

March Newsletter 2017



The Season of Lent Ash Wednesday, March 1

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

Stewardship thoughts During Lent

Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection. The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 8:12), and generously (2 Cor 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen 4:4; Prov 3:9; Lev 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7), and love (2 Cor 8:23).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.

PRAYER: Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely of your own.
With the sunshine of our goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Lenten Service During the Week

Please join us for a special series of services called “**Christ on Trial**”. In this 10 service series we will listen in each week as court is in session to determine who Christ is. On Ash Wednesday we hear a lawyer’s opening statements as to who this Jesus is, and who will be on the witness stand in the coming weeks. Examine evidence in this series that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus... for you? Services will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Church fellowship hall. Lent begins on **March 1. Thursday services begin on March 2.**

March 1 & 2 - On Ash Wednesday we hear a lawyer's opening statements as to who this Jesus is, and who will be on the witness stand in the coming weeks. Examine evidence in this series that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus ... for You.

March 8 & 9 - In Week 1 Matthew speaks of Jesus' scandalous association with the seedier side of society. Examine evidence in this series that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus ... for you?

March 15 & 16 In Week 2 a former cripple is, herself, evidence of Jesus' loose interpretation of Sabbath law. Examine evidence in this series that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus ... for you?

March 22 & 23 In Week 3 prominent Jewish leader Nicodemus weighs in: Is Jesus, a disturber of the peace? Examine evidence in this series that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus ... for you?

March 29 & 30 In Week 4 evidence that Jesus is a self-elected "Judge and Jury" is offered by a woman caught in adultery. Examine evidence in this series that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus ... for you?

A special thank you to **Mary Hiatt, Joyce Svancara, Tom Anderson, and Ed Svancara** for helping Pastor Zastrow in presenting these special sermons during Lent.

Picnic Silent Auction

It was voted to have the picnic again this year. So there will also be a silent auction. Please be thinking about things that you might donate. If you have some craft that you do, perhaps you might consider an item that you have made. Requests for auction item letters are available on the back table in church. Pick one up if you have a favorite restaurant or a business that would possibly donate something for the auction. There will be a list of businesses covered by the committee, so check to see if your business is on there, so they are not hit twice. Please consider helping again this year. Thank you, Karen Sprick.

Chili Dinner

Come join us for the Chili Dinner on March 5, after church. The menu includes not only chili, but turkey noodle soup, split pea soup and ham and bean soup along with hot dogs. Desserts will be available also!! Hope you can stop by and join us. If not, carry outs will be available. The free will offering will go to Lutheran\Family and Children's Services in Union.

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries – “From the Cradle to the Empty Grave”. Please pick up your Lenten Devotion booklet which are on the table at the back of Church. Lent is when we turn our eyes to the cross. It is there where Jesus, the sinless Son of God, suffered the indignity and shame of dying for our sins. And it is there where God’s wrath was satisfied by His Beloved Son’s supreme sacrifice, winning salvation for all who call Him their Savior.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Just a reminder to direct your Choice Dollars and apply for Action Team money if you, or anyone you know, is having a fundraiser for someone or for an organization. This can all be done online at Thrivent.com.

New Martin Luther Film

Don't miss this special event: a one-time showing of the new Martin Luther film at: Cinema 1 Plus, Washington MO on Monday, March 20 from 6:30-8:48 pm
\$10.00 per ticket

This special screening is the perfect outreach opportunity...a chance to invite friends and neighbors to an

event in a community setting. This entertaining new film follows the great adventure story of Luther's life, packed with political intrigue, kidnappings, secret hideouts, and life-or-death showdowns. At the same time, it's a story about the most important questions of life, including "Who am I?" "What is my purpose?" and "How do I get right with God?"

It's a must-see for any lifelong Lutheran, and a chance to share the message of your Lutheran heritage with others. And the only place you can see the film is in the theater on the night of our church's special event.

This is the first time in more than 60 years that Lutherans have made a feature-length film about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Filmed in historic locations across Europe, this movie brings Luther's story to life with exquisite attention to detail. It's a chance to strengthen your faith by revisiting the birth of Protestant Reformation, and to share that experience with others.

After the showing of the movie, Rev. Dr. Erik Herrmann, Chairman of Historical Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will lead a 30 minute presentation and question and answer time. Rev. Herrmann was an on-site advisor during the making of the documentary.

IMPORTANT: All tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets can be purchased at a special website set up for the screening:

<http://washington.NewLutherMovie.com>

If you do not have on-line access, you can purchase tickets through the Immanuel Church office, but we must have payment at the time you order the tickets.

You will be able to see it **free** this June at the Walt in New Haven. Sponsoring this free showing will be by Ebenezer, Bethlehem and Trinity congregations. After the showing in June it will be distributed to be shown in the congregations of the circuit.

March Birthdays

Kathy Scheer	3-2
Blake Alexander	3-3
Rigley Faulkner	3-5
Amber Door	3-6
Dawn Brune	3-7
Wyatt Phelps	3-9
Deborah Donatti	3-11
Barbara Kassebaum	3-12
Tom Anderson	3-13
Trent Huellinghoff	3-14
LaRayne Brune	3-15
Lorra Gleitz Harty	3-15
Corey Kasmann	3-15
Kyle Kassebaum	3-16
Gregory Scheer	3-18
Matthew Kassebaum	3-18
Paige Thurmond	3-18
Gilbert H. Wesselschmidt	3-21
Carson Andrew Schroeder	3-21
Wm. David Reynolds	3-25
Dorris Bade	3-27
Ethan Ryan Brune	3-27
Brett Matthew Patterson	3-28
Jase Pitzen	3-29
Diane Luechtefeld	3-30

**We wish all
of you a Blessed
Birthday or
Anniversary**

March Anniversaries

Harvey and Nancy Quinn	3-17
Greg and Kara Scheer	3-30

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed correctly or not listed at all, Please let Mary know!

Altar Guild for March

Diane Luechtefeld and Jane Redhage

Usher Schedule for March

- 1: Doug Eckelkamp
- 2: Eugene Scheer
- 3: Don Kappelmann
- 4: Albert Bade
- 5: Matt Kassebaum
- Alternate: Philip Pelster
- Head Usher: Wilbert Baumann

Bell Ringer Schedule for March

March 5

Cody Adams

March 12

Trent Huellinghoff

March 19

Corey Adams

March 26

Jeff Hohlt

**Monthly Treasurer’s Summary
January 2017**

Beginning checking balance	\$31,955.69
Receipts	\$11,532.94
Disbursements	\$12,917.14
Ending checking balance	\$30,571.49
LCEF savings balance	\$30,426.10
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,659.53
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$400.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	\$-2,293.22

Daylight Savings Time – Saturday Services will begin at 5:00 PM on March 18

Greeting Card Make and Take

Something To Keep In Mind – Greeting Card Make and Take – Saturday, April 29th 2017 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church Dining Hall 9:00 AM.

This is a fundraiser for Alec Ingram and his family. Alec is now undergoing chemo for lung cancer. We would like to help the family in a small way, by giving them a small donation toward their mounting medical bills.

The donation for the Make and Take will be \$25. For that, you will make 6 cards and have lunch. The planned lunch is soup, sandwich, salad, dessert and drinks. In addition, there will be lots of fun for all attending! We do need to know the number of people attending so adequate materials will be ready. Please sign the sheet at the back of Church, call Karen at 636-239-5098 or email at kas2005@sbcglobal.net or call Margaret at 314-623-3676 before April 1st. Check the table in back of church for the sign up sheet and the samples of the cards you will be making. Anyone can do them!! If you are unable to come on April 29, and would like to donate and receive the cards, let us know and we will be able to make the cards for you. Hope to see you there! Please come and join us for fun, food and fellowship and help out a family in need!

Stewardship Principles

Sunday Morning Bible Study starting March 5th, Pastor will be leading a study entitled **BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES**. These principles were produced by LCMS and made available to be taught to our

congregations throughout Synod. Copies of the study will be made available in the back of the church this Sunday for your perusal. Please take a copy and read at home and come to Sunday School for an informative class on Christian Stewardship.

Appreciate Quilts? Quilting?

You are invited to enjoy an informative presentation with entertaining anecdotes “CARE AND REPAIR OF YOUR QUILTED HEIRLOOMS”, presented by nationally renowned quilt expert Hallye Bone on Saturday, March 25th, 2017 at 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM. The presentation will be followed by a salad luncheon and quilt display. This event will be held at Ebenezer UCC “Stone” Church Dining Hall, 6162 Stone Church Rd., Gerald, MO. You are encouraged to bring 1-2 quilts just to share or for questions to Hallye. RSVP: 573-301-0256 by March 13th. No admission, Free will donation appreciated.

Biographical information – Hallye Bone: Hallye Bone began quilting in 1967, before many calicos were available and before the rotary cutter was invented. She has taught quilting in St. Louis and Houston, Texas for 25 years. Currently, she teaches at Jackman’s Fabrics in St. Louis and Fairview Heights, Illinois. Trained by the American Folk Art Museum in New York, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Hallye also repairs and restores quilts. She is an expert appraiser of quilted textiles, certified by the American Quilter’s Society. She has written numerous articles for quilt magazines and two books. Her lectures and workshops are humerous and based on a common-sense approach to quilting,

based on her experiences with clients and a wide variety of quilts. Hallye says, “If there is a quick, easy or foolproof way to make a quilt, I’ll try it and then teach it.” One of her fields of expertise is “crazy quilting”. Her “quilting through hard times” lecture is popular as are her lectures advising quilters on care and repair of their quilts. After 12 years in Houston, Hallye returned home to St. Louis where she enjoys the Cardinals baseball team and recorded books because “they leave my hands free for quilting”. 2017 is her 50th year of quilt making!

Thank you, Connie Lutz

Ebenezer “Stone” Church

Any questions, call or text her at

573-301-0256

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND **INSTRUMENTALISTS!**

Our Choir will be singing on Sundays and Wednesday night Lenten Services. We invite all people who like to sing to join our choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the quilting room.

We invite all our instrumentalists to call Kathy Scheer at 573-237-2631 or Pastor at 573-459-6432 to be part of our worship services for Lent and Easter. Please volunteer your services to the praise of Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ash Wednesday Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 PM w/ Holy Communion	2 Worship 10:00 AM	3 Ladies' Aid 1:30 PM	4 Worship with Holy Communion 3:00 PM
5 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 with Holy Communion CHILI DINNER after Church!	6	7 Elders 7:00 PM	8 Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 PM	9 Worship 10:00 AM	10	11 Worship 3:00 PM
12 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	13	14	15 Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 PM	16 Worship 10:00 AM	17 Circuit Pastors' Dinner at Church 6:00 PM	18 Worship 5:00 PM with Holy Communion Cub Scouts
19 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 with Holy Communion	20	21 Pastors' Conference 8:30 AM Zion Owensville	22 Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 PM	23 Worship 10:00 AM	24	25 Worship 5:00 PM
26 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	27	28	29 Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 PM	30 Worship 10:00 AM	31	