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## March 2023 Newsletter

*"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."*

### *THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MARY*

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Lenten greetings to you all,

In the February newsletter I noted that LENT is a Church Season observed by many Christians in the days preceding Easter Sunday each year. It begins every year with the somber practice of the imposition of ashes during our Ash Wednesday Worship. In the service we are reminded of our mortality and our dependence on God when we hear the words "Remember, we are dust and unto dust we shall return." And yet, because the ashes are formed in the shape of the cross, we are reminded of the goodness and promises of God created through the death of our Savior, Jesus Christ. These cross-shaped ash marks on our foreheads remind us God has done something LIFE-CHANGING in the world, and we are invited to be part of it...and share it with others.

Have you thought about ways you and your household can live into this Season of Lent in a way that distinguishes it from the rest of the year? I'd like to offer a few suggestions:

- 1) Simply make attending worship (Sunday and/or Wednesday) a priority.
- 2) Make time to PRAY. This could be at meal time, at bedtimes, or setting aside a time in the day when you just sit and talk with God. IDEA: Have family members write names of persons, places, events, or news item on pieces of paper and place these in a basket or jar on the kitchen table. Each day a new slip of paper is pulled out and someone in the family says a prayer for whatever/whomever is named on the paper.
- 3) FASTING which could take the form of giving up a particular food; it could be turning off electronic devices for a set amount of time each day/week to free yourself to engage in conversations with others or enjoy some game time. IDEA: It could be the simple practice of collecting one item/day to donate to a good cause, which would be forty or more items you can share with others.
- 4) Assess our relationship with God and others. Confession doesn't have to be limited to Sunday worship time. God encourages us to free ourselves of the burden of the sins we commit by sharing them with God and asking forgiveness. IDEA: Maybe you could just focus on one relationship in your life that has been hurt by things said/not said, actions taken/or not taken.

These 40 days of Lent are a gift to us, because they offer us the opportunity to grow closer to God and better prepare us for the shocking...and yet life-changing events of Holy Week and Easter. Let's journey together and support one another this Lent. --- Pr. Mary Eide

## *FUTURE DATES for 2023*

Sun. 4/2 *Palm Sunday Worship* (10am) with Sunday School Children Singing/Luther Park Promo  
Wed. 4/5 *Senior Holy Week Lunch* (Noon) and *Worship* (1pm)  
Thur. 4/6 *Maundy Thursday Worship* (7pm)  
Fri. 4/7 *Red Cross Blood Drive* (Noon-6pm)  
Fri. 4/7 *Good Friday Worship* (3pm and 7pm)  
Sun. 4/9 *Easter Sunday Worship* (10am)  
Sat. 4/22 *Women's Day of Renewal 8am-1pm* @ Central Lutheran (see article)  
Sat. 4/22 *Spring Clean* at Luther Park  
Sun. 4/23 *Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday Worship* (10am)  
Sat. 4/29 *Northwest Synod of WI Synod Assembly* (in Rice Lake this year)  
Sun. 5/14 *Elk Mound Baccalaureate Service* (7:30pm) at Trinity United Methodist Church



## *WEATHER RELATED CANCELATIONS*

We will be posting any closures on our Facebook page and will get an email out to those on the Feeding the Flock email list. If Elk Mound School district closes school early or cancels school our church activities will be cancelled.

## GATHERING

**Lenten Service -- Soup Supper at 6pm.** Come join us for Lenten service. Come early at 6 pm to enjoy fellowship and soup followed by the *Holden Evening Prayer Service* at 7pm. (3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29) Interested in joining our choir on Wednesdays? We could use 1, 2 or 3 more folks.

THEME FOR MIDWEEK WORSHIP: *"Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet"* will focus on the importance of our reading God's Word...the Bible... and knowing key verses within it. Pastor Mary is looking for individuals to simply share with us *what their favorite Bible verse is AND why it is important to them.* Ideally, we would have 2-3 people each Wednesday introduce themselves and then share the above information with the congregation. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Mary Eide at [meide@luthersem.edu](mailto:meide@luthersem.edu) ; call/text her at 715.308.0652, or talk to her at church.

### **SOUP SUPPER SIGN UP**

3/8/23 SOUP: Dempski (Mata Ball); Hollister (Tomato Basil); OPEN SPOT  
SANDWICHES: Jenson (Ham); Eide; Hollister (Grilled Cheese)  
DESSERT/FRUIT: Webb; Sessions; OPEN SPOT

3/15/23 SOUP: Jenson (chicken noodle); 2 OPEN SPOTS  
SANDWICHES: Dempski (Egg Salad); 2 OPEN SPOTS  
DESSERT/FRUIT: Carothers; Jenson; Edie Litzkow

3/22/23 SOUP: Eide (Chili); Edie Litzkow (Hamburger vegetable); 1 OPEN SPOT  
SANDWICHES: 3 OPEN SPOTS  
DESSERT/FRUIT: Dempski; 2 OPEN SPOTS

3/29/23 SOUP: Dempski (Borscht); 2 OPEN SPOTS  
SANDWICHES: 3 OPEN SPOTS  
DESSERT/FRUIT: 3 OPEN SPOTS

### *WOMEN...*

MEETING Wed. 3/8 at Noon. Come to share in a light lunch, devotions, and join in discussions and decisions regarding the women's ministry.

WOMEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL: **Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.** at Central Lutheran Church, 28 Columbia St. Chippewa Falls. Speaker will be Cindy Tewalt

- **Registration 8 - 9 a.m.** Coffee and Breads will be provided.
- **Theme: THERE'S MORE TO COME**
- Cost is \$15.00 per person. **Make checks payable to: WELCA**
  - *Payment is required at time of Registration.* No Refunds! Lunch will be provided

**Send registration & check** Linda Stock - CVC Treasurer 3367 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Elk Mound, WI 54739 DUE BY 4/8/23

**Any questions contact:** Jacki Johnson, call or text 715-864-1489 [jackij7@gmail.com](mailto:jackij7@gmail.com) OR Linda Stock 715-874-6502 [jackij7@gmail.com](mailto:jackij7@gmail.com)

WOMEN'S RETREAT: **Wednesday-Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** at Luther Park Bible Camp, 944 24 1/4<sup>th</sup> St, Chetek. The speaker will be Gaye Lindfors. Claudeen Oebser is a point-of-contact within our congregation for this event. We hope to have a group attend, and in the past we've had some ladies come for just a day while others spend the night and attend both days.

## EDUCATION

GROWING IN GENEROSITY: The Sunday School Children COMPLETED their 3<sup>rd</sup> Generosity Goal of **\$150** to pay for a future pastor's seminary class. AMAZING WORK KIDS! Now they are challenging themselves with a \$200 gift that will allow numerous people within a town or village to benefit from the supplies they will be purchasing through *ELCA Good Gifts*.



When are the Sunday School kids singing next? **PALM SUNDAY**, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at our 10am service.

CONFIRMATION – During Lent students will attend Wednesday evening worship at 7pm instead of class instruction time. (3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY “*The Ten Commandments: Reviving the Soul*” continues Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am in the church Library. This is for all adults...no previous experience required.

## GIVING GENEROSITY do MATTER

...of TREASURES

Jan. 2023 Income	\$ 9,604.00	Kitchen Fund	\$20,391.48
Jan. 2023 Expenses	\$10,720.75		
<b>Net LOSS</b>	<b>(\$1,116.75)</b>		
EOM Jan. 2023 Independence State Bank (General Operating)	\$ 20,122.53		
EOM Jan. 2023 Independence State Bank (Dedicated Funds)	\$ 16,268.81		

**GIVING ENVELOPES** – Can be found on the table where you pick up bulletins. Please be sure to **write your name on your envelope** and be as clear as possible if you are splitting the donation. to various funds.

At our January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting we voted to make **\$850 available to send 2 children/youth to Luther Park Bible Camp for a WEEK - FOR FREE.** WHY? Because we felt so grateful about being able to pay off our mortgage at the end of the year, thanks to the generosity of so many people over the past twenty years. To fulfill this pledge, the Church Council has designated ALL WEDNESDAY LENT EVENING offerings/donations for the Soup Supper and Worship will go to the GRATITUDE GIFT dedicated fund.

# SPECIAL OFFERINGS

## General Operating

Denise Howe-Anderson	In memory of Loren Hanson
Duane & Anita Clemmens	In memory of Loren Hanson
Mike & Edie Litzkow	In memory of Loren Hanson
Lyn & Judy Dieter	In memory of Loren Hanson
Linda Eder	In memory of Loren Hanson
Steve & Holly Sweeney	In memory of Loren Hanson
Dave & Mary Gilbertson	In memory of Loren Hanson
Jim & Claudeen Oebser	In memory of Loren Hanson
Tim & Kris Jenson	In memory of Loren Hanson
John & Mary Ausman	In memory of Loren Hanson
Bud & Barb Barum	In memory of Loren Hanson
Billy & Betty Heltne	In memory of Loren Hanson
Karen Gugel	In memory of Loren Hanson
Keith & Rita Lee	In memory of Loren Hanson
Marshall & Bonnie Fuhrmann	In memory of Loren Hanson
Marshall & Bonnie Fuhrmann	In memory of Beverly Olson, Sandy Barth's sister

...of TIME

**The Community Table Sun. 3/26<sup>th</sup>** We are still looking for 4 volunteers to sign up for the 2:45-5pm Shift. If you have questions, call Holly Sweeney at 715-456-6960.

**Plenty of opportunities to assist in worship.** We've consolidated the various Worship Team volunteer positions into 2 sign-up sheets: 1 for Acolytes, and 1 for all the other positions (Lectors, Ushers, Communion Assistants). These sheets are located in Gathering Area near where you get your worship bulletin. You can also email us at [sothlc@sothem.org](mailto:sothlc@sothem.org) to sign up. Check out ways families or friends can volunteer together on a particular Sunday, or even for a month at a time.

*USHERS NEEDED: Could you please assist in this role? Maybe even as a family or friends?  
Please contact: Tim Jenson our Head Usher at [tjenson2@hotmail.com](mailto:tjenson2@hotmail.com)*

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP IN March** (Please note OPEN positions, and volunteer. **We need volunteers**)

ALTAR GUILD: Stephany Grossbier

3/5/23	LECTOR/READER: Kris Jenson	ACOLYTE: Brayden Zillmer, Morgan Titel
	COMMUNION ASSTS: Kris Jenson	USHER: OPEN
	VIDEO: Dave Young	
3/8/23 WED.	USHER: Hailey Webb	ACOLYTE: Colton Plemon
	VIDEO:	
3/12/23	LECTOR/READER: Kris Jenson	ACOLYTES: Marcus Folczyk
	USHER: OPEN	
	VIDEO:	FELLOWSHIP: OPEN
3/15/23 WED.	USHER: OPEN	ACOLYTE: Colton Plemon
	VIDEO: OPEN	
3/19/23	LECTOR/READER: Brandy Carothers	ACOLYTE: Brayden Zillmer, Colton Plemon
	COMMUNION ASSTS: Kris Jenson	USHER: OPEN
	VIDEO:	

3/22/23 WED. USHER: OPEN	ACOLYTE: OPEN
VIDEO:	
3/26/23 LECTOR/READER: OPEN	ACOLYTE: Hailey Webb
USHER: OPEN	VIDEO:
FELLOWSHIP: OPEN	
3/29/23 WED. USHER: OPEN	ACOLYTE: OPEN
VIDEO:	

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE. The family of Loren Hanson would like to express our appreciation for your comforting words and prayers, strengthening support, and sustaining love after our dear husband and father's passing. Your outpouring of support at this difficult time will be remembered.

### Shepherd of the Hill Council Minutes January 23, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:37 by President Barb Vadnais

**Members present:** Kris Jenson, Alison Young, Marshall Fuhrman, Barb Vadnais, Stephany Grossbier, Steve Sweeney, Pastor Mary Eide, Claudeen Oebser

**Members absent:** Carol Carlstom, DiAnna Scheffler,

**Devotions:** by Pastor Mary – Pastor spoke on Indigenous issues and history she learned at a retreat at Luther Park

**Mutual Ministry:** Loren Hanson hospitalized with pulmonary embolus. Bob Dempski recently had shoulder surgery. Ken Millermon still recovering from spinal surgery. Key Tubbs is hospitalized.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made to approve agenda with addition of Council Installation and orientation made by Alison Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kris Jenson. Motion carried.

**Secretary's report:** Motion by Claudeen Oebser to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshall Fuhrman. Motion carried.

**Treasurer/Financial Report:** Marshal motioned to file the financial report for audit. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kris. Motion carried.

- Profit and Loss December 2022
  - December Income \$22,224; Expenses \$14,638
  - Net Ordinary Income \$7,586
  - Other Dedicated Income \$1,834
  - Net Income \$9,420
- Total 2022 Income \$162,025; Total 2022 Expenses \$160,834 = Net Ordinary Income \$1,191
- YTD Budget 2022 Income \$155,300; 2022 Expenses \$163,002 = YTD Budget (\$7,701)
- Month End Balances
  - Checking and General Operating \$28,828
  - Money Market for Dedicated Funds \$10,942
  - Mortgage Balance \$00.00
- Other Points of Discussion
  - Recommend that surplus be moved into Capital Reserve E Fund
  - Kim requested an appraisal of the church
  - Estimate tomorrow to repair water leak
  - Need for a new office computer/monitor
- Motion was made by Claudeen Oebser to transfer 2022 surplus into the Capital Reserve Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kris Jenson. Motion carried.
- It was also noted that the Capital Reserve fund will go up by an additional \$4,500 due to a bill be paid out of the fund that will come out of the Kitchen fund.

**New Business:**

**Benevolence:** Balance of \$458.97 Council tabled for this month.

**\$850 Gratitude Gift:** The council discussed and approved the proposal of celebrating our mortgage burning by asking congregation if they want to fund a gratitude gift of \$850 for one of the following causes: Elk Mound Food Pantry, Mounder Meals or full fund one week of camp at Luther Park Bible camp for 2 children/youth. Kris Jenson shared how she had spoken to numerous families in 2022 encouraging them to send their children to camp, but no one went.

**Work Group:** Claudeen Oebser is going to propose some revisions to the work group. She requests that the council updates the list of active church members, and volunteered to review membership list. She also talked about going to a single volunteer list rather than work groups. Also men should be included on the volunteer lists since we often have men help.

**Council Installation and Orientation:**

- Installation will be on February 5<sup>th</sup>
- Orientation- review church constitution, bylaws, and committees.
- Some discussion ensued regarding the committee membership. Alison suggested that each month we place some information in the church newsletter regarding a committee or two and ask for volunteers.

**Old Business:**

**Annual Meeting and Mortgage Burning:**

- We will be having a shortened service January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Burning of the mortgage will be at the end of the service, with a burn pit near the Baptismal font.
- A cake has been ordered and members will bring food for potluck.
- There will also be some prizes.
- Acts of Giving – Congregation will vote on a charity to donate one mortgage payment.
  - Food Pantry
  - Luther Park – sponsor a camper or two
  - Mounder Meals
- Candace Sessions and Rhonda Jenson have been working with Pastor Mary in organizing the festivities.
- Help is needed with set-up and there is a sign up sheet for food.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Property Report:** Tabled discussion on how to deal with the water issues.
- **Sunday School:** The Sunday School children continue to raise money towards funding a student in seminary school.
- **Youth Report:**
  - Kris Jenson brought up the possibility of having the Sunday School children lead the church in the Lord's Prayer and the confirmation children lead the Apostle's Creed.
  - It was also reported that 10 children participated in the Action City outing.
  - She continues to look for activities for younger children and the High School children.
- **Pastor's Report:** Today I attended the annual Winter Theological Event for Rostered/Non-rostered Leaders of the Northwest Synod of WI-ELCA. The event was held at the Luther Park Bible camp, and centered on learning about the social issues surrounding the *Doctrine of Discovery* originated with Papal Bulls (letters from the Pope) issued in the late 1400s which authorized the Kings of Portugal and Spain to exploit Africa and the Americas for slaves and lands to enrich the Catholic Church. The day's activities were led by 5 members of the Ho Chunk Nation. It was a much needed, but heart-wrenching day of learning, and included lunch and worship.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be February 27 at 6:30; 6pm for new members

**Adjourn:** Steve Sweeney made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:09. Kris Jenson 2nd. Motion Carried. Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

By Alison Young

The following is a description of the KITCHEN COORDINATOR volunteer position we are looking to fill as soon as possible. Carol Carlstrom has held this position for several decades and has detailed notes on the funerals and various congregational meals held at our church. **If you are interested in being the coordinator...or CO-coordinator...please contact Sandy Barth (president of the Women's group) at 715-309-9884.** NOTE: Some of these procedures may change if we consolidate our four groups into one.

## KITCHEN COORDINATOR

The pastor will notify the Kitchen Coordinator as soon as fellowship events are needed. (*This typically occurs when there is a funeral luncheon at the church.*)

The Kitchen Coordinator orders and/or purchases/picks up the food needed, *unless the family is using a caterer to purchase and prepare food.*

The Kitchen Coordinator will notify the appropriate work group chairs of the coming event and the type and amount of food and number of workers needed.

(Usually, people from two groups are able to handle the event. Occasionally, all four groups will need to help. The Kitchen Coordinator also keeps track which groups work each event so requests for help are evenly distributed.) Those providing food should deliver their food to the church kitchen at least one hour beforehand.

### Work Group Chairs (phoners):

Calling for Kitchen Workers for 11:00 a.m. Funeral Fellowships: Each work group will need to provide 4 workers (2 for prep and 2 for clean-up). The caller needs to specify Shift I or Shift II for which the worker is needed. Shift I will report at 9 a.m. and work until serving is complete. Shift II will report at noon, assist in serving and work until clean-up is complete.

Calling for Kitchen Workers for a 2:00 p.m. Funeral Fellowships: Each work group will need to provide (? Number of workers) Shift I will report at 12 noon and work until serving is complete. Shift II will report 2 p.m., assist in serving and work until clean-up is complete.

Requests for food: Cakes and/or Bars

Dishwashing procedures: flatware (knives, forks, spoons) should be gathered in a dishpan and soaked in bleach water before washing in dish detergent and drying. Plates should be scraped well before washing, rinsing and drying.

### PROCEDURES FOR PERISHABLE FOOD

When a fellowship type event or fundraising event is held using perishable food, please assist the Kitchen Coordinator in dealing with leftover food. Ideally, there would not be any leftover food. However, it is best if the event planners would divide the food among the workers to take home and use. This would eliminate the problem of spoilage of good food.

If it is necessary to leave perishables in the refrigerators, please provide the following information (using labels provided on refrigerator doors): date and claim ownership of the food and information about its future use. If the food freezes well and could be used for future smaller events, please place in the freezer with information on how it may be used.

# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Bible Study 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship	2	3 10am-Noon Food Pantry <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	4
5 8:45am Sun. School 10am Communion Worship 1:30-3:30 Grief Share	6 7pm AA	7 11:30-12:30pm Pop Up Food Pantry @ EM Village Hall parking lot 4-6pm Food Pantry	8 Noon Women's Meeting 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship	9 9:30-Noon Chippewa Valley Rostered Leaders gathering	10 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	11 8am-4pm Walking Together at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake
12 <i>Daylight Savings</i> 8:45am Sun. School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 1:30-3:30 Grief Share	13 7pm AA	14 4-6pm Food Pantry 6pm Finance Meeting	15 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	18 8-11am EM Powerlifting PANCAKE FEED fundraiser HERE
19 NO Sun. School 10am Worship Communion Sunday 1:30-3:30 Grief Share	20 <i>1st Day of Spring</i> 7pm AA	21 4-6pm Food Pantry	22 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lenten Worship	23	24 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	25
26 8:45am Sun. School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 1:30-3:30 Grief Share 1:30-3:30 Community Table	27 6pm Council training 6:30pm Church Council Meeting  7pm AA	28 4-6pm Food Pantry	29 6pm (final) Soup Supper 7pm (final) Lenten Worship	30	31 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	



# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am Sun. School 10am Palm Sunday Worship SS kids Sing/Luther Park 1:30-3:30 Grief Share	3 7pm AA	4 11:30-12:30pm Pop Up Food Pantry @ EM Village Hall parking lot 4-6pm Food Pantry	5 Noon Senior Meal 1pm Holy Week Worship for Senior's	6 9:30-Noon Chippewa Valley Rostered Leaders gathering	7 10am-Noon Food Pantry Noon-6pm Blood Drive 3pm Good Friday Worship 7pm Good Friday Worship	8
9 <i>Easter Sunday</i> NO Sun. School 10am Easter Worship	10 7pm AA	11 4-6pm Food Pantry 6pm Finance Meeting	12 3:20 Confirmation Class	13	14 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	15
16 8:45am Sun. School 10am Worship Communion Sunday	17 7pm AA	18 4-6pm Food Pantry	19 3:20Confirmation Class	20	21 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	22 8am-1pm Women's Day of Renewal @ Central LPBC Spring Cleanup Day
23 8:45am Sun. School 10am Worship w/ UW-Stout LCM 11an Fellowship 1:30-3:30 Community Table	24 6:30pm Church Council Meeting  7pm AA	25 4-6pm Food Pantry	26 3:20 Confirmation Class	27	28 10am-Noon Food Pantry  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	29 Synod Assembly @ Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake
30 8:45am Sun. School 10am Worship 1:30-3:30 Grief Share						



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