

THE INFORMER



St. Peter Lutheran Church

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Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long expected Prophet. David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.

The season of Lent continues through the first two weeks of April. While our Wednesday evening Midweek Lenten services consider the comfort given by the 23rd Psalm, it is also worthwhile for us to take some time to consider our Lord's suffering: His willing sacrifice to save us from our sin. Jesus travels the road to the cross. God's incarnate Son, the One about whom the prophets spoke, fulfills His Father's will. He takes the sin of the world, and He faces His death on the cross as our substitute.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.

And Jesus faces that cross alone. No one stands with Him. No one helps Him bear the awful burden of the wickedness He must claim as His own. His followers, so eager to join Him in receiving glory and praise and attention, run away in fear and deny they even know Him. Jesus faces the awful wrath of God alone... even His heavenly Father forsakes Him as He becomes the true and final Lamb of God. Jesus walks alone as He carries the sin of this world into the wilderness of death.

Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

The terrible cost of our sin makes itself clear through the bitter sufferings and death of Jesus. As we consider Gethsemane, we realize the burden and wickedness of our sin. We realize the cosmic price paid for our salvation. We realize the unfathomable love our God has for us. We realize that, in Jesus' sacrifice, we are set

free from death and given eternal life. These are things we ponder as we journey through Lent. And these are the things that fill us with praise and adoration as we await that glorious Easter morning!

Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.



The Elders' Corner



O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

~ **Psalm 131**

When we consider Jesus as our example, we are struck by the humility with which Jesus lived His life. Jesus lived a truly humble life. He took little notice of the trappings of position and power. He paid little attention to flattery or praise. His self-perception was founded somewhere other than on the opinions of those around Him. Jesus truly walked in humility throughout His earthly pilgrimage. Jesus spent His days in a peaceful confidence that rested upon a spirit of humility. And that spirit of humility finds its foundation in a deep-seated trust and confidence in our heavenly Father.

As we grow in the Lord, we too seek to live in a spirit of peaceful humility. Psalm 131 gives us a beautiful description of the attitudes that support and nurture that spirit of peaceful humility. As a small child rests comfortably upon their mother, so too do our souls rest upon our heavenly Father. Calmly and quietly, we rest upon our heavenly Father. We take to heart the words of Psalm 46: "Be still, and know that I am God."

That stillness... that quiet calm... that peaceful restedness... is a byproduct of a firm trust in the Lord for all the concerns of the present and a firm hope in the Lord for all the concerns of the future. And that trust and hope make their home in humility.

Humility may seem a rather old fashioned notion these days. We have twenty-four hour access to all the news happening in every corner of the globe. We are being bombarded with opportunities to pass judgment on many different things. From politicians to toilet paper, we hear claims which try to draw us into the desired conclusion as we cast our vote, either literally or figuratively, for the person or product we judge to be best. Even when we have no need for the product being touted, we are being pushed to make a value judgment about the relative merits of one product over another.

While consumer awareness is helpful in choosing products and while candidate familiarity allows us to vote more informedly at the polls, this constant bombardment of demands for judgment also tends to heighten our sensitivity to our own valuation of things around us. These calls to decide relative value try to set our focus on our perception of things: our own opinions, our own sense of value, and our own definitions of good and bad.

All of these things are contrary to the notion of peaceful humility. We lift up our hearts as we value our own sense of value or importance. We raise our eyes higher and higher as we decide that we are able, that we are competent to make all the value judgments our culture tries to force upon us.

These things fight against a calm peacefulness because, once a value judgment is made or a position taken, that judgment and position require defending. We are sucked into the endless arguments about right and wrong as we stake a position then try to hold that ground.

Instead of this, humility allows the judgment of right or wrong to be in God's hands, where it belongs. Humility leaves the decisions to our heavenly Father. Humility dwells in firm confidence that He will lead when and as it is required, and, until then, rest in His peace because He's already got it figured out.

Have you been churning over things? Too much moving too fast in too many directions? Make Psalm 131 your prayer. Allow the God of peace to be your source of peace. "Be still, and know that I am God."



The Word from the Chairman!



March is finally gone and now we have to deal with April. Let's skip the part about April showers loving May flowers at least this year. We've had enough showers for the May flowers.

This April we can look forward to Palm Sunday and Easter "the resurrection of Jesus". Easter is one of my favorite times of the Church year. My favorite is Christmas when the church is decorated and we sing Christmas carols. Easter is too; don't get me wrong! I love them both!

It is in April when we start thinking about the garden and sunny weather. Getting dirty, making sure the lawn mower made it through winter storage and of course... MUD. I think mud is okay (just don't tell Debbie I said so).

Is it time to put the snow shovels away? I'm going to keep one out just in case; after all it is Michigan where you can have all 4 seasons in one day. Spring is a time when our "snowbirds" return which is always a happy time knowing God has brought them home safely to St. Peter (let's see those tans!)

Let's all keep praying for the people of Ukraine, especially the children and elderly who are suffering.

Kevin

Christian Education News



Our Sunday School classes continue! Our younger students are learning about the Ten Commandments. Our older students are studying Old Testament characters. Through these lessons our children learn more about the Bible as they also learn important life-lessons through the lives of God's people!

A huge "thank you" to everyone who donated snacks for the Sunday School! You all are a wonderful blessing to our program here at St. Peter! Our snack needs have been abundantly supplied!

If you missed your chance to donate snacks, we could still use small bottles of water in the next few weeks. Thank you!

Remember... there is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday!



A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~ April

Day	Old Testament	New Testament
1 st	Judges 13, 14, & 15	Luke 6:27-49
2 nd	Jud 16, 17, & 18	Luke 7:1-30
3 rd	Jud 19, 20, & 21	Luke 7:31-50
4 th	Ruth 1, 2, 3, & 4	Luke 8:1-25
5 th	1 Samuel 1, 2, & 3	Luke 8:26-56
6 th	1 Sam 4, 5, & 6	Luke 9:1-17
7 th	1 Sam 7, 8, & 9	Luke 9:18-36
8 th	1 Sam 10, 11, & 12	Luke 9:37-62
9 th	1 Sam 13 & 14	Luke 10:1-24
10 th	1 Sam 15 & 16	Luke 10:25-42
11 th	1 Sam 17 & 18	Luke 11:1-28
12 th	1 Sam 19, 20, & 21	Luke 11:29-54
13 th	1 Sam 22, 23, & 24	Luke 12:1-31
14 th	1 Sam 25 & 26	Luke 12:32-59
15 th	1 Sam 27, 28, & 29	Luke 13:1-22
16 th	1 Sam 30 & 31	Luke 13:23-35
17 th	2 Samuel 1 & 2	Luke 14:1-24
18 th	2 Sam 3, 4, & 5	Luke 14:25-35
19 th	2 Sam 6, 7, & 8	Luke 15:1-10
20 th	2 Sam 9, 10, & 11	Luke 15:11-32
21 st	2 Sam 12 & 13	Luke 16
22 nd	2 Sam 14 & 15	Luke 17:1-19
23 rd	2 Sam 16, 17, & 18	Luke 17:20-37
24 th	2 Sam 19 & 20	Luke 18:1-23
25 th	2 Sam 21 & 22	Luke 18:24-43
26 th	2 Sam 23 & 24	Luke 19:1-27
27 th	1 Kings 1 & 2	Luke 19:28-48
28 th	1 Kings 3, 4, & 5	Luke 20:1-26
29 th	1 Kings 6 & 7	Luke 20:27-47
30 th	1 Kings 8 & 9	Luke 21:1-19



LOOKING AHEAD

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

~

Romans 12:3

This is an interesting comment the Holy Spirit leads St. Paul to make as he urges Christians to present their bodies as living sacrifices and to keep from being “conformed to this world.” The way we think about ourselves, then, must be a large part of “the renewal of your mind” the Holy Spirit desires to bring about in the lives of God’s children.

The danger mentioned in this verse is for a Christian to think “more highly than he ought to think.” What do we do when we think more highly of ourselves than we ought? We elevate ourselves: we consider ourselves more “important” than anyone else. Meaning that we elevate our own opinion above others’, we elevate our own understanding of things above others’, we elevate our own position and contributions and perceptions above those of others. In other words, we think as fallen human beings think.

But that’s not the way our Lord would have us think! As the Holy Spirit instructed the Philippians, so too He instructs us: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” What mind? What way of thinking? Humility. The same humility of mind our Savior demonstrated during His incarnation, His suffering, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds, we become able to discern what our heavenly Father’s will is; we become more attuned to our God’s ways of perceiving our thoughts, our words, and our actions, so they are pleasing to Him. We allow the humility of our Savior to cause this renewal, and, as He does, we find the mind of Jesus Himself leading our ways. Now *that* is a peace that passes all human understanding!