

Cross CURRENTS

Issue 14.3
March 2019

A monthly publication to keep you informed about the ministry of Living Water and the opportunities for you to grow your relationships with the Lord and each other.

Use What Is Written

[The devil] left [Jesus] until an opportune time
(Luke 4:13 NIV)

For me, Lent comes at a pretty opportune time this year. The start of Lent (Ash Wednesday) varies from year to year. Why? Ash Wednesday depends on the date for Easter, and that depends on the moon. Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. With the way the moon works out, this year's Ash Wednesday (March 6) is one of the latest dates it can be. Which means I had extra time this year between Christmas and Lent to do worship planning. It was nice.

But life doesn't always come at you at your opportune time. The year you expect a tax refund is the year you have to pay extra. The time you need a letup in classes you get an extra assignment. The winter you think should be winding down has some more snow and cold in store.

Satan works in a similar way. He tries to catch you off guard and find you at your inopportune time, which just so happens to be his opportune time – the opportune time for him to get you to



turn your back on God and fall for his lies. During the season of Lent, Christians are especially aware of this struggle between Satan and us sinner-saints. So much so, that some Christians give something up during Lent in order to draw more attention to this intense struggle. As they struggle without the earthly thing they gave up, it's a reminder that they must struggle all the more against Satan and the spiritual things he wants us to give up.

But Satan is good – no, he's great – at finding us at our inopportune times, which are, of course, his opportune times. He comes to us when we're tired, hungry, lonely, afraid, sad, or you name it. He comes with lies that sound enticing. He comes with twists on the truth that leave us confused. And though our spirit may be willing to do battle, our sinful nature and flesh is weak. So, instead of making Satan feel like an unwelcome guest and making him leave, we invite him to stick around for a while.

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What a comfort, then, to watch what our Savior does in the first Sunday of our Lenten journey! The appointed Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Lent comes from Luke 4:1-13. There, Jesus not once, not twice, but three times beats Satan at his own game! Three times Jesus, our champion of salvation, defeats the devil and his temptation. And it's not even close. Satan uses different temptations and tactics, but Jesus remains in control every time. Finally, Satan got the hint and turned around, a defeated spirit against the undefeated Son of God.

Where's the comfort for you in this? Jesus credits you with his perfection. Not just against those three temptations but with his entire perfect life. Through faith and trust in Jesus, God has given you credit for living a life a perfect life, the life Jesus lived for you! And there's another comfort in Luke 4:1-13. Jesus shows you how to beat temptation: by using what's written in God's Word to expose the devil's lies. For every devilish deception, Jesus had a quick counter from the Word of truth. Which means that for every temptation Satan brings to you, you can draw the sword of the Word and slice right through it.

And that's a big part of why we have so many extra worship opportunities during Lent: to see Christ be a champion for us and to be equipped to better stand against Satan's temptations. We know Satan will be coming. We know he'll find us at our inopportune times. But we also know whom he cannot defeat: Jesus our Savior. We know what he has no answer for: what is written true Word of God. Through faith, you have access to both. Trust in the former. Use the latter. And watch Satan be forced to leave, just as he did in the desert. God bless the beginning of your Lenten journey to Christ's cross!

Battling temptation and serving our Savior with you,

Pastor Aaron Voss



Food for Life Cooking Class

14 people attended the WinGs sponsored Food for Life cooking class on

Thursday, February 21. We learned about making plant based meals that had no meat or dairy products. We also learned many facts and helpful tips on how to make healthy meals at home. We then were able to sample the creamy vegan mac and cheese, the rustic white bean spread and toast points and the curry butternut squash soup. If you would like the recipes they are located in the narthex.

Rummage Sale

Spring cleaning? The weather might not seem to agree, but spring is around the corner. If you are into the new craze of "tidying up" your house or just no longer need some of your "treasures," please save your items for our upcoming annual church rummage sale. We will take any of your unwanted household, clothes, tools, furniture, etc... We can hopefully find a new home for it while also welcoming the community on to our property. The proceeds from the sale will fund WinGs sponsored events and also be donated to different organizations. Our annual sale will be Saturday April 27, more details to follow in the April newsletter regarding volunteers needed for the event. If you have any questions please call Sherry Dahl at 262-271-4948. Happy cleaning!

Council Corner

In an effort to be transparent about topics being discussed at the council meetings each month, we will be sharing some highlights and notes from the month's council meeting in the monthly newsletter. The council encourages members to ask questions and offer insight into any of the topics being discussed.

- **Site Plan / Ministry Plan** - There have been some discussions over the past few years about building a picnic shelter, cultivating a prayer garden, and/or expanding the current building. In order to honor the Lord with appropriate stewardship of the property that the Lord has given us, it is fitting to create a Site Plan based on a Ministry Plan. Over the course of 2019, the council will be exploring a Ministry Plan and Site Plan.

- **Carpet Cleaning** - At the June 2018 Voters meeting, we discussed upcoming capital expenditures. The first on that list is hiring a professional carpet cleaning service to clean the

carpet and repair the carpet seams. The goal is to schedule this before Easter.

- **Special Gift** - There was a special gift given to purchase one more set of paraments to complete the collection. The first use of the new set will be Transfiguration Sunday, March 3. The balance of the gift will go towards the replacement of the projector with either a new projector or new TVs. We are actively looking for individuals interested in A/V technology to join a special committee to research and recommend replacement options for the projector. Please contact Jeff Roska if interested.



Our Valentine's Day outing to Racine was fun, informative and filling. It was one of the few February days when it was not cold or snowing. Twenty of us enjoyed our tour of the SC Johnson campus, including the administration Building, Research Tower and Fortaleza Hall. Did you know that Frank Lloyd Wright designed these buildings? After the tour we went to Infusino's Pizzeria for a wonderful Italian lunch and we all brought home leftovers for several more meals. Thank you to Ken and Sue Gawrisch for planning this activity!

We will be hosting the first Lenten supper on Ash Wednesday, March 6. It will be Senior Moments' specialty—potluck! The dinner will start at 5:30 pm. Sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. Besides food, we will need volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up.

We don't have any activities planned for April, but we've got a couple things to look forward to in May. We're hoping to take a tour of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Walker's Point neighborhood in Milwaukee. John Weiderhold will be planning this. And we're also hoping to tour Allen Bradley on the same day if Paul Kedzie can arrange it.

Our annual Fish Fry at Doc's on the Fox will be on Friday, May 17 at 5:00 pm. Put it on your calendars now.

Senior Moments is a service organization to provide social opportunities for the congregation. All members, 50 and older, are encouraged to join us for fun and fellowship.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays 6:30 pm

Fellowship Dinner served beginning at 5:30 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY
March 6

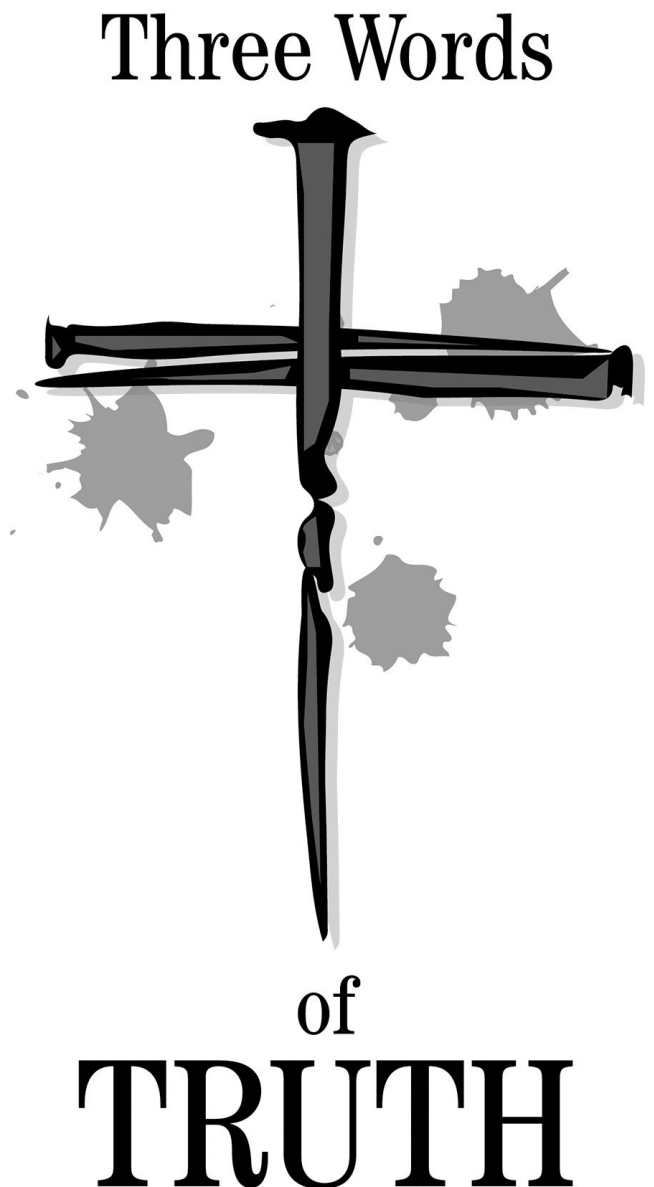
LOVE ONE
ANOTHER
March 13

IS IT I?
March 20

WATCH AND PRAY
March 27

WHAT IS TRUTH?
April 3

I AM HE
April 10



Love & Marriage TEEN DEVOTION

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. — Ephesians 5:24-25 (NIV)

Is marriage a good or bad thing? More important is that it be a God thing. In the beginning of the world, God instituted marriage to be a safe place for husbands and wives to enjoy each other intimately and to provide a healthy and secure environment for children to grow up and be loved.

The further we get from Creation, the easier it is to forget God's good design. The apostle Paul reminds us of that design in the book of Ephesians and uses God's love for his church to describe it.

Wives are to submit—to put themselves under the authority and guidance of their husbands just like the church puts itself under the authority and guidance of Jesus. Husbands are to love their wives sacrificially, just like Jesus did when he died on the cross for his church.

Let's be clear: it would be absolutely incorrect to say this passage makes husbands more important and wives merely side-kicks in marriage. If that's what you're thinking, repent of it!

"The Lord God said, it was NOT good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). It was essential that a woman be brought to Adam to be a part of his life. She would be someone that he could love and protect from his position as husband.

Maybe this illustration will help: Picture ballroom dancers. The man leads. The woman follows. But they both need each other for it to be a dance. He gives strength and direction. She provides grace and beauty. The beautiful dance doesn't stay beautiful. You'll step on each other's toes and fall many times—sometimes hard and it will hurt—but in Christ there is forgiveness as we strive to sacrifice and submit.

What a breathtakingly beautiful image of the interdependent dance God intends between a husband and wife! It's loving and leading. It's being loved and protected—just as Christ loved and led us by humbly submitting himself to death on a cross. He gave it all for his bride, the Church, of which you and I are a part. To be loved, protected, and guided ... it makes us so happy! Our dependence on Christ not only makes possible, but BEAUTIFUL, the interdependence of husbands and wives. What love! What beauty! Christ makes marriage a beautiful thing!

Prayer: Jesus, marriage is a good thing because it's a God thing. If it's your will to give me a spouse one day, help me to be the best husband or wife that I can possibly be!
Amen.

Teen Devotions are brought to you by WELS Commission on Youth and Family Ministry.

Prayer

We remember the following in our prayers:

- All those struggling with recurring temptations, that they find comfort in Jesus' forgiveness and strength in God's Word to do battle against the devil's lies.
- Local Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod schools with whom Living Water has ties and about whom we were updated in February – Christ Lutheran School in Big Bend as they hope to expand their preschool and Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers as they equip and encourage young Christian adults. We ask God to bless the faculty, students, and staff at both schools so that they may find joy in their work and studies and be used by the Lord of the church to further his kingdom.
- Pastors Gary Pufahl and Timothy Kujath that God use them give them safe travels when they lead midweek Lenten worship here and



that God uses their words to encourage us through the gospel of Christ crucified for us.

- Our members who have been facing challenges during the long winter, especially those shut in, those who have endured hospital stays, and those facing new treatments for ailments. May God cheer them with his mercies that are new every morning and point them through the cross to the joys of heaven where there is no sickness or sadness, pain or uncertainty.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ who defeated Satan's temptations for us, willing went to the cross in our place, and now invites us to pray through the Spirit to God our Father. Amen.

Preschool at Christ Lutheran

Christ Lutheran School, a ministry of our sister WELS church in Big Bend, is accepting preschool registrations for 2019-2020. The school offers a safe, loving, Christian environment to train children. They have flexible plans at affordable costs and also offer before and after school care. To learn more or to register, contact the school at 262-662-3355 or christbigbendprincipal@gmail.com

Taste & See

Tickets are now on sale for Shoreland's Taste & See Dinner and Auction on April 13, 2019, supporting the Tuition Assistance fund. The blessing of Shoreland is proof that the Lord IS Good. Our hope is that God's goodness will be evident to our attendees and will inspire support for Christian education. More information and tickets can be purchased at sites.google.com/a/slhs.us/taste-and-see/ or at slhs.us under the Support tab. If you would like to donate an item for the auction, please email tasteandseeslhs@gmail.com.

WLC Choir Concert

Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir and Chamber Choir will be performing at First Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva on Saturday, March 9 at 2:30 pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	4 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	5 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	<i>6 Ash Wednesday</i> 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Worship with Communion 7:30 pm Choir Practice	7	1 8 10	2
<i>10 Daylight Savings Begins</i> 8:15 am Children's Choir 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	11 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Elders Meeting	12 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	13 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Handbell Practice	14	15	16
17 8:15 am Children's Choir 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	18 5:15 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship with Communion 8:00 pm Church	19 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	20 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 8:15 am Children's Choir 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	25 5:15 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	26 6:15 pm Foundation of Christian Faith	27 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 8:20 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School						



6525 Milwaukee Avenue
Wind Lake, WI 53185

Worship Information

Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 AM

Sunday Education Time - 10:30 AM

Monday Worship Service - 7:00 PM

Contact Us

Pastor: Aaron Voss

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2019 Church Council

Here is a list of people to contact if you have any questions or suggestions regarding anything happening in our ministry. Also, if you send a single e-mail to council@livingwaterlutheran.com, it will reach all members of our Church Council.

Mike Graffenius—President

Jim Mertz—Treasurer

Craig Scherbarth—Financial Sec.

Bob McGill—Secretary

Jeff Roska—Head Elder

Neil Hankwitz—Outreach

Gary Steffens—Trustee

Brian Haag—Education

Easter for Kids

Saturday, April 13

Ages 3-10

Music, Crafts, Easter Egg Hunt &
Learn the truths & impact of Jesus' Resurrection

More information to come soon!



Pray for God to bless our efforts
& think of families you can invite!