



Pastor's
Easter Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy and peace in the name of our risen and victorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have, through the eyes of faith, witnessed the Transfiguration of our Lord. Peter, James and John joined Jesus on the Mount. While they were there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, Then Moses and Elijah were seen talking to Jesus. They were discussing his coming journey to Jerusalem and the cross of Calvary. The disciples wanted to build three booths, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. This was a meaningful moment for the disciples and they longed to stay in that moment of glory.

Then Mark writes, "As they were coming down the mountain...." Jesus knew what he would have to do. He would come down the mountain and walk the road to Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane, His arrest, trial before Herod and Pilate, being beaten, crowned with thrones, forced to carry His cross, until He collapsed. The walk would continue up Calvary's hill and being nailed to a cross for all mankind. Jesus would walk to Calvary but the journey would not end there as three days later the tomb would be empty and Jesus, the Christ, would be risen from the tomb as death could not hold Him.

Consider our walk on this side of eternity. The walk is filled with joy and sadness, success and failure, life and the death. We face times of frustration and exhilaration, despair and hope. The walk is not easy and faced with many different challenges.

When the walk becomes difficult, remember our Lord and Savior's walk from the moment He became one of us, and yet remaining true God. It was not easy. He experienced all that we experience and was victorious. In Him we have one who understands and comes to our side. Remember the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. Their hearts were filled with sadness and despair because Jesus had been crucified, and they heard stories that the tomb was empty. Who came and walked with them? Jesus did. Their lives were changed with their eyes were opened.

When we talk about walking with Jesus, one of the primary benefits is the wonderful guidance He provides. Imagine taking a long, winding road and always having someone who knows the path clearly leading the way. It's reassuring to know that we don't have to navigate life alone. Our Lord shows us the way, illuminating our surroundings so we can tread safely. By asking for His guidance during challenging times, we find clarity and comfort, trusting that He will lead us precisely where we need to be.

The psalmist wrote, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." – Psalm 119:105. The preacher wrote, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." – Proverbs 16:9. Isaiah wrote, "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" – Isaiah 30:21. The journey of life may be challenging at times but we remember we do not

walk alone. Our gracious Lord walks with us.

You may read, heard or have the following or have it as plaque in your home. "Footprints in the Sand"

One night I had a dream...

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life, There was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life
This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
You would walk with me all the way;
But I have noticed that during the
most troublesome times in my life,
There is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why in times when I
needed you the most, you should leave me.

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious
child. I love you, and I would never,
never leave you during your times of
trial and suffering.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.

This Lenten season we walk with our Lord to Calvary, knowing that He walks with and leads us to our eternal home. St. Paul spoke of the attitude that can be ours when he wrote, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." – Romans 15:13 Through out our walk of may we always remember who walks with us and that our hearts can be filled with His joy, peace, and hope.

In Christ,
Pastor Raether

Pastor Raether

Tithing: A Spiritual Decision and More

Giving is our response of faith to God's countless gifts especially the gift we need the most, which is a Savior. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who become more Christ-like in our giving.

We were created in God's image to give, but, because of sin, we have lost that image and giving can be challenging and difficult. However, God exhorts us to give, and, by His grace, He enables our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded His people to tithe. A tithe is giving to God a tenth of all that is received. As New Covenant Christians living under grace, tithing is not commanded, but it is an expectation and guide to our faithful giving. Tithing is more of a spiritual decision than a financial one. It has little to do with money, but it has to do with our devotion to Christ. When we tithe, it could be said that the heart takes precedence over the wallet. Tithers understand who they are and Whose they are. Tithing is a reminder that God is the creator and source of all that we are and have. Tithers are willing to forgo some of the pleasures and comforts of the world to please, honor, and worship God through their giving.

God's Word shares giving truths to guide our giving. We are encouraged to give to God first (Proverbs 3:9), regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2), proportionately (2 Corinthians 8:12), intentionally (2 Corinthians 9:7), and generously (Luke 6:38). It is important to note that these Biblical guides to our giving are all incorporated in the tithe. What is most beneficial is that tithing helps us answer the question, "What is a proportionate gift of our incomes that is God-pleasing?" For financial reasons, it may be difficult for some to become tithers immediately, whereas others will be in position to give much more than a tenth. The tithe is a guide or goal to strive for and then attempt to surpass.

The tithe is also a spiritual discipline. Tithing establishes an important priority in our lives, and our tithing helps us to stay connected to Jesus. In addition, tithing is spiritual protection. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Giving helps align our hearts with the Lord. Through the joy of tithing and the extra measure of God's peace from faithful and obedient giving, tithers receive spiritual blessings. To summarize, tithing is a spiritual decision that leads to spiritual discipline, spiritual protection, and spiritual blessings. For these reasons, it is said that once a tither always a tither.

May God bless and keep us in His grace and joy as we give to Him!

FROM: Stewardship Advisors

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (10:00 am) "The Parables of Jesus"

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues its study of "The Parables of Jesus." This study gives us the opportunity to study the parables Jesus used to teach his people and us. Session titles are:

- Mar. 4 NO CLASS – Pastor has an appointment
- Mar. 11 "The Rich Fool" – Luke 5:1-10
- Mar. 18 "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" – Luke 18:9-14
- Mar. 25 NO CLASS – Pastor has an appointment
- April 1 "The Good Samaritan" - Luke 19:25-37
- April 8 "Workers in the Vineyard" – Matthew 20:1-16
- April 15 "The Ten Virgins" – Matthew 25:1-13

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES "Hand of The Lord"

The theme for Prince of Peace's midweek services will be "The Hand of the Lord." Hands are used to heal, mend, build, teach, comfort, and so much more. Yet, as humans, our hands are sinful and unclean. Christ's hands are the ones that can transform our sinful and dirtied hands into beautiful, clean ones to carry out His plans. Spend this Lent exploring God's Word to see how His hands are used in both the New and Old Testaments, from creation to crucifixion and eternal life.

The schedule and theme of each midweek service is as follow:

- 3-4 – Mid Week II – Luke 11:21-23 "Hand of the Lord" (HOTL) Who Cast Out Demons"
- 3-11 – Mid Week III – Matthew 8:1-4 "HOTL Who Heals the Sick"
- 3-18 – Mid Week IV – Luke 7:11-17 – "HOTL Who Raises the Dead"
- 3-25 – Mid Week V – John 3:11-18 "HOTL Who Holds All things"
- 4- 2 – Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Celebrated -John 13:1-17 – "HOTL Who Serves and Feeds"
- 4- 3 – Good Friday – Isaiah 53:4-11 "HOTL Who Was Pierced"
- 4- 5 – Feast of the Resurrection - Holy Communion Celebrated – Luke 24:1- 12 – "HOTL Who is Risen"

SUNDAY SERMON SCHEDULE "They Walked with God"

The theme of our Midweek Lenten services is "The Hand of the Lord." We will find that the hands of the Lord transforms us and empowers us to walk as God's Children. We are called upon to walk with our Lord on the journey called life. Our Sunday sermon series will take a look at six individuals who walked with the Lord. We look at the example of their lives and by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit we fulfill our call to "walk with the Lord." The Sunday sermon schedule is as follows:

- Mar. 1 2nd Sunday in Lent – "Noah: the Man Who Prepared for the Judgment."
- Mar. 8 3rd Sunday in Lent- "Abraham: The Man of Faith" James 2:23 ; Hebrews 11: 8ff – Holy Communion Celebrated
- Mar. 15 4th Sunday In Lent- "Joseph: Who saw Dreams, Dungeons, and Diadems" -Genesis 50:210-21
- Mar. 22 5th Sunday in Lent – "Ruth, the Woman of Loyalty" – Ruth 1:16,17 Holy Communion Celebrated
- Mar. 29 Palm Sunday – "Joshua, A Type of Jesus Christ" – Numbers 13:16, Matthew 1:21 – Service of Palms
- Apr. 5 Feast of the Resurrection - Holy Communion Celebrated – Luke 24:1-12 – "The Hands of The Lord- Who is Risen"

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Received in 2024	\$28,453.15
Received in 2025	\$ 6,505.00
2026 YTD Received	\$ 470.00
Reimbursed to Foundation	\$31,000.00
Organ Fund	\$ 4,428.15



MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mya Johl - (3/1), Diane Haggman - (3/2), Kaleb Johnson - (3/4), Janet Lennon - (3/4), Madelyn Abrams - (3/9), Sharie Ball - (3/9), Vicky Escobedo - (3/10), Robert Kuebler - (3/10), Judy Dorothy - (3/14), Kurt Davis - (3/15), Ruby Lindner - (3/16), Remington Trushcheff - (3/17), Brady Read - (3/19), Jessica Kuebler - (3/22), Renee Schulz - (3/23), Ron Utley - (3/23), Alissa Andrews - (3/29), Haley Thanupakorn - (3/30)

Ron & Jeanette Utley 3/14 51st

ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
2/1	27	
2/8	37	34
2/15	35	
2/22	36	33
<u>Lenten</u>		
Ash Wednesday	30	30
2/25	25	

Membership Report for February 2026

GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized +

LOSS

Confirmed -

Baptized -

Communicant =153
Baptized (not confirmed) =48
Total baptized souls =201

Financial Report February 2026

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$6,663.00, Missions Budget \$137.00, Loose Offerings \$2.00, Ash Wednesday \$289.00, Lenten Offering \$30.00, Lutheran Witness \$28.25, Special Offering \$27.82, Miscellaneous \$371.00, Organ Fund \$230.00.

Total Offerings \$7,778.07

Expenses

Pastor \$2,000.00, Payroll \$1,063.88, Organist \$548.79, Convention and Pastor Ed \$507.00, Pastoral Expenses \$519.83, Ministry Expense \$232.04, Office Supplies \$20.93, Computer/Internet \$190.72, Water \$240.11, Pest Control \$42.00, Gas & Electric \$552.00, Snow Removal \$55.00, Sanitation \$42.80, Property Repairs \$345.01, W/H Tax \$184.52, Missions \$137.00, Charities \$126.00, Advertising \$360.00.

Total Expenses \$ 7,167.63
Net Income \$ 610.44



Holy Week

Holy Week begins with our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and walks with Him through the week. We see Him in the upper room on Maundy Thursday, on the Cross of Good Friday and bursting forth from the grave on Easter. Following is a tentative schedule for Holy Week:

- Mar. 29 Palm Sunday – "Joshua, A Type of Jesus Christ" – Numbers 13:16, Matthew 1:21 – Service of Palms
April 2 Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Celebrated - John 13:1-17 – "HOTL (Hand of the Lord) Who Serves and Feeds"
April 3 Good Friday – Isaiah 53:4-11 "HOTL Who Was Pierced"
Apr. 5 Feast of the Resurrection - Holy Communion Celebrated – Luke 24:1-12 – "The Hands of The Lord- Who is Risen"

Board of Education

February 4, 2026

Members: Sue Macek, and Pastor Raether

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

Library: The new library book is written by Joyce Meyer and Ginger Stache titled, "Healing The Wounds of Rejection." In this book you will read stories of people who have dealt with severe rejection for different reasons. The authors will teach you how to handle rejection differently from how you may have handled it before.

St. Paul: February 5th is Kindergarten round-up. No school on 2/20 because of Prof Day.

Catechism and Sunday School report: We are finished learning about the books of the Old Testament and will begin in February learning the Books of the New Testament. Our February Bible stories include Jesus first miracle and healings.

Family Fellowship report: More discussion needed. The Lutheran Women's Fellowship will serve donuts and coffee after the Easter Sunday Service. The congregation is invited to attend.

Wednesday Bible Study: Finished "Tame Your Thoughts". Will begin "Parables of Jesus" through March 4th.

Cradle Roll: None

Old Business: None

New business: Concordia called to see if we got a flier about the 2026 VBS. We did but will need more discussion. Remember daylight savings time is March 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is March 4th at 5:15 pm.

Sue Macek
Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

February 5, 2026

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on February 5, 2026. Potluck and Table Prayer at noon. Eight members attended the meeting. Pastor Raether began the meeting with prayer. Sally Zuspenn called the February meeting to order. Sally Zuspenn gave the mites devotion "Offering Of Love". The minutes of January 8, 2026, were given out in the meeting, were read and approved.

Committee reports:

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

Old Business

New Business

Shut-ins Birthdays: None

Women's Fellowship Year Book for 2026 was handed out to members attending.

LWML will pay for the Mums in church for Lenten services.

Easter Service Coffee – LWML will be in charge of serving coffee and rolls after service.

Lenten After Service Coffee: Sign up sheet passed around for volunteering on: February 25: Euvon Miller, Sally Zuspenn, March 4; Jean Martinson, Louellen Steckelberg. March 11: Euvon Miller, Sally Zuspenn.

March 16: Sue Macek, LaVonne Peters. March 25: LWML serve.

Birthdays: Euvon Miller.

March Funeral Committee: Sue Macek, Sally Zuspenn.

March 7 - Hostess: Euvon Miller, Sally Zuspenn.

Sally Zuspenn closed meeting 2:00 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

LaVonne Peters
Secretary