

March Newsletter



214 Harvey St, PO Box 98 Viborg, SD 57070 · ph: 605.326.5577 · www.oslc.vib.org · oslc.office@oslc.vib.org

On Lent by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

Lent is a dangerous time. Traditionally speaking, it is a time of great piety, self-sacrifice, and attempts to improve upon one's own faith. So why is it so dangerous? Certainly giving something up to make oneself better can't be bad. Trying to do faith-based devotions more often couldn't possibly hurt could it?

Well, no. Those things of course won't hurt you as long as you understand exactly why you are doing them. Jesus states in Matthew's Gospel chapter 6: "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven." So often we get motivated by how others see us. Even if we aren't blatant about it, we like to share with the world that we have started a new Lenten devotional, or are giving up a vice for lent, or are not eating meat on Fridays. We think this is to be seen as virtuous in the eyes of the neighbor, and we certainly like to look like we are living our best lives as far as the neighbor knows.

When we do this, we are putting way too much value on our own piety, or to use simpler terms, our works; which most often leads to works righteousness. Further translation of this theological notion: We think that what we do is what will

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

- Matthew 6:1

grant us a more favorable standing with God, and that without our participation, God will not look kindly on us.

And that is why it is a dangerous time. The moment that we start "navel-gazing" as Luther says, we stop looking to the cross where the true glory lies. We stop looking to the One who has already saved us

from all our sin and iniquity. Then when we fall short or our new daily devotionals, or we have that piece of chocolate, or beef, we are thrown into anxiety because we have failed ourselves.

Now. I am not discouraging you from doing devotionals or any other faith-based practices, especially if they help clear your mind and focus on God. I am not discouraging you from setting a goal of eating less junk food (the most common thing to give up in Lent). But let your trust rest in the One who has already promised you life everlasting apart from your works, apart from the Law. Know that Christ died on the cross not so that you may be FREE to serve your neighbor and live your life knowing that God has already called you His own. Christ has forgiven you of your sins and your iniquities will be remembered no more.

This is most certainly true.
Pastor Maxwell Whitehead



March Calendar

Wednesday, Mar 1

8:30 AM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
7:00 PM Worship @ Bethany Lutheran
8:00 PM-ish VCIS (following service)
8:00 PM-ish Council Meeting (following service)

Sunday, Mar 5

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)
11:30 AM Potluck & Special Meeting

Wednesday, Mar 8

8:30 AM Bible Study
7:00 PM Worship @ Church of the Nazarene
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
No Confirmation
8:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Mar 12

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (traditional)

Wednesday, Mar 15

8:30 AM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
No Confirmation
7:00 PM Worship @ First Baptist Church
8:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Mar 19

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

Wednesday, Mar 22

8:30 AM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
No Confirmation
7:00 PM Worship @ United Methodist Church
8:00 PM VCIS

Friday, Mar 24

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Mar 26

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (contemporary)

Wednesday, Mar 29

8:30 AM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
No Confirmation
7:00 PM Worship @ SVLC
8:00 PM VCIS



Committee's of the Month

Each month's committee members are responsible for reading the Scriptures on Sundays. Confirmed youth of committee members are included in the month in which the parent serves. A full list of duties is on the bulletin board and in the committee of the month binder.

March

Derrick & Kayla Mehlhaf
Mike & Laura Stevens
Ellie Whitehead
Derek & Jena Hight
Josh & Kristie Huth

April

Mike & Lisa McIlvenna
Derrick & Kayla Mehlhaf
Neal & Jenny Hanson
Troy & Amy Lee
Les Sampson

May

Matt & Denise Graves
Steven & Linda Holmberg
Joe & Teddy Schafer
Jon & Krista Schaeffer

March Scripture Readings

Mar 5 - Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Mar 12- Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

Mar 19 - 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Mar 22 - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Mar 26 - Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

March Worship Helpers

Sunday, Mar 5

Reader Ellie Whitehead
Acolyte/Communion Helper Westin
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, Mar 12

Reader Kayla Mehlhaf
Acolyte Godwin
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, Mar 19

Reader Sharon Wirth
Acolyte/Communion Helper Jazmyne
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, Mar 26

Reader Laura Stevens
Acolyte Piper
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Kayla Mehlhaf

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!
YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!

ATTENTION!!

Committee of the Month Leaders

Please submit your reader schedule line-up to oslc.office@oslcvb.org by the 24th of the month so we can get it into the Mar 26th bulletin & the April newsletter. Thanks!

Looking Ahead To April

Sunday, Apr 2 (Palm Sunday)

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)
11:30 AM Brunch following worship

Wednesday, Apr 5

8:30 AM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
7:00 PM VCIS
7:00 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, Apr 6 (Maundy Thursday)

7:00 PM Worship Service @ SVLC

Friday, Apr 7 (Good Friday)

7:00PM Worship Service @ OSLC

Sunday, Apr 9 (Easter Sunday)

No Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, Apr 12

8:30 AM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr VCIS
5:30 PM Confirmation (meal @ 6:00PM)
7:00 PM VCIS

The council has met, bids have come in, and options are being put together to present to the congregation. We're holding a special meeting with potluck on **March 5, 2023 following the worship service.**



The Issues:

- ✂ Foundational cracks and dampness/mold in the basement
- ✂ Shingles and siding need to be repaired/replaced
- ✂ Electrical issues in the kitchen as well as other rooms
- ✂ Water leaking through the kitchen and bedroom windows



Kids sang Father Abraham in church Feb 12th and some members joined in the fun at their pews



Sunday School News



Our Saviors Sunday School made 63 Valentine's cards for the nursing home. Lots of fun and glitter!



VCIS: A Ministry of the larger Viborg Lutheran Church

Vocavit - Congregantur - Illustratus - Sanctificatus
(Called - Gathered - Enlightened - Sanctified)

This month has been a challenge to gather together what with all the snow and all. But we did get to gather with the Youth and their parents midway through the month! We had all 17 of our mission trip participants there as well as at least 1 parent for each kid! With a gathering of about 30 people, we were able to do some fun ice-breaker name games and break into small groups for biblical conversation. The topic of conversation revolved around Paul's portrayal of the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians and how we too can function as a team to be the body of Christ! It was awesome to see so much participation among all those gathered.



though, so look for us out in the community this spring! There are also tentative plans for maybe some Holy Week youth participation...

As far as trip details go, we have now been sent paperwork from YouthWorks! This means we get to sign a covenant and see what the theme for the week will be. So exciting! And our final YouthWorks payment will be coming up in May! If you would like to donate anything to help them reach their fundraising goals, checks can be made out to VCIS and sent to PO Box 98 Viborg, SD 57070. Aside from monetary support, we greatly appreciate prayerful support too!

Normally we would've served a soup supper on Ash Wednesday, but unfortunately the weather prevented that. We do have some ideas coming up for service projects and fundraising opportunities in the future

Thank you for your continued support! This group is very special to a lot of kids and their families, and we give thanks for the opportunity to grow together in Christ.



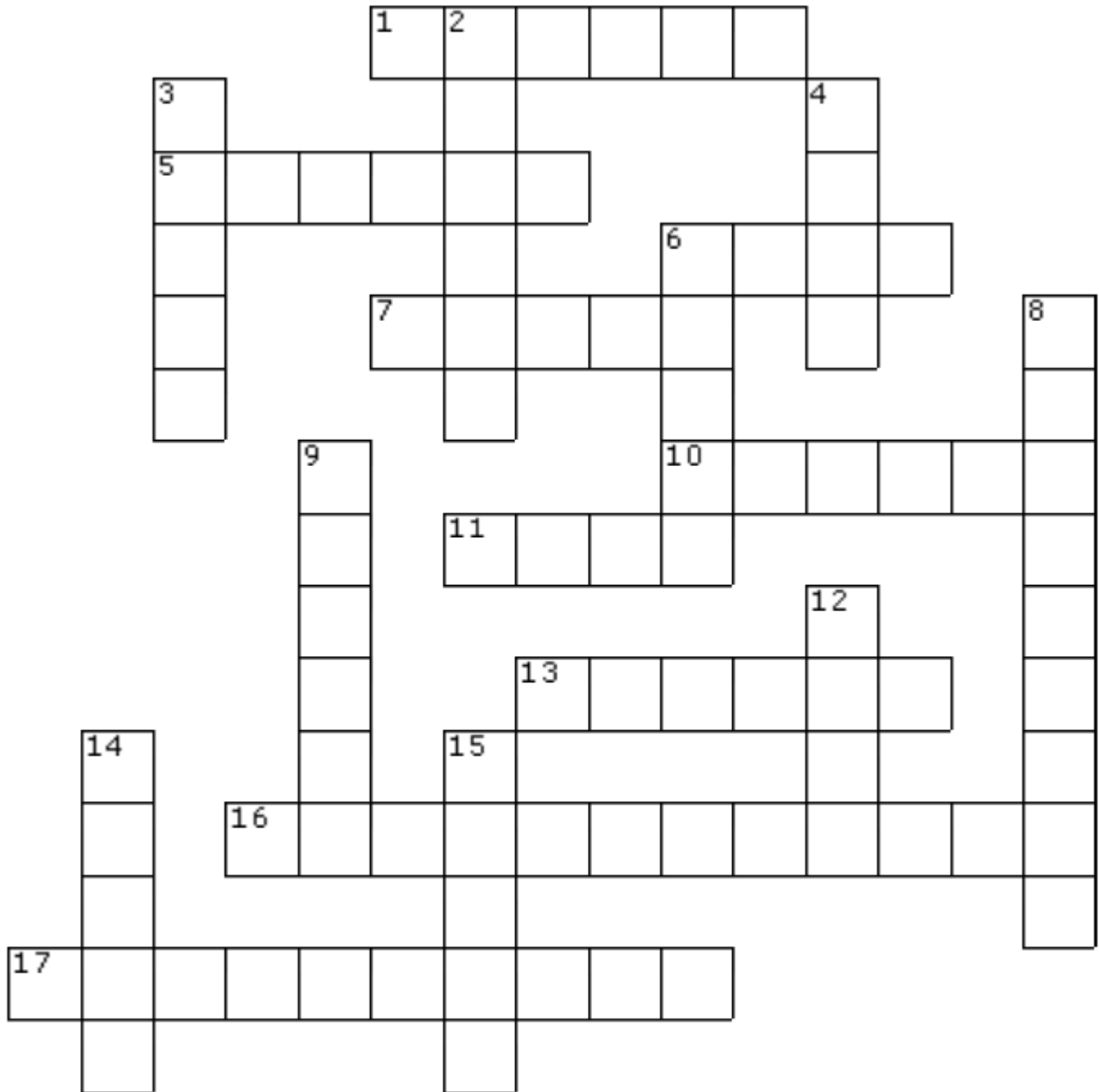
Lenten Worship Schedule

March 1	Galatians 6:1-18		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Daryl	Location: Bethany Lutheran Church	
March 8.	2 Timothy 1:6-10		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Kent	Location: Church of the Nazarene	
March 15	Revelation 21:22-27		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend David	Location: First Baptist Church	
March 22.....	Matthew 24:29-30		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Max	Location: United Methodist Church	
March 29	Ephesians 2:14-18		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Ron	Location: Spring Valley Lutheran Church	

There is no Confirmation through Lent, but Confirmands are expected to attend the Lenten services.



Crossword Puzzle: Easter



ACROSS

- 1 Jesus
 5 Doubting ___
 6 Jesus rode a ___ into Jerusalem
 7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus
 10 Easter season
 11 Colored Easter ___
 13 ___ of Gethsemane

- 16 Easter celebrates the ___ of Jesus
 17 Sunday before Easter

DOWN

- 2 After 40 days, Jesus ascended to ___
 3 An angel rolled away the ___ covering the tomb

- 4 People greeted Jesus with ___ branches
 6 where Jesus died
 8 Mary ___ discovered Jesus had risen
 9 ___ sentenced Jesus to die
 12 Season before Easter
 14 ___ betrayed Jesus
 15 Easter animal?