



News From the Pews

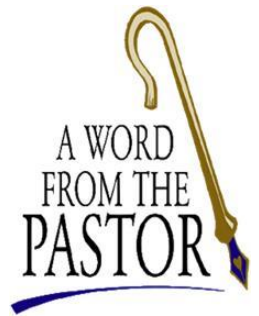
The Newsletter of
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER (LCMS)
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“We Serve Because Jesus Loves You”

Winter 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you are a snow-lover, then this Winter has been pretty much a bust. We had one six-inch snow in December, and not much else. Not very good sledding or snowman building around here. I guess if you really want to find some snow, northern New England is the place to be. Personally, I’m not a huge fan of snow anymore. Guess that comes with age. But I would like at least one really nice snowstorm, where most everyone could take a day and stay home and warm inside, enjoying the fresh blanket of white. I can hear the snow-lovers clapping in agreement and the rest of you “booing.” Well, let’s just pray for “seasonable weather” and let the good Lord take care of things for us.



Let’s consider God’s Words through the prophet Isaiah: “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause. Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” (Is. 1:16–18 ESV).

You and I are unclean according to our sinful, human nature. We do evil deeds, contrary to God’s Commandments. We think evil, desire evil—it’s our nature that still clings to us, the “old Adam.” God through Isaiah demands that we become clean and remove our evil before His eyes. God desires His people to stop doing evil and learn to do good and seek justice, correct oppression. But for us to do these things on our own is impossible. Our sinful natures, the “old Adam” in us just won’t let us. The Lord must wash and clean and teach and renew us. Our sins, scarlet, blood-stained sins, shall be white as snow. But how? God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, would shed His red crimson blood on a cross and wash us clean through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus cleanses us with His own righteousness so that what was stained is now white, beautiful white like a blanket of fresh snow covering the landscape. White—the color of holiness and cleanness. White—the color of purity and sinlessness. White—the color of the robes Christ gives to the saints to wear, robes which are His righteousness, His holiness, His purity, given to us freely by grace and received through faith.

Yes, I’d like at least one nice snowstorm to see that white covering across the ground so that you and I can be reminded of Isaiah’s word, God’s words, that because of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, our scarlet sins are now white as that snow.

In HIS Service,

Pastor Coons

Cleaning Volunteers are always needed
Please sign up to clean on the Saturday **before** the
Sunday listed. Refresh your memories by taking a
look at the cleaning routine posted. Thank you for
serving.



*If you are unable to serve, please contact Tom Savage,
Worship Chair.*

February: Darlene Johnson
March: Gayle Pueschel
April: Jane Murray
May: Sue Reis
June: **Volunteer**

Ushers' Schedule

Feb. 8:00 a.m. Rich Plumb / Michael Stimpson
10:30 a.m. Dave Herzig / David Buckley

Mar: 8:00 a.m. Tom Savage / Aaron Coons
10:30 a.m. Aaron Coons / Linda Stevens

Apr.: 8:00 a.m. Mark Parlapiano / Dave McCollum
10:30 a.m. Aaron Coons / David Buckley

May: 8:00 a.m. Rich Plumb / **Volunteer**
10:30 a.m. Dave Herzig / Aaron Coons

Sunday Readers

*If you would like to volunteer, please see Tom Savage or
Pastor.*

8:00 a.m.

February 5 Gayle Pueschel
February 12 Marcos Iglesias
February 19
February 26 Tom Savage
March 5 Rich Suter
March 12 Mark Parlapiano
March 19 George Arendt
March 26 Gayle Pueschel

10:30 a.m.

February 5 Linda Stevens
February 12 Tina Currier
February 19 Margaret Scully
February 26 Darlene Johnson
March 5 Linda Stevens
March 12 Tina Currier
March 19 Margaret Scully
March 26 Darlene Johnson



2023 Lent Midweek Worship

This Lenten season, we have a
fresh opportunity to embrace
God's amazing love for us, His
baptized children, in new
ways. St. Paul clearly says that
"faith comes from hearing"

(Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also
communicated through the physical senses of
sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a
good teacher not only brings out new treasures but
reminds people of old and rich treasures as well
(see Matthew 13:52). So each Wednesday in Lent,
we will take a weekly journey to concretely see,
smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical
elements. Our Lenten series is called *Promised
Treasures*. Just as Israel wandered through the
wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting
the Promised Land, we await heaven in the
wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the
wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free.
In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the
new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our
eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us
to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3;
Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then
proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally,
palms. All these beautiful Old and New Testament
elements will remind you of God's eternal love in
Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase
your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized
children, God is near to us now more than ever.

Service Schedule

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
March 1 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

March 8	1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
March 15	1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
March 22	1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
March 29	1 p.m. & 7 p.m.



Before our midweek Lenten services, join us for a nice warm meal of soup, salad, bread, and dessert. Suppers will be held on each of the Wednesdays in Lent except for Ash Wednesday. Suppers will begin at 5:45 p.m. Watch for sign-up sheets!

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

**New England District-LCMS Circuit IV
Ascension Day Service at
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer**

Join the pastors and people of your Circuit on this special day as we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven and what it means for us. More details to follow as time gets closer.



What Luther Says: Private Confession and Absolution

In this Christian Church, wherever it exists, is to be found the forgiveness of sins, i.e., a kingdom of grace and of true pardon. For in it are found the gospel, baptism, and the

sacrament of the altar, in which the forgiveness of sins is offered, obtained, and received. Moreover, Christ and his Spirit and God are there. Outside this Christian Church there is no salvation or forgiveness of sins, but everlasting death and damnation; even though there may be a magnificent appearance of holiness and many good

works, it is all in vain. But this forgiveness of sins is not to be expected only at one time, as in baptism, as the Novatians teach, but frequently, as often as one needs it, till death.

For this reason I have a high regard for private confession, for here God's word and absolution are spoken privately and individually to each believer for the forgiveness of his sins, and as often as he desires it he may have recourse to it for this forgiveness, and also for comfort, counsel, and guidance. Thus it is a precious, useful thing for souls, as long as no one is driven to it with laws and commandments but sinners are left free to make use of it, each according to his own need, when and where he wishes; just as we are free to obtain counsel and comfort, guidance and instruction when and where our need or our inclination moves us. And as long as one is not forced to enumerate all sins but only those which oppress him most grievously, or those which a person will mention in any case, as I have discussed in my *Little Book on Prayer*.¹

¹ Martin Luther, *Luther's Works*, Vol. 37: *Word and Sacrament III*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 37 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 368.