GOOD NEWS
FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

LENT 2023
Why Lord?

Ash Wednesday	Why Lord should I supplement my faith?	2 Peter 1:5
2-26 Lent 1	Why Lord do we not have confidence?	Hebrews 4:16
3-1	Why Lord did you bless me?	Genesis 15:1-6
3-5 Lent 2	Why Lord must I do more and more?	1 Thessalonians 4:1
3-8	Why Lord did You kill her son?	1 Kings 17:20
3-12 Lent 3	Why Lord such high standards?	Ephesians 5:2
3-15	Why Lord must I go into the Jordan to be Cleansed?	2 Kings 5:11
3-19 Lent 4	Left overs from Jesus (Pastor Aker)	John 6:1-15
3-22	Why Lord did you not make it easy?	Numbers 13:31
3-26 Lent 5	Why Lord do we need an new covenant?	Hebrews 9:15
3-29	Why Lord did You let us be driven from our land?	2 Kings 25:11
4-2 Palm Sunday	Why Lord must we have this mind?	Philippians 2:5
4-6 Maundy Thursday	Why Lord must I examine myself?	1 Corinthians 11:28
4-7 Good Friday	Why Lord should I not live for myself?	2 Corinthians 5:15
4-9 Sunrise	Why Lord were you laid in the tomb?	1 Corinthians 15:4
4-7 Easter	Why Lord must we be changed?	1 Corinthians 15:51

Why Lord? Have you ever asked that question? You may have asked it when something that most people would see as a positive. You may have asked it when it was something most people would see as a negative. From Ash Wednesday through Easter, we are going to ask that question from our texts.

There is no lack of text that have God's people asking that question. Each of the Sunday services along with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday we use the assigned texts for the day. The only issue I had for the other five Wednesdays was narrowing it down from the countless texts that have that question.

Why is that such a prevalent question? The easiest way to explain it is that God's ways are above our ways. Everything He does is to carry out His promise, to extend His kingdom. If you look at the sermon titles you will note that the questions are counter cultural. That is because the culture of the world is apposed to God's culture. The World, the Devil and our sinful self would put us front and center, never worrying about others. If it doesn't satisfy our wants and desires then we have no use for it. Those three would even have us throw out age old truths, that at one

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VOTERS MEETING — MARCH 12, 2023 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

March

01 Lula Arlton
08 Dale Engelmann
08 Tatum Robison
12 Leslie Bartlett
13 Luther Brack
17 Jordan Jones
18 Lynda Nix
19 Colton Wehking
21 Tamerha Miller
22 Ruth Meyer
25 Cynthia Schilf
26 Jodie Holtz
27 Martin Johnson
29 Jackie Keiner-Jones

ANNIVERSARIES

March

13 Andrew & Jenny Brack

The WORD of the LORD ENDURES FOREVER

Study the Bible with the Church,
Past and Present

A daily, verse-by-verse Bible Study
hosted by
Pastor Will Weedon
thewordendures.org

Issues, Etc.

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

Sacred Music 24/7

lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

March 5, **Second Sunday in Lent**, "But death isn't a part of the life for which we were created—for we were created. You didn't morph from pond scum into an intelligent hairless monkey; you were handcrafted by the Lord of the Universe." *Hannah Nissing, Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia, Nebraska – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 12, **Third Sunday in Lent**, "Despite the hardships we experience and the sin we face, God's work submerges us in a pool of joy; through our Baptism, He daily refreshes us, strengthening our bonds to Him and to each other. Yes, we Christians are connected more deeply than participation in any march or gathering can offer. By God's grace, we have become family. We share a home and a future." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 19, **Forth Sunday in Lent**, "When we ignore the baby in the womb and focus instead on what is now being labeled as the rights of the mother and women's health care, we are turning our backs on God. Never has God authorized killing and called it a right. Never has God condoned promoting abortion and called it health care. His love for life is written throughout Scripture. What are we doing when we ignore His sacred Word?" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 26, **Fifth Sunday in Lent**, "The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!" *Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 12, 2023

If you are in need of a ride to and from the church building, please contact Pastor Nix or one of the elders.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – March 2023

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

> But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED

point, everyone could agree on.

Often, when something happens, and we don't see the immediate purpose we ask why, why Lord? My goal for this series is to help you see that you are not alone. You will see that people throughout the Bible have had that same question. I also hope you will see that each time the question is asks, God answers. He does not get upset. He does not condemn the people because of their lack of understanding. No, He shows them His blessings and His purpose.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
February 28, 2023

	12/2022	01/2023	02/2023
Deposits:	$ 45,385.86	$ 18,144.42	$ 16,344.07
Disbursements:	$ 28,348.84	$ 69,022.72	$ 15,257.30
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 38,580.80	$ 15,587.42	$ 14,038.05
Designated Funds:	$ 6,805.06	$ 2,557.00	$ 2,306.02
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 12,876.80	$12,876.80	$ 18,926.37
Mortgage Balance as of 02/28			$182,922.45

WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN

At the Women's brunch that was held on Saturday, February 11th, it was decided that there is interest in holding a monthly meeting for Bible Study and Fellowship. We plan to meet the second Saturday of each month at 11 am. This is an open invitation to any woman of Christ Lutheran. If you have any questions please ask Lisa Johnson or Pastor Nix.









COLLECTING LEGOS, BOARD GAMES AND CARDS FOR THE MCCROSSAN BOY'S RANCH

The Women of Christ are asking for donations of board games, Legos, deck of cards, etc to help boys at the McCrossan Boy's Ranch have things to do. The ages of the boys range from 6th grade and up. There will be a box in the Narthex that you can drop off your donations. We would like to deliver the items collect to the Boy's Ranch the week of Easter. If you have any questions, please ask Lisa Johnson or Pastor Nix . Thank you!

GOOD NEWS!

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(Romans 5:8 NKJV)

When in the Hour of Deepest Need ~ LSB 615

Appointed for the Second Sunday in Lent (ONE-YEAR) study by Larry A. Peters

Introduction

A wise pastor once advised a young man just beginning in the ministry: "Preach to pain and need, and you will never have a shortage of hearers." Pain, need, want and fear are the common companions of daily life. Where do we turn for aid? In our moments of greatest need, faith finds its greatest urgency.

God has always invited us to "call upon [Him] in the day of trouble" (Ps. 50:15) and promised to be our "very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1). The hymns that remind us of God's presence with us in time of need and that His grace is sufficient for that need are among the most treasured of all the Church's songs.

Today's hymn confronts the questions, fears and wounds of this life directly. Its title directs us to where we can turn "when in the hour of deepest need."

- What are some of the greatest needs that you have faced in life?
- What does it say about the God who delights in standing with His people in their weakness and anguish?
- Can we Christians expect to be freed from every ill (st. 5)? When does this full deliverance come to us? Does God require anything of us before delivering us from our fears, troubles and needs?

Exploring the Scriptures

This hymn was penned by Paul Eber (1511–69), but it flowed from a Latin hymn written by his teacher, Joachim Camerarius (1500–74). Both hymns are based upon the great prayer of King Jehoshaphat. Read this prayer in 2 Chron. 20:6–12.

- What does verse 6 tell us about God? What does it mean that He is the God whom "none is able to withstand"? How does that address us in our need?
- In verse 9, we hear the king say of God, "You will hear and save." Are these just brave words in the face of trouble, or is this faith speaking?
- At the end of verse 12, we read: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." Are these words a reflection of your own faith? Why or why not?

This hymn is appointed for Lent 2, Proper 5C and Proper 15A. On each of these Sundays, the lessons describe Jesus healing or raising the dead. Read Matt. 15:21–28 and Luke 7:11–17.

- How does illness or death challenge our faith?
- In both instances, the Lord showed "compassion" to those wounded by death and disease. Can we still be confident of His compassion in the same situations today? How do we know this?

Read Psalm 30.

- Verse 7 says, "You hid your face; I was dismayed." Does it seem that sometimes God does hide His face from us in our need? Why or why not?
- In verse 5, we are told, "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning." How have you experienced this truth in your own life?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

Paul Eber was among the most gifted of the Wittenberg poets and hymn writers. He suffered childhood illness, was handicapped after being thrown from a horse, buried all but two of his 14 children, and endured blistering theological attacks.

Though we know little of the circumstances surrounding the composition of this hymn, one of its first known uses was in a service that was a call to prayer issued by Johannes Bugenhagen on Ascension Day 1547, after Emperor Charles V demanded that the city of Wittenberg lay down its arms.

- How might this hymn have been a personal response to all the troubles and trials of life endured by its author?
- How might this hymn have contributed to the calm and support of a people caught in fear at the military threat of their emperor? Text Read the stanzas of this hymn again. Compare them to the prayer recorded in 2 Chron. 20:6–12. See how the hymn stanzas connect to the verses from Scripture.
- What passages come to mind that share this same theme and perspective? Read Rom. 8:31–39. Look at where the hymn writer locates the source of our comfort.
- Is the throne referenced in stanza 2 the throne of the

(Continued on page 7)

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What's a "Kyrie"?

The Kyrie comes from the Greek words "kyrie eleison" (pronounced KEER-ee-ay eh-LAY-zon) which means **"Lord, have mercy."** You've probably noticed that we sing this after we have confessed our sins and received God's forgiveness. For example, look to see where the Kyrie is in the Divine Service.



Why do we ask the Lord to have mercy on us after we have already confessed our sins and been forgiven?

When we sing the Kyrie, we are not making a confession of sins. Instead, we are crying for mercy so that our God would hear us and come to help us in all times of need. It is the first prayer that we pray together in the Divine Service as God's forgiven people!

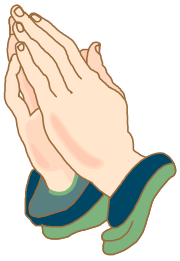
Parents:
During worship, help your children to recognize the Kyrie and its place in our worship. You may want to practice saying "Kyrie Eleison" with them. After they have mastered the pronunciation, praise them for having learned a bit of the Greek language!

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UPCOMING

2023

- Mar 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 12 Voters Meeting
- Apr 06 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- Apr 07 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- Apr 09 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- Apr 09 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- Apr 09 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 14 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 18 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 11 Voters Meeting
- July 23-27 VBS
- Sept 10 Voters Meeting
- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 06, 13, 20 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 20 Children's Christmas Service 7pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service



IN OUR PRAYERS

Erik Arlton, going in for tests
Mildred Corey, at home
Helen Kriz, Bethany Lutheran Home, Brandon
Lisa Johnson, health issues/wellness
Susan Powell, at home
Mildred Peters at Lyon Specialty Center in Rock Rapids, IA
Leslie & Constance Bartlett at home
Elva Clauson at home

LENTEN SUPPERS & SERVICES

During Lenten season on Wednesdays, Suppers beginning at 5:30 pm. Service begins at 7pm. Please check the sign-up sheet to see if you would like to donate or help with the meals. The schedule is listed there.



EASTER LILIES

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for donating Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. The cost of the lilies are $10 each. Please sign up if you are interested .

cross or the throne of God in heaven? Or is it both? Stanza 3 directs us to the promises of God and to Him whose name alone is great. We call Jesus the Word of God and the fulfiller of His promises. We also call Jesus the one name under heaven and on earth by which anyone will be saved (Acts 4:12).

- Is this reference to Jesus implicit or explicit? Does the Christian always see God through the lens of Jesus Christ? Why or why not? What do we have to offer the Lord? With this question, the hymn frames our definition of "need."
- What do we have to offer God besides our fears and woes? When we lay them down before the Lord, it is an exercise of faith — not only that God will not be turned away by them, but that He will answer them with mercy.
- Is sin just one of our woes and fears, or is it the cause of them all? It is a common image to describe sin as a sickness or illness both in Scripture and in hymnody.
- How might we describe sin as an illness or sickness?
- How did we acquire it? Is it treatable or fatal? Take a look at the psalms to see how often the author begins with a description of great need but then turns to thanksgiving to God for His merciful deliverance by the end of the psalm. See how this is mirrored in this hymn by the content and tone of the sixth stanza.
- Is the closing thought of thanksgiving because the author has already witnessed God's intervention and seen evidence of His deliverance? Or is it because he has such confidence that the Lord will deliver him that he does not need to see the outcome to know it will happen?
- Do you need to see the outcome of God's action at work in your life before you offer Him praise, or are you confident enough of His mercy that you trust Him to make "all things work together for good" (Rom. 8:28)?
- In the Small Catechism, Luther tells us that for all that God has done, it is our duty to "thank and praise, serve and obey Him" (LSB, p. 322). How is obedience and praise a fitting response to God's grace and mercy in our lives? Are obedience and praise the prerequisites of God's intervention, or are they our response to His gracious presence and deliverance?

Making the Connection

Our lives are very different from Jehoshaphat or Paul Eber, yet our lives are still touched by adversity and need. Even with all our choices, all our technology and all our advancements, we so often find ourselves not knowing "where to look for aid" (st. 1).

- What are the biggest things that cause you fear, misery or anxiety today?
- How is our Savior the advocate we can turn to in time of need? See 1 John 5:3–4.
- The hymn writer says, "Cast down, we stand." How is this possible? See Rom. 5:1–5.
- Is there a connection between our sufferings and the sufferings of Christ? See 2 Cor. 5:5.

In Closing

"Preach to pain and need, and you will never have a shortage of hearers." This is no less true today than it was 500 years ago when this hymn was written, or even earlier when Jehoshaphat prayed these words. The challenge to faith continues to be the questions of whether our sufferings matter to God and if He can and will deliver us. The lens through which we see our sufferings is always the cross — where Jesus suffered on our behalf. Just as God's good will and purpose were not confounded by His suffering but hidden there, so faith finds opportunity in our greatest needs. In the hand of God, these become the fruitful moments when we grow in that grace which is sufficient for our every need.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 615.

Prayer

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent).

For those with keys to the building, please make check the thumb knob on the from door before you leave. If you are not sure what this is please talk to me and I will show you.

Over the past few months I have arrived at the church to find it unlocked.

Thank you,

Pastor Nix

Those on the Altar Guild

By now you should know that Cherie has stepped down after 17 years of service. I would ask that you continue the same order you were before with volunteers to pick up the services Cherie was on.

We hope to have a meeting next Sunday, March 12th, after the Divine service to see how best to move forward.

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