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## FROM THE PASTORS DESK

### Lent

In a few short days we will officially be in the season of Lent! So many things come along with the season of Lent. It seems to be the busiest six weeks in the Spring. We have church services every Wednesday, still have services on Sundays, not to mention State B's that happen which are a big deal to many in this area. On top of all of that, you have undoubtedly heard that you are supposed to give something up for the 40 days of Lent.

But where does this come from? Why is this practiced? Should you give something up? Scripturally, this is based on the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert being tempted by Satan. It is to Easter as Advent is to Christmas. Aside from that event, some claim that we are to give something up in order to gain some perspective and feel at least a little bit of the pain that Jesus felt and went through. Another reason that comes up when discussing the practice of giving up something for Lent is the idea of getting closer to God and doing penance.

There is a problem with many of these ideas though. Yes, Jesus did endure 40 days in the desert being tempted by the devil, but as it is written in Matthew, "... He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases." (8:17b). Christ did not come to this world, be placed under the laws of this earth so that we could copy them 2,000 years later. In fact the moment you choose to give something up to be closer to God, to feel more holy, you begin

to go deeper into the sin that Jesus came to save you from. The moment you think your action, your decision, has anything to do with God's love for you, you have broken the First Commandment. According to your logic, you now have a role in increasing your favor with God, thus attempting to have a hand in your own salvation... that is exactly what Christ died on the cross for. He died for your sin of not trusting that His promise is for you entirely. He died so that all who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). And this happened once and for all.

Maybe you do get some perspective from abstaining from a desired object/action. Maybe Lent is just a good 40 day period for you to try and break bad habits or form better new habits. If that is the case, and this is a motivational period for you, by all means, do as you please!

Now, hear these words. (And if you have someone to read these words aloud to you, I encourage you to do so): "You are my child. With you I am well-pleased. God has chosen you as His own. He is a faithful God, who keeps his promise..." (Deut. 7:9).

Prayer: God, be with me in these 40 days as you always have been and always will be. I pray that you stay true to the promise that you have given me. Help me to hear your Word and trust in your voice every day of my life. Amen.

### **March 5** 5:00PM - 9:30PM

Drop your kids off at the Parish Hall so you can have a date night! The VCIS Youth will be providing snacks and games while you enjoy a night out! Free Will donation is encouraged as the VCIS continues to fundraise for their Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO.



Thanks to all who donated to the food pantry during our share the love campaign.



6PM Soup Supper and Worship at 7PM. Location is OSLC for both congregations. Free will offering will support the VCIS mission trip in July.



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The Next Council Meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup> after Worship While it may be too late for this month, whoever needs or wants to submit anything to the newsletter just needs to go onto the

website, scroll all the way to the bottom, and click "Submit your newsletter article". If you have any photos, please put them in a Word document and be sure to label them.



The newsletter will be proofed before being sent out, don't worry. Talk to Pastor Max if you have any questions!



## Sunday Schedule

Sunday School
Bible Study 9:30AM
Nourish your bodies with breakfast and your souls with Bible study.
Dates: March 13, 20, 27 and April 3. All are welcome.
Worship Service 10:30AM
Wednesday Events

## wcuncsuay Events

We meet at Parsons Insurance. Contact Pastor Max if you would like to participate.

VCIS ... ... ... ... Resumes after Easter 

Please see the Wednesday Lenten Worship Schedule below.



## Wednesday Lenten Worship Schedule

March 2		
Time: Soup Supper	6:00PM, Service 7:00PM	Location: Our Saviors Lutheran Church
March 9		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Daryl	Location: Bethany Lutheran Church
March 16		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Kent	Location: Church of the Nazarene
March 23		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend David	Location: First Baptist Church
March 30		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Max	Location: United Methodist Church
April 6		
Time: 7:00PM	Preacher: Reverend Val	Location: Spring Valley Lutheran Church

## March Worship Helpers Schedule

#### March 6 - (Communion)

Reader	Karen Larsen
Acolytes	Brooklyn & Emily Ludens
Communion Helper	Riley Gall
Organist/Pianist	-

#### March 13

der
lytesReagan & Nora Rudd
anist/PianistAnnet Kropuenske

#### March 20 (Communion)

Reader	Faydra Christensen
Acolytes	Carston & Lincoln Mellem
Communion Helper	Parker Christensen
Organist/Pianist	Annet Kropuenske

#### March 27 (Contemporary)

Reader	Brett Mellem
Acolytes Brook	klyn & Emily Ludens
Music	Praise Band

#### **March Ushers**

Randy and Charlene Overgard Tim and Tammy Sorensen Troy and Kayla Larsen

#### Church Cleaners (March 6 & 13)

Linda Larsen, Ashley Larsen, and Kayla Larsen

#### Church Cleaners (March 20 & 27)

Kim Flint, Deanna Gall, Janet Munkvold, Anna Munkvold



## March Scripture Readings

#### Ash Wednesday (at OSLC)

Joel 2: 12-19, Psalm 51:1-13, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

#### March 13

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

#### March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

#### March 27

Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

# Spring Valley Women's Meeting January 30, 2022

12 members present Linda called the meeting to order.

Old Business was shared. Sandra Swensen made the motion to accept, seconded by Charlene Overgard to approve old business.

Linda Larsen thanked Sandra Swensen for her hard work as secretary. Linda went through installing new officers. Sandra Swensen read installation language.

Linda went over program through NALC that you can donate items, money, or gift cards to disaster relief that would stay in the U.S. Program is called "Stuff the Truck." So at meetings this year, we will Stuff the Truck with \$\$ or gift cards. Linda then discussed the four pillars of women's ministry- Study, Service, Socializing, and Support. She discussed doing things together this year that would follow these pillars. She then presented her preliminary plan for the year.

#### January

- Annual Meeting/New member dinner
- Make and pass out new women's books.

#### February

- ♦ Deliver carnations to the members in the nursing home.
- ♦ Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup>, pass out treat.
- ♦ Food collection for Food Pantry

#### March

- ♦ Ash Wednesday in town on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ♦ Serve lunch with Lenten Services.
- ♦ Bible Study for Lent.

#### April

- ♦ Lenten Services (14<sup>th</sup> –Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Easter)
- ♦ Cookies? Cupcake decorating?

#### May

- Plant flowers/church clean up outside
- ♦ May Baskets?

#### June

- ♦ Skip Day
- ♦ Progressive Supper

#### July

♦ Paint Signs

#### August

♦ General Cleaning

#### September

♦ Homecoming Bake Sale/Fundraiser

#### October

- ♦ Harvest Festival on 16<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ "Camp Out" in the parking lot.

#### November

- ♦ Thankoffering on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Have meeting to decide what to do with funds.
- Calvary Christmas gathering
- ♦ Christmas Luncheon

#### December

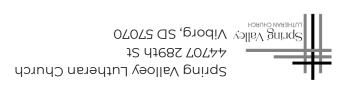
- ♦ Military Gifts
- ♦ Make kits/Christmas Party

Charlene Overgard made the motion to accept new business, Wanda Kost seconded. All agreed. Barb Larsen made motion to adjourn, Annet Kroupuenske seconded. All agreed. Minutes by Faydra Christensen

## The Great Cookie Bake

We haven't done it for a while but it always proves to be fun. We will be making cookies to give out to people around the community. Please come on March 31st at 5:30 or whatever time you are able to make it. We are looking for cookie recipes that don't dry out too fast as some are better than others. Let Tammy Sorensen know any special ingredients you may need.







# The Living Last Supper

Come witness a Holy Week event as 13 men gather to present a brief telling of the lives of Jesus and the 12 Disciples before and after their calling to follow Christ.

April 10 at 5PM Scandia Lutheran Church, Centerville

April 11 at 7:00PM Riverview Reformed Church, Yankton

April 12 at 7:00PM Spring Valley Lutheran Church, Viborg

April 13 at 7:00PM Redeemer Free Lutheran Church, Canton