

March Newsletter



March 2024

Special points of interest:

- Birthday Calendar
- Easter Egg Hung Flyer
- Pastor's Ponderings
- Lenten Worship

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Pastor's Ponderings

We have an amazing month of worship opportunities ahead! Beginning on **Sunday, March 3**, in our Gospel of Mark narrative, Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem and he proceeds to tell a parable known as the parable of the wicked tenants in **Mark 12:1-12**. This parable, along with "the question about paying taxes to Caesar" in **Mark 12:13-17** only ramps up the already high amount of tension that Jesus' teaching and healing and welcoming of sinners have generated. Jesus is clearly leaning into the reading from Psalm 118 that he is "the stone that the builders rejected but it has become the cornerstone."

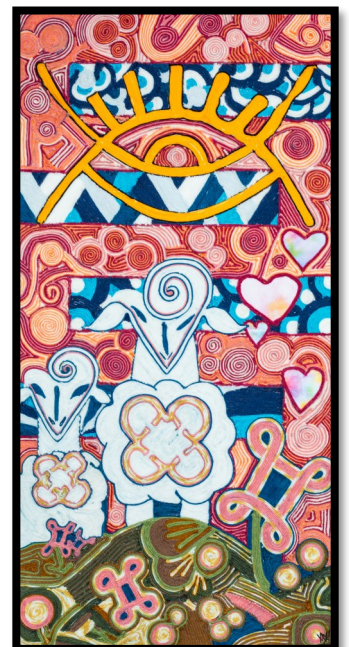
On **Sunday, March 10**, Jesus continues to teach in Jerusalem as in **Mark 12:28-44** he highlights the greatest commandment "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." He also points out the great faith of the poor widow who "Put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

On **Sunday, March 17**, Jesus goes deeper (and some might say darker) with his dramatic teachings in **Mark 13:1-8 and 24-37** as he speaks about the end of the age, the coming of the Son of Man, and the necessity for watchfulness because "about that day or hour no one knows, neither the

angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

On **Sunday, March 24**, we will celebrate **Palm/Passion Sunday!** Many of our high school youth will lead us with palms in telling the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem from the Gospel of **Mark 11:1-11** and then we will continue telling the story of Jesus' Passion and death according to **Mark 14 and 15**. As we have done previously, we immerse ourselves deeply in this service as it offers each of us the opportunity to discover our own rootedness in the Passion story. **Easter Sunday is March 31!** We look forward to celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the dead with you! Please come to either the **7:00 sunrise worship service or at 9:00 am**.

It will be a festive morning with Holy Communion offered both times, plenty of beautiful flowers, and songs of praise! Be sure to join in the festal shout, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"



Confirmation Corner By Jill Logghe

What are the two Sacraments celebrated in the Lutheran Church? The answer is Holy Baptism and Holy Communion which we have been learning about in Confirmation Class.



Recently our Confirmands, Mentors and Parents were invited to share in a "Seder Meal" which retells the story of the Israelites Exodus

from Egypt. It was during this "Passover Meal" that Jesus instituted the first "Holy Communion." He



broke bread with his disciples, shared wine, and commanded them to "Do this in remembrance of me." This meal would be Jesus' Last Supper, a celebration that has lasting significance for us today because it was during this meal that Jesus instituted the Eucharist. We shared Matzah (unleavened bread) and wine (grape juice) during the recalling and retelling of the Passover Meal.



On Monday, February 19th, our class helped out at the North Saint Paul Food Shelf. We did several odd

jobs (including sorting donations of cheese!) that Kathy, the director at the food shelf found extremely helpful. We then had a delicious Subway lunch, went to



the Como Zoo and Conservatory to see gorillas and tigers and bears, oh my! Thank you to Anna Mewis for chaperoning!

Updated Spring/Summer schedules have gone home with students and also mailed.

Please note the following March events:

- *Wednesday, March 20th: Confirmation students and parents will provide and serve the Lent Supper as a fundraiser for our Luther Point Campers
- *March Mentor Event: Meal with an elderly member in the congregation/community – more information to come on this!
- *SAVE THE DATE Luther Point Bible Camp Sunday, July 21st- 26th

Easter blessings and Happy Spring!!

JAM Student News By Bruce Kelm

Jesus and Music (JAM) has been very well attended with 35+ students coming on Wednesdays. That many went to GlenHaven, prior to Valentine's Day to sing for the residents. It was appreciated by many who were there.

A couple of dates to be aware of:

- May 12 – Mother's Day, JAM students will perform during the 9:00 am Sunday Worship.
- May 15 – Last day of JAM for this season.

We will be having First Communion classes for current third graders or those older children who did not have the opportunity to attend these classes previously. Communication about dates and times will be coming out soon.

High School Youth By Melanie Hill

Happy Spring to Everyone!

The youth group is gearing up to have a busy March, both inside and outside of church. As winter sports begin to wind down our youth are gearing up for Lent and Easter and the school play. We have several youth group members preparing to perform *Freaky Friday*. Please support them and the rest of the community youth by taking in one of their shows the weekend of March 22 and 23.

Additionally, our high school youth will be serving the Lenten meal on March 13 and will lead the presentation of the Passion play during the Palm Sunday worship service on March 24.

Then we will help serve a small Easter breakfast on March 31 at 8:00, between services.

Youth Events:

March 6: Regular Meeting and Passion play practice 7:45 pm

March 13: Lenten supper – 5:30 to set up, 6:00-7:00 to serve supper.

March 24: Passion play during 9am worship – Call time at 8:40

March 31: Easter breakfast 8:00 and worship services at 7:00 and 9:00

I hope everyone has a blessed Easter.
Melanie

Resources Financial Update

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Christ's Church here at Holy Cross! As these numbers attest, we are beginning the year behind pace of both last year and what we need to keep up with regular expenses. As you are able, please consider making an increase in your regular giving - either through the Simply Giving program or in whatever manner you find is most convenient. We are working on developing additional ways to donate electronically (through the use of a QR code) and hope to be able to introduce that in the coming month. Also, if you are one to get your taxes filed early and receive a refund, please keep the work of the Church in mind. Blessings and joy to you!

HOLY CROSS FINANCIAL UPDATE					
As of January 31, 2024					
	Monthly	2024 YTD	Actual 2023 YTD	Actual 2024 YTD	Budget
Regular Giving	\$ 5,247	\$ 5,247	\$ 8,064	\$ 11,463.00	
Simply Giving	\$ 2,226	\$ 2,226	\$ 2,646	\$ 2,667.00	
Misc Giving/Income	\$ 67	\$ 67	\$ 118	\$ 1,342.00	
Total Income	\$ 7,540	\$ 7,540	\$ 10,828	\$ 15,472.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 10,946	\$ 10,946	\$ 13,043	\$ 15,472	
Unrestricted Checkbook Balance:	\$	13,376			
Total Checkbook Balance	\$	68,195			

Council Meeting Minutes 2-19-2024

Meeting called to order at 7:07PM

Attendance: John Lindelof, April Goodwin, Pastor Jonathan, Derrick Oberle, Dave Anderson, Angela Jeske and New Members: Anna Mewis & Wes Booth

Angela motioned to approve the agenda, Wes second.

Dave motioned to approve the secretary's report, John second.

Election of Executive Officers

Council President: Derrick Oberle

Council Vice President: Amber Hoffman

Council Treasurer: John Lindelof

Council Secretary: Angela Jeske

Faith and Life Team

- JAM Update-Things are going well, large groups of kids and a very enjoyable time
- Confirmation Class Service (2/19) was a fun day, kids had fun and did a great job at the Food Shelf, thanks to Pastor and Anna for taking the kids and to the kids that attended
- Senior Class recognition May 5th (8-9 kids)
- Adult Choir and Bell Choir will be starting in March, Carol Kelm coordinating this, more information to come but if interested, reach out to Carol
- 3rd Grade Students for First Communion Classes, parents please watch for more information from Bruce Kelm

FUN Ministry Team Report

- Uncommon conversations Feb. 5th (Watershed) lead by Stewart Bartz, Tara Daun, Becky Brathal was a great turnout, very educational and great conversations
- Uncommon Conversations- April 22nd topic "Neighbor to Neighbor" & Communities of Color, learning about our brothers & sisters in the community, myths and facts
- Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd- Glenwood City Area Community Club leading this. Donations are still being accepted and can be dropped off at church
- Luther Point Bible camp July 21st-26th, the week following the St. Croix County Fair
- Guatemala trip April 6th-12th 2024. Still openings for others to attend!
- Easter Breakfast - Coffee and snacks similar to fellowship hour

Property and Management

- Questions regarding the Fair Stand work

Resources

- April motioned to accept the Financial report for January, Wes second.

Council Business

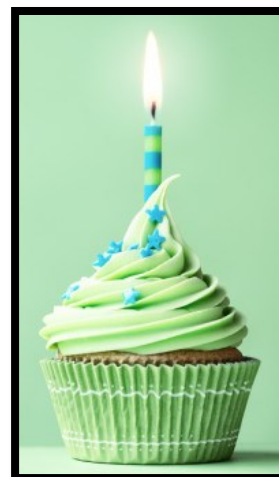
- Serving Coffee Hour on March 3rd: Anna & John
- Next Meeting: March 18th @ 7:00

Serving Lenten Meal on February 21st - Soups

Adjournment at 8:15PM

March Birthdays

		3/10	Duane Zielsdorf	3/19	Addison Wakeling
3/1	Janice Bonte		Alexa Wirth	3/20	Kevin Johnson
	Justin Kuehdorf	3/11	Robert Crosby Jr.	3/21	Carrie Peterson
	Gavin Janson		Nicholas Hill	3/22	Derek Utecht
3/3	Jane Dettmann	3/12	Lexi Logghe		Manus Wagner
	Vickie Gluege	3/13	Beradene Olson	3/26	Kayla Bonte
	Akari Pinnock		Susan Nelson		David Bartz
3/4	Kathryn Johnson		Judi Holmquist		Odin Teigen
	Isabella Grutt		Landon Eliason	3/27	Kevin Nolde
3/5	Daniel Rassbach	3/14	Rayna Brahmer		Whynelda Johnson
	Marcus Gluege	3/15	Nathan Brigham		Aiden Lagerstrom
3/6	Debbie Hoitomt		John Lindelof	3/28	Malakai Schug
3/7	Melissa Wold	3/16	Paula Anderson	3/29	David Hoffman
	Aubree Logghe		Blake Wakeling	3/30	Jake Wold
3/8	Tanya Kuehdorf	3/18	Dean Brunkhorst	3/31	Christal Wakeling
					Amaryllis Schreiber



March

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8am—Choir 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	4 11:00am Bible Study	5	6 3:30pm-JAM 6:00pm-Lenten Meal 7:00pm-Lenten Worship 7:45—Youth/Bells	7	8	9
10 8am—Choir 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship *Daylight Savings	11 11:00am Bible Study 1:30 pm Resource Meeting 6:30 pm Faith & Life / FUN Meeting	12 10:30am Glen- haven Worship 6:30pm Threads of God's Love	13 3:30pm-JAM 6:00pm-Lenten Meal 7:00pm-Lenten Worship 7:45—Youth/Bells	14	15 Newsletter Arti- cles Deadline	16
17 8am—Choir 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	18 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	19	20 3:30pm-JAM 6:00pm-Lenten Meal 7:00pm-Lenten Worship 7:45—Youth/Bells	21	22	23 Easter Egg Hunt 9 am—Noon
24 Palm Sunday 8am—Choir 9am—Worship 10:10—Fellowship	25 11:00am Bible Study	26	27 No JAM	28 Maundy Thursday 8:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm WELCA 7:00 pm Worship	29 Good Friday 7:00pm—Worship	30
31 Easter Sunday 7am—Worship 8am—Choir 9am—Worship						

Easter Flowers

Easter Lilies and Flowers

The Altar Guild will again be taking orders for Easter Lilies and Flowers

Easter Lily	\$13.00
Mum	\$17.00
Azaleas	\$27.00
Hydrangeas	\$29.00



If you would like to purchase one to brighten our sanctuary for Easter, please watch for the order form insert in the Sunday and Wednesday bulletins March 3rd, 6th, 10th & 13th or reach out to the Church office.

WELCA By Mary Ann Ross

WELCA meeting was held January 25, after the newsletter's deadline. We had a good attendance and wishing that more ladies would join us. Its 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00 and you could come at noon and have lunch with us. There is always good food and visiting is a must! Come the morning for Quilting.

We've been working on our funeral policy, trying to update it, things are changing so much and we need to move with the times. Jeanne has been working on our paper for members and non members. We hope to finalize it soon.

We need to do an inventory in the kitchen, like maybe more silverware, we sort of run short when having a big funeral and other little things in the kitchen. We so hope that our dishwasher holds together. It's about 35 some years old.

Our February meeting was Thursday the 22nd, at 1:00 pm. If you would like to join us we meet the 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00pm after quilting.

Women of the **ELCA** 



For three more Wednesday evenings in March, we will continue to see the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes and experiences of Peter. On **Wednesday, March 6** the theme is "Praise the Mount" as Peter goes up the mountain to witness Jesus' transfiguration. On **March 13** our theme is "I'm fixed on it" as Peter is fixated on his belief that Jesus must not die. On **March 20**, our theme is "Teach Me" as the "all or nothing" personality of Peter draws closer to Jesus to learn, "How many times should I forgive?"

During **Holy Week**, we gather with Peter and the disciples at Jesus' Last Supper on **Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm**. At this meal, Jesus gets up from the table to

wash his disciples feet and we see Peter's familiar pattern of reluctance but then exuberance. Using the theme of "Streams of Mercy" this service also includes the special time of gathering with many young students who will receive their first communion. Lastly, the worship service concludes with the dramatic stripping of the altar in preparation for the day Jesus died on the cross.

On **Good Friday, March 29 at 7:00 pm** we will hear the Passion of Jesus according to Saint John who, in perhaps the irony of all ironies, saw Jesus' death on the cross as the moment of his triumph. Jesus is a victorious king who reigns victorious from the cross. In Peter though, we see how he is "Prone to Leave the God I love." Come to experience this series of lessons and songs that helps us to focus on the magnitude of God's love for us.

Welcome to
Glenwood City Area Community Club

EASTER EGG HUNT

GAMES | FOOD | CRAFTS

**SATURDAY
MARCH 23RD**



9 am - noon
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
615 Maple st



**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Lenten Series

We have begun our Lenten Series this year centered on the life and faith of Peter. With the themes of “Jesus Sought Me” and “Rescue Me from Danger” we are seeing and hearing and feeling how Peter is much like you and me. He wanders from steadfast to unsteady, from being a dear friend to a doubter, from a follower to a wanderer. Be sure to join Peter and the rest of Jesus’ followers in the coming Wednesday evenings – 6:00 meal and 7:00 worship.

