

GOOD NEWS FROM CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH



February
2021

Reflections from Pastor Johnson



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.
Nehemiah 9:1-2

As Lutheran Christians, we look to the Bible for many things—certainly to learn about Jesus and God’s love in Him, to understand our history as Christians, to learn about God and what He desires for us. All that said, we want to measure up our lives—our thoughts, words, and deeds—to the scriptures. We strive to be biblical people. We Celebrate Easter because it’s in Scripture and because it’s a very important part of our faith. We celebrate Christmas for the same reason, and Epiphany, and Good Friday, and the list goes on.

But what about Lent? Nowhere in Scripture will you find an Old Testament “The Festival of Lent” like you would find “The Festival of Booths” or whatnot. (For that matter, nowhere in scripture do you find the word “Trinity,” but that’s a topic for another article!) But observing Lent as a 40-day period prior to Easter dates back to the fourth century after Christ—that’s an old tradition! And understanding the purpose of Lent, the core practices date back to the first book of the Bible! At its core, Lent (which comes from an Old English word for “springtime”) is about preparation: confessing sins, mourning our sinfulness, recognizing our need for a savior, and prayer. All of those are strong biblical themes and activities that date back to the first chapters of Genesis. In the Nehemiah passage above, as the People of Israel have returned from the Babylonian Exile, as they are rebuilding and rededicating the temple (preparing for their Lord), they pause to: confess, mourn, recognize, and pray. They even also wear special clothes (sackcloth and ashes/dirt) and do special preparatory things (fast).

Continued on page 2 -

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15 AM Worship
10:30 AM Children’s Sunday
School
10:40 AM Adult Bible Study

Rev. Russell Johnson

(586)342-1384

Email: givenforyou@gmail.com

Rev. George Hamilton

Pastor Emeritus

Lenten Devotionals
will be available Sun-
day February 14

Lenten Services @
4:30
Ash Wednesday 17th
Holy Communion

Midweek
Feb 24, Mar 3, 10,
17,24



Reflections from Pastor Johnson - continued from page 1

So this Lenten season, as we prepare for Easter—prepare for our Lord—I encourage you to do some preparation. Maybe it looks like *giving up something for Lent*—but if you do that, think of *why* you do it. If you fast, don't do it to show off, as our Lord bids us avoid in Matthew 6. *But maybe this season, read a special Lenten devotion, continue or start reading through the Bible in one year, using the checklist I distributed here at Christ Our Savior, spend some more time in prayer, (joining us on Facebook or in person for our Wednesday noon prayer). Prepare for The Lord's Day Divine Service by watching one of our weekly YouTube devotions and/or reading about our Hymn of The Day and listening to the hymnody that you will sing with one voice at the Worship Service and all week long.* Also, we can take a page from Nehemiah and confess the sins of our fathers. Our family trees all have a lot of sin. If we don't confess it, who will? And if God doesn't forgive it, who will?

In Christ and His Service,
Pastor Johnson



Lutheran Bible Translators

In August of 2020 a milestone was reached. A milestone to celebrate the 700th Full Bible Translated! "I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6

5.7 billion people now have access to the complete Word of God in their language. That's 80% of the global population with ALL of Scripture in the language they think in, dream in and pray in!

Becky Grossmann serves us at COS as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa and appreciates our prayers and support to fulfill our desires at COS to "TELL THEM"

Becky.Grossmann@LBT.org

Our Response to God's Grace

General Fund Received	General Fund Needed	Over/(Under)
1/3/21 \$3630	\$3996	
1/10/21 Closed due to Covid	\$3996	
1/17/21 \$4546	\$3996	
1/24/21 <u>\$2656</u>	<u>\$3996</u>	
\$10832	\$15984	(\$5152)

We are pleased to announce that Helen Travis has graciously accepted to take over the coordination of freezer meals for our shut-ins.

If you are interested in helping, you may contact Helen @

Home phone 616—335-5145

Cell phone 616-834-8629



COS LWML News

Ladies you have an opportunity to join in on the fun every Thursday @ 11:30 am or once a month the second Tuesday of the Month @ 6 pm

- Every Thursdays 11:30 am lunch and projects.
- Second Tuesday every month 6:00pm-7:30 pm Bible Study/Devotion, food, fellowship and projects.



Thrivent members



Please check your Thrivent Choice Dollars to see if you qualify for any funds to transfer. If not transferred by end of March they will be absorbed by Thrivent. There are hundreds of choice, COS being one. Thank you for being a Thrivent Member. - Terry Reimink



Financial Secretary Highlights

We were able to trim this year's budget by \$5000 and to meet our budget we need \$3996 weekly to operate. You may send contributions to COS 3151 N 120th Ave. Holland MI 49424 or set up a bill pay through your bank. Many are doing this when they cannot attend. We thank God for everyone who contributes. From Gen 28:22 "And this stone which I (Jacob) have set a pillar shall be God's house, of all that You (God) give me I will surely give a tenth to You". Try being a Jacob. May God continue to bless you this year.

Bruce Campbell, Financial Secretary

LWML EVENING MEETING by Helen Travis

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 9 @ 6:00 pm, **Lord willing!** Join us for a short Bible study, a snack, putting together hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train, and getting reacquainted . Bring 1. your Bible 2. Your mites 3. knitting or crocheting (if you want to keep your hands busy) 4. one or two items to use in hygiene kits . Hygiene kit items needed are a. bath towel and/or wash cloth (dark color recommended) b. bath-size bar of soap c. toothbrush d. sturdy comb e. Band-Aids (1/2" or 3/4"). Think about how Covid has made a positive impact in your life (possibly a new tradition for the holidays?) and we'll exchange thoughts!

Christmas Card Adventure - Jane Martinsen

Last year I challenged you to a Christmas Jar adventure. Because I don't live in a neighborhood where I could put the jar on a doorstep, I turned the Christmas Jar into a Christmas Card adventure. I put away a \$1 a day (\$21 every 3 Sundays, and then divided that into 6 envelopes. God led me to the people to give the cards and money to. I gave the cards to 3 different homeless men, cards to 2 families ahead of me in the checkout lane and 1 family headed by a single father. I feel really blessed that with God's encouragement, I could do this.

Kathryn Mackey, our Parish Nurse will be doing blood pressure screenings February 14 & 28 following the worship service, Lord



We need your help

This month we especially need applesauce, pudding cups and small juice boxes. You can find little juice boxes at Dollar General 4/\$1

- ◆ Breakfast - applesauce, Pop Tarts, granola bars (No oatmeal needed this month)
- ◆ Snacks - fruit cups, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, cookies



A Social knitting and crocheting group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday @ 1:30 pm until 3:30. Bring any or all of your UFOs (Unfinished Objects) with you and sit and chat. There is interest in learning to knit socks so we will begin a class the next time we meet February 9th. You will need 100 grams of Superwash 80% wool and 20% nylon and a pair of size 2 - 40" circular needles. See Ann Campbell with any questions. All are welcome to bring a friend

who enjoys or wants to learn to knit or crochet.



Pastor John Panning Memorials

If you wish to make a gift in his memory, Helen has chosen three as follows:

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Holland

Concordia Seminary
Attn: Advancement
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105

The LCMS Michigan District
3773 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Or

Gifts may also be made online at
michigandistrict.org

The Divine Service and our Liturgy

Gospel Lesson

First, the Gospel lesson is announced. In the Gospel lesson, we will hear the Good News of how Christ has fulfilled the Old Testament and given the perfect life that He lived, unto death for our sins. We rise during Divine Service, as it is announced as the Gospel for the day. We stand in reverence to Christ's presence in His very Word. What is more, not only do we hear the words of Christ, through the working of the Holy Spirit through the spoken Word, we are given the Word of Life - Jesus Christ. And so we respond in expectation of hearing this good news, singing, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord."

The Gospel lesson is read, God's good news comes to us, and it is announced, "Here endeth the Gospel." Jesus words have rung in our ears, we have heard of His marvelous deeds for us and our salvation, and so, the congregation responds in joyous praise, "Praise be to Thee, O Christ."

In Christ and His Service,

Pastor Johnson

"The devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God....Music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. Then one forgets all wrath, impurity, and other devices."

— Martin Luther

LOCAL BENEVOLENCES

February - Lakeshore Pregnancy Center

Services offered are: limited medical for expectant mom's, Men's Ministry for expectant fathers, Sexual Health Education, Prenatal Education,

Worship for at home folks

Worship Anew

11:30 A.M. on local cable channel 54 or Xfinity channel 21

Or

www.cosholland.com

by going to the "Sermons & Media" section

Lutheran Hour radio – Sunday morning broadcast

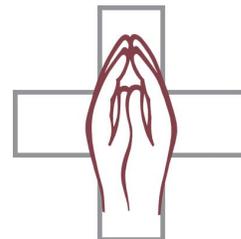
Worship Service Readers

Please check your calendars and sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board if you would like to read the Old Testament and Epistle Lessons for the Divine Service. Pastor Johnson will meet with you and go over the Readings the week before you are assigned.

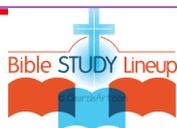


THE CONFESSIONS CORNER—Pastor Johnson

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)



Spiritual discipline; training your heart, mind and body on things of The Lord. I rejoice that so many of you have joined me in reading through the Holy Scriptures in 2021. I have included readings from the ESV on our YouTube channel using the checklist we are following. Now you may be asking yourself what reading through the Bible in one year has to do with the confessional corner and our Lutheran Confessions as found in the Book of Concord. Well as I said last month. To be a Lutheran is to be one who honors the Word of God. That Word makes it clear that it is God’s desire for His Church to be in agreement about doctrine and to be of one mind, living at peace with one another (1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor.13:11). It is for that reason that we so treasure the precious confession of Christian truth that we have in the Book of Concord. So having said that you will find also on our YouTube channel along with reading through the Bible in one year a reading through the Book Of Concord in one year. The YouTube videos will be in 52 weeks each including five sessions about 50 minutes each video. This reading plan can be found in the front of “The Readers Edition of The Book Of Concord” from CPH. Also I made a few copies and put them on the back table along with the reading through the Bible checklist. I pray that we can continue as we are told in the book of Hebrews “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25). May the peace of The Lord be with you always.



Men’s Saturday Bible Study at 9:30 AM – They are studying the prophet Zechariah. He wrote a short book, but it is packed with promises and plans for God. We might title it “Trusting God in Tough Times.” The message was to citizens of Jerusalem 500 years before Jesus, but the message applies well for America in 2021. Currently using Zoom. Contact George Hamilton @ 616-566-9519 to connect.

Sunday Mornings

Children’s Sunday School - 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Study 10:40 AM

Wednesday

Bible Study “Lutheran Spirituality” 11 am

Thursday 10:00 am in person & 7:00 pm Zoom

Bible Study - Exodus. Contact Mary Ann Hamilton if interested marhamilton42@sbcglobal.net

Read through the Bible in one year. Copies are available on the tables at the back.

In February, the **Operation Christmas Shoebox** collection is accessories. You may still contribute to January’s collection of hats, scarfs, and mittens or put your gift of knitting or crocheting for others by making items that can be put in the shoebox. Thank you for all your support in 2020. We filled 70 boxes





"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

2020 Church Personnel and Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Russell Johnson

Cell Phone: (586)342-1384

Email: givenforyou@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant, Ann Campbell

Cell Phone: (269)903-5708

Email work: coshlld@sbcglobal.net

Email home: bacampbell99@hotmail.com

Custodian, George Lee

Phone: (616)294-1652

Church Council

President, Jean Vizithum Phone: (616)886-0036

Vice President, Rob Shinsky Phone: (616)953-9125

Head Elder, Tom Nunheimer Phone (616)994-9558

Secretary, MaryAnn Hamilton Phone: (616)566-1421

Financial Sec Bruce Campbell Phone: (269)355-1274

Treasurer, Lila Overbeek Phone: (231)740-1613

Stewardship,

Education, Jenni Brinker Phone: (616)502-5932

Evangelism, Pat VanSlooten Phone: (616)402-3462

Missions, Esther Klug Phone: (269)561-2925

Ministries and Outreach, Shari Atkinson

Phone: (616)399-5751

Youth Director

Carol Garnsey

Phone: (616) 772-9763

Cell: (616) 566-2190

Christian Life Coordinator,

Ann Campbell

Phone: (269)903-5708

Nursery Coordinator

Rhea Burghuis

Phone: (616)566-2850

Elders

Head Elder, Tom Nunheimer Phone: (616)994-9558

Vice Chairman, Art Fenrich Phone: (269)751-8323

Elder, John Bareman Phone: (616)403-8061

Elder, Heath Brinker Phone: (616)502-5932

Trustee Chair and Board

Trustee Chair, Rick Elushik Phone: (616)748-5693

Phone: (616)212-1859

John Bareman

Phone: (616)403-8061

Ken Reimink

Phone: (616)566-0196

Peter Schraudt

Phone: (616)610-0419

Ray Crockford

Phone: (616)218-3997

Pianist

Ginny Liao

Organists

Cathy Roush

Phone: (616)392-9537

Helen Travis

Phone: (616)335-5145



February

BIRTHDAYS

3 - Jenni Brinker
Brigham Brinker

4 - Bruce Campbell

7 - Whitney Kesler

8 - Mark Johnson

12 - Peter Schraudt

14 - Ginny Liao

18 - Kevin Meschke

19 - Marley Berghuis

24 - Alexandria Simmons

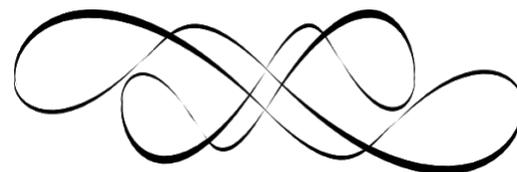
25 - John Roush
Derrick Simmons

26 - Kent Rowan

27 - Patty Elushik

29 - Ray Crockford

May God bless this day with
more love than your heart
can hold.





	<u>READERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>	<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>
Feb 7	Jenni	Jean	Shari	Shari/Jane	Ann
Feb 14	Jean	Bonnie	Shari	Shari/Jane	Jane
Feb 21	Rob	Campbell	Shari	Sue J/Bonnie	Rhea
Feb 28	Shari	Klug	Shari	Jean/Rob	Christie

February 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 Stephen's	3 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	4 11:30 am WSCOS	5	6 9:30 Men's Bible Study
7 9:15 Communion Sunday School & Bible Study	8	9 6:30 LWML	10 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	11 11:30 am WSCOS	12	13 9:30 Men's Bible Study
14 9:15 Worship Sunday School or Bible Study	15	16 6:30 Elders 7 Council	17 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	18 11:30 am WSCOS	19	20 9:30 Men's Bible Study
21 9:15 Communion Sunday School & Bible Study	22	23	24 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	25 11:30 am WSCOS	26	27
28 9:15 Worship Sunday School or Bible Study						

**CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3151 North 120th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

Phone 616-738-0100
Website: www.cosholland.com

Rev. Russell Johnson
Cell: (586)342-1384
Email: givenforyou@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service 9:15 am
Midweek 12:00 pm
Children's Sunday School 10:30 am
Adult Bible Class 10:40 a.m.

"Receive God's Grace
Grow God's Kingdom
Share God's Word
Live Christ's Love"