

News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church

March 2025

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Message	1-2
Lenten Sermon Topics	2
Every One His Witness.....	3
LWML News.....	5
Stewardship	6
Devotion of the Month	7
Calendar.....	9

Christian Symbols



Nails

Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



Shamrock

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

Remember that You Are Dust...

Encore Post: Ash Wednesday works like kind of a speed bump in the lives of Christians. After celebrating the birth of Jesus, listening to the ways in which God revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Son, seeing him in his full glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, we're tempted to bask in the glory of God's grace and love. Yet still our stubborn, Old Adam or Old Eve clings to us and threatens to take over our lives. Lest we forget, Lent comes to help us discipline ourselves, repent of our sin and live life, trusting in God and his promises. Ash Wednesday greets us with the words God spoke to Adam — and to us — when imposing the curse that resulted from the first sin: "Remember that you are dust and to the dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19)

This phrase is a part of the ancient discipline of remembering mortality. (*Memento mori* — "Remember death") It is the conscious meditation on the cold, hard truth that all the pleasures and blessings of life are temporary, and that death comes to all of us, often suddenly. Ash Wednesday calls on us to stop what we are doing; consider the damage our sin does in our lives — both now and eternally. The collect for the day sets the



tone: "Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

Repentance is more than saying you're sorry. The Greek word the New Testament uses for repentance is *μετάνοια* means "to completely change your mind." It includes recognizing your sins, being sorry for them and to stop doing them. All of this is only possible for Christians

(continued)

MARCH



4 Carol Croft

20 Tom & Annette Greenwald

because it is the work of the Holy Spirit that makes us holy. Ash Wednesday wakes us up, reminds us how to use the disciplines of fasting, prayer and meditation, gives us the forgiveness of sins through confession, absolution and the Lord's Supper. It sets the tone for our forty-day meditation. It marks our sorrow with the ashes of the palms from the previous Palm Sunday and with the sign of the Holy Cross, reminds us of the redemption that is ours in the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus.

May God grant you a blessed meditation on the suffering and death of Jesus that you will be well prepared to celebrate with joy the coming Easter celebration.

Rev. Robert E. Smith
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana



Service Themes for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Ash Wednesday is on **March 5**. This most special worship service always includes the imposition of ashes to remind us of our sinfulness; and also Holy Communion, where we receive the Body & Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ and His forgiveness of those sins for which we have just repented.

I hope you can join us each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m.

The six Wednesday services will feature a Six-Part Series on the Lord's Prayer. **The theme for the series is "A Prayer for All Seasons."** We will begin with the Fifth Petition under the heading of "Seasons of Needing Forgiveness."

The next Wednesday will return to the First Petition, and we will continue in order from then on.

The titles for each of those services will be as follows:



- "Seasons of Lifting Up the Lord."
- "Seasons of Wondering Who's in Control."
- "Seasons of Seeking God's Will."
- "Seasons of Thanks for Simple Things."
- and finally,
- "Seasons of Standing Up to Evil."

During the six Sundays of Lent and Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, we will be blessed to have a Nine-Part series on Job, titled "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord!"

The nine service titles are:

- "Flying Blind"
- "Sweet Surrender"
- "Learning to Lament"
- "It Is Enough"
- "Understanding How it All Works Together"
- "God Speaks in the Storm"
- "On Earth Is Not His Equal"
- "Tearing Down the Spite House" and for Easter Sunday,
- "I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"



Again, I hope everyone can take the time to give thanks to the Lord by worshiping Him during this special time of the year! And I don't mind asking for your prayers that I remain

healthy and focused on Christ's Word. I do so enjoy serving such a wonderful congregation. In Christ's Love,
Pastor Gary Brandt

Seek

Seek A Connection With Head, Heart, of Hands
(Seek a connection based on how a person connects and communicates)

When seeking to make a connection with a person, it is helpful to recognize whether that person connects through the head, heart, or hands.

A person who connects at the HEAD level is going to be interested in ideas and concepts on an intellectual level. You will gain attention by putting forth propositions that can be discussed and

debated – much like Paul did with the philosophers at the Areopagus.

Connecting at the HEART level calls for addressing ideas and concepts on an emotional level. A HEART person is less interested in discussing concepts and ideas and is more interested in discussing what feels right and what brings a sense of peace.

A HANDS-connecting person doesn't want to spend much time talking about ideas and concepts. Instead he will want to act on them. There is certainly a place to discuss ideas and concepts at the hand level, but the discussion should focus on practical applications- and needs to be oriented toward doing something that will have a positive impact.



When you seek to connect with a person, remember to consider and address the way in which the person connects and communicates- not how you prefer to connect and communicate.

Next Month: Seek the Holy Spirit.

by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry
The LASSIE Approach To Witnessing (Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite, Encourage)

Support Schedules

Elder

Altar Guild

March	Larry Trick	
April	Jeff Hedberg	Diane Borgmann
May	Jeff Emery	
June	Larry Trick	
July	Jeff Hedberg	Dawn Hedberg
August	Jeff Emery	Cindy Niebur
September	Larry Trick	
October	Jeff Hedberg	
November	Jeff Emery	Paula Emery
December	Larry Trick	Dawn Hedberg
Minister	Rev. Gary Brandt	
Organists	Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab	

Ushers

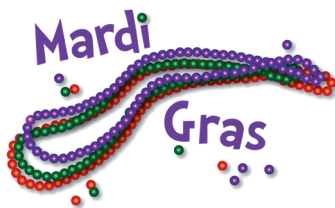
1st Sunday	Robert & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels
2nd Sunday	Earl Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Diane Borgmann, Rodney Schulz
4th Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz
5th Sunday	Robert Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg

Counters

1st Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg
2nd Sunday	Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Brett & Cindy Niebur/Pudge McCloud
4th Sunday	Matt & Deb Mayes
5th Sunday	Pudge McCloud

The Season of Lent

Encore Post: “Mardi Gras” — “Fat Tuesday” or “Carnival” — “Farewell to meat” — are names given to the days full of parties just before Lent. In Christian countries, people celebrated these days, knowing that with the beginning of Lent, they would spend forty days fasting. By the time of the Reformation, the season of Lent had become a very somber time of self-denial, where repentance, meditation upon the sufferings and death of Jesus, dominated the everyday life of Christians. In order to earn some merit before God, the serious believer would not only fast, but give alms to the poor, go on pilgrimages and do anything they thought would please God.



This way of looking at Lent is very different from the way it was seen during the Early Church. The season arose as a part of the process of becoming a Christian. A new convert to the faith spent forty days being taught the basic truths of God’s word, especially about the life, sufferings and death of the Lord Jesus. Forty days is the symbolic period of testing, fasting and discipline done to focus a believer’s mind on prayer and meditation on God’s word. Since the customary day to baptize new Christians moved early on from the day celebrating the Baptism of our Lord to the Vigil of Easter (Holy Saturday), *catechumens* (new Christians studying the faith) and their *Catechists* (teachers of the faith) would fast the forty weekdays prior to Easter each year. Since Sundays are always a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, they would not fast on the Sundays. They found the practice to be a great blessing and so the whole church soon began to fast with them. Ash Wednesday, therefore, begins Lent, which lasts until Holy Saturday.

Lutherans reformed the practice of Lent, so that rather than being a season of sorrow, it is a season of discipline. Beginning in repentance for sins with Ash Wednesday, it continues in quiet reflection on the basic teachings of the Christian faith. When the Church comes to Holy Week, then it turns to be a witness to the events of our salvation, leading us to Easter and the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and the promise of everlasting life it brings.

For the most part, we will use this Lent to talk about the basics of the faith as Martin Luther explains it in the *Small Catechism*. May God bless you as you meditate and pray during this season of Lent.

Rev. Robert E. Smith
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana



Welcome!



Sunday, February 2, Ned Soseman became a member of our Peace family. Welcome to Peace.

New Cross



At the January 26 voters’ meeting, voters approved the metal cross that hangs in the Narthex made by Pat Callahan.

First Meeting

Our first meeting for 2025 will be held on March 10 at 9 a.m. in the church dining hall. The roll call word is know-ledge.

The 2025 calendars are also available.

Come to the Heartland

Registration for the national convention will be **open** on **March 1**. The National Convention will be held June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, NE.

Mites Collection

Sunday, February 2, our Pocket Change for Mites collected \$18.99. Thank You!! Our **next collection** will be **Sunday, March 2**.



Choice Dollars

Thrivent members have until March 31 to direct their Choice Dollars if they haven't done so yet. Call Julie at the Thrivent office in Osage Beach.

Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of _____."

A. flowers B. sheep C. rocks D. bones

Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.)



Spring ahead one hour Saturday night March 8 before going to bed.

Church Bulletin Bloopers

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

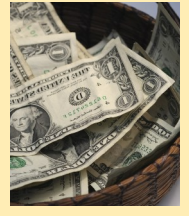
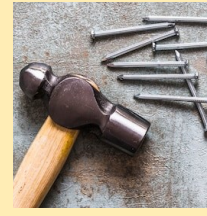


United in Marriage

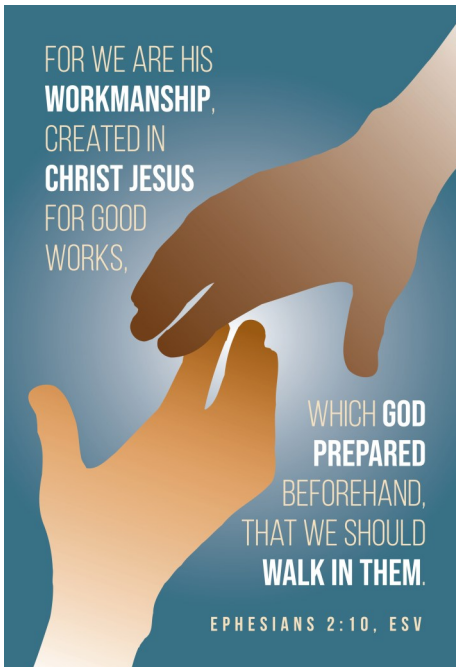
Tammy Snell and Kyle Wright were united in marriage on Friday, February 14 here at Peace. We wish them God's blessings! Photo submitted by Diane Borgmann.



Stewardship



God's Instruments, God's Stewards



Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are

compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

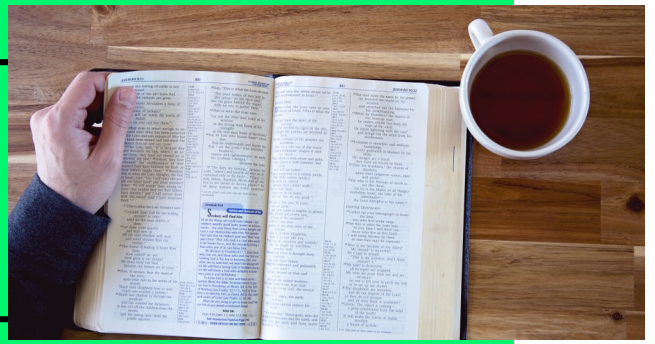
These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

Reprinted from the LCMS Stewardship website



March Devotion



Did I Miss Something?

But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20

Did I miss something?

It seems I remember how the media spent days reporting the sad antics of a Christian pastor that was going to burn the Koran.

And I also remember how they endlessly shared the story of a splinter Christian group who made an unacceptable scene at the burial of American soldiers killed overseas.

And I can recall how, when a Christian youth pastor burned phonograph records and CDs, which contained immoral lyrics, the story was carried from coast to coast.

Which is why I expected to see similar press given when the organization called Backyard Skeptics promised to tear apart copies of Bible verses they felt were immoral. According to the leader of the atheist group, the event which took place at Huntington Beach Pier in California was not designed to be offensive. They were only going to tear up copies of pages of the Bible.

That was the promise.

According to those who were there, the leader, playing to the cameras, went beyond tearing up

copies of Scripture, he actually ripped a few pages out of a Bible as he made his closing statements to the crowd.

Yes, I expected to see that story being flashed over the TV and the internet. I was sure the idea of someone tearing apart a book, especially the Bible, would be universally condemned. After all, if I took an immoral novel and tore it apart or condemned a pornographic website, I know many voices would be raised to criticize my narrow-mindedness.

So, why didn't I hear anything about this event? Two possibilities suggest themselves:

Possibility number one: I missed all the reports.

Possibility number two: The media loves to condemn and criticize Christians who take a stand more than it does atheists who do the same.

Centuries ago, Peter and John found that the religious institution and not the media wanted them to keep quiet and stop their proclamation of the crucified and risen Savior. When they were told to shut up and sit down, they replied, "We



cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

In our age when the foibles and failings of Christians are reported with greater enthusiasm than our witness, the apostle's reply still seems valid. Denominations, congregations and individuals all ought to confess: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

And what we have seen and heard is Jesus Christ -- crucified and risen.

The Prayer: Dear Lord, the Savior came into this world to seek and save sinners. When He ascended, He asked me to tell His story with the lost. In spite of prejudice and persecution, help me -- like the apostles -- to speak of what we have heard and seen. This I pray in my Savior's Name. Amen.

Pastor Ken Klaus (Pastor Klaus 1948-2023 former speaker of The Lutheran Hour® Lutheran Hour Ministries

WORSHIP

SCHEDULES

Sunday Worship* 9:00 am
Bible Class/Sun. School 10:30 am

Wednesday Evening Services:

- Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm
- During Lent 6:00 pm
- During Advent 6:00 pm

Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday* 6:00 pm
- Good Friday Service 6:00 pm
- Easter Sunday* 9:00 am

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Evening Service 6:00 pm
*Holy Communion

The Lord's Servants

- **Elders—First Sunday of Each Month**
Chairman: Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Larry Trick
- **Council—2nd Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm**
 - ♦ **President:** Brock Kliever (two yr term)
 - ♦ **Vice President:** Noah Estes (fill vacancy for one yr)
 - ♦ **Secretary:** Susan Kral (two yr term)
 - ♦ **Financial Secretary:** Brett Niebur
 - ♦ **Treasurer:** Peggy Callahan (two yr term)
- **Stewardship:** Dawn Hedberg
- **Evangelism:** Cindy Kaminski (finishing term)
- **Education:** Open
- **Organists:** Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab
- **Trustees:** Kyle Wright, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan
Chuck Kral
- **LWML—2nd Monday from March—Nov. 9:00 am**
Co-Presidents: Dawn Hedberg and Cindy Niebur
Altar Guild: Dawn Hedberg
- **Bible Studies** As announced
- **Elected Offices**

Council Meeting for February

Due to inclement weather, the council meeting was canceled for the month of February.

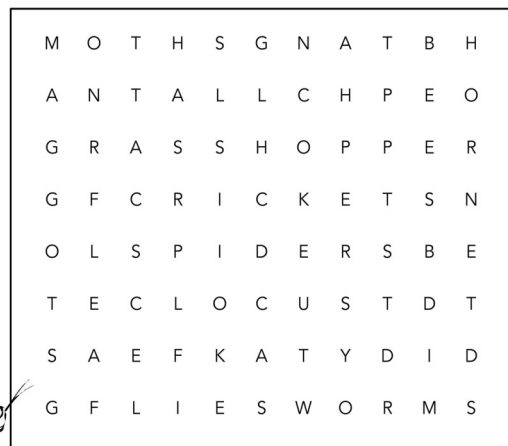
The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 _____
- Psalms 78:45 _____
- Matthew 23:24 _____
- Judges 14:8b _____
- Acts 12:23 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Deuteronomy 7:20 _____
- Exodus 16:20 _____
- 1 Samuel 24:14 _____
- Isaiah 50:9 _____
- Isaiah 59:5 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

M



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Elders Mtg. Mites Collection	3	4	5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Services 6 p.m.	6	7	8
9 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	10 LWML Mtg 9 a.m. Roll call word knowledge	11 Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	12 Lenten Service 6 p.m.	13	14	15
16 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	17 Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m.	18	19 Lenten Service 6 p.m.	20 First Day of Spring 	21	22
23 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	24	25	26 Lenten Service 6 p.m.	27	28	29
30 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	31	 <p><i>News of Peace</i> is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-8141; Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: plccamdenton@gmail.com; Website: www.plccamdenton.org; Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church—Camdenton—Greenville—Missouri Our Mission: "We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."</p>				