

# The Eagle

St. John Lutheran Church  
Houghton Lake, Michigan 48629

 March 2016

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## The View from Here Exclusivity

**Exclusive**-and yet, **inclusive** ... that's the topic for this March edition of the View from Here.

This topic came to me after being confronted more than a few times over the years of my ministry by those who question the Christian faith. This topic is associated and concerns a word we don't use very often, if at all, in our everyday conversations. However, it is **implied** in just about everything we say in connection with our faith as Lutheran Christians. The word is **exclusivity**. What a nice, big word, but I know I could count on one hand the number of times I've used it. Even so, there is a problem with "exclusivity".

It's evident that the word is a problem since some individuals are put off by the fact that Christianity stands with Jesus when He says He is **the** Way, **the** Truth, and **the** Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Folks hear that and hear the Church saying, "It's our way or the highway." They say this "exclusivity" makes Christianity standoffish, uppity, and judgmental of other faiths. Many also believe a loving God wouldn't be so exclusive ... and I couldn't agree more!

The truth is, the Triune God is not exclusive at all. Scripture says, "**God would have all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.**" That's in 1 Timothy 2. And in John 3, verse 16, we read: "**God loved**

### HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

#### March 20 - Palm Sunday

8:00 - Blended Service  
9:15 - Kidz Church / Adult Bible Study  
10:30 - Divine Service with Communion

#### March 24 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm - Service with Communion  
Stripping of the Altar

#### March 25 - Good Friday

7:00 pm - Service

#### March 27 - EASTER SUNDAY!

7:00 AM - Sunrise Service  
9:30 - Divine Service with Communion  
No Kidz Church or Adult Bible Class



**A mini-brunch will be served after Easter services. Please join us!**

**the WORLD so much, He gave His only Son in order to save it.**” So, in that sense, there is no exclusivity. No one says faith in the Savior is only for a certain race or gender or economic group. Jesus is for everybody. This is what really strikes at the heart of the matter.

Some would say God is being exclusive when He says people can only be saved through faith in Jesus and not by any other means, but that is, after all, what the Bible says. To be saved, it is necessary to repent to God of our sins against one another and against our loving God, resolving to make the best effort to avoid deliberate repeated sinning. Neither you nor I am in a position to change Scripture, to change that requirement or to make it more palatable to our tastes.

So, then, how do we respond and deal with the charge of exclusivity? I could understand it, and even support one in that position ... as long as they are willing to be **consistent**. But those who don't like exclusivity are miles away from being consistent ... it's like this: Today is February 24, 2016 (or, whatever day you are reading this). Everyone would agree with that fact. But don't you think saying that is exclusive? I mean why can't it be 2003 or 1529 or 3009? Why can't it also be April or July or August? Or all 12 months at once? And why limit ourselves to 12? What if I want there to be the month of Bill or Judy? I can think of any number of reasons why that wouldn't work. It would lead to all sorts of confusion. It would throw everybody's schedule off and people wouldn't know what to do when. So, this kind of exclusivity is necessary and there is no other choice. But the same kind of thing is true in other situations.

When you turn on the news, do you expect them to report the truth or just something more or less close to the truth? When you are sick and go to the doctor, do you expect that physician to examine you and have the knowledge to prescribe the right medicine or would you mind if he said just any old medicine would do? We would all want the right stuff.

God gives us that right stuff in the Person of His Son. Only God's Son could do what Jesus did. Only the Son of God would be willing to offer His life to save us, and not just us, but anyone else who will listen and believe to what the Holy Spirit has to say.

May the joy of Easter permeate your being as we believe what the Holy Spirit has to say through His Word ... We have the promise of life eternal through God's forgiveness in Christ our Lord. How do we know? Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

That's the View from Here ...

*Pastor Winter*

Pastor Bill Winter



## News From the District President -

This letter comes to you from me, speaking as a pastor but more especially as a husband, who has been blessed by the faithful love, support, and personal ministry of my wife, Pat. In my position, I have also been privileged to receive numerous words of thanks from pastors' wives who have been able to attend the Katie Conference, our annual pastors'

wives conference here in the Michigan District. The Katie (as it is now known) will take place Friday - Sunday, April 22-24, 2016. It is open to any wife of a pastor, vicar, or deacon, as well as widows, and is specifically planned for them to come together for refreshment in the Word and fellowship with each other.

Put together by a committee of pastors' wives and supported by the Michigan District, the Michigan District Church Extension Fund, and private donors, the event allows our ministry wives to connect with women who have much in common. The teaching is specific to their needs and life circumstances, and encouragement is found in Bible study, worship, group sharing, prayer, and laughter.

The committee works hard to secure grants and donations for this event, but as with all good things, there is a cost. I'm told that it is often a struggle for wives to attend because of finances and/or child or church responsibilities; sometimes it is their own dedication to the task at hand that makes them feel unable to take the time off, even though they may desire to do so.

For this reason, I am asking you to offer assistance and support to make it possible for your pastor's wife to see this as not only a *possible* opportunity, but an *opportunity that is encouraged by their church family*. If you are able to offer financial assistance, what a blessing that would be: The cost is \$275 for a private room, \$170 for double occupancy, and as little as \$120 for quad occupancy - which includes two nights lodging, three meals on Saturday, and Sunday breakfast. If your pastor's wife has young children and no family nearby, an offer of childcare assistance would be a great gift of support as well.

The theme this year is Tangled Branches, a reference to John 15:5. Each believer's place on the Vine and the vital connections to Jesus, to His Word, and to each other will be explored through the study of various Biblical accounts and persons - all coming together to inform and enrich their walk with the Savior. Time is scheduled for rest, private devotional time, praise, and relationship-building activities.

I appreciate your kind consideration of this request. May God bless you in your Lenten journey and in the busy weeks ahead.

Sincerely,  
 Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President  
 Michigan District, LCMS

## News From the Branch - Youth Programs! -

**CENTERSHOT!** - We will be conducting an Instructor Training Day in



the near future. If you are interested in becoming involved with this outreach ministry, please contact Fred Kleinert, Glen Bromm or Paul Reda.

## KIDZ CHURCH

If you've walked down the education hall recently you'll notice that things seem mighty quiet. As has been happening in churches nationwide, youth attendance has been dropping steadily as churches continue to compete with the "world" and it's increasing demands on family time.



Gone are the days when families planned their lives around their church and it's activities. Now church is being fitted in with all the other extra-curricular activities our society feels a child and family need to be well-rounded and socially prepared.

Often churches struggle to find members willing to give of themselves and their time to undertake this important task of sharing eternity with our youth. Even more, churches are struggling to have children attend on a regular bases. Here at St. John we face the same dilemma of regular attendance. What is the answer? Everyone has a thought train and it is doubtful that there is one correct answer. However, something we can all do is to reach out to our younger families and encourage them to bring their children regularly.

Some of our own members worry that the children will struggle with the extra time our current worship schedule includes if they attend both a worship service and Kidz Church. Let's take the opportunity to lead by example and excitement - "Today is the day the Lord has set aside for us to remember Him. Both you, (fill in a child's name), and I get to share a worship service singing and praising God, and while you are in class learning more about how Jesus fits in your life, I get to do the same!"

## Summer Opportunity for Youth!



## Quality, Safe, Christian Camps for All Ages!

Summer happens here ... at Camp Concordia ... and with it all the safe, unforgettable fun; meaningful challenges; and positive relationships that camp in the great outdoors - surrounded by

lakes and trees, rolling hills and rivers, friends and significant mentors - has to offer!

### What do today's youth need?

- Unplugged time with fun, safe programs, outdoor recreation, games & activities
- Time to grow life-changing faith, build self-confidence & make new friends
- Meaningful time spent with positive young adult role models.

We're excited to provide, age specific programming with choices for your camper, led by a team of dedicated summer staff. Our college-age staff undergo personal interviews, referrals, background checks, and have two weeks or more of professional training before campers arrive.

Camp happens here! And as it does, children and youth discover their true value and potential; gain confidence through positive friendships, new life skills and growing passions; and most of all, deepen their faith in God through the love of Jesus! See you this summer!

Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg, Director Camp Concordia

[www.CampConcordia.org](http://www.CampConcordia.org)

*Camp Concordia is located west of Lansing and north of Grand Rapids. There are programs for the entire family - from Pre-K through 12th grade and families. CC is a year-round staffed LCMS children's residential summer camp and is affordable and faithful. College students who want to work at a Lutheran Camp can apply through NLOMA (National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association) online at [www.NLOMA.org](http://www.NLOMA.org).*

## News from the Womb. . . .

### A Life at 24 Weeks and 6 Days

*By Sarah Fish - Taken from LifeDate Winter 2015. A publication from Lutherans For Life*



At just 24 weeks and zero days pregnant, the doctor gave me news that blew me away. My son wasn't growing in utero anymore. He was measuring sixteen days behind in size and was probably about three days away from passing away. Upon admission to the hospital, the neonatologist told me that if my son survived the birth, he would have about a 35% chance of survival.

Doctors are supposed to give you the worst case scenario and worst possible numbers. They are just that though - numbers. My God is bigger than any number. He had a different plan already in place for me and my son.

24 weeks and 6 days. Is life outside of the womb possible at this gestational age? Or is the thought inconceivable, incomprehensible?

As I walked myself into the operating room and climbed up on the operating table, the scariest thoughts went through my head. Here I am about to

be a first-time mom, not knowing what the next few minutes, hours, days, months will bring. I prayed and prayed. Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." The next moments were crucial as doctors worked swiftly to ensure a safe delivery for my baby boy.

I didn't hear the "typical" cry after my child was born. Instead, I heard doctors and nurses hurrying to stabilize my baby. My baby boy. My baby boy who had entered the world weighing just 14.1 ounces and measuring just 11 inches. Jacob Aiden Zahnow was born into this world via emergency C-section when I was just 24 weeks and 6 days pregnant. He was the size of a 21-week baby. At this time, I only knew one thing was certain: Jacob needed to be baptized and quickly! As doctors moved in earnest to get him to the neonatal intensive care unit, my pastor gave Jacob a new life through the waters of Holy Baptism.

Throughout Jacob's first couple months in the neonatal intensive care unit, I witnessed miracle after miracle! The greatest miracle was watching the third trimester unfold before my eyes. Right in front of me, in an incubator, I watched development occur that would normally be happening in the womb. Seeing God's work being done, first hand, in the development of a baby is so incredibly awe-inspiring! It is completely unfathomable to me to think that, even at this stage, some people still see a baby as simply a "fetus" - a "fetus" that can be discarded as easily as the daily trash.

When Jacob was born, his eyes were still fused shut. In utero, a baby's eyes don't open until around the 28<sup>th</sup> week of gestation. Around Jacob's 27<sup>th</sup> gestational week outside the womb, I began to notice movement behind what would become his eyelids. It was at this time that the nurses began putting a lubricating ointment on Jacob's eyes to ensure that his eyes would be moist as they opened. Just on target, around halfway through the 28<sup>th</sup> gestational week, Jacob's eyes opened - first the left and then, a couple of days later, the right. What a wonderful sight that was!

Since Jacob was born so prematurely, he was unable to regulate his own body temperature. He was merely a skeleton with a very thin layer of skin covering his bones. His body temperature stayed regulated through the buttons on the incubator where he lived. Doors on the incubator couldn't be open for too long because it wouldn't take long for Jacob's body temperature to drop! In utero, body temperature regulation occurs around the 30<sup>th</sup> gestational week.

On Jacob's 25<sup>th</sup> day of life outside the womb, I was finally able to hold my son. I couldn't just pick him up and cuddle him, however. Three nurses had the very daunting task of making sure every cord and wire was in place before Jacob was lifted from the

incubator and onto my chest. For one whole hour, he was snuggled on my chest, literally, down the front of my shirt. We were under a heat lamp with two fleece blankets covering us. Jacob's temperature was checked every fifteen minutes to make sure his body temperature stayed at a normal level.

Since Jacob was born so prematurely, his skin was like paper. I could see his little heart beating through his chest. I could count every rib. The most difficult part about his skin being so thin was the fact that I was unable to rub my hand on his back or arms. I couldn't stroke his little head. Why couldn't I? With skin as thin as his was, the nerve endings were so close to the top of the skin that it was too stimulating for him - almost painful.

24 weeks 6 days. Is life outside of the womb possible at this gestational age? Or is the thought inconceivable, incomprehensible? You have your answer! Life is most definitely possible! Jacob is just a couple months shy of three years old! He does have some developmental issues, but it's nothing that some therapy can't help! Praise the Lord! Amen!

*Sarah Fish is a Lutheran school teacher from Bay City, Michigan.*



**New on Thursdays . . .**

**EXPLAINING ALL THE SCARY STUFF IN REVELATION**



It's been hit and miss during February, but the Thursday morning Bible Study group has begun this new study and anyone who has been thinking about joining - Come on in!

In 96 A.D. a miraculous thing happened on a rocky, desolate, six-by-ten mile island in the Aegean.

The apostle John was walking alongside the ocean when the majestic voice of God spoke from heaven bringing a message of cheer to believers who had been struggling with the harsh burden of persecution from the Roman Emperor Domitian.

The old disciple looked heavenward to see the clouds part and God revealing an amazing vision of His plan for the Church through the ages.

However, through the years Revelation has come to be seen as a scary book filled with confusing and even terrifying things.

So join us as we talk about that scary stuff, and learn that God didn't give us Revelation to terrify us- but to reassure us.

As you study Revelation, you will discover the following things:

- God has a plan for and is in control of His creation.
- He knows His people will suffer.

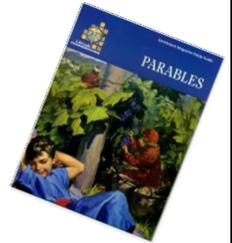
- He encourages us to focus on Jesus.
- He assures us of a final victory over evil.
- He says the faithful already share victory in Jesus.
- He says death in Jesus is not disgrace, but victory.

*Meeting Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m.*

*in the Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday's Group:**

A New Sunday Bible Study was begun Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, but it's never too late to join in.



This study is 9 sessions in length and part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of *LifeLight* is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more of us Christian adults may grow in our personal faith in Jesus Christ. In these sessions we will study Jesus' parables ... stories that He told His hearers concerning the Kingdom of God. Join us every Sunday morning at 9:15 between the 8 o'clock and 10:30 services. Again, we will begin Sunday, February 28. Please plan to join us. *Those planning to join us will receive a study guide to take home in preparation for the first session.*

Session 1. Why Parables? - Matt 13:34-35

Session 2. Something Old, Something New - Matt 9:15-17

Session 3. A Most Radical Grace - John 10:11

Session 4. Lost and Found - Luke 15:7

Session 5. Keeping Faith - John 15:5

Session 6. Living Mercy - Luke 10:36-37

Session 7. The Coming Judgment - Matt 21:21-32

Session 8. Looking for Judgment Day - Matt 25:21

Session 9. Watching for Eternity - Matt 24:45-47

**Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.**

**in the Sanctuary**

**News From . . .**

**LWML Timberline Zone**



The annual Prayer Day Service to which all members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, are invited will be held **April 5, 2016**, at St. John Lutheran Church - Au Gres. This day is set aside to spend time being refreshed with God's powerful word. Coffee & Refreshments kick off the day at 9:30 with the Prayer Service following at 10:00 and a brunch served at 11:00am. This year's theme is "Wanted: Workers for God's Harvest Field" and the scripture reference is John 4:35. We would like to extend this invitation to all men & women in our local congregation and communities. If you are interested in attending, please let the church office know so a count can be phoned in to the host church by March 30.

Don't forget to join us for Fellowship Between Sunday morning services!

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**

**Please sign up in the Kitchen**



## Those Who Serve...

### Please pray for:

SSgt Chris Bromm  
 Darcy Mooney - Reserves  
 (Barbara Sny's Daughter)  
 Will Mooney  
 Matthew Petersen  
 Justin Stensrud - Air Force



## Coming Attractions....

### Save the Date...



### Upcoming Dates to Remember

(Times can be found on the Calendar)

Mar 02 - Chili Cook Off!!!! at 5:30 followed by  
 our MidWeek Lenten Service  
 Mar 03 - Ladies Aid/LWML meeting  
 Mar 03 - Elders Meeting  
 Mar 09 - Lenten Supper & Service  
 Mar 09 - Board of Directors Meeting  
 Mar 10 - Ladies Bible Study  
 Mar 11 - Special Olympics Fundraising Night  
 Mar 13 - Students of Mrs. Sandra Akin Recital  
 Mar 14 - RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE  
 Mar 16 - Lenten Supper & Service  
 Mar 20 - Palm Sunday  
 Mar 24 - Maundy Thursday Service  
 Mar 25 - Good Friday Service  
 Mar 27 - EASTER SUNDAY!!!  
 Mar 27 - Easter Brunch Served after services  
 Mar 29 - Pastors' Winkel - Oscoda  
 Mar 31 - Ladies Bible Study

recognize members who have done so over the past year.

Jim & Lana French  
 Violet Gonzales  
 Liana Granica  
 Robert Jacoby  
 Chris Lauria  
 Dave Maeder  
 Lois Pike  
 Charlie Reynolds  
 Fred Riske  
 Jeanette Robinson  
 Jim Stender  
 David & Ilene Thornewell  
 John & Carolyn Wood

If I have overlooked your name, I apologize. ~monika

## News from Lutherans For Life . . . .

### Lessons from a Funeral

by Pastor Chris Cordes (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota) as found in *LifeDate*, Winter 2015.



My father died recently. This is the first time someone this close has passed. Some of you have experienced it already. Sadly, some of you have experienced it multiple times. I feel for you now in a different way. I've coached and counseled people about it across nearly thirty years of ministry, but when it happens to you personally, the wound cuts deeper than words can express. The proverb is really true: "Each heart knows its own bitterness" (Pr 14:10).

Dad's time was coming. He had battled cancer for several years. This summer the meds were hurting more than they hindered the cancer, so he finally took himself off medications so he could heal a little in these other areas. Three months later he was taking a sharp downward turn, and we knew his time approached.

But like one of my church members said, "You think you're prepared, but you never are." When the news came, I went downstairs and told my wife. I then pattered in the kitchen by myself, and a sob seemed to come out of nowhere. I wasn't prepared. The mind can process and reason and stay collected, but the inner spirit, that deepest part of you that feels and knows things your mind doesn't realize - it has an agenda and a timetable of its own, doesn't it?

Grieving is natural. Sometimes people chide themselves for being "dramatic" or "self-serving" when they sob and cry and sob some more. But when the wound is deep, it's - well - really deep! God did not originally design the world for losing loved ones. They get bonded to our spirit and, when uprooted, a hole is left behind. Grief is natural. And necessary. The tears seem to soften the edges of that hole and cause soil to run down into the bottom and smooth it out. Something has

## News From Church

### Extension Fund . . .



### What did interest rates do this month?



At Church Extension Fund they **went up**. You can view current rates by going to the CEF Web Page online at [www.micef.org](http://www.micef.org) or call 800-242-3944.

## News From Thrivent . . .

Our 2015 Thrivent Choice Results are in ....

Thrivent Members are able to choose where their Choice Dollars are sent. During 2015, based on member recommendations, St. John received \$2,942 through the Thrivent Choice Program to be used in furthering our mission and programs here. We wish to thank all of those members who made this choice and would like to



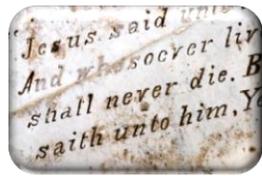
to happen so the hole is not so sheer and craggy on your inner landscape.

And you cannot rush grieving. Some folks may tell you to move on and get over it, but until your spirit has answered the pain with sufficient sniffles and sobs, gasps and groans, it's going to keep calling them out. So you have to take the time you need and grieve in the way you need, whether bawling and wailing or just blinking out another tear to fall down your cheek. It's okay to do it your way. And for however long it takes. They say you never really get over it. I guess I'll find that out, too.

I found that grief is also answered or balanced by the sure hope of Paradise. It felt so good to remember how Jesus pulled all eyes to Himself when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies" (John 11:25). He can say that because it works like this: If you've ever done anything wrong or missed doing something perfectly, then you are not truly perfect, and you are going to die. It would be without God, but Jesus takes that weight and sentence off your record, onto His own shoulders. Anyone who wants forgiveness from God, peace with Him, Paradise opened - just look at Jesus. "Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him will have eternal life" (John 6:40).

My dad looked to Jesus this way. When the nurse asked him if he understood what hospice was, he said, "Oh, it's not so bad. It's the window through which you get to say 'Good morning!' to Jesus."

I miss my dad. I'll see my dad again. In Jesus I really will. I say all this so you can know Jesus this way too and settle your soul in His life that conquers death.



## News From the Synod for Today's Families - Resurrection(s)

March 2016

It's not always easy to be a Lutheran Christian. Our pastors go on and on about Law and Gospel, sin and forgiveness and eternal life. All this stuff is great, but sometimes we wonder, "How does this all actually relate to my life, right now, for real? Where's the help I need for getting through the days? Is this what *really* matters?"

These questions are especially true whenever the topic of resurrection comes up. Resurrection - it sounds like something so out of reach and far-away. Why bother talking about it now? We've got a lot of living to do before we need to worry about futuristic things like resurrection. Right?

Well, sure. Maybe. Okay, not really. Not at all.

Paul gives us a good dose of the "why" of resurrection in 1 Cor. 15:13-19: "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied."

You see, if there is no resurrection, everything falls apart. The Gospel is no gospel at all. We would be left with nothing of lasting importance, no hope, and certainly no future. All we would have is the now - and Paul explains that, since we will have been wasting our time worshiping Christ for nothing, we're to be pitied. Pitied! Better if we just slept in on Sunday mornings, having Disney movie marathons with our children rather than hearing the pointless Word of a God who can't even overcome death or manage a simple resurrection.

But the good news is that the resurrection *did* happen. Christ was raised, as God promised, and we, too, will rise. Because of this, resurrection *does* touch our everyday lives. Here's how:

- We go to work and care for our families, keeping in mind that what we do is important and valuable in the kingdom of God, both here in this life and in the life to come.
- The resurrection shapes how we handle suffering and death, how we explain it to our children; it gives us hope and comfort to get through the days without our loved ones.
- Our bodies, and what we do with them, matter. We believe in the bodily resurrection, not just some mystical resurrection of the soul, so we carry on each day treating even our broken bodies with respect, because God made them and will raise them up.

So, let's thank God that here, in the Lutheran Church, our pastors don't focus solely on what matters only in this life. Our pastors are resurrection-minded, because our Lord Himself is resurrection-minded. So Law, Gospel, sin, forgiveness, grace, eternal life - these all point us to what is to come. And what is here to stay. Forever. Suddenly, being Lutheran is looking pretty great.

Author: Dcs. Jennifer L. Miller

Scripture quotations from the ESV Bible, copyright 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



## News From the Airwaves - Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcasts on:

Station	City, State	Freq/Band	Day, Time
WSAM	Saginaw	1400 AM	Sun 8:30a
WFCX	Traverse City	94.3 FM	Sun 7am
WFDX	Traverse City	92.5 FM	Sun 7am

you can also listen online at: [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)

## News from our Local Community. . .

A recent Letter to the Editor in the Gladwin Record & Clarion brought up some interesting thoughts pertaining to life today. The writer quotes a letter that was submitted to another local paper, the Tawas City Paper. For those of us who go back several decades, many of these "truths" will bring back memories of how life use to be and how much "political correctness" has changed the way we view the world.

### To the Editor:

George Orwell once said, "The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it."

Are we there? If society today allows wrong to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority.

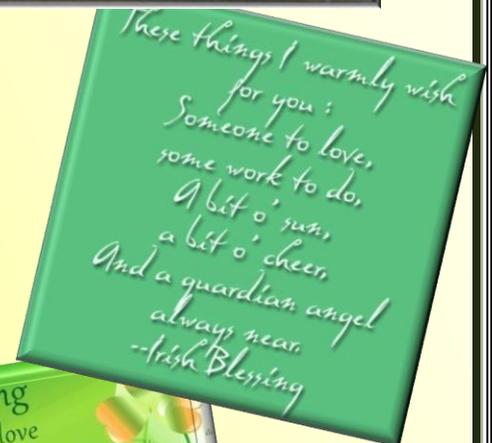
A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, evil doesn't become good just because it's accepted by a majority. The fact is right is right even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong even if everyone is for it.

Ken Huber sent a letter to the Tawas City Paper. This is his letter: "Has America become the land of special interest and home of the double standard?"

- Fact: If you lie to Congress it's a felony, but if Congress lies to you it's just politics;
- if you (or a group of citizens) disagree with some people, you're/we're racist, but if they disagree with some of us, it's their First Amendment right;
- the government rehabilitates criminals and does almost nothing to help the victims;
- in public schools you can teach that homosexuality is ok, but you better not use the Word of God in the process;
- you can kill an unborn child, but it's wrong to execute a mass murderer
- we don't burn books in America, we now rewrite them;
- we get rid of the communist and socialist threat by renaming them to progressiveness;
- we are unable to build a wall or close off our border with Mexico, but have no problem protecting the 38th parallel in Korea;
- if you protest against President Obama's policies you're a terrorist, but if you burn an American Flag it's your First Amendment right;
- you can out pornography on TV or the Internet, but you better not put a nativity scene in a public park during Christmas;
- we have now alienated all criminals in America, they are now "sick" people;

- we can now use body parts from an unborn human child for medical research, but don't you even think about using an animal;
- we support the Constitution, but only when it supports our political ideology;
- we still have freedom of speech, but only if you're politically correct;
- parenting has been replaced by Ritalin and video games

Just saying.



## Ladies Aid / LWML



# March 2016

## PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for: Outreach in Refugee Camps - Lebanon

### PRAYER #1

Dear Jesus, We thank You for all the blessings that You grant to our lives. Respect for life, freedom, health, home, and family unity are precious treasures. Sadly, not many refugees have these blessings. Therefore, into Your hands we place our faith that, through the Middle East Lutheran Ministry (MELM), the Good News of Your salvation can be known to all families—men, women, and children, that today live without hope. In Your name we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER #2

Gracious Father, You are a God of wisdom, power, and love. In this time of prayer, we ask You to be merciful with all of those unfaithful people with hopeless souls so that through Your beloved Son, Jesus, they may live. Bless all those who made it possible through financial aid to create refugee camps in Lebanon. Also bless all those who are in the "field" devoting their time, their talents, and especially their **love** for all those lost sheep. In Your name we pray. Amen

### PRAYER #3

Almighty God, open our hearts, sowing in them the seed of love for our neighbors. Powerful God —Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity: With humble hearts, we ask that all men, women and children reached through the staff and volunteers of the Middle East Lutheran Ministry (MELM), see Your light and Your love. We know that the most important of Your commandments is to love. "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." In His name we pray. Amen.

### PRAYER #4

Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of Your love. Use us so that many more may receive Your gift of faith bringing salvation, so they can be part of your family, the Church, throughout the world. In the precious name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

\* [www.lwml.org/missions](http://www.lwml.org/missions)

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE,  
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES  
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### OUTREACH IN REFUGEE CAMPS— LEBANON \$72,000

The Word of God is brought to Lebanon through Lutheran Hour Ministries—Lebanon, known locally as Middle East Lutheran Ministry (MELM). The ministry began in Beirut in 1950, and their offices are used to spread the message of salvation in Jesus Christ throughout the region.

LHM—Lebanon's radio broadcasts reach at least ten Arabic-speaking countries with the Gospel. The center receives responses from all over the Middle East and offers opportunities to learn more about Jesus through its Arabic-language Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC) and other print media. The center also attracts people through television programming, film shows and other events, a website, and text messages that are available by subscription.

MELM also reaches out to struggling communities through vacation Bible schools and through holistic programs that provide clothing and school supplies for children. The center also provides holistic emergency care for people such as the Syrian families and individuals who have sought refuge in Lebanon from the civil war in their homeland.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) grant will support MELM in providing relief to the women and children in the refugee camps with basic humanitarian supplies, including food staples and hygiene kits so that they can live with dignity, bringing a long-term growth and expansion of the Gospel to destitute woman and children living in those refugee camps, now and after they return to their homeland.

We have a great opportunity in the LWML to help and support this organization, which everyday gives new testimonies of Christian vocation, professionalism, and love.



# March 2016

## Events & Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 10:00 - AA	<b>2</b> 5:30 - Chili Cook-off! 7:00 - Lent Service "Seasons of Seeking God's Will"	<b>3</b> 9:00 Bible Study Ladies Aid/LWML 4:00 - Confirmation 4:30 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team 7:00 - Elders	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 - AA
<b>6</b> "Divine Search & Rescue" 8:00 - Blended Service 9:15 - Kidz Church/Bible Study 10:30 - Divine with Communion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 - AA	<b>9</b> 9:00 Trustees 5:30 - Taco Night 7:00 - Lent Service "Seasons of Thanks for Simple Things" 8:00 - Board Mtg	<b>10</b> 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 - Confirmation 4:30 - TOPS 6:30 - Ladies Bible Study	<b>11</b> SPECIAL OLYMPICS  FUNDRAISING NIGHT	<b>12</b> 10:00 - AA
<b>13</b> "Destroying Evidence" 8:00 - Blended with Communion 9:15 - Kidz Church / Bible Study 10:30 - Divine Service Students of Mrs. Sandra Akin Recital in the Sanctuary - All are Welcome!	<b>14</b> <b>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</b> 12:00 - 5:45 Set Up - 9:30am Tear Down - 6:00pm	<b>15</b> 10:00 - AA	<b>16</b> 5:30-Pancake Supper 7:00 - Lent Service "Seasons of Standing Up to Evil"	<b>17</b>  9:00 Bible Study 4:30 - TOPS 6:00 - Praise Team	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 - AA
<b>20</b> "Be Like Jesus" 8:00 - Blended Service 9:15 - Kidz Church/Bible Study 10:30 - Divine with Communion  <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 - AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> NO Bible Study 4:00 - Confirmation 7:00 - Maundy Thursday Service "We are the Beloved"	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Good Friday Service  "Show Me!"	<b>26</b> 10:00 - AA
<b>27</b> "The Death of Death" 7:00 - Sunrise Service 9:30 - Divine Service with HC Mini Easter Brunch after services <b>Easter Sunday - He Is Risen!</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 - Pastors' Winkel-Oscoda 10:00 - AA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 - Ladies Bible Study		

March 13 - Daylight Savings Time Begins!



Date	Revised One-Year Plan	Two-Year Plan (Year 1)	Three-Year Plan (Year 1)	Words of Praise & Wisdom in One Year
March 1	OT: Lev 24:1 - 25:46 NT: Mk 10:13-31 Ps: 44:9 - 26 Prov: 10:20-21	OT: Lev 24:1 - 25:46 Prov: 10:20 - 21	NT: Mk 10:13-31	Ps: 44:9 - 26 Prov: 10:20 - 21
March 2	OT: Lev 25:47 - 27:13 NT: Mk 10:32 - 52 Ps: 45 Prov: 10:22	OT: Lev 25:47 - 27:13 Prov: 10:22	NT: Mk 10:32 - 52	Ps: 45 Prov: 10:22
March 3	OT: Lev 27:14 - Num 1:54 NT: Mk 11:1 - 26 Ps: 46 Prov: 10:23	OT: Lev 27:14 - Num 1:54 Prov: 10:23	NT: Mk 11:1 - 26	Ps: 46 Prov: 10:23
March 4	OT: Num 2 - 3 NT: Mk 11:27 - 12:17 Ps: 47 Prov: 10:24 - 25	OT: Num 2 - 3 Prov: 10:24 - 25	NT: Mk 11:27 - 12:17	Ps: 47 Prov: 10:24 - 25
March 5	OT: Num 4 - 5 NT: Mk 12:18 - 37 Ps: 48 Prov: 10:26	OT: Num 4 - 5 Prov: 10:26	NT: Mk 12:18 - 37	Ps: 48 Prov: 10:26
March 6	OT: Num 6 - 7 NT: Mk 12:38 - 13:13 Ps: 49 Prov: 10:27 - 28	OT: Num 6 - 7 Prov: 10:27 - 28	NT: Mk 12:38 - 13:13	Ps: 49 Prov: 10: 27 - 18
March 7	OT: Num 8 - 9 NT: Mk 13:14 - 37 Ps: 50 Prov: 10:29 - 30	OT: Num 8 - 9 Prov: 10:29 - 30	NT: Mk 13:14 - 37	Ps: 50 Prov: 10:29 - 30
March 8	OT: Num 10:1 - 11:23 NT: Mk 14:1 - 21 Ps: 51 Prov: 10:31 - 32	OT: Num 10:1 - 11:23 Prov: 10:31 - 32	NT: Mk 14:1 - 21	Ps: 51 Prov: 10:31 - 32
March 9	OT: Num 11:24 - 13:33 NT: Mk 14:22 - 52 Ps: 52 Prov: 11:1 - 3	OT: Num 11:24 - 13:33 Prov: 11:1 - 3	NT: Mk 14:22 - 52	Ps: 52 Prov: 11:1 - 3
March 10	OT: Num 14:1 - 15:16 NT: Mk 14:53 - 72 Ps: 53 Prov: 11:4	OT: Num 14:1 - 15:16 Prov: 11:4	NT: Mk 14:53 - 72	Ps: 53 Prov: 11:4

March 11	OT: Num 15:17 - 16:40 NT: Mk 15 Ps: 54 Prov: 11:5 - 6	OT: Num 15:17 - 16:40 Prov. 11:5 - 6	NT: Mk 15	Ps: 54 Prov: 11:5 - 6
March 12	OT: Num 16:41 - 18:32 NT: Mk 16 Ps: 55 Prov: 11:7	OT: Num 16:41 - 18:32 Prov. 11:7	NT: Mk 16	Ps: 55 Prov: 11:7
March 13	OT: Num 19 - 20 NT: Luke 1:1 - 25 Ps: 56 Prov: 11:8	OT: Num 19 - 20 Prov. 11:8	NT: Luke 1:1 - 25	Ps: 56 Prov: 11:8
March 14	OT: Num 21:1 - 22:20 NT: Lk 1:26 - 56 Ps: 57 Prov: 11:9 - 11	OT: Num 21:1 - 22:20 Prov. 11:9 - 11	NT: Lk 1:26 - 56	Ps: 57 Prov: 11:9 - 11
March 15	OT: Num 22:21 - 23:30 NT: Lk 1:57 - 80 Ps: 58 Prov: 11:12 - 13	OT: Num 22:21 - 23:30 Prov. 11:12 - 13	NT: Lk 1:57 - 80	Ps: 58 Prov: 11:12 - 13
March 16	OT: Num 24 - 25 NT: Lk 2:1 - 35 Ps: 59 Prov: 11:14	OT: Num 24 - 25 Prov. 11:14	NT: Lk 2:1 - 35	Ps: 59 Prov: 11:14
March 17	OT: Num 26:1 - 51 NT: Lk 2:36 - 52 Ps: 60 Prov: 11:15	OT: Num 26:1 - 51 Prov. 11:15	NT: Lk 2:36 - 52	Ps: 60 Prov: 11:15
March 18	OT: Num 26:52 - 28:15 NT: Lk 3:1 - 22 Ps: 61 Prov: 11:16 - 17	OT: Num 26:52 - 28:15 Prov. 11:16 - 17	NT: Lk 3:1 - 22	Ps: 61 Prov: 11:16 - 17
March 19	OT: Num 28:16 - 29:40 NT: Lk 3:23 - 38 Ps: 62 Prov: 11:18 - 19	OT: Num 28:16 - 29:40 Prov. 11:18 - 19	NT: Lk 3:23 - 38	Ps: 62 Prov: 11:18 - 19
March 20	OT: Num 30 - 31 NT: Lk 4:1 - 30 Ps: 63 Prov: 11:20 - 21	OT: Num 30 - 31 Prov. 11:20 - 21	NT: Lk 4:1 - 30	Ps: 63 Prov: 11:20 - 21

March 21	OT: Num 32:1 - 33:39 NT: Lk 4:31 - 5:11 Ps: 64 Prov: 11:22	OT: Num 32:1 - 33:39 Prov. 11:22	NT: Lk 4:31 - 5:11	Ps: 64 Prov: 11:22
March 22	OT: Num 33:40 - 35:34 NT: Lk 5:12 - 28 Ps: 65 Prov: 11:23	OT: Num 33:40 - 35:34 Prov. 11:23	NT: Lk 5:12 - 28	Ps: 65 Prov: 11:23
March 23	OT: Num 36:1 - Deut 1:46 NT: Lk 5:29 - 6:11 Ps: 66 Prov: 11:24 - 26	OT: Num 36:1 - Deut 1:46 Prov. 11:24 - 26	NT: Lk 5:29 - 6:11	Ps: 66 Prov: 11:24 - 26
March 24	OT: Deut 2 - 3 NT: Lk 6:12 - 38 Ps: 67 Prov: 11:27	OT: Deut 2 - 3 Prov. 11:27	NT: Lk 6:12 - 38	Ps: 67 Prov: 11:27
March 25	OT: Deut 4 NT: Lk 6:39 - 7:10 Ps: 68:1 - 18 Prov: 11:28	OT: Deut 4 Prov. 11:28	NT: Lk 6:39 - 7:10	Ps: 68:1 - 18 Prov: 11:28
March 26	OT: Deut 5 - 6 NT: Lk 7:11 - 35 Ps: 68:19 - 35 Prov: 11:29 - 31	OT: Deut 5 - 6 Prov. 11:29 - 31	NT: Lk 7:11 - 35	Ps: 68:19 - 35 Prov: 11:29 - 31
March 27	OT: Deut 7 - 8 NT: Lk 7:36 - 8:3 Ps: 69:1 - 18 Prov: 12:1	OT: Deut 7 - 8 Prov. 12:1	NT: Lk 7:36 - 8:3	Ps: 69:1 - 18 Prov: 12:1
March 28	OT: Deut 9 - 10 NT: Lk 8:4 - 21 Ps: 69:19 - 36 Prov: 12:2 - 3	OT: Deut 9 - 10 Prov. 12:2 - 3	NT: Lk 8:4 - 21	Ps: 69:19 - 36 Prov: 12:2 - 3
March 29	OT: Deut 11 - 12 NT: Lk 8:22 - 39 Ps: 70 Prov: 12:4	OT: Deut 11 - 12 Prov. 12:4	NT: Lk 8:22 - 39	Ps: 70 Prov: 12:4
March 30	OT: Deut 13 - 15 NT: Lk 8:40 - 9:6 Ps: 71 Prov: 12:5 - 7	OT: Deut 13 - 15 Prov. 12:5 - 7	NT: Lk 8:40 - 9:6	Ps: 71 Prov: 12:5 - 7
March 31	OT: Deut 16 NT: Lk 9:7 - 27 Ps: 72 Prov: 12:8 - 9	OT: Deut 16 Prov. 12:8 - 9	NT: Lk 9:7 - 27	Ps: 72 Prov: 12:8 - 9