

THE INFORMER



St. Peter Lutheran Church

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March 2020

As we enter the month of March, we've already begun our Lenten journey. Our Sunday readings have been leading us toward Jerusalem; leading us toward Holy Week. We've been gathering on Wednesday evenings to ponder our need for a clean heart and a renewed spirit. Jesus comes to save us from our sin: to bear the suffering we deserve, to take to Himself the wrath of God, and to die the death we deserve.

Go to dark Gethsemane, / All who feel the tempters Pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, / Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His grief away; / Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

It's pretty rare in our busy lives to stop *everything* in order to consider *anything*. But, in this penitential season, we're well advised to stop our often noisy but empty activities in order to look upon our Savior as He carries our sin and our condemnation. The reality of death... the reality of damnation... is *our* fault. The innocent Lamb of God... the only human who is pure... who is holy... comes to be tried and condemned for us... *as* us.

Follow to the judgment hall, / View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! / Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; / Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Jesus bears *our* cross. Jesus carries *our* sin. All the evil of the devil is thrown at Jesus. All the ridicule and scorn of this sin-defiled world is hurled in His face. All the depravity of fallen humankind is poured out on the innocent, perfect, Son of God. Jesus *accepts* all this. Jesus willingly embraces the suffering, the shame, and the loss. *He* bears for us what *we* cannot bear.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; / There adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time, / God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; / Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

The Lamb of God goes forth without complaint. The weight of sin and the burden of death and hell bear down on Him more grievously than the weight of the cross He carries. Without regret He accepts the thorns. He accepts the nails. The perfect Sacrifice is willingly raised on the altar to be killed for the forgiveness of all humankind. In Jesus all sacrifices are fulfilled. Completed. Finished.

Early hasten to the tomb, / Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. / Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. / Savior, teach us so to rise.





FROM THE CHAIRMAN



MARCH 2020

This year marks the 140th anniversary of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fair Haven. That is incredible isn't it and a lot of changes have occurred in those 140 years. Probably the biggest one has been the congregation. In those early years the horse and buggy were hooked up and off to church you went and in the winter the horse was hooked to the sleigh. When you got to church you hoped that someone has gotten there early and started the wood stove so the church would be nice and warm. The women and children sat on one side of the church and the men on the other. The service was in German until 1939. Almost everyone was related on either the mother's side or father's side. You had to be very careful of what you say! The families were large because most had to help on the family farm. Now the families are smaller and the big farms are disappearing, leaving the big farm house and barns.

As a reminder of those who came before us, started this congregation and kept it going since 1880. Take a look at the charter members, you will find the names of the men who started our church. On the list you will see 5 sets of brothers, which tells you they were a very close knit group. That closeness is the thing that makes St. Peter special. I often just sit on the pew Sunday mornings and just watch. As people come in you get a greeting or hand shake, a hug and if you are lucky you might get a kiss which is my favorite!

Kevin



We have set the Spring Yard Sale for Friday May 15th and Saturday May 16th. We are changing how we are going to do our sale, we plan on renting tables to anyone who would like to bring their sale items and sell them. At the end of the sale they will have to take what did not sell home. In the past we were able to call the DAV or Good Will and they would pick up what did not sell but the last time we had our sale it was hard to find someone who would come and pick up.

We will still have our Bake Sale and will advertise both. We will have a signup sheet if you are interested in renting a table or donate to our Bake Sale. We will have more information coming so stay tuned and think about renting a table.

Thank You,

Debra Labuhn





LADIES AID

There will be a meeting of the Ladies Aid on Tuesday , March 10,2020 at 7:00 PM. We will be discussing upcoming events. Meeting is open to all Ladies of the Congregation.. Hope to see you there.

Marie Brockmiller/President.



Tables, Chairs, & Tent

If you are interested in barrowing any of these items please check the new calendar on the office door and if available please put your name on the calendar. How many tables and chairs you will be barrowing and if you want one of the tents please put that down also. If you are interested in renting the fellowship hall please see Debbie Labuhn.



Flowers on the Altar



March 1	Allyn & Susan Gerds
March 8	Barb Whitmore
March 15	Ruth Smith
March 22	Kevin & Debbie Labuhn
March 29	Debbie Beres & Carrie Cain



Coffee & Doughnut Crew



March 1	Jim & Renee' Jones
March 8	Ray & Marie Maison
March 15	Jim & Laura Neumann
March 22	Dave & Karen Koppin
March 29	Debi Hoerr



Church Extension Fund

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A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~March

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 st	Numbers 23 & 24	Mark 7:14-37
2 nd	Num 25, 26, & 27	Mark 8:1-21
3 rd	Num 28, 29, & 30	Mark 8:22-38
4 th	Num 31, 32, & 33	Mark 9:1-29
5 th	Num 34, 35, & 36	Mark 9:30-50
6 th	Deuteronomy 1 & 2	Mark 10:1-31
7 th	Deut 3 & 4	Mark 10:32-52
8 th	Deut 5, 6, & 7	Mark 11:1-18
9 th	Deut 8, 9, & 10	Mark 11:19-33
10 th	Deut 11, 12, & 13	Mark 12:1-27
11 th	Deut 14, 15, & 16	Mark 12:28-44
12 th	Deut 17, 18, & 19	Mark 13:1-20
13 th	Deut 20, 21, & 22	Mark 13:21-37
14 th	Deut 23, 24, & 25	Mark 14:1-26
15 th	Deut 26 & 27	Mark 14:27-53
16 th	Deut 28 & 29	Mark 14:54-72
17 th	Deut 30 & 31	Mark 15:1-25
18 th	Deut 32, 33, & 34	Mark 15:26-47
19 th	Joshua 1, 2, & 3	Mark 16
20 th	Josh 4, 5, & 6	Luke 1:1-20
21 st	Josh 7, 8, & 9	Luke 1:21-38
22 nd	Josh 10, 11, & 12	Luke 1:39-56
23 rd	Josh 13, 14, & 15	Luke 1:57-80
24 th	Josh 16, 17, & 18	Luke 2:1-24
25 th	Josh 19, 20, & 21	Luke 2:25-52
26 th	Josh 22, 23, & 24	Luke 3
27 th	Judges 1, 2, & 3	Luke 4:1-30
28 th	Jud 4, 5, & 6	Luke 4:31-44
29 th	Jud 7 & 8	Luke 5:1-16
30 th	Jud 9 & 10	Luke 5:17-39
31 st	Jud 11 & 12	Luke 6:1-26



LOOKING AHEAD

"I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment."

Psalm 51:3-4

Lent provides us an opportunity to remember that we are dust. We are the children of dust; the children of death. We inherited that condition from our earliest forebears and we ourselves have proved it to be true in each of our lives. We think and act as we prefer and then justify our thoughts and actions while we excuse any harm or pain we've caused to those around us.

Every sin... whether we call it a mistake, an error in judgment, an unfortunate misunderstanding, or a just and proper response to an evil done to us... every sin is a sin against our heavenly Father. We ignore our God's Law and we pursue our own desires. We sin against our God.

Lent provides us a time to stop in the midst of our thoughtless lives. It is a time to remember our heavenly Father's Law and how, as we live contrary to that Law, we live faithlessly before our God and we live in hatred toward those our God has placed in our lives.

As this Lenten season continues, let us use the time given to us to reflect on our sinfulness, Let us lift our selfish hearts to the One who has promised to cleanse it and make it His own. Let us turn from our wicked ways and return to our God in humble contrition and repentance.¹

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

Psalm 51:17

¹ ¹ This article first appeared in 2017 and I thought we would share it again. ~ Pastor
