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Wednesday Lenten Services: Revelation for Lent



The Medieval church spoke of “Seven Deadly Sins.” Traditionally, these were pride, covetousness, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth. These sins turn us away from God and place the focus inward on our own feelings and experiences. Yet, in Revelation, as St. John brings letters to seven churches in Asia Minor, he reveals that idolatry is at the root of human sin, and of all things, it brings the most deadly and immediate danger. But that isn’t the end of the story. There is forgiveness and freedom through faith in Christ. Join us for this Lenten journey as we visit these seven cities and their churches. Come and hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

February 22 – Ash Wednesday – The Letter to Ephesus –
Revelation 2:1-7

February 29 – The Letter to Smyrna – Revelation 2:8-11

March 7 – The Letter to Pergamum – Revelation 2:12-17

March 14 – The Letter to Thyatira – Revelation 2:18-29

March 21 – The Letter to Sardis – Revelation 3:1-6

March 28 – The Letter to Philadelphia – Revelation 3:7-13

April 5 – Maundy Thursday – The Letter to Laodicea Part 1 –
Revelation 3:14-22

April 6 – Good Friday – The Letter to Laodicea Part 2 –
Revelation 3:14-22

Something Old for Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. This year it falls on February 22. And this year we will have a new opportunity to include a very old practice as part of our Lenten discipline. The imposition of ashes will be offered to those who so desire *following* the Service in the Narthex. If this is not for you, don't worry, it will not be "required" but simply recommended. It will function as a "self-serve" station for those who desire to impose the ashes. If you would prefer not to participate, simply go downstairs for a time of fellowship.

Though the imposition of ashes may be new to some people, much like making the sign of the cross, (as Martin Luther encourages), or even the use of a crucifix, it is an ancient practice. And it is Biblical and historically Lutheran. But most importantly it's helpful. When the ash mark sits on our hand or forehead we feel marked because we are marked. The ashes designate that we are real sinners and this is something that we surely need to hear.

Ashes, applied to our right hands or foreheads remind us that we are dust and to dust we will return (Genesis 3:19). In our culture's pursuit of perpetual youth, ashes made in the sign of the holy cross are a good reminder of our mortality. And ashes remind us that Christ has called us to a life of repentance.

We find the use or imposition of ashes linked to repentance all over the Bible:

"Daughter of my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes" (Jeremiah 6:26).

"They cast dust on their heads and wallow in ashes" (Ezekiel 27:30).

"And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned" (Revelation 18:19).

(continued on next page)

And then we hear about their use from Jesus himself, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes” (Matthew 11:21).

In addition to marking us as sinners, ashes made in the sign of the cross proclaim that our hope and confidence rest in Christ the crucified who rose on the third day for the forgiveness of our sins (Ezekiel 9:4). And because of this we live! Have a blessed Lenten season. May Ash Wednesday call us to repentance in “sackcloth and ashes.”



Pastor Pool

Pastor Pool's Bible Class: The Mysterious Sacrament of the Altar

It is important for your formation in the faith to be involved in regular Bible study. If you are not in a Bible Study, now is a great time to get started! Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. as we look at what Jesus, the Church, and the Bible say about the Blessed and Mysterious Sacrament of the Altar. Come and explore our Lutheran doctrine and practice.

February 5 – Open and Closed Communion

February 12 – The Formula of Concord: Holy Communion and Christ

February 19 – Pastor and Parishioner at the Altar

February 26 – Holy Communion and our Hymnody

Lenten Serving Schedule



The congregation is divided into groups according to the church directory for Advent and Lent Services with one group serving after each service. Each family serving is asked to bring a plate or two of sandwiches or four dozen cookies or a pan of bars or a suggested donation of \$5.00 to \$10.00 to purchase punch and coffee. Donations may be left in the marked container in the church kitchen.

Following is the Lenten Serving Schedule:

February 22 – Dan Pool to Rod Simpson

February 29 – Pete Sirna to Stephen Van Vuren

March 7 – Larry Villa to Sue Boussetot

March 14 – Harry Bovis to Delores Detlefsen

March 21 – Alta Doescher to Russell Henningsen

March 28 – Douglas Hermann to Jim Kophamer

Presidents' Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 20 for Presidents' Day.



From Bill's Desk

President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Martin Luther King Jr. said, "I have a dream." The great ball player Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over."

If you were to go out on the street and ask people what these three people are noted for saying, I would guess that most people would get at least one right, if not all three. But what if you asked them, "What did Jesus say?" What kind of answers do you think you would get? My guess is some might say one of the commandments, or someone might say something about an eye of a camel.



Jesus said many things, such as "Peace be with you" John 20:19. "Fill the jars with water," John 2:7. "Follow me," Luke 5:27. These are very simple ones. He also said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16.

It's too bad that people probably know what a ball player said more than they do what Jesus said. Wouldn't it be nice if it were the other way around? You can do your part. Attending church and reading Scripture regularly will help put the Word of Christ in your heart and mind. But watch out! I may stop you and ask.

Until next time.

God's blessings,
Bill Ross



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

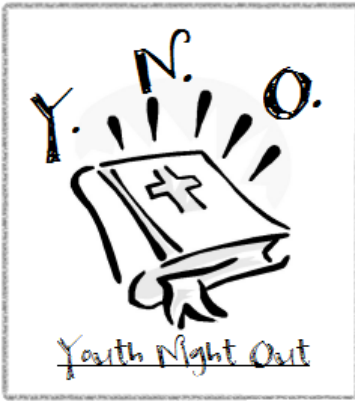
JOHN 3:16, NIV

Fellowship Club Potluck

The St. John Fellowship Club will meet at the church on Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper. Please bring food to share. The beverages and table service will be furnished. There will be a topic study, cards, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Youth Night Out



Who am I? What am I doing here? Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to come and learn more about the answers to these questions. On Sunday, February 19, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., we will meet in the St. John Fellowship Hall for the second installment of this DVD series.

There will be a chili cook off. Come, try some chili, and vote for your favorite!

This is the third of a series of videos and Bible Study that we will be hosting every other month. Each time we meet we will provide food at no cost. Hope to see you there!

Confirmation Classes Information

During Lent (beginning February 22) Confirmation Classes will be from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. with students attending the Lent Service from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cookies and punch will be served in the classroom. Please save the treats in the Fellowship Hall for the rest of the congregation. Thank you.

The second year confirmation students will be confirmed this year on Sunday, May 6, at the 10:15 a.m. service. On Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. the confirmation students will participate in an oral exam followed by a reception.

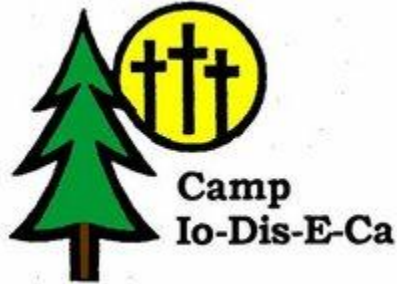


Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Brochures

The new Summer Camp 2012 brochures for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are on the guest book stand in the church entryway. The brochure includes a registration form and information about the programs and date selections.

Camps include Discovery Camp, Explorer, Sports, Adventure, Horse, Canoe Trip, and Bike Trip.



Discounts

Remember to register early! Those who do will receive a discounted rate – see the brochure for more information. There is also a discount for families with three or more children attending full-week residential camps.

Camperships

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca camperships are available to baptized members of St. John congregation: \$150.00 camperships for a five-day program, and \$50.00 camperships for a three-day program. To reserve a campership call the church office, 242-5588.



For more information about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, or to register, go to www.campiodiseca.org.

St. John Nursing Home Residents

Pauline Baasch	The Alverno
Lois Cunningham	Sarah Harding
Alta Doescher	Sarah Harding
Adrienne Gabel	Sarah Harding
Ruth Heseman	Bickford Cottage
Dorothy Huele	Eagle Point Nursing Center
Virtus Kammerer	The Alverno
Maye Pamperine	The Alverno
Orville Rickertsen	Bickford Cottage
Verna Swanson	Eagle Point Nursing Center
Paul Troutman	Eagle Point Nursing Center
Dorothy Weber	Eagle Point Nursing Center
Nola Wosoba	Bickford Cottage



Hospitalized

Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations, pastors do not have access to the names of those who are hospitalized. Your pastor wants to visit you when hospitalized, but the only way for him to know is for you or a family member to telephone the church office, 242-5588.

St. John normally includes those who are hospitalized in the Sunday prayers. If you would like to have your pastor visit, but not have your name announced on Sunday, your request will be honored.

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

Ladies' Evening Bible Study is working on the book of Titus every first and last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All women are welcome! Come to the parsonage at 422 Main Ave. If you have any questions, contact Sarah Barkley, 321-4010.



Mothers Class

Mothers Class continues in February at the home of Sallie Pool. Join us! Mothers Class meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The class meets at the parsonage, 422 Main Ave. Please use the back entrance.

February 21 – “Love and Manners”

Mary Martha

Mary Martha will not have a meeting in February. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13 for the annual Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. On March 5, Mary Martha will serve at Pizza Ranch for the dinner hours.

Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle will not meet in February or March.

Quilting Bee

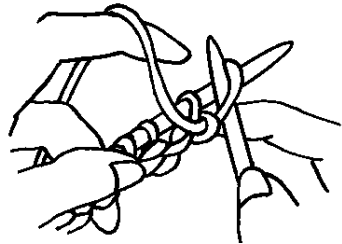
The Quilting Bee will meet on Wednesday, February 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies interested in helping sew and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief are invited to attend.

Scrapbooking

Scrapbookers will meet at 10:00 a.m. on February 18 in the Fellowship Hall to work on their scrapbooks or memory books. Anyone is welcome to join us! The church is available until 4:00 p.m.

Knitting Club

Any knitters or aspiring knitters can meet at church on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sarah Barkley will be available to teach new skills or just be a companion to knit with. Come as you have time – every week, once a month, once a year, it doesn't matter! A small variety of needle sizes and regular yarn will be available to use. All ages are welcome!



Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid will meet on Friday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m. New officers for 2012 will be installed, the 2012 booklets will be handed out, and Jan Edwards and June Hardersen are hostesses.

Using Our Church Library

****attention parents****

We are happy you are using our Church Library. So our books and DVDs do not get lost, we recommend you keep them two weeks. If you do not finish in 2 weeks, please renew the items.* A reminder is sent after a month.

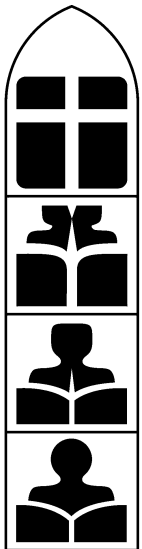
Thank you for helping us keep books and DVDs moving.

The Library Staff

**Extra time for adults if needed.*

New Membership Class

Anyone who is looking to join St. John is invited to participate in the next Adult Membership Class. This class is primarily an adult instruction class, although it is also useful as an important review for teen and adult members who have walked with the Lord for some time. Classes are informal, and any questions may be asked. At the end of the class, a person considering membership may decide whether he or she wishes to join. There is no obligation. Invite your friend, neighbor or relative! Pastor Pool and the Board of Evangelism are willing to make calls on any names given to the church office. Class begins Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m.



**Learn
&
Grow**

Preschool News

We are off to a great start in 2012! Snow and colder weather are welcome for teaching about winter and the arctic.

Unfortunately, that has also brought a quick halt to our enjoyment of the new playground equipment. We are looking forward to "Silly Day" as a way to celebrate the end of January.



Concordia's AMAZING DESERT JOURNEY Where Jesus Leads Us Home

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School this year will be from July 16-20, 2012. Mark your calendars! We will be going on an "Amazing Desert Journey!" VBS is for children 4 years old or enrolled in St. John Sunday School or Preschool through those entering grade 7. Older children and adults are welcome to volunteer as helpers.



How can you help? If you would like to volunteer in **any** capacity, please speak with Deaconess Sarah Barkley. We are also looking to borrow some decorations. We would like blankets,

large pieces of fabric, throw pillows and decorative baskets. (Think desert tents and travel!)

New In Our Library

For Children:

Sheep Lost is a little board book for the very young about sheep in different situations.

Meet three young trees that have big dreams for their future. But they are in for a big surprise! God has a much different and better plan waiting for them. You can read **The Legend of the Three Trees** and also see it as a DVD. For Preschool and Primary readers.

For Adults:

Harvard professor Jonathan Weber's shocking discovery while touring Greek monasteries could change the way the world sees the Bible. Could this be the lost book of the Bible? When the manuscript is stolen, the professor races to recover it before it's lost forever! **The Constantine Codex** is written by Paul L. Maier, author of the best-selling **A Skeleton in God's Closet** and its sequel, **More Than a Skeleton**, both in our library.

Queen Esther & the Second Graders of Doom by Allie Pleiter is a delightful story of Dough and Esther ("Essie") and their baby Josh, especially "Essie" and her Sunday School Class of 8-year-olds. God is a big part of their life. (A refreshing "read".)

It's the summer of 1865, just after the end of the Civil War. At a plantation in North Carolina, three young women decide to leave and start out for an unknown future. Three soldiers on their way home from the war befriend the women but realize traveling with them will cause trouble. All they really want is to put the war behind them, eat fresh-baked pie, and drink sweet tea surrounded by their families. But what about God's plan?

The One Who Waits for Me is by Lori Copeland.

The Deaconess Den

A couple months ago, I wrote to you about the great resources for parents our church has. I'd like to expand on one: Sunday morning Divine Service and our Liturgy.

Each week in Service, we follow the same pattern, what we call the "Liturgy." We are consistent enough that one could memorize most of the service and not even need to look at the hymnal. As I know firsthand, this is especially useful for a parent trying to hold a squirming child! Though we switch between settings, we normally stick to the same setting for many weeks in a row.

Memorizing the Divine Service has other benefits as well. Throughout the week, you might find a verse from Scripture (because most of the Liturgy simply quotes Scripture) popping into your head, especially that put to music. You can also start to teach your own children the parts of the liturgy while you are at home, so they can participate during the service. Adults and children alike can memorize parts, if not all, of the Divine Service and be able to participate even more!

I encourage you to consider memorizing the repeated parts of Sunday morning Divine Service. You will be pleasantly surprised as you are able to speak, sing and pray with those around you. You will be able to pay your children more attention (which keeps them quieter!) or look at the cross. What a blessing the Lutheran Church has in the liturgy!

To God Alone be the Glory,
-Deaconess Sarah Barkley

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy Birthday to:

Gene Rall, who will be 85 on February 1.
George Andresen, who will be 84 on February 1.
Gerri Rall, who will be 80 on February 2.
Nola Wosoba, who will be 81 on February 3.
Catherine Thomsen, who will be 84 on Feb. 10.
Delbert Licht, who will be 82 on February 20.
Alpha Lewis, who will be 81 on February 25.
Virtus Meyermann, who will be 83 on Feb. 27.



Happy Anniversary to:

Richard & Ramona Bailey, 20th Wedding Anniversary on Feb. 14.
Mark & Karen Carstensen, 30th Wedding Anniversary on Feb. 20.
Joshua & Jaclyn Totten, 5th Wedding Anniversary on Feb. 24.

We list birthdays 80 and above and anniversaries for year one and every five years thereafter unless we receive a request not to do so.

Private Communion Calls

Pastor Pool will be making private communion calls on February 13, 15 and 17. All our members in nursing homes are automatically visited and receive communion every month.



Those at home who would like to receive communion are asked to call the church office, 242-5588, to schedule a convenient time.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

Early

Elders: Jim Schnitzmeyer
Bill Ross

Ushers: Jerry Judd
Al Morrow
Bob Hammer

Nursery Attendants (Late)

5 - Lenee Andresen &
Emily Eggers

12 - Kristi & Brad LaShelle

19 - Pete & Tara Sirna

26 - Heather Becker

Late

Elders: Jim Kophamer
Virtus Meyermann

Ushers: Wes Stuedemann
Tom Hardersen
Peter Sirna
Dale Schroeder

Acolyte Schedule

5-Early - Mercedes Chapman

5-Late - Rachele Susie

12-Early - Kelli Clement

12-Late - Shalee Sio

19-Early - Payton Chapman

19-Late - Nick Beckwith

22-Ash Wednesday 7 p.m. -
Brett Beckwith

26-Early - Noah Clement

26-Late - Blake Bialas

**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: FEB. 20**

If you would like to put any information in the newsletter, contact Sarah Barkley, and get her the information by February 20.

