly Tarris  
20-Cathie Chittendon  
21-Harold Saxon, LaBrya Silvernail  
22-Brad Dietsche, Brittany Normand  
23-Ruth Clark, Hannah Kressin, Robert Luloff  
24-Jean Pfankuch, JoAnn Rein  
26-Ruby Schumacher

27—Caitlyn Borck, Missy Loebertman, Barbara Missfeldt  
29—Ken Schaller, Gerald Wucherpfennig  
30—Susan Roytek  
31—Rhonda Goettl, Rhonda Larson, Joel Moldenhauer

### Happy Anniversary!

7-Astley & Pamela Fisher  
11-Ron & Barbara Krueger  
11-Randy & Marianne Missfeldt  
18-Dale & Jean Volrath

