



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

MARCH 2019

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kelcie Hall	3-2
Sharon Koeppe	3-5
Carol Olson	3-7
Jo Roberts	3-11
Hallie Cornelio	3-12
Matthew Cornelio	3-12
Rich & Kay Jaeger	3-12
Colin Broders	3-16
Mona Jean Roberts	3-16
Steve Jessen	3-18
Maddie Moen	3-18
Devon Beed	3-22
Leonard Zechmann	3-26

Ash Wednesday

March 6

Our Lenten journey will begin with our Ash Wednesday service on March 6 with Imposition of Ashes upon our foreheads, reminding us that we are mortal beings living a finite time on this earth. From dust we come, to dust we will return. Although death will come to all of us, we are not without hope or promise. As the prophet Joel reminds us: "Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." (Joel 2:13) As disciples of Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. On this evening you will be invited to seek the disciplines of Lent – repentance, fasting, prayer, and the works of love. During our worship we will receive the Lord's Supper, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The service begins at 7 PM. Our youth will be serving a spaghetti meal before worship, beginning at 6 PM.

Sunday Worship – Season of Lent

The season of Lent (our journey to the cross with Jesus) begins in March with our Ash Wednesday service on March 6. For the next 40 days (excluding Sundays) we enter a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Our Lenten season will be seen through the eyes of Luke's gospel. Each gospel writer has a certain perspective and eyewitness story to tell. The Lenten journey is an important journey to take and remember each year as Jesus calls us to deny self, pick up a cross, and follow Him. Daily dying to self is the constant call as a baptized Christian. Join us on Sundays as we recall what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

March 3 – (Luke 9:28-36) **Transfiguration**

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

March 10 – (Luke 4:1-13) **1st Sunday in Lent**

The temptation of Jesus

Join us after worship for our monthly potluck meal

March 17 – (Luke 13:31-35) **2nd Sunday in Lent**

A hen gathering her brood

March 24 – (Luke 13:1-9) **3rd Sunday in Lent**

The parable of the fig tree

March 31 – (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32) **4th Sunday in Lent**

The parable of the forgiving father

Mid-week Lenten Meal/Worship

6 PM – Meal
7 PM - Worship

Join us every Wednesday during our Lenten journey for a meal and time of fellowship before our worship. Each week a free-will offering meal will be served in the fellowship hall. Our mid-week Lenten theme this year is **Thy Will Be Done**. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He went to the cross for our salvation, He prayed, "Not as I will, but as you will." This phrase "Thy Will Be Done" will be our prayer this Lenten season. Each week we will focus on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Each week a different church member will portray a certain biblical character in costume as they give testimony to each biblical character's personal story. Each week a series of discussion questions will be listed in the worship folder for further study.

March 6 – God's Will and God's Promise – **Isaac**

In this service we remember that by faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when He promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when His Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem His people.

March 13 – God's Will and My Inadequacy – **Moses**

In this service we remember that, at first, Moses did not think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God gave him confidence to set His people free. In Lent we remember that God sent His Son to do His will and set all people free from the slavery of sin.

March 20 – God's Will and My Dreams – **Nathan**

In this service we remember that, anointed by God to rule in Israel, King David followed God's will to shepherd His people, but often failed to live up to God's dream for Him. We welcome the Good Shepherd into our lives who fulfills God's dream perfectly to gather His wandering sheep into the sheepfold of heaven.

March 27 – God's Will and My Identity – **Mary**

In this service we remember that, in humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept His role, faithfully following the path His Father had in mind for Him to save us all.

April 3 – God's Will and My Worldview – **Paul**

In this service we remember that, on the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

April 10 – God's Will and My Response – **Lydia**

In this service we remember that Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

My Letter to the Congregation: "Baptized Into the Death of Christ"

The season of Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the church year, not in that my flesh loves it, but that I can be raised to a new life found only in Christ. I must admit the message of Lent (and the message of the gospel itself) is a call to dying and death. Lent is about a crucifixion, a crucifixion not only for Jesus, but for me. If I am going to be a growing, maturing disciple of Jesus, there must be death in me. Not a onetime death but daily dying to self within me. You see, you and I have this one thing that daily gets in the way of following Jesus – our sinful nature. A nature that says, "I want to do it my way," "I want to be my own god," "I want to be in control of my life." And so Lent is a battle for me, a struggle between two wills, mine and Christ within me. I like Lent because it makes me a new person, it reminds me of who I am and more importantly, who I am becoming in Christ. This new person in Christ was such a strong longing that the apostle Paul wrote these words in Philippians 3: 7-11:

"⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

This longing to gain Christ and to be found in Him requires a death – a death of self so that the new can arise. Paul, in his great doctrinal letter to the church in Rome, wrote: "*Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*" (Romans 6:3-4) While we usually read this scripture at the beginning of a funeral, Paul reminds us that when we were baptized we were baptized into a death – a death to self and the human desire to be one's own god. One of our first words spoken is "mine" which reminds us that this sinful nature lies deep within us. So as Luther reminds us in his explanation of the Baptism in his Small Catechism, our baptism is a calling to dying daily. Luther writes: It (our baptism) means that our sinful nature, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever." And then Luther quotes Romans 6:3-4 as evidence of this daily dying to self. Lent is a great way to remember your baptism in this way.

In our baptism service we are reminded that "we are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life." On that day we were not only "marked with the cross of Christ" and "sealed by the Holy Spirit" but we were instructed to live with God and His people as we seek to "grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God." Such a new way of living is a daily, ongoing battle of the will between ours and God's. Every disciple needs to learn of this

battle and use the weapons of the Spirit and put on the full armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

We engage in this fierce battle every Lenten season (40 days) just as Jesus engaged with the devil in the wilderness for 40 days. On Ash Wednesday we hear these words in the beginning of the service:

“As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.”

Lent is a time to struggle against EVERYTHING that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Here lies our daily struggle—loving God and neighbor in the way God has designed and called us to be. That is why following Jesus is a call to death (especially in these 40 days of Lent) and a spiritual warfare. It begins with repentance followed by fasting and prayer and the discipline of Lent to help us engage once again in this call to die to self.

Every disciple must struggle to understand this process of dying to self and rising to new life in Christ. Every time we die (no matter how painful or difficult it may be), the joy of the new life is overwhelming. This joy, as Paul describes it, surpasses everything else in life. In fact, Paul calls everything besides knowing and living in this new life in Christ “garbage” and “rubbish.” The life of faith is not about sitting at the right and left hand of Jesus but rather drinking the cup Jesus drank and receiving the same baptism as Jesus (a baptism of death to new life) – read Mark 10:35-45. Are you ready to begin another 40 days of repentance and dying to self so that you may be given new life? If so, use these 40 days of Lent to begin the struggle against everything that leads you away from love of God and neighbor.

Living in the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus my Lord,

Pastor Steve

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 28, after worship

Our semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, after morning worship. We will receive reports from our congregation council, our ministry teams, a financial report, and a report by Pastor Steve. All these reports will be written and placed in your church mailbox by April 14 (Palm Sunday). This meeting is also an election meeting. We will be electing a Vice President and two congregation council members (all positions will serve a 3-year term). Nominations from the congregation need be received by April 14 for consideration to place on a voting ballot. These forms will be placed in the worship bulletin and on the back table. A nominating committee will contact each nominee to see if he or she would be willing to run for election to the congregation council.

January 28, 2019, Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Present: Pastor Steve Lund, Steve Jessen, Warren Bennett, Emily Svitak, Steve Morton, Al Boelman, Deb Olson, Jan Puls, Carol Olson, Greg Moen

Absent: Steve Freese, Doug Witte, Richard Hillrichs

Al Boelman opened with a devotion on Joshua 1:9. He spoke about having security in Christ in the year to come.

Approval of Agenda

Al Boelman would like to discuss the kitchen and mission (Aaron Cyboron's email).

Jan Puls mentioned inviting Louise Skoglund and Joan Falke to a council meeting for an update.

There is a bill that needs to be approved.

The items of the kitchen and mission will be discussed at the retreat the weekend of February 1-2.

Approval of Minutes

Deb Olson moved to approve the minutes from the December 17 meeting. Al Boelman seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report

Greg Moen and Carol Olson gave a financial report/summary for the year of 2018. The year ended with a positive balance. The end of the year report was discussed and received.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Steve shared his report. He touched on WNA's time of rest, youth, worship (Lent), and the Verge Network.

He mentioned talking to Darcy Metschke. He would like to take some love offerings for the next couple Sundays to be given to the family on Valentine's Day. The council members were in agreement with this.

Old Business

Update on window and dishwasher: A bill has been received from Canham Maytag for \$160 for the repair of the dishwasher. Steve Morton moved to approve the bill. Al Boelman seconded. Motion carried.

Warren has someone lined up to replace the window. The replacement will happen once temperatures allow.

With the removal of the daycare on insurance, the premium was reduced by \$1,538 per year.

New Business

Meals on Wheels is February 25-March 8.

Council will be meeting at the Immaculata Monastery for retreat February 1-2.

Steve Jessen closed with prayer. The next meeting will be February 18.

Deb Olson moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Jessen seconded. Motion carried.

Emily Svitak, secretary

Christ the Servant Council Meeting
February 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Pastor Steve Lund, Warren Bennett, Richard Hillrichs, Deb Olson, Doug Witte, Al Boelman, Jan Puls, Steve Morton, Steve Freese, Steve Jessen, Charlie Skoglund

Steve Freese opened with a devotion on discipleship based on Matthew 16:24. Discipleship is contrary to the message of the world around us, it takes work, and it requires us to put God and others before ourselves.

Approval of Agenda

Charlie Skoglund would like to present some information on worship.

Stewardship committee would like some ideas from council. This can be discussed at this meeting or the next.

Doug Witte would like to give an update on the daycare.

Doug Witte moved to approve the agenda with the added items above. Deb Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Hillrichs moved to approve the minutes with the addition of names to those present. Jan Puls seconded. Motion carried.

Worship Report

Charlie Skoglund shared about worship services. For contemporary service, Charlie will now be worshipping as part of the congregation and Emily Svitak will be taking over the worship leading role. The hope is help with the flow of the service and keeping the style more 'contemporary'. Charlie has also invited some people of the congregation to take part in the traditional service in the 'prayers of the people'. The council received this information and gave some feedback/affirmation.

Financial Report

The general checking account was at \$44,973.33 as of January 31, 2019.

Al Boelman raised the question of putting the weekly offering amounts in the bulletin each week.

Steve Morton shared that Greg Moen will be meeting with a person to get QuickBooks set up and going. This will happen closer to the beginning of March.

The council would like monthly reports to have the monthly expenditures, YTD spending, and percentages of the budget used. This will be able to happen once the system is in place.

Kitchen Fund: It was agreed upon at the council retreat, that the kitchen fund will be put into a designated account under the church, rather a separate account in another bank. Steve Morton moved to send a letter to request that the kitchen funds that are being held elsewhere be moved into Christ the Servant's accounts as a designated fund, along with the bank statements and records. Warren Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Morton moved, per Aaron Cyboron's request in an email from January 7, 2019, due to his new paid position as a pastor, we will no longer use budget dollars to support his ministry. Jan Puls seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Morton gave a proposal on designated funds. The council talked about moving the designated funds to a separate account, apart from the general operating funds. Per discussion at the council retreat, he brought forward a proposal of change/movement of amounts for certain funds and the possible renaming certain funds. Steve Morton will work on getting some descriptions for designated funds.

Doug Witte will find where the endowment fund was left last he knew. He will bring this information for the next meeting.

Old Business

The council discussed at the retreat the way to go about concerns brought to council meetings. The council wants to aim to be open, having concerns in the light. The aim is to be direct and intentional about conversations and concerns, not hidden

or 'chasing shadows' through relayed messages. The council would like to move forward on this by council members asking the person to bring their concern forward in writing in order to bring it to the council for discussion.

The council discussed coffee before service. More discussion will follow in months to come.

New Business

The semi-annual meeting will be set for April 28th (with announcements of it for two weeks prior). Elections will be held for Vice-president and two council members (Richard Hillrichs, Warren Bennett, and Deb Olson will be stepping down). A committee, of those leaving, will be meeting to bring names forward. A report can be given by the next council meeting on March 13th.

Steve Freese brought forward the question of how we may reach the new housing development to the west of the church property. Steve Freese proposed/asked that this would be a question that is kept in mind.

Doug Witte took the last of the daycare items to the Orphan Grain Train. Records will be moved to be kept on file. All other things related to the daycare are done.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Steve shared about the Verge Network and the lessons on discipleship making. This is something he is working through/digesting.

Lenten services will have monologues of Bible characters.

Youth are still meeting as they are able, it is going well.

The sound system was looked at, and some recommendations for repair/update were given.

Money was given for banners. Some banners are being looked at for purchase for Lent and Easter.

Dedication of the dry walling/painting will be happening in the next month or two with Susan Thompson's family.

Pastor Steve gave a handout of the six values of leaders by Bobby Clinton for reflection.

Upcoming Events

February 25-March 8 – Meals on Wheels

March 6 – Ash Wednesday

April 21 – Easter

Future Items

Endowment/designated/mission funds

Steve Morton closed with prayer. Next council meeting is March 18th. Steve Freese moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Morton seconded. Motion passed.

Women of Christ the Servant Meeting Minutes, November 5,2018

Present, Linda Sheppard, Tammy Buckendahl, Margaret Svitak.

Meeting was opened with Devotional and Prayer. Minutes from the last meeting were read. Margaret motioned to accept and Tammy seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report was presented by Margaret. Balance in checking is \$2341.17

Monies raised from the Crafting Weekend was \$630.00. Donations from September Quarterly Meeting was \$37.00

Thankoffering will be collected on the Sundays of November 18th and the 25th.

Margaret will Make flyers for the December 1st meeting and also the Rescue Mission Meal and will distribute to everyone's mailbox.

December Meeting will be decorating the church with lunch served.

Women of Christ the Servant Monthly Meeting, January 14,2019

Present: Tammy Buckendahl, Margaret Svitak, Linda Sheppard

Linda opened the meeting with devotional. Tammy led us in Prayer.

Old Business:

Minutes from November 5, 2018 minutes were read. Tammy motioned to accept and Margaret seconded.

Treasures report: Balance in checking is 2885.09. The check of 1000.00 was written to be wired to Tanzania for the Women's group to buy sewing machines and supplies. This will leave a balance of 1885.09.

Thankoffering total is 185.38 with 43.30 to be deposited, making total 228.68.

New Business:

Meeting dates were set for the remainder of the year.

March 2, Quarterly Gathering 9.00 am

April 8, 10.00 am Monthly Meeting

May 6 Monthly Meeting

June 1st Year End Meeting

Blessed and Be Blessed Rummage tentative date of May 4th.

Discussed plans for Quarterly Meeting in March.

Linda will set up date for Women to make Lenten meal.

Meeting adjourned.

Stewardship Thought

Giving is an important part of being a Christian. There are many reasons to give, and the following will help people understand the importance of giving:

Giving acknowledges God's ownership. God has created and still owns all things. *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it"* (Psalm 24:1). We are the managers of all that God entrusts to us. When we give, we are merely returning a portion of what God has already given to us.

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	*Friday	Saturday
*Pastor out of office on Fridays Office hours: 8:30 to 4:30 Monday-Thursday (closed for lunch 12:30-1:30) 8:30 to 12:30 Friday					1 5:30 Girl Scouts	2 9:00 Women's Spring gathering
3 <i>Transfiguration Sunday (w)</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship (T) Fellowship	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday 6pm Lenten meal 7pm Imposition of Ashes	7 9:00 Quilting 6:30 MOPS steering committee	8	9
***** MEALS ON WHEELS *****						
10 <i>Lent 1 (p)</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship (C) Potluck Youth group	11 5:00 Hospitality 7:00 Ultreya	12 4:30 Stewardship	13 5:30 Confirmation 6pm Lenten meal 7pm worship	14 9:00 Agape Circle	15 5:30 Girl Scouts	16
17 <i>Lent 2 (p)</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship (T) Fellowship Mission-Ministry	18 6:30 Council	19	20 5:30 Confirmation 6pm Lenten meal 7pm worship 7:45 youth group	21 2:00 Card club 6:45 MOPS	CRAFTING TOGETHER SIMULTANEOUSLY	
24 <i>Lent 3 (p)</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship (C) Fellowship Youth group	25 6:00 Ultreya	26 7pm Worship committee 7pm Kitchen remodel meeting	27 5:30 Confirmation 6pm Lenten meal 7pm worship	28	29	30
31 <i>Lent 4 (p)</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship Fellowship						

Worship: T = traditional; C = contemporary
 Paraments: (w) = white; (p) = purple

Membership Care Team: Jo Roberts, Linda Miller
 Altar Guild: Connie Petersen, Nell Finkral (communion bread)

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 3rd Friday of the month.