



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ APRIL 2026

Testifying for the Lord

Our names are very important to us. Our names reveal to others who we are and what we are all about, giving us an identity and purpose in life. Take for instance, Matthew which means “God’s gift.” Or Mark which means “belonging to Mars; a warrior.” Or David which means “beloved one.” Or Scott which means “a Scotsman,” or Elfreda which means “noble and wise.” So you see our names do describe to others who we and what we are like.

Throughout Scripture we have been called by many names; sheep, chosen, holy nation, people of God’s own possession, servants, ambassadors, God’s children, the redeemed, a peculiar treasure, exalted, and so on. But throughout God’s Holy Word, one term describes us more than any other, which is witness. That is who we are, witnesses of God’s great and awesome power of creation. No matter what we do in life as a parent or child, husband or wife, brother or sister, grandparent or grandchild, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, we are all witnesses. We are God’s special children who through faith are witnesses of what great things God has done for us and continues to do for us in this life and beyond. Yes, we God’s special army, given special orders, special directions, special words to speak, and deeds to accomplish. All for our gracious Lord!

It makes no difference what we do in the service of the Lord; elder, music person, reader of lessons, social committee, treasurer, we are all witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a Very Important Position in the employment of the lord that is only accomplished through His strength and might by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Witnessing for the Lord and Savior Jesus can also be accomplished in what we say and do in everyday life. That happens whether we are sitting in Caribou Coffee, the Apache Mall in Rochester or any of the grocery stores around Byron. What we say and do reflects upon our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for we are His witnesses in a world that so desperately needs to hear a word of hope and peace.

We are God’s witnesses as we care for someone in the hospital, or we say something so simply like “God bless your day,” or we send a card to someone who is discouraged to lift their spirits up. We are His witnesses as we share His forgiving love with each other. We are His witnesses as we encourage others to come to church and hear God’s amazing and awesome story of love for His children and the plan to rescue them from sin in the life, suffering, death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Praise be to God!

In Christ’s Peace and joy,

Pastor Scott Fiege



LCMS Stewardship

A Better Way

Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



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** is TBD.



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



Kimberly Amundson	April 2
Ralph Meyer	April 21
William Naatz (Willie)	April 24
Justin Klepel	April 27
Gerald (Jerry) Kruse	April 27
Heather Appel	April 28



Dennis & Margaret Karst	April 9
Brant & Darla Klepel	April 15



Mount Moriah Spring Rummage Sale

The Mt. Moriah's Women's Social Committee will be holding a Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 7th (2 – 6p.m.) and Saturday, May 8th (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

We are looking for clean, useable items: Kitchen, Housewares, Books, Linens, Crafting Supplies, Small Furniture, Gardening items, Tools, Garage, and Vintage.

Items will be free-will donation unless they are of higher value. No clothing please. Donations will be going to local causes.

Donated items can be brought in after Easter Sunday and stored in the old playroom across from the kitchen door. If you have any questions, please contact the Social Committee.....



SEMCAC Dodge County Food Shelf

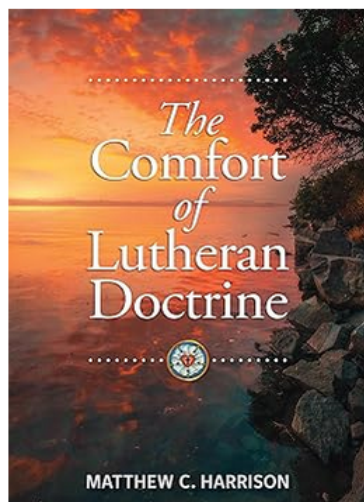
For the month of April, a tote will be in the Fellowship Hall for a Dodge County Food Shelf (SEMCAC) Food Drive Collection.

Please drop off donations of canned and dry goods before the end of April. A Thrivent Action Team Gift Card will be used to supplement the food donated by you, with an additional purchase of items for the food shelf in the amount of \$250.

Thank you for your generosity!



The Mt. Moriah Congregation recently received a hard copy of the following book from Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS) of Hartland Michigan. It is written by our Synod's President, **Rev. Matthew C. Harrison**. The book will be on the table in the library room for your convenience. If you would like to take it out for reading, there is also a library sign-out sheet.



The Comfort of Lutheran Doctrine Kindle Edition

by [Matthew C. Harrison](#) (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition



[See all formats and editions](#)

What is the significance of Lutheran doctrine? It all comes down to comfort for the troubled conscience. And true comfort can only be found when nothing is left to uncertainty and chance.

This collection of essays from Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, many of which are taken from his presidential letters in *The Lutheran Witness*, points to the authority of Scripture, the comfort of Christ's resurrection and salvation, and the certainty of the Lutheran Confessions. This comfort and assurance in Christ Jesus dispels the devil's accusations against us, eases our anxieties, and helps us live confidently in a world of uncertainty.

Special Dates for April 2026

- Holy Week Continues, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 2, 2026*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2026*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2026*



Worship Assistant Schedule for April 2026	Altar Guild for Month of April -- Judy Coleman
4/2/2026 – Maundy Thursday Worship – 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Dennis Karst Music – Margaret Karst
4/3/2026 – Good Friday Worship – 7:00 p.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Justin Hahn
4/5/2026 – Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship Svc w/Communion – 7:00 a.m. Brunch following Worship Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader -- Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
4/12/2026 – 2nd Sunday of Easter Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Margaret Karst
4/19/2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Justin Hahn
4/26/2026 – 4th Sunday of Easter Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Ruth Benning

April 24 is "Firefly Day"

Fireflies

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

bioluminescence
illuminated
glowworm
larvae
light
sing

lightning bug
communicate
antennae
bright
wings
glow

grasshopper
fireflies
abdomen
thorax
dark

transparent
tympanum
tymbals
flash
head

RELIGIOUS EASTER

WORD SEARCH

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

CRUCIFIXION
 JESUS CHRIST
 LAST SUPPER
 GOOD FRIDAY
 DISCIPLES
 BETRAYAL
 APOSTLES
 ANGELS
 CHURCH

JUDAS
 LAMB
 CAVE
 LENT
 MARY
 CROWN
 FAITH
 CROSS



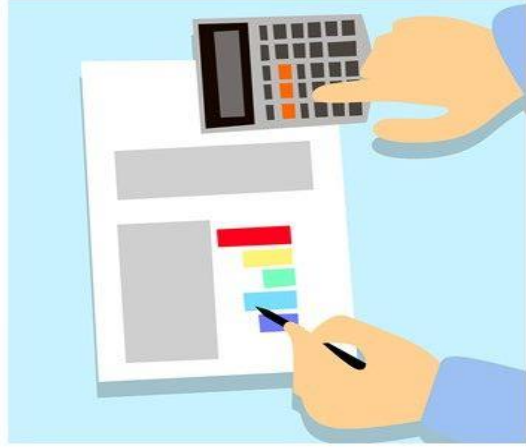
TAX TIME

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

F I S S O L A B E L S
 O P I T I F O R P T S
 R I R A S I A G E F
 M Y E T D M L T F I
 R R P E X O E E N G
 E A O A U A L D C T U
 F L R N R P E O U I R
 U A T N M R M C C E
 N S E O A E M A N A T
 D E C L A R E E N I L

AMOUNT
 COMPLETE
 DECLARE
 DEDUCT
 EARN
 FEDERAL
 FIGURE
 FILE
 FORM
 INCOME
 GAINS
 LABELS
 LINE
 LOCAL
 LOSS
 NAME
 PROFIT
 REFUND
 REPORT
 SALARY
 STATE
 TIP

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



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www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth