



OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

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Gracious and Wondrous Cross

*"Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God..."
-When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (LSB 425)*

Fellow Graciously Redeemed,

Our March Hymn of the Month is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" hymn 425 in our LSB hymnal. Like many Lenten hymns, it is a hymn of lament, of repentance, and of the cross. What made it stand out and why I chose it, in particular, for this Lenten season with the coming Lenten readings and themes for each of the coming Sundays in March, is the portion I quoted above: "Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God..." (LSB 425).

We have nothing to boast about. We pray in this second stanza, that our Lord would forbid us from boast, keep us from boasting, protect us from boasting in anything other than the death of Christ, our God. It is not because of us, not because we have anything good in us or have anything to offer God, not even all our richest gain, not our pride, not all the charming and delightful things in this world are anything compared to His wondrous cross. It is by His mercy and grace that Christ, our God, comes to die for us and save us from sin and death.

By grace, through the cross alone, is a perfect theme to match all our readings for the Sundays of March. The first Sunday, we will hear of Jesus telling Nicodemus (John 3) that God loves the whole world and those who are born again, from above, will see the kingdom of God. Birth is not something a child has a choice in, but they are given life and birth apart from themselves.

The following Sunday (March 8) we hear of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) who, despite her attempts to claim righteousness is shown unworthy in every way, by her very nature and birth as a Samaritan, and her life, with all her husbands, yet Christ makes Himself known to her, bringing her and many in her town to faith by grace.

On March 15, we hear of a man blind by birth (John 9) who was seen by Jesus and healed of his blindness by grace. He is one born in utter sin and doesn't even cry out for mercy, merely washes his face when Jesus smears mud on it as one would naturally do and gains sight and faith.

The Sunday before Palm Sunday, we hear of the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11). The worst of all those who have come in the readings before him, Lazarus, as a dead man, can do nothing. He is clearly worthy of death as he lies dead in His tomb, yet Jesus calls him out and raises him from death to life by grace.

Finally, on Palm Sunday, we will welcome our King (Matthew 21) who comes, foretold long ago, before we were, before those people in Jerusalem were who welcomed Him, those who have nothing to offer Him but the shirt off their back (cloaks laid down in the road) and palm branches that they are able to find nearby, to pave the way for His entry.

All these teachings and works of Jesus come by grace. They show people who are not merely "lukewarm" or "neutral" about Jesus and the Gospel, but are turned away, undeserving, antagonistic, and opposed to God and His work in Christ, yet they, like us, are led to His wondrous cross, to repentance and faith, that we would have not just something, but everything to boast about in the death of Christ, our God, for us.

So, as we sing this hymn this month, let us not boast or look to ourselves, but focus our Lenten journey and these days on the grace of our Lord, on His wondrous cross, and His freely given gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In the grace of Christ,
Pastor Simek



FROM THE
Pulpit

Hymn of the Month | *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (LSB 425)

3/1 | Second Sunday of Lent

Title: Love and New Birth
Text: John 3:1-17

3/4 | Third Wednesday of Lent

Title: Scourged for You
Text: Mark 15:6-15

3/8 | Third Sunday of Lent

Title: Chess Match of Righteousness
Text: John 4:5-30, 39-42

3/11 | Fourth Wednesday of Lent

Title: Clothed for You
Text: Mark 15:16-20

3/15 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

Title: Answers and Faith
Text: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

3/18 | Fifth Wednesday of Lent

Title: Crowned for You
Text: Mark 15:16-20

3/22 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Title: Greater Victory, Greater Glory
Text: John 11:1-45

3/25 | Sixth Wednesday of Lent

Title: Nailed for You
Text: Mark 15:21-32

3/29 | Palm Sunday

Title: A Foretold King
Text: Matthew 21:1-11



ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST

3/1	Rev. Howard Shane
3/4	Rev. Howard Shane
3/8	Rev. Howard Shane
3/11	Rev. Howard Shane Mary Sandbulte
3/15	Rev. Howard Shane
3/18	Rev. Howard Shane Mary Sandbulte
3/22	Rev. Howard Shane
3/25	Rev. Howard Shane Mary Sandbulte
3/29	Mary Sandbulte

ACOLYTES

3/1	Leah Eden Ellis Dewitz
3/4	Joel and Elijah Simek
3/8	Elliott Leonard Lucas Birger
3/11	Elliott Leonard
3/15	Elliott Leonard Joe and Elijah Simek
3/18	Lucas Birger
3/22	Joel and Elijah Simek Ellis Dewitz
3/25	Elijah Simek
3/29	Joel and Elijah Simek <i>Acolyte and Crucifer Needed</i>

ALTAR FLOWERS

3/1	None
3/8	None
3/15	None
3/22	None
3/29	

If you'd like to provide flowers for the altar, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex.



“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life.” Both can be viewed on KDLT (NBC).

This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Sun 3/1
10:00am - “Undertow” - Harry (David Ogden Stiers) loses his daughter to drowning. In his grief, he blames the lifeguard, Jim (Gil Peterson).
10:30 AM - Rev. Kurt Laskowsky, pastor at First English & Zion Lutheran Churches in Centerville & Hurley, presents a message titled “Faith Tested“. The sermon is based on Matthew 15:21-28.

Sun 3/8
10:00am - “The Healer” - Dave Forman (Gary Collins) is a dynamic “faith healer” who becomes angered by the drowning death of his daughter.
10:30 AM - Rev. Ryan Loeslie, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dimock, SD, presents a message titled “Worshiping God in Spirit and Truth“. The sermon is based on John 4:5-26.

Sun 3/15
10:00am - “Flames of Hate” - Betty Blackwood (Angie Dickenson) is stuck between the man she loves, Art (Ed Kemmer), and her obsessive father Nate (Edger Dearing) who disapproves of Art.
10:30 AM - Rev. Don McKillop, pastor at Trinity & St. Paul Lutheran Churches in White Lake & Plankinton, SD, presents a message titled “I Was Blind, Now I See“. The sermon is based on John 9.

Sun 3/22
10:00am - “Money for Marriage” - A woman’s decisions at work put a strain on the new couple’s marriage. A woman’s decisions at work put a strain on the new couple’s marriage.
10:30 AM - Rev. Tim Rynearson, pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD, presents a message based on Psalm 130.

Sun 3/29
10:00am - “The Twisting Road” - A young man and his wife deal with life, future, and regrets of things left unspoken.
10:30 AM - Rev. Zachary Wessel, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hartford, SD, presents a message titled “Behold Your King“. The sermon is based on Matthew 21:1-9.





SPRING IS IN SIGHT!

Spring is in sight. Here's how to stay healthier and more energized until it gets here.

Are you counting the days until Spring arrives? Less daylight and dreary weather in some parts of the country at this time of year can take a toll on your physical and mental health. But the good news is that winter is almost over. Until that happens, you have the power to keep yourself healthier, happier and more energized by the things you do and the choices you make.

Here are 5 health tips to help you get through the end of winter feeling your best:

- Spend time outdoors. No matter what type of climate you live in, spending time outside can boost your mood and your health. The fresh air can make you feel happier. A dose of vitamin D from the sun will do your body good. Taking a break from dry indoor air is good for your skin. Not breathing in germs from people living or working in close proximity to you makes it less likely you'll get sick. Just dress for the weather and enjoy some time with mother nature.
- Protect yourself from contagious illnesses. There are loads of viruses going around at this time of year. Stay away from people who appear to be sick, wash your hands often and wear a mask when in close quarters with people. Keep your immune system strong by following healthy lifestyle habits to make it more likely your body can fight off any germs it encounters. This may help you avoid COVID-19, the flu, RSV, the

common cold and other respiratory illnesses.

- Enjoy nutritious winter foods. Winter isn't all about diving into a bowl of creamy, gooey comfort food. In fact, perfect winter meals can feature some of the healthiest foods. Whip up soups and stews filled with nutritious vegetables and whole grains. In-season produce, such as winter squash, kale, Swiss chard, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, citrus fruits and pomegranates, are loaded with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants.
- Stay active. It can be hard to motivate yourself to exercise when the days are short and the weather is dreary, but it's just as important to stay physically active now as it is at any other time of year. If you usually exercise outdoors but the weather isn't cooperating, find ways to get more activity indoors. Don't want to go to a gym? There are many workouts you can do in the comfort of your home. Or head to a rock climbing gym, bowling alley, skating rink or trampoline park for an afternoon of active fun.
- Be good to your skin. Cold dry air outdoors combined with dry heated indoor air can wreak havoc on your skin. Apply moisturizer after bathing to keep skin moisturized. Don't spend too much time in a hot bath or shower. Avoid itchy fabrics. And drink lots of water to stay hydrated. Also don't forget the sunscreen when you go outside—UV rays from the sun can still damage your skin even in winter.

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There are two ways to give tithes and offerings electronically!



Download the Vanco Mobile

App—found on your phone's app store. This is the easiest way to give just once, or set up recurring gifts to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.



TXT2Give—Text (833)610-0639 the amount you want to give and you will be linked to an easy one-time setup so it will be even easier the next time!
Or—scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to get started!

"How can I get involved?"

Children:

Sunday School—We have Sunday School for PreK-High School on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM. Our Sunday School teachers are:

Preschool: Mrs. Kristy Eden & Mrs. Kris Leonhardt

5 yrs-2nd Grade: Mrs. Deb Huntsinger

3rd-5th Grade: Mr. Bryan Eden

6th-8th Grade: Mr. Tim Eden

9th-12th Grade: Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden

Kids 4 Christ—Mrs. Janelle Lafrentz, Mrs. Jody Rieck, and Mr. Derek Greenwaldt lead our children

Kindergarten—5th grade at Kids 4 Christ (K4C) every 1st and 3rd Friday. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by our K4C program. The program ends at 7:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth:

Catechesis Classes—We have catechesis classes every Wednesday during the school year from 6PM-7PM for 5th—8th graders except during Advent and Lent. Mr. Bryan Eden teaches the 5th grade class, and Rev. Brett Simek teaches the 6th-8th grade class. There is a church family meal before class at 5PM for anyone who may wish to eat at the church.

Junior and High School Youth:

Youth Group—Mr. and Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden lead our youth group on Wednesday evenings 6PM—7PM for 8th—12th graders, as well as monthly activities throughout the year for 6th—12th graders.

High School and Adults:

Vocal Choir—Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday evening at 7PM (7:30 during Advent and Lent). If you are interested in joining choir, please speak with or email Rev. Shane—HShane101@gmail.com.

Handbell Choir—We meet each Tuesday at 6:45PM. If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Matt Nussbaum.

Adults:

Sunday Morning Bible Study—Sunday morning Bible study is led by Rev. Brett Simek each Sunday at 9:15AM. Join us in the Fellowship Hall downstairs!

Wednesday Adult Bible Study—We have Bible Study each Wednesday at 6PM except during Advent and Lent, led by Rev. David Morfitt.

Healing Hearts—Healing Hearts is a group of men and women who are at any stage of grieving the loss of a loved one. The purpose is to share in loss, get to know others, and find support within our church family. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 10AM.

S.A.I.L. Classes—Parish Nurse Karen Morfitt leads our SAIL class, an exercise class focused on strength and balance every Monday and Thursday at 1:30PM.

Senior Members:

Senior Saints Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1PM.

Senior Saints Brunch—We meet at Perkins on 41st Street the second Thursday of every month at 9:30AM.

Men:

Guys' Garage—Mr. Tim Goettsch leads the Guys' Garage group. They meet the first Monday of each month at 6PM. There are different activities each month.

Women:

LWML—We have two LWML groups at ORLC. Evening LWML meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. Ebenezer LWML meets the third Thursday of each month at 1:30PM.

Women's Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 6:30PM.

All members:

Volunteering—We are always looking for people of all ages to help serve on Sunday mornings - greeters, ushers, altar guild members, acolytes, and help running presentations. If you are interested, contact the church office!

IN OUR PRAYERS

MEMBERS

Dorene Cink	George Sagissor
Marge Dreesman	John Severson
Mike Gabel	Larry Sroufe
Duane Genzlinger	James Streyle
Duane Hartmann	Rhoda Thomas
Don Hennies	Jeanne Toay
Ella May Kelly	Kendra Voss
Louise Lafrentz	Mary Warns
Carole Lang	Jim Wosje
Mary Muchow	

Prayers of thanksgiving for good heart test results for Bob Kunz

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Betty Berry	Roberta Mathiason
Dan Clauson	Dorothy Oleson
Mary Clauson	Maxine Owens
Dorothy Dueis	Mariea Warns
Cib Gaffer	Audrey Wintersteen

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joshua Bohling	Luis Martinez
William East	Matthew VanTassel
Curtis Furry	Tyler VanTassel
Jordy Martinez	

LOVED ONES

Glenda; Mother of Jason Consoer
 Nicole; Aunt of Ashley Consoer
 Lorraine; Mother of Carol Daniels
 Matt; Barb Ewoldt's Son
 Brian; Grandson of Mavis Fritz
 Richard; Son-in-Law of Mavis Fritz
 Mark; Son of Bob Graham
 Pat; Friend of Bob Graham
 Chuck; Family of Ed & Jean Harmdierks
 Mark; Brother-in-Law of Jean Harmdierks
 Ruby; Ed Harmdierks' Sister
 Dan; Duane & Helen Hartmann's Son-in-Law
 Joan; AJ Holtz's Grandmother
 Dennis; Son of Phyllis Joyce
 Byron; Roberta Mathiason's Son
 Kolbe; Friend of Roberta Mathiason
 Michael; Son of David Olson
 Bernice; Mother of Nathan Sandbulte
 Susie; Daughter-in-Law of Helen Schauer
 Aislyn; Daughter of David Wacker
 Gaylon, Audrey Wintersteen's Son-in-Law
 Jim Wegehaupt; Former Member

Please Note: Those on the prayer list will be removed after 3 months unless we are otherwise notified.



MARCH WORLD WATCH LIST COUNTRIES

YEMEN

The dangers facing Christians in Yemen continue to escalate amid an unrelenting tide of conflict, extremism and economic collapse.

The indigenous church consists mainly of converts from Islam, who must practice their faith in absolute secrecy. Discovery as a Christian can be deadly because in Yemen apostasy is legally punishable by death. Believers can also suffer in other ways, including divorce and separation from their children. Yemen's fragmented, weak rule of law only increases the dangers facing Christians.

Non-Islamic groups cannot formally register with the authorities, and places of worship that are not Muslim haven't been authorized for years. Most non-Yemeni Christians have fled the country because of the danger, with many registered churches either ransacked or destroyed. It means that Yemen's native Christian population comprises mostly converts who must gather in secret – and at enormous risk.

While all Yemenis suffer under one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, Christians are particularly vulnerable. Emergency aid is typically distributed through mosques to local Muslims, who discriminate against those not considered to be devout Muslims.

- Yemen continues to be torn apart and wracked by violence. Pray that peace will finally come to this country.
- The small number of Yemeni believers is growing – but each lives with the daily risk of violence and death. Pray for courage and hope.
- Pray for the small, secret churches in Yemen. Ask God to help them find resources to be able to meet. Pray that underground church leaders would find strength and stamina to continue to serve God's people.

SUDAN

The situation for Christians in Sudan has long been difficult, but right now the Christian community in Sudan is currently going through a severe, growing crisis and population displacement. This reality stems from the 2021 military takeover and the brutal civil war that started in 2023. The government reinstated oppressive figures, brought back cruel 'morality policies', and is using old Islamic laws to justify forcing people to convert or endure physical punishment. This has completely undone the advances in religious freedom made after the oppressive al-Bashir regime was overthrown in 2021.

Many church buildings have been bombed, taken over and used as bases by militias and radical groups. Christians face intense discrimination everywhere – in courts, the workplace and schools.

Converts from Islam live in constant fear and face intense threats, including social isolation, violence from militias and rejection from their families. Historical Christian communities suffer forced church closures, church-registration denials and even destruction of their buildings. Faith leaders and expatriates increasingly experience arbitrary arrest and detention due to the ongoing conflict.

- As the brutal civil war in Sudan continues, ask God to bring about a peaceful resolution and help the church to be peacemakers in this war.
- Pray for believers who suffer from the civil war and have been forced to flee, or who have no choice but to stay and hunker down. Ask God to protect them.
- Pray that Christians in Sudan could carefully live as salt and light, and show that Jesus' peace is a better way.
- Pray for the future of the church in Sudan and wisdom for her leaders. Even if the warring parties are able to come to a peace resolution, neither are favorable towards the church.

Find more information at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/>