

# The Church Door

## The Season Of Lent

### Did You Know?

Did you know that Lent comes from the Old English word "lencten?" Lencten is the Old English word for Spring, and describes the lengthening (Lencten = Lengthen) of the daylight.

### Lenten Prayers for our Church

Our focus during Lent this year is going to be prayer. So on Wednesday nights (7:15pm) at Lenten Vespers we'll be learning about prayer and different forms of prayer. But even if you can't make Vespers on Wednesdays I'd like you as a congregation to join me in a Lenten prayer discipline. On Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday in Lent you'll receive a half page sheet with four different prayers on it.

The prayers focus on the needs of the Church. There's a prayer for God to raise up more pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders; a prayer for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; for the Slovak Zion Synod; and for our congregation. You'll notice as you read them and pray them that they focus a lot on asking God's help with evangelism and mission. That's because I think prayer is the place we need to start if we're going to talk about, and do the work of evangelism.

So, please, join me and our council in spending Lent in prayer for the Church; that God will use us to bring Jesus to our neighbors who need the Gospel. Pray the four prayers once a day everyday during Lent. Pray them as a family at dinner, or by yourself when you get up in the morning, or go to bed in the evening. Join us in prayer!

### **Mission Statement**

We are a people of God in Christ,  
called to believe and sent to serve.



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# PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear friends in Christ,

*As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us wage our spiritual warfare.*

## Fasting in Lent?

One of the disciplines of Lent is fasting. Fasting is a Lutheran practice, because it's a biblical practice. The Lord says of His disciples in Matthew 9:15, "The days will come when the Bridegroom is taken from them, and then they will fast," and in Matthew 6:16-17 He says to the disciples, "Whenever you fast ... [and] when you fast." The Lord expects that His disciples will fast.

Fasting, especially during Lent, is never about making ourselves right with God, or earning points with Him. It's about disciplining the mind, the body, the soul by reminding ourselves that our desires for physical things don't have to control us. It reminds us to focus on what really matters, Jesus Christ. That's why Early Christians paired fasting with prayer or giving alms (giving to the poor), so that instead of fasting being negative, and being about us, the time or money that wasn't spent on food could be spent on something positive that strengthened our relationship with Jesus, and our reliance on Him.

So this Lent, why not give fasting a try? Start simply, once a week don't eat meat for a day, or eat a little less at breakfast and/or lunch. Then, take the time you save in preparing food and spend that time in prayer for someone in need, or, take the money you didn't spend on meat (even just a few cents), and put it in a jar and place it in the noisy offering on Easter morning. Go ahead! Give it a try!

Those words come from the Invitation to Lenten Discipline from the liturgy for Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when we strip Christian life back to its basics. It's a time when we're reminded once again that in a world of sin and death, being a Christian requires, well, discipline, mortification, struggle, and spiritual warfare. Warfare against things "seen and unseen."

The disciplines of Lent—Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—are disciplines, practice, and habits, which Christians have found useful in the struggle against, sin, death, and the devil. The invitation to Lenten discipline is an invitation to step back for a moment, take up the tools, the weapons, that we've forgotten and reacquaint ourselves with them. For the struggle with sin, death, and the devil is real.

As we do, we are reminded that above our struggle, standing clear against the sky is the Cross, and Christ crucified. The victory is already won, the enemy doesn't know it, or admit it, yet. And so we struggle, so we fight, not with fear, but with confidence that Christ has won the war, and through Him we will win the battle.

*I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Mike Johnson, STS*

# LESSONS & HYMNS

## February 25— The Second Sunday in Lent

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i> Janeen Pastoor		
<i>Accomp.</i> Nancy Gibson	Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16	#325— I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
<i>Guitarist</i> Barb Anderson	Psalms 22:23–31	#667— Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said
<i>Lector</i> Donna Whitehead	Romans 4:13–25	#188— Create in Me a Clean Heart
<i>Ushers</i> Michelle & Jeff Ward	Mark 8:31–38	#496— One Bread, One Body
<i>Safety</i> Ray VanderStelt & Tom Whitehead		#666— What Wondrous Love Is This
<i>Nursery</i> Donna Whitehead		
<i>Counters</i> Randy Borreson, Michelle Ward, Tom Whitehead		

## February 28—Lenten Evening Service

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i>		
<i>Accomp.</i> John Bryson		#569— The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended
<i>Lector</i>		#188— Create in Me a Clean Heart
		#746— Our Father, God in Heaven Above

## March 4— The Third Sunday in Lent

	Lessons	Hymns
<i>Deacon</i> Cindy Borreson		
<i>Accomp.</i> John Deppe	Exodus 20:1-17	#652— Built on a Rock
<i>Lector</i> Michelle Ward	Psalms 19	#650— In Christ There Is No East or West
<i>Ushers</i> Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	#188— Create in Me a Clean Heart
<i>Safety</i> Dave Justian & Jeff Ward	John 2:13-22	#337— Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed
<i>Nursery</i> Lauren Johnson		#654— The Church's One Foundation
<i>Counters</i> Tom & Donna Whitehead Cindy Borreson		

# GROUP NEWS

**The Dorcas Circle** meets on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 am. The next meeting is Thursday, March 1, at 10:00 am . A big Thank you to all of the ladies for organizing and hosting the Transfiguration Dinner on Sunday, February 11 and Thank you to all who attended! For more information on the Dorcas Circle please contact Betty Proksa.

**The Men's Club** meets for breakfast every second Saturday of the month at 9:00am for a time of fellowship and to discuss or take care of miscellaneous things around church. The next meeting is Saturday, March 10, at 9:00am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant. Contact Tom Whitehead at 231-740-2144 for more information.

**The B.I.B.L.E. Club** meets every Sunday immediately following the Children's Sermon during worship. The Children of B.I.B.L.E. Club recently held a Valentine's Cookie, Card and book mark fundraiser. All proceeds went to benefit the group's club project, Miro's Dream. Please contact Dawn Snider at 616 791-4413 for more information.



**MILITARY FAMILY**  
*Please remember those serving*  
**Master Chief Russ Tilden, Jr.**  
**United States Navy**



## Prayer List



Craig Anderson

Roger Anderson

Pari Bailey

Christine Praskac

Ryder & Tyler  
 Chartrand

Gene Fortune

Ada Filka

Sue Galekovich

Ann Hamil

Tom Hulka

Tillie Jandris

Nancy Johnson

Jan Kerekrety

Charlie Majersky

Danny Moore

# CALENDAR OBSERVANCES-FEBRUARY 2018

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

### PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophet named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child with the words of the Nunc dimittis. His song described Jesus as a "light for the nations."

Because of the link between Jesus as the light for the nations, and because an old reading for this festival contains a line from the prophet Zephaniah, "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are blessed for the coming year.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

### ANSGAR, BISHOP OF HAMBURG, MISSIONARY TO DENMARK AND SWEDEN, DIED 865

Ansgar was a monk who led a mission to Denmark and later to Sweden, where he built the first church. His work ran into difficulties with the rulers of the day, and he was forced to withdraw into Germany, where he served as a bishop in Hamburg. Despite his difficulties in Sweden, he persisted in his mission work and later helped consecrate Gothbert as the first bishop of Sweden. Ansgar had a deep love for the poor. He would wash their feet and serve them food provided by the parish.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

### THE MARTYRS OF JAPAN, DIED 1597

In the sixteenth century, Jesuit missionaries, followed by Franciscans, introduced the Christian faith in Japan. But a promising beginning to those missions—perhaps as many as 300,000 Christians by the end of the sixteenth century—met complications from competition between the missionary groups, political difficulty between Spain and Portugal, and factions within the government of Japan. Christianity was suppressed. By 1630, Christianity was driven underground.

Today we commemorate the first martyrs of Japan, twenty-six missionaries and converts who were killed by crucifixion. Two hundred and fifty years later, when Christian missionaries returned to Japan, they found a community of Japanese Christians that had survived underground.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

### CYRIL, MONK, DIED 869; METHODIUS, BISHOP, DIED 885; MISSIONARIES TO THE SLAVS

These two brothers from a noble family in Thessalonika in northeastern Greece were priests and missionaries. After some

early initial missionary work by Cyril among the Arabs, the brothers retired to a monastery. They were later sent to work among the Slavs, the missionary work for which they are most known. Since Slavonic had no written form at the time, the brothers established a written language with the Greek alphabet as its basis. They translated the scriptures and the liturgy using this Cyrillic alphabet. The Czechs, Serbs, Croats, Slovaks, and Bulgars regard the brothers as the founders of Slavic literature. The brothers' work in preaching and worshiping in the language of the people are honored by Christians in both East and West.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

### MARTIN LUTHER, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED 1546

On this day in 1546, Martin Luther died at the age of sixty-two. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, public confessor of the faith, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther's own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

### POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA, MARTYR, DIED 156

Polycarp was Bishop of Smyrna (in present-day western Turkey) and a link between the apostolic age and the church at the end of the second century. He is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation. In turn he was known by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon in France, and Ignatius of Antioch. At the age of eighty-six he was martyred for his faith. When urged to save his life and renounce his faith, Polycarp replied, "Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me?" The magistrate who made the offer was reluctant to kill a gentle old man, but he had no choice. Polycarp was burned at the stake, his death a testimony to the cost of renouncing temptation.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

### ELIZABETH FEDDE, DEACONESS, DIED 1921

Fedde was born in Norway and trained as a deaconess. In 1882, at the age of 32, she was asked to come to New York to minister to the poor and to Norwegian seamen. Her influence was wide-ranging, and she established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn and the Deaconess House and Hospital of the Lutheran Free Church in Minneapolis. She returned home to Norway in 1895 and died there.

# FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Dorcas Circle Meeting 10:00am	2	3
4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Service	5	6 Church Council 6:30pm	7 Bible Study 6:00pm Mutual Ministry Meeting	8	9	10 Men's Club 9:00am @ Whitlows
11 Transfiguration Of Our Lord 10:00am Service Transfiguration Dinner Following Worship	12 Parish Education Meeting 7:00pm	13 Finance Committee Meeting 6:30pm	14 Bible Study 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	15 New Member Classes begin 7:00pm	16	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 10:00am Service	19 Property Committee Meeting 5:30pm	20 Worship & Music Meeting 6:30pm	21 Bible Study 6:00pm Lenten Evening Service 7:15pm	22 No New Member Class	23	24
25 Second Sunday in Lent 10:00am Service  6	26	27	28 Bible Study 6:00 pm Lenten Evening Service 7:15pm			

The Transfiguration dinner raised \$200.00 in free will donations and the cookie & Valentine card sale raised \$37.50 for Miro's Dream BIBLE Club project. The B.I.B.L.E. Club would like to thank everyone for attending!

### **New Member Classes**

Here's an opportunity to strengthen your knowledge of the Lutheran Church, what we believe, and why we believe it! Anyone, whether currently a member or not, is welcome to attend New Member classes that will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm and will continue through March 22. If you're not a member, we'd love to have you join our congregation!

Let Pastor Mike know if you're interested!

### **Did you Know?** **We have Office Hours!!**

Pastor Mike is in the office Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm!

Andrea is in the Office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Stop in and See us!

Announcing 4th Annual

Shipshewana Bus Trip!

Wednesday, June 20th

\$55 for adults / \$45 for kids 12 and under

Full details and sign up on bulletin board

See Amanda Shunta if you have any questions



Thank you

to all who donated to B.I.B.L.E. Club's Souper Bowl Sunday food collection. Several boxes and cans of non perishables were delivered Our Savior's Lutheran Church's food pantry.

### **2018 Church Council Officers**

President-Janeen Pastoor

Vice President- Marcia Kitchka

Secretary- Tom Whitehead

Treasurer-Cindy Borreson

### **2018 Church Council Members**

Barb Anderson, Cindy Borreson, Paul Filka, Lauren Johnson, Rose Justian, Marcia Kitchka, Janeen Pastoor, Tom Whitehead, Jill Ward

The “Church Door” title is taken from the “Theses Door” of the Castle Church which has made Wittenburg so famous.

Just as the “Theses Door” was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther’s time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and our guests about church life and events.

Published monthly, The Church Door is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Andrea Iams (231-730-3584 or [ai.dmlc@outlook.com](mailto:ai.dmlc@outlook.com)) if you’d like to add an article or event to next month’s newsletter!

## Upcoming Events

Thursdays

February 15—March 22

### New Member Classes

7:00 pm

Wednesdays

February 21—March 21

### Soup & Bible Study

6:00 pm

### Lenten Evening Services

Dr Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church  
1480 E. Hile Rd  
Muskegon, MI 49444  
231.733.0603  
[Www.dmlc.org](http://www.dmlc.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church**

*“Called to Believe-Sent to Serve”*