

St. Luke's NEWS

A Newsletter for St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Richmond, WI | Vol. 45 Issue 3



Contact Information:

Church Office: 715-246-4861 | Website: www.stlukesnr.org
Jody Green, Discipleship Coordinator: jody@stlukesnr.org;
Laura Henrichsen, Ministry Support: laura@stlukesnr.org;
Pastor Ryan Schroeder: pastorryan@stlukesnr.org;

March 2018: What's Inside:

Words from Pastor **2**
Worship, Spiritual Growth, Service **3**
Missions **4**
Sunday School Newsletter **8**
Worship Assistants **9**
Monthly Calendar **10**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

MATTHEW 27:45, NRSV

Words from Pastor Ryan

Lent – it begins with Ash Wednesday and ends in the glorious procession of Easter Vigil. Overnight, from Holy Saturday to Easter Sunrise, the gloom of Good Friday is scattered by the light and joy of Easter morning! Though these things have all come to pass in Christ, in our life together this year, we're not there yet.

I've often stopped to consider how solemn and contemplative the season of Lent is – there is much to think about. There are so many details and bits of significance that enhance how we both sorrow over and celebrate Jesus' walk to Calvary. This year, I took up a devotion that looks at the 'unsung' moods of Lent – something that pops into my inbox each morning from author Chris Tiegreen.

In one short series of devotions, Tiegreen begged the mood of 'stealth' in Lent. When hearing the word 'Lent,' would you jump to a word like 'stealth?' This was news to me! What follows here are the things I've dug up, and I pray it's as much of a benefit to you as it was fruitful for me.

In Mark 14, we hear the negotiations between the religious leaders and the likes of Judas Iscariot: "The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest Jesus by stealth, and kill him...Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them. And when they heard it they were glad, and promised to give Judas money. And he then sought an opportunity to betray Jesus."
Mark 14:1, 10-11

In order to arrest Jesus by stealth, the rulers needed someone like Judas. Predators often benefit from knowing the habits of their prey, and in this case, a close friend who would be willing to betray – what better knowledge of habit could there be? And yet, for Judas, the friend who was willing to act like an enemy, will forever be marred with the reputation of a traitor.

When we consider the contract – a stealth betrayal of Jesus, and in return, 30 pieces of silver – we wonder: "Why? Why did he do it?" We're the type of audience that's not content with an incomplete tale – we long to know the motive. So we often think of Judas and we claim: "Greed!" Or, sometimes we claim: "Judas was misguided!" There's some who believe Judas thought that he was actually keeping Jesus safe from the Romans, even if Jesus was jailed. But, Scripture does not speak to these matters.

St. Mark ignores Judas' motive. All Mark cares to address is that Judas seems to go along with the leaders, with no clear plan of his own; that's all we really know of the mind of Judas.

Judas' willful, stealthy betrayal would have us ask in this season: Does the motive of a sin – an excuse or reason to sin – make it any less a sin? The betrayal of God's sovereignty is always a sin, regardless of what leads us, yes even us today, to betray Him. Don't we often like to defend ourselves as to why we 'had to' sin? Such is the reminder from this year's Ash Wednesday season. We fall terribly short when our excuse to sin is that we're 'only human.' The truth of the stealth of Lent is this: we can do nothing to diminish our fault. We can relate too easily to Judas. We will find no consolation in our motive to sin.

Judas' stealth in the Gospel of Mark needs no motive to be complete. Yet, the beauty of the narrative is the way that it ends, Jesus' lack of stealth. Jesus' motive to reach that Cross and Tomb at all costs. His divine motive proclaims His redeeming, forgiving love. There is no happier ending than this, and we will celebrate that other-worldly moment when we move from the blood-stained Cross to Jesus' burst Tomb.

A Blessed Lententide, and a Happy Easter!

Pastor Ryan

WORSHIP

Sundays – 8 & 10:30 am

Wednesdays – 7 pm

Radio – Not currently available

TV – Northwest Cable channel 6

Tuesdays 2 pm, Wednesdays 6:30 pm

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:20 – 10:20 am

(Upper Level - Fellowship Hall, Conference Room)

Sunday School 9:20 – 10:20 am



Sunday Coffee Fellowship

(After worship)

Tuesday AM Bible Study

8:45 am – 9:45 am

(Upper Level - Conference Room)

Prayer Vigil dates are:

Monday at 9 am, March 12 & 26; Thursday at 6 pm,
March 1 & 15 (On 2nd & 4th Mondays | 1st & 3rd Thursdays)

SERVICE

Radio & Flower Sponsor Openings

Radio Broadcast (dates available)

Not available at this time

Flowers (dates available)

March 4, 11 & 18; and April 1, 22 & 29

New sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards. Please email us or write a note to let us know your "why" for sponsoring the date, we can then post it in the bulletin.



Thrivent Choice Contributions Contributions from Thrivent Choice to St. Luke's in 2018 will be designated for the Community Outreach program. Did you know St. Luke's is on Amazon? If you make purchases on Amazon you can also give to charities and non-profits both directly and by select purchases. You can find St. Luke's at: smile.amazon.com – In 2018 contributions made to St. Luke's thru Amazon Smile will be designated for the National Youth Gathering. If you have any questions regarding the designation of Thrivent Choice or Amazon Smile contributions please contact Michael Sykora.

CONGRATULATIONS! Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits just like yours through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year.

We are excited to share, based on member recommendations, St Luke Lutheran Church received \$4,999 in charitable outreach funding in 2017. We hope this gift helped to further support your incredible work.

All 2017 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct. Encourage your supporters to direct now. Use the free promotional materials available in the Promote Thrivent Choice section on Thrivent.com to easily remind your supporters about Thrivent Choice and the positive impact that can be made by directing Choice Dollars to your organization. As a reminder, 2017 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2018.

Please check Narthex boards for Information

Minutes from the Feb. Women's group meeting are available on the shelves in the narthex.

Women's Group

The Women's Group regular meeting is March 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker is Duana Bremmer from Grace Place giving us information on how our group can be of service. All women are encouraged to attend. Treats will be served. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Mealey

Wood sign making class—March 24, 9-11am

The Women's group is sponsoring a wooden sign making class. You have an opportunity to make a sign for your home or for a gift. There are 5 different sizes, shapes and prices to choose from. Please see the bulletin board for the sign-up sheet, and pre-ordering sheets for the sign that you would like to make. You choose one of the 5 designs, Erica will make it, bring it along. At the class you choose the stain or paint, and then you personalize it with how you ordered it.

Because of the limited amount of people that we can have attend, we are offering to members of St. Luke's first, then if the class is not filled by March 10, we will open it up to anyone beyond our members.

Deposit of \$20, must be paid by March 10, checks can be made out to 'Erica Withuski'. Your order form and deposit can be dropped off at the church office or given to Karen or Linda. Questions? Feel free to contact: Karen Volkert 715-246-2824, Linda Volkert 657-470-7608

Family Fun Night on Friday, April 6

Come young & old to Family Fun Night on Friday, April 6. We will serve a light snack before we begin a project or a movie. This is yet to be determined! Your ideas are welcomed.

Helping Hands Here & Abroad

MISSIONS



LWML At their convention in the summer of 2017, the National LWML set a mission goal of \$2,075,000 for the 2017-2019 biennium. Twenty-two grants are included in the goal. As of January 12 two grants in the amount of \$100,000 each have been paid; one to Current Missionary Need--LCMS International Mission, and the other to Mercy House for Women and Children. Three of the grants were highlighted in the Winter Lutheran Woman's Quarterly: Completion of Luonda Lutheran School Building--\$48,000; Mercy House for Women and Children--\$100,000; Christ for Veterans and Their Families--\$27,750.

The Luonda Lutheran grant helps complete Phase Two of two schools in the villages of Kakika and Lu-konda in Uganda. Each school has four classrooms. Two of the rooms will be used for weekly Lutheran worship services.

The Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint, Michigan has purchased a residence which will house six to eight homeless, pregnant, and/or abused women and children. This grant will help renovate, refurbish, and furnish this residence known as Mercy House. A safe and caring Christian environment will be provided where the best parenting practices and relationship building will be taught.

Through the LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces, the God for Veterans and Their Families grant will be used to host national training events for Operation Barnabas. Operation Barnabas is used by the Ministry to provide a network of care through trained congregations that want to reach out to members of the military, their families, and the veterans in their congregations and communities.

If you wish to see a complete list of the Mission Grants, there is one next to the large mite box on the display case outside the dining room or you can go to www.lwml.org. If you are interested in helping by donating your "loose change," there are also mite boxes available.

Please keep the work of the LWML in your prayers.

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!

- *If you are age 21-80 learn your risk for developing 6 different chronic diseases*
- *\$3 out of every \$4 spent on healthcare is for treatment of chronic disease*

- *Better lifestyle habits can help prevent 80% of heart disease and 90% of type 2 diabetes*

The 6 for Life Health Assessment measures your risk of developing 6 chronic diseases, including heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD and lung cancer. A customized report will determine which risk factors contribute most to your disease risk and are within your control to change. Finger-stick blood tests along with biometric measurements are included with this assessment. These are separate from our vascular screenings.

St. Luke's will be hosting a Life Line Screening preventive health event on Friday, March 9.

Protect your health by registering today for the 6 for Life Health Assessment for \$79. Call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979 to schedule your appointment. Take control of your health, knowledge is empowering. Register for the lipid panel (HDL, LDL, total cholesterol and triglycerides), glucose and CRP blood tests for only \$129. Call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979 to schedule your appointment. Ask about our other stroke and heart tests. Taking control of your health doesn't have to be hard.

March Dedicated Mission: Lutheran Bible Translators

LBT is involved in many programs and projects around the world, many of them overlapping with each other.

Giving people access to God's life-changing Word in their language involves translating the Bible in written form as well as equipping people with the skills to read and write in their language. Often it also involves creating audio versions of Scriptures, or helping people develop forms of worship that are meaningful within their culture. It always involves working with local partners, including local translators, churches and denominations, and existing leadership. To the degree we can, we share our expertise through training opportunities to ensure that people continue to engage God through his Word long after our missionaries leave.

This takes a team with a wide range of skills, from translation advisors and experts in Greek and Hebrew, to IT specialists who help develop the technology and communications infrastructure needed to facilitate programs, to tutors for the children

continued on page 5

Family Fun Nite & Project Sunday

Bible Translators continued from page 4
of missionaries, to regional directors responsible for coordinating everything from logistics and protocol to ensuring missionary well-being. Our work impacts many aspects of life. Bible translation does not happen in isolation. Our field work often involves language development (recording history, creating dictionaries, documenting culture), health development (AIDS awareness, trauma healing training), and physical development (water systems, farming techniques). LBT will call upon specialist organizations to help with requests outside of our expertise.



Fun at the Badlands





JOY
comes with the
MORNING.

My Faith Journeys

Joy can be a tremendous thing in our lives. Often we don't find it when there is sadness, tragedy or death happens. I try to follow the JOY theme every day as a volunteer here at the Deerfield Campus. JOY—Jesus First, Others second, Yourself third. In this season of lent we need to put Jesus first in our lives, reflecting on what he did for us. We need to put our trust in God every day for what he has done for us. Proverbs 3: 5-6 tells us to Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. As I serve others at the Deerfield, staff or residents, I try to remember people in my prayers, do kind acts for them by reaching out when in need. I try to build good relationships with people whose lives exhibit their confidence in God. Pray for each other that your joy in Christ will continue to increase. We have a tremendous opportunity here to establish good Joy on the campus everywhere. While taking care of needs, you need to think of yourself also, and pray daily, fill your mind with prayer, good books and music. Take time to meditate on things that draw your heart nearer to God's word and your heart. Remember the physical aspect of caring for yourself also by getting rest, eating right and relaxation. I encourage you to take a long view at life, and no matter what happens today, remember that God remains in charge of your life and will faithfully develop his character in you. Psalm 116:1 tells us "I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; He heard me cry out for mercy."

I encourage you to walk with JOY throughout Lent with God and His word, and with the peace that passes all understanding.

In His Name, Bill Klopp, Deerfield volunteer, outings\spiritual care.

Psalm 30:5

Sunday School Newsletter

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH



Hello Parents,

*Spring is almost here, it arrives this month, and that means Holy Week and Easter is right around the corner! We are continuing to do exciting things in Sunday school and around our church. As a reminder, there will be **no Sunday school** on Sunday, March 4th – all families are invited to the special Breakfast to Give Thanks sponsored by the council, between services that day. The council will provide the annual report and have a short meeting while we enjoy their breakfast labors.*

This month we will be working on the lessons below:

- *The Passover*
- *Crossing the Red Sea*
- *God Provides Manna, Water, & Quail*

We look forward to another exciting month in which we can learn more and have an opportunity to bless our community!

God's Blessings, Sunday School Staff

Please note: We are sending the newsletter electronically as well. If you do not receive the newsletter, please contact Karrie Lynch at karrie7660@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

Board of Family Ministries

Board Members

Todd Zuberbier | Kristin Birkholz

Next Family Fun Night –

We will host another Family Fun Night on Friday, April 6. We will serve a light snack. For April we will most likely have a movie to show.

If you have suggestions you would like to see us implement for Family Night, please talk with us.

Do you enjoy working with youth or children? Volunteer, talk to a BOFM member to learn more.

Thanks for your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 4: **No Sunday School** join us for Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall!

March 25: Children Sing (beg. of 10:30am)

April 1: No Sunday School Easter Sunday

April 29: Children Sing (end of 8am)



Worship Assistants March 2018

Ushers

- March 4 8am:** Tammy & Bob Frank, Ryan and Jack Schradle
10:30am: Russ Miller, Nick Dols, Todd Schutte, Ross Stansbury
- March 11 8am:** Jim Richert, Tom Leverentz, Chris Parker, Brian Mattmiller
10:30am: Russ Miller, Ben and Tyler Hebert, Dan Harding
- March 18 8am:** Darrel & Sheryl Stoddard, Dale Strege, Tom Green
10:30am: Marty Tryba, Ryan Tryba, Russ Miller, Dan Harding
- March 25 8am:** Brant and Juliana Schimmel, Tom Green, Mike Sykora
10:30am: Nick Dols, Paul Richard, Russ Miller, Dan Harding

Elders for Service

- March 4** — John Mickelson, Jim assist
March 11 — Bill Klopp, Doug assist
March 18 — Doug Hager, Bill assist
March 25 — Justin Townsend, Jeff assist
Maundy Thursday 7pm — Jeff Silver, Bill assist
Good Friday — Bill Klopp 1pm; John Mickelson 7pm
Wednesdays — Mike Boucher

Music

- Organist (Pianist)** Jeanine Carlson, Sue Svenningsen, Loretta Kummerfeldt,
Music Directors Joan Nasset (choir)
Susie Beedle (handbells)

Greeters

- March 4 8am:** Bill & Myrtle Munns
10:30am: Gladys Heiss, Joan Frank
- March 11 8am:** Holly, Karly, Maxwell and Evan Parker
10:30am: Rick & Deb Hebert
- March 18 8am:** Tom & Jody Green
10:30am: Dan & Cheryl Harding
- March 25 8am:** Betty Mickelson, Emiline Emerson
10:30am: Paul & Mary Ann Richard

Altar

- Sun.** March 4 Terri Mattmiller; other dates open
Wed. Sharon Denker

Videotaping

- March 4** — Alex Birkholz
March 11 — Steve Volkert
March 18 — Tory Zinsmeister
March 25 — Kristin Birkholz

Acolytes

Unless noted: Elder on duty or by request.

- March 4 8am:** _____
10:30am: _____
- March 7 7pm:** Erin Huerta
March 11 8am: *by request*
10:30am: *by request*
- March 14 7pm:** *No class, Spring break*
March 18 8am: *by request*
10:30am: *by request*
- March 21 7pm:** Samuel Powers
March 25 8am: Caleb Miller, Isaiah Miller
10:30am: Austin DeBoer, Alex Schmidt
- March 28 7pm:** *No class, no worship*
March 29, 30: _____



Daylight Saving Time

Begins on Sunday, March 11 at 3 am!
Make a note
and set your
clocks ahead
so you won't
miss services!



March 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Prayer Vigil 6pm GA 7pm	2	3 Lehman Funeral 11am
4 Annual Report & Breakfast btwn services Worship 8 & 10:30am Communion No Bible Study No Sunday School <i>Private Baptism 12pm</i>	5 Staff mtg 9:30am Baby & Me 5-6pm Boards times vary	6 Bible Study 8:45am LWML 2pm	7 Women's Brkfst 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Lent Dinner 5:30-6:30pm Handbells 5:45pm Confirmation 6-6:45pm Worship 7pm Choir 8pm	8 Willow River Piecemaker's 6:30pm GA 7pm	9 Golden Girl's @ 12pm Lifeline Screening 8:30-5:30pm	10 Men's Group 8am <i>Private Event 9 am</i> <i>Set Clocks Ahead for Sunday</i>
11 Worship 8 & 10:30am Communion Bible Study Sunday School 9:20-10:20 am	12 Prayer Vigil 9am Staff mtg 9:30am Baby & Me 5-6pm Council 5:30pm	13 Bible Study 8:45am	14 Women's Brkfst 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Lent Dinner 5:30-6:30pm Handbells 5:45pm No Confirmation Worship (Comm) 7pm Choir 8pm	15 Homeschool Group 10-12am Prayer Vigil 6pm GA 7pm	16	17 Women's Group 9am Sign class
18 Worship 8 & 10:30am Communion Bible Study Sunday School 9:20-10:20 am	19 Staff mtg 9:30am Baby & Me 5-6pm	20 Bible Study 8:45am <i>Deadline for April Newsletter</i>	21 Women's Brkfst 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Lent Dinner 5:30-6:30pm Handbells 5:45pm Confirmation 6-6:45pm Worship 7pm Choir 8pm	22 GA 7pm	23	24 Women's Group Sign painting 8am to 12pm
25 Palm Sunday LWML Coat Drive Worship 8 & 10:30am Communion Bible Study Sunday School 9:20-10:20 am	26 Prayer Vigil 9am Staff mtg 9:30am Baby & Me 5-6pm	27 Bible Study 8:45am Card Club 7pm	28 Women's Brkfst 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Handbells 5:45pm No Confirmation No Worship Choir 8pm	29 <i>Private Baptism 12pm</i> Maundy Thursday 7pm	30 Office Closed Good Friday 1 & 7 pm	31 

Giving Thanks, Breakfast
Join Us March 4, between services
to celebrate a successful past year.
With a Congregational Meeting
Annual Report Distribution &
Breakfast thank you.

COATS FOR OUR KING

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem and the people spread their coats on the ground before him.

St. Luke's LWML will sponsor a coat collection on Palm Sunday, March 25 in Christ's honor. They will collect new and slightly used jackets or outerwear (any season) and any age, adult to child at both services.

