

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### Reflections on Repentance – Lent Theme

*"From that time Jesus began to preach saying "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."  
Matthew 4:2*

*"When the Lord Jesus called us to repent he meant that the whole life of the Christian would be one of repentance." These 1 from Luther's 95 Theses.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lent is a time of reflection and reevaluation of our lives. We can read that Irenaeus, who lived around 130 AD, talked about the fast before Easter that had been handed down by the forefathers to his present day. For him the forefathers would have been the Apostle's teaching as they set up the Church at the command of Jesus. They patterned the fast after Jesus' own 40 day fast and temptation in the desert before he started his ministry. When Jesus exited the temptation the first thing he said was "repent for the kingdom of God is at hand."

By the time of Gregory I (@ 600AD) the Church had established the pattern for fasting at one meal a day each day and no meat or dairy on Friday. The goal of all fasting is to help us realize how frail our bodies are that we may rely on God more. It is to help us understand that our ability to save ourselves is vanity and that we need God to save. It also helps us clear out our trust in the false idols in our lives, like food and money. Lastly it is to give us extra time to hear God's Word and pray.

As time has passed the strictness of Lenten fasting has eased. Now it is common to fast just one day and week but also give up something else for Lent. These days we might give up TV, or eating out, or social media with the goal of helping us reevaluate the time we spend with them.

We Lutherans still keep the Lenten time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. We know we don't have to fast to earn forgiveness but we also recognize the goodness of devoting ourselves to God and His Word. We use Lent as a time to consider our lives in light of God's commands with the goal of repenting of where we have gotten too comfortable with sin. We have services and light meals and devotions that help us remember and reflect.

Our Lenten theme this year is "**Reflections on Repentance.**" Each week we are going to see what sin truly is and how it is so damaging, especially when we take it so lightly. We will finish our journey by seeing how Jesus has won forgiveness for our sins by His sacrifice and rejoice in what He has done for us by bringing us into God's Kingdom.

Pastor Johson

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Do you like soup? Do you celebrate Lent? If your answer is "yes" to both of those, then you are in luck! Come celebrate Lent with us on Wednesday evenings, starting with a delicious soup supper in the fellowship hall in the basement, starting at 5:00 pm, followed by the Lenten church services following immediately after dinner at 6:00 pm. We will have some guest preachers at the pulpit each week as well. It all starts on Ash Wednesday (March 5<sup>th</sup>) and will continue through the week before Easter, with the last service being on April 9<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you all there!

The call committee has been diligently discussing our next steps for placing a call to another pastor. After carefully weighing our options, we decided to recommend Pastor Nicholas Schram from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in St. Louis, MO, for our next call. We had the pleasure of recently interviewing him and really liked what we heard. We felt that he would make a great addition to our church! That said, we will have a voters' meeting on **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** immediately after the service, where we will be asking for a unanimous vote to call Pastor Schram. Please attend this very important meeting and let your voice be heard!

With insurance rates skyrocketing in recent years, we have decided to start shopping for a new insurance provider for the church to see if we can gain any savings. Having had one agent come and visit our property in the past weeks, it was pointed out that the roof of the stand-alone garage was in very bad condition and would need replacement. That said, our trustees will soon be calling contractors to get estimates with hopes of them being able to do the work this summer. We will not be running a formal capital campaign, since this is a smaller scale project and may not cost more than \$10-12K; but do ask that you consider donating to the building improvement fund in the coming months to help cover the cost of this much needed project. As always, your generosity is very much appreciated!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger

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### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-1: Joanne Stangel  
Milly Menzer  
3-8: Ivan Hazen  
Alaric Hazen  
3-11: William Paltzer



3-20: Joanie Schnettler  
3-22: Shirley Ottman  
3-23: Jerry Sabrowsky  
3-25: Katelyn Regutis

3-26: Vicki Lindstrom  
3-29: Rev Robert Steele

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3-03: Bill & Judi Strenger



Blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office, and let us know.

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**\*\*\*DEADLINE TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS\*\*\***

**MARCH 31st IS THE DEADLINE TO DIRECT YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS FROM 2024, OTHERWISE THESE FUNDS WILL BE LOST.**

All Thrivent members at Bethany please remember to direct your "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to Bethany Lutheran Church if you have not already done so.

Thrivent cards on the shelf near Pastors office will help guide you. If you are unsure if you have funds available to direct just call 1-800-847-4836 to check.

Thanks to those who have already directed their dollars. These dollars help fund programs, events and missions for Bethany.



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**MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH**

Use your Designated Offering envelopes during the months of March and April to support **Lutheran Bible Translators**. The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. To learn more about LBT, visit their website at [www.lbt.org](http://www.lbt.org)



**DON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!!**  
Daylight Savings is Sunday, March 9.  
Don't forget to change your clock one hour ahead on Saturday night.

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**LWML MITES - LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**

Thank you so much for your gifts for the Mite Box last month. Our mites (change in our pockets) help to support LWML mission grants. For example: Christ centered materials for Hmong Language School and Redeeming Life Maternity Home in Illinois, showing the world that God's gift of life is precious.



"We love because He first loved us."

The Mite Box will be out on the first Sunday of each month. You can also put your change in the box any time!

## LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Bethany is again participating in the pulpit exchange for our midweek Lent services. The schedule is as follows:

### Midweek Services

March 5 (Ash Wednesday) – Pastor Don Krause  
March 12 – Pastor Don Johnson  
March 19 – Pastor Bryan Osladil  
March 26 – Pastor Jim Schulz  
April 2 – Pastor Matthew Shive  
April 9 – Pastor Alan Kretschmar



### Holy Week

April 13 – Palm Sunday at 10:00am  
April 17 – Maundy Thursday at 6:00pm w/Holy Communion  
April 18 – Good Friday at 1:00pm and 6:00pm  
April 20 – Easter Worship at 10:00am w/Holy Communion

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### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Please join us prior to each Midweek Lenten Service beginning at 5:00pm for our Lenten Soup Suppers. Enjoy homemade soups and fellowship. A free will offering will be taken each week to benefit a different cause.



### HELP NEEDED!

Please take a look at the sign-up sheets in the back of church and consider helping. We are in need of people to help serve, clean up, and donate desserts. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help!

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## Youth Movie Night

What: Pizza, popcorn, and the movie "The Wild Robot" (PG)

Where: The Fellowship Hall at Bethany

When: Friday, March 7

Time: 5:30 - 8:00pm

Who: Everyone! Parents welcome (but not required) to stay.

Details: Bring your blanket, bean bag, pillow etc.



Sign up in the lower narthex or call or email the church to let us know if you can make it. Don't forget to invite a friend!

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025

**Sunday, March 2**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Scripture Reader:  
Door Locker:  
Streaming:

Andy Fibiger  
Dave & Sue Prange  
Shirley & Ray Ottman  
Todd Matte  
Ken Thompson  
Todd Matte

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**Ash Wednesday, March 5**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Streaming:

Gerry Luebke  
Jerry Sabrowsky, Dan Fibiger  
Gina & Andy Fibiger  
Madison Fibiger

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**Sunday, March 9**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Scripture Reader:  
Door Locker:  
Streaming:

Todd Matte  
Fibigers  
Barb & Lee Gumm  
Sharon Werner  
Steve Marotz  
Brianna Meyer

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**Wednesday, March 12**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Streaming:

Lee Gumm  
Ray & Shirley Ottman  
Andy Fibiger

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**Sunday, March 16**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Scripture Reader:  
Door Locker:  
Streaming:

Steve Hazen  
Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlman  
Lynn & Gerry Luebke  
Mary Ann Fibiger  
Andy Fibiger  
Noah Fibiger

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**Wednesday, March 19**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Streaming:

Shua Yang  
Steve & Alaric Hazen  
Todd Matte

**Sunday, March 23**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Scripture Reader:  
Door Locker:  
Streaming:

Gerry Luebke  
Steve & Diane Marotz  
Lynn & Gerry Luebke  
Steve Hazen  
Dan Fibiger  
Madison Fibiger

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**Wednesday, March 26**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Streaming:

Lee Gumm  
Mattes  
Andy Fibiger

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**Sunday, March 30**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:  
Ushers:  
Altar Guild:  
Scripture Reader:  
Door Locker:  
Streaming:

Shua Yang  
Jerry Sabrowsky, Dan Fibiger  
Liz & Ken Buesing  
Lee Gumm  
Diane Marotz  
Brianna Meyer



# MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC (Pastor Krause)	03	04 10:30 am Bible Study  6:00pm Elders	05 6pm Ash Wednesday Service w/HC	06 7:15pm Dartball (home)	07 5:30pm Youth Movie Night	08
09 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship (Pastor Johnson)	10	11 10:30 am Bible Study  6pm Bible Study 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	12 6pm Lent Worship	13 7:15pm Dartball (home)	14	15
16 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC (Pastor King)	17	18 10:30 am Bible Study	19 6pm Lent Worship	20	21	22
23 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship (Pastor King)	24	25 10:30 am Bible Study  6pm Bible Study	26 6pm Lent Worship	27	28	29
30 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC (Pastor King)	31					