



March Newsletter

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are nearing Easter day by day. While Lenten services may not always be widely attended, Easter Sunday is rivaled only by Christmas services. As we are in this Lenten season and are approaching Easter, it is important that we recognize the importance of proclaiming the Gospel and your ability to do just that. The Gospel of Christ's love, forgiveness, and mercy for you is a gift. A gift that we are given through Jesus' death and resurrection; through the waters of baptism; and the body and blood of Holy Communion. And this is a gift that we are to share, especially in the time of year when people are wondering whether or not they should find some sort of church service to attend!

The Apostle Paul to the Corinthians: *"1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God."*

Let's think about shiny new toys for a moment. Is there something that you have either received or purchased that you just couldn't play with or use for fear that it would lose its "newness"? Perhaps you got yourself a new vehicle but refused to drive it unless it was 75 and sunny outside. Or you remember a toy from childhood that no one, not even you, could play with because then it wouldn't be "new" anymore. We get very possessive of our things. We want them to

hold their value for as long as physically possible. We like to hold out for the "if we would ever get rid of it, we will get our money back" factor.

I'll cut to the chase: you have been given the gift of the forgiveness of all of your sins, everlasting life, and true freedom in Christ. Why is it that so often we feel the need to qualify ourselves to use that shiny gift. As if it is too nice, too expensive, and we don't want to be responsible for damaging this gift. Why is it that we feel that in expressing or speaking about this gift of faith we might show signs of weakness and trembling?

Christ has not freed us so that we might store up this gift of faith, put it in a little box, and cherish it forever. Rather Christ has freed us so that we do not need to fear any trembling or weakness! Christ has freed us to live as His Father's creatures not worrying about whether we are good enough to be His servants and disciples. This is what Paul is saying in the beginning of chapter 2 of his first letter to the people of Corinth. You do not need big, theological words to proclaim Christ and him crucified. You do not need the wisdom of the world to know and deliver the love and mercy of God. As Paul notes, the only thing you need is the Spirit and the power of God. And guess where that comes from? Not deep inside of you, but from God himself. So wherever or whenever you feel nervous about delivering some sort of Word, may you know that any Word of Truth, Grace, or Forgiveness comes to you and through you by the Holy Spirit. May that bring you peace!

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Maxwell Whitehead



March Calendar



Sunday, March 3

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
10:15 AM Sunday School Resumes

Wednesday, March 6

2:00 PM Bible Study
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
**7:00 PM Lenten Worship Service
@ First Baptist Church**
8:00 PM VCIS
7:00 PM Council Mtg

Sunday, March 10 (Daylight Savings Time @ 2 AM)

9:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM VBS Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

2:00 PM Bible Study
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
**7:00 PM Lenten Worship Service
@ Church of the Nazarene**
8:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, March 17

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, March 20

2:00 PM Bible Study
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
**7:00 PM Lenten Service
@ Spring Valley Lutheran Church**
8:00 PM VCIS

Palm Sunday, March 24

9:00 AM Worship Service (Contemporary)
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Palm Sunday Brunch

Wednesday, March 27

2:00 PM Bible Study
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
8:00 PM VCIS

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 PM Worship Service @ SVLC

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 PM Worship Service @ OSLC

Easter Sunday, March 31

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
~~10:15 AM~~ No Sunday School



Worship Helpers



Sunday, March 3 (Communion)

Reader Cath Peterson
Acolyte/Communion Asst. Piper
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, March 10 (Traditional)

Reader Krista Schaeffer
Acolyte Quinn J
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, March 17 (Communion)

Reader Laura Stevens
Acolyte/Communion Helper Curtiss
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Palm Sunday, March 24 (Contemporary)

Reader Youth
Acolyte/Communion Helper Anna Jo
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Praise Band

March 29 (Good Friday)

Reader Youth
Acolyte TBD
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Easter Sunday, March 31 (Communion)

Reader Krista Schaeffer
Acolyte/Communion Ass Quinn S.
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

AS ONE BODY
WE ARE THE
CHURCH



Please
Consider
Giving
Online

Committee's of the Month

The committee reads Scriptures on Sundays each month. Confirmed youth of members are included. List of duties are on the bulletin board.

March

Jon and Krista Schaeffer
Mike and Laura Stevens
Lydell and Cath Peterson

April

Matt and Sharon Wirth
Derrick and Kayla Mehlhaf
Josh and Kristie Huth
Shelley Wray

May

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

MARCH SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 03: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

March 10: Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

March 17: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

March 24: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

March 28: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 29: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

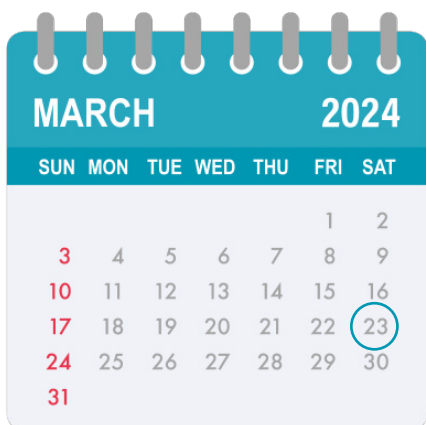
March 31: Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18



Attention OSLC Youth

There is no Confirmation or Jr. VCIS during the Lenten season (through Mar 31.) VCIS will meet at 8:00PM rather than 7:00PM. We will resume regular scheduling the first Wednesday after Easter Sunday.

DEADLINE



The April Newsletter Deadline is March 23. Submissions after the deadline are not guaranteed inclusion into the newsletter.

Please submit all articles and information on time. Thank you!

Looking Ahead To April

Wednesday, April 3

2:00 PM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
5:30 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM Council Mtg
7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 7

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, April 10

2:00 PM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
5:30 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 14

9:00 AM Worship Service (traditional)
10:15 AM Sunday School

Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry is desperately low on funding and needs donations... Please consider helping if you can. We are also in great need of the following items...

Please Consider helping if you can. We are in great need of the following items...

- ✿ Facial Tissue
- ✿ Toilet Paper
- ✿ Shampoo
- ✿ Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- ✿ Lotion
- ✿ Body Wash
- ✿ Sauces -
 - ◊ Soy
 - ◊ Worcestershire
 - ◊ BBQ.
 - ◊ Ketchup
- ✿ Canned Goods

- ✿ Toaster Pastries
- ✿ Cereal Bars
- ✿ Granola Bars
- ✿ Cooking Oil
- ✿ Mayo
- ✿ Salad Dressings
- ✿ Spices
- ✿ Peanut Butter
- ✿ Jelly
- ✿ Pastas
- ✿ Rice (not instant)
- ✿ Ramen noodles

We have a freezer for cold storage items as well (meats, cheeses, etc).



2024 VCIS THRIVENT PROJECTS

VCIS Mission at Home - We will have projects lined up soon, but you could plan on getting cards to be used during the month of June



Please designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars before March 31, 2024.

Contact Janet Holmberg for any questions.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings time is March 10 at 2:00 AM. Make sure to Spring forward!



VBS is set for June 3-6. We are looking for volunteers, if you would be willing to help please contact Melanie or Janet.

We will have a VBS teachers meeting after Sunday School on March 10th.



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Sunday School would like to invite the congregation to brunch on Palm Sunday right after services. Plan to join us!

Living Last Supper

Every other year, the local community comes together for a truly inspiring event. Men and musicians, along with Vonni Knudtson, put on a play that will immerse you in the story of the Last Supper. You will witness the disciples' gathering at the table and feel their passion and devotion, leaving you with a renewed sense of inspiration and purpose. A free will offering each night will go towards a local charity of our choosing. Make plans to attend!

March 24 at 5:00 PM Scandia Lutheran in Centerville

March 25 at 7:00 PM Grace Lutheran in Parker

March 26 at 6:00 PM Holy Cross Lutheran in Sioux Falls

March 27 at 7:00PM. Dow Rummel Village—Assisted Living in Sioux Falls