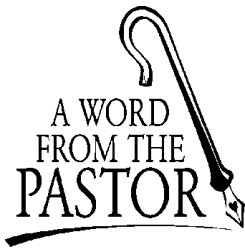


St. Mark & St. Luke Newsletter

THE MESSENGER



For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

Dear Friends in Christ,

In February we celebrate St. Valentine's Day. . . a day to celebrate love.

I recently read a devotion that reminded me of the importance of telling those we love that we love them. The devotion talked about Scott Kologi who murdered his parents, his sister, and a 70-year-old family friend this past New Year's Eve.

One of the survivors of the family catastrophe is Scott's older brother, Steven Kologi, Jr. Understandably, Steven has been devastated by his loss and he, like many in his age group, turned to Facebook to share his feelings. Some of his thoughts were memories of past good times with the entire family, which will never come again.

Here are a few things that Steven has said:

- (Mom and dad were) "the greatest parents I could ask for."
- "They made sure Christmas came every year although they struggled financially. I cannot even describe the type of people they were, so just believe me when I say how great they were."
- "Never once was I without a hot meal or a roof over my head."

But there's more. Steven has reached into himself and done some serious self-evaluating. He has spoken freely of his regrets. It is those regrets that we should pay attention to. For example, he said, "I just wish I could tell all of them how much they meant to me and how much I truly loved each and every one of them because I didn't do that enough."

That seems to be a theme in Steven's writings. At the end of one Facebook sharing, he encouraged people "to give the ones you love an extra kiss or 'I love you.'"

How often have we heard mourning families speak of how they had intended to say, "I love you" to a loved one who had passed away, but never got around to it; or it just didn't seem the right time; or they weren't sure how it would be received; or they hadn't yet made peace over an old conflict, or ...

There are hundreds of reasons not to say, "I love you."

I can think of at least four reasons to share your heart's feelings with those who are or should be special:

1. We who are recipients of the Lord's love, forgiveness, and salvation have a wonderful opportunity to share that love with others. You remember, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).
2. We do it because we need to say it.
3. We do it because they need to hear it.
4. We do it because we never know when the last opportunity to say those words may come.

As Steven said, "And please, please, please remember to give the ones you love an extra kiss or 'I love you.'"

*In Christ,
Pastor Smiles*

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES
'THY WILL BE DONE'**

"*Not as I will, but as you will,*" Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Written by Rev. Justin Rossow, each service in the series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day.

Lent starts February 14. Midweek services will be held Wednesdays at 11:15am and 7:30pm.

WORSHIP

In February we end the Christmas/Epiphany Season on our church calendar with the celebration of the Transfiguration of our Lord, when we remember Jesus' mountain top experience with Moses and Elijah. The readings and the liturgy show how the child born in Bethlehem was revealed as the true Messiah who came to save the world. After that we move into the church season of Lent that will show how Jesus did save the world by his suffering, death and resurrection. As in years past we will offer Lenten midweek services on Wednesday's at 11:15am and again at 6:30pm. Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday that includes the traditional imposition of ashes and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The theme for this year "Thy Will Be Done." Once again this year the Reach Out service will be combined with these Lenten Midweek services.

Reach out

Feb 1 A bi- monthly Communion Service for those who have difficulty coming to the front of church for the Lord's Supper or wish to avoid large crowds, but want to attend worship.

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Feb 4 10:15 am Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 4 (pg 203)
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar Level
Elder Ryan Poppy **Elder Assistant Keith Timm**
Ushers Derrick & Kyle Evers **Greeters M/M John Drath**
Acolyte Trevor Evers

Feb 5 6:30 pm Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 4 (pg 203)
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar Level
Elder Wayne Wendt **Elder Assistant Shannon Hansen**
Ushers Dawson & Dylan Werth **Greeters M/M Jerrod Werth**
Acolyte Emma Riske

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Feb 11 10:15 am Order of Service- - Creative Worship (Printed Out)
Elder Steve Handrich **Elder Assistant Don Hanson**
Ushers M/M Cody Detert **Greeter Donna Krueger / Dave Behnke**
Acolyte Madeline Much

Feb 12 6:30 pm Order of Service- - Creative Worship (Printed Out)
Elder Merlin Becker **Elder Assistant Jeremy Olsen**
Ushers M/M Gary Bonikowske **Greeters M/M Michael Timm**
Acolyte Ethan Krueger

Ash Wednesday

Feb 14 11:15 am w/ Reach Out
Special Order of Service – Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & God's Promise
Holy Communion is offered in the pews.

7:30 pm Special Order of Service- Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & God's Promise
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar level
Elder Mel Hansen **Elder Assistant Paul Timm**
Ushers M/M Doug Draeger **Greeters M/M Artie Pethke**
Acolyte Maleah Pirk

The First Sunday in Lent

Feb 18 10:15 am Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 4 (pg 203)
Holy Communion is offered at the Floor Level
Elder Wayne Wendt **Elder Assistant Dan Hedtke**
Ushers M/M Randy Greunke **Greeters Barb Quinn / Alice Prill**
Acolyte Lauren Wegener

Feb 19 6:30 pm Order of Service- - Divine Service Setting 4 (pg 203)
Holy Communion is offered at the Floor Level
Elder Ryan Poppy **Elder Assistant Shannon Hansen**
Ushers M/M Arden Lightfuss **Greeters M/M Aaron Schulke**
Acolyte Savanna Hansen

Lenten Mid-week

Feb 21 11:15am Special Order of Service- Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & My Inadequacy
7:30 pm Special Order of Service- Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & My Inadequacy
Elder Steve Handrich **Elder Assistant Dan Riske**
Ushers Ben & Sam Olsen **Greeters M/M Roger Fahser**
Acolyte Makayla Much

The Second Sunday in Lent

Feb 25 10:15 am Order of Service- - Prayer and Preaching (Pg 260)
Elder Merlin Becker **Elder Assistant Ken Jorgenson**
Ushers M/M Larry Detert **Greeters Macy & Riley Krenke**
Acolyte Brent Pynenberg

Feb 26 6:30 pm Order of Service- - Prayer and Preaching (Pg 260)
Elder Mel Hansen **Elder Assistant Keith Timm**
Ushers Todd Olsen II / Dan Teuscher **Greeters Brystal & Carlene Beyer**
Acolyte Caleb Wickman

Lenten Mid-week

Feb 28 11:15 am w/ Reach Out
Special Order of Service – Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & My Dreams
Holy Communion is offered in the pews.
7:30 pm Special Order of Service- Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & My Dreams
Elder Ryan Poppy **Elder Assistant Jeremy Olsen**
Ushers M/M Dave Niven **Greeters Sharon Riske / Shelly Luedke**
Acolyte Karson Timm

The Third Sunday in Lent

Mar 4 10:15 am Order of Service – Divine Service Setting 1 (Pg 151)
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar Level
Elder Steve Handrich Elder Assistant **Don Hanson**
Ushers M/M Ken Bernard Greeters **Lane & Claire Kreklow**
Acolyte Alyiah Weed

Mar 5 6:30 pm Order of Service – Divine Service Setting 1 (Pg 151)
Holy Communion is offered at the Altar Level
Elder Merlin Becker Elder Assistant **Dan Hedtke**
Ushers M/M Todd Olsen Greeters **M/M Jay Henschel**
Acolyte Jack O'Brien

Lenten Mid-week

Mar 7 11:15 am w/ Reach Out
Special Order of Service – Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & My Identity
Holy Communion is offered in the pews
7:30 pm Special Order of Service- Thy Will Be Done- God's Will & My Identity
Elder Wayne Wendt Elder Assistant **Paul Timm**
Ushers Taylor & Logan Pethke Greeters **Joan & Erin Wisneski**
Acolyte Ella Buchholz

ST LUKE’S ELDER/USHER TEAMS

Feb 4 David Bork Ushering Team
Feb 11 Tom Feucht Ushering Team
Feb 14 (Ash Wed) Les Wilson Ushering Team
Feb 18 David Bork Ushering Team
Feb 25 Tom Feucht Ushering Team
March 4 Les Wilson Ushering Team

ST LUKE’S ALTAR GUILD TEAM

Barbara Wilson, Dori Wilson & Sondra Reiersen

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, ask someone to take your place. And PLEASE call the office (920)596-3241 to let the Church Secretary know when you exchanged with someone else.

Thank You!

Have You Moved?

If you or someone you know has moved or will be moving, and the address or telephone number has changed, **PLEASE** inform the church office. The newsletter is not forwarded when we have a wrong address. It is returned to us and we have to pay extra postage.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

As of year-end, we carried over \$9,000 in our checking account into the new year. By God's grace and all who were able to give, we covered all our expenses in the previous year. In summer, we did borrow from our savings account to carry us through. We are back to our original savings balance of over \$5,000.

Bear in mind, however, that our church does carry a budget. Our budget for the 2018 year totals \$172,924.96. Divided out over the year, this equates to approximately \$14,500 **per month** that is needed to cover budgeted expenses. This is to come from our offering envelopes. Please keep this number in mind as you plan your offerings.

We made a deposit of \$15,130.99 on January 22nd. Of that, \$6,387.37 was for current- This included our 4th quarter shared expenses from St. Luke of \$2,346.77. Yes, there is a negative balance showing below, but our end of January expenses are covered. I thought it may have been a trying month, with heating fuel and repair costs, but we are holding our own yet.

Checkbook Balance (as of 1/24/18): \$10,258.48

Monies to Designate (memorials/fundraisers): \$4,215.21

Upcoming Expenses/Payroll & Benefits: \$7,680.89

Missions Collected: \$924.28 (includes \$201 to Rachel Meyer, missionary going to Uganda)

Youth Collected: \$0

Project Fund Collected: \$50

Ending balance: - \$2,611.90

Savings Account Balance (1/24/18): \$12,740.66 (includes endowment interest to be designated)

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

2017 STATEMENTS . . . Offering statements for 2017 are out and can be picked up in the church narthex if you have not already done so. If you need one mailed to you, or have questions, please contact the church office at (920)-596-3241.

SAVE THE DATE!! PANCAKE SUPPER . . . April 15, 2017. More details to follow. Mark the date; hope to see you here!

CHILI LUNCH . . . Many thanks to all those who coordinated the Lunch again this year. We also thank all the great helpers . . . along with all who donated items . . . and lastly all who came and enjoyed the meal.

NWD CONVENTION. On June 3 & 4, 2018 the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod will hold its Convention in Wausau. Merlin Becker has been elected to be the voting delegate representing St. Mark and St. Luke.

BIBLE STUDY We will continue our study on the Sunday lessons following the worship services on the second and fourth Sundays. We will also have a study following the Lenten Midweek services that is based the theme of the series.

GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Youth and Family Ministries

SMYL / LYF FUN NIGHT. We will have the fun night on February 7 at 7:30.

YOUTH AUCTION . . . We don't know if we'll have a youth auction this year. It was one of the items on the agenda that was to be discussed at the January 17 meeting (see below).. . . we will keep you posted

A MESSAGE PASTOR SMILES POSTED ON FACEBOOK:

Here is a follow up to the youth group meeting that was scheduled for January 17.

First off I want to thank the several individuals that offered suggestions, but couldn't attend .

Second I won't hide my disappointment that not one person showed up.

So the question is this; Where do we go from here?

My personal belief is that it is important to nurture the faith of our young people.

At St. Mark's we attempt to do so by keeping our youth and young adults connected to our congregation and our overall church body in a variety of ways.

I'll readily admit we don't need a formal youth program to do this. Sunday School, Catechism, and weekly worship is enough. . . . add to that our parent's dedication to sending their children to Camp Luther and other Christian activities . . . but the fellowship we get through congregational youth group activities adds another aspect to that development our youth's Christian faith and a love and appreciation of their home congregation.

Is it worth the effort to schedule another meeting at a better day and time?

Can we find several individuals from our congregation that can serve as a Board of Youth?

I know this is a situation that can't be solved on facebook, and we'll need to include the congregation as a whole and the Church Council / MMT. But here is where we start.

I'm open to suggestions . . . there is only so much I can do as your Pastor in this situation.

S'more about Camp Luther...

Faith, Family, Friendship

"Building up all people in Christ for service and witness in the World."



Camp Luther is a special place. With more than 215 acres on the beautiful Three Lakes/Eagle River Chain of Lakes, the beauty of God's creation is all around us. Within this gorgeous setting you'll find comfortable facilities, cozy cottages, excellent programs, exciting recreation, and a friendly staff. Join us soon for an unforgettable Christian camping experience.

Camp Luther is a subsidiary ministry of the North Wisconsin District LCMS

GIVE TO CAMP LUTHER - You play a vital role in the ministry of Camp Luther through your contributions. Your gifts make it possible for Camp Luther to enhance and expand programming, maintain care for wonderful facilities and property and reach out in love to those who couldn't afford to attend camp on their own. Thank you for your generous support of this important ministry that touches and transforms thousands of lives each year with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Visit www.campluther.com/donate today.

“FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT” CAMPAIGN Over the course of five years, Camp Luther wants to raise 5 million dollars for the Outdoor Ministry Fund, Every Kid to Camp, and Capital Projects (a new dining center and completion of the lower level of the retreat center). They are at least half way to the goal already. You may have remembered reading about this in the December newsletter.

They have asked several Congregations (including ours, as we have a lot of involvement with Camp) to raise funds toward this campaign. Tammy Johnson of our Congregation is the campaign “Champion”! She has many ideas to help us raise funds for Camp Luther. While we couldn't do the large amount that Camp is hoping for, the council, along with Tammy, did agree to do at least \$500 a year for the next 3 years. Stay tuned and watch for more events and campaigning of our own. All for a noteworthy, God pleasing cause!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Volunteering is a vital to the Ministry of Camp Luther. If you have the time, we would love to get you involved with camp. We have many opportunities through our Workbee Weekends and Summer RV program. There's also a group of people who just call us up and say when can I come and help?

Here are some ways you can serve:

Sign up for a [Workbee Weekend!](#)

Contact Camp Luther about our [Summer RV Volunteer program.](#)

Contact Camp Luther about volunteering in the spring, winter, or fall. There is always much to do around camp. If you find joy in serving and don't mind doing whatever is on the list, we have a job for you! We especially need skilled carpenters and painters.

Serve as a [Summer Medic.](#)

High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors can apply to be a [Junior Counselor!](#)

Just drop us a note at info@campluther.com or call our office at 877-264-2267.