



Lutheran
Church

March 2023 News



Greetings in Christ!

At times, people will raise the objection that the Christian Church is too judgmental. The church does indeed render judgments, but in doing so, the church is speaking the judgment that God has given her to speak in His Word. This is necessary, and we should receive the judgment of God's Word spoken by His church.

For example, a doctor examines you and renders a judgment about what sort of disease you might have. If he makes the judgment that you have cancer, you probably won't accuse him of being judgmental even though he has made a judgment that something is wrong with you. Instead of being offended at this judgment, you might respond to such a judgment by asking how the cancer is going to be treated.

The judgment of the Word of God diagnoses the "cancer" of sin, and this diagnosis is absolutely necessary. Sin lies at the root of disease and death. It is because of our sin that we received the punishment of death after the fall. Therefore, it is also because of sin that our bodies, which are dust and heading to dust, get cancer, viruses, and infections about which doctors must render judgments. The judgment that identifies sin therefore gets at the heart of the issue. The doctor does not always find the cause of your illness and is not always able to treat it even if he finds the cause. The judgment against sin that is spoken by the church on the basis of God's Word is therefore necessary for identifying the real cause of suffering, pain, and death in this world.

The Lord not only correctly identifies sin as the real problem, He also provides the only successful treatment. You cannot successfully address the fundamental problem of sin with a drug or a pill or a surgery. Our

sins are so great that only the death of the Son of God could pay for our sins. God laid all the punishment for our sins upon Jesus. Thanks be to God for paying this full and complete price so that we could be bought back from Satan's rule and made God's children. Now the Lord "treats" us with His forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

The Baptism that He gives first buries and raises us to a new life, but the treatment doesn't end there. The Lord continues to speak His judgment against our old sinful nature and its ways through His Law so that we might confess our sins and put this sinful nature to death. The new life we have been given in Baptism must also be fed with the forgiveness in the Absolution, the promises of God in His Word, and the very body and blood given on the cross to pay for our sins. At times, Christians have even called the Lord's Supper the "medicine of immortality."

The Lord sends a message of judgment against sin because He wants us to recognize the seriousness of the cancer of sin, put it to death by confession, and turn to Him for His mercy and forgiveness. In the face of His judgment against sin, come, confess your sins and receive His forgiveness in the Absolution and His Supper. When others want to dismiss God's Word and His church as judgmental, let them know that God is diagnosing our real problem; He wants us to receive the only real treatment for sin as we receive

the forgiveness He won for us on the cross. – Pastor Burfiend

Lent – Please join us on Wednesdays at 6 pm for dinner and 7 pm for our service on the theme of the Lord's Supper.

Choir rehearsal will follow the service.

Absolution and Anointing for Healing will be offered from 8:15 to 8:40 every Sunday morning during Lent.

Preschool volunteers are needed to assist the teacher aides while teachers assess individual students. Please sign up in the gym.

Sunday School Teachers are needed. Please sign up on the sheet in the gym.

March 25, 9 am Altar Guild Meeting for current and prospective Altar Guild members.

March 26 Usher/Greeter Training after the Divine Service.

April 1, 9:30 am Training. All boys interested in participating in upcoming services are welcome to attend.

April 2 Training For the Stripping Of the Altar on Maundy Thursday – All women interested in participating, please meet in the sanctuary after the Divine Service.

From the Finance Board:

YTD Income: \$24,545

YTD Expenses: \$22,819

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Upcoming Events: April 2 – Palm Sunday. Training for Maundy Thursday April 6 – Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7 pm April 7 – Good Friday Service, 7 pm April 8 – Easter Vigil Service, 7 pm (Includes Baptism of new members) April 9 – Easter Sunday, 7 am and 10 am. Breakfast between services. April 14-16 Men’s Gathering in Seymour April 21 – Family Game Night</p>			<p>1 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Dinner 6 pm Lent Service 7pm <i>What is the Lord’s Supper?</i> Choir: 8 pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Acolyte, Crucifer, Service Assistant Training, 9:30 – 11:30 am</p>
<p>5 Lent 2, Reminiscere Gen. 32:22-32 Rom. 5:1-5 Matt. 15:21-28 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Forum, 3 pm, Bingen</p>	<p>6 Keith Fuller Funeral Visitation – 12-1 pm Service – 1 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Dinner 6 pm Lent Service 7pm <i>The Lord’s Supper and the Passover</i> Choir: 8 pm</p>	<p>9 Council, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>10 Mary Martha, 10 am</p>	<p>11 Daylight Savings Time begins tomorrow. Clocks spring forward one hour tonight!</p>
<p>12 Lent 3, Oculi Jer. 26:1-15 Eph. 5:1-9 Luke 11:14-28 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30</p>	<p>13 Board of Education, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Dinner 6 pm Lent Service 7pm <i>The Benefits of the Lord’s Supper, Part 1</i> Choir: 8 pm</p>	<p>16 Elders, 7 pm</p>	<p>17 Preschool Spring Break begins (March 17-24)</p>	<p>18 Decatur Zone L WML Prayer Service, Faith Lutheran in Roanoke, 9:00 am</p>
<p>19 Lent 4, Laetare Ex. 16:2-21 Acts 2:41-47 John 6:1-15 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 Voters’ Meeting, 11:30 <i>St. Joseph’s Day</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Dinner 6 pm Lent Service 7pm <i>The Benefits of the Lord’s Supper, Part 2</i> Choir: 8 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Altar Guild Meeting (for current and prospective guild members) 9:00 am <i>The Annunciation of Our Lord</i></p>
<p>26 Lent 5, Judica Gen. 22:1-14 Heb. 9:11-15 John 8:42-59 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 Usher/Greeter Training, 11:30 NT Class: Noon</p>	<p>27 Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel Dinner 6 pm Lent Service 7pm <i>Why Closed Communion?</i> Choir: 8 pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>April 1 Acolyte, Crucifer, Service Assistant Training, 9:30 – 11:30 am</p>