

The King's Herald

March 2021

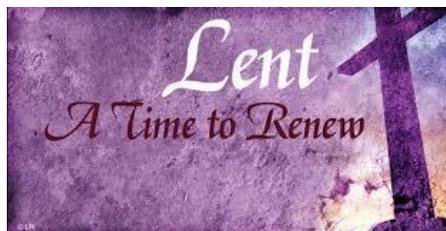
Christ the King
Lutheran Church
"Where We Are
About God's Grace
For God's People"

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Season of Lent and Easter

The season of Lent began with our worshipping on Ash Wednesday. It is the day that we also welcomed Pastor Lon Hider into our midst as he shared in his first worship service. Unfortunately, with the restrictions due to the continued pandemic concerns we will not be holding Wednesday evening worship services. This includes the much loved soup suppers. We do however invite you to tune into Bethany Lutheran Churches service which they are remotely doing. You can join them by way of Facebook or they are transmitted over the radio station 105.5 at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday.



Consideration as to how we can do Holy Week and Easter services safely are being discussed. Details of these worship opportunities will be announced as they are worked through.

Lent represents a time of searching for God amidst the brokenness of life, a season of intentional fasting before a time of feasting. Use this time for self-examination and reflection. We encourage you to do this through daily devotions and prayer.

Wednesday Bible Studies

Pastor Lon will be leading Bible study on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning March 3rd. In order for the group to properly social distance they will be meeting in the fellowship hall.

The book of John chapters 14-17 will be studied for the next several weeks. It will help us to work through the grieving process that has consumed our lives this past year.

We're excited to be getting back together again and hope you consider participating in this study.

Heavenly Father, during this Lenten season, give me a new and expanded vision for my life. Help me to live full of faith. Teach me to find hope in the face of adversity.

From the Pastor's Desk



*¹⁰For who scorns the day of small things? These seven eyes of the LORD, which scan throughout the whole earth, will rejoice when they see the **plumb line** in Zerubbabel's hand.” (Zechariah 4:10)*

Hello Friends at Christ the King,

The scripture quoted above is from a time of Israel's history where they had lost everything. Now they must rebuild, and this rebuilding begins with a plumb line. They tie a pointy metal object to a string to get a true vertical reading as they construct a new building (in this case, the rebuilding of God's temple on the earth). As Zerubbabel holds the plumb line, it's a sign of a new beginning after a long season of exile from what the people knew as “normal life”.

And yet, the plumb line is a mixed blessing for those watching. It gives them hope as they build something new, but it also triggers their grief. They are tempted to “scorn the day of small things” because they remember how magnificent things used to be. The plumb line can trigger deep feelings of grief, like someone rebuilding their family home after a tsunami. Christ, the King experienced significance loss in 2020. “Normal” got swept away in the flood of pandemics, politics, deaths, and divisions. Grief is always a sign of love. We grieve when we lose what we love.

Whatever happens in 2021 and beyond, we will need to grieve 2020. Why? So that we can keep moving forward as a healthy community of Christ. Grief feels like an enemy, but it is our friend. Pain in the body is necessary to identify and then heal the problem. Grief is the pain in the soul that moves us toward healing. One study showed the symptoms of incomplete grief:

*Irritability/anger: People who are “short” with others in the church may simply be pushing grief away.
Continued obsessing/missing of what used to be: A church will find it hard to move forward when we make a god out of the past.*

Hyper alertness/fear of loss: Little things in the church can feel like a potential avalanche in the minds of those with incomplete grief.

Overreaction: “I will never get involved in the church again,” or “I just can't bring myself to trust another pastor” or “I am out of here!”

I wish 2020 wasn't so painful. I would prefer my first newsletter article not to be about grief. I would love to come in as your new pastor and pretend that we can just forget 2020 and start working with you on the future. But the future we want to build needs to start off “plumb”. Grief is part of the process of laying a good foundation for the future.

So, what can you expect from me? I will not be dragging you off to counseling or force you to talk about your feelings. I do not have an agenda, but I do have two ears (with a hearing aid) and a desire to help. I want to get to know you and your story.

In John 14-17 (the Farewell Discourse) Jesus initiates the grieving process with his disciples. He is going away to sit at the right hand of God. But he will not leave them without a Comforter/ Counselor who will lead them into the future. Our Wednesday morning bible group will study these chapters. It should help us learn, grow, and grieve our own losses through the words of Christ and the presence of the Comforter.



Beyond that, in the services, you should expect to appreciate familiar things in fresh ways. Our faith has so much depth and meaning for the Church and the World. I hope to rekindle that depth as we work together. Moses saw God's glory in a burning bush. I hope to help us see (as someone else has said) how *all* the bushes are burning when we truly see.

Whatever future we have together is a journey we take together. I am here to take the trip with you as we discern *together* where God is leading us. When we pick up the plumb line of a new beginning, God gets excited by the possibilities of where it will lead:

¹⁰ For who scorns the day of small things? These seven eyes of the LORD, which scan throughout the whole earth, *will rejoice* when they see the plumb line... (in our hands).

May we trust God with our pain as we experience the divine presence assuring us that good things are down the road.

Plumbfully Yours,

Pastor Lon

God can restore what is broken and turn it into something amazing. All you need is faith.

Joel 2:25

Office Position Available

Dear Members of the Church Council & Christ the King Congregation,

It is with a saddened yet joyful heart that I am announcing that I will be retiring from my position as Church Office Administrator effective May 31, 2021. This isn't a decision that I take lightly but one that is made after much prayerful consideration and discussion with my family.

I can't even begin to tell you what a privilege and pleasure it has been to be your servant in Christ these past 48 years. I have grown in my faith, made countless friends and truly loved what I did for this congregation. I have been blessed to work along-side so many wonderful people.

I will do everything in my power to make this transition a smooth one. My departure is only as a member of the staff. I look forward to remaining an active member of this congregation. My priority now will be focused on being a wife, mother and grandmother to three adorable granddaughters.

Again, thank you for supporting me and allowing me to have a career where I truly loved what I was doing. This will be an exciting time as new and exciting opportunities are before me.

Your servant in Christ,

Arlene

Quilting

A few of our ladies have worked to do some of the quilting duties throughout the past year in their homes. They have indicated that they feel comfortable about getting back together and begin quilting at church. Because the Bible study group will be meeting on Wednesdays in the fellowship, due to social distancing, the quilters have changed their meeting day to Mondays. So, please join them on Mondays from 9:00-12:00 noon if you are looking for something to do outside of the home. They would be thrilled to have your help.



Readings For March

March 7—The 3rd Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17, Ps. 19, 1 Cor. 1:18-25,
John 2:13-22

March 14—The 4th Sunday in Lent
Number 21:4-9, Ps. 107: 1-3, 17-22, Eph. 2:1-
10, John 3:14-21

March 21—The 5th Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ps. 51:1-12, Hebrews
5:5-10, John 12:20-33

March 28—Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Ps. 31:9-16, Phil. 2:5-11,
March 15:1-47

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2020 Choice Dollars. After that date the unused Choice Dollars will expire. These available dollars can be directed among thousands of 501c non-profit organizations including Christ the King. You can easily take care of this by going on-line, making a phone call to Thrivent or calling the local office for their assistance. Act soon, before these free monies go away. If you would like to stop by the church office we can assist you with this.

In The Parish Family

Home from the hospital: *none (that we are aware of)*

Continued prayers for: *Steve Tufnell, Phylliss Eastman, John Anderson, Debbie Renken (sister to Bob VanEffen).*

Our hearts are heavy as we grieve the passing of a dear friend of the congregation, Nancy Norberg. Many knew of the various ailments that she suffered with during these last months but no one ever considered them to be life threatening. Her death still doesn't seem like a reality and has left a hole in our hearts. Many of us will miss not having her fill in for Beth as our organist and forgetting to turn off the chimes before beginning the service. Or what about the clinking of ice in her water glass that she had with her at every worship service she was at. You probably have your own remembrances of her that puts a smile on your face. If there is one image that comes to my mind about Nancy is that she had a heart of gold. She would give you her last nickel if she knew you needed it more than her. No services were held due to Covid-19 restrictions. The family is hoping to hold something at Gardens of Rest later this spring once the weather improves.

Prayer requests: If you or someone you know is in the hospital or in need of pastoral care we encourage you to call the church office. We would like to include these individuals in our prayers so please help us to keep informed. Pastor Lon is available to help you through any difficult situations. He is anxious to get to know you and would love to visit you in your home, if you feel comfortable. If not it can be at church or over the phone.

Let Us Pray For Those Celebrating Birthdays On:

March 3: Bill Gartland
 March 4: Justin Cobb, John Hendrickson
 March 7: Beth Jacobson
 March 8: Pat Wendrick
 March 11: Rob Jensen
 March 13: Jared Murray
 March 15: Kevin Boudreau
 March 16: Krissa Gafner, LeRoy Sovey
 March 17: Harold Strasler
 March 19: Marlene Raeder
 March 20: Scott Schlenvogt
 March 21: Michael Burie
 March 23: Judy LaCasse, Leigh Schmidt
 March 26: Bella Lindstrom
 March 28: Meagan Johnsen, Dutch Solis, Bob VanEffen
 March 29: Geri Jo Berthaume
 March 31: Corey Kang, Pete Schlenvogt, Shirley Smith



Please Note: If we have your birthday or your family members birthday listed incorrectly or if it isn't listed at all please let the office know.

Offering Envelopes for 2021

Offering envelopes for 2021 are available for pick up. Those who have been in worship had the opportunity to get theirs. The office is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for those who would like to stop by for them. Otherwise, if you contact the church office we can put them on the bench between the double doors. That way you can stop for them at your convenience.

Also, if you are interested in receiving your year end giving statement we ask that you let the office know and one will be mailed.

Memorials

The following memorial was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of...

Karl Kell by Todd & Cindy Steinmetz

Easter Memorials

If you would like to make a memorial for Easter then please let Arlene know in the office. Memorials will be printed in the Easter bulletin as well as in the May newsletter.



2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 9:00 Quilting	2	3 10:00 Bible Study	4 10:00 Coffee with the Staff	5	6 5:00 Communion Service
7 10:30 Communion Service	8 9:00 Quilting	9	10 10:00 Bible Study	11 10:00 Coffee with the Staff	12	13 5:00 Communion Service
14 10:30 Communion Service	15 9:00 Quilting	16	17 10:00 Bible Study	18 10:00 Coffee with the Staff	19	20 5:00 Communion Service
21 10:30 Communion Service	22 9:00 Quilting	23	24 10:00 Bible Study	25 10:00 Coffee with the Staff	26	27 5:00 Communion Service
28 10:30 Communion Service	29 9:00 Quilting	30	31 10:00 Bible Study			

Christ the King Lutheran
Church

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Escanaba, Michigan 49829

We're on the Web!
www.ctk-escanaba.org

This issue of the King's
Herald is sponsored by
Gayle Stoykovich in
memory of James P. &
James A. Stasewich

KING'S HERALD March 2021

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Saturday—5:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday— 10:30 Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated at every Saturday and Sunday service.
