

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



### THERE IS NO PLAN B

Have you ever wondered why, when God saved you from your sins, He left you on the earth? If God had wanted to, He could have taken you straight to Heaven the moment you were baptized. But He didn't, which means that He left you on the earth for a purpose.

Just before He returned to Heaven, Jesus explained to His disciples what they were to do after His departure. What He said to them, He also says to us.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

He left us on the earth that we might be His witnesses.

He does not send angels to witness and He does not write John 3:16 in lightning across the skies. He uses people like us to be His witnesses. If we don't do our part, God has no plan B. When Jesus said, “You will be my witnesses” what did He mean? Basically, it means to declare the truth to another person. A witness is someone who tells what he knows and only what he knows.

In recording his witness of Christ the apostle John wrote, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.” - 1 John 1:1-2

Just tell the truth about Jesus to anyone who is willing to listen. That's where witnessing always begins. Talk about what Jesus has done for you. Share with others how He's changed your life. Tell them how He guides you day by day, how He gives you strength to face your trials and courage to conquer your fears. You can tell others how He gave you a brand-new life and eternal life. The Easter season is the perfect time to share the Good News about Jesus.

I'm asking each person who reads this newsletter to do three things.

1. Pray that God would give you a chance to witness for Christ this week.
2. Commit to speaking up when God gives you the opportunity you prayed for.
3. And ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and give you the words to say.

And while we are on the subject of witnessing I am looking for at least 5 people to fill the Outreach Board. If that is you please give me a call and let me know!

All For Him,  
Pastor Ray

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

### Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation. Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives. This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

## Deacon's Digest,

If you read last month's piece you might remember that I was going to start this month's column with a "to-do" list of things that Christians do. It comes from Christian believers who do go to church regularly and is not in any order of importance, but they are the most critical things believers do (Breen, 2017).

What do Christians do:

#	
1	Read the Bible
2	Pray
3	Attend Worship
4	Tithe
5	Serve Others
6	Tell friends about Jesus

Looks like a pretty good list. If you remember the context of this, I was talking about making disciples and I was asking the reader if the list would include making disciples, which is our great commission. Well I don't see it but there are some things related. We have to tell people about Jesus (#6) to get things started and you need to do 1,2 and 3 to have the correct info to do that.

Jesus says in Matthew that the 2 most important commandments are to Love Him and to love one another [Matthew 22:36-40]. One way to demonstrate love for one another is to serve them over serving self [looks like #5 gets that done.] While we are on the topic of serving I want to bring up the recent skill surveys that came out to all the congregation from Pastor Ray 2 weeks ago, I pray that you have completed your survey and that you are aware of the gifts that God has given you in terms of the things you do well. Referring to 1 Peter, a text written by Simon Peter, the Apostle, which provides specific instruction and encouragement for Holy Living. Let us dwell on 1 Peter 4:8-10: *<sup>8</sup> Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:* What we see here is that God wants us to use those gifts he gave us to serve one another.

I pray that you find a place in our church's ministries for your skill set and if you want to explore where you may best fit in please let me or any Elder know, or Pastor Ray or Family Life Minister Curtis or any one on the church council. I am sure we can find a place for you to shine and show your love for your fellow man.

As we enter Lenten season and are leading up to the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter, I pray that you would have a look at the church calendar to see all the opportunities you will have to worship, especially our Wednesday Lenten services.

Blessings and Peace!  
Deacon Joe

## MANNERS 7 CUSTOMS OF BIBLE TIMES

### The tent

The tent of the sand-dweller was made from a long piece of goatshair cloth about five or six feet wide. It was erected on a series of poles to provide a long awning, the two ends being pegged to the ground with tent nails (see Judges 4:21). The black colour of the tent is alluded to in Song of Songs 1:5. The strip was made on a loom pegged out on the ground; patches were inserted, like a huge darn, by the same method.

Vertical hangings were made either from worn roof-coverings or from other brightly coloured materials. The hangings provided a “back” and “front” for the tent and divisions between. An area with a “back” and two dividing hangings therefore made an open porch where visitors could be received (Genesis 18:1-2) and where conversations could be heard by other people behind the hangings (see Genesis 18:9-15).

The tent could be extended simply by weaving an extra length onto the original awnings and providing all additional hanging curtain (see Isaiah 54:2 where this is used as a metaphor for Jewish expansion). The awning was not waterproof until the first rains of the season had caused the cloth to shrink. Rugs were placed on the ground underneath the awning, and the families’ possession (food, cooking utensils, water carriers, and so forth) were kept beneath by the tent poles.

The only male allowed within the curtains of the tent was the husband/father; other men remained in the porch area. Entry of a male stranger within the women’s quarters of the tent was punishable by death. Sisera paid with his life for going into Jael’s tent, even though she had issued the invitation (Judges 4:18,21).

Tents were not always primitive. When kings used their tents to travel with the army, they would have been luxurious, as was the tent David made to house the Ark of the Covenant at Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 16:1).

Tents were often informally grouped to accommodate all members of the extended family. The Ishmaelites had some kind of order amount the tents (Genesis 24:16), and during the wanderings between Egypt and Canaan there was a strict order for the pitching of tents (Numbers 2). Some kind of ensign marked the leaders among Jewish people; the Bedouin custom had been to put a spear upright by the tent door of the leader (sheikh) – see 1 Samuel 26;7.

Later, when the Israelites had abandoned tent dwellings and lived in houses, the annual festival of Tabernacles, when families spent the holiday in specially-constructed booths made of branches, reminded them of the time when they had lived in tents and wandered in the desert.



**3/5 Tom & Julie Cox**  
**3/22 Arthur & Violet Brunner**

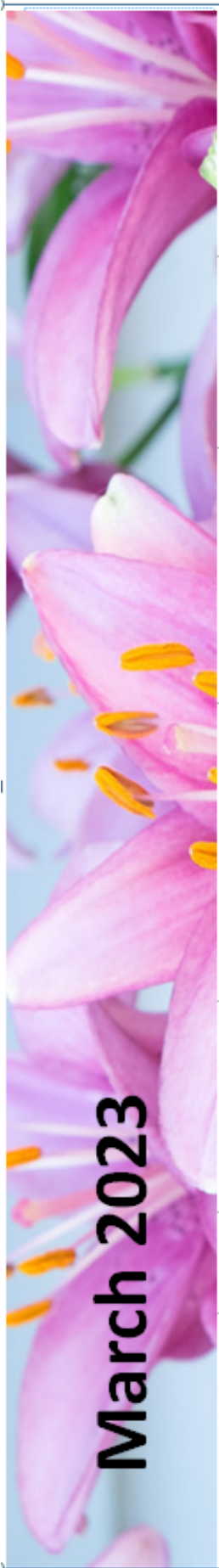
**3/12 Ginger Lewis**  
**3/13 Sandy Hagel**

**3/16 Kim Finn**  
**3/19 Jean Grieve**  
**3/19 Allan Koepsell**




**3/20 Julie Cox**  
**3/23 Darryl Haag**  
**3/24 Arthur Brunner**

**3/29 Dalton Binkley**  
**3/31 Debbi Angerman**  
**3/31 Jim Wilhelm**



# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 Early Communion Both Services Mite Collection 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group</p>			<p>1 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>2 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>3 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>4 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Puppet Practice</p>
	<p>6</p>	<p>7 8:00 AM Homeschool 7:00 PM Lifetree Café Homeschoolers</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lenten Service</p>		<p>10 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>11 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Puppet Practice 9:00 AM Life Team Meeting 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>12 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 8:00 AM Homeschool 7:00 PM Lifetree Café</p>	<p>15 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>16 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>17 1:00 PM Bible Study</p> 	<p>18 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Puppet Practice</p>
<p>19 Early Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:00 AM Homeschool 7:00 PM Lifetree Café</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lenten Service</p>		<p>24 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>25 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Puppet Practice</p>
<p>26 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:00 AM Homeschool 7:00 PM Lifetree Café</p>				

*Easter Sunrise Service  
6:00 AM April 9, 2023  
Beasley Park*



**ASH WEDNESDAY**



## SHROVE THUESDAY



## METER WORK IN THE PARKING LOT



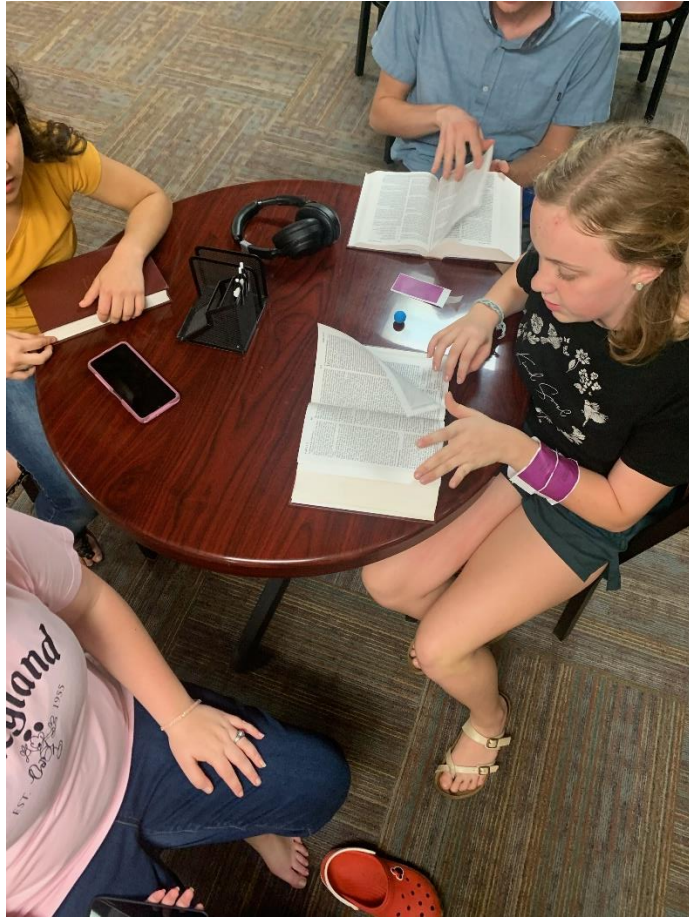


## SERVICE HELP



## YOUTH GROUP





**SUPER BOWL PARTY**







**Regular Sunday Worship Times**  
Traditional Worship @ 8:00 AM  
Contemporary Worship @ 10:45 AM

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM



Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church  
Pastor Ray Angerman  
Family Life Minister Curtis  
Wiese  
Music Director Lois Henry  
1 Meigs Drive - Shalimar, FL  
32579  
850-651-1022  
[www.shalimar.church](http://www.shalimar.church)

