



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross – Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from the Lord, Jesus Christ!

In the era of World War I, nitrates were used both for gunpowder and fertilizer. When President Woodrow Wilson entered the United States in the war, his Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryan, resigned. Those against fighting believed we needed all the nitrates for farming and had none to spare for ammunition. From this debate was born the “guns or butter” language of economics.

We can apply this idea to the returning Hebrew exiles in 539 BC. Jerusalem had been destroyed and left barren. Those returning Jews had limited hours in a day. Every hour spent rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was an hour not spent somewhere else. If you spent all your time cultivating olive and fig trees but had no wall or weapons, raiders could come and steal all the fruits of your labors. If you spent all your time rebuilding the walls, you’d have nothing worth defending. Somewhere between those two poles of guns and butter (or wall and fig vinaigrette), there was the right balance of hours in the day.

Societies are always debating how we allocate our time and our money on guns and butter. When someone asks if the moon landing was worth it or if that money should have gone to social programs, it’s a guns or butter debate. When we talk about COVID lockdowns and keeping businesses afloat, it’s a guns or butter debate (in this case defending against microbial invaders). There will always be someone who takes the position that there’s no invader to fear: “More butter!” There will always be someone who takes the position that luxuries aren’t nearly as important as life: “Guns for defense!” We generally work towards some kind of balance with which everyone can be disappointed, but not too disappointed.

But when those Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem, the Lord did not see a two-dimensional curve where more guns meant less butter and vice versa. You can read about this in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah. Rather, the Lord saw a third way in which hours could be spent, a way that bolstered both their security and their satisfaction in life.

The whole point of coming back from exile was to build the city on the hill, to restore Zion. Every stone that went to the temple’s foundation might look like a stone not laid in the walls. If you were stuck on guns versus butter, it would be easy to fall into seeing the temple as an item that took away from both guns and butter. The Lord understood it the opposite way. He would defend His people. He is our mighty fortress. He would fill His people with joy. His Word is sweeter than honey. Every hour spent rebuilding the temple was investment in both guns and butter.

Consider our world over the past year. Violent crime has risen sharply, in some cities as much as 50% higher. One study has found depression rates have tripled. Are these problems fixed just by handing out buttered biscuits or just by having a better armed police force? Or is the core problem the alienation and fear and despair taking hold during the past year? We have a God who draws

near to the alien, whose appearances regularly bring the message, “Be not afraid,” and who publishes a Gospel of hope. In the 6th century before Christ, the Jews needed to build the temple. In our century, we need to build up the church. We need to reach out to our neighbors.

It starts with exiles returning home. We will not all return at the same pace. Every church has a lot of different kinds of people, each making decisions in their families with different factors in play. Our church will not be a place where members judge each other for returning to in-person gathering too quickly or too slowly. We know we need all kinds of people in our church. God gives us a variety of gifts. Wherever we are, we are lifting the whole church up in our prayers. We are keeping up the bonds

of fellowship through phone calls, social media links, cards, and more. Those who have been here for months are joyful in receiving back new returnees. We’ve had a lot of members coming in for private communions, while we also have a lot of other members learning to juggle masks and wooden serving blocks with our temporary Sunday communion set up. Either way, we who partake of the one bread are one body (1 Corinthians 10:17). We don’t all see each other, but the Lord blesses the ties that bind.

Rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem took years. We pray that our rebuilding will not take so very long. At the same time, we also have a lot of labor ahead of us—not only to regather, but also to reach out to neighbors, co-workers, and friends. We all need the peace that surpasses understanding. We need the Spirit’s strength to turn the other cheek when hurt. We need the release of being able to forgive through the grace of Jesus’s cross. We need hope of eternal life and healing with the Lord. We need the bread from heaven, to gather at the table of the Lord. We need the joy of welcoming those receiving the second birth of water

and the Spirit. We need to steady growth in the vine, studying Scriptures together. The “we” here is not just the we who were writing our names on pew pads one year ago, but the we of all the straying sheep whose Good Shepherd brings life.

So, while vaccines take hold and businesses find steadier streams of customers, we expect the old guns or butter debate will get another round of arguments. But we’re not joining the wearisome arguments. We know the secret hack of the guns and butter curve. We know where our labors receive a blessing not just in this life but in the life to come. We are regathering Christ’s church, rebuilding together at different paces but with a common goal. We want to share the powerful Gospel, with each other and our entire community. We don’t want only to see all the faces we saw before in the pews beside us. We want also to add new faces to our fellowship. “The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts” (Haggai 2:9).

The prophet Haggai promised the Jews a rebuilding of a house of stones. That promise looked ahead to the temple of Jesus’ body. We are now a house of living stones (1 Peter 2:5). Among us the glory of the new not only surpasses the old; rather, among us, gathered around Christ’s gifts, He gives peace. Pray for this, brothers and sisters. Work for this. He will bless us in this work.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in March

BIRTHDAYS

6- Pastor Henry Loppnow
6- Jennifer Harrod
7- Patrick Carnes
11- Ian Feole
12- Meagan Chapman Knuckles
16- Joni Skellie
19- Courtney Chesher
22- Cindy Winchester- Howard
24- Barbara Eaton
26- Jax Yaroma
27- Barbara Dobring
28- Nathaniel Semeniuk
28- Zachary Semeniuk
30- Mark Murray

ANNIVERSARIES

7- Patrick & Mary Carnes (2003)

VOTERS' MEETING: MARCH 21

There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, March 21 following the Divine Service. The church council encourages you to attend. Please see the church website for the March Voter's meeting agenda. Major topics will include a vote on the roof contractor and funding for the soffit replacement. Also, we will vote to either retain or sell the church van.

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2021

MARCH 3

7PM LENTEN VESPERS

MARCH 10

7PM LENTEN VESPERS

MARCH 17

7PM LENTEN VESPERS

MARCH 24

7PM LENTEN VESPERS

APRIL 1

1 PM & 7PM MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2

1 PM & 7PM GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 4

11AM RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
SERVICE

PLEASE JOIN US!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

New Sunday School packets are available for anyone interested. These packets consist of activity sheets as well as a small lesson. We will have a number of activity sheets per packet so please take one packet per family. If we run out of packets and you would like one for your family please let Max or Danielle Themer know and we will create additional copies

BIBLE STUDY

During Lent, Zoom Bible study is suspended. Pastor's next Bible study will be on the prophet Zechariah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the exiles returned home. Let pastor know when and how you would like to participate in this next Bible study.

LIFE QUOTES

Whether you are five or 35 or 65, there will be days when it seems to you that God has dropped it. When that happens, when the darkness threatens to close in on you, just go back to the simple truth that God taught you in your youth. Go back to the Word of Light, the Word that is Christ. 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.' That will lighten the way for you, for us all." *Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •* www.lutheransforlife.org

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Fallen City

The walls of what city collapsed when Joshua's army marched around it, blowing trumpets?



Look for the answer in the April Newsletter
February's Answer: see Acts 9:24-25

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEANING	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
March 7	n/a	n/a	John Feole Cindy Alvano	Franke family	n/a	Jennifer Harrod Nancy Guagenti
March 14	n/a	n/a	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Sandy Runner	n/a	No Communion
March 21	n/a	n/a	Charlie Moody Rita Whitehouse	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	n/a	Rite Whitehouse Nancy Guagenti
March 28	n/a	n/a	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Roxanne Pontius Guagenti family		No Communion
April 4	n/a	n/a	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Dave Pontius Don Williams		Jennifer Harrod Nancy Kovach
April 11	n/a	n/a	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Charlie Adams		No Communion
April 18	n/a	n/a	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Franke family		Rita Whitehouse Nancy Kovach

If you cannot serve on the appointed day, please call someone to serve in your place.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For more information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>) or call 1-800-876-9880.

KFUO.ORG RADIO

Listen to Worldwide KFUE.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUE.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUEradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

You Might Be a Lutheran If...

- Commandment #11-If it's never been done that way before, don't do it.
- You sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
- A line item in trustee's budget is "coffee maker maintenance."

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 2:18-25)

03-28-2011

JUST LET ME KNOW WHO WAS HERE FIRST
AND I'LL GET THE PAPERWORK STARTED

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - TO BE PLANNED

The need for blood products has not lessened since the pandemic started. Accidents, operations, and disease still happen. Let's help by hosting a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross. Corrie Brian, as a part of Helping Hands, will organize it in conjunction with the Red Cross some time in the next few months. Anyone who wants to be a part of planning and execution of the drive just needs to let Corrie know via email, text, phone call, or just some Sunday morning (301-580-4693 or cdbrian@hotmail.com).

If you know anyone who has fully recovered from having COVID-19, there is a huge need and a shortage of COVID convalescent plasma. More information can be found at www.redcross.org.

CAMP LAKEVIEW

Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages (near Seymour, IN) are currently registering campers, grades K-12, for the 2021 summer season. What a great place to have fun and learn about God at the same time! To get more information, visit the camp's website at www.lakeview.camp or call the camp office at 812-342-4815. Online registration for Lakeview Ministries opens on **February 8th**. Campers whose sessions were cancelled in 2020 will get to register a week earlier. Last year, many programs were filled quickly, so register online today!



EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



CAMP LAKEVIEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR



- **Feb 28th application deadline**
- Salaried Full-Time position
- Join our team in work that matters!

APPLY AT LAKEVIEW.CAMP/WORK



Kentuckiana LWML
Prayer Service
"He Prayed with Her" (Acts 20:36)
March 20th, 2021
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
5231 IN-62, Georgetown, IN 47122

All are welcome!

Offering: Kentuckiana LWML mites and treasury

Ingathering: Choices Resource Center

Larger sized diapers, any brand (3, 4, 5, and 6)
Pull Ups/Easy Ups, any brand (sizes 3T, 4T, 5T)
Baby Hair and body Wash, any brand
Baby lotion, any brand
Diaper Rash cream, any brand
8 ounce bottles
Hooded towels and washcloths
Boy and girl underwear, sizes 2T to 4T



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – March 2021

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2021



Sunday of the Passion
March 28, 2021