

Our Mission: Growing in Faith and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with All People

A Devotional Thought: Giving Up Something for Lent

A question that comes up in Bible Basics class is, “Do Lutherans have to give up anything for Lent?” In response, I will explain that, while fasting can be a helpful spiritual exercise for some Christians, it is not required and should never be seen as a way to earn God’s favor (cf. Augsburg Confession, Article XXVI; Small Catechism, Part VI).

But Jesus also said, “Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples” (Lk 14:33). Jesus doesn’t just call us to give up chocolate or meat or some other pleasure for six weeks of Lent. He calls us to give up *everything* that might stand in the way of our discipleship, and to give it up all year, every year.

As we walk with our Savior through the season of Lent, it is a good time to reflect on the distractions and the detours that too easily interrupt that walk. Some of those things may be gifts from God that we let crowd out of our lives the God who gave them. Some of those things are sinful thoughts and behaviors that do not belong in the life of a child of God and want to push God as far away as possible.

For our slowness to give up such things, God should give up on us. But that’s what Lent is all about. Instead of giving up *on* us, God gave up his only Son *for* us. He was crushed for our clinging to sinful ways. He endured hell for our holding onto blessings that take our eyes off the Giver of those gifts. Jesus gave up glory to humble himself to die on a cross to give us what nothing we give up could ever earn from God – peace, hope, love, forgiveness, life!

It is no wonder that St. Paul looked at everything he had and concluded, “I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things” (Php 3:8).

Motivated by God’s mercy, let’s reflect on what we need to give up to faithfully follow Jesus. Let’s repent. And, with God’s strength, let’s give it up – for Lent and forever!



Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tim Wagner*

Membership News

Membership Changes

- ✚ Received by Child Baptism
 - Nolan Gray Swanson
- ✚ Transfer Out
 - Autumn Shea (Nolan Swanson), to May River, Bluffton, SC
- ✚ Released from Membership
 - Scott Basken, by request
 - Alexandra Basken, by request to join heterodox church

“His Final Steps” – A Worship Series for Midweek Lent

Join us for special midweek lent devotional services Wednesdays, March 1 – March 29, at 3:30 pm (also livestreamed) or 6:30 pm.

A free meal will be served from 4:15-6:15 pm in the Activity Center (gym). While the meals are free, several groups hosting meals welcome your free-will offerings toward special ministry efforts, for those who would like to give:

March 8 – “His Final Steps Led to a Tomb” (John 11)

- Preacher: Pastor Patrick Brown, Bethany
- Meal hosted by current and future students (and their families) studying for ministry at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; donations will go toward tuition support for these students (gifts are matched at Martin Luther College)

March 15 – “His Final Steps Led to some Greeks” (John 12:20-33) –

- Preacher: Pastor Daniel Johnston, Bethany
- Meal hosted by the Jezwinski Family

March 22 – “His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree” (Mark 11:12-14,20-25) –

- Preacher: Pastor Jonathan Kuske, St. Matthew
- Meal hosted by the Monday Bible Study Groups

March 29 – “His Final Steps Led to a Celebration Dinner” (John 12:20-33)

- Pastor David Backus
- Meal hosted by Altar Guild; donations will go toward purchasing banners, paraments and communion supplies



Easter For Kids

Children in 2nd grade or younger are invited to Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 1, from 1:00-3:00 pm. Children will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt, games, crafts, snacks, and more, as we celebrate Easter together! This free event will be held rain or shine. This is a great chance to invite unchurched friends and neighbors to learn about our Savior! No need to sign up, just show up and bring a friend!

Holy Thursday Meal

Riverview faculty and staff Lenten meal was postponed due to weather. It has been rescheduled to Holy Thursday from 4:15 – 6:15 pm. Please plan to join us for dinner and fellowship. Free will donations will go towards the building expansion.

Office to be Closed

The Church and School office will be closed March 13- 14. WE Energies and ACC will be working in the building causing the electricity and heat to be shut off. Please do not enter the building during this time. Wednesday, March 15, Lenten services and meal are expected to be held as planned. Any necessary changes will be communicated by email and Facebook.

March Door Offering

The March door offering is to support two LWMS Missions. Home Missions - Tools for Outreach. To reach out effectively, mission churches need to understand the makeup of their neighborhoods. Several organizations have become useful resources for this type of information. New ministries are encouraged to purchase these studies to help them plan their outreach efforts. Your gifts will help support these various outreach ministry approaches. World Missions – Repatriation Conferences. These conferences assist returning missionaries, their spouses, and children to adjust to leaving a foreign mission field and returning to an American ministry, life, and culture. The Board for World Missions considers this program absolutely necessary to help mission families transition to their new life. Give at the door on March 19 or by using the “other” line of your regular offerings.

Easter Continental Breakfast

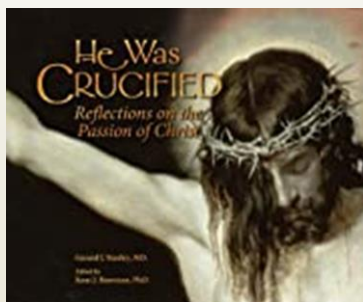
Plan to join us for a continental breakfast from 7:30-10:00 am on Easter morning. Waffles, fruit and pastries will be served in the Activity Center (gym). Watch for details in the next week or two on donations needed or ways to volunteer.

Library Corner

In addition to the Lent/Easter devotional books highlighted last month, our library has several other resources to increase our appreciation for our Savior's death and resurrection, including "Road to Emmaus," a DVD recounting the Easter story; and "He Was Crucified," a book that explain Roman crucifixion.

Visit our library for these and other faith-strengthening resources. Browse our selections at www.librarything.com/catalog/RLC-Appleton.

Contact Linda Zwieg with questions or suggestions.



Growing in Grace Update

Building Committee News. The committee met and made final decisions regarding the kitchen updates. The students were very excited to see the equipment arrive and digging begin. WE Energies will be here over spring break to move the transformer, and then the project will take off. The committee plans to meet to review other changes to project details. We still anticipate that the expansion will be completed in time for the start of 2023-24 school year.



Capital Campaign News. As of February 26, \$306,350 of pledged gifts have been received for the *Growing in Grace* Capital Campaign. In addition, we have received over \$45,732 of unpledged gifts, in addition to those gifts received before the campaign. Thank you to our members for your generous support of this ministry expansion. Our next major payment will be due after the concrete work is completed. Gifts received in the coming weeks will reduce the amount we need to borrow and result in large interest savings. To God be the glory as we grow in grace!

Board Updates

Board of Lay Ministry Notes

- Upcoming Guest Preachers:
 - 3/12 – Tom Pankow (retired)
 - 3/26 – David Nottling (retired)
- Lenten Meals and an Easter Breakfast will be served in the gym.
- Pastor Wagner and the Board of Elders continue to reach out to members who have been away from worship.
- We are working with the Board of Church Properties on the location of a baby grand piano to be donated for the sanctuary.

Board of Education Notes

- Postcards were mailed out to residents in the area for choice open enrollment.
- A Divine Call was extended to Mrs. Sheryl Winsor to teach 1st grade.

Board of Stewardship

- Completed work on a Planned Giving Brochure which will be distributed to all member mailboxes.
- Developing a short-term disability policy which will cover all eligible workers.
- Developing procedures to manage cash more efficiently.

Board of Church Properties Notes

- Some security upgrades will be made to the school classrooms in the next few weeks.
- Currently negotiating new contracts with our janitorial service, security system provider, and insurance company in regards to the upcoming budget to include pricing for the new school addition.
- Sanctuary camera software issues as well as computer issues have been addressed

Board of Evangelism Notes

- Easter for Kids will be April 1, from 1:00-3:00 pm. Volunteers will be needed.
- Postcards will be mailed out inviting people to join us for worship during Holy Week and Easter.

Board of Spiritual Growth Notes

- We will be discussing ways to expand our bible study opportunities.
- Registration for Camp Phillip and Camp Bird summer programs is now open.
- Spencer Brooks attended the FVL General Board meeting on February 27.

Holy Week Worship Times

Holy Thursday – April 6

3:30 & 6:30 pm

Supper 4:15–6:15 (in the gym)

Good Friday – April 7

3:30 & 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – April 9

6:30, 8:30, 10:30 am

Breakfast 7:30-10:00 am
(in the gym)



Riverview School Calendar March Highlights

- + March 1 2nd Grade sings in Church (3:30 pm)
- + March 3 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + March 4 K-2 Basketball Camp (9:00-10:00 am)
- + March 8 1st Grade sings in Church (3:30 pm)
- + March 10 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + March 12 State Robotics @ Resch Center
- + March 13-17 Spring Break
- + March 21 RLS Open House (6:00-8:00 pm)
- + March 23 Forensics Showcase (3:30-4:45 pm)
- + March 24 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + March 28 Forensics Meet @ St Paul, Appleton (6:00 pm)
- + March 29 7th Grade Discover FVL
- + March 29 3K, 4K and Kindergarten sing in Church (3:30 pm)
- + March 31 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + March 31 Middle School Dance
- + April 1 Easter for Kids (1:00-3:00 pm)



Stewardship of God's Blessings

Average Weekly Attendance

	Worship		Bible Study	Sunday School
	In Person	Online		
December	230	17	65	20
January	221	22	68	21
February	266	19	71	19

Year to Date Offerings (July 1 – Jan 31)

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$ 367,310.20	\$ 408,333.31	-\$ 41,023.11
Synod	\$ 14,416.60	\$ 19,833.31	-\$5,416.71
FVL	\$9,359.60	\$ 11,666.89	-\$2,307.29
TOTAL	\$ 391,086.40	\$ 439,833.51	-\$48,747.11

Serving in March

Ushers:

8:00 – Brian Shaw, Glenn Bruss, Scott Hesse, Susan Hesse, Hayden Hesse, Emily Hesse

10:30 – Jonathan Gentz, Gary Cox, Diann Cox, Merlin Gentz, Tom Miller, Haidyn Torbenson

Wednesdays – refer to signup sheets (*volunteers still needed for Wednesdays & Holy Week*)

Greeters:

March 5 – 8:00 - Katalinick & Lehmann Families
10:30 - Gentz & Meyer Families

March 12 –8:00 - J. Theimer & Doran Families
10:30 - Behm & Melso Families

March 19 –8:00 - Winder Families
10:30 - Muesbeck & Loroff Families

March 26 –8:00 - Becker & Peters/Apitz Families
10:30 - Voights & Shea Families

Communion Assistants:

March 12 –8:00 – J. Vandenberg
10:30 – T.Behm

March 26 –8:00–D. VandenHeuvel
10:30 – M. Melso

Powerpoint Assistants:

March 5 – 8:00 am Katalinick
10:30 am Krueger

March 8 – 3:30 pm Claire Peters
6:30 pm Evan Seroy

March 12 –8:00 am Talian Dorn
10:30 am Ryan Melso

March 15 – 3:30 pm Anna Wagner
6:30 pm Henry Jaeger

March 19 –8:00 am Bradlee Perry
10:30 am Nano Aragon

March 22– 3:30 pm Shane Cluckey
6:30 pm Evan Seroy

March 26 –8:00 am Claire Peters
10:30 am Lydia Walker

March 29– 3:30 pm Landon Fatato
6:30 pm Evan Seroy

Altar Guild/Communion Setup:

March 12 – Sandy Becker, Jill Miller

March 26 – Sandy Becker

(*More volunteers needed. Contact Jeanne Kaminske or Cindy Wundrow for details*)

Good Friday Tre Ore Service

Darkness fell on the earth for three hours, as Jesus hung on the cross on Good Friday. Area WELS congregation join together for a special Tre Ore (three-hour) devotional service at St. Paul (302 N Morrison St., Appleton), on Friday, April 7, from noon-3:00 pm. Consider making this a part of your holy week worship.

- ✚ Devotions on the seven words Jesus spoke from the cross, led by area pastors
- ✚ Children and adult choirs from area churches
- ✚ You can stay for all three hours or any part that fits your schedule
- ✚ Watch live on Facebook www.facebook.com/stpaulappletonwi
- ✚ Listen live on WNAM 1280 AM

MLC College Choir Homecoming Concert

The Martin Luther College Choir concludes their spring tour, “Christ Is All In All,” this week. View their Homecoming Concert and watch for Riverview member Colin Krueger, on Sunday March 19th, at 3:00 pm. Visit livestream.com/mlc-streams, and click on “concerts” tab.

The Hope Center

“A Hope Center client didn’t really want to talk to a pastor. They felt they had a good relationship with God. More “pressing needs” beckoned: cancer infusions and daily supplies. Could it be that their worries might be put to rest, and inner strength restored, by talking with a pastor? Of course. The Hope Center was providing that path. They picked up their allotted supplies for the month, received a listening ear and some encouraging words from a volunteer, and the assurance they’d be kept in prayer, including by a pastor. That sounded really good to them. This is the help and the hope that was provided hundreds of times in 2022 at The Hope Center - Appleton. Thanks to our volunteers and to you: the many from our Fox Cities WELS churches who support this WELS United ministry. Find us at www.hope-center.org or phone 920-739-0039. Donate online or access a list of items that may be donated by clicking on the “Interested in Helping” button.

