



MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



March Sunday Worship

A Time to Journey to the Cross with Jesus

The month of March is a month of activity as we conclude the season of Lent and end the month with Holy Week. Jesus cleanses the Jerusalem Temple and seeks to restore worship to its proper place – a place of prayer and glorifying God. The last two weeks of Lent point to the cross and our Lord's reminder that we too must die to self if we are to live as new people – resurrected to new life! Holy Week is by far the most important week in the history of humanity. Walk with Jesus during the week. Don't just worship on Palm Sunday and Easter. Walk with Jesus in His passion from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane and beneath the cross on Friday.

March 4 – (John 2:13-22) – **Lent 3**

The cleansing of the temple

March 11 – (John 3:13-22) – **Lent 4**

The lifting up of the Son of Man

March 18 – (John 12:20-33) – **Lent 5**

The grain of wheat dying in the earth

March 25 – (Mark 11:1-11) – **Palm Sunday**

Jesus enters Jerusalem

March 29 – (Mark 14:12-28) - **Maundy Thursday**

Message: "Think About What You Think"

("Your problem is not your problem but the way you see it.")

March 30 – (Mark 15:12-39) - **Good Friday**

Message: "Cling to Christ"

("We bear fruit by focusing on God.")

April 1 – (Mark 16:1-8) – **Easter Sunday**

Message: C.A.L.M.

("Choose the tranquili-tree over the anxie-tree.")

Pastor Stephen J. Lund

1100 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701
Office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon-Thur, 8:30-12:30 Fri
Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

402.379-1775
christtheservant@cableone.net
Sunday school at 9:00 for all ages

Mid-week Lenten Themes

Services begin at 7 PM

Meals served between 6:00-6:30 PM on March 7, 14, and 21

We continue our mid-week Lenten theme during the month of March and into Holy Week. Our theme is **Anxious for Nothing: Finding Peace in a Chaotic World**. All of us could use some calm in our busy, hectic lives. With our daily schedules and life circumstances, anxiety also comes with it. While we can't eliminate all anxiety, it doesn't have to dominate and control our lives. During our Lenten season we will be examining Paul's exhortation and promise in his letter to the church in Philippi where he writes:

"⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

During our mid-week Lenten services we have been using the acronym C.A.L.M. to help us experience "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds." We will seek to **Celebrate** God's goodness, **Ask** for God's help, **Leave** our concerns with Him, and **Meditate** on good things. Applying this acronym to your life will not only change your outlook on life, but you will be empowered to overcome your anxieties and fears in life.

March 7 – **A. = Ask God for Help**

Message: "Contagious Calm"

("Anxiety is needless because God is near.")

March 14 – **A. = Ask God for Help**

Message: "Prayer, Not Despair"

("Peace Happens when people pray.")

March 21 – **L. = Leave Your Concerns with Him**

Message: "Great Gratitude"

("Christ-based contentment turns us into strong people.")

Holy Week

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday – **L. = Leave Your Concerns with Him**

Message: "God's Peace, Your Peace"

("You may be facing the perfect storm, but Jesus offers the perfect peace.")

March 29 – Maundy Thursday – **M. = Meditate on Good Things**

Message: "Think About What You Think"

("Your problem is not your problem but the way you see it.")

March 30 – Good Friday – **M. = Meditate on Good Things**

Message: "Cling to Christ"

("We bear fruit by focusing on God.")

Sunday, April 1 – Easter – **M. = Meditate on Good Things**

Message: "Cling to Christ"

("We bear fruit by focusing on God.")

Easter Sunday

April 1

Easter falls on April Fools' Day – the last time this occurred was 1945. Jesus raising from the dead and defeating death is the ultimate April Fools. No one had ever risen from the dead and walked among us before. The apostle Paul would later write one of the most important chapters in the Bible on the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15). In this chapter, Paul states that Jesus is the "firstfruits" of those who have died. Because Jesus has been raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised from the grave when we die. The last enemy to be defeated is death and Jesus has crushed death (Jesus has fulfilled the promise of God in Genesis 3:15 where Jesus "will crush the head" of the serpent (that is, the devil – our foe and enemy). Join us for worship on April 1st as we celebrate this all-important truth and victory. As Paul concludes his chapter in 1 Corinthians 15: "But thanks be to God! He gives US the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Easter Sunday Schedule (April 1):

7:00 AM – Sunrise Service by Youth

8:00 AM – Easter Breakfast served in the Fellowship Hall

9:15 AM – Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 AM – Easter Celebration Service

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

CAN WE SERVE YOU?

For several months, the Eucharistic Ministry Team has been taking the elements and spirit of communion to those who find themselves unable to participate in church.

This ministry has been very well received. Those who have received the sacraments have expressed appreciation and thanks, and feel part of the congregation while away.

Currently, the ministry serves nine members on a regular basis. There are five teams with two members each. The Pastors of CTS provided the Eucharistic training, and you, the members of the congregation, have blessed us with your prayers.

If you know of someone who desires communion but circumstances prevent them, let us know. If you desire communion but health or physical limitations prevent it, please call.

In the future, we hope to develop a means to confirm your desire to commune with your church family. Remember, there is always room for one more at HIS table.

To contact the Eucharistic Ministry Team or to request communion, please call Kathy Rogers at the church office (402-379-1775) and you will be included.

WANTED: MORE MEMBERS

CTS is a communing church. We commune every Sunday and also on other occasions. Our communion table is open to all who believe that the true body and blood of Christ is present. Because we believe in the importance of communion, the Eucharistic Ministry Team was developed. We are charged with taking communion to those members who are unable to attend services.

This is an invitation for those interested in serving as our church name implies. You will receive the necessary training and the support of your fellow Eucharistic servants. This ministry has been very well received and is growing. These positions are open to all confirmed members who have had the necessary and proper instruction and training. Currently there are five teams of two members each—there is room for more.

Come		Called
To	<i>or</i>	To
Serve		Serve

Pastor Steve's Letter: **"Not Since 1945"**

Not since 1945 has Ash Wednesday been observed on Valentine's Day (February 14) and Easter on April Fools' Day (April 1) in the same year. The last time this happened our country was involved in a world war against an evil regime that proclaimed genocide against all Jews and God's chosen people. Allied forces were marching on Berlin and the Nazi army which Adolf Hitler had assembled to carry out this unbelievable evil against a certain people because they were not Aryan by birth. On May 7, 1945, Germany officially surrendered after murdering 6 million Jews and millions more from other nations who combined forces to defeat Germany. Germany may be our ally now, but evil governments continue to reign across our world, bringing havoc and terror where they go. Genocide still continues with its ethnic cleansing, not to mention the millions of aborted births that have been ended by abortion in the United States alone since 1973. The message of Christ and His death on the cross is still the most important event and message that must be proclaimed to the very ends of the earth.

So once again we began our Lenten season with the greatest love story of all. God sent His one and only Son Jesus into our world (i.e. God's valentine to the whole world). Jesus, being in very nature God, humbled Himself and made Himself nothing and become one of us to save us from our greatest enemies – our sin, the devil, and death. We all know John 3:16 where "God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." So often we forget that this life is not our home. We are only sojourners and pilgrims here on earth. We have another home being prepared for us and the only way to this home is found in Jesus. When we place our lives into His care, Jesus promises to take us there one day when we die. But first, Jesus had to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. When He died on that cross, He stretched His arms to show us how wide and long is the love of God for us. And when He hung on that cross, He was able to say with complete confidence before He died: "It is finished! It is accomplished! Our penalty of sin has been paid in full!"

And that is where April Fools' comes into the picture. Everyone who believed that Jesus was the "hope to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21), now believed it was all over. Death and evil had won again (like it always has since the Fall in Genesis 3). But here's the April Fool's message: Death is not the victor. Jesus is the victor. God raised Jesus from the dead, just as Jesus had promised. And then the celebration began – sin, death and the devil have been defeated once and for all time. Sin may still raise its ugly head due to free will, but sin and death do not have the final say. God's love has won the day! The devil's greatest fear has just happened. Jesus stayed on the cross to forgive our sin and restore our standing before God, and God has raised Jesus as the sign that we, too, shall be raised from the dead when we die.

(continued)

As we continue through the season of Lent and Holy Week, let us consider these two calendar events – Valentine's Day and April Fools' Day. Let us remember the greatest love story shown to us by God when He sent Jesus into our world and into your life and mine. Let us remember the greatest April Fools' joke on the devil when Jesus rose from the grave victorious. Every time I commit another Christian's earthly body to the ground in a cemetery, my heart rejoices for that soul. Although we mourn the passing of that person's life, I rejoice because they are now whole – without disease, pain, suffering or tears. Jesus has defeated death and there is a resurrection that one can only imagine. Paul reminds the church in Thessalonica to “encourage one another with these words” (1Thessalonians 4:18).

I, for one, am living in the reality of God's greatest love story for me this year (with Ash Wednesday on February 14th) and in the comfort of knowing death has been defeated once and for all in Christ (God's greatest April Fool's message to the world on Easter morning – April 1st). May you come to know and rejoice in the importance of these two days in the sight of the Lord.

Looking forward to my resurrection,

Pastor Steve

TANZANIA 2018

As you may know, this summer's partnership trip to Tanzania is two-fold. Six of our CTS members will stay in the village and build/strengthen relationships with our parish partners, while four members (Amanda Cyboron, Emily Svitak, Lonnie Svitak and myself) will embark on a climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa. Pastor Matt and his two sons (Josh and Micah) will also join us. The intent of the climb is to raise funds for the center for children with disabilities that our CTS youth helped to build in Tanzania during the summer of 2015. For each mile we climb, we will be seeking financial support to help with the operating costs of the center. We are climbing for the kids who can't! The funds pledged will help to pay salaries, provide food for the students, operate the facility and help guarantee continued sustainability of the center.

We will be going up the mountain on what's called "The Machame Route." It is 37 miles, gate to gate, and it will take us 7 days to complete. We will be physically challenged through five different climate zones and terrains, ranging from tropical rainforest to the arctic peak of the mountain. The elevation of the peak is over 19,000 feet, so our oxygen level will also be compromised. However, Philippians 4:13 says "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." God has a plan for us and we know he will be with us for each and every step and will watch over us. I also plan to carry photos of the children from the center in my pocket. So, when I am feeling the weight of the challenge, the image of the kids will help to push me to the next level. Besides the climb, I am also looking forward to reuniting with our African family members who have been praying that we return to Tanzania. Their faith is beyond measure and their hospitality is like nothing you have ever experienced.

If you would like to financially support this trip, you may contact any of the team members or visit the CTS Tanzania Partnership page on Facebook. We will also need lots of prayer! From now until July, you will hear from different team members each month!

Brian Anderson

TANZANIA 2018

This coming July 2018, a group from CTS will be traveling (and for a few of us returning) to Tanzania. The partnership between CTS and Msaranga Mandaka and its four sub-parishes has grown over the past several years. Those traveling this summer will be Mary Weich, Tara Peters, Emily Svitak, Amanda Cyboron, Charlie Skoglund, Louise Skoglund, Brian Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Lonnie Svitak and Margaret Svitak. Some in this group have been to Tanzania once and some have traveled there twice. The group traveling in the summer 2018 trip will have five who are traveling there for the first time. We are very excited to be able to add depth to this partnership. This partnership has developed to mutually support each other in ministry. Truly a group from Msaranga Mandaka parish has been meeting for years – yes, years – to pray for us at CTS. We have worked on projects together to improve their living quality such as a new well with clean water and a new building to house the center for children with disabilities.

With this visit I am excited to reconnect with friends I met in the summer of 2014. And with this summer's visit I will be part of the "village team" which is six people from the above named group (Mary, Tara, Charlie, Louise, Michelle and myself) who will remain at the parish area during our stay. I sought to establish prayer sisters between CTS and Msaranga Mandaka parishes. There are currently 20 women from CTS actively involved in praying for 26 women in Tanzania, while those 26 women in Tanzania are praying for 20 women from CTS. These numbers increase over time, which is wonderful. I am most excited to physically meet these women on a personal basis this coming summer! We will have an opportunity to come alongside them to see how they live, harvest food, and provide for their families.

Thank you for your support of this partnership – it truly is a life-changing experience for us and for God's Kingdom on this earth.

Margaret Svitak

Board of Administration Meeting
January 15, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Freese, Warren Bennett, Greg Moen, Jan Puls, Richard Hillrichs, Pastor Steve

Richard called this meeting to order and offered the opening prayer.

Minutes of the last board meeting were reviewed. Warren raised a concern about the daycare holiday and vacation pay, specifically, that Amanda was not given any; however, that was not in their request. This is something that should be included in job descriptions for daycare staff. Jan offered a motion that the Board of Spiritual Oversight offer recommendations regarding paid time off and assure that daycare employees have job descriptions. Steve seconded the motion, and suggested the issue of what is considered full-time vs. part-time be determined at a joint board meeting. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid: G&B Sprinklers (fall service) = \$75.00; approved to be paid.

Greg's financial report was reviewed. Motion by Steve to transfer \$650 from the Good Samaritan fund to the pastor's Good Samaritan checking account, as well as \$995.75 from the Holiday Boutique fund to the general fund, seconded by Warren. Motion carried.

Richard shared information about the endowment account when it was developed in 2004.

Pastor Steve shared the estimate received from T&H to drywall the sanctuary and exterior walls in the fellowship hall. CTS would be responsible for the cost of having the drywall professionally painted. Greg pointed out that there is money in the memorial fund that could be used to pay for the paint. We would need estimates for paint and labor. Motion to approve work as per estimate from T&H Drywall, to be paid by the family of Galen Thompson, seconded by Warren. Motion carried, and Pastor will let Susan know.

Pastor Steve reported that that the Board of Spiritual Oversight is discussing going back to one council and asked how members of this board felt about it. All were in favor, and Jan offered a motion to explore the possibility of having one council versus two boards, seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

No report from personnel or stewardship committees.

Warren reported that the top motor in the dishwasher doesn't work and needs to be replaced. The part is covered under warranty and has been ordered. CTS is responsible for the service call and labor, approximately \$100.

Motion by Warren to adjourn, seconded by Jan. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church	
2018 Income & Expenses	
	January
Income	
Member Offerings	14,517.58
Non Member Offering	250.00
Coffee Hour Donations	49.00
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, reimburse)	319.50
Designated Church Property	100.00
Designated Memorials	25.00
Designated Missions	175.00
Designated A Cyboron	50.00
Designated B Cyboron	50.00
Designated Day Care/income	3,837.46
Designated Good Samaritan	50.00
Designated Tanzania & Travel	1,290.00
Total	20,713.54
Interest Income	2.32
Total	20,715.86
Expenses	
Administration	8,022.25
Church Building	3,831.88
Parsonage	391.41
Discipleship	248.40
Fellowship/Evangelism	168.12
Church Mission Giving	1,700.00
Local Benevolence	295.35
Worship	82.94
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, reimburse)	9.35
Day Care	4,676.14
Total	19,425.84
Income Statement	
	January
General Income	15,188.40
Less General Expenses	14,749.70
Church General Income	438.70
Day Care Income	3,837.46
Less Day Care Expenses	4,676.14
Net Day care Income	(838.68)

Board of Spiritual Oversight Meeting
January 16, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Jessen, Deb Olson, Pastor Steve, Linda Cyboron, Brian Anderson
Absent: Doug Witte

Steve shared a devotion from “My Utmost for His Highest,” then offered the opening prayer.
Tonight’s Bible study was on Ephesians 3:1-13.

The next meeting will be February 20 at 6:30. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Brian offered a motion to approve, seconded by Linda. Motion carried. The year-end financial report was also reviewed.

Daycare: There is a need for more oversight by this board and the oversight committee. Job descriptions are needed for daycare staff. There is a need for more accountability regarding income and expenses.

Ministry team meeting: The hospitality team will meet with all of the ministry teams to clarify areas of responsibility on Sunday, February 4th after worship.

Discipleship: see Pastor’s report.

Worship: see Pastor’s report. Brian has a scheduling conflict, so the next worship committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Outreach: Linda’s team and the Ultreya group brought food to the daycare Christmas party. She asked what they can do to help with the Tanzania trip, and what, as a ministry, would be impactful for our church. Meals on Wheels is coming up the last two weeks of February.

Fellowship: Michelle Anderson and Sharel Olson are in charge of the chili and soup cook-off and game night; the date was moved to a Saturday night. Movie night is scheduled for Feb. 9 at 6:30. WNA meals are set up, and Mary Weich will set up soups for Lent. Brian shared that the Tanzania group will serve one. Second Sunday potlucks are ongoing.

Pastor: see written report.

Do we need an audit committee? A “financial audit” has to be done by a CPA. A “financial review” can be done in-house. Pastor will discuss this with Susie Lutz.

New structure: The board of administration voted in favor of having one board (church council). Brian offered a motion that we ask Richard Hillrichs and Doug Witte to chair a restructuring committee and seek members to help, seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

Apostles’ Creed (from last month): Discussed a request made at the Dec. 17 congregational meeting to return to “holy Christian church” in the Creed. The words on-screen will be changed to reflect this; however, the hymnal will still say “holy catholic church.” Any feedback received will be discussed next month.

Brian closed the meeting with prayer.

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/2 Kelcie Hall
- 3/5 Sharon Koeppe
- 3/7 Carol Olson
- 3/9 Susan Thompson
- 3/11 Jo Roberts
- 3/12 Matthew Cornelio
- 3/12 Hallie Cornelio
- 3/12 *Rich & Kay Jaeger*
- 3/16 Colin Broders
- 3/16 Mona Jean Roberts
- 3/18 Steve Jessen
- 3/18 Maddie Moen
- 3/21` Dorothy Monson
- 3/22 Devon Beed
- 3/26 Leonard Zechmann
- 3/27 Alvina Heller

God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month! If your name was not included, please notify the church office.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Two 2-person teams to count offerings once a month (3rd or 4th Sunday). Training provided. Contact the church office for more information.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

A new flower chart is on the office door. Please use the dry-erase marker to sign up. One bouquet is ordered unless otherwise specified (florist will bill you, \$10 plus tax).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The next Crafting Retreat will be Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, in the fellowship hall.

**LOST & FOUND**

A pair of eyeglasses was found in the sanctuary. Claim them in the church office.

**COMING SOON**

Sign up to purchase an Easter lily for yourself or in memory of a loved one.

**ATTENTION SINGERS & MUSICIANS**

If you would like to provide special music during Holy Week, please contact Brian Anderson or Pastor Steve.

**CARD OF THANKS**

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and hugs, and to Pastor Steve for doing such a wonderful, uplifting service for Mom.

*Donna Young and family*

**NORFOLK CHAMBER SINGERS**

Plan Ahead!

Every year, the Norfolk Chamber Singers present a musical Easter Vespers Service on Palm Sunday. This year, Palm Sunday falls on March 25, a few short weeks away. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit a local charity or program. Two years ago, the CTS Teen Moms Daycare was the recipient of these funds. Plan to attend—it's a great way to start Holy Week.

**March 25, 2018**

**Norfolk Area Chamber Singers**

**Easter Vespers**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**416 West Park Avenue, Norfolk**

**Service begins at 7:00 p.m.**

# March 2018

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                  | Monday                                                             | Tuesday                                             | Wednesday                                                                    | Thursday                                                                        | Friday                                                                                      | Saturday                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b><br><b>9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL for ALL AGES (time of gathering @ 8:45)</b><br><b>10:00 WORSHIP W/COMMUNION</b><br><b>11:00 COFFEE &amp; FELLOWSHIP</b> |                                                                    |                                                     |                                                                              | 1<br>9:00 Quilting<br><br>6:30 MOPS steering<br><br>----- MEALS ON WHEELS ----- | 2 <i>Pastor out</i><br><br>5:30 Girl Scouts                                                 | 3                                                             |
| <b>4 Lent 3</b><br><br>Mission & Ministry team meeting after worship<br><br>6:30 Experiencing God                                                                       | 5                                                                  | 6<br><br>6:30 Women/CTS<br>6:30 Childcare Oversight | 7<br><br>5:30 confirmation<br>6:00 meal<br>7:00 worship<br>7:45 youth group  | 8<br><br>9:00 Agape                                                             | 9 <i>Pastor out</i>                                                                         | 10<br><br><i>Fellowship hall reserved (1:00 to 4:30 p.m.)</i> |
| <b>11 Lent 4</b><br><i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i><br><br>Second Sunday potluck<br><br>6:30 Experiencing God                                                        | 12<br><br>5:30 Welcome & Hospitality<br>6:00 Via de Cristo Ultreya | 13                                                  | 14<br><br>5:30 confirmation<br>6:00 meal<br>7:00 worship<br>7:45 youth group | 15<br><br>2:00 Card club<br>6:45 MOPS                                           | 16 <i>Pastor out</i><br><br>5:30 Girl Scouts<br><br><i>Deadline for newsletter articles</i> | 17                                                            |
| <b>18 Lent 5</b><br><br>6:30 Experiencing God                                                                                                                           | 19                                                                 | 20<br><br>6:30 Joint board meeting                  | 21<br><br>5:30 confirmation<br>6:00 meal<br>7:00 worship<br>7:45 youth group | 22                                                                              | 23 <i>Pastor out</i><br><br>CTS Crafting                                                    | 24<br><br>CTS Crafting                                        |
| <b>25 Palm Sunday</b><br><br>6:30 Experiencing God                                                                                                                      | 26<br><br>7:00 Via de Cristo Ultreya                               | 27<br><br>7:00 Worship committee                    | 28<br><br>NO EVENING ACTIVITIES                                              | 29<br><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br><br>7:00 worship                                | 30<br><b>Good Friday</b><br><br>7:00 worship                                                | 31                                                            |