**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**March and April 2020**

**“Shopping Local”**

***“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”***

* **Hebrews 10:24-25**

“Shopping local.” For those of us who live in small towns and rural areas, this is a common phrase. It is a grammatically incorrect way of talking about the practice of supporting small businesses in our local communities. We “shop local” when we choose to buy our food and other necessities at our local grocery stores and merchants instead of purchasing such items at “box stores” in larger towns and cities.

“Shopping local” is harder to do than it sounds. It is hard for small local businesses to compete with the prices that large chain stores are able to offer. Furthermore, large stores have much more variety than local shops. Making it even more difficult to “shop local” is the fact that you can take care of most of your shopping in a single location when going to a large store, whereas “shopping local” requires one to go to several different shops, which can be tiring and a little more time consuming.

“Shopping local” is a little more expensive and not as convenient (although, when you figure in the cost of fuel and time taken to get to the larger store, the savings might not be as much as you imagine). It requires some commitment and sacrifice to “shop local.” We might have to pay a little more for certain things, but if we want that local store to be there when we need it for convenience, then that extra amount paid might be worth it in the long run.

I wish I could say that I have a perfect track record of “shopping local.” I don’t. One of my regrets during my first call as a pastor in Minnesota is not being more intentional about “shopping local.” If I had it to do over again, I would have made a point to get most everything I could from my local grocery store. Today, because of my family’s dietary restrictions (gluten free), there are many things that we can only get from larger stores. And, to be honest, there are times when we simply succumb to the temptation of the convenience of getting our food from large “box stores.” Nevertheless, we try to support our local businesses a good amount, recognizing that the vitality of the community depends a great deal on the presence of these local stores.

When I think about “shopping local,” I also think about small churches, churches like our own all around our country. It isn’t a perfect analogy, but the same principle applies. Larger churches have more people, and it is easier for people to remain anonymous there. One can be absent from a larger church without being noticed that much. The numerical strength of the large church makes that possible.

Not so with smaller churches. Like small businesses, keeping smaller churches going requires intentional commitment by members in terms of finances, involvement, and attendance. There was a time when small churches were often the center of smaller communities. This is really not the case anymore. In most small towns, that role is now filled by the local school. There is nothing wrong with this, but in the process, everyone needs to remember that churches, like small businesses, rely on the support of those that belong to them.

I write this not to scold anyone, but simply as a reminder of the necessity of keeping the church an important part of our life routine. In the verses from the letter to the Hebrews quoted above, as well as many others, God calls His people to gather, hear his Word, and receive His good news in Jesus Christ. Without it, there is very real danger that we will fall away from our faith altogether, for the world in which we live pulls us in so many different and often harmful directions. Furthermore, our attendance encourages others. Together, we form the body of Christ on earth.

Thankfully, God is a god of new beginnings. The season of Lent is an opportunity to hear once again God’s call for us and to be strengthened on our way. When it comes to the church, remember to “shop local,” for there we receive our spiritual nourishment, our heavenly food. *“So Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life’”* (John 6:67-68).

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not venerate (pray to) special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.

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We remember in March and April the lives of two brothers, John and Charles Wesley. Together, they were the driving force behind the Methodist revival of England. Charles died on March 29, 1788, and John died on March 2, 1791. Their strict adherence to worship and prayer gave them the nickname “Methodists.” In a time of spiritual stagnation and rampant addiction, John’s preaching and Charles’ many hymns gave many people faith, hope, and courage. Their English Methodism eventually became a worldwide phenomenon.

*Lord God, who inspired your servants John and Charles Wesley with burning zeal for the sanctification of souls and endowed them with eloquence in speech and song: kindle in your Church, we entreat you, such fervor, that those whose faith has cooled may be warmed, and those who have not known Christ may turn to him and be saved, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (prayer from justus.anglican.org)*

**Featured Hymn for March and April**

***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 149*

1. O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, no scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.
2. How art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn; how does that visage languish which once was bright as morn! Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners’ gain; mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
3. What language shall I borrow to thank thee dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.
4. Be near me when I’m dying, O show thy cross to me, on thee I am relying, come thou and set me free. These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move; For those who die believing die safely in thy love.
* Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676
* Trans. James Alexander, 1804-1859

Note: Gerhardt based his hymn on Bernard of Clairvaux’s long poem on Christ’s dying body. It has become nearly obligatory during Holy Week.

**Monthly Watchword for March**

Jesus says, “And what I say to you I say to all: ‘Stay awake.’”

* Mark 13:37

**Ushers for March and April:**

* Head Ushers (March):
	+ Cecilia and Reed Eckmann
* Ushers:
	+ Duane Barnes
	+ Troy and Paige Poppe
	+ Kash Poppe
	+ Leah Poppe
	+ Kora Poppe
* Head Ushers (April)
	+ Keith and Donna Nielsen
* Ushers:
	+ Gary and Bev Kumm
	+ Vicki Jensen
	+ Jeff Hanson
	+ Addison Barger
	+ Hudson Barger
	+ David and Diane Kumm

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**Martin Luther’s Morning Prayer**

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I ask you to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that in all I do today I may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all that is mine. Let you holy angel watch over me, that the wicked foe have no power over me. Amen.

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**Office of the Keys**

***What is the Office of the Keys?***

*It is the unique power which Christ has given to his church on earth to forgive the sins of penitent sinners, and to retain the sins of the impenitent, so long as they do not repent.*

*“If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld” (John 20:23)*

*“Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 18:18).*

**Birthdays for March and April**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* March 3: Ciera Petersen
* March 8: Ryker Guenther
* March 12: Lyle Scott
* March 18: Melvin Barger
* March 18: Stran Sage
* March 20: Del Cross
* March 27: Leah Poppe
* March 29: Hudson Barger
* March 31: Trenton Guenther
* April 2: Jakob Eisenhauer
* April 4: Arlene Barnes
* April 7: Troy Poppe
* April 11: Dale McDonald
* April 14: Alice Carlow
* April 26: Sherri Ermels
* April 29: Owen Eckmann
* April 29: Paige Poppe

**Baptismal Anniversaries for March and April**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* March 3: Patricia Kumm
* March 6: Kris True
* March 8: Jett Sucha
* March 12: Carsten Barger
* March 21: Sandra Ziegler
* March 25: Keith Nielsen
* March 30: Michael Beckmann
* March 30: Jakob Eisenhauer
* March 31: Cassandra Barger
* April 3: Norman Poppe
* April 3: Stran Sage
* April 4: Renae Kauth
* April 6: Pr. Tom Jacobson
* April 10: Stella Branstiter
* April 13: Michael Sage
* April 14: Dale McDonald
* April 28: Jacob Jessen
* April 29: Owen Eckmann

**Worship Schedule**

* March 1: First Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion at altar rail, 10:30 AM (Purple)
* March 4: Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM with Pr. Theresa Jacobson, “The Cross as Redemption” (Purple)
* March 8: Second Sunday in Lent, 10:30 AM (Purple)
* March 11: Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM with Pr. Tom Jacobson, “The Cross as Demonstration” (Purple)
* March 15: Third Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion continuous line, 10:30 AM (Purple)
* March 18: Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM with Pr. Theresa Jacobson, “The Cross as Investment” (Purple)
* March 22: Fourth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 AM (Purple)
* March 25: Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM with Pr. Tom Jacobson, “The Cross as Reconciliation” (Purple)
* March 29: Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10:30 AM (Purple)
* April 1: Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM with Pr. Theresa Jacobson, “The Cross as Victory” (Purple)
* April 5: Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion with Holy Communion at altar rail, 10:30 (Purple)
* April 9: Holy Week worship on Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM (Purple)
* April 12: The Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Sunday, 10:30 (White)
* April 19: Second Sunday of Easter with Holy Communion continuous line, 10:30 AM (White)
* April 26: Third Sunday of Easter, 10:30 AM (White)

**Calling Sunday School Teachers!**

Since September, a number of people, including many youth members, have signed up to lead Sunday school at Good Shepherd. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help with this important part of congregational life!

There are still a number of open Sundays for the rest of the spring season that need Sunday school leaders. Leading Sunday school doesn’t have to be difficult, and if only responsible for one or a couple of Sundays a year, the preparation is minimal. Curriculum is provided through Sola Publishing online. You will need the username and password to access it, however. There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall by the guest book. For this coming year, there will be a meeting in the summer to provide orientation for teachers throughout the year and to make plans for the future of this important part of the congregation’s life. Contact Pr. Tom for more information.

**Important Announcements**

* The theme for the Lenten Wednesday evening services is “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?”
* For fifth graders who would like to receive their first Holy Communion later this spring (likely on May 3), first Communion instruction will be held on Wednesday **March 11 and March 25** starting at 5:00 PM as well as the final meeting **immediately after worship on April 19**. Contact Pr. Tom with any questions.
* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30 AM. For March, it will be on March 22, and for April, it will be on April 26. For now, we will be doing a study of the assigned Scripture readings for those Sundays.
* Beginning on Sunday March 8, we will have a time of coffee (and perhaps something small to eat on non-Communion Sundays) and fellowship before worship at 9:45 (except on the fourth Sunday of the month when we have the time of adult education).
* The Church council meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM and April 8 at 7:00 PM.
* The Women of the Word/Women of the North American Lutheran Church will meet on March 18 and April 15 at 10:00 AM.
* Books, especially children’s books, are needed for the church library, so if anyone has old children’s books to donate, they would be most welcome.
* During the season of Lent, there will be no confirmation class held, but there will be Lenten evening vespers (evening worship) each Wednesday at 7:00 PM; as in the past, Pr. Tom and Pr. Theresa will alternate churches each week.

**Youth Announcements**

* Youth will serve the Lenten suppers March 11 and April 2.
* Youth will have a movie afternoon on Sunday March 15in Yankton, “I Still Believe.”
* Youth Sundays will be March 15 and April 19.

**March 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 1Sunday School,9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 (altar rail)Purple |  2 |  3 |  4 Supper 6:00 PM ? Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8Sunday School, 9:30 Worship, 10:30Purple | 9 | 10 | 11Pr. Tom in LindyFirst Communion instruction, 5:00Youth supper, 6:00 PMLenten vespers, 7:00 PMChurch council after worship | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15Sunday School, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 (continuous)Youth meet for movie after worshipPurple | 16 | 17 | 18Women’s meeting, 10:00Supper 6:00 PM ?Lenten vespers, 7:00 PM | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22Sunday School, 9:30Adult education, 9:30Worship, 10:30Purple | 23 | 24 | 25Pr. Tom in LindyFirst Communion instruction, 5:00Supper 6:00 PM ?Lenten vespers,7:00 PM | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29Sunday School, 9:30Worship, 10:30Purple | 30 | 31 |   |
|  |  |  |  |

**April 2020**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  |  |  1 Supper, 6:00 ? Lenten vespers, 7:00 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5Sunday School, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30, Palm SundayPurple | 6 | 7 | 8Pr. Tom in LindyChurch council, 7:00 | 9Holy Week worship, 7:00Maundy ThursdayPurple | 10Good Friday | 11 |
| 12No Sunday SchoolWorship, 10:30, The Resurrection of our Lord, Easter SundayWhite | 13 | 14 | 15Pr. Tom in LindyWomen’s meeting, 10:00Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19Sunday School, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion (continuous), 10:30Final first Communion instruction after worshipWhite | 20 | 21 | 22Pr. Tom in LindyConfirmation class,5:15-6:45 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26Sunday School, 9:30Adult education, 9:30Worship, 10:30White | 27 | 28 | 29 30 Pr. Tom in LindyConfirmation class,5:15-6:45  |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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