

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Lent is getting a late start this year. Ash Wednesday is March 5th and Easter Sunday is, April 20th. (In case you didn't know: the latest possible date for Easter is April 25.)

Throughout this penitential season of Lent, I encourage all of you to take advantage of our midweek services on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. (Starting March 12th we will also have soup suppers before the evening services beginning at 5:45.)

Lent is a valuable time of repentance and fasting intended to interrupt the ordinary pace of life and get us focusing on what Christ has done for us. By remembering His suffering and dying, we are reminded of the seriousness of our sin and the awful price paid. This, in turn, naturally reminds us of our need to repent of our sins and seek to do better. Along those lines, our Lenten theme this year is a series called Reflections on Repentance. The series was published by Northwestern Publishing House and written by Pastor Daniel Babinec of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The series will guide us on a deep dive into Psalm 51. As we have recently discussed in our Sunday morning class on 2nd Samuel, this penitential psalm was written by King David on the occasion of his great fall from grace. Although he was a man after God's own heart (1st Sam. 13:14) he nevertheless committed the great sins of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah (2nd Samuel 13). God sent Nathan the prophet to confront King David and upon facing what he had done, he repented. For a week he fasted and prayed and wrote psalms. Taking a close look at one of these psalms will guide us in our own need for repentance.

Again, I encourage all of you to join us for these services.

PrS

From the author of Reflections on Repentance:

King David understood repentance intimately. In his Spirit-inspired psalms, he taught all aspects of repentance and its intimate connection with the grace of God. Perhaps nowhere else are more characteristics of a repentant heart taught than in Psalm 51. Therefore, in the penitential season of Lent—as we walk the passion path to Calvary with our Savior and solemnly reflect both on the sins that caused him to suffer and die and on the love that moved him to do so—it is good to unpack this great penitential psalm and mine the spiritual gold therein.

That is the idea behind this sermon series. It seeks to teach what repentance is on the basis of Psalm 51, considering not only the verses of the psalm but also the background of the psalm: perhaps the greatest fall from grace and call to repentance in Scripture. In King David we all see ourselves: needing God's grace so deeply and receiving it with such appreciation. This series seeks to identify and proclaim the manifold aspects, or characteristics, of repentance. Above all, it aims to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, the culmination of all of history and the reason that repentance is such a wondrous gift for the eternal life of even the worst of sinners. May the Spirit enlighten and empower God's people to a deeper understanding and stronger faith in Jesus!



A Letter from Our Deaconess Intern

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It's hard to believe I'm already over halfway through my internship year here with you all! This year has gone by *fast* and (as I've been told by many who are older and wiser than me) that feeling only gets worse as you age. As the Seminary's deaconess program states, all interns are required to organize a sort of "outreach program" at some point during the course of their internship year. As the name suggests, this is a vague directive which is simultaneously very helpful - because it means I have the freedom to put together almost any kind of program my heart desires - and incredibly less-than-helpful - because it also means there are way too many options and interests for me to choose from. For those of you who haven't already heard, I will be facilitating a "Witnessing 101 small group" of sorts.

Though we are not one of the Twelve, Christ's Great Commission in Matthew 29 applies to all who follow Him - we bear His name as Christians after all! Much like the phrase "outreach program," the subjects of "witnessing" and "evangelism" sound both very focused - and also incredibly vague. However, when one hears either word, they may conjure up a mental image of a group of people going door-to-door to proclaim the Gospel to unsuspecting (and often unappreciative) neighbors, or of a street preacher urging all who pass by to "repent and believe!" Although those might be good evangelistic tactics in a different place, culture, or century, they are not usually effective forms of outreach today. So, what are we to do as "everyday evangelists"? It's a lot more focused (and vague!) than you might think.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

That's it! Really! I could be done with this newsletter article now, but I feel like I'd be cheating if I didn't expand on this a bit more and give you ways to consider how this may all apply to your everyday life. Although, that is what my outreach project will be about - wink, wink, nudge, nudge. 😊

When it comes to the Great Commission, Christ gave us a "cheat sheet" on Witnessing 101. I could get into discipleship, baptism, teaching and preaching, but we'll keep it "simple" and focus on the Holy Spirit. Let's face it, not everyone is born with the makings to be a renowned evangelist, but we are each gifted with the same Spirit. The Holy Spirit, in turn, grants us what we need to be faithful witnesses for the time, context, and century our Father has placed us in. Now does that mean we can go up to anybody and their dog and say "Jesus is Lord!" and expect fruit to come of that interaction? Not exactly. Yes, the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways (and works in spite of our own daily failings), but we are to be focused in our witnessing efforts. This means that we are to be both in the Word and in the world - just not *of* it.

If you are a Christian, you are already a witness of Christ to everyone around you - especially to those you have relationships with. Whether it's your children and spouse, your friends and family, or your neighbors and co-workers - what you say and do is a witness to what you believe and Who you believe in. If you act and speak harshly, the people in your life who are not Christians will see that behavior and associate that with their own mental image of Him. You are a witness in all you say and do. We are to be witnesses to the world of Christ and His love, not behaving exactly like everyone else in it.

So, what does it mean to be a witness? Put simply, it means you say what you know to be true. You "bear witness" about something (or Someone!) you have knowledge about. Do we have to know everything there is to know about our Lord to be a "good" witness? No! Even going to a seminary to study won't get you that far. That's where *faith* comes in, so we can speak on what we may not have physically seen for ourselves. We know faith comes from the Holy Spirit, but we don't always know how it works - e.g. we know for certain that the Holy Spirit works faith in us through Holy Baptism (Jn. 3:5; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Cor. 12:13; etc.), yet He always works when, where, and how He wills (Titus 3:4-8) - even through a thief on a cross! (Luke 23:39-43)

Witnessing is something that we do daily without even realizing it, which makes the ins and outs of it all very vague. However, it is focused in that witnessing and evangelism is never about us, it is solely about God and what He has

already done for us. What we say and do will certainly paint a picture of Christ that may, at times, reflect a poor image of Him. Yet God, through the Holy Spirit, can and does continue to work in the lives of others despite our own failings. Does He need us in order to work His will in the world? Not at all. He chooses us to be the “gloves on His hands” to show His love, mercy, and grace to others who do not yet know Him - because despite our messy depiction of Him, He can work *all things* for our good and for His glory (Phil. 2:13).

In Christ's love,

Julie Baumann
Deaconess Intern

For those of you who have already shown interest in the Everyday Evangelists small group, we will meet once a week starting Monday, **March 17th. The group will go for 6-ish weeks, depending on just how quickly we work through the book each week. We will read through Rev. Dr. Mark Wood's book, "Connected to Christ: Witnessing in Everyday Life," which is just one book of many in his "Connected to Christ" series. We will have discussions on the weekly readings, watch a few videos, and look for ways we can apply what we learn to our daily lives with those we already have relationships with. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please email me at julie@planolutheran.com to sign up!

**Please note I have not set a specific time yet, as I may need to split the small group into two groups, depending on how many more people show interest. I will let those interested know the finalized meeting time(s) by March 9th. We will likely meet in the late afternoon/early evening.



5	Mark Conrad
7	Caroline Loewecke
8	Jonah Sullivan
9	Karen Ashburn
9	Joanna Smith
9	Bob & Linda Hixson (57)
10	Tom & Carol Read (46)
11	Ambrosia Ave-Lallemant
11	Glenn & Marcia Huebel (47)
13	Pastor Joel Shaltanis
14	Shelby Lund
16	Russ & Brooke Wilkerson (23)
18	Greg Kostrzewa
19	Steven & Sara Tweedie (14)
20	Sarah Nuschler
23	Charles Gabriel
25	Steven Tweedie
27	Mark Ziegelbein
29	Cheryl Tyler
29	Alex & Catherine Duff (17)

Service Times during
Lent

Sunday Services

8:00 and 10:45 AM

Wednesday Services:

1:00 and 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday

1:00 and 7:00 PM

Good Friday

7:30 PM

Teen Times

Wait! It's March already! We sure did sail through the first two months of 2025 and it seems like plans and events that we added to our calendars a long time ago are now upon us or fast approaching. With the season of lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5, we now need to add mid-week soup suppers and worship services to our calendars as well as the special services during Holy Week leading up to the celebration of our Savior's resurrection on Easter Sunday. As far as youth ministry is concerned, we are adding dates to our proverbial planner for several things. Monthly youth nights or youth events are ongoing (i.e. the Stand to Reason Apologetics Conference in February), but plans are also underway this time of the year for summer activities and the annual trip to the Higher Things Youth Conference. Grand Rapids, Michigan is the setting for this year's conference where the theme will be "All Things New" based on Revelation 21:5;

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new."

As usual, one of the staples for planning such a trip is youth ministry fundraisers. We are continually grateful for the generosity and participation on display from Lord of Life members in supporting the youth ministry in this fashion. Back by popular demand, we would like to host two breakfast fundraisers for everyone to enjoy while also being fed with the Word of God during the Bible class hour on Sunday mornings. Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, June 1 to support our youth ministry with a free will donation while dining on a delicious morning meal.

It should be shared that the proceeds from fundraising events are not directed toward one specific youth activity. Yes, Higher Things is a major part of our annual youth ministry plans, but fundraising allows youth and parents to participate and engage in all of the activities throughout the year. We look forward to seeing and serving everyone on March 30.

Until next time, God bless.

Scott Peters



Youth night with Immanuel, Sunday, March 9, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

For providing meals, keeping us in your prayers and asking how we are doing, thank you so much.

I am so grateful for this church that has taught us all about receiving the love of Christ through His believers. Every meal brought such joy during this hard time. We are so blessed!

Thank you

Sincerely,
Sara, Steve, Sean and Mariel

prepare for worship in march

March 2: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Texts: Deut. 34:1-12; Heb. 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36
HotD: "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair," 413

March 5: Ash Wednesday, 1 & 7 PM

March 9: First Sunday in Lent

Texts: Deut. 26:1-11; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

HotD: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," 656

March 12: Midweek Lenten Service, 1 & 7 PM

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent

Texts: Jer. 26:8-15; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
HotD: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," 708

March 19: Midweek Lenten Service, 1 & 7 PM

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent

Texts: Ezek. 33:7-20; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

HotD: "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," 824

March 26: Midweek Lenten Service, 1 & 7 PM

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Is. 12:1-6 2; Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

HotD: "God Loved the World So That He Gave," 571

ord of Life Small Groups

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth
BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com
- † Usually meets one Sunday a month in the afternoon or evening

FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or speters@planolutheran.com
- † Usually meets on Saturday a month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., March 8 at 6:30 PM for Bible study

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Lauren Moudy at laurenemoudy@gmail.com or (214) 415-8939
- † Will meet Sun, March 16 at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner

Congregational Work Day

Join the crew on

Saturday, April 12
9AM

Help get our church into top shape in preparation for Holy Week and the celebration on Easter Sunday.

Lunch will be provided.

A list of "tools to bring" will be announced later.

Contact Scott P. for more information.