



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ

MARCH 2025

ASHES, ASHES, ASHES

*Ashes....*are something we get used to when we are burning something, because you see, ashes denote that something was burnt up, destroyed. Ashes can be seen when one is burning logs in a fireplace, the remnant of that piece of pine, ash, oak that is being used to supply warmth for someone's living space. Ash is also seen when one is enjoying the fire on an evening of camping. We bought a smokeless firepit, a Breeo, which is to give one the enjoyment of a fire without the smoke on one's clothes, yet it still leaves behind the ashes that need to be cleaned out so the unit can be safely stored away. Ashes signify to us what was once something is now burned up, gone, no more.

*Ashes....*also have significance for those believers in the early church. According to the Missouri Synod website, the following information is given: ***"Tertullian (ca. 160-225) describes the use of sackcloth and ashes in the penance of an adulterer before his pastor. Originally, ashes were reserved only for public penitents – i.e., murderers, adulterers, and others who had fallen away from the church because of grave public sin but desired reconciliation. Such reconciliation could occur at a variety of times during the year, but by the medieval period, the beginning of Lent became a primary season of the church year for that reconciliation to take place. By the 12th century, ashes became specifically associated with the beginning of Lent, thus providing the first day of lent with its name, Ash Wednesday. By the time of the Reformation, the imposition of ashes was a regular mainstay of Lenten piety and practice. However, Lutherans at the time of the Reformation did not choose to retain the imposition of ashes. The reasons for this are not entirely clear since there is very little written for or against this practice by Luther and his colleagues."*** (lcms.org) Interesting insight on the use of ashes in the life of a believer. Now think about the use of ashes in your life this Lenten season as you remember Christ's passion for you and what it means to be sorry for your sins.

*Ashes....*truly has significance for us as Christians, as those believers in the Lord Jesus. For the ashes that are used on Ash Wednesday are the burnt remains of the palms that were used to welcome Jesus on his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The ashes are placed upon the child of God's forehead and the words spoken remind us of our morality: ***"Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return."*** (***Gen. 3:19***) As we hear those words we recall that our gracious God gave us our life to enjoy and that in His time He will call us back home to be with Him for all eternity. The ashes are also a symbol of repentance, our need to be cleansed from the sin that so easily entangles us. When the ash is placed on the forehead, it is a dirty reminder of how filthy sin makes us and reminds us of our need to be washed clean in Jesus. Think about this as you come forward and hear the words: ***"Dust you are and to dust you shall return."*** The sign of the cross in the ash upon our forehead also reminds us that we are not alone, for we are God's redeemed child in Jesus who also witnesses to others about our strong faith.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Fiege





The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – March 2025

God’s Instruments, God’s Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10) Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed. The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn’t stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been granted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren’t random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God’s greatest work: Jesus! He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been

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 announced at a later date.

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



Michele Barnes March 9
 Kayla Richardson March 10
 Noah Amundson March 28

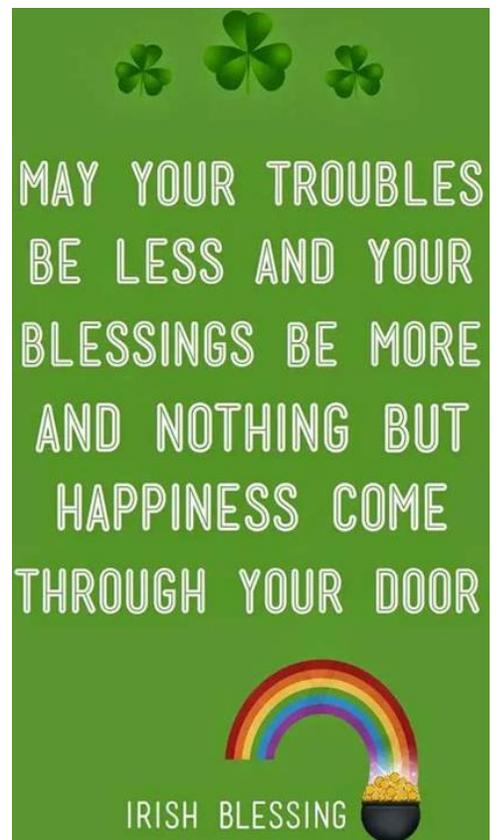


No March Anniversaries

“Time”

Time is
 too slow for those who wait,
 too swift for those who fear,
 too long for those who grieve,
 too short for those who rejoice.
 But for those who love,
 time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke



Sounds of Lent

Many times during the season of Lent we concentrate on the images of Lent; the Palms, the Whip, the Sponge, the sour Wine offered to Jesus on the cross, the Cross, the Rooster, and the Coins of Silver. This Lent our midweek services will focus on the Sounds of Lent. Sounds that we have most likely heard before, but not in the context of Lent. The schedule of services are as follows:

March 5	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:13	Ripping Cloth
March 12	Midweek Service 1	Matthew 26:14- 16	Clinking Coins
March 19	Midweek Service 2	John 11:35-36	Crying Tears
March 26	Midweek Service 3	John 18:1-6	Trampling Feet
April 2	Midweek Service 4	Luke 22:60-62	Crowing Rooster
April 9	Midweek Service 5	Matthew 27:15-25	Shouting Mob
April 17	Maundy Thursday	John 13:1-20	Sloshing Water
April 18	Good Friday	John 19:17-18	Pounding Hammer



SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Worship Assistant Schedule for March 2025	Altar Guild for Month of March -- Kim Amundson
3/2/2025 – Transfiguration of our Lord Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Dennis Karst Music – Margaret Karst
3/5/2025 – Ash Wednesday Worship – 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Kim Amundson? Music – Dave Welsh
3/9/2025 – 1st Sunday in Lent Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader -- Dennis Karst? Music – Margaret Karst
3/12/2025 – 2nd Weds. In Lent Dinner – 6:15 Worship – 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
3/16/2025 – 2nd Sunday in Lent Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Ruth Benning
3/19/2025 – 3rd Weds. In Lent Dinner – 6:15 Worship – 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Margaret Karst
3/23/2025 – 3rd Sunday in Lent Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader -- Shelley Arett Music – Dave Welsh
3/26/2025 – 4th Weds. In Lent Dinner – 6:15 Worship – 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Dennis Karst Music – Margaret Karst
3/30/2025 – 4th Sunday in Lent Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader -- Shelley Arett Music – Dave Welsh

Lenten Word Search

G	Y	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	F	E	S	V	E
R	K	S	F	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	F
I	D	C	S	I	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	G
C	Y	N	N	E	P	U	R	P	L	E	S	T	O
C	P	P	S	I	N	T	E	S	N	N	S	N	O
P	E	N	A	N	C	E	E	O	O	F	F	R	D
N	R	L	P	O	I	H	V	I	N	I	E	R	F
O	F	L	G	R	S	I	T	I	I	S	G	I	R
E	O	F	S	A	A	A	R	G	G	H	I	O	I
R	U	C	H	I	T	Y	E	Y	I	R	R	G	D
E	G	T	I	S	S	I	E	R	R	V	O	N	A
C	R	O	S	S	D	S	G	R	I	A	I	F	Y
A	H	S	E	A	S	O	N	R	R	E	C	N	S
G	N	I	T	S	A	F	F	O	R	T	Y	S	G

- ASHES
- PENANCE
- GOOD FRIDAY
- GIVING
- CROSS
- FORTY
- PREPARE
- HOLY WEEK
- FORGIVENESS
- FISH
- PRAYER
- PURPLE
- SACRIFICE
- SEASON
- FASTING
- STATIONS



LENTEN WORD UNSCRAMBLE

1. USESJ _____
2. MPLA DUSYAN _____
3. ASH YSNWDEEDA _____
4. CCRHHU _____
5. AUDNMY AURDYHTS _____
6. OGOD DAIRFY _____
7. TELN _____
8. PULEPR _____
9. TDNIAITOR _____
10. LAOCTREIBNE _____
11. ERSJET _____
12. REURREOTNSCI _____
13. OYLH EEKW _____





St. Patrick's Day Word Search



Search for the words hidden up, down, left and right.

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



- CLOVER
- IRISH
- LUCK
- PATRICK
- FAIRY
- JIG
- MARCH
- SEVENTEENTH
- GREEN
- LEPRECHAUN
- MUSIC
- SHAMROCK



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