

FAITH NEWSLETTER

February 2006 / March 2006

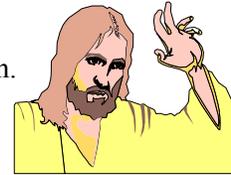
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Another Advent / Christmas season has come and gone. The assortment of decorations have been taken down and neatly packed away. Year 2005 has yielded to 2006 for at least a month by the time you read this. Many of us have high hopes in 2006 for our world, our community, our church, our families, and for ourselves. Anticipation and excitement fill the air knowing God is with us and involved in our lives.

Due to God's involvement, there is meaning in the activities, emotions, and relationships that make up our lives. God's love for us gives us determination and direction to faithfully live our lives for His purposes and glory and to trust in Him. The psalmist in **Psalm 31:1-6** confirms this when he says, **"In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me....For You are my strength....You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth....I trust in the LORD."** Trusting in God's promises assures us that He is always in control of our lives. With God's gracious love showered upon us from the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, we have sustaining courage and hope to live Christ-centered lives.

A big part of living the Christ-centered life is confession, repentance, and absolution. In the season of Lent, we prepare ourselves for the blessed celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning by calling to repentance and by faith. As we look with repentance at our own sinful lives, we also look to Christ's perfect life and all that He endured in our place.

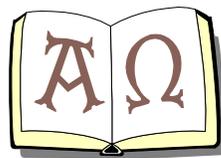


During Lent, the color purple, a somber color, reminds us of the seriousness of sin and Christ's work at overcoming it. It is also the ancient color of royalty, reminding us that even though throughout the Lenten season we will see Jesus in His state of humility, He remains our heavenly King. Reinforced in the somber tone of Lent is the passion of our Savior, while looking forward to the joyful celebration that awaits us at the Feast of His Resurrection.



As always, starting off the 40-day preparation and observances of Lent is Ash Wednesday. I will preach and lead the service on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and the services of Holy Week. Again this year, in the remaining five mid-week Lenten services, the other pastors in our Circuit will take turns leading worship and preaching *at Faith* while I serve at their respective churches.

The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the great solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central even to this penitential season. Christ who loves us and gave Himself for us makes all things new, including you and me. May God grant you a spiritually enlightened Lenten season.



Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve Bocklage

In and Around Faith Church

LWML

We have several events coming this quarter. March 1st is St. Paul's annual Lenten Breakfast at 9:00 AM.

The South side Lenten Inspiration Program will be Saturday, April 8th at Salem Lutheran Church in Homewood, IL. Reservations should be made through me by March 25th. There is a \$10.00 charge that includes lunch.

Our Spring Rally at St. Paul's will also be coming up. Watch for more information or contact me for the date.

All ladies are invited and welcome at these events.

Grace Scott

Sunny Ridge Family Center

Children all over the world are in need of a loving family. Have you recently considered adoption? Not sure where to start? Sunny Ridge Family Center invites you to attend a free General Adoption Information Meeting on Monday, February 6th at 6:30 PM at the Munster Public Library, 8701 Calumet Ave, Munster, IN.

Come learn about children available from the USA, China, Guatemala, Poland and more. Sunny Ridge is a nonprofit agency licensed as a child welfare agency by the IL Dept. of Child & Family Services ID#019976. For more information or to register for this free meeting, please call Sunny Ridge at 219-836-2117 or visit our website at

www.sunnyridge.org

Men's Breakfast

Please make plans to join the men of Faith for an 8:00 AM breakfast on the fourth Sat. of each month. This is a time for the men to get to know each other. Watch for more details as to location.

Faith Ladies Aid

We begin the year 2006 with our regular meeting on Feb. 2nd at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. After our general meeting we will have a game night. We guarantee a fun filled evening.

On March 2nd at 6:30 PM we will have our soup supper. Again all Ladies of Faith are welcome to join us. This is a great opportunity to get to know everyone and to share a few laughs.

Plans are also underway for our annual Rummage Sale. The date is set for April 29th. Start your spring cleaning ahead of time! The rummage sale is a perfect way to help with your unwanted treasures and in doing so help out the Ladies Aid. Remember, in turn the Ladies use the money they earn to help with special church projects.

Watch for more details in the next newsletter. Drop off dates and times, as well as, a volunteer schedule will be given then.

Faith Seniors

We will meet Thursday, Feb. 16th in the Parish Hall. We are desperately trying to keep this group going and would like some new members. If you are a senior please consider joining us.

Grace Scott

Thank You

Faith congregation extends their gratitude to the members of St. Martini Church for the generous donation of the processional cross. We celebrate the blessing of this gift and its visual reminder of what God has done for us through his Son Jesus Christ in dying for our sins and giving us the gift of His salvation.

We also thank Ken Rheinwald for the restoration work he did on the cross. It will certainly help beautify our sanctuary.

Schedule of February 2006 / March 2006 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>February Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>March Event</u>
1	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service / Communion
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion Adult Bible Class
8	7:00 PM	Lenten Service
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
15	7:00 PM	Lenten Service
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
22	7:00 PM	Lenten Service
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
29	7:00 PM	Lenten Service

Presidential Quotes

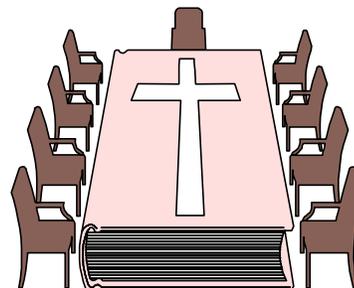
Do you know which president said these lines?

1. "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."
2. "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity."
3. "The Bible is the rock on which this Republic rests."
4. "...let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high..."
5. "No man can live where I live, nor work at the desk where I work now, without needing and seeking the strength and support of earnest and frequent prayer."

Answers on the Birthday and Anniversary page.

Weekly Meetings

AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM
	Sat - 8:00 AM
Girl Scouts	Tu - 6:00 PM F - 6:00 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:00 PM
Choir	W - 6:30 PM
Seniors	(Third) - Th. - 12:00 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM



Feb./Mar. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 5 Ed Neaves
Gene Osmanski
Mark Trojanowski
Elise Trojanowski

Feb. 12 Bill Weems
Glen Werth
Gene Tebo

Feb. 19 Alden Ketchum
Al Skopec
Andrea Skopec
Bob Stegman

Feb. 26 Frank Oslakovic
Nick Trojanowski
Christina Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

February 5 Gene Osmanski

February 12 Alma Risky

February 19 Ed Neaves

February 26 Nick Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

March 5 Debbie Hochgesang

March 12 Alma Risky

March 19 Bill Weems

March 26 Christina Trojanowski

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 5 Richard Clark
Ed Neaves
Dory Moeller
Glen Werth

Mar. 12 Gene Osmanski
Ralph Banta
Gene Tebo

Mar. 19 Bill Weems
Al Skopec
Andrea Skopec
Colleen Weems

Mar. 26 Alden Ketchum
Christina Trojanowski
Elise Trojanowski

Lent 7:00 PM Wednesday

March 1 Richard Clark
Ed Neaves
Glenn Werth
Gene Tebo

March 8 Gene Osmanski
Alden Ketchum

March 15 Al Skopec
Andrea Skopec

March 22 Frank Oslakovic
Nick Trojanowski

March 29 Ed Neaves
Richard Clark



Pastor's Corner

“In CHRIST shall all be made alive.”

Inscription at the grave of
an unknown soldier at
Westminster Abbey

Lent...

As you know, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 40th weekday before Easter. The modern 40-day observance of Lent is the product of long development in the history of the Church. The word “Lent” in Old English is *lencten* meaning “spring” and in Latin is *Quadragesima* meaning 40 – thus the 40 days of Lent.

The Pascha...

The early Church, developing in a time of persecution, observed the Pascha, a commemoration of the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ, including both His sufferings and the glorious resurrection. Additionally, the annual Pascha was used as a final preparation for baptismal candidates. They were required to fast and attend classes in Scriptural teachings and the doctrines of the Church. The fast lasted 40 days, reflecting the importance of the 40-day period in various Scriptural accounts. Examinations of the candidates were held, beginning on the third Wednesday of Lent and lasting until Holy Saturday, where at midnight the Lenten season ended.

East and West...

Observance of Lent is as old as the 4th century. In Eastern churches, it is calculated as the six weeks before Palm Sunday. In the West, the penitential season begins liturgically with Septuagesima, the ninth Sunday before Easter; the next Sundays are Sexagesima and Quinquagesima. Of the Sundays in Lent, the fifth is Passion Sunday and the last is Palm Sunday, which is the beginning of Holy Week that leads up to Easter.

Intent...

The intent of the Lenten season was not to extend contemplation of the sufferings of our Savior for the full 40-day period. Instead, the emphasis of the first part of Lent is to prepare believers for the celebration of Easter by calling to repentance and faith; then Passiontide which considers the Scriptural basis for the Savior's sacrifice; then Holy Week which focuses on the suffering Savior. At various times throughout history, Christians have been reminded that the purpose of Lent is not to dwell on the sufferings of the Savior but rather to prepare oneself for a blessed celebration of His resurrection.

Lent Is A Time For...

- ...reflecting upon baptism
- ...rebirth
- ...the discipline of learning and growing in faith
- ...being concerned with sin
- ...repentance and prayer
- ...fasting to practice self-control and to heighten one's awareness of Christ
- ...renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter

We begin in this newsletter issue reviewing various parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Enjoy!

The Apostles' Creed

The First Article: On Creation

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What is this? Answer:

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

The Second Article: On Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the almighty Father, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What is this? Answer:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my LORD. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

The Third Article: On Sanctification (Being Made Holy)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the community of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What is this? Answer:

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my LORD or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the Last Day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.¹

¹Kolb, R. 2000. The Book of Concord : The confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Fortress Press: Minneapolis