

# March Calendar of Events

**Lenten Worship is every Wednesday at 12:00 pm or 7:00 pm**

**Lenten Lunches are served after the noon worship at 12:30 pm Lenten Suppers are served before the evening worship at 6:00 pm**

**Everyone is welcome at the lunches and suppers.**

**A free will offering is taken at both.**

**Leaf Articles are due March 10th**

**Confirmation Class Bowling Outing March 1st meet at the lanes at 12:30 pm**

**Confirmation Retreat March 6—8**

**First communion Classes March 8, 15, 22 at 11:30 am**

- **Please bring non-perishable food for Hope House on Sundays**
- **Please bring your aluminum cans and Campbell labels on the second Sunday, March 8th, ONLY.**
- **Dorcas Circle meets Tuesdays at 9:00 am.**
- **Sunday School at 10:00 am—meets in church Sunday, March 8th.**
- **God's Young Voices—meets Sunday morning at 9:30 am during Lent.**
- **Senior Choir meets every Wednesday at 8:00 pm, during Lent**
- **Health and Wellness meeting, Thursday, , 7:00 pm**
- **Worship & Music meets Tuesday, March 10th, at 7:00 pm**
- **Ladies Aid meets Tuesday, April 8th at 11:30 am in the library.**
- **OWLS meet on Thursday, March 12th, at 8:30 am at Forum Restaurant**
- **Property committee meeting Tuesday, March 10th, at 6:30 pm.**
- **Christian Education meeting Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm**
- **Women's Bible Study meets Thursday, March 19th, 7:00 pm.**
- **Friends meet Tuesday, March 31st at 9:30 am.**
- **Parish Nurse, Barb Estrada will be recuperating from surgery until the end of May. If you would like to send Barb a card or note her address is: 1519 Morning Glory Dr  
Hartford, WI 53027**
- **PICK N SAVE WPLC WE CARE NUMBER IS # 934480**





## LENT: THE LABYRINTH WALK



### THE LENTEN JOURNEY IS A TIME FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION.

For the six weeks of Lent the Health and Wellness committee has thoughtfully provided a Labyrinth for our spiritual well being. The Labyrinth can be a daunting task as our society is built around one minute sound bites. The thought of meditation is somewhat foreign to us as rushing from one appointment to another is more our routine. Lent is the time to take a moment (or two) to relax and focus on the power greater than ourselves. The power of prayer is mighty and we need to prepare our hearts and minds.

When do we pray—when Pastor says. . . *let us pray*. When you narrowly avoid an accident. . . *thank God*. When you see your child or grandchild

sleeping in the crib. . . *thank God for you*.

How we pray is as personal as we are. We fold our hands, bow our heads and close our eyes. We kneel. We look up to heaven. We sing. We whisper. We shout. Whatever your style please know that God is pleased when we communicate with Him through prayer. Paul writes in Philippians 4:5-7—  
*“The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

In addition to the prayer God taught us, the Lord’s Prayer, here is another prayer you might want to tap into on your walk through the Labyrinth during Lent.

“O God of many paths, I stand before this labyrinth today, metaphor of my journey to you. In the Western world I have been taught that *“the shortest distance between two points is a straight line”*, and being an impatient person, I am uncomfortable with waiting. I have often modeled my journey to you on the straight line. But you, God of infinite patience, have shown me that there is another path, a curved path. On this path my anticipa-

tion is heightened as I approach the center, only to be led out again to the periphery. But this path more closely resembles life itself. On the path, if I just put one foot in front of the other, it may seem at times as if I am not approaching my goal, while in fact, I am drawing closer all the time. But you are a God of surprises and mystery, I don’t control the path. The labyrinth is a of my surrender to mystery, trusting, not knowing for certain, that the path which curves in and out again ultimately leads to the Center, which is You.

*God bless your Lenten journey.*



*When I think about praying for others our wonderful Prayer Chain comes to mind. The members of our Prayer Chain have been a blessing to the members of our church. June Jensen is the dedicated person we go to when we have a prayer request. Besides June we want to thank Dolores Porath, Audrey Grafwallner, Beth Jaeger, Kathy Graef, Lois Essers, Elaine Wegner, Pat Noeske, Dorothy Wamser, Marilyn Schoenleber, Shirley Meyer, Bernice Sparacino, Dorothy Nurse, Betty Hembrook, Steve Meier and Audrey Grabarczyk. Thank you so very much for your faithful prayers and dedication.*

## Condensed Council minutes from January 27, 2009

### Treasurer's Report

Envelope income in December 2008 was the lowest it has been in many years. Full details will be given at the annual meeting in February. Expenses continue to rise while income is down.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Fazio submitted a breakdown of all pastoral acts for 12/17/08 – 1/27/09. They include leading worship at 11 services (including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), Blue Christmas service on 12/17; 1 healing service/blessing of prayer shawls; 9 hospital visits; 7 pastoral counseling appointments; 5 home visitations; 8 home/hospital communions; as well as 1 Finance Committee/Capital Campaign team meeting; AED/CPR training at Hales Corners Fire Department; Confirmation class trip to Hartson Funeral Home; all regularly scheduled confirmation classes, bible studies and committee meetings, and continuing participation in the Synodical Task Force/Ministry to Returning Veterans and Families – and let's see, there was one more thing...that's right -- he was present at the birth of his son on 12/26/08!

### Copier Replacement

The church copier has broken down and needs replacement. There is \$500 set aside in the budget. Although a very basic Cannon copier is available for only \$199, a motion was made and seconded to spend the \$500 in order to get a model which will meet all copy needs of the office.

### New signature cards for the bank

Names of old council members need to be removed and Kyle Sorvick added as Council Vice President as well as a representative of the Finance Committee. This is vital since all checks over \$500 require a second signature and Kris is not always available. Kyle has volunteered to check with Associated Bank to see who is currently listed and to obtain a new card for signatures of new authorized council members.

### Church Secretary Vacation Request

Council has approved Sandy's requested time off to be taken from Wednesday, 2/4 through Tuesday, 2/10.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Health & Wellness – Jill Underberg

- 120 prayer shawls made in 2008;
- Blue Christmas service was well attended – over 30 people;
- Educational session on Health Care Power of Attorneys being planned;
- New defibrillator is in church; training has been completed;
- A labyrinth walk will be set up in Hibbard Hall during the Lenten season;
- Congratulations to Sandy Sannes who has been awarded a \$1,000 grant through Luther Manor for baby boomer/senior ministries.

#### Stewardship – Kris Laposki:

\$247,000 pledged for the next 3 years; \$147,000 pledged for 2009.

#### Property – Van Johnson

- Snow in parking lot has been moved to easement area between the sidewalk and Lilac Lane;
- \$1,500 pre-payment to our snowplowing service has already been used;
- All basement reconstruction is complete with the exception of elevator repairs. This should be done in early February. Balance of claim has been sent to Church Mutual.
- Several complaints have been received about the upstairs bathrooms being very cold in the winter. Only solution is to have the breaker for the electric heater in the ladies room turned on every week prior to first service.

#### Worship & Music – Ruth Rice:

Plans for Lent and Easter are underway.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ruth Rice*

*Church council secretary*



### Luther Manor Update:

Because of a new Federal Regulation, Luther Manor is no longer able to serve home baked cookies to the residents of the Health Center, where skilled nursing care is required. Consequently, there is an urgent need of store bought cookies – they use 150 dozen per week. If you can help with this please do so and leave them on Barb Estrada's desk or in the kitchenette and mark them for Luther Manor. Barb or I will take them to Luther Manor. Home baked cookies will continue to be served in other areas of the facility.

May Annual Report for 2008 stated that Whitnall Park had given 938 dozen cookies to Luther Manor. I have recently learned that Kim Mason, a weekly volunteer on the coffee carts at Luther Manor has been bringing cookies each week which brings our total to 1005 dozen cookies for the year. Thank You Kim! There has never been a congregation that has come close to donating that many cookies. Thanks to all who donated --- the Residents are so appreciative.

I am also happy to report that my new co-worker for the Luther Manor Auxiliary is now Sandy Abraham. Welcome Sandy!

Kathy Sonntag -- Key Person

### New Rules for Luther Manor Cookie Donations

Because of a new Government Regulation, Luther Manor is no longer able to serve home baked cookies to the residents of the Health Center, where skilled nursing care is required. Consequently, there is an urgent need of store bought cookies – they use 150 dozen per week. If you can help with this please do so and leave them on Barb Estrada's desk or in the kitchenette and mark them for Luther Manor. Barb or I will take them to Luther Manor. Home baked cookies will continue to be served in other areas of the facility. Thanks for your contributions. They are greatly appreciated. Kathy Sonntag - Key person

## Social Ministry Update:

### Souper Bowl Sunday Report:

A hearty thank you to all church members who generously donated soup and dollars on February 1st! **A total of 210 cans of soup** (of all sizes and varieties) were collected and \$107.00 was dropped into the soup kettles. The Social Ministry committee added another \$70.00 from previous coffee hour donations to bring the total to \$177.00.

On February 7th, the 210 cans of soup were delivered to the South Side Food Pantry at Hope House along with two full grocery bags of other non-perishable food items. A **check for \$177.00** will be mailed to the Hunger Task Force—a local organization which supplies food to soup kitchens, food pantries, meal programs at homeless shelters and programs for children and seniors.

Again, **thank you** to everyone who helped make *Souper Bowl Sunday* a special event of **caring for people needing help now!**

—Marilyn Schoenleber

## RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE – May 1 & 2, 2009

Mark your calendars for this year's annual Rummage Sale and Bake Sale.

### RUMMAGE:

Start saving those precious items for our sale this year (if you haven't started already!)...we need all that you can give (i.e. all furniture, households, linens, electricals, TVs, decorative, books, puzzles, athletics, utensils, tools, toys, children's items, collectibles, antiques, musical, and more) with the following exceptions:

--Clothing limited to: children's clothes, all sweaters, all jeans, all coats;

--NO underwear, cosmetics, toiletries, paints, combustibles, food items;

--NO refrigerators or freezers (anything with Freon), stoves, washers and dryers.

### BAKERY:

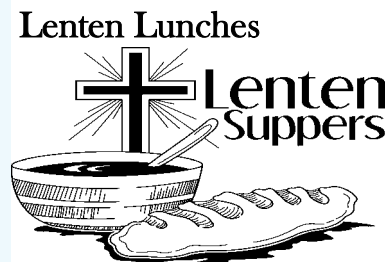
Everyone LOVES homemade bakery. It all sells and goes quickly. If you can bake something for the sale, we love it...whether it's a little or a lot, it is greatly appreciated. Let's surpass last year's record-breaking sale. Good sellers: pies, cakes, breads, fruity desserts (but never underestimate those bars and cookies!).

## Birthdays

- 2 Ronald Hause  
Scott Johnson  
Alyssa Schubert
- 4 Travis Brugger
- 5 Stephen Meier
- 7 Korine Vierthaler  
Warren Wollmer
- 8 Michael Krajewski
- 9 Joan Maasz  
Anthony Seaks
- 11 John Meyer  
Donald Ross
- 14 Kelleen Brown
- 16 Heidi Bukowski  
Kenneth Kiefer  
Raymond Remington  
Edith Smith
- 17 Joshua Hareng  
Mark Winiarski
- 18 Irene Bonnert  
Jennifer Schubert
- 19 Alan Gellings  
Russell Goetz  
Kirsten Henneberry
- 20 Jason Krainer  
Dawn Stein
- 21 Meta Gardner  
Walter Sievert
- 22 Savannah Cousert  
Kurtis Kaempfer  
Sheila Mittelstaedt
- 23 Robert Bonnert
- 25 Joseph Jenna  
Debbie Schulte
- 26 Casey Kienbaum
- 27 Keith Jankowski  
Justine Kaempfer
- 28 Sarah Knier  
Ryan Sparacino
- 29 Denise Jankowski
- 30 Marlys Boyer
- 31 Chris Crawley

## Anniversaries

- 1 Jerry & Sally Cole
- 16 Donald & Bonnie Hareng
- 20 Kenneth & JoAnn Kiefer 55
- 21 Robert & Barbara Gollash 56



**Lenten Lunches** will begin on March 4th and are served after the noon worship. Soup, sandwiches and dessert is served. Volunteers are always welcome.

—Audrey Grafwallner

**Lenten Soup Suppers** begin at 6:00 pm March 4, 2009 (the Wednesday AFTER Ash Wednesday). Watch for a sign-up sheet in Hornburg Hall for volunteers to make soups, bring side plates or dishes, & light dessert. A freewill offering is requested. We average about 20-24 people who attend supper with a casual, family-style atmosphere. Everyone is welcome.

—Sharon Hause

## Mother/Daughter Dinner

Everyone enjoyed the Mother/Daughter Dinner last year so very much! It was great to hear the stories of women's precious dolls. So . . . please volunteer to help plan the Mother-Daughter —Tentative date is May 7. —Sharon Hause

## Senior High School Scholarships Available through Church Endowment Fund

The Whitnall Park Lutheran Endowment Fund offers scholarships to Senior High School graduates who plan to further their education by attending a vocational school, college, or university following graduation. Application form and guidelines are available in the Church Office or may be downloaded from the church website, [www.whitnallparkchurch.com](http://www.whitnallparkchurch.com)—found under Monthly Activities. The scholarship is available for the 2009-10 academic year. **DEADLINE for submitting the application is April 15, 2009**...mark your calendars... don't miss out on this great opportunity.

## Join the Fun

Here is a great opportunity to serve and have fun... **anyone interested in developing a greeting card ministry?** One night a month would be set aside to make greeting cards (*as in scrap booking*). The cards made that evening would then be sent to members. This is a great way for our church to reach out to our church family to show our concern, our appreciation, our joy, or simply an acknowledgement.

Are you interested? Let me know. Sharon - 262-679-2161

Welcome new members of Whitnall Park. When you see one of our new church family please stop and introduce yourself and make them feel at home.



Joe Worden

Joe and Amy have plans to be married here in the fall.



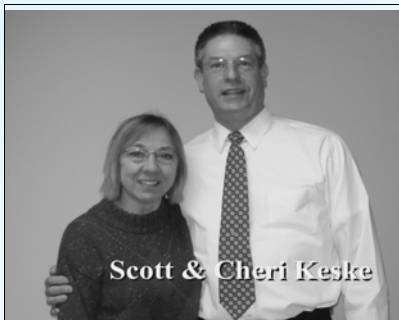
Amy Heinz

LaVern loves to baby sit her grandchildren.



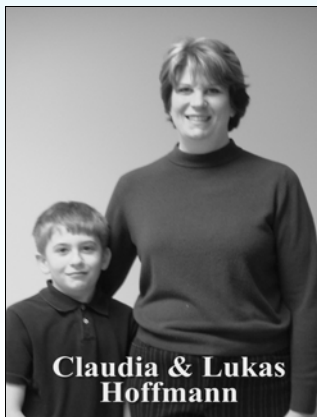
LaVerne Keske

We are so happy to have the Keske family join—mom, LaVern, son, Scott, and daughter-in-law Cheri Keske;



Scott & Cheri Keske

daughter Claudia and grandson, Lucas Hoffman.



Claudia & Lukas Hoffmann



Holly Skubal



Betsy Skubal

Eveyln Klug (not pictured) has been a WPLC member for over 35 years and now she will be joined by her lovely daughter Holly, and grandchildren, Betsy and Emily Skubal.



Emily Skubal

Brad is a tugboat captain and his wife Stacey is the activity director for senior apartments, the Centennial and the Silvernail.



Brad & Stacey Cheney



Keith & Denise Jankowski

The Jankowski's were married here last October. Denise is a long time member. They love animals! They have three dogs and a cat.

Adam works in human resources and Emily is a First grade teacher. They love out door activities.



Adam & Emily Ably

Not pictured—Debra Queen-Stremke. She loves her volunteer work for Make A Wish Foundation.

**March 1**

8:30	Assisting Minister <b>Linda Shea</b> Ushers <b>Ron Hause, Carl Hanson</b> Greeter <b>Dorothy Perkl</b> Altar Guild <b>Evelyn Schubert</b>	Acolyte <b>Melanie Saari</b>
10:00	Assisting Minister <b>Tom Laposki</b> Ushers <b>Sid Arthur, Steve Mason, Ron Noeske</b> Greeter <b>Karon Hedlof</b> Altar Guild <b>Pat Noeske</b>	Acolyte <b>Sarah Schlueter</b> Nursery <b>Jill Underberg</b>

**March 4 Wednesday Worship 12:00 pm and 12:30 Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Worship 6:00 Lenten Supper****March 8 Services with Healing — Sunday school children meet in church**

8:30	Assisting Minister <b>Jane Dillon-Perkl</b> Ushers <b>John Hembrook, Don Jensen, Dorothy Perkl</b> Greeter <b>Dolores Porath</b> Altar Guild <b>Sandy Johnson</b>	Acolyte <b>Andrew Schlueter</b>
10:00	Assisting Minister <b>Mike Sparacino</b> Ushers <b>Tom Laposki, Brian &amp; Kristi Peyer</b> Greeter <b>Elsie Hansen</b>	Acolyte <b>Jeffrey Johnson</b> Nursery <b>Jessica Callahan</b>

**March 11 Wednesday Worship 12:00 and 12:30 Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Worship 6:00 Lenten Supper****March 15**

8:30	Assisting Minister <b>Kristin Martens</b> Ushers <b>Jim and Linda Shea</b> Greeter <b>Evelyn Schubert</b> Altar Guild <b>Jim and Linda Shea</b>	Acolyte <b>Maddison Underberg</b>
10:00	Assisting Minister <b>Ron Labott</b> Ushers <b>Larry Pfeil, Brian Martin, Jack King</b> Greeter <b>Joan Henderson</b> Altar Guild <b>Julie Ann Sorenson</b>	Acolyte <b>Georgi Llanas</b> Nursery <b>Katie Ewaskowitz</b>

**March 18 Wednesday Worship 12:00 and 12:30 Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Worship 6:00 Lenten Supper****March 22**

8:30	Assisting Minister <b>Marjorie Pagel</b> Ushers <b>Jim Gaffney, Duane Hause, Lyle Lance</b> Greeter <b>Kathy Sonntag</b>	Acolyte <b>Kylie Just</b>
10:00	Assisting Minister <b>Laurie Sorvick</b> Ushers <b>Jerry Pagel, Jerome Thome, Walter Sievert</b> Greeter <b>Marilyn King</b> Altar Guild <b>Pat Suderland</b>	Acolyte <b>Erik Fedran</b> Nursery <b>Tricia Henneberry</b>

**March 25 Wednesday Worship 12:00 and 12:30 Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Worship 6:00 Lenten Supper****March 29**

8:30	Assisting Minister <b>Linda Shea</b> Ushers <b>Dorothy Perkl, Ken and Jane Perkl</b> Greeter <b>Patty Sparacino</b>	Acolyte <b>Cody Suchla</b>
10:00	Assisting Minister <b>Ruth Rice</b> Ushers <b>Sid Arthur, Jerry Pagel, Brian Martin</b> Greeter <b>Sandra Krause</b> Altar Guild <b>Dolores Vorpahl</b>	Acolyte <b>Heather Hasenstein</b> Nursery <b>Jennifer Just</b>

**From M.E., Kelly Brown  
Minister of Education**

**Our Lenten Project is ready for pickup. . . .**

All of those empty egg cartons you have donated, have been filled with *Resurrection Eggs*. Inside each of the 12 eggs there is a small Christian symbol and a strip of paper with a Bible verse along with the meaning of the symbol. **These eggs are used to tell the story of the Easter celebration.** The Sunday school children have not seen these eggs, as we felt that it was a great way to share the Easter with their family. There will be a basket of *Resurrection Eggs* located in Hornburg Hall. These will be available during Lent until supplies are gone.

*Be sure to pick up your dozen eggs!!*

**What are we learning:**

- During the month of March, we will be learning about the Passion of Christ and the Resurrection of Jesus.
- The Fifth grade will be painting chalices, which they will be using for their First Communion.
- The Confirmation class will be attending a Retreat March 6th—8th. They will be studying *The Big Ten*.



**YOUTH GROUP NEWS!**

The Youth Group served up a great Pancake Supper on Ash Wednesday. Thanks to everyone who “donated” all the ingredients for making the wonderful Buttermilk Pancakes, Juice, Milk, Sausages, Fruit and Desserts! A Great BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came to eat!

To-date the Youth Group has raised \$2,050 to support our various activities. The major portion is being raised to send our group to the ELCA Gathering Mission Trip to New Orleans in July 2009. We are very grateful to Ron Hause for his dedicated support of our youth as \$900 of that total was a donation from the Lions of New Berlin. – **THANK YOU MR. HAUSE!**

**Please Remember to mark your calendar to join in on the WPLC Culver’s Night at the Hales Corners (Hwy 100&Forest Home) on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.** Pick up the coupon off the Kiosk and be sure to hand that in when you place your dinner order. Take extra coupons and invite your



friends to join you. If you can’t make it on March 19<sup>th</sup>, you will have an opportunity to joins us in April.

**Upcoming Activities for March:**

Youth Group to help the Sunday School with the Lenten Project headed up by Kelly Brown.


**March 8<sup>th</sup>** 9 AM Coffee Hour – sign-up on Kiosk for bringing goodies and juice.

**Meeting Schedule for March:**

7PM on Mar 8<sup>th</sup>, Mar 15<sup>th</sup>, Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> and Mar 29<sup>th</sup> - to work on the special project for Good Friday.

# March 2009

## Whitnall Park Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">1</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM God's Young Voices</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>12:30 PM Confirmation Bowling Outing</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">2</p> <p>7:00 PM Dartball</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">3</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitting &amp; Crocheting class</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>12:00 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM Lenten Lunches</p> <p>6:00 PM Lenten Suppers</p> <p>8:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">5</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">6</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">7</p> <p>10:00 AM *Sunday school meets in church tomorrow</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time begins</p>
Confirmation Retreat						
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">8</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM God's Young Voices</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>11:30 AM First Communion Class</p> <p>Services with Healing</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">10</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitting &amp; Crocheting class</p> <p>6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Christian Ed</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship &amp; Music</p> <p>LEAF Articles are due</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">11</p> <p>12:00 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM Lenten Lunches</p> <p>6:00 PM Lenten Suppers</p> <p>8:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">12</p> <p>8:30 AM OWLS meet at the Forum Restaurant</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">13</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">14</p> <p>Dartball Tournament</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">15</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM God's Young Voices</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>11:30 AM First Commu- nion Class</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">16</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">17</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitti- ng &amp; Crocheting class</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">18</p> <p>12:00 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM Lenten Lunches</p> <p>6:00 PM Lenten Suppers</p> <p>8:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">19</p> <p>7:00 PM Everyone's Bible Study</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">20</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p> <p>First day of Spring</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">21</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">22</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM God's Young Voices</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p> <p>11:30 AM First Commu- nion Class</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">23</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">24</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitti- ng &amp; Crocheting class</p> <p>7:00 PM Council meeting</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">25</p> <p>12:00 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM Lenten Lunches</p> <p>6:00 PM Lenten Suppers</p> <p>8:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">26</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">27</p> <p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Office hours</p> <p>Pastor's day off</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">28</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">29</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM God's Young Voices</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday school</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">30</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">31</p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas</p> <p>9:30 AM Frien- ds Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM Knitti- ng &amp; Crocheting class</p>				



*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

As we're moving through the Liturgical Season, we've transitioned from the light of a star celebrated through Epiphany and are into the darker, more somber days of Lent... and the journey toward the cross. This is a time of reflection and contemplation; thinking about the various ways God comes to us and His presence reflected not only through the good and joyous times of life, but also through times of pain and suffering. "*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age*" are words that can provide comfort and peace in the midst of the most trying times.

As we journey through Lent, we will be exploring the theme of loss and the various ways that loss is experienced in life and how we, as people of God, can deal with these losses. We will also be offering to our Fifth graders (or anyone else who hasn't had first communion instruction) the opportunity to learn about God's gift of Himself through the bread and wine of the Eucharist. The classes will take place March 8, 15 and 22, from 11:30 – 12:30 in the Library. So, as we prepare to instruct our kids on the mystery and wonder of communion, I thought it would be a good idea to offer the rest of us a little reminder of what's happening at the Divine Table through some simple bullet points.

† *Affirmation of the Real Presence* – It is the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the elements of bread and wine that alone brings the firm assurance of the forgiveness of sin and all other benefits of life with Christ.

† *Fundamental Significance of the Lord's Supper* – Together with the proclamation of the gospel and the sacrament of baptism, the Lord's Supper is the principal means through which the Triune God communicates to all people salvation and all the blessings of new life in Christ.

† *Christ's Institution and Promise* – The Sacrament is a divine gift, embodying God's movement toward those who gather around this Supper in contrast to the futile efforts of the human spirit to ascend toward God. The promise comes to expression in the words, "given for you" and "for the forgiveness of sin".

† *The Use of the Sacrament* - The gift of the Sacrament by itself is of no use if it is not distributed and received. The Lord's Supper should therefore be received frequently in observance to Christ's invitation and command, and also by children.

As you can see, the Sacrament of Holy Communion has far-reaching implications in the heart and life of the believer. It is the tangible form of God's intangible grace and the central part of our worship...the visible form of God's Word in our midst. Thank God for this gift, especially when life becomes challenging and we need something solid to hold onto.

God's Peace and Blessing,  
Pr. Michael