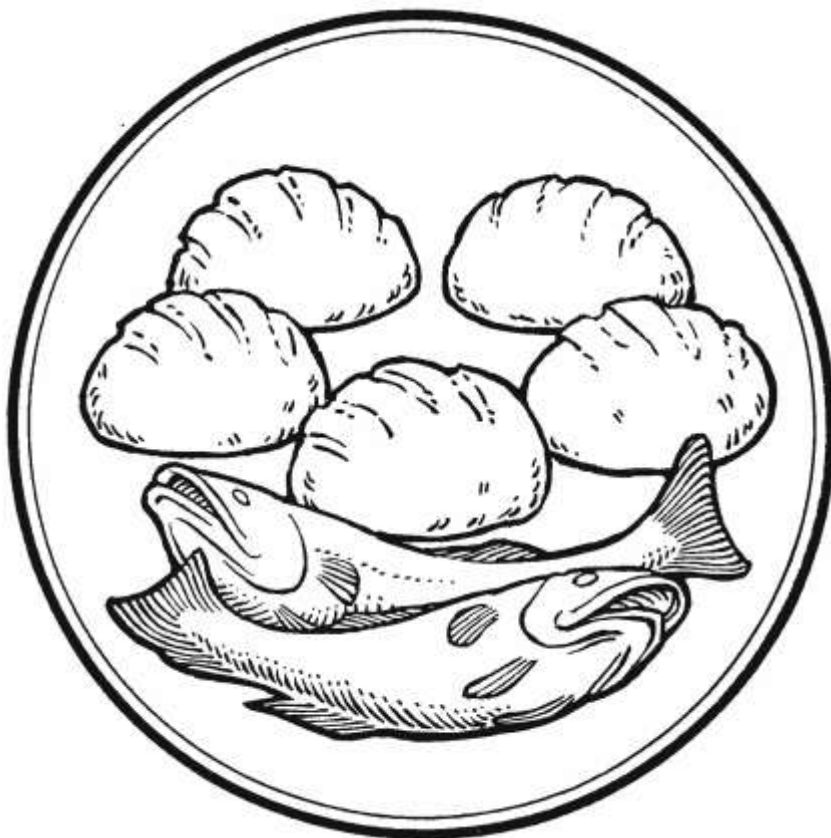


New Hope Lutheran Church
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Laetare
March 19, 2023



260-622-7954
newhopelutheranossian@gmail.com
www.newhopelutheranossian.org

**NEW HOPE IS A CONGREGATION GATHERED AROUND CHRIST
WE RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS IN WORD AND SACRAMENT;
WE PROCLAIM CHRIST CRUCIFIED AND RISEN;
WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

Wel come!

We're glad you've joined us as we gather to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To prepare for the Divine Service, you are encouraged to pray the prayers inside the front cover of your hymnal. As you prepare for communion, please read the statement on page 8.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (*Congregation sings text in bold.*)

Psalm 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a



**Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.**

I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”

Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!

Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*

May they be secure who | love you!
For my brothers and com- | panions’ sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2–21

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against

the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. ¹⁹And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” ²⁰But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*Congregation sings text in bold.*)

Psalm 122:1, 7



I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
Peace be with- | in your walls*
and security within your | towers!

Second Reading

Acts 2:41–47

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in

common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (Lent)

LSB 157

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 6:1–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had

eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church (*Please turn in your hymnals to page 288 to pray the Litany*)

Offering (*Offerings placed in the plates at the sanctuary doors will be carried forward during the singing of the Offertory below. Plates will still be available near the sanctuary doors for those who wish to offer their gifts to the Lord following the service.*)

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

God's Word states that in the Lord's Supper Jesus offers His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28), that partaking of this Supper together is a confession of our unity in faith (1 Cor. 10:16–17) and that the body and blood of Jesus can be received to one's harm (1 Cor. 11:27–32). Out of love for those who commune, New Hope Lutheran Church communes only those who

- 1. Have been taught and examined in the Christian faith,*
- 2. Confess their sins and trust in Christ for forgiveness,*
- 3. Have made a public confession of their agreement with us in this one Scriptural faith through membership in this congregation or another congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*
- 4. Have spoken with the pastor prior to the service.*

If you are not a communicant member of New Hope or another LCMS congregation, you are invited to come up for a blessing; please cross your arms during the distribution.

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution Hymns: 625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

642 O Living Bread from Heaven

737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You...one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.

Hymn to Depart: 756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



New Hope News and Notes



March 8-12 Stewardship

Attendance: Lent Midweek: 29
 Sunday Divine Service: 66; Bible Study/Sunday School: 17
 Giving: General Fund: \$2,044 (Amount needed weekly: \$2,966)
 Mortgage: \$100 (Remaining Debt: \$34,008)

Upcoming Events

Today, March 19	Voters' Meeting, 11:30 am
Wednesday, March 22	Lent Supper, 6 pm Lent Evening Prayer Service , 7 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room, 8 pm
Saturday, March 25	Altar Guild Meeting, 9 am
Sunday, March 26	Prayer and Anointing for Healing/Rite of Private Confession and Absolution, 8:15 am Bible Study/Sunday School, 8:45 am Divine Service, 10 am Usher/Greeter Training, 11:30 am New Testament Class, Conf. Room, Noon Service at Ossian Health Care, 1 pm

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Birthdays: Elayne Saalfrank – Mar. 20; Graham Smith – Mar. 23; Lori Bauermeister – Mar. 24; Todd Graft – Mar. 25.

Anniversaries: Duane and Jeani Klaus – Mar. 20; Larry and Denise Burfiend – Mar. 24

Military: Denver Burkley (grandson of Joey Septer), Ethan Bearman (cousin of Randy Buuck).

Members and catechumens of our congregation: Marilyn Kimmel, Leona Meyer, Nancy Small, Keith Fuller, Marjorie Johnson, Don Milholland, Janet Fuller, John Hartup, Carol Schumacher, Chris Alfeld, Bryce Bowman, David Hoopengardner, Lynette Esslinger.

Friends and family of the members of our congregation: Rev. Paul Doehrmann; Susan Gaines; Alice Jacobs; Makenzie Webb (granddaughter of Carol Schumacher); Robin Graham (friend of Randy and Diana Buuck); Don Hockemeyer (friend of Dara Phillips); Lynne Kuzeff (sister-in-law of Jeani Klaus); Charles Brown (brother of Sue Hansen); Cole Parker (friend of Tad Steckbeck); Joanna Daniel (Niece of John and Karen Peck); Darlean Schell; Stanley High (son-in-law of Karan Shell); Sherry Bearman (cousin of Bonnie Brandewie); Linda Strait (friend of Diane Garrett); Karen Gerbers (friend of Jeani Klaus); Jerry and Casey (brother and niece of Janet Speed); Sam Aeschliman (uncle of Lori Bauermeister), Lucas Rielsh (nephew of Bonnie Brandewie); Andy Klaus (brother of Diane Garrett and Duane Klaus); Joyce Trczinka (sister-in-law of Marilyn Kimmel).

LIFE QUOTE “I cannot ponder every day the full life of Christ in the Gospels. But I can during the year on various days celebrate and ponder His Annunciation, Nativity, Presentation, Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration, Triumphal Entry, Last Supper, Agony in the Garden, Arrest, Trial, Passion, Carrying of the Cross, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Great Commission, or Ascension.” *James M. Kushiner, executive director, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* “Hurting from abortion? *Word of Hope can help. word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.*”

TOP PODCASTS IN RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY... Issues, Etc., a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken, consistently ranks among the Top Podcasts in Religion & Spirituality with Apple Podcasts. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.

SACRED CHRISTMAS MUSIC... In observation of The Annunciation of Our Lord, You can listen to sacred Christmas music on Saturday, March 25. Listen at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

DEVOTIONS based on this year’s Lenten theme (the Lord’s Supper) are available on a table in the narthex.

HOLY WEEK INVITATIONS – Please consider assisting us in sending invitations to our Holy Week/Easter services to members who have been absent from our church, past visitors and preschool families. Please let Pastor Burfiend know if you are interested in helping.

EASTER LILIES – If you are interested in donating funds for Easter lilies please place an appropriately marked envelope and donation in the offering plate. If you are interested in purchasing your own lilies (or purchasing other flowers) for Easter, please bring flowers to church on or before Saturday, April 8.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER - St. John-Emmanuel Lutheran School in Monroeville is looking for a long-term substitute for middle school math and science beginning after Spring Break and continuing through the end of the school year. Math and science knowledge is preferred. A teaching degree is not required. Responsibilities include lesson planning and teaching math, pre-algebra, algebra, and science to 6th to 8th graders. For more information please contact Ina Guenin, Principal, at principal@stjohn-emmanuel.com or Amy Schlaudroff, Office Manager, at (260) 639-0123.

TODAY, 10:30-1, FISH AND TENDERLOIN LUNCH AND BAKE SALE at Wyneken

Lutheran School (11565 US Hwy 27, Decatur). 10:30 am to 1 pm. Dine in or carry-out. \$12.00 adults, ages 6-12 \$6.00, 5 and under - free. Cash or check only. No credit cards.

TODAY, 4 pm THE SEMINARY KANTOREI will lead a service of Lenten Evening Prayer in Kramer Chapel at the seminary (6600 N. Clinton St., Ft. Wayne). The Kantorei is a choir of students studying for the pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary.

MARCH 22-29 CHOIR REHEARSALS will follow the midweek Lenten service. Please join the choir as they prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

MARCH 25 PACKING MEALS at Wyneken Lutheran School and sponsored by Zion, Friedheim. See the bulletin board outside of the gym for more information on volunteering.

MARCH 25, 9 am ALTAR GUILD TRAINING for anyone interested in serving on the Altar Guild and for those who already serve and have questions.

MARCH 26 USHER/GREETER TRAINING after the Divine Service in preparation for Holy Week and Easter

MARCH 26 – APRIL 2 PRIVATE ABSOLUTION AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR HEALING will be offered from 8:15 to 8:40 every Sunday morning during Lent. Private Absolution is a blessing for consciences burdened with sin. This practice is also consistent with the Lutheran Confessions, which state, “Of Confession [the Lutherans] teach that Private Absolution ought to be retained in the churches” (Augsburg Confession, Article XI). Anointing with oil for healing is a rite for those who are sick and is practiced on the basis of God’s Word in James 5:13, which says, “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” (ESV).

MARCH 29 OPEN HOUSE AND KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP at Bethlehem Lutheran School in Ossian, 4-6 pm. Families of children who will be entering grades 1-8 next fall are also welcome to visit and consider a Christian education.

APRIL 1, 9:30 am TRAINING for acolytes, crucifers, bookbearers and other service assistants. All boys interested in participating in upcoming services are welcome to attend.

APRIL 2 TRAINING FOR THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR – All women interested in participating in the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, please meet in the sanctuary after the Divine Service on Palm Sunday.

APRIL 2 – MAY 28 SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED to teach from 8:45 to 9:45 am on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet in the gym.

APRIL 13-16th MEN’S GATHERING – Join Lutheran men for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and growth at Camp Lakeview near Seymour, IN. The retreat includes golf, shooting, zip-line, fishing, a great speaker, fellowship, and worship. See www.mensgathering.us for more information. If you have any questions, speak with Erik Schlemmer, Randy Buuck, or John Peck.

APRIL 20, 5:30-7 PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER – Join preschool families for a program and dinner in support of our preschool.

APRIL 21 GAME NIGHT, 6 PM - Bring your favorite game and a snack to share!

APRIL 22 (SATURDAY) Lutheran Laymen’s League (LLL) and LWML Decatur Zone Spring Rally at Bethlehem, Ossian. Registration at 8:30 am; Rally at 9:00 A.M. Speaker: Tomra “Tomi” Cardin from Redemption House. This is a transition home for women that serves as an alternative to incarceration. **There will be an in-gathering of cleaning supplies.** Meetings for each group will follow the program. This will be a reorganizing meeting for the LLL and all men are encouraged and urged to attend. Any questions please call Tom Grotrian (LLL) 260-623-3879 and/or Marilyn Bulmahn (LWML) 260-919-5007

MAY 19-20 NEW HOPE RUMMAGE SALE sponsored by the Mary Martha Guild. Watch the bulletin for more information.

JUNE 26-29 VBS AT BETHLEHEM, OSSIAN. Please see the flyers on the entrance doors for more information on registering children or volunteering to help.

SEP. 24 MISSION FESTIVAL ON MERCY AND MISSION IN TANZANIA featuring Rev. Peter Brock, who travels to Tanzania to support a seminary and orphanage there.

SERVING THE BODY OF CHRIST:

March 19

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Burfiend
Fieldworker – Sem. Kjetil Homdal
Organist: Amy Schueler
Elder: Terry Bauermeister
Altar Guild: Bonnie Brandewie
Coffee Hour: Diana Buuck
Sound: Erik Schlemmer
Ushers: Terry and Nathan Bauermeister

March 26 - Lord willing

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Burfiend
Fieldworker – Sem. Kjetil Homdal
Organist: Amy Schueler
Elder: Tony Bauermeister
Altar Guild: Kami Brandewie
Coffee Hour:
Sound: Randy Buuck
Ushers: John Peck and Theo Burfiend

The Season of Lent

Our liturgical preparation for Easter takes place through three distinct periods or steps. The first was Pre-lent. The second is Lent which is the time between Ash Wednesday and Judica. The final step is Passiontide and Holy Week.

The fourth Sunday is called **LAETARE**, which means “rejoice.” It comes from Isaiah 66: “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her; all you who love her.” The Gospel is the feeding of the five thousand who had ample cause for rejoicing.

In Lent, we continue to abstain from the “Alleluias” and Greater Gloria. The color is violet to signify mourning for a monarch. As is the case with all fasting in Christendom, we give things up to subdue our flesh and to enhance our joy in them when they return. For the time comes, indeed, when we shall fast no more.

This season is meant to order our hearts and minds upon not only on the terrible cost of Our Lord’s gracious sacrifice on our behalf but also on His willingness to be our Savior and to reconcile us to His Father. So also, the entire season, as even our entire faith and persons, is observed in the sure and certain knowledge of the Resurrection.

From Martin Luther’s Sermon for Lent 4 – Laetare, John 6:1-15

In today’s Gospel, Christ gives us another lesson in faith, that we should not be overanxious about our daily bread and our temporal existence, and stirs us up by means of a miracle; as though to say by His act what He says by His words in Matthew 6:33 – “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” For here we see, since the people followed Christ for the sake of God’s Word and the signs, and thus sought the Kingdom of God, He did not forsake them, but richly fed them. He hereby also shows that, rather than those who seek the Kingdom of God should suffer need, the grass in the desert would become wheat, or a crumb of bread would be turned into a thousand loaves; or a morsel of bread would feed as many people, and just as satisfactorily, as a thousand loaves; in order that the words in Matthew 4:4 might stand firm, that “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” And to confirm these words, Christ is the first to be concerned about the people, as to what they should eat, and asks Philip, before they complain or ask Him; so that we may indeed let Him care for us, remembering that He cares more and sooner for us than we do for ourselves.

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book, Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. Cover art by Edward Riojas. Provided by Higher Things, © Higher Things, Inc. The Luther quote below on page 16 (taken from *Luther’s Church Postils* of 1905) has been provided by www.scholia.net and is designed to accompany: *Crumbs – Short Devotions for Every Day of the Year* by Carl Manthey Zorn. These daily devotionals are available at www.scholia.net.