

Pastor Koeller

We Gather At the Cross

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

(Luke 23:34)

Once again all Christendom gathers together to a place we love to stand in, namely in the shadow of the cross at Golgotha. It was there that our Savior was crucified, and it is there that we unite our hearts in spirit every year during this season.

This "Place of a skull", as it was known in the Hebrew, is where our Lord suffered the most torturous death the world has ever known. This type of death was reserved by the Roman government for its subjects and disobedient slaves. No Roman citizen could ever be crucified, for the slow and shameful tortures of crucifixion were meant only for those who were a little higher than the animals.

This type of death was so horrible to watch and remember, so distasteful and excruciating, the tormented cries which came forth from this place were so awful, that some of the Jewish women established a fund to buy some type of narcotic to help the prisoner die and to lessen his agony. This type of narcotic was in the form of sour wine and gall which was administered each time some victim of Roman justice was crucified.

The crucifixion which all Christendom has gathered to watch is not an ordinary crucifixion. We are not here to do like many of the Roman guards namely to gloat over the death of a tormented sinner or murderer. Neither are we assembled on that small hill beneath Jerusalem to satisfy our curiosity. We are here to behold the death of the only Man who was ever perfect on this earth, and we are to watch Him die with two of Israel's most deadly criminals.

Jesus was the only one who could ever truly call Himself King, and yet all during His life He had to suffer the hardships and privations of life. It was only a matter of weeks ago when we considered how lowly His birth was in the stable at Bethlehem. It wasn't long after His birth that He had to flee like a beggar with his parents into a strange and foreign land called Egypt. There he had to live in exile and banishment until it was safe for him to return. All during his ministry he had to be content to put up with the lowly things in life, and truly did he say regarding himself, "Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath no where to lay His head." And now we find that He doesn't even so much as have a decent death. He was tortured and tormented by man until the very end of His days.

Christ the Life of all the living,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
Thro' Thy suffering, death, and merit
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Thou hast suffered great affliction
Even death by crucifixion,
Thou didst choose to be tormented
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
To the darkest depths of woe,
I eternal life inherit:
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

And hast borne it patiently,
Fully to atone for me:
That my doom should be prevented.
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

(Ernst Homburg, 1659)

God's blessings, Pastor Koeller





Pastor Seabaugh

Give up!

Give up! Never! This is what our society celebrates and finds to be a most admirable quality. It is the person who is struggling in school in a particular subject matter, and no matter how difficult it gets they persevere and finish. We can certainly celebrate it! However it can also be the person who needs to give up because they cannot win, they cannot overcome. It is wise for the general in battle as Kenny Rodger's sang, "No when to hold them, No when to walk way, No when to run." This is a fun, yet dated, reference to see if you are paying attention.

We embark on the season of Lent this month. Ash Wednesday is observed on March 6th. This time of year many will voluntarily "give up" something during this time, often time snacks, sweets, something that they know is not the best for them. Or, they simply over indulge in a particular area and they want to try to struggle against the temptation and "give up" that thing.

God would have us during this time to "give up" something a lot more important than the typical food or drink, but rather "give up" our sin. God would have us to come before Him, and confess that we are truly poor, miserable sinners. God would have us examine ourselves against the Law and find out the truth of our lives in relation to His perfect Holiness. We are sinners! We justly deserve God's judgment of temporal and eternal death. God would have us to know that there is no escape from this judgement by anything within us or outside of us. We are hopeless on our own!

God would have us to "give up" and so we do. While we do, we find that we have deep regret and sorrow for that which we know we should do and that which we should not do, or that that which we should think and not think or speak and not speak. God assures us that it is okay, well more that okay, it is good and right that we do so.

For when we "give up", confess our sins unto God, He does not hold our sins against us! He does not say to us that He is unwilling to forgive, but rather He extends His mercy to us! A mercy that looks at our sin and does lord our sin over us, but for the sake of Jesus and His death and resurrection, He forgives. He fully pardons all our sin, past and present! When He does this, He restores us back as His own dear children, once again heirs of life everlasting. In other words, what we "give up" is not missed, but rather that which is removed is filled by God's loving kindness to us, underserved loving kindness so that we are assured that we are His.

This Lent, "give up" your sins, lay them on Jesus, and He will take them on, and remove them forever!

God's richest blessings!
Pastor Seabaugh



Stewardship

Not in Vain

"Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain"

(2 Corinthians 6:1)

God's grace is poured out on us daily and abundantly. Daily we rejoice in our baptisms through which God's grace makes us His children. Sunday after Sunday we celebrate the Easter message of God's grace made available to us through the suffering and victory of His Son. His grace is given to our physical bodies as well as our spiritual lives as He provides "our daily bread," including "everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body" (Martin Luther).

How is it possible that we could receive this grace in vain? When we ignore the Giver of this grace, when we use His gifts for our own good rather than in service to others, and when we attribute our gifts, our abilities, our successes to ourselves, then we receive God's grace in vain.

The life of good stewardship cannot be accomplished on our own, for such an attempt not only is doomed to failure, but demonstrates our receiving "God's grace in vain." Stewardship that pleases God results when we, in response to His grace in our lives, use all the gifts He has given us to serve Him by serving others.

Stewardship

is heart work



Churches visited by members while away:

If you visit a church while away, please save a copy of the bulletin for me. Thank you. Pastor Koeller



- ♥ St. James Lutheran, Green Bay, WI
- ♥ St. Mark's Lutheran, Wausau, WI
- ♥ Bethany Lutheran, Kaukauna, WI
- ♥ Bethel Lutheran, St. Paul, MN
- ♥ Christ Lutheran, La Vale, MD
- ♥ St. John Lutheran, Townsend, WI



Library News

Last month we had our first pop-up book sale on Sunday the 17th. We expect another one this month on March 10th.

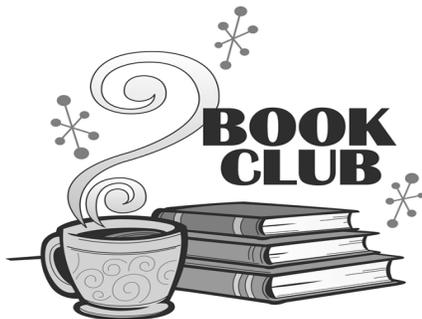


Since many of you donate books off and on throughout the year, the library committee has decided that half of the proceeds will go into the library fund and half will be used to pay down the office remodel.

If we have any input from you, we may have the book sale on the 17th as well. If you have donations to the library/book sale, please see Diane Simon, Maude Lehmann or Becky Lahti.

If the books are not sold or entered into our library inventory, they will go to the Fox Valley Library Association book exchange or on to another purpose.

Thank you again for your support of the Good Shepherd Library.



What if... you found out that the most famous physicist was a fraud? Or as best he collaborated with his wife on the theory of relativity and he never gave her credit. What if you found out you found out Albert Einstein was not as smart as people say?

Ok. Don't despair, this is the subject of Book Club's March book – *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. We will be discussing this on March 11 at 7pm in the Good Shepherd Library.

Written from the point of view of Albert Einstein's first wife – Mileva "Mitza" Maric, the book illustrates her early life in Serbia. A woman at the dawn of her time, she travels to Zurich Switzerland to study physics. Encouraged by her father to use the gifts He gave her, Mitza endeavors to find God through her discoveries. There she meets the young Albert and romance begins.

A rocky romance full of mood swings and bad choices, Mitza finds herself back home, unwed and with child. Her dreams of discovery all but dashed. When her mother encourages her to pursue Albert to at least give her daughter a good life, she returns to Albert and they wed. Not to give too much away, but a tragic loss leads Mitza to the first seeds of thought regarding relatively.

If you have read this book on your own or in another book club and you would like to join us, please do.

Have a great March – hopefully more Lamb than Lion.



March Prayer Partners



Cathy Adomavich	Karen Dejk
Jan Ashbrenner	Diane Simon
Carolyn Berg	Liz Stowell
Joyce Beyer	Linda Brick
Joy Block	Pastor Koeller
Phyllis Boldig	Leann Johnson
Carol Hahn	Pam VandeHei
Tom Hahn	Phyllis Jungers
Tanya Johnson	Ray Koeller
Bruce Kirk	Roger Stowell
Sue Kirk	Adel Thiede
Debbie Koeller	Barb Ranger
Jacqui Koeller	Nancy Smith
Linda Koeller	Sue Whalley
Karen Kraft	Sarah Long-Radloff
Laurie Kumbier	Becky Lahti
Lisa Lawrence	Arlene VandenBoogart
Marsha Mahan	Pastor Seabaugh
Gene Mason	Ron Ranger
Pat Piepenburg	Becky Seabaugh
Liz Podvin	Barb Potaczek
Bonnie Sielaff	John Whalley
Marcia Thompson	Bill VanEckhout

Finance News

Good Shepherd Financial Statement - 2019

	Jan		YTD
Budget Needs	\$ 59,271	Budget Needs	\$ 59,271
Actual Receipts	\$ 46,954	Actual Receipts	\$ 46,954
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (12,317)	Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (12,317)
2019 Receipts	\$ 46,954	2019 Receipts	\$ 46,954
2018 Receipts	\$ 42,938	2018 Receipts	\$ 42,938
Difference	\$ 4,016	Difference	\$ 4,016
Synod Missions	\$ 3,387	YTD Synod Missions	\$ 3,387
Scrip	\$ -	YTD Scrip	\$ -
Thrivent Choice	\$ 1,419	YTD Thrivent	\$ 1,419





DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Thank you so much for your faithfulness in preparing, serving and participating in the Super Mission Saturday event on February 2nd. It was a wonderful day, thanks to all of your efforts! It is truly amazing all the places we've been in Jesus' name – those who go and those who send are each a blessing.

LENT BEGINS MARCH 6TH

Midweek Lenten Suppers and Services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. Please make the following change on the LWML Calendar. We originally signed up for serving supper on March 20th. That has now changed. **LWML will serve supper on March 27th**. A sign-up sheet will be available at our next meeting and in the coat room. Please volunteer to help as you are able.

MARCH 18TH LWML MEETING

The afternoon LWML group will meet at 1:00 p.m. in Room 3. The evening group will meet at 6:15 in the Community Room. There will be a M.O.S.T. Ministries project and also a Five Steps presentation by Debby Suchyta. What do we need to know and what can we do about human trafficking – come and learn with us.

Thank you for the opportunity to share about my recent trip to Uganda to install water filters and to share about my volunteering with human trafficking. Here is a list of resources that I have found useful.

Ethical Barcode: <http://ethicalbarcode.com/>

Ethical Barcode is an app for Android/iOS phones that helps you shop ethically. By showing you brand ratings from non-profit organizations when you scan the products barcode you can find out which companies share your values.

The STOP APP: <https://www.stophetraffik.org/intelligence-led-prevention/the-stop-app/>

The STOP APP is the first app of its kind to combine community empowerment, big data management and anti-trafficking expertise to disrupt and prevent human trafficking.

International Justice Mission (IJM): <https://www.ijm.org/>

International Justice Mission is a global organization with a plan to eliminate the slave trade everywhere.

5-Stones (Appleton): <http://5-stones.org/>

A non-profit established for the purpose of raising awareness about the magnitude of sex trafficking in Wisconsin.

Just Fare Market in Fond du Lac: <http://www.justfare.org/>

Just Fare Market sells gourmet quality Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts, rice, and so much more! The extra bonus that comes with a purchase from Just Fare Market is the assurance that hard working and talented artisans and farmers in the developing world are able to improve their lives because of your purchase.

If you would like more information on human trafficking, please feel free to contact Debby Suchyta debbysuchyta@yahoo.com.



Council News

Our annual Spring voters meeting is scheduled to be in April. One of the items on the agenda is the election of officers. We would like to have a slate of candidates willing to serve the Lord and lead our congregation to fulfill our mission and vision statements.

The positions that will be open on the ballot will be:

President

Vice President

Financial Secretary

Chair of board of Family Education

Human Care

Finance

Outreach

If you can serve in one of these positions please contact the Church office or Ken Wegener at 739- 3965 or kweg49@yahoo.com

Lutheran Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship Easter breakfast (April 21st)

Come join the men's fellowship group on April 21st for a pancake, sausage, and egg breakfast. Breakfast will be served by the men starting at 6:45AM following the early bird service up until 10:15AM just before the late service. The cost is just a goodwill offering. Hope to see you there for good food and good fellowship.



Cabin Fever

Cabin Fever is Sunday, March 17, 2019. There is a sheet attached to this news letterand in the back of the church with a listing of the areas that we need volunteers. Please consider volunteering your time to help us with this annual fund raising event. We couldn't have this event without the support from our church members. Watch your church bulletin and go to the church's FaceBook page for more information. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for Cabin Fever, contact Joanne Sidwell at 920-850-2291 or email her at jmaesidwell@att.net.



Cabin Fever 2019

Cabin Fever is a fundraising event for Good Shepherd. We spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, sharing a meal, and participating in live and silent auctions to help raise money for the church. Please look at the list below and see if there is something that you would like to help with. Many hands make light work. Cabin Fever is Sunday, March 17, 2019

Helpers needed in these areas

Business Donations: These people will mail out business donation letters, organize follow-up calls to business donors, and pick up donations from businesses. They also maintain the business donor list and assist in finding new business donations.

Auctioneers & Helpers: 2 to 3 people to serve as auctioneers and 3 to 4 people to walk around and show off the live auction items and watch for bidders and help deliver baskets to the winning bidders.

Registration & Check Out Helpers: 2 to 3 people to help with registration and checking out people with their purchases.

Set up/ Decorating Helpers: Help set up the gym on Saturday morning setting up tables, chairs, stage, and auction items and help put up decorations and place centerpieces on tables.

Child Care: Plan activities for children, serve meals and snacks, find volunteers to help on Cabin Fever day by setting up the Community Room and clean up after the event.

Kitchen Helpers: Set up and prepare food on Saturday morning, serve food on Sunday along with kitchen clean up.

Basket Helpers: Help needed to assemble the baskets.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Joanne Sidwell at 920-850-2291 or email her at jmaesidwell@att.net



This and That

Everyone of us has a sin we ask forgiveness for but we never forgive ourselves. Oh I'm sure, like me, we 'believe' for a very short time that we have indeed forgiven ourselves.....until we are reminded of a 'like' situation and the pain of guilt and unworthiness crashes over us like waves, drowning us in our pain. Yes, I had an abortion...yes, I've asked for forgiveness again and again. But those waves of pain return. It happens to me when I speak with my children, when I hear a family member is pregnant or, recently, when I rejoiced with Pastor and my cousin, Linda at the birth of their Grandbaby and saw the pictures of their precious little one.

Whether you, like me, had an abortion or know someone who has, our stories are the same. We pay a huge price for our sin. However, Jesus, our Savior, paid a greater price! Innocent, He suffered and died on the cross for all of our sins and He was risen from the dead so those who follow Him will never feel the sting of death.

No matter your sin, abortion or something else, pay close attention to the words of Paul and gain comfort. The below devotion was for today and, for me, our Heavenly Father's timing is perfect!

Mary Jo Taylor

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. – 1 Timothy 1:15-16 ESV

TODAY'S ENCOURAGEMENT

When I think of someone truly made new in Christ, I think of the Apostle Paul. Once a killer of Christians he converted to Christianity, planted much of the early church, and wrote most of the New Testament. In his writing, Paul was upfront about his past. He never denied it. But whenever he spoke of his past, it wasn't to wallow in self-pity but to glorify God. His testimony was "Yes my past is ugly, but that ugly past is now only a sign of how great my God is. If He can make me new, He can do it for anyone." I don't care what you've done in the past, Jesus came so you can be made new. Maybe you think everything is your fault or responsibility. Maybe you think you are not worth good things happening to you. Maybe you feel like everyone is against you or nothing good will ever happen to you. If we want to be made new, we must have God's grace and mercy in the forefront of our minds. Reminding ourselves that no matter how great the trial, heavy the sin, or deep the pain, God is greater. PRAY Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for all the ways You've redeemed my past. I pray for the courage to trust your forgiveness and love for me that I may experience new life in You. In Jesus Christ Name, I pray. Amen.

Midweek Lenten Services 2019

“What shall I do with Jesus?”

If the characters who played a part in the story of our Savior’s Passion could speak to us now, what would they say? But this is not possible. They are gone from the earth these many years. However, out of their recorded stories in the Bible – they still speak to us, clearly, forcefully, if we will but listen. This year during our Mid-week Lenten services on Wednesday nights, we will listen to six monologues as they tell their stories to us. Come join us.

March 6	6:30p	Ash Wednesday	Judas – “Shall I Betray Him?”
March 13	6:30p	Midweek 2	Peter – “Shall I Deny Him?”
March 20	6:30p	Midweek 3	John – “Shall I Love Him?”
March 27	6:30p	Midweek 4	Caiaphas – “Shall I Condemn Him?”
April 3	6:30p	Midweek 5	Simon of Cyrene – “Shall I Bear His Cross?”
April 10	6:30p	Midweek 6	The Soldier – “Will I Recognize Him?”
April 18	6:30p	Maundy Thursday	PASSION PLAY
April 19	1:30p	Good Friday Service	Centurion – “Shall I Glorify Him?”
	6:30p	Good Friday Cantata Service	
April 21	6:00a	Easter Sun-Rise Service	Mary Magdalene – “Shall I Recognize Him?”
	8/10:30a	Easter Celebration Services	



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

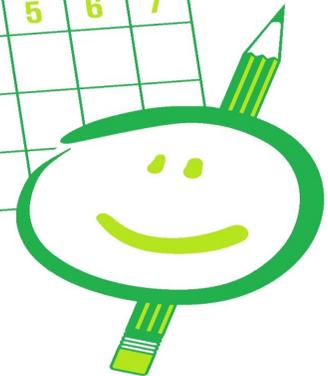
Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____
 Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.