

March Newsletter

2011



Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
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From the Pastor's Desk:

Remember! Remember! Remember!

Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders.

Deuteronomy 26:7-8

It's not a good idea to "live in the past." Living in the past can cripple us as we try to move into the future.

But a proper look to the past can be quite valuable. Today's Bible reading goes back to the time that God was leading his people out of Egypt to the land he had promised them. When they got settled in the land, God instructed the people to bring an offering to the tabernacle, and speak some words of remembrance – words that recalled how God brought them out of slavery in Egypt and to the Promised Land. Why were they to speak these words of remembrance?

Because as they remembered the great things which God had done for them in the past, they would be filled with confidence for the future, for the God who had rescued them in the past would certainly walk with them into their future. The look back would keep them humble – God had rescued them; they had not rescued themselves. The look back would be empowering – on their side they had the

Almighty God, the One who'd loved them enough to rescue them.

And what's true for them is true for you, too. You have a God who has rescued you! God has fully accomplished your salvation. He sent his Son, Jesus who died on the cross to rescue you from the guilt and condemnation for your sins. Through Jesus, God is on your side! He loves you, and will keep on walking with you day-by-day.

This is good news to always remember, remember, remember!

Prayer: O Savior, forgive me for so quickly forgetting. Remind me that you've rescued me, so that I might be filled with confidence, and might humbly and joyously move into the future, with you at my side. Amen.

LENT BEGINS MARCH 9

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th with communion services at 10:00 AM and again at 7:30 PM. Every Wednesday during lent we will have special services at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM. The theme of the services will be "Life Together." We encourage all to attend these services.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, reminds us of the ancient custom of applying ashes to the brows of worshipers, calling to mind the word of God to our first parents after they had sinned, "You are dust, and to dust

you shall return” (Gen 3:19). “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23). The ashes of Lent remind us that the wages of our sin is death. But this is not the last word. This is a Lenten journey with Jesus.

Let’s walk with Jesus, in Peter’s shoes, during these six weeks of Lent. We’ll see in Peter’s words and deeds a picture of ourselves, of our sin, of our need for the ashes of repentance.

March 9th (Ash Wednesday):

Title: It’s All about Pride

Text: Matthew 26:30–35

March 16:

Title: It’s All about Complacency

Text: Matthew 26:36–46

March 23:

Title: It’s All about Misunderstanding

Text: John 18:1–11

March 30:

Title: It’s All about Distant Discipleship

Text: Matthew 26:57–58

April 6:

Title: It’s All about the Company You Keep

Text: John 18:18

April 13:

Title: It's All about Denial

Text: Luke 22:54–62

Lent a Time to Worship

Nothing should come before the kingdom of God. This Lenten season we have an opportunity to worship during the week on Wednesday. One can either worship at 10:00 in the morning or 7:30 at night. Over the past couple of years our Wednesday worship attendance has been down. This is very sad.

Maybe we should recall the words of Jesus in the parable of the sower (Luke 8:1-15). The seed was sown among the thistles and the good seed was overgrown. It isn't only obvious sins that can keep a person away from God, but honorable duties, daily obligations, things we think that can't be neglected.

The question is, what comes first? God created us to live with Him, through Him, for Him, and to Him. We can't do that without His Word. It is through His Word that God begins a relationship with us. The Word needs time. You can't hear it, read it, or learn it without devoting a certain amount of time to it. We have to take that time. We should not let anything disturb us during that time. There are many distractions that try to do that. Jesus speaks about the concerns we have today that demand our attention and fill our day. They are already waiting for us at our bedside in the morning. They demand our interest and set the order of

the day for us. They make us wonder how we will find time for everything. It is tempting to shorten our devotions during the day, skip church on Sunday, skip Sunday School, and not even consider worship on Wednesday during Lent. It is too easy for us to say: "I don't have time today." When that happens the thorns are beginning to grow over our heads. They will keep growing until one day we may no longer see heaven.

Ebenezer Mission Society – The Ebenezer Mission Society had a very busy sewing night and meeting on February 21st. 71 warming bags were made for the new mothers in the maternity ward at St. John's Hospital in Washington. We are so grateful to **Wilma Helling** who sewed 20 dresses for us for Orphan Grain Train. Thank you Wilma, we sincerely appreciate your help!! We are planning another sewing night on March 21st, at 6:00 or 6:30 PM or whenever you can get there!

Picnic Committee – It is time once again to start planning for our annual picnic to be held in June. We will have a meeting on March 8th at 7:00 PM and are really needing volunteers to be on the committee. Please consider helping out with this worthwhile Church project in order to help make it a success! Please contact Bill or Donna Pohlmann for further information. Thank you!

Please take a moment to check the shelves in the kitchen to see if any of the dishes or containers are yours. Thank you!

Ladies Aid – The Ladies Aid will resume holding monthly meetings again on March 4th at 1:30 PM. All ladies of the Church are invited to join us and enjoy the fellowship and service to our Church here at Ebenezer.

Altar Guild – The Ebenezer Altar Guild is needing two more members to help prepare our altar with flowers for each worship service and communion for the services when we have communion. Members serve, with another member, one month out of the year. Please consider this opportunity to serve our Church in this way. Contact Mary Sprick if you are able to help out.

Altar Flowers – Do you have a special occasion, celebration or birthday coming up? If so, consider placing flowers on our altar to the glory of God and in honor of a loved one or special time. Please contact Mary Sprick if you would want to do this.

Usher Schedule for March

1: Kevin Hoemann

2: Eugene Scheer

3: Marvin Kassebaum

4: Albert Bade

5: Andrew Kassebaum

Alternate: Phil Pelster

Head Usher: Wilbert Baumann

Altar Guild for March

Kathy Scheer and Karen Scheer

Acolyte Schedule for March

March 6

**Alyssa Bopp
Cody Adams
Brian Nelson**

**Bell Ringer:
Codie Brunkhorst**

March 13

**Brent Thurmond
Brian Nelson
Alyssa Bopp**

Corey Adams

March 20

**Alyssa Bopp
Cody Adams
Paul Kassebaum**

Andrew Kassebaum

March 27

**Paul Kassebaum
Brian Nelson
Brent Thurmond**

Jeff Hohlt

March Birthdays

<i>Kathy Scheer</i>	3/2
<i>Blake Alexander</i>	3/3
<i>Amber Helling</i>	3/6
<i>Rube Deppermann</i>	3/11
<i>Deborah Donatti</i>	3/11
<i>Barbara Kassebaum</i>	3/12
<i>Tom Anderson</i>	3/13
<i>Teresa Ragan</i>	3/13
<i>Trent Huellinghoff</i>	3/14
<i>LaRayne Brune</i>	3/15
<i>Lorra Gleitz Harty</i>	3/15
<i>Corey Kasmann</i>	3/15
<i>Kyle Kassebaum</i>	3/16
<i>Greg Scheer</i>	3/18
<i>Matthew Kassebaum</i>	3/18
<i>Paige Thurmond</i>	3/18
<i>Ada Groppe</i>	3/20
<i>Richard Ward</i>	3/22
<i>Dorris Bade</i>	3/27
<i>Jase Pitzen</i>	3/29
<i>Diane Luechtefeld</i>	3/30

March Anniversaries

<i>Gerald & Lydia Groce</i>	3/2
<i>Greg & Kara Scheer</i>	3/30

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed correctly or not listed at all, please contact Mary Sprick. Thank you

Dinner Auctions –

Immanuel Lutheran School in Washington will have their dinner auction on March 12, 2011 beginning at 5:00 PM. Please call 636-239-1636 for more information.

Immanuel Lutheran School in Rosebud will have their dinner auction on March 19, 2011 beginning at 5:30 PM. Please call 573-764-3495 for more information.

Easter Breakfast – Easter morning after the sunrise service, we will again be serving breakfast. We hope to work with the Sunday School again to make and serve the food. There will be a free will offering. It will be doubled by Thrivent and sent to Leslie Food Pantry. The remainder of the matching funds available from Thrivent for Community Care will go to the Exceptional Equestrians' fund raiser in the fall. Please plan on joining us for the Easter breakfast!

Recycle Update – During the month of February we have added \$68.80 from recycle cans to our recycle for missions project. This brings our total funds for recycle aluminum to \$2,644.70 and our grand total for all recycle to \$3,548.63. Thanks so very much for your help with recycle for missions. Our money collected from recycle aluminum, newspaper, walnuts, and donations is sent to help support three missionaries – Mike & Cindy Rodewald, John Strasen, and Robin McCoy.

Recycling Request – Thanks again for all of the donations of paper and aluminum. We do ask that aluminum foil and aluminum pans and plastic bottles not be dropped off for recycle. These items are not taken by the recycling center. If they are included with aluminum cans, the recycle center has to separate them and we could possibly be penalized. It is also quite messy to separate out the unusable aluminum items and plastic bottles. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Thank you!

Light Shines in the Darkness is the theme for Lutheran Hour Ministries 2011 Lenten Devotions. Please pick up your copy from the table near the entrance.

Monthly Treasurer's Summary
January 2011

Beginning checking balance	\$13,544.14
Receipts	\$20,388.76
Disbursements	\$11,214.34
Ending checking balance	\$22,718.56
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$400.00
LCEF 2010 loan balance	\$60,391.57
Other outstanding notes	\$0
Monthly receipts needed to meet budget	\$11,798.00
Surplus or (shortfall) in actual receipts	\$8,590.76

MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Elders 7:00 PM ¹	Confirmation 6:30 PM ²	Challenge of Islam Bible Study 7:00 PM ³	Ladies Aid 1:30 PM Pastor to Valparaiso ⁴	Worship with Holy Communion 3:00 PM ⁵
Transfiguration of Our Lord ⁶ Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00PM	Adult Instruction 3:30 PM ⁷	Picnic Committee Meeting 7:00 PM ⁸	Ash Wednesday ⁹ 10:00 AM Worship Confirmation 6:30 PM 7:30 PM Worship Choir after Worship	Pastor to Minnesota ¹⁰	Pastor to Minnesota ¹¹	Worship 3:00 PM Pastor to Minnesota ¹² Immanuel Washington – Dinner Auction 5:00 PM
1st Sunday of Lent ¹³ Daylight Savings Time Begins Pastor to Minnesota Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship – 10:00 AM	Pastor Returns from Minnesota ¹⁴	¹⁵	10:00 AM Worship ¹⁶ Confirmation 6:30 PM 7:30 PM Worship Choir after Worship	Challenge of Islam Bible Study 7:00 PM ¹⁷	¹⁸	Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM ¹⁹ Immanuel – Rosebud Dinner Auction 5:30 PM
2nd Sunday of Lent ²⁰ Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00PM	Adult Instruction 3:30 PM ²¹ Mission Society Sewing Night 6 PM	Sunday School Teachers and Education Committee 7:00 PM ²²	10:00 AM Worship ²³ Confirmation 6:30 PM 7:30 PM Worship Choir after Worship	²⁴	The Annunciation of Our Lord – Transferred (White) ²⁵	Worship 5:00 PM ²⁶
3rd Sunday of Lent ²⁷ Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship – 10:00 AM	Adult Instruction 3:30 PM ²⁸	²⁹	10:00 AM Worship ³⁰ Confirmation 6:30 PM 7:30 PM Worship Choir after Worship	Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM ³¹		