

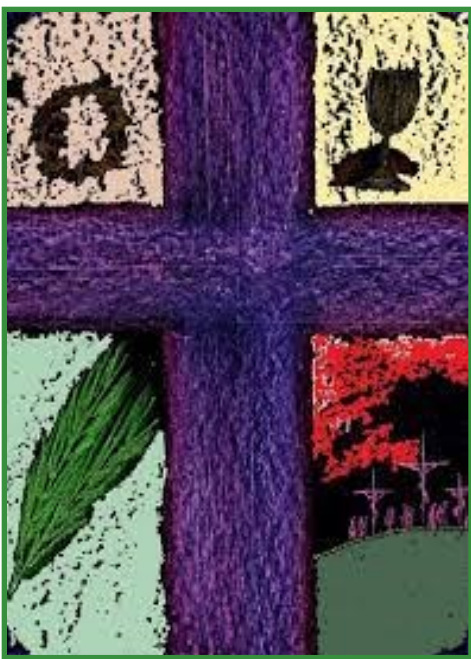
Our Redeemer's Voice

March 2024



STUCK IN THE MIDDLE ...

When you receive this newsletter, we will still be in the season of Lent. It is good to have this season last as long as it does because we get the opportunity to learn some patience. We are given the time to absorb the richness and beauty of the Lenten season. There is no beauty in our sinful wanderings that lead us away from God, from fellowship with one another, and from fellowship with the Lord's church. There is beauty in the searching of our savior Jesus, how He finds us, pulls us up from the pit, and teaches us mercy and forgiveness.



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The Lenten season needs the time that it has. Often we need to realize how sharply our words have hurt someone else, how deeply an action of ours wounded someone else. We blithely flit away after saying words of judgment or hostility and then when we find out that the other person feels hurt, we criticize them for being too thin-skinned. It is not our place to judge the thickness of someone else's protective layer. Maybe their skin has been rubbed down by cruelty and callousness until all that is left to protect them is phyllo-dough thick?

And maybe it is not just another person we have judged or wounded... perhaps we have wounded the Lord and His Church. Maybe we have judged the Lord for not doing what we wanted when we wanted Him to do it? Perhaps we have judged the Lord for not bending to our ideas and seeing how good and perfect our ways are?

Lent gives us time to see that the Lord Jesus comes to us to take the punishment for our cruelty to God and others and faithlessness to the Lord's Word. We have time to contemplate what our Lord endured on our behalf and how we are the recipients of unending love and grace.

Lent began in mid- February and runs throughout March. Palm Sunday is March 24th, beginning the great Holy Week. There is no other week like it.

Palm Sunday is when palm branches were cut and laid across the rutted road with cloaks placed on top of them. This made a level road for King Jesus to enter Jerusalem. And while Jesus was riding that donkey, palm branches were waved victoriously to shouts of Hosanna! We'll have church that morning at 10 a.m., beginning the service with the reading of the Palm Sunday Gospel and including the celebration of the Lord's Supper in the service. Bible class will take place at 8:45, perhaps with a deeper exploration of the events of that week.

Maundy Thursday worship will be held at 7p.m. on the 28th. This is the night of the foot washing, of the command/mandate to 'love one another as I have loved you.' It is also the night of the *(next page)*

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Reverend Jeremy Loesch

(from page 1) new and final Passover, the Lord Jesus being the sacrificial lamb by whose blood we are cleansed from all sin. Our service will conclude with the stripping of the altar. This is designed to mirror the humiliation of our Lord Jesus. In His betrayal, arrest, and beatings Jesus was humiliated. Our lovely chancel area, with lovely candelabra and appointments and vessels, will be made bare. Our lovely things will be taken away.

Every day this week is a high day, Good Friday may rise above them all. This is the day our Lord died, truly being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. To the world this is loss; for the believer this is victory and release. What appeared to Satan and Death as triumph with Jesus on the cross was actually a dagger to their heart. Our Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers service will be at 7p.m. on March 29th.

Easter, the Day of Resurrection, is March 31st. Festival worship will be at 10am and a fun breakfast will be held at 9a.m. You can find details about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

But this is certainly the Week of weeks. We look forward to this time, giving thanks to God for all the gifts He sends our way, giving thanks for not rejecting us but including us in His righteous plan of salvation. I look forward to worshipping the Lord and celebrating with you in our services.

Education News

You may want an update or two regarding some of the opportunities for learning we have in our congregation. First of all, we hold Bible class every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.. At this time we are studying the lessons from Isaiah that we will hear in our worship services this year. I've found this to be an interesting study, discovering the connections to the Gospel lessons and seeing the fulfillment of these prophecies. At present we record the videos to our YouTube channel and a link is sent out either Sunday afternoon or on Monday.

And we have begun Confirmation instruction! Rebekah is our student and classes are held Friday evenings. Rebekah and I ask for your prayers, that the Lord would shine His light upon our lessons, that our faith in Jesus would grow deep roots necessary for our life in this world.

Men's Ministry Update

We've begun a men's ministry at our church. It's a group with pretty simple goals... to eat and drink and talk. There has been a noticeable, society-wide need for companionship and support the last few years (and probably longer than that.) So far the group has met twice. At the most recent gathering we did some work on a service project, which we collectively agreed would be a good thing for our group to do. So far, so good. And we plan on meeting the last Saturday of every month at 8a.m. Coffee is provided and it is bring your own breakfast.



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

God's abundant grace, peace, and provision be with us all! Pastor

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

SOUPEL BOWL'S SUCCESS—The race to the "souper" bowl here at Our Redeemer was a huge success! Pastor delivered the donations of soups, chili and other canned or boxed meals to Lutheran Community Services following the campaign. The Kansas City Chiefs may have taken home the Super Bowl title, but the real winners were the ones in our community who will benefit from a hot meal this winter... for families who may be struggling to make ends meet. Thank you all for helping make this fun event a success!



BUILD A BAG... For 30 plus years the ladies of Our Redeemer have been making sleeping bags for the homeless in the Newark and surrounding areas. It is estimated that over 500 sleeping bags have been made and donated over that time. You can help. No sewing skills required. Read more about this mission in the April edition of *Our Redeemer's Voice*.

FINDING LIGHT, HOPE AND CONTENTMENT



This Lenten Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.

As [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." (John 9:1-5)

Have you ever had somebody judge you for a misfortune that happened to you? "God must have cursed you," they said. "You did something wrong."

That's a horrible thing to hear when you're already suffering. And maybe you begin to wonder: What if they're right?

But Jesus makes it clear that this is wrong. People suffer for many reasons, most of them have nothing to do with punishment. God calls us to react to suffering like Jesus does—with kindness and mercy. Look at the effect His gentle care had on the man! Within hours the man has been condemned by the religious leaders and denied by his parents. And yet when Jesus finds him later, the man is not complaining. He learns who Jesus is—the One God sent to be our Savior—and he worships Him. As long as he has Jesus, he is content.

We too can find hope, light, and contentment in Jesus. He has given His own life for us, that we might live in the light of His resurrection forever. How could He possibly not help us in our suffering now with all mercy, love, and gentleness? **WE PRAY:** Savior, be the light in my darkest times. Amen.

OUR REDEEMER NEWS & NOTES



Photo by Bob

SECURITY MEASURES, LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT—Lights have been replaced at the back of the church and solar power motion lights added to the shed to give more light in the far corner of the parking lot. (Pictures, Left)

FENCE IS GOING UP—The Property Board has begun construction of the cable fence that will be installed around the turn around at the end of Johnson Road. The purpose of this fence is to prevent motor vehicles from driving on Church property and creating tire tracks that must be repaired. The Church has experienced several instances of "joy riding" over the last several years from vehicles driving off the turnaround. The Property Board would like to thank Pastor Leosch, Arlen Besel, Steven Debenedetto, Robert Ford and Kirk Tackitt for their measuring, cutting and assembly of fence posts in this effort. Additional thanks goes to Ace Hardware of Rising Sun Dannon Cooley for the donation of a 6" auger in which to dig the holes for each post. Also, for Sharron and Ed Boyle for their generous donation of the marine cable used to



Photo by Bob



Photo by Mary Beth

run between each post. These donations saved the Church several hundreds of dollars in material and rental costs, and everyone's help saved time and a lot of back pain and sore muscles.—Bob



BREAK OUT YOUR RAKES & POLISH— Save the dates! March 16 & 23. Easter is early this year, so is the church yard clean up. Bring your rakes on the 16th at 10 a.m. If it's still a bit chilly, we promise to break out the coffee and cocoa. If it is raining, or snowing, we will work inside on windows and pews. If we do work outside on the 16th, we will work inside on the 23rd. Please contact Bob to let him know you will be there. "Many hands make light work!" Remember, both days are work dates. Mark your calendar.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN—Hours extended 9-1:30 on Saturdays & 10-2:30 on Wednesdays. Come help sort and pack. See Ruth for more info.

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL HOUR—Social & fellowship hour is held on the 3rd Sunday each month. We ask that 2 to 3 people bring items such as simple snacks, desserts, finger foods, etc. Next fellowship is March 17.—*Lina*

BIBLE STUDY—Each Sunday at 8:45 a.m. You can also participate online as we explore the book of Isaiah.

DEADLINE—For information to be included in Sunday's bulletin is Tue. morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of each month.

BUILD A BAG SEEKS SUPPLIES —We are in short supply for razors, hats, gloves, toothpaste, ChapStick, socks, small hand towels and cotton crochet thread. There is a basket in the overflow room to place these items. Join us on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to help make sleeping bags for the homeless. No sewing experience required. Thank You – *Marybeth, Lina, and Ruth*

LUTHERAN WOMAN IN MISSION— Spring Rally Saturday April 20, 2024 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 9 a.m.—2 p.m. See flyer on page 5.

AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING PROTOCOLS—Please shut all doors to rooms not being used to help with cooling efficiency during the summer and winter months.—*Bob*

CHECA MEETING—March 11 at 7 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING — March 19 via Zoom.

ORCHARD GARDEN REGISTRATION — Saturday, Mar. 23, 10 a.m. at Our Redeemer. The steering committee once again applied for the NCCD Urban Farmers Garden Grant to construct another 10 raised beds.



OR



The deadline is March 7th. The award will be announced around March 25th. We have a potential logo. Kathy has used her talent to

develop a some ideas that would go on a new sign for the garden. Please let Robin know which one is your favorite.

MEN'S BREAKFAST— All men are invited to join us Sat. Mar. 30th at 8 a.m. for fellowship. All men and those in your household are invited to talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We make the coffee. Group discussions and possible service projects that can be done at church, or in neighborhood explored.



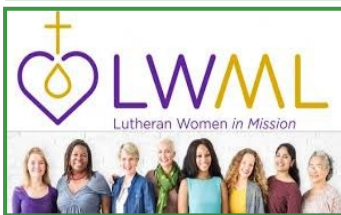
WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES—Services begin at 7 p.m. followed by fellowship. We hope everyone will attend and hear the blessings of God's word. -*Lina*

EASTER CELEBRATION —Our Redeemer will celebrate this Holy day with a fellowship breakfast before the service at 10 a.m. There will be a variety of casseroles and breakfast items available. If you would like to participate a sign-up sheet will be available for food items and attendance in the Narthex. Please plan to attend with family and friends to celebrate and rejoice the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Lina We look forward to seeing everyone. God's Blessing, Congregational Life—*Lina*

EASTER FLOWERS —You may also order Easter flowers to brighten the church on this glorious day through March 22. Payment should be made out to Our Redeemer with a notation (Easter Flowers). Hyacinths, daffodils, and Tulips are \$11 a pot. Lilies are \$12. You may call the office to order or sign up on the Narthex or Commons

Room bulletin boards. You may also donate altar flowers for Palm Sunday or Easter. The cost is \$40 for two spays. If you would like to purchase the palms for Palm Sunday the cost is \$6.00.

LOOK FOR THE LIGHT A LWML DEVOTION SUBMITTED BY MARYBETH



A Circle of Light Devotion: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps. 27:1)."

The trip had been long--almost 550 miles round-trip for a brief meeting. Car trouble, a large repair bill, and an unexpected stay in a strange town had added to the stress. But traveling alone was the hardest part. Recently widowed, she was not yet accustomed to the miles of quiet. She missed the warm and friendly chat-

ter that had been a part of so many trips in the past. Miles sped by and darkness came. "Thank You, God, for getting me this far. Please take me safely home tonight," she prayed. Suddenly, coming over a small hill she saw a breathtaking sight! On the prairie was a gigantic circle of lights-lights of homes and farms, irrigation wells and feedlots, radio towers and small towns. It reminded her of John 8:12, Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." As she drove on, a new and comforting thought entered her mind. "That is a picture of my life. It reminds me of all the times that God has been with me in the past." She thought of the parents who had lived the Christian faith they taught her, the teachers and friends who had challenged her, and the loving husband who had encouraged and supported her. As her eyes scanned the horizon, each light brought another memory. Some brought a smile; others brought pain; but through them all echoed Jesus' promise, "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20). The lights of her own small town grew brighter. Soon she would be safely home, and for that she would thank God again. She also prayed that she would remember the circle of lights and Jesus' promise. Personal Challenge: Choose a light to symbolize God's presence in your life: the welcoming brightness of your own porch light, the eternal light in your church, the lighted digital dial of your alarm clock. Each time you see that light, thank God that He is with you, surrounding you with His light and love.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for traveling each step of life with me. Thank You for being the Light that shines through every joy and every sorrow. Forgive me when my faith flickers and grows dim. Help me to remember that Your love for me is always strong and bright. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All Scripture references are from the ESV. A Circle of Light by Myrna Lou Meyer, Edmond, OK Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League

SPRING RALLY



Lutheran Women
in Mission
LWML

Bloom where you are planted.

**Saturday, April 20, 2024
9am-2pm**

Continental Breakfast	Service Project Craft
Bible Study	Business Meeting
Speaker	Door Prizes!
Lunch	Fellowship

Ingathering:

*NEW Men's Socks to be distributed to the homeless

*Canned Goods

*We will also have a freewill offering.

RSVP by March 30 to
omalleykathmar@gmail.com
or cannavoam@gmail.com

Let us know if babysitting services will be needed.

LOCATION:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
10 Johnson Road, Newark, DE





LUTHERANS AROUND US

The intensity of March is upon us, bringing a full schedule, mid-term exams, and lots of studying for our students. Nonetheless, they continue to prioritize Christian community and growing in faith. This spring, five students are taking part in our Bible study on the Gospel of Luke, in addition to attending weekly worship. Fun activities over the past month have included ice skating, coffee together at Brew-Ha-Ha, and an afternoon of board games with the "Youtherans" (local Lutheran high schoolers) at our chapel.

Planning is under way for a spring retreat, as well as special May events to honor our four graduating seniors. These wonderful student leaders joined LCM when gatherings needed to be via Zoom all the time. As such, they've brought a unique spirit of gratitude, appreciation, and joy as meals, gatherings, activities, and retreats have been added back, little by little, into the LCM experience during their tenure at UD.

We're looking for new members for our Directing Committee (governing board), as well as for LCM sub-committees like property care and Mutual Ministry. If you have a heart for young adults and would like to get more involved in Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please reach out. Thank you!

If you'd like to visit LCM this spring for a Tuesday dinner at our lovely chapel at 247 Haines Street, please do. We enjoy spending time with members of local congregations and with other LCM supporters. You might consider teaming up with friends to bring a home-cooked meal for students. For more information, please call our office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are always grateful for the dinners and shared fellowship.

Thank you for your ongoing support, care, and prayers! Please continue to pray that our LCM students will daily grow in faith, leadership, discipleship, and service, to the glory of God and for the good of our wider community. Thank you, and God bless you!

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service +
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD 302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*



LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT—(3/3) Communion

LENT WEDNESDAY— (3/6) Service at 7 p.m. Join us fellowship following the service.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT— (3/10) Worship

LENT WEDNESDAY— (3/13) Service at 7 p.m. Join us fellowship following the service..

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—(3/17) Worship 10 a.m. Join in fellowship after service.

LENT WEDNESDAY— (3/20) Join us fellowship following the service.

PALM SUNDAY— (3/24) Communion 10 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY— (3/28) Service at 7 p.m. Communion. join us fellowship after service..

GOOD FRIDAY— (3/29) Service at 7 p.m. Join us fellowship after the service..

EASTER SUNDAY— (3/31) Communion, Easter Breakfast and Childrens Easter Egg Hunt beginning 9 a.m.

WHY YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT MATTERS— No one wants to imagine themselves in an emergency, but being prepared is crucial. The emergency contact provides an important role in the event that you cannot be reached. Soon you will receive a form asking for emergency contacts. If for some reason we cannot contact you, we want to be able to call a neighbor, a friend or a family member who we can call for a wellness check.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS
Happy Birthday!







12 Scott K.
13 Carl K.



MARCH 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SERVING — Pastor Jeremy Loesch ORGANIST — J. Hockersmith USHERS Arlen Besel Dennis Boon Jim Rose	STREAMING 3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31	LECTORS 3/3 Arlen 3/10 Keven 3/17 Robin 3/24 Mike 3/31 Julie			1	2
3 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS2 10 a.m. Sunday School 	4	5 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9
10 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS2 10 a.m. Sunday School	11 CHECA 7 p.m.	12 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	13 Lenten Service 7 pm Fellowship After	14	15	16 Yard/church Cleanup 10 a.m.
17 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS3 10 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship after service Congregational Meeting	18 Pastor radio show interview with KFYO St. Louis at Noon.	19 Announcement Deadline. Build A Bag 10 a.m. Council Meeting	20 Lenten Service 7 pm Fellowship After Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 Yard/church cleanup 10 a.m. Garden Registration 10 a.m.
24 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS3 10 a.m. Sunday School PALM SUNDAY 	25	26 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	27	28 Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. Communion 	29 Good Friday Service 7 p.m.	30 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
Communion DS3 10 a.m. Sunday School EASTER 	31					

MARCH BIBLE READINGS

- 1 Isaiah 64:1-9
Numbers 16-18
- 2 Psalm 85
Numbers 19-21
- 3 Psalm 86
Numbers 22-24
- 4 Psalm 87
Numbers 25-27
- 5 Psalm 88
Numbers 28-30
- 6 Psalm 89
Numbers 31-33
- 7 Psalm 90
Numbers 34-36
- 8 Psalm 91
Deuteronomy 1-3
- 9 Psalm 92
Deuteronomy 4-6
- 10 Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 7-9
- 11 Psalm 94
Deuteronomy 10-12
- 12 Psalm 95
Deuteronomy 13-15
- 13 Psalm 96
Deuteronomy 16-18
- 14 Psalm 97
Deuteronomy 19-21
- 15 Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 22-24
- 16 Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 25-27
- 17 Psalm 100
Deuteronomy 28-30



*Read a little
each day and
you will get
through the
entire Bible in
one year*

- 18 Psalm 101
Deuteronomy 31-34
- 19 Psalm 102
Luke 1
- 20 Psalm 103
Luke 2-3
- 21 Psalm 104
Luke 4-5
- 22 Psalm 105
Luke 6-7
- 23 Psalm 106
Luke 8-9
- 24 Psalm 107
Luke 10-11
- 25 Psalm 108
Luke 12-13
- 26 Psalm 109
Luke 14-15
- 27 Psalm 110
Luke 16-17
- 28 Psalm 111
Luke 18-19
- 29 Psalm 112
Luke 20-21
- 30 Psalm 113
Luke 22
- 31 Isaiah 64:1-9
Luke 23-24

