



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ

March 2024

Our Journey of Life

It has been quite a journey since we left Minnesota on January 15th. We have experienced cold and snow before we left Iowa and black ice traveling through Kansas City and days of rain and little sunshine in San Antonio through the hills and valleys till we settled in Apache Junction. We experienced many different things, riding a bus from our campsite to downtown San Antonio, to a day trip to Globe, AZ and seeing snow in the higher elevations. What a journey, what an experience.

Our Journey...didn't end when we set up camp in a KOA campground in Apache Junction, because my adorable wife Karen became our activity director. Karen was not going to let us be idle, for our journey has just begun, with many trails that needed to be traveled and explored. What a wonder these trails have been. One remarkable trail had some very good advice for those who dared travel up the mountain journey...stay on the trail. Got me thinking of our lives being on a journey here on earth.

Of Life...isn't life exciting, from birth through our first words and steps, we have begun a journey of life encounters and experiences many things. Yet, we are directed to stay on the trail by the Word of the Lord. The Psalmist writes: ***"I lift up eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*** (Ps. 121:1-2) We look at the hills in front of us with all the rocks sticking up from the path, small stones, larger boulders, and we wonder how we can remain on the path and to continue to climb the mountain in front of us not falling or otherwise hurting ourselves.

That is when the Lord quietly and calmly speaks these words to us: ***"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."*** (Ps. 23:1) What strengthening words for us to hear as we continue our journey of life.

Continues...no matter what we may face in our personal lives as well as our church lives. We do face difficulties, stresses, strains, and the like in our personal lives, but church is to be a refuge, a place for our wandering lives to find a foothold, to have peace, to receive forgiveness, to receive God's love and strength to continue on our journey. Our gracious and loving God is encouraging us to stay on the path, to stay in His Word, to continue to seek Him in His Sanctuary, His Church where our help, our peace, our forgiveness is. Oh yes, the task seems too much to bear, yet our Lord is encouraging us along the way. Stay on the path, stay on course, He will continue to bless us to be a blessing among others, to bless and encourage others in life and to share the Good News that Christ has overcome all of the obstacles, all those small and large stones and boulders.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Fiege



Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church, and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved, and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.



Electronic Giving: Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at dtvosberg@gmail.com



The next **LWML meeting** will be Saturday, March 2, 9:00 a.m. at Mount Moriah.



Prayer Chain: Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / ardig775@gmail.com



Worship at Mt. Moriah

March 24/Palm Sunday – Worship at 10:45

March 28/Holy Thursday – Worship w/Communion 7:00 p.m.

March 29/Good Friday – Worship at 7:00 p.m.

March 31/Easter Sunday – Sunrise Worship w/Communion
at 7:00 a.m. followed by Easter Brunch

Special dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- St. Patrick's Day, *March 17, 2024*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Holy Thursday, *March 28, 2024*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*

An Irish Prayer:

May God give you, For every storm, A rainbow,

For every tear, A smile,

For every care, A promise,

And a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share,

For every sigh, A sweet song,

And an answer for each prayer.



Song Of March

Patricia L. Cisco

With winter's footprints in the past,
and snows begin to melt at last.

With longer days and shorter nights,
the wayward winds of March take flight.

Four winds she holds within her grip,
then hurls them from her fingertip.

Her woolly, fleecy clouds of white,
she sets in skies of blue delight.

Her wild bouts of gusty breezes
roar through valleys, hills, and trees.

That high pitch whistling song she sings
awakens earth and flowering things.

She tears a hole in heaven's sky
so sun can shine and rain can cry.

She gently calms as spring draws near,
as blooming daffodils appear.

She welcomes April showers in,
then gathers up her dwindling winds.
Now her long journey home begins,

knowing she'll be back this way,
upon a cold, late winter's day,

when nights grow short
and days grow long.

Listen for her whistling song!

Patricia L. Cisco. "Song Of March." Family
Friend Poems, March 11, 2018.

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/song-of-march>





Michele Barnes
Kayla Richardson
Noah Amundson

March 9
March 10
March 28



(No Anniversaries this month)

Setting captives free

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises."

Worship Assistant Schedule for March 2024	Altar Guild for Month of March / Kim Amundson
3/3/2024– 3rd Sunday in Lent Worship w/Communion - 10:45 a.m. Pastor Bruce Laabs	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Margaret Karst
3/6/2024 – 3rd Weds. in Lent Worship – 7:00 Worship/6:15 Dinner Pastor Fiege	Elder - Don Vosberg Reader - Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
3/10/2024 – 4th Sunday in Lent Worship – 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – N/A Reader – Dennis Karst Music – Margaret Karst
3/13/2024 – 4th Weds. in Lent Worship – 7:00 Worship/6:15 Dinner Pastor Fiege	Elder -Shane Amundson Reader – Kim Amundson Music – Margaret Karst
3/17/2024 – 5th Sunday in Lent Worship w/Communion 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder - Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Ruth Benning
3/20/2024 – 5th Weds. in Lent Worship – 7:00 Worship/6:15 Dinner Pastor Fiege	Elder - Don Vosberg Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
3/24/2024 – Palm Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder - Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
3/28/2024 – Holy Thursday Worship w/Communion 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder -Shane Amundson Reader – Kim Amundson Music – Margaret Karst
3/29/2024 – Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder - Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
3/31/2024 – Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship – 7.00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder - Shane Amundson Reader – Kim Amundson Music – Dave Welsh



Easter Word Scramble

Unscramble these words



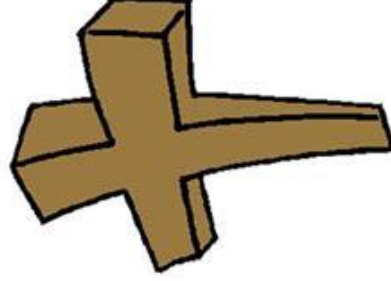
- FVRNSEEIGS: _____
- GHOCTOLA: _____
- RTRIEBH: _____
- PTLIAE: _____
- PEYRAR: _____
- PSEVOASR: _____
- ANNEOTEMT: _____
- ROAMN: _____
- REAENL: _____
- RSEIN: _____



WORD BANK
ATONEMENT
FORGIVENESS
GOLGOTHA
PASSOVER
PILATE
PRAYER
REBIRTH
RENEWAL
RISEN
ROMAN

Easter Word Search

B M A L M H B B K I N G R N R
 N O I T C E R R U S E R E O O
 A P O S T L E S E Y S C D I O
 S E C I F I R C A S H J E T S
 N S N A M O R O R E M A T
 R C D S G T T R I I K S P V E
 O Y R A M B C S S V Z U T L R
 H L O V E L T E M M A S I A Y
 T C R O W N N Y L O H S O S Z
 X C R U C I F I X I O N N K Q



APOSTLES
 CHRIST
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFIXION
 HOLY
 JESUS
 KING
 LAMB
 LOVE

MARY
 REDEMPTION
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 ROMANS
 ROOSTER
 SACRIFICE
 SALVATION
 SAVIOR
 THORNS



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