

## A Lenten Reflection

As we begin this season of Lent, I must confess I truly did not understand what Lent meant to the church. A church mentor explained what Lent “looked like” and in his imagery, he stated Lent was as if a person looking at oneself in the mirror. All they can see is themselves and the sin they bring before God. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” Looking beyond the ugliness of sin, we also see Christ standing behind us, before us, and on both sides beckoning. It is Jesus who calls us to repentance. It is Jesus who calls us to His table.



The season of Lent is a time of reflection and repentance of the sins in our lives. It is a season of turning away from sin and returning to God. Now, turning away from sin is so much harder than it sounds. It is much easier to make excuses or blame others for our mistakes. The world expects those reactions, and we are often shamed or judged for our actions. But as a church community, we must lift each other up in the gentleness of Christ and remind one another of the cleansing waters of Baptism.

In Holy Baptism, we are delivered from the forces of the devil and puts our sinfulness to death. It is the washing away of sins and death which focuses on the resurrection, the putting on new clothes of a new life. Martin Luther speaks on Baptism as not simply water, “but [as] water enclosed in God's command and connected with God's Word.” It is this gift from God which “brings about the forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare” (Small Catechism). During Baptism, members of the congregation recall their own beginnings

into a lifelong journey in God's loving grace. It is these Baptismal waters which connected to the Word of “God's saving promise through Jesus Christ” (ELW, 2006).

The Lord knows the roads we have traveled; some are straight but mostly the roads have twists and turns. Jesus, therefore, has compassion for all and He bids us to dine at His Table where we receive such a blessed gift...forgiveness of sins. Concerning the Holy Meal, Luther states: “...because there [at Christ's Table] we receive a great treasure...that it may be mine and do me good...” (Small Catechism). Let us then come to the holy table during this Lenten season reflecting on the sin we bring before God and wholly trust in His loving grace that washes away the sin in our lives. And it is God's continued forgiveness that fills each of us with hope as we look in the mirror.

As we enter this Lenten season together, may we recognize we can do nothing which will make us right with God. Let us learn from the Spirit the nature of true repentance. It is this same Spirit which moves us to pray and to seek God's mercy. It is His Spirit working within our lives that we experience God's graciousness. For we are called into the body of Christ as a community of believers in the Triune God. It is the Spirit who calls us to share the good news of Christ with others. May God bless you during Lent and forevermore.

Pastor-Intern Dave

### **February Offering**

02/07	\$5777
02/14	\$5580
02/17	\$615
02/21	\$7686
02/28	\$
Electronic Giving	\$10460
Thrivent	\$2596

### **February Ministerial Acts**

**Baptism:** Payton Hatlestad, Jett Rasmusson, Thomas Paull

**Funerals:** Gilman Vedvig, Judy Johnson, Larry Roth



### Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month

A cowboy appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the cowboy offered. "Once, on a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him in his face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. I then yelled, 'Now, back off, or I'll kick the carp out of all of you!'"

St. Peter was impressed. He leafed through the great book he held. "When did this happen?"

"Just a couple minutes ago. . . ."

**SUNDAY MORNING  
CIRCLE  
SUNDAY MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>  
@ 9:30 AM (ACTIVITY ROOM)**

**Ruth Circle**

March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm  
(Fellowship Room)

**Miriam Bible Study**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm  
(Fellowship Room)**

**Mary Circle**

Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am  
(Fellowship Room)



### Health Care Kits

As the old saying states, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." The health care kits that Lutheran World Relief distributes help our neighbors stay clean whether they are fleeing from a natural disaster or war. Please help show God's love by collecting items for the kits:

*1 bath-sized towel (approximately 27x52)*

*1 large-tooth sturdy comb*

*1 nail-clipper with file*

*1 toothbrush*

*2 bars (4oz) or 3 bars (3oz) of soap*

Remove all packaging except for around the toothbrush and soap. Many countries have no provision for removing garbage so take combs and nail clippers out of their packaging. Wrap all securely in the towel and tie with string or yarn. We will take a special offering on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for those who don't care to shop. I'll be glad to spend your money – frugally of course! Items can be brought any time during March. There will be bins by the northeast door. Thank you in advance for your "helping hands to do God's work".

Sue Taft

**MARCH CAUSE OF THE MONTH**



### The Sanctuary

Provides an environment where women can apply the tools of recovery in a safe, supportive, stable and sober environment in an effort for the individual to realize true freedom in sobriety.

### LYO in March

- 3/3      **7:30pm** LYO Zoom  
                  You Tube Fan Favorites
- 3/10     **7:30pm** LYO Zoom  
                  Among us game night
- 3/17     **7:30pm** LYO Zoom  
                  Keeping in touch-Tune in for details
- 3/24     **7:30pm** LYO Zoom - Skribblio
- 3/31     **Holy Week – NO LYO**

Just a little note that we still meet each Wednesday night via Zoom. We have lots of laughs, and tons of fun. There are a few more steps involved getting everyone needed items for weekly activities when needed, but we feel that it is worth it as long as we still get to see each other each week. We have talked about how cannot wait to be together as a group again.

### Jan 2021 Memorials:

In Memory of **Lorraine Grondahl**  
**Undesignated** from Sharon Grondahl.  
**MOC** from Ralph & Karen Kuhnhenh.

In Memory of **Judy Johnson**  
**Undesignated** from Tony & Jeanie Meiers,  
Sharon Grondahl.  
**Music** from Ed & Paulette Nush,  
Donna Erickson.

In Memory of **Oren “Bud” Fawbush**  
**Undesignated** from Darren Fawbush,  
Karen Fawbush and family.

### Foundation Memorials Jan 2021

**Memory of Apryl Davenport**  
By Greg and Sue Johnson.  
**Memory of Adeline Mueller**  
By Greg and Sue Johnson.



### DO U AMAZON???

If you Amazon, PLEASE consider using amazon.smile.com This is a secure website that is a part of Amazon but donates 0.5% of your purchase back to Bethany Lutheran Church. The link is on our Bethany Facebook page or enter the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-0248857>



**If you contribute on-line, there will still be a box of envelopes for you.** Offering envelopes are in the office! Please pick yours up. Thank you!



### Church Council

- President – Allen Hirzel
- Vice President – Judy Anderson
- Secretary – Ken Stroklund
- Treasurer – Colton Bourquin
- John Bearman                      Debra Lee
- Ben Berg                              Brian Messmer
- Jessie Casey                        Kolette Ostland
- Ivan Guerrero                      Shanon Polsfut
- Jacob Jenkins                      Lana Thompson
- George Walker



March is the "Women of the ELCA" month. Our organization includes Lutheran Women who gather in more than 7000 locations in the US and the Caribbean for service, study advocacy, fellowship and more. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act BOLDLY on their faith in Jesus Christ.

There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minot, ND. We have four Bible Study groups that meet on a monthly basis. We have a quilting group, serve lunch at funerals, make blankets for the confirmation class and many other projects. In May we will have 5 at large members and the president's position open on the BLCW Coordinating Council. If anyone is interested in serving on the Council please contact Judy Anderson at 701-420-0957.

We usually celebrate Women of the ELCA month with coffee and goodies between services. This year, because of COVID-19 we will be having individually wrapped cookies and muffins for everyone to pick up after each Church service. This will be held on Sunday, March 7. Enjoy!

Following are a few projects that the Bethany Lutheran Church Women have completed during 2020!

- \*Served lunch for 4 funerals
  - \*Served supper to Lutheran Campus Ministry students at their January meeting.
  - \*Donated \$500.00 to purchase blankets for Blanket Sunday held in February
  - \*Helped set up for Rhubarb Fest potluck
  - \*Donated \$200.00 to the National Child Safety Council through the Minot PD
  - \*Donated \$100.00 to MP3 Bibles and provided funds to purchase 3 wreaths for Wreaths across America
- Benevolence donations totaled \$2400.00 of which \$2000.00 were Twice Blessed by the St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation
- Thank you to everyone who have helped with these projects. It is greatly appreciated!



## Bethany Birthdays! March:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Taya Bearman, Brenda Miller
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tyler Ballantyne, Linsay Johnson, Joshua Vannett, Haley Williams
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Teegan Dangel
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – Patrick Fix, Marcus Hughes, Sydney Okeson
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – Kimberly Alexander, Krista Mathistad
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – Brekynn Enget, Elliott Flood-Johnson, Rhett Pederson, Derek Telehey
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – Donald Anderson, Sophia Rau
  - 9<sup>th</sup> – Gloria Sorenson
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – Alicia Presky, Ryan Walker, Randi Westmeyer
  - 11<sup>th</sup> – Bonnie Pearce
  - 12<sup>th</sup> – Grady Duchscherer
  - 13<sup>th</sup> – Cole Brose, Jeff Brose, Jackie Gehring, Mary Jordahl
  - 14<sup>th</sup> – Lori Armstrong, Ethan Dangel, Deb Kunkle, Julie Post
  - 15<sup>th</sup> – Evan Holmly
  - 16<sup>th</sup> – Stephanie Metz, Vivian Seier
  - 17<sup>th</sup> – Angelina Bertsch, Jane Grunenwald
  - 18<sup>th</sup> – Justin Deisch, Jerry Hoiland, Marilyn Lucy
  - 19<sup>th</sup> – Becky Hill, Signe Meinert, Julie Okeson
  - 20<sup>th</sup> – Todd Breikreutz
  - 21<sup>st</sup> – Ariel Hirzel, Matthew Metz, Violet Stalheim, Paesley Stenvold
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> – Liane Anderson, Jackie Hebor, Eleanor Lee, Anthony Malachowski, Ethan Shoberg, Larry Sorenson
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> – Travis Hubrig, Ty Jones, Shelly Randash
  - 24<sup>th</sup> – Justin Deisch, Jaci Jones, Ryker Nelson, Colton Schuster
  - 25<sup>th</sup> – Mередythe Lester
  - 26<sup>th</sup> – David Abel, Brian Aufforth, Savannah Field, Brooke Meine
  - 27<sup>th</sup> – Peder Colbenson, Oliver Decoteau
  - 28<sup>th</sup> – Ione Harshberger, Don Hummel, Kari Olson, Brittany Telehey
  - 29<sup>th</sup> – Sherry Cunningham, Sharon Fix
  - 30<sup>th</sup> – Colton Bourquin, Jonathan Daluge
  - 31<sup>st</sup> – Stephanie Hubrig, Alma Lee, Roger Lee
- Also, Happy Birthday to anyone whose name is not on the list. If your name is not on the list then we don't have it, so please call the office with it. Thank you!