



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

March 2022

## Pastor's Corner

### How Gain Could Come From Loss

Life is hardly a bed of roses. Ever since the Fall into Sin, life tends to be more “thorns and thistles” than it is roses sometimes. Just look at what we have to witness sometimes. Sure, there are positives like marriages, but then there are also divorces. There is the birth of a child, but then there may be the death of a child. There could be a new job, and then we could lose that job. There are days of great health, and years of crushing diseases. We see a lot in this life.

We are not the only ones. We are not the only ones who *have* witnessed a lot in life, and *will* witness a lot in life. Our Lenten midweek services this year are entitled *Witnesses to Christ: People From the Passion*. Each week we will explore a new person who witnessed something terrible, but then through Christ that terrible is turned by the power of God into something wonderful. We will see characters ranging from John the Baptist to Mary Magdalene witness everything Jesus went through in His suffering and then see how God turns that pain to His glory and God's grand purpose of saving people from their sins.

It is unbelievable sometimes to think that God can take the pains we endure in this life and use them for His glory. But God can, and God does. Through loss, disease and even death, God can use all things to His glory. That doesn't diminish what we go through or say those terrible things we witness are not indeed terrible. But what we can say is that God can, and does, use all things toward His goals and toward His glory. Just consider Jesus Christ. At the moment of His crucifixion do you really think His mother Mary was thinking this was “good”? As Mary Magdalene and the disciple John witnessed Jesus bleeding and slowly dying, do you think they were jumping up and down and clapping in joy? Of course, they weren't. They were devastated. But it was through this suffering and death of Jesus that God planned to pay for the sins of the whole world.



For our midweek services we will be singing a new theme hymn entitled “*Behold! The Lamb of God.*” The hymn speaks of what Christ went through and How God uses loss, especially the loss of the Son of God, and brings about the greatest gain for all of us. I pray this hymn comforts you during your times of loss.

*Christ's glory is not seen by those, Who view God's Word as dross,  
For worldly wisdom never knows, **How gain could come from loss.**  
Yet, this the glory of the Christ: His perfect life He sacrificed,  
His finished work for all sufficed—Debt canceled on the cross.*

-- Pastor Grimenstein

# Chairman's Report

## Hope "Springs" Eternal

March 20th is the first day of spring, unless you happen to be in the southern hemisphere because all of our friends "down under" will be entering autumn on that date. This month we are beginning the most important seasons of our church calendar ... Lent and Easter! Enjoy being a Christian ... practice being a Christian! Enjoy the Lenten services and please be sure to enjoy the celebration of Easter in April. Easter is surely what separates the wheat from the chaff from what I've seen traveling around the world. We are blessed to be Christians.



Last month I indicated our Eastern District only had 41 churches, but I was incorrect; the District has 123 congregations. Evidently only about 41 were consistently providing dues to the District which caused their 2021 deficit of \$4000. Thanks to your support, Zion is doing well and we're able to support the District in addition to the international ministries Pastor has been able to identify to help spread the Gospel throughout the world. While it's important to support the Great Commission with money, we as a parish here in South Fayette need to keep in mind that we've also been tasked by our Lord to promote the Gospel right here in our neighborhood! Don't be afraid to tell someone what you believe no matter the circumstances. The Holy Spirit will take it from there! Plant a seed.

One way to make sure we're walking the walk when it comes to being a Christian is to "practice" our faith by participating in every way we can in our Christian community here at Zion. So let's try to be a "practicing" Christian and enjoy our faith and all that our Lutheran Christian doctrine brings into our lives to make them full and peaceful.

Events around us are never going to really be as peaceful as the peace that Pastor speaks of as he serves the sacrament of communion or when bidding us farewell at the end of the service. God's Peace is a perfect peace; not the waning peace of mankind's imperfect ambitions. We will stand fast against any challenges that come our way and be a rock here at Zion! In Chapter 54 of Isaiah, God revisits His covenant with Noah and promises: *"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who had compassion on you.*

Here comes Spring, Lent and Easter. Know that God's promise of Peace is sealed upon our hearts! Enjoy the season! Enjoy being a Christian! Practice your religion! Inspect your soul during Lent and look forward to celebrating the risen Lord God Almighty. Amen

-- Paul Klemash

# In the Spotlight

Zion Lutheran Preschool Program

## Hosanna in the Highest!



Our most recent chapel lesson was “The Triumphal Entry” when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. Pastor, along with his chapel helpers, put the story board together and created a beautiful scene that shows Jesus riding into Jerusalem being greeted by the crowds shouting “Hosanna in the highest”. The children pretended to hold palm branches and shouted “Hosanna!”

Over the next several weeks during chapel, they will hear how Jesus cleans the temple; that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead; that Jesus gets arrested; and of course how He was crucified and rose three days later. In simpler terms, I told the children that we were going to learn how Jesus went from riding a donkey into Jerusalem to dying on a cross ... so much to hear and learn.

Stay tuned for more pictures from our upcoming Chapel lessons. To see their precious faces and expressions as they learn the Easter story is truly amazing.

Blessings,

Tracey Harris, Director

## Mission Moment: Promoting Zion's Internal, local, and international missionary efforts

### A New Year Preparing for a New Season

After ringing in the new year with family here at our home base out east, our weeks have been full of online Spanish classes, sorting through all our earthly possessions, packing for our two-phase move, and working to get many of our personal affairs in order before leaving the country. Your continued prayers for us during this busy time are such a blessing! Thank you to each of you who has reached out with words of encouragement as well. We continue to be thankful that God has brought you to this team of mission senders and supporters.



*Pastor Phil and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph with Pastor Aurelio Magarino of the Lutheran Church of the Cross in MD.*

### Deployment Date is Set

We are excited to share that Lord-willing, we will fly to Santiago, Dominican Republic on March 9th! After some months of on-field orientation and intensive language study, we will deploy to our mission location in Uruguay. In the meantime, we remain busy with many tasks stateside so that the move and adjustment to our life overseas may be as smooth as possible, with our personal affairs well organized. Thank you for your continued prayers as we move ahead!

Contact us anytime ...

**we would love to hear from you!**

To learn more about our work or to support us financially, please go to [lcms.org/jaseph](https://lcms.org/jaseph). You may also send a check made out to "LCMS" with "Jaseph Mission Support" in the memo line to either The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166, or Mission Central, 40718 E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



## Our New Sunday School Directors Jon & Connie Canale

Jon & Connie Canale have agreed to serve as Co-Directors for our Sunday School program at Zion. Both have a passion for Christian Education, having taught Sunday school, participated in Bible studies, and served in a variety of church leadership and committee roles at their prior LCMS church in Michigan.



Please support and encourage them in this vital role of overseeing Zion's program for teaching young people from the Scriptures about the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

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### Great News for Camp Pioneer Fans!

Pioneer on the Lake, *the new name for Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY*, has opened registration for its Family Camps in July & August for Summer 2022!

Visit [www.pioneeronthelake.org](http://www.pioneeronthelake.org) to learn more and to register



# Shout Out to Students

*Highlighting the academic awards, scholarships, and extra-curricular achievements of Zion's students in Kindergarten through College.*



**Lauren Liberatore**, a sophomore at Canon-McMillan High School, was named the 2021 Youth High Point Rider for the North Allegheny Horsemen's Association. This honor is given to the young rider who earns the most points during the association's horse shows throughout the year. Lauren and her horse Oreo competed in several classes, including Halter, English Pleasure, English Equitation, Hunter Under Saddle, and Hunter Over Fences.

## **Luke, John, Elizabeth, Claire and Kate Lemonovich**

earned academic accolades during the second quarter of the school term. Luke (a Sophomore at South Fayette HS), and John and Kate (both in 7th grade at South Fayette MS) earned Highest Honor Roll; Claire and Elizabeth (7th grade at SFMS) earned High Honor Roll.



## Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The March collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The "item of the month" is FRUIT (canned and dried). Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack. You are welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for more information).



# Become a Concordia Hospice Volunteer

*Make a difference today!*

## What do volunteers do?

Volunteers help our patients with everyday tasks so they may live each day to the fullest. Our volunteers enhance the quality of life for those receiving hospice care by simply holding a hand, sharing a story or being a friend. No prior knowledge is needed, just an open heart and a desire to change a life!

## Our volunteers:

**OFFER** companionship and support to patients

**GIVE** caregivers much needed breaks

**SHARE** prayer or spiritual support

**PLAY** music or sing

**VISIT** with a therapy dog

**HELP** patients write or tell their life stories

**SIT** quietly with someone during the last hours of life

**PROVIDE** haircuts or massages

**ASSIST** staff with administrative tasks

Because hospice patients have diverse needs, Concordia welcomes individuals and groups with varied skills and talents. Our volunteers have been gardeners, hairstylists, artists, musicians, carpenters, quilters, housekeepers and writers. Every special skill and talent can be used when you're a hospital volunteer!

Concordia is blessed to offer hospice volunteer opportunities throughout our western PA service area. If you are interested in volunteering in southern Allegheny, Washington or Greene counties, visit [www.ConcordiaHW.org](http://www.ConcordiaHW.org) or call our Concordia Hospice of Washington volunteer team at 724-250-4500. For those interested who live north of Pittsburgh, visit [www.good-samaritanhospice.org](http://www.good-samaritanhospice.org) or call 1-800-720-2557 to be connected with our Good Samaritan Hospice volunteer coordinator!

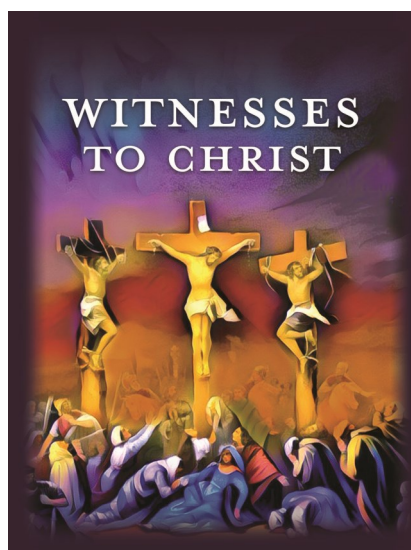
Hospice



Volunteer  
Program



## The season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 2nd

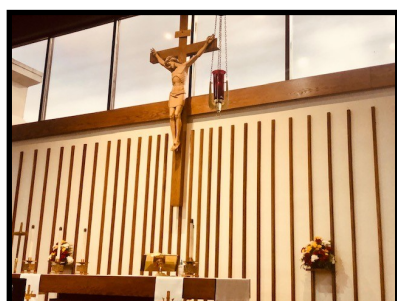


Join us for worship during this holy season as we meditate on the theme "**Witnesses to Christ: People from His Passion**". This worship series paints a stunning portrait of Jesus through the eyes of those whose interactions with Him lead us to meditate on His Passion as recorded by St. John in his Gospel. John tells us he wrote his Gospel: "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31).

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those who were present as part of Jesus' journey to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate; sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus three times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by seven demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver); as well as others.

Beginning on 3/2, Zion will have two Lenten services each week ... an afternoon spoken service at 2pm and our regular 7pm service. Prior to the evening services on the dates shown below, we'll have a casual dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm.

- Wed. 3/2 — 2 & 7 pm Ash Wednesday services
- Wed. 3/9 — 2 & 7 pm Lenten services (6 pm dinner)
- Wed. 3/16 — 2 & 7 pm Lenten services
- Wed. 3/23 — 2 & 7 pm Lenten services (6 pm dinner)
- Wed. 3/30 — 2 & 7 pm Lenten services (6 pm dinner)
- Wed. 4/6 — 2 & 7 pm Lenten services (6 pm dinner)



### 2022 Altar Flower & Eternal Light Sponsorships

are still available for certain dates in the back of the sanctuary! Members may sponsor in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person in their lives, or in celebration of a joyous occasion.





*An Evening at the LeMont*

**We cordially invite you to a semi formal fundraiser dinner to benefit  
Redeemer Lutheran School**

**With Special Keynote Speaker ~ Josh Hanley, RLHS 2015 Class Valedictorian**

**At the**

**LeMont Restaurant, 1114 Grandview Ave, Pittsburgh 15211**

**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2022 at 7 PM**

**Valet Parking, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Wine and Beer Pull**

*RSVP by March 25<sup>th</sup> \$75 per couple, \$40 single*

*Pay Online: [mkt.com/rlspittsburgh](http://mkt.com/rlspittsburgh)*

**Or**

*Complete and return this card with payment to:*

*RedeemerLutheranSchool, 700 Idaho Ave, Verona, Pa 15147*

*My Payment is enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*Reserving for: \_\_\_\_\_ # of guests*

*Name of Guest(s):*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

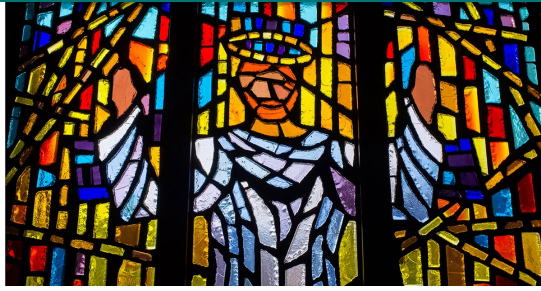
*(Additional guest names or those you request to be at your table may be written on the back of this form)  
\_\_\_\_\_ We would like to be at a table set for social distancing, (6 people may be at this table).*

***Please mark your dinner choice:***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Chicken EnCroute*  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Salmon*  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Veal Portabella*  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ *Vegetable Strudel*

*(please include any special meat preparation request here)*

Zion has several members planning to attend!  
If you'd like to join the Zion group, please call Susie at the church office at  
412-221-4776 ext 203 or email [secretary@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.org) ASAP



(LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

## The end of 'comfortable' Christianity

*By President Matthew C. Harrison*

*Feb 21, 2022 Excerpted from the LCMS Reporter, Official Newspaper of the LCMS*

The church is not, and never has been, a country club — though in the last century, especially in North America, it might have been confused for one. There was a time you could conduct personal business after the voters' meeting, unofficially govern the affairs of the city from the church parking lot and use your Sunday morning bulletin to get a discount at the local buffet. Pastors got "clergyman's discounts" at retail stores. These were the halcyon, "good ol' days," when being a member of a Christian denomination was expected, normal, even American.

Those days are gone. Thanks be to God.

As I write this, our good friends Bishop Juhana Pohjola of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF) and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a member of the Finnish Parliament, are on trial for charges of "hate speech" for confessing what Scripture simply and clearly teaches about God's design for marriage and the sinful nature of homosexuality. They made the great "mistake" of quoting what the Bible says in Romans 1



and other passages. Their trial began on Jan. 24, the Feast of St. Timothy. It was scheduled to conclude Feb. 14, the Feast of St. Valentine. As the March issue of Reporter goes to press, we are still awaiting a verdict.

Both Timothy and Valentine were martyrs, killed for their confession of Christ. They were witnesses to the Gospel by means of the shedding of their own blood. They never got clergyman's discounts or tax benefits. Jesus promised His apostles, "*You will be hated by all for my name's sake*" (Matt 10:22). He knew of the persecution that would afflict His Christians for the first centuries of the church.

Jesus knew the fate of Timothy and Valentine even before He formed them in the womb. He knew of His holy martyrs Justin, Perpetua, Felicitas, Polycarp, Cyprian, Robert Barnes and all the others whom we commemorate throughout the Church Year. Jesus also knew that Bishop Pohjola and MP (Member of Parliament) Räsänen would stand before the Finnish courts. And, while we do not know how their trial will be decided, He does. The rest of Jesus' words to His apostles in Matthew are telling:

*Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matt. 10:16–22).*

Christianity has never been comfortable. When the church gets comfortable in the culture, her confession gets watered down. The proclamation of the Law is diminished, and the proclamation of the Gospel gets lost. As goes Europe, so, soon, follows North America. Canada already has “hate speech” laws similar to Finland’s. Probably not in this generation, but maybe in the next, Christians in America will likely have to stand before the courts like our Finnish brother and sister. What will we say? We will confess, as our friends in Finland have at every opportunity, that all humans are precious and created in the image of God, and that all of us are sinful and in need of a Savior, Jesus.



Jesus rose triumphant from the grave. He will not abandon to the grave those who belong to Him. He will raise His martyrs, His confessors, His saints from all time and all places. Body and soul will be back together. All the elect will be gathered into His new heavens and new earth to life in perfect bliss in the presence of the Triune God and of one another. This hope is what emboldened and encouraged the martyrs. It is what emboldens and encourages Bishop Pohjola and MP Räsänen. It will be what emboldens and encourages us, our children and our grandchildren when we face persecution.

The era of comfortable, “country-club” Christianity is over. I’m OK with that. It will sharpen our confession of Christ crucified for sinners. As the church faces increasing harassment in the West, harassment will soon turn to persecution. It will fix our hopes on the certain resurrection that awaits all the Lord’s church.

A decade ago, the official (once Lutheran) Finnish church defrocked Bishop Pohjola. It expelled his vibrant and growing congregation from their building for refusing the state church’s unbiblical practice of female pastors and false teaching about marriage and sexuality. What happened to Pohjola’s congregation? Did it die?

No. While it lost a beautiful building, it soon rented a space from some Seventh Day Adventists. Now the ELMDF (the LCMS’ newest partner church) has planted 40 congregations. When I ask my friend, the bishop, how things are going, he responds, “Every time they attack us, we grow.”

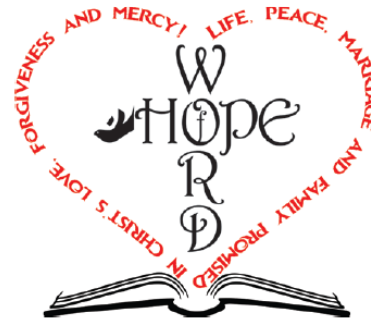
Be bold. Be courageous. Nothing can diminish our hope. Nothing can daunt our confession.

*The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*



Lutherans  
For Life

**For those who have had an  
abortion, a Word of Hope ...**  
888.217.8679 • info@word-of-  
hope.org • word-of-hope.org

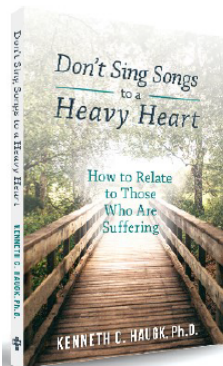
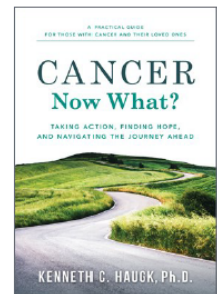


*"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)*

## Encouragement for those Facing Difficult Times

*Two Books from Stephen Ministries provide Help and Hope for Christians  
Dealing with Hardship*

**Cancer: Now What?** is a practical guide for those with cancer and their loved ones. It is a comprehensive, easy-to-read tool for navigating the medical, emotional, relational and spiritual challenges that cancer brings.



**Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart** offers real-world advice on how to relate to those who are suffering. The reader will learn what to say and do -- and what NOT to say or do -- when people are hurting. The book is a valuable resource for those who work in a caregiving field, as well as for volunteers or anyone who wants to relate to people who are suffering in ways that ease their pain, instead of adding to their burden.

**Both books are available for loan in Zion's library** (located in our large conference room downstairs), **or for purchase at**

**[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)**



*What About...*

## Being a Lutheran

### **What really is a Lutheran?**

While there are a variety of ways one could answer this question, one very important answer is simply this, "A Lutheran is a person who believes, teaches and confesses the truths of God's Word as they are summarized and confessed in the Book of Concord." The Book of Concord contains the Lutheran confessions of faith. Perhaps you have attended an ordination of a pastor and heard him promise that he will perform the duties of his office in accord with the Lutheran Confessions. When people are confirmed they are asked if they confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as they have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true.

These solemn promises indicate to us just how important the Lutheran Confessions are for our church. Let's take a look at the various items contained in the Book of Concord and then we'll look at why the Lutheran Confessions are so important for being a Lutheran.

#### \* **What are the Ecumenical Creeds?**

The three ecumenical creeds in the Book of Concord are the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. They are called "ecumenical" [universal] because they are accepted by Christians worldwide as correct expressions of what God's Word teaches.

#### \* **What is the Augsburg Confession and Apology of the Augsburg Confession?**

In the year 1530, the Lutherans were required to present their confession of faith before the emperor in Augsburg, Germany. Philip Melancthon wrote the Augsburg Confession and it was read before the imperial court on June 30, 1530. One year later, the Lutherans presented their defense of the Augsburg Confession, which is what "apology" here means. It too was written by Melancthon. The largest document in the Book of Concord, its longest chapter, is devoted to the most important truth of the Christian faith: the doctrine of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

#### \* **What are the Small and Large Catechisms?**

Martin Luther realized early on how desperately ignorant the laity and clergy of his day were when it came to even the most basic truths of the Christian faith. Around 1530, he produced two small handbooks to help pastors

and the heads of families teach the faith.

The Small Catechism and the Large Catechism are organized around six topics: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar. So universally accepted were these magnificent doctrinal summaries by Luther, that they were included as part of the Book of Concord.

#### \* **What are the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope?**

In 1537, Martin Luther was asked to prepare a statement of Lutheran belief for use at a church council, if it was called. Luther's bold and vigorous confession of faith was later incorporated into the Book of Concord. It was presented to a group of Lutheran rulers meeting in the town of Smalcald. Melancthon was asked to expand on the subject of the Roman pope and did so in his treatise, which also was included in the Book of Concord.

#### \* **What is the Formula of Concord?**

After Luther's death in 1546, significant controversies broke out in the Lutheran Church. After much debate and struggle, the Formula of Concord in 1577 put an end to these doctrinal controversies and the Lutheran Church was able to move ahead untied in what it believed, taught and confessed. In 1580, all the confessional writings mentioned here were gathered into a single volume, the Book of Concord. Concord is a word that means, "harmony".

#### **What is the connection between the Bible and the Confessions?**

We confess that, "The Word of God is and should remain the sole rule and norm of all doctrine" (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 9). What the bible asserts, God asserts. What the Bible commands, God commands. The authority of the Scriptures is complete, certain and final. The Scriptures are accepted by the Lutheran Confessions as the actual Word of God. The Lutheran Confessions urge us to believe the Scripture for "they will not lie to you" (LC, V, 76) and cannot be "false and deceitful" (FC SD, VII, 96). The Bible is God's "pure,



What About...

## Being a Lutheran *Cont'd*

infallible, and unalterable Word" (Preface to the BOC).

The Lutheran Confessions are the "basis, rule and norm indicating how all doctrines should be judged in conformity with the Word of God" (FC SD RN). Because the Confessions are in complete doctrinal agreement with the written Word of God, they serve as the standard in the Lutheran Church to determine what is faithful Biblical teaching, insofar as that teaching is addressed in the Confessions.

### What is the main point of the Lutheran Confessions?

The Lutheran Reformation was not a "revolt", but rather began as a sincere expression of concern with the false and misleading teachings, which, unfortunately, even to this very day, obscure the glory and merit of Jesus Christ. What motivated Luther was a zealous concern about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here is how the Lutheran Confessions explain what the Gospel is all about:

"Human beings have not kept the law of God but have transgressed it. Their corrupted human nature, thoughts, words, and deed battle against the law. For this reason they are subject to God's wrath, to death and all temporal afflictions, and to the punishment of the fires of hell. As a result, the Gospel, in its strict sense, teaches what people should believe, namely, that they receive from God the forgiveness of sins; that is, the Son of God, our Lord Christ, has taken upon Himself the curse of the law and borne it, atoned and paid for all our sins; that through Him alone we are restored to God's grace, obtain the forgiveness of sins through faith and are delivered from death and all the punishments of our sins and are saved eternally. ... It is good news, joyous news, that God does not want to punish sin but to forgive it for Christ's sake" (FC SD,V,20).

### What is a "confessional" Lutheran?

The word "confession" is used in a variety of ways, but when we speak of a "confessional" Lutheran we mean a Lutheran who declares to the world his faith and most deeply held belief and conviction, in harmony with the documents contained in the Book of Concord. You will catch the spirit of confessional Lutheranism in these, the last words written in the Book of Concord:

"Therefore, it is our intent to give witness before God and all Christendom, among those who are alive today and those who will come after us, that

the explanation here set forth regarding all the controversial articles of faith which we have addressed and explained -- and no other explanation -- is our teaching, faith, and confession. In it we shall appear before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ, by God's grace, with fearless hearts and thus give account of our faith, and we will neither secretly nor publicly speak or write anything contrary to it. Instead, on the strength of God's grace, we intend to abide by this confession" (FC SD, XII, 40).

### What is "unconditional subscription" to the Confessions?

Confessional Lutheran pastors are required to "subscribe" unconditionally to the Lutheran Confessions because they are a pure exposition of the Word of God. This is the way our pastor, and every layman who confesses his belief in the Small Catechism, is able with great joy and without reservation or qualification to say what it is that he believes to be the truth of God's Word.

### So what is it to be a Lutheran?

Being a Lutheran is being a person who believes the truths of God's Word as they are correctly explained in the Book of Concord. To do so is to confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Genuine Lutherans, confessional Lutherans, dare to insist that "All doctrines should conform to the standards [the Lutheran Confessions] set forth above. Whatever is contrary to them should be rejected and condemned as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith" (FC Ep. RN, 6).

Such a statement may strike some as boastful, but it is not. Rather, it is an expression of the Spirit-led confidence that moves us to speak of our faith before the world.

Hand-in-hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession is our equally strong commitment to reaching out boldly with the Gospel and speaking God's truth to the world. That is what "confession" of the faith is all about, in the final analysis. Indeed, "It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak (2 Cor. 4:13). This is what it means to be a Lutheran.

-Dr. A. L. Barry  
Past President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# March Service Participants

	Acolytes	Time
March 6	Daniel Grimenstein Johnny Lemonovich	8:00 10:30
March 13	TBD Lizzie Lemonovich	8:00 10:30
March 20	Decklan Pasquini Christian Bonacci	8:00 10:30
March 27	Lindsey Liberatore Jeremy Dyczewski	8:00 10:30



	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Mar	Bill Bishop, Bob Schmidt, Jim Neill	Janet & Marian Oelschlager, Megan Pasquini, Barb Oechslein, Diana Schmidt	Ava & Megan Pasquini, Barb & Wayne Oechslein	John & Kari Gresh, Andy & Dwight Weldon
Apr	TBD	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Shane Bryant, Bill, Ken & Will Schrag	Susie Bishop, Mike Kozak, John & Luke Lemonovich

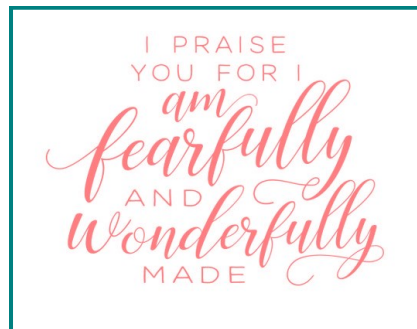


# MARCH

## Birthdays

5<sup>th</sup> — Jared Fitzgerald  
5<sup>th</sup> — Sandy Hervert  
5<sup>th</sup> — Deborah Sterba  
8<sup>th</sup> — Leann Golish  
8<sup>th</sup> — John Reihner  
9<sup>th</sup> — Lee Glasser  
11<sup>th</sup> — Michael Sterba  
13<sup>th</sup> — Tanner Wilson  
14<sup>th</sup> — Susan Bishop  
15<sup>th</sup> — Braeden Boyle  
16<sup>th</sup> — Claire Schrag  
17<sup>th</sup> — Greg Howcroft

17<sup>th</sup> — Max Ma  
18<sup>th</sup> — Kara Garrubba  
18<sup>th</sup> — Joe Gielarowski  
21<sup>st</sup> — Faye Conner  
21<sup>st</sup> — Tracy Yellig  
23<sup>rd</sup> — Mark Killinger  
24<sup>th</sup> — Bonnie Lewis  
26<sup>th</sup> — Katie Gielarowski



# MARCH



## Anniversaries

3<sup>rd</sup> — John & Robyn Reihner  
4<sup>th</sup> — Bill & Carol Schrag  
21<sup>st</sup> — Charles & Kathy Kacvinsky  
26<sup>th</sup> — Tim & Rita Sheldon  
29<sup>th</sup> — Brian & Megan Pasquini





# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg	2  Ash Wednesday 2:00 pm Lent Worship 7:00 pm Lent Worship	3 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg	4	5
6 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	7 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Trustees' Mtg. 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	8	9 2:00 pm Lent Worship 6:00 Lenten Dinner 7:00 pm Lent Worship	10 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	11	12
13 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship <b>FOOD BANK COLLECTION</b>	14 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	15	16 2:00 pm Lent Worship 7:00 pm Lent Worship	17	18  19	
20 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	21 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	22	23 2:00 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 7:00 pm Lent Worship	24	25	26
27 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	28 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	29	30 2:00 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 7:00 pm Lent Worship	