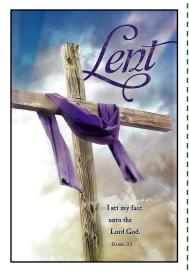


February 2023

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD



Inside this issue: Pastor's Message 2 Bible Studies, Thank You, Birthdays Ragin' Cajun Super **Bowl Occasion** Lent/Ash Wednesday 5 WoHC 6 **MLBG** 7 Nifty Fifty A-Z Lunch February Calendar 9 Holy Cross Info.

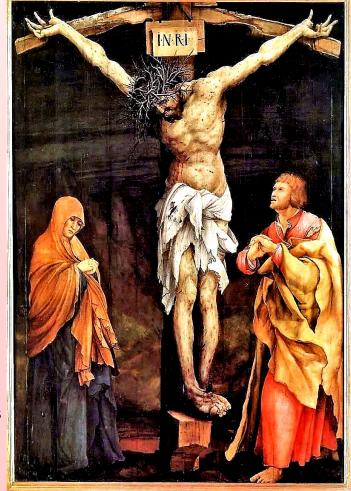
The Crucifixion By Pastor Mundinger

Icons and paintings have always played a role in teaching the laity the stories and doctrines of the church. Even in our church we have wonderful stained-glass windows which depict the life of Christ through images and symbols.

One of my personal favorite paintings is "The Crucifixion" by Matthias Grünewald, a German painter who lived during the early part of the Reformation. It does what no other depiction of the crucifixion does, it shows the utter agony that our Lord suffers for our behalf. I could not help but think of this painting when I was writing my sermon for last Sunday, "but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles."

I want you to look at the painting as I do, gaze upon the Christ, the Son of the Living God, hanging on the cursed tree. The sky has darkened in the background, the light of the Father refuses to break through the heavens. The same voice that had once announced, "This is my beloved Son" is now silent. He has been abandoned by His Father before the whole world. Oh what agony the Christ endures on our behalf.

Now look upon His sickly flesh.. Look upon the pain and agony our dear Savior.



Look upon the lesions and sores that riddle his whole body. Look at the agony of his dehydrated and stretched out body. Is this the flesh of a King? Is this the flesh of a God? What God would look like this? This is not the body of royalty. This is the body that resembles a terminally ill man, a man whose body has been brought to nothing by cancer or some sort of terrible illness. We are accustomed to look away from such a horrid sight, but this image needs to be front and center. This is what our God looks like, and we dare not look away from it.

As uncomfortable as it may be, there is great comfort to be found in such an image. The wretchedness we see on Christ is our own wretchedness. The darkness of God's abandonment that covers Christ should be brought on us. This painting reminds us that all of our sin was placed on Him! All of our sins and iniquities are laid on the paschal lamb. Finally, Christ hands point up to His Father as he offers himself as the final atoning sacrifice for us. The deed is done.

This is a God who cares for us. This is a God who loves us. This is a God who understands our sufferings, pains, and illnesses. Though we see the agony of our sin we also see all the pain sin has caused us which Christ takes upon himself. He knows our pain; he knows what we have suffered. This image gives us comfort for this is our God, a God who does not come in wrath but comes in mercy and love. In weakness his Glory is shown.

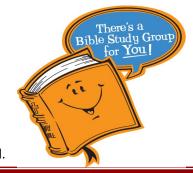
May we ever cling to the cross, where our savior lowered himself to suffer and die for us so that we may be raised to glory in Him.

February Bible Studies

<u>Pastor's Sunday Adult Bible Study, 11:15am, Parish Hall</u> <u>Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom</u>**

Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study, 7pm, Zoom **

** Zoom links are the same each week/listed in the Friday Announcements email.



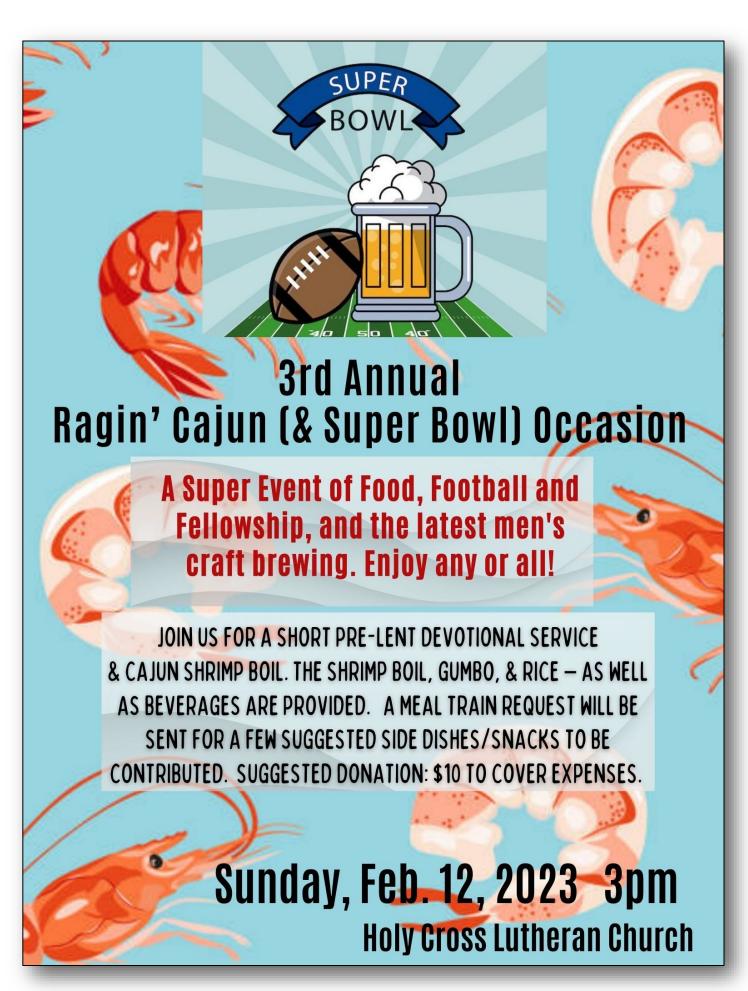


John	2/4	John	2/20
Don	2/5	Mike	2/20
Mike	2/12	Tina	2/22
Gavin	2/12	Georgene	2/22
Maxine	2/19	Justin	2/27

I'd like everyone know what three of our ladies have been doing for me for many years. Every month I send out an email asking my three dear friends if they could give me rides to my many doctor appointments. Without fail I get responses quite quickly. I so appreciate the rides, the conversations and their friendship. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to Nancy Hoffman, Judy Scouten, and Marilyn Neumann, my three special angels.











THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY. YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN YOUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST ON THIS ANNUAL 40- DAY PILGRIMAGE WITH JESUS TO HIS CROSS.

JOIN US FOR SOUP SUPPER** – 5:45PM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES – 6:30PM

** Please sign up to attend. Host/Hostess TBD.

A free will offering will be split: 50% to Mites & 50% to our General Fund.



Each year on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the liturgy of the Church calls us to begin "a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection," when "our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The words used in the Ash Wednesday rite of the *Lutheran Service Book Agenda* also remind us that "from ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope."

Each of the seasons of the church year is observed and celebrated, but Lent, and only Lent, is "kept." The holy season of Lent invites us to be "keepers"—the people of God who keep the fast, keep the silence, and keep the focus throughout this singular season. Taken from: Keeping a Holy Lent – The Lutheran Witness (lcms.org)

Beginning February 22, we will gather on 6 successive Wednesday Evenings for a simple **Soup & Bread Supper**** at 5:45 pm, provided by members of our Holy Cross family. It is followed by a worship service at 6:30pm. These 6 evenings are times for us to slow the pace, enjoy fellowship over a simple meal, and to experience God's Word.

** Pastor has asked that we keep the supper simple: soup & bread (& salad if you wish). Lent is a time that we withhold feasting... until Easter Sunday, the joyous time of Jesus's victory! A sign up sheet to host Ash Wednesday & the following 5 midweek Wednesday suppers, will be posted soon.



LADIES: We are playing Mexican Train Dominos every 3rd Thursday of the Month.



JOIN US: Feb. 16, 1-3pm, in the Parish Hall for fun & fellowship.

No experience necessary! Bring your own beverage, snack provided.



We gathered on 1/19 for our first 2023 Mexican Train dominos games. The photographer (Joyce) didn't get caught in the action! It was great to have Connie & Georgene join us - they hadn't played ever/or in years.

Connie won every game at our table—WOW! Afterwards we had sweets & fellowship.

Happy New Year! Here's a message from our LWML CNH District President Roxan:

Dear LWML sisters and brothers,

2023 bring us many opportunities to share the gospel, let us not waste them. By supporting our Mission Grants and local Christian charities we can reach many people with the message of everlasting life in our Lord Jesus Christ. What a blessing that through our Mission Grants both **LWML and LWML CNH, by the simple act of filling our mite boxes, followed by prayer, we spread** this good news all over the world.

There are opportunities for personal growth you should consider. Mark your calendar and attend:

LWML Convention

Date: June 22–25, 2023 Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Theme: Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

LWML CNH Fall Retreat

Date: August 25-27, 2023 Location: ECCO - Episcopal Conference Center - Oakhurst, CA

Theme: Unwrapping our Spiritual Gifts

LWML CNH 2024 Convention

Date: April 19-21, 2024 Location: Holiday Inn, Redding, CA

Theme: Gifted to Serve by God's Grace

Also attend Zone functions in the spring and fall. <u>NOTE: Our Zone 7 Spring Event will be held at Holy</u> Cross this year!

Remember God sent us all the only perfect gift, His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's make it our mission to spread this good news to all we meet, and to everyone everywhere.

May your New Year bring good health, happiness, and plenty of God's blessings.



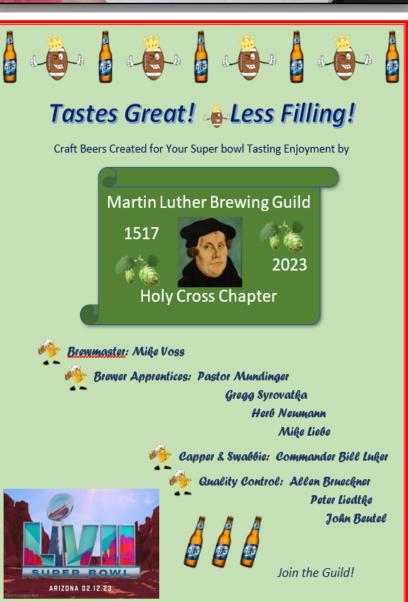
January 2023 Beer Bottling











Inca's Grill, Concord , 1/26/23

A big Thank You to <u>Luker</u> for arranging everything!













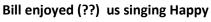












Birthday to him!







Ceviche Mixto—Joyce: "Delicious! Next time will get a full serving."



FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			7pm Pastor's Bible Study	2 5pm Choir Practice cl 7-9pm Scouts Mtg PH	3	4 9am Vision Meeting 9am-I2pm YVCS Morning In Fundraiser PH
9:30am Worship Svc After Coffee Fellowship & Voters Meeting 11:15 am Pastor's Bible Study	6 OFC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom	7 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	8 7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	9 5pm Choir Practice cl 5-7pm YVCS Open House PH	10	11
9:30am Worship Svc After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study 3pm Ragin' Cajun Super Bowl Occasion PH	9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom	14 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	16 9am Men's Mandatory Formation, I-3pm WoHC Mexican Train, PH 5pm Choir Practice cl	17 PASTOR VAC	18 PASTOR VAC
PASTOR VAC 9:30am Worship Svc After Coffee Fellowship	20. OFC CLOSED PASTOR VAC 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom	21ofc CLOSED PASTOR VAC 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft	ASH WEDNESDAY 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Worship	23 OFC CLOSED Ipm Nifty Fifty A-Z Dining, "J", Jack's Pleasant Hill 5pm Choir Practice cl	24	25
26 9:30am Worship Svc After Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Pastor's Bible Study	270FC CLOSED 9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom 10-11:30am Women's Bible Study Zoom	28 10:30am Prayer Group, Brueckner's 7pm Trivia, Calicraft				

YVCS School Daily Schedule

*Morning Care: 7:30a - 8:40a Classes Mon-Fri: 8:45a - 3:00p

*After Care: 3:45p - 5:30p



cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg., PH=Parish Hall



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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Find us on Facebook Find us on YouTube



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pastor@holycrossconcord.org

(608) 797-9163

Visiting Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10am-2pm

President: Mike Liebe

Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger Financial Secretary: Jan Walker Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,

Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe

Church Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Liebe editor@holycrossconcord.org

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Worship Service 9:30am

Pastor's Bible Study 11:15am (In person)

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 10am Zoom Wednesday (Adult) 7pm Zoom

Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

March 2023 Cross Currents: February 25, 2023