



The Messenger

Our Savior Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Paradise, California

March 2017



And So It Begins

The season of Lent is upon us. From the dust of the earth to the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Lent is a necessary and worthwhile journey for all of us to travel. Forty days carries special meaning to the people of God and it is no coincidence that Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan for forty days before He ever taught or preached to the masses.

Jesus had to do what man has been unable to do since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. We begin at Ash Wednesday in the dust from which God created Adam. We remember that in His righteous judgement our bodies will return to dust as punishment for sin.

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
Genesis 3:19

Sin destroyed the relationship between Adam, Eve and God. We begin Lent with the dust of the ground because this is where God’s Law leads us. Through the law we see what God requires us to do and convicts us when we fail to do it completely. We cannot repair our relationship with God by making it up to Him. To come back into His presence and to be with Him in heaven requires an intervention on an omnipotent level. A reconciliation between us and God requires Jesus. The Jews prepared for the coming of Jesus by repenting of their sin. We do the same. By faith we recognize our sinful acts and we repent, we turn from the empty world to the hope and promise of God. This is the journey that every Christian must take as the Lord Jesus Christ says, “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.” *John 14:6*

The glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ must go through the cross where Jesus first bears God’s judgment for our sins. March 1st begins our journey, as we pick up our crosses and follow Jesus through the teaching of His Word, through His compassion for the sick and hopeless and through the cross of Calvary. May this season of Lent be a sobering reminder of our absolute dependence on God which draws us into the loving, merciful hands of our heavenly Father who wants nothing more than to call us His children.

Rev. Brandon Merrick
Pastor

Cheryl Mock
Day Care Director

Jean Orsborn
Office Manager

Marc Grosso
President

John Hantelman
Chairman Board of Elders

Esther Tiedemann
Choir Director

Doris Bardon
Organist

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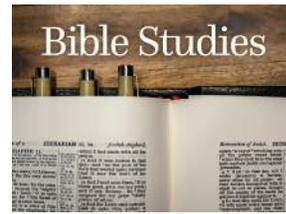
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530-877-7321

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530-240-5133

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Pastor Brandon



Sunday Morning Bible Study

We are offering a Bible Study on Sunday from 9:15 until 10:15 with John Hantelman leading the study. For the people who come to early service, just grab a cup of coffee and a cookie after and come on in. For the people who come to late service come one hour earlier. Bring a friend.

Reading through the Bible

Pastor Brandon and Wendy are beginning a small group that will read through the Bible. They will meet every Tuesday evening from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the parsonage. They will read and discuss God's Word in a chronological order to help follow God's overarching story of salvation as it is recorded for us in the Bible. It will be a casual environment conducive to questions and discussions based on the readings. The group begins March 21st

The Lenten Season comes late this year as Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, March 1st. There will be one service at 6:00 p.m.

Each Wednesday until Holy Week we will hold midweek services on Wednesdays. The morning service will be held at 11:00 a.m. and the evening service will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The morning midweek services will be followed by our traditional soup and dessert luncheons. Look for the sign up sheets to assist with providing the soup, bread or dessert.

It is our prayer that these worship opportunities will be blessings to all who have time to attend and assist all of us as we seek to spend a little extra time in prayer and meditation during the six weeks of Lent.

Join us!

Wednesday, March 1
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8
11:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15
11:00 a.m. or 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22
11:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29
11:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5
11:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.



Lutheran Braille Workers Large Print Workshops

Thank you to our volunteers who provide the Word of God to people who are vision impaired. It is an important ministry that meets every other week on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Special recognitions go to Bob Steinecke who celebrates his 10th year and Roger Klaves who celebrates his 30th year with Lutheran Braille Workers.

Does archaeological evidence prove the Bible?

How do archaeological discoveries relate to events in Scripture?

Archaeology is the study of non-perishable debris, the rubbish man has left behind him that has survived the ravages of time. The initial motivation for digging up ancient civilizations was the desire for buried treasure.

Today, however, the most modern scientific methods are used to recover the remains of the past in order to achieve a better understanding of ancient people and their practices. The Middle East, particularly the Palestinian area, is the subject of many archaeological excavations because of its continuous history.

It is important to note that archaeology without history is meaningless. All that archaeology can tell us is a sequence of cultural development, not give us an exact chronology. History gives us the chronology, the events, people, places.

What archaeology has done in the past 100 years is to verify some of the history contained in the Bible. For instance, two of the cities mentioned in the Bible, Sodom and Gomorrah, have been for many years considered mythological. However, recent excavations at Tell Mardikh, now known to be the site of Ebla, uncovered about 15,000 tablets. Some of these have been translated, and mention is made of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Other archaeological verifications include proof that there was a ruler named Belshazzar; the Hittites not only existed but also had a vast empire; King Sargon also ruled; and the matters that touch upon history in the Book of Acts are demonstrably accurate. So far, the findings of archaeology have verified, and in no case disputed, historical points of the biblical record.

While archaeology can verify history and shed light on various passages of the Bible, it is beyond the

realm of archaeology to prove the Bible is the Word of God. At present, archaeology is an improving science, with limited data available, but even with its limitations this discipline is very helpful in illustrating that many biblical passages are historically accurate.

One cannot stress too strongly the importance of the Bible giving an accurate historical picture. Christianity is a historical faith which claims that God has broken into history with many mighty acts.

Although the miracles recorded in Scripture cannot be scientifically tested or repeated due to their nature, persons, places, and events can be investigated historically. If the biblical writers were incorrect in their historical picture, serious doubt would then be cast upon their trustworthiness in areas which couldn't be verified.

Putting it another way, if the authors of Scripture are accurate in their accounts of the things that transpired, it then follows that they cannot be ruled out of court because they happen to mention things out of the ordinary.¹

¹ McDowell, J., & Stewart, D. D. (1993). [*Answers to tough questions*](#). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.



February was a very eventful month for all of us in Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties. We had so much rain that our beautiful Lake Oroville was having trouble holding all the water that we

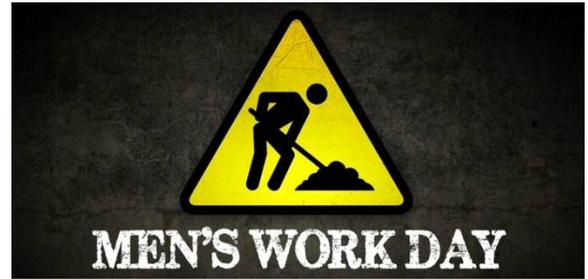
prayed for. As they began letting water out of the spillway the concrete began to crumble part way down. As more water was let out, the situation continued to worsen so the emergency spillway was put into use. This had never been done before and the engineers found out the dirt was only going to hold so long. The auxiliary spillway developed a hole and it could only be used for so long. Oroville and towns down to Marysville and Yuba city were under evacuation notice. Prayers were answered and the engineers and all involved were able to get the lake under control for now. Everyone was able to go back to their homes.

Our daycare children had a great February. They all had valentine parties with lots of goodies and cards. They made little gifts for their parents and enjoyed all the activities. In March, we will be looking forward to St. Patty's Day activities and to Daylight Saving Time. (My favorite time of year). The days begin to get longer and warmer. The children have a little more outside time to expend their energy, which makes for happier children and teachers. I think we are all looking forward to some nice sunny weather.

Love in Christ,
Miss Cheryl



Thank you to our members who have been using escrip. This is the program through stores that gives a percentage back to local schools or non-profits. We average \$100 each quarter that goes to our day care. This is used for some of the extra things that are nice to have. Cards are not required as it is set up with your phone number. The local stores that participate are Save Mart and FoodMaxx. For those who prefer not to provide their phone number, you may use the church's 530-877-7321. For more information go to escrip.com.



Men's Food and Fun Day

On Saturday, March 18th at 8:00am our men are invited to church to come eat and use their tools. We will be installing some playground equipment for the pre-school on that day. It should only take a few hours as there will be three pieces of equipment. A couple of them will require cement so please bring a shovel and/or rake. We will be installing a small climbing wall, a balance beam and a small climber/slide. If it rains on that day we will still have breakfast and Bible study so plan to come rain or shine.



Starting this month, I am going to highlight a resource or two from rightnow MEDIA that I believe is worth your time and energy to look at. One of the best things about this website is that there are visuals of the things that we learn about in the Scriptures. For instance, "Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus" is a fascinating documentary about a filmmaker who sets out to find archeological evidence of the Exodus. Not only do we learn more about the Exodus account in Scripture, but we get to see the actual places and recreations of the Exodus. I have added this title to the Our Savior Lutheran link and would recommend anyone interested in learning more about the Exodus to watch it.



Greetings from the Phebians

The February 6th "Tea and Tie Party" began with a devotion from Ruth Hantelman. The teas were delicious and so were the cucumber sandwiches and sweets that were served by hostesses Mickey Fisher and Wendy Merrick. Pictures were taken of the ladies and posted on Our Savior Lutheran Facebook page. There were 16 ladies in attendance. We always enjoy our fellowship with one another.

We had many colorful fabrics to choose from for our quilt tying part of the session. We finished 5 quilts in this time, but we had 4 other quilts from before, so a total of 9 quilts was donated to Care Net. When I delivered the quilts I was met with many hugs and many words of thanks.

Our March 6th meeting will be a business meeting and at 10:30 we will have Jennifer Arbuckle from Northern Recycling speaking of the current recycling situation in Paradise.

For March, our hostesses will be Bev and Ruth, and our devotion will be presented by Bev Knaak.

Zone 12 Rally will be on March 18th at First Lutheran in Yuba City. Our ingathering will be shared between CAN in Yuba City and Brownsville SDA food closet. In the kitchen there is a container where these items can be deposited.

Please bring your CRV cans and bottles to donate for the mite projects to our next Phebians meeting on March 6th.

Items needed for the ingathering:

Non-perishable food (no pork products)
New baby or children socks and underwear
Adult clothes, clean & good condition or new



Facing the Challenges to Mental Health

Join us on Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8:30am - 3:30pm for "Facing the Challenges to Mental Health." Keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman of Grace Place Wellness Ministries. Devotions will be led by The Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez, LCMS Staff.

This conference focuses on mental health issues – identifying some of the challenges to mental health, identifying some practical resources for mental health needs, and identifying some ways that those in Christian helping roles can tend to their own and others' mental wellness. The need to address mental health challenges within a congregation is great but is often not understood or overlooked. This conference will provide a starting point to meet these challenges in a meaningful and helpful way.

What: From Darkness Into Light

When: March 25, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Where: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1635 Chester Ave. Tracy, CA

Cost: \$25 (includes lunch and snacks)

Info: Marilyn Harri; email: harri2@comcast.net or call 925-426-8628

From the Church Council

A few months ago, the church council discussed the idea of changing our current church sign along Pentz Road with an electronic sign. The main reason for changing signs would be the convenience of changing the words and messages on the sign. Currently, someone (mostly John H.) changes the message about once a month. In Spring and Fall it is not much of a problem, but in the rain and cold of Winter and the heat of Summer it can be quite a project as it takes anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes to simply take the old letters and numbers off and put on the new ones. It takes even more time to get the letters picked out and arranged. It may not sound like much, but is more work than it seems. With a new electronic sign, messages are input via computer and can be changed at a moment's notice.

A secondary reason for a new sign is that our sign is the first thing that people see and for many, the only thing they see from us. An electronic sign would demonstrate to those in the community who pass by on a daily basis that we are a viable, modern congregation of God's people. We contacted Pastor Jack over at the Assembly of God and inquired about their sign. He told us, "the sign has been a blessing and would be for any church." The cost was twenty thousand dollars four years ago for the sign they have on their property along Elliott (if you would like to take a look.)

We believe that we can use parts of our existing sign as it already has a cement pad, a nice stone base and electronics already running to it. With that said, this would still be an expensive undertaking which is why we are bringing this matter to you. We have not

contacted any contractors or received any quotes yet. As a church, we have incurred some big expenditures over the last couple of years in replacing the roof over Luther Hall and our preschool, replaced two septic tanks and overhauling the preschool playground area. As a church, we were prepared for these matters and had set aside funds for these very situations. However, in light of these expenses, we thought it would be best to fundraise for the sign, rather than to further use existing church funds, if that is what we as a church decide to do.

We want to discuss this as a congregation and would like your thoughts and input. We will bring this topic up at our next Town Hall meeting which will be in April or May. If you have any questions or concerns before that meeting you can talk to any of our council members. Thank you.



To our church family,

Wendy and I wanted to thank everyone for the generous Christmas gift. In fact I am writing this from my new computer which I was able to purchase with some of the money we received. We feel appreciated and loved by all of you and just wanted to express our thankfulness for your prayers and continued support. Thank you!

Pastor Brandon and family



March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our Savior Lutheran Church 6404 Pentz Road Paradise, CA 95969 530-877-7321			1 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 Choir	2 10:00 In Home Bible Study	3	4
5	6 9:30 Phebian's	7 6:00 Church Council	8 11:00 Lenten Service 11:45 Soup Lunch 6:00 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir	9 10:00 In Home Bible Study 6:00 Girl Scouts	10	11
12  Time to Spring Ahead	13 9:30 Large Print Workshop	14 9:30 Large Print Workshop	15 11:00 Lenten Service 11:45 Soup Lunch 6:00 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir	16 10:00 In Home Bible Study	17	18 8:00 Men's Breakfast & Work Day
19 2:00 Memorial Service – Arlie Joksch	20	21 5:00 – Bible Study @ Parsonage	22 11:00 Lenten Service 11:45 Soup Lunch 6:00 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir	23 10:00 In Home Bible Study 4:00 Board-Education 4:00 Board-Outreach 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Board-Elders	24	25
26	27 9:30 Large Print Workshop	28 9:30 Large Print Workshop 5:00 – Bible Study @ Parsonage	29 11:00 Lenten Service 11:45 Soup Lunch 6:00 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir	30 10:00 In Home Bible Study	31	 March

March 2017



Happy March Birthday to:

Doris Bardon	3/2
Del Wade	3/2
Jason Berg	3/12
Mickey Fisher	3/12
Anita Towslee	3/12
Lee Bess	3/13
Annie Burch	3/16
Michael Williams	3/18
Robert Grigg	3/19
Bev Hallstrom	3/22
Tim Fisher	3/25
Wendy Merrick	3/25
Janelle Petersen	3/29

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, when it should be, please let the office know. Thank You.

Elders: 3/12 John Hantelman and Dan Hall - Holy Communion Service
 3/26 Lee Bess and Carl Johnson - Holy Communion Service

Ushers:
 March 5 8:00 Mike and Tammy Lange
 10:30 Curtis and Ryan Eiler
 March 12 8:00 Mike Diefenderfer and Ernie Weber
 10:30 Larry & Jacque Bonesio
 March 19 8:00 Ken Scott
 10:30 Jason Berg, Carl Johnson and Karen Mueller
 March 26 8:00 John Diefenderfer and Don Long
 10:30 Dan and Kerry Hall

Altar Guild: Caroll Gullickson and Kerry Hall



Happy March Anniversary to:

David♥Christine Williams	3/4	28 years together	Bob♥June Abercrombie	3/18	45 years together
Michael♥Patti Diefenderfer	3/11	22 years together	Cal♥Kathy Richardson	3/18	28 years together