



Greetings in Christ!

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

We have to take the devil seriously as a real enemy who is hell-bent on taking down every Christian. He does not want you to believe in Jesus. He does not want you to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. He does not want you to inherit eternal life.

Instead, the devil wants the new life you have received to die. He wants you to be absorbed by the riches and pleasures of this life. He wants you to treat God’s Word and Sacraments as a boring (or at least optional) religious obligation. He does not want you to love and delight in God’s Word, to sing His praises with joy, to **“love the habitation of [His] house and the place where [His] glory dwells”** (Ps. 26:8).

In order for you to die spiritually, the devil does not need you to believe in him. He wants your faith and trust to be directed anywhere other than the Triune God and His gifts of forgiveness. The devil is pleased when a person believes in himself above all. The devil is happy when a person considers it more important to get to the doctor than to get to church. The devil is happy when a person considers it a priority to get to work but is not as concerned about hearing God’s Word and receiving His gifts. The devil is happy when a person’s educational choices are driven by worldly concerns and not by a desire to grow in God’s Word and study the world as God our

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creator intended. The devil is happy when we ignore Our Savior and His Word in our daily decisions, principles and priorities; he is happy to have us make choices solely on the basis of what we find to be most pleasing and personally satisfying. The devil wants you to trust in someone or something more than the one true God.

So how does the devil try to convince us to trust in someone or something more than the Triune God? As he did to Adam and Eve in the Garden, he makes disobedience to God’s command seem so attractive and so good for you. He doesn’t need to come after you with a pitchfork, horns, and a red suit. Scripture says **“for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”** (2 Cor. 11:14b). Satan makes it look appealing, good, wise and advantageous to listen to him and disobey God’s Word. Don’t listen to him. Listen to God’s Word even when it runs contrary to what the world and your sinful nature might want. To listen to the Lord and His Word even when it runs contrary to what seems best at the time is to trust our Lord above all. This is what the devil hates. Let’s make the devil angry.

On the first Sunday of Lent, which is February 26 this year, one of the major themes is the battle that the devil has waged and continues to wage. Join us that Sunday and every Sunday to receive our Lord’s gifts, listen to His Word, and be strengthened against the

battle that the devil wages against God’s people every day. – Pastor Burfiend

Wednesdays - Good News Class at 6 pm and Bible Study at 7. Please join us!

Feb. 5, 12, and 19 – Join us for a brief choir practice following the Divine Service. After Lent begins on Feb. 22, choir practices will be held on Wednesdays after the evening Lent service (beginning March 1).

Feb. 12 – Mission Festival. At 8:45 am, seminarian Kjetil Homdal will speak on mission work in Norway and his own return to faith in Christ. A bake sale after the service will raise funds to support Norwegian seminarians studying at CTSFW. Please bake cookies and bring them for plating on Feb. 11 at 10 am.

Every other Sunday, 1 pm, – Gather resident of Ossian Health Care and assist them in the service. Upcoming Sundays include Feb. 12 and 26.

Sunday School Teachers are needed in February, March, April, and May. If you are able to teach on any Sundays in those months, please sign up in the gym.

Feb. 25, Parents’ Day Away, 1-4 pm – Drop off children (toilet trained to 10) for devotions and activities. \$20/child.

From the Finance Board:

YTD Income: \$12,890

YTD Expenses: \$11,559

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		January 31 Lutheran Bible Institute Sessions St. John (Bingen) at Wynneken School 7:00 - 9:15pm	1 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	2	3	4
5 Septuagesima Exodus 17:1-7 1 Cor. 9:24-10:5 Matt. 20:1-16 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Choir: 11:30	6	7 Lutheran Bible Institute 7:00 - 9:15pm	8 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	9	10 Mary Martha, 10 am	11 Cookie Plating and Drop-off for Mission Festival and Bake Sale, 10 am
12 Sexagesima Is. 55:10-13 2 Cor. 11:19-12:9 Luke 8:4-15 Kjetil Homdal, Mission Speaker: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 Bake Sale, Choir, NT Class 11:30	13	14 Lutheran Bible Institute 7:00 - 9:15pm	15 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	16	17 Confirmation Retreat at Seminary	18 Confirmation Retreat at Seminary
19 Quinquagesima 1 Sam. 16:1-13 1 Cor. 13:1-13 Luke 18:31-43 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Choir: 11:30	20	21	22 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Good News 6 pm Ash Wednesday Divine Service 7pm	23	24	25 Parents' Day Away 1-4 pm
26 Lent I Gen. 3:1-21 2 Cor. 6:1-10 Matt. 4:1-11 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30	27	28	March 1 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Lent Dinner 6 pm Lent Service 7pm Choir: 8 pm	Upcoming Events: Midweek Lent Services, 7 pm Wednesdays (Dinner served at 6 pm) April 2 – Palm Sunday Divine Service, 10 am April 6 – Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7 pm April 7 – Good Friday Service, 7 pm April 9 – Easter Sunday Services, 7 am and 10 am. Breakfast served between services.		