

Message from the Pastor



Dear Friends –

It's Lent again . . . the season of the church year in the weeks before Easter when we are reminded to dig deep. It is so easy to skim the surface of our faith . . . just gliding along on a weekly reassurance of the most basic truth that God is with us . . . that God loves us . . . that we are not alone. But during Lent, we are encouraged to hear God's invitation to leave the shallows and take a dive into the depths of faith.

Lent is the season when we are invited to find ways to bring our faith into every day of our life . . . to let God into decisions we make and conversations we have and time we spend in a more meaningful way. And we do this through "spiritual disciplines" -- through prayer, Bible study, fasting (choosing to "give something up" that gives us pleasure -- so that we remember to find our hope and joy in our relationship with God), devotional reading, quiet "listening" & meditation, worship, service, giving, journaling, or sharing our faith story with others. This Lenten season, my hope is that each of us will find one way to "dig a little deeper" in our faith . . . that we will add on a spiritual discipline during these weeks.

May you carve out time, light a candle, and be quiet . . . really quiet for 10 minutes (or more!) and let yourself sit with God. May you commit to a more significant time of prayer every day . . . or find a prayer book, perhaps, or pray for the people you meet throughout your day or see driving to work or walking on the street. May you re-evaluate your budget and find ways to give more than you expected. May you volunteer an extra hour or two somewhere these weeks -- at the nursing home or maybe the prison . . . and see the people you serve as Jesus. May you find a devotional that you can think about throughout the day. Or dig deeper in the Bible. May you forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself) . . . and learn more about forgiveness. May you give up something -- meat or sugar or even a day each week without food or without TV, Facebook, and tweeting (but only if it becomes a reminder to trust God for your comfort, more than whatever you are giving up). May you find a way to talk about faith with your friends and family. May you practice gratitude . . . write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. May you commit to worship twice a week . . . taking in the full Lenten journey . . . from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday. Whatever it is . . . may you **dig deep**. There are plenty of resources online . . . and we have devotionals at church. It doesn't have to be complicated. But this is about you deciding what would make a difference in your relationship with God. It's Lent. Give it a try.

Blessings to you . . . and grace and peace and courage --
Pr. Janine

*Some online devotionals: luthersem.edu/godpause
lhm.org/dailydevotions
devotional.upperroom.org
cac.org/category/daily-meditations*





The Church Cookbook We are continuing to gather recipes for the cookbook. We will be putting together a 'Meals and Memories' cookbook and hope to get many more recipes. The recipes can be family recipes or a favorite that you would like to share. Perhaps, it was a recipe that you made to take to a church potluck in past years. If possible, please add a memory and/or background of the recipe. **We would like everyone to be part of this . . . family members, too!** Please write or type your recipes and put them in the Memory Recipe Trunk in the Narthex or give them to Mary Louise Comins, Sandy Ellersick, or Patty Leiser. **Be sure to include your name!** Thank you!

*P.S. There will be a prize for the **oldest** recipe!*

Designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars® by March 31st American Lutheran Church received \$4,189 in charitable outreach funding in 2016. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until



Thrivent Financial
"Choice Dollars"

March 31, to direct any remaining Choice Dollars to charitable organizations. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



*I must APOLOGIZE to the congregation. October 2016, we started cash donations to the food bank basket. At that time I told you I would not spend any of your money on tax. I was wrong, case in point. I was personally given, \$13.00 for the food basket. That week I looked at the flyer from Safeway (I check the sales every week). There was a sale on canned tuna fish, 10 for \$10.00. The next day I received the Family Food flyer, they had the same canned tuna fish for .59cents a can. I needed to make a decision. I purchased 20 cans of tuna fish, paid tax, with change left over. Cost - 20 can's \$11.80, tax .71cents, change left over .49cents. Change goes back into the donation container. This way 7 more families received a can of tuna fish. Will this happen again? Yes, I believe it will. Please understand I look for the best buy possible and I now realize I may need to pay tax. If you have any questions please ask.
God Bless, Nancy Thome*

Personal Care Kits, 2017 - Our Anna Circle Bible Study group has decided to collect items for the Lutheran World Relief's **Personal Care Kits**. LWR explained that many families for different reasons must flee from their homes leaving their belongings behind. LWR stated that when arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, the refugees need and appreciate the items included in the Personal Care Kits. The items help them stay clean, healthy and give them a sense of comfort. We are encouraging all of you to help collect the necessary items which will be listed below. When the items are collected, we will be asking for help in wrapping the items. We will be shipping the kits at the end of April. The Personal Care Kits that will be distributed will remind those in need that we want to give a helping hand and that we care about them. Thank you!

Please include the following in the Personal Care Kits:

- *One light-weight dark colored bath towel, 20" x 40" to 52" x27".**
- *Two or three bath size bars of soap, 8 to 9 oz., in original wrapping.**
- *One sturdy comb. (No picks or fine toothed combs)**
- *One metal nail clipper (attached file optional, remove packaging)**

All items should be new and in good condition. Monetary gifts are also accepted. Each kit costs LWR \$2.65 to ship to where the kits are needed. There will be extra lists in the Narthex.



Ministering

Volunteers who share their gifts



March 5, 2017

Greeters: Sylvia Post
Ushers: Les & Blanche Wall
Reader: Mary Bug Smith
Counters: Jean Oxrieder & Val Urvat
Coffee Hour: Peggy Smith's Group

March 12, 2017

Greeters: Kathy Hansen
Ushers: Toby & Gail Johnson
Reader: Lee Shaver
Counters: Jean Oxrieder & Val Urvat
Coffee Hour: Vicki Richter's Group

March 19, 2017

Greeters: Dwight & Eloise Opp
Ushers: Tom & Hazel Bauer
Reader: Dwight Opp
Counters: Jean Oxrieder & Val Urvat
Coffee Hour: Gail Johnson's Group

March 26, 2017

Greeters: Jennifer Ellersick
Ushers: Dwight & Eloise Opp
Reader: Don Comins
Counters: Jean Oxrieder & Val Urvat
Coffee Hour: Val Samson's Group

April 2, 2017

Greeters: Steve & Sharon Bateman
Ushers: Jennifer Ellersick
Reader: Faith Hughes
Counters: Kristy Bell & Mark Bender
Coffee Hour: Sandy Ellersick's Group

April 9, 2017 PALM SUNDAY

Greeters: Steve Cawelti
Ushers: Dick Bockemuehl & Sandy Ellersick
Reader: Pastor's Choice
Counters: Shannon Radke & Mark Bender
Coffee Hour: Jaci Stevens' Group

April 16, 2017 EASTER

Greeters: 1st-Theresa Watson & Ashley Scribner;
2nd-Rita Crisp
Ushers: Sip & Bonnie Crotteau
Reader: 1st-Mark Bender; 2nd-Robert Balow
Counters: Shannon Radke & Mark Bender
Coffee Hour: No Coffee Hour

April 23, 2017

Greeters: Val Samson
Ushers: Rita Crisp & Elaine Petersen
Reader: Rita Crisp
Counters: Shannon Radke & Mark Bender
Coffee Hour: Jean Oxrieder's Group

April 30, 2017

Greeters: Joe & Darlene Evans
Ushers: Theresa Watson & Ashley Scribner
Reader: John Gertenbach
Counters: Shannon Radke & Mark Bender
Coffee Hour: Eloise Opp's Group

Birthdays

Celebrate their Birth

MARCH

Annie Frederick	03-09
Mary Lou Kroening	03-13
Sylvia Post	03-14
Anna Wyrobek	03-14
Shannon Hurd	03-15
Laura Ratcliff	03-16
Carson Wyrobek	03-17
Ron Heinrich	03-20
Jason Heinrich	03-21
Kelly Shults	03-22



Trish Akre	03-22
Steve Bailey	03-23
Brennan Jones	03-23
Amber Lewis	03-26
Valerie Samson	03-28

APRIL

Alice Owen	04-02
Emily Hoffman	04-05
Greg Seeber	04-05
Toby Johnson	04-07
Karla Olson	04-12
Gladys Gerow	04-13
Matt Goodrich	04-14
Jean Oxrieder	04-17
Linda Swanson	04-20
Miranda Frederick	04-22
Kari Goodrich	04-26
Janice Gleason	04-27

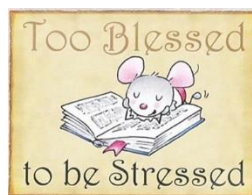
Special Thanks

Appreciation for God's blessings in action



We have received some thank you cards from recipients of the Sunday School Valentine Cards mailed by Kari Tafoya - Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated!

Special thanks to everyone who made this newsletter possible. - Patty Leiser



Special Events and Dates

Mark your calendar

Soup Suppers are coming soon! The Lenten Suppers will support the theme, "Lent in 3 Words". Please join us and discover which 3 words help you celebrate Lent in a meaningful way. The Wednesday evening gatherings are open to everyone and will start at 5:30pm according to this schedule:

March 8th & 15th at American Lutheran Church
March 22nd & 29th at St. Anthony's Catholic Church
April 5th and 12th at the United Church of Christ
 Please sign up to help and/or bring food items that are listed on the signup forms in the Narthex. Thank You! Sandy Ellersick



Deadline for the March / April Newsletter is April 23rd. Please email all calendar items, service group schedules, announcements, and thank you notes to Alc.churchoffice@gmail.com
THANK YOU!



LUTHERHAVEN

Spring Servant Weekends ::
at Lutherhaven & Shoshone

Lutherhaven Servant Weekend: March 31 - April 2
and

Shoshone Servant Weekend: April 28-30

Help get your camps ready for the summer season and enjoy all the fun of camp in the evening with your family.

Golden Agers Day Out: April 25 @ 10:00am

A terrific day at Lutherhaven with a fabulous lunch, great friends and plenty of laughs. One day retreat for retirees, senior adults, and older adult groups. \$12 per person includes lunch and program.

Lutherhaven Women's Retreat: March 17-19



Our goal is for every woman to experience relaxation, rejuvenation and most importantly, be reminded that you are God's beloved daughter!

Speaker, Pastor Julie Blum

Register today:

<http://www.lutherhaven.com/event/lutherhaven-womens-retreat/>



The Whiteboard in the church office is covered with these words – someone wrote them – I'm sharing them with you:

*One Love = Jesus
God loves you.
Give Thanks.
You're an amazing child of God.
Love your neighbor.
Help others.*

When everything is gone, when people and possessions have faded away and it seems like you are left all alone, God is there. God will not fade away or leave you all alone. God is there for you forever.



April 9th Palm Sunday Worship at 10am @ ALC

April 13th Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 7PM @ UCC

April 14th Good Friday Worship Service at 7pm @ ALC

April 16th Easter Sunday Worship at 8am and at 10am at ALC



Church Contacts

Serving God by serving all people

Pastors.....Matt & Janine Goodrich
 Church office 509-447-4338
alc.pastors@gmail.com

Parish Nurse Valerie Blake
509-953-6043

SecretaryPatty Leiser
 Church office 509-447-4338
 alc.churchoffice@gmail.com

Mutual Ministry Committee Members
 Annie Frederick
 Elaine Petersen
 Shannon Hurd
Greg Seeber

Church Council 2017

Serving God by serving the church

President LeRoy Leland
 Vice PresidentSandy Ellersick
 Secretary Roberta Clausen
 Treasurer Vicki Richter
 Financial SecretaryBillie Goodno
 Education Monica Jones
 Jennifer Ellersick*
 Shannon Hurd
 Evangelism Sylvia Post
 Rita Crisp*
 Theresa Watson
 Mission/Social Concerns Annie Frederick*
 Nancy Thome
 Katie Kersting
 PropertySteve Cawelti
 John Gertenbach*
 Ralph Blake
 Glenn Smith
 Stewardship Val Urbat
 Val Samson*
 Robin Balow
 Worship & Music..... Larry Sauer*
 Mark Bender
 Elaine Petersen

* church council member

MARCH 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ash Wednesday 12 n AIAnon 7pm Ash Wednesday After- Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Youth Sunday School & Coffee Hour	6	7 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30am Set up for Soup Supper	8 12 n AIAnon 5:30 Soup Supper @ALC 7pm Choir Practice	9 6 pm FFF	10	11
12 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Youth Sunday School & Coffee Hour	13	14 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30am Set up for Soup Supper	15 12 n AIAnon 5:30 Soup Supper @ALC 7pm Choir Practice	16 5 pm BBB	17	18
19 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Youth Sunday School & Coffee Hour	20	21 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30 am Quilters	22 12 n AIAnon 5:30 Soup Supper @StA 7pm Choir Practice	23 6:30 pm WWW	24	25
26 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Youth Sunday School & Coffee Hour	27	28 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30am Quilters 5:30pm Church Council / Committee Supper	29 12 n AIAnon 5:30 Soup Supper @StA 7pm Choir Practice	30	31	

APRIL 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Coffee Hour	3	4 9:30am Quilters	5 12 n AIAnon 5:30 Soup Supper @UCC 7pm Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Coffee Hour	10 	11 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30 am Anna Circle 7 pm Church Council	12 12 n AIAnon 5:30 Soup Supper @UCC 7pm Choir Practice	13 Maundy Thurs 7pm @UCC 	14 Good Friday 7pm @ALC 	
 16 EASTER 8am Early Worship and 10am Worship 		18 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30am Quilters	19 12 n AIAnon 7pm Choir Practice	20 5:30 pm BBB	21	22
23 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Youth Sunday School & Coffee Hour Newsletter Deadline	24	25 7am Youth Bkfst @ Pastors' 9:30am Quilters	26 12 n AIAnon 7pm Choir Practice	27 6:30 pm WWW	28	29
30 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship Youth Sunday School & Coffee Hour						