

Covenant News



March 2023

Pastor's Spin



Siblings in Christ of Covenant, Greetings! On March 2, the wider church celebrates John and Charles Wesley, both of whom died in the late 1700's. For a bit of background, from our worship resource, *Sundays & Seasons*:

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to

the formation of the Methodist Church.

And yes, even we Lutherans will celebrate the Methodists. Actually, my brother made the switch from growing up in the Lutheran church, like the rest of us in the family, to the good 'ole Methodists. He did so shortly after college, I believe. I'm not sure if there was any particular reason. Perhaps it was the convenience of location with this particular Methodist congregation base being close to home, especially since my brother isn't exactly the type to show up early, to put it mildly. But I know he also connected rather well with the pastor serving there at the time.

I first met that pastor for my brother's wedding. He almost looked like he was straight out of the times of the Wesley brothers, with an Einstein-like wavy hair, appearing as if he spent the majority of time writing theological treatises with enough wisdom to fill the entire church building and the surrounding neighborhood. Except, he was the gentlest soul, not in any way trying to make you impressed with however many years he poured into being a pastor and whatever other accomplishments (he ended up writing a book, oddly enough). But he did something during that wedding that I haven't seen done since, and so has stuck with me.

When it came time for the exchanging of rings between my brother and his now-wife, the pastor did a special blessing, but then he insisted on the rings being passed around not just to the several of us in the wedding party, but to absolutely everyone out in the pews, too. And trust me, my brother, would not be the type to usually go along with something like this. There would be worries about germs from someone randomly coughing all over them, people accidentally dropping them to the ground and falling into some heating vent, or what about a complete

stranger being in the sanctuary to just come in and take them away. And yet, there the rings went...to absolutely everyone in the space.

The idea was for everyone there to have their own way of blessing the young couple. That as they eventually put their rings on each other's fingers, they would also be putting on our support, our encouragement, our love for them. Sometimes, we do something similar with the laying on of hands for young people as they affirm their baptism for Confirmation, or those who become ordained to serve as leaders in the church, or those who are moving as they depart that respective congregation, among other things. There is something to be said for feeling that support, that encouragement, that love.

Granted, not everyone is a fan of such touchy-feely-ness, and that's fine, but such sense of community cannot be overlooked during this season of Lent. It is a time that we sometimes make rather individual-focused because of certain things we want to refrain from or add on for forty days. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but with any modifications we wish to make along the entire journey of faith, God never expects we need to do so alone. This journey we call Lent is meant to be communal, too. After all, sometimes we feel God's support, encouragement, and love through our siblings in Christ, whether they be those of our home congregation, other Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, or whomever else. We not only go with the Lord throughout these forty days and beyond, we go with all children of God, with all our worries, with all joys; all sustained by the support and encouragement and love brought to life on earth in fellow church members and complete strangers and ultimately in the Lord of us all. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/2 Alexandra King

3/2 Claudia Senderak

3/2 Marie Prendergast

3/4 Scott Spychola

3/5 Maren Dickey

3/11 Harry Werner

3/16 Deena Gaglione-Hernandez

3/19 Christopher Gaglione

3/24 Avery Lockmiller

3/24 Daralynn Constant

3/30 Toni Ridgell

3/31 Vanessa Petrakos(Besednjak)



Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 6PM at Covenant

Palm Sunday

April 2, 9AM at Covenant

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 7PM at Lutheran Church of the Master

Good Friday

April 7, 7PM at Covenant

Easter Sunday

April 17

Easter Vigil: 7AM

Resurrection of Our Lord Eucharist: 9AM



For all the Wednesdays in March, at 6pm, you are invited to join us for soup suppers concluding with a short service, both downstairs in our fellowship hall. The worship will be based on a midweek Lent series of "Making Change," as a reminder of all the changes made in our lives (some beyond our control), the constant not only remains God, but God's steadfast love and grace. So, you are invited to join us for soup as well as the ultimate soul-soothing Gospel!

FREE community MEAL

Our next FREE community meal will be Thursday, March 23 (5-6PM). We are doing dine-in only in our fellowship hall.

Covenant Lutheran Women's annual plant sale will still be taking place this spring. Arlene Lasher is planning to have our annual plant sale, and should have order forms for sale during our midweek Lenten meals.



It's already time to order Easter lilies in memory or appreciation of your loved ones through our altar guild for our worship on Easter Sunday. The lilies will be \$10 each, and the ordering deadline is Sunday, March 19. We ask that you submit your payment when ordering, and see Claudia Senderak or Jen in the office.



On the weekend of March 18/19, we will join the wider church in celebrating Joseph, guardian of Jesus. He is often overlooked in his role in shaping the Messiah through his youth, and so he serves as a reminder of the role we all play in shaping other children of God, whether our impact may be remembered or not. Regardless, we have a transformational Gospel to share with the world!

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

-Irish Blessing-

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day



The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

March 2023

Sunday Servers AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten soup & service	2	3 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	4 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 pm Saturday Service
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck, Jane Skowronski	5 9:00 am Second Sunday in Lent	6 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout meeting in Nursery	7 1:30pm Worship & Music Meeting 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	8 6:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten soup & service	9	10 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	11 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck, Jane Skowronski	12 9:00 am Third Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time	13	14 7:00 Council Meeting in Parlor 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	8 6:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten soup & service	16	17 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	18 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 pm Saturday Service
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	19 9:00 am Fourth Sunday in Lent	20 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout meeting in Nursery	21 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	22 6:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten soup & service	23 Community Meal Pick-Up 4:30-6:00 pm	24 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	25 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	26 9:00am Fifth Sunday in Lent	27	28 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	29 6:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten soup & service	30	31 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	April 1 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 pm Saturday Service

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19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

