

*A family of God sharing Jesus and
serving Him faithfully*

March 2020

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Our Mission Statement

As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who have been granted eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we worship Him as our Lord and seek to further His work of salvation through word and sacrament ministry in our community and world toward the goal of creating and strengthening personal faith in Him

The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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The Ash in Wednesday

By E. F. Peter Pastor February 1970 (50 Years ago)

Fond dreams were snuffed into Funeral ashes as Jesus told His disciples: "we are going to Jerusalem... for the Son of Man must suffer many things. He must be rejected, killed, and after three days raised to life" It was more than they could comprehend.

They were disillusioned men. Who cowered from that dread Friday cross unable to accept Jesus' death or their own forgiveness. Only after His Sunday rising could they realize the joy of grace and proclaim the victory of life God had accomplished through His Son's obedient sacrifice.

Hundreds of years after Easter, other disciples lost sight of the glorious reprieve which that cross had effected. They could think of nothing more lamentable than that the sinless Son of God should have had to suffer and die.

They proclaimed a Wednesday of ashes. Barefooted and in sack-cloth, they came to the Churches to be covered with ashes of repentance for their sins which had caused the passion and Crucifixion. For 40 somber spring days they mourned and fasted and did acts of penance in remembrance of Christ's Lenten path in the cross.

What shall we do this Lent? Can we leave the ash in Wednesday? The ancient Preface to Lent speaks of two trees. one was a garden tree which Satan's used to lead man from His Creator. It brings us the grievous experience of sin and death. The other is the Golgotha tree by which Jesus liberated us from Satan's tyranny. It brings us the joyful knowledge of the Father's forgiveness and of His opening the way to new life. Let us make Lenten ashes of that forbidden tree. Its temptations would still turn our lives away from the cross so that we miss the full new life of Easter. Let us, this Lent, look again at the way Jesus lived and suffered and died for us. Let us, in the confidence of His complete forgiveness, turn back from our easy, everyday ways that bypass the sacrifices of love to God and to His people around us. Then the Ash in Wednesday will mark another beginning of our reverent joy and worshiping thanks on the Cross-road of Lent. O to s the unique way God's Son has secured for us the triumph of Easter

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – March 2020

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

March Acolyte



March 1	Allie Gier	Eli Schultz
March 4* (Wed)	Kale Sorensen	Rylan Gier
March 8*	Tevis Dohl	Allie Gier
March 11 (Wed)	Chloe Balluch	Aubrelle Hurlbut
March 15	Isaac Schultz	Rylan Gier
March 18 (Wed)	Kale Sorensen	Tevis Dohl
March 22*	Isaac Schultz	Vance Dohl
March 25 (Wed)	Chloe Balluch	Eli Schultz
March 29 *	Kale Sorensen	Allie Gier

*Communion



March Flower Committee
Shirley Krueger
Shelly Keller



March 19 First Day of Spring

Baptismal Birthdays March 2020



*God's blessings to you for all His gifts of
grace that you have received, and
we pray for many more blessings for Jesus*

Aspen Tharp Cody Murray Pastor Craig Ronald Frederking Shanna Gier Ashley Ancell Aaron Ancell Coleen Ancell Marlin Huehl Jr Corey Hirsh Toby Meyer Sadie Small	Grace Chegwidan Denise Waymaster William Reinert Serra Therrien Kaitlyn Fruits Aubrelle Hurlbut Marshall Hurlbut Mekelle Hurlbut Barbara Meitler Weston Lyne Ryan Gier
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Pancake Day February 9, 2020

Pictures by Cheryl Gier





Pancake Day Report 2020



Thank You to all who helped with another successful Pancake Day. **Thanks** to everyone who helped set up, cooked, served and tore down. **Thanks** to Art Dohl for all his hard work, assigning the work schedule, ordering & picking up all the food, making sure the sausage is made. **Thanks** to the youth for working the tables. **Thanks** to everyone who brought pies and cakes. **Thanks** to Shirley for handling the publicity and everyone who put up posters. **Thanks** to all our friends and neighbors who come to support our pancake day. **Thanks** to God for giving us the wonderful day and the opportunity to work together like a big family to share Jesus and serve Him faithfully!

(2020) We served close to 300 people & received \$2977.00 (before any expenses)

(2019) We served 330 people & received \$3365.10 (before any expenses)

(2018) We served 299 people & received \$3082.00 before expenses)

(2017) We served 375 & received \$3426.45 (before Expenses)

(2016) We served 299 people received \$3174. (Before expenses),

(2015) We served 454 people and received \$3,321.93 (before expenses).

(2014) We served 372 people & received \$2,921.00 (before expense)

News from Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett serving in Ethiopia
eric.stinnett@lcms.org

Please Pray for: - the Masters and Post Graduate Diploma students who are just starting their new semester -finding a new language teacher and time to study -wisdom and peace for the Ethiopian people and government & for peaceful national elections

Give thanks For: -the new opportunities given to share the Gospel -our friend, Julia who visited for a week and uplifts us with her friendship and love

Praise God for: -our fellow missionaries, the Rabes & Kaisers -all of our supporters in prayer and finances -Gemechu and Lidiya for their dedication to serving the Lord through music and theology -continued opportunity to teach and meet new students here on campus -return of the students from the Christmas break

Closing Thoughts . . . Our Lord is always working through His people. We remember the Ethiopian eunuch: "So Philip ran to him (the eunuch) and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:30ff) Thank you in Jesus' Name for your support of the work which God has laid before us.



"Get Your Head in the Clouds"

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Colossians 3:1-3 - If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Do you remember those days in school when right after lunch you'd be looking out the window and daydreaming? If I didn't watch myself, the teacher might even catch me and say, "Seltz, get your head out of the clouds and back into class. Get your head out of the clouds. Well, if that was a call to get serious, our lesson today is telling us to get even more serious. It's telling us to *get our head in the clouds*."

The apostle Paul tells us to keep our focus on Christ. Since we "have been raised with Christ"—baptized in His Name, our sins have been buried with Him, and our resurrected life is already assured in Him. So let's live that life right now, for all its worth, because our destiny is already secure in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Life in Christ is an out-of-the-gutter kind of life. It's a life that turns its back on sin, immorality, guilt, and ignorance. Redeemed from that, we move into the streets, addressing life's realities with forgiveness, compassion, and purposeful service. With our focus on the things above in Jesus, we are free to serve God and the people we love.

So, get ready for that. Get your head into the clouds, into the things of Jesus Christ, to live life boldly in the world right now!

In my neighborhood when I was young, there were 20 guys on the block. We had football teams, hockey teams, basketball teams, baseball teams. There were so many guys playing, sometimes you didn't even get picked for a team. When that happened to me, it made me want to get even better.

And here's the point: if you weren't picked right away, you still had to be ready. You still had to watch every play and listen to every call because if someone got hurt or tired, your name might get called. "All right, Greg, you're in!"

You had to be ready to go, because the ball could be coming to you; there was a block you had to make; or you had to defend the goal line.

When Paul tells us to set our minds on the things above, he's telling us not to daydream or to let our minds wander. He's telling us to get focused—to get not only our heads—but our hearts and our bodies—*into* the game.

And if I hear the message of Colossians rightly, Paul is saying God has already chosen you in Jesus. So with your head in the clouds, keep your heart and mind pressing on for Him.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, give us eyes of faith to see clearly the life You have given us to live, with our hearts rejoicing in Your grace, and our minds set on the things above. Amen.

This Daily Devotion is excerpted from "Get Your Head in the Clouds," a message by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**.

Reflection Questions:

1. Did you learn any "life lessons" from playing sports as a kid? What were they?
2. What do you think the apostle Paul meant when he said the Christian's life is "hidden with Christ in God"?
3. Do you feel like you're alert and ready to act when life throws you an opportunity? Can you give any recent examples?

Today's Bible Readings: Exodus 36-38 Mark 4:1-20

LWML News

We have a new member Stephanie Lloyd. It is great to have her back living in Sylvan. Stephanie and members had a light lunch before the meeting was called to order. Coleen opened the meeting with Pastor Craig's lesson about how marriages fall apart and how to put them back together.

Spring 2020 will be a busy time for the members of Bethlehem's LWML. March and April will be busy for the Lincoln District LWMLs. Our Lincoln District is in charge of the 2020 Kansas District Convention on April 17- 19 at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Topeka. The theme: "Be Thou My Vision".

The Lincoln District Spring Rally is at Concordia Lutheran in Hoisington on Sunday March 29.

Bethlehem's LWML voted to serve Lenten meals on March 11 and April.

Campus Ministry will pack seven Valentine boxes for students away at other schools during the lull during the pancake supper. Ramie will lead the charge to pack the boxes during the lull at the pancake supper. Once again we welcome new member Stephanie Lloyd.

On February 5, 2020, after an informal snack time president Coleen Ancell called LWML to order at 7pm. Pastor Craig gave a lesson about how marriages fall apart and how to put them back together. Secretary Dohl read the minutes and Ramie Schulteis gave the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Committee - Emilie Wacker and Cheryl Gier found the treasurer's books for 2019 in order. Silent Auction made \$132 for our missions.

Banners - Shelly has changed banners in the sanctuary.

Campus - Ramie will send off 7 valentine boxes to students attending schools away from home.

Prayer Service will be March 8th in Ellsworth, Annie Dohl and Pastor Craig will be in charge.

We will serve Lenten meals On March 11 and April 1st.

Flowers - Shelly Keller and Shirley Krueger for March and Emily and Justine in April.

Brochure Rack - new member Stephani Lloyd will work with Pastor Craig to decide which brochures to order from Concordia Publishing.

OLD BUSINESS -

During the treasurer's report Cheryl Gier moved to pay checks to organizations as they stand on project list. Justine seconded and the motion passed. Cheryl Gier moved to give \$100 to Fairmont Ministry. Lois seconded and motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Kansas District Convention is April 17 - 19 at the Topeka Capital Plaza Hotel Convention Center. Shelly Keller VP of Communication to Ks district LWML would like have our members volunteer to help with directions or give out information or run the store.

By consensus LWML decided to host Lenten meals on March 11 and April 1.

Spring Rally will be in Hoisington on March 29.

Confirmation is March 29.

Discussions about carpet on front step and microphone in parish hall were postponed to another time.

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

10a.m. – Sunday School

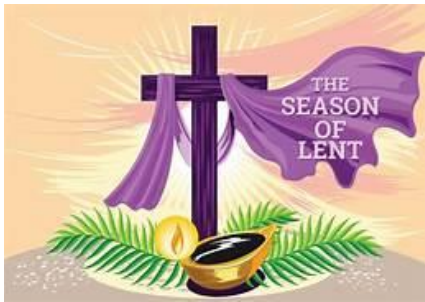
10 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

11 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays and some festivals)

3:45 p.m.-- Wednesday's Midweek

6:00 p.m. – Light supper served

7:00 p.m.-- Wednesday's Lenten Service



Come join us Wednesday nights

A light lunch will be served at 6 p.m.

Free will offering taken

Followed by

Lenten Worship Services @ 7 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
308 N Indiana Ave
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481-8835

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