



Business Meeting

Joint Council Reminder

The Parish's Joint Council will **meet on Tuesday, March 9th at 7pm at Samuel's**. Please note our meeting this month is a week later than normally scheduled, due to the Pastor's mission trip.



Your Pastor's Ponderings

As winter marches on, so do the days of Lent pass by. As I mentioned last month, Lent is a time to return to God – a time for reflection and self-examination of our Christian faith and disciplines, of our baptismal promises and practices. During Lent, we have been looking at these practices through the eyes of Luther – seeing how Luther perceives confession, the commandments, the creed, the Lord's prayer, baptism, and communion.

Sometimes though I think Luther, while insightful, can be a little intellectual and a bit stodgy for us. I like Luther but sometimes reading Luther can be a little like reading Paul – for every word I find enlightening there are twice as many that leave me scratching my head and re-reading, several times. So, not to dumb down Luther, but rather to put this idea of returning to the Lord in everyday perspectives, I want to share a little article that the Synod shared with me. I hope this article can provide a little more understanding for all of us as we continue our Lenten journey.

A Matter of Perspective

Isn't it funny how \$20 looks so big when you take it to church...and so small when you take it to the store?

Isn't it funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible...and how easy it is to read a best-selling book?

Isn't it funny how time-consuming it is to spend two hours at Bible study...how easy it is to watch a two-hour movie?

Isn't it funny how hard it is to help clean up after church events...and how easy it is to clean and polish our new car?

Isn't it funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray...but we don't have any difficulty talking on the phone or to a friend?

On second thought, maybe these things aren't so funny after all. Perhaps they reflect our mixed-up priorities. Maybe our problem is that we're viewing our commitment to God through the wrong end of a telescope.

Giving of ourselves to God...our time, talent, and money...adds meaning and pleasures to our lives. And that's how we return to the Lord.

Happy Lent...and also looking forward to seeing you at the empty tomb.

Pastor Will



Where Did You See God this week!

Please share your stories with Pastor Will about where you saw God this week by email, bulletin insert, writing a letter, leaving a message on the voice mail, or in person. **Please continue share with me where you see God in your lives.**

Example: I saw God in

I saw God _____



Pastor Will is praying for families in our directory because we all need God's care in our lives. **Please note people in this list are not sick or ill but are simply being prayed for this week as a way to remember the people of our parish throughout the year.**



VBS Follow Up Meeting in April

We have narrowed down our topics for VBS to Moses or Joseph in Egypt. We have currently ordered starter kits and will review them. We are planning on meeting on April 8th at 7pm at Mt. Calvary to finalize our theme and start working on workshops, decorations, and other details. If you would like to help with this planning, please make plans to join us.



Pancakes – REDUX

Although we canceled our pancake supper for last evening, we plan to hold a Pancake Brunch after worship on **Sunday, March 21st**. Keep the date, hold on to your appetite, and hopefully the weather will cooperate to allow us to have a time of fellowship, food, and fun.



There's Wisdom in the Word – Parish Bible Study

All are invited to come, pray, and study scripture as we continue to explore the People of Faith found in the Book of Faith. This month we continue to look at David: Israel's Favored but Flawed King. Before we examined David's rise to power, now we will look at

his flaws and the consequences those bring (Saul's death, David & Bathsheba, and the consequences that follow).

This month, we will meet on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7pm in the lounge at Messiah.



Lenten Midweek Worship Opportunities

We will continue our Lenten practice of mid-week Lenten soup suppers and worship services held in partnership with the Laurel Mountain Lutheran Cluster (the New Centerville Lutheran Parish, the Lavansville-Bakersville Parish, and St. Luke's in Rockwood).



Our mid-week Lenten schedule is as follows:

- March 3rd – Midweek: 6pm – Soup; 7pm – worship @St. Luke's (Rockwood)
- March 10th -- Midweek: 6pm – Soup; 7pm – worship @Messiah
- March 17th – Midweek: 6pm – Soup; 7pm – worship @Mt. Calvary (Lavansville)
- March 24th -- Midweek: 6pm – Soup; 7pm – worship @Samuel's

Our theme for the mid-week Lenten services is the Prayers of the Passion. Join us as we hear from various biblical characters as they recount their experience of watching Jesus journey to the cross. We will hear from such characters as Sarah & Leah, Herod & Pilate, Simon & Miriam, and Deborah & Deliah.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE **Holy Week Worship Preview**

March 28th – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday: Regular
Worship Times

April 1st – Maundy Thursday: 6:30pm @**Samuels**
Soup Supper followed by Holy Communion &
Hand Washing

April 2nd – Good Friday: 7pm @**SP** – Service of Tenebrae

April 4th – Easter Sunday: Resurrection of Our Lord
6:30am – Sunrise Service of Holy Communion @**M**

Followed by Easter Breakfast

8:30am – Holy Communion @**SP**

8-9:30am – Easter Breakfast @**Samuel's**

10am – Holy Communion @**Samuel's**



Rise N Shine with the Risen Lord

@**MESSIAH** – Following Easter Sunrise Service @**Messiah**, we invite all early risers to attend our annual Easter Breakfast. All may come and partake of a feast of Ham N Eggs. Anyone who can stick around and help clean up after the meal (before heading home to Easter dinner) your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

@**SAMUEL'S** – In the glow of Easter's early morning, before Holy Communion, we invite everyone to come to their annual Easter Breakfast before worship (April 4) from 8AM to 9:30AM. Come and enjoy great food and good company.



Confirmation- Schedule for March

March 7th – 5pm: Class @**MZ**

March 14th – 5pm: Class @**MZ**

March 21st – 5pm: Class @**MZ**

March 28th – 2pm: Lenten Food Collection Drive, Meet at Mt. Calvary

REMINDERS TO 3RD YEAR CONFIRMANDS

1) Day of Confirmation is: MAY 31st

2) How are you coming on your service project?
Talk to Pastor Will if questions

3) Don't forget to select a Bible verse to read at your
Confirmation

4) Don't forget to Turn in your Affirmation of Faith Report **by**
May 15th

PS – Info about your Affirmation of Faith Report may be found in the material you received at the beginning of the year. If you need a refresher, please call Pastor Will at 926-2215.



What's with that Bread and Wine we eat in Church?" – First Communion Class

Pastor Will is looking to hold a first communion class after Easter. This class will help children understand the meaning of communion and just what's going on with that Bread and Wine we eat every other Sunday. All parents who have children who they would like to participate in this class, please contact Pastor Will by March 28th. Let him know of your interest so he can have some idea of how many might come. In addition, a parent or parents are asked to attend this class with their children.

Suggested Dates –

Saturday, April 10th – 10:30am til Noon

Saturday, April 17th – 1pm til 2:30pm

Saturday, April 24th – 10:30am til Noon



On the Horizon: Worship Happenings in March

March 7th – Luther Looks at the Lord's Prayer Sunday

In his explanation of the second commandment, Luther encourages believers to use the name of God in every trouble, "to pray, praise and give thanks to God." Through using the Lord's Prayer, each Christian has the privilege of talking with God personally.

March 14th – Luther Looks at Holy Baptism Sunday (Pulpit Swap)

In a world where we are led to believe that everything depends upon our own actions, in baptism we are reminded that the action is God's. The event is significant not because we come to the font, but because God calls us to faith and now, in the water connected to God's promise, makes us forgiven children of God.

On this day, as a sign of our partnership in ministry and in the parish, Pastor Elisa and I will be swapping pulpits to share God's word.

March 21st – Luther looks at Communion Sunday

Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. The words "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin" show us that forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament through these words, because where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation.

March 28th – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Today, we start off with shouts of joy, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" and before you know it we hear those horrible words, "Crucify, crucify him!" This day is an awful reminder of how easy it is for us to shift from proclaiming our love of Jesus to denying him. On the cross we come to face the haunting reality that it is not our faithfulness, our good deeds, our righteousness that saves us.

It is Jesus and only Jesus whose righteousness makes us righteous. It is Jesus' faithfulness to the Father that we trust our lives to.