



ORFORDVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

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NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



Pastor's Corner

Dear Orfordville Lutheran Friends,

As we head into Lent, I thought I would share a few things with you about this upcoming church season. During Wednesday worship in Lent we will be looking at people who interact with Jesus during the days leading up to the crucifixion. These people include: the disciple Peter, Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and the Roman Soldiers. Each one of these people had their own unique interaction with Jesus and what it meant that Jesus is the Son of God.

But before we get to this list of people during Lent, we kick off the season with Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, March 2nd. This worship service will follow a more traditional Ash Wednesday format. I have been asked what Ash Wednesday is about? On the ELCA website, under Frequently Asked Questions, I found information that I thought was helpful. I share this with permission of the ELCA as stated in the footnotes.

Ash Wednesday, what is it?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium (see “What are columbaria and memorial gardens?”). "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

So, we head into Ash Wednesday together, remembering we are sinners, but we are also loved by God and have faith in our God and we hold to the promise of new life that we will celebrate together on Easter.

Peace,

Pastor Tom

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A Reflection – Psalm 34
By Pastor Tom Kreis

Psalm 34: 7-14

The angel of the Lord encamps
 around those who fear him, and delivers them.
 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
 happy are those who take refuge in him.
 O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
 for those who fear him have no want.
 The young lions suffer want and hunger,
 but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
 Come, O children, listen to me;
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
 Which of you desires life,
 and covets many days to enjoy good?
 Keep your tongue from evil,
 and your lips from speaking deceit.
 Depart from evil, and do good;
 seek peace, and pursue it.

In my last couple years of high school, I went to church reluctantly. There were a lot of reasons. The first and foremost reason was I wasn't really sure what I believed and what I was hearing in church. That was a long time ago and as I reflect, I wonder what my younger self would think about me being a pastor now? I am pretty sure the younger version of Tom wouldn't believe it.

Hindsight they say is 20/20 and I admit that this older version of me looks back in time and I notice how God continued to be present with me, even when I didn't think God was important.

When I was a junior in high school, I was reminded of one of those God moments right in the midst of my religious rebellion. My English Literature teacher, Mr. Rasmussen, had us memorize the poem *The Tyger* by the 19th century poet William Blake. This poem had several strikes against it for me, I did not like poetry, I was really bad at memorizing, and when he introduced the poem to us, he said it spoke to questions about God. At this point in my life I was more interested in memorizing lyrics to a song or one liners from my favorite movies. Partly because I was told to and partly because the poem spoke of questions I ultimately had about God, I ended up memorizing it.

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

I will admit at this point in my life I remembered the first verses and I remembered that there were questions, but I couldn't repeat the poem without looking it up. So, I looked it up and re-read the poem, noticing all the question marks, and thinking to myself that was who I was then.

Having my own questions helped form who I am now. Yet I have changed, I have come to see the beauty of God's creation and am thankful for all of the diversity and life that surrounds us, yet I am still afraid at times and sometimes I still question the world we live.

As I was reading Psalm 34, I was reminded of this poem by Blake in that it speaks to the very nature of God. Did God create both the lamb and predatory tiger? The lamb is easy prey for a tiger and would live in fear knowing a tiger was near. In my own time of fear of very real things like war over seas, racism, family health concerns and environmental issues, I am reminded that God is present, whether we are surrounded by the angels the Psalmist mentions, or by God's love through the Spirit.

I am no different than the psalmist in that I pray that God is with me even when I am afraid. The Psalmist goes on to say that we are invited to, "depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Even when we see ourselves as the vulnerable lamb or have questions, we are invited to feel God's warm, real presence amongst us, whether we are in fear of what is happening around us, or we are out in the world seeking peace.



Updated Financial Report

YTD Income (Through January 31, 2022	\$25,862.55
YTD Expenses (Through January 31, 2022)	\$18,115.38



Upcoming Events & Announcements

Quilt Raffle Winners Announced

The drawing for our Quilt Raffle was held on February 13th. Congratulations to our winners:

- **1st Place:** Queen Size Quilt – Gloria Yaun (#1173)
- **2nd Place:** \$100.00 - Emma/Racheal Grenawalt (#1313)
- **3rd Place:** Wall Hanging - Bobbie Fiske (#1352)

Senior Luncheon – Wednesday, March 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

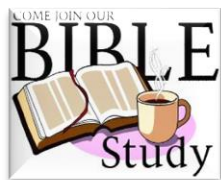
The monthly senior luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd at 11:30 a.m. in the lower level of OLC. This month's menu will be Cheeseburger Pie, Green Beans, Jello Salad and a delicious Dessert. A \$5.00 free will offering helps to defray the cost of groceries. Join in on the fun and fellowship! **Please RSVP to the Orfordville Library at 608-879-9229.**

Ash Wednesday and Beginning of Lent - Wednesday, March 2nd @ 5:30 p.m.

You are invited to join us for Ash Wednesday worship service at 5:30 p.m. on March 2. Pastor Tom will be imposing ashes at the church rail. This is a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. (Note: Lent Services at Luther Valley will be held at 6:45 p.m. All are welcome!)

Confirmation Classes During Lent

The Confirmation students are expected to attend a Lent service of their choosing, on Wednesdays, at either church: Orfordville Lutheran @ 5:30 p.m. • Luther Valley @ 6:45 p.m.



Coffee, Chocolate & The Bible – Luther Valley Church

Bible Study will move to Luther Valley for the month of March. It will take place in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. All are Welcome! **No Bible Study on March 10th**

Lutheran World Relief – Lent - A Season of Hope

Beginning on Sunday, March 6th, we're putting God's love in action by gathering items to make Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. The loss and uncertainty of COVID-19 continues to hit our poorest neighbors around the world. Let's make this a new *Season of Hope*.

- Week of March 6th – Bars of Soap (4-5 oz. in original wrapping)
- Week of March 13th – Bath-size Towels (light-weight - dark colors recommended)
- Week of March 20th - Adult-size toothbrushes (in original packaging)
- Week of March 27th - Sturdy Combs (no picks or fine toothed combs)
- Week of April 3rd - Nail Clippers

Soup Suppers During Lent - Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. – Following Evening Services

Beginning on March 9th, we'll gather at 6:15 p.m. for a simple supper of soups, bread and dessert. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for bringing food. We hope you'll join us for some warm soup during these cold winter evenings. (March 9th – April 6th)



Remember to Change Your Clocks

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13th, at 2:00 a.m. Just a reminder to set your clocks ahead one hour, on Saturday, before you turn in for the night. Otherwise...you will miss church on Sunday!

Church Council Meeting – Monday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on March 14th at 6:30 p.m. Please contact a church council member if you have an item or concern that you would like brought before the council.

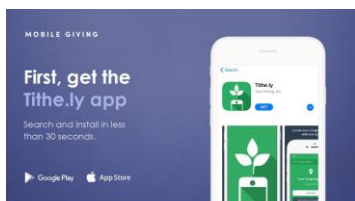
Glen Johnson – President	Patricia Boeck	Max Gerber
Racheal Grenawalt - Vice-President	Laurie Hallmark-Gianitsos	Kathy Schindler
Patti Burns – Treasurer	Ellen Pautsch	Debbie Speich
Krista Bartelt – Secretary	Seth Pautsch	

Welcome to our newly elected Council members: Debbie Speich & Kathy Schindler

Sunday School Sings in Church and Noisy Offering – March 20th

The Sunday School kids will sing in church on Sunday, March 20th. Check your couch cushions and bring your loose change to church on that day. We'll be collecting a "noisy" offering to benefit OLC's kids.

Need Offering Envelopes? – Contact the church office at 608-879-2575.




Online and Mobile Giving Available

OLC is continuing to offer online & mobile giving through Tithe.ly. Visit www.orfordvillelutheran.org and click on the “Give” tab. You may also download the Tithe.ly app on your smartphone and search for “Orfordville Lutheran.”

Thank yous and Thanksgivings:

- Thank you to Patti Burns, Glen Johnson and the rest of the Church Council for all the work to prepare for the Annual Meeting.
- Thank you to those who stepped forward to join our Church Council and Committees and to those that are continuing to serve!
- Thank you to everyone who participated in our quilt raffle! Thank you especially to Pat Burtness for making the quilt and wall hanging for the raffle!
- Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for putting on a fun day of bingo for the congregation! (Thanks for the delicious treats, too!)
- Thanks be to God for the many blessings of this past month!

March Birthdays

2	Emma Grenawalt	24	Taylor Stark	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Note:</u> <u>Please help us keep our birthday lists up to date. If you see an error or if we missed someone, send us an email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org</u></p> 
3	Deanna Vanderhei	25	Averie Rennhack	
3	Claude Klund	25	Kathy Demrow	
4	Cole Ryan	25	Glen Johnson	
8	Amelia Fenwick	26	Clarice Monk	
11	Paige (Gerber) Komoroski	27	Karol Frame	
11	Pastor Tom Kreis	27	Jason Draves	
13	Linda Hesgard	27	Brooke Bennett	
16	Megan (LaVigne) Hitt	28	Justin Speich	
16	Seth Pautsch	28	Andy Klund	
22	Julina Brown	31	Clayton Elgersma	
23	Katie Sagaitis			

Pastoral Care and Prayer

If you are facing a surgery or crisis (or if you just need someone to talk to); please reach out to Pastor Tom at 608-577-4851. If you would like to be supported in prayer, by our prayer chain, please contact Nancy Dickison at 608-879-2638 or Pastor Tom at the number above. You may also contact Pastor Tom via email at pastorkreis@gmail.com.

Attention Thrivent Members!

All final 2021 Thrivent Choice Dollars are now available to be directed. You have until 3/31 to direct any unused Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice. Please complete your direction in one of 3 ways; On-line @ www.thrivent.com , by phone @ 1-800-847-4836 or by calling your Thrivent Financial Representative. Let’s not leave these charitable dollars behind!



Sunday School Bingo - Held on February 13th





Quilt Raffle Drawing



**Baptism
Henley Ann Bunts**



MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11:30 am Senior Luncheon 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	3 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study @ LV	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting Parsonage	5
6 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	7 9:00 am Quilt Class	8	9 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup Supper	10 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. <u>No Bible Study</u>	11 7:00 pm AA Meeting Parsonage	12
13  9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	14 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg 6:30 pm Plymouth 4-H	15	16 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup Supper	17 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study @ LV <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 7:00 pm AA Meeting Parsonage	19
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 am Worship <i>Sunday School Sings & Noisy Offering</i>	21 6:00 pm LV/OLC Joint Liaison Meeting @ OLC	22	23 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup Supper	24 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study at LV	25 7:00 pm. AA Meeting Parsonage	26
27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28 2:00 pm Rock Valley Quilt Guild	29	30 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup Supper	31 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 10:00 am Bible Study at LV		