

Lutheran Church of The Way

& Joyful Noise Preschool
Monthly Newsletter March 2023



Pastor's Desk:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Spring is right around the corner and the green is beginning to make its way back through the final bleak and dreary days of winter. In Alaska, we didn't have "Spring" the same way we do here. For Alaskans the season that follows winter is appropriately called "Break-Up" as the snow melts and ice floes make their way down the rivers to open water, breaking up and tearing apart everything in their path along the way. Likewise, what takes weeks to blossom and bloom on the trees here in New England will happen in less than 48 hours in south-central Alaska. Nonetheless, the inescapable changing of the guard from one season to the next is universally experienced no matter where we are on earth. Ironically though, as accustomed and adaptable as we are to the transitions between seasons, most of us are equally as averse to change anywhere else in our lives. In fact, we treat change the same way we treat seasonal allergies – as a tolerable nuisance that we make every attempt to minimize the comfortable effects of. Yet, despite our best efforts to prove otherwise, we will never be the same tomorrow as we are today or were the day before. I believe though that perhaps that God very much intended for this to be the case – to keep us dynamic, on the move, and just a shade outside of our comfort zone.

Living by faith in Jesus as the Christ means we will unavoidably encounter and experience change. Changing of our hearts, minds, worldviews, and ways of living. We are always left at odds within ourselves though, because what is broken rebels against what has been redeemed. As we approach mid-March the air around us is filled with the enticing smells of corned beef (cabbage is there too but smells far less appealing), pints of green beer, and the sudden but temporary claim to be Irish. This drunken over-indulgence of all of the above has become a misunderstood excuse of why St. Patrick's Day was commemorated in the first place. We, the CHURCH, have allowed the world around us to excise Christ from Christian holidays, because it has become so easy to also excise the parts of Him we don't like from Scripture. In fact,



the only real authentic element of St. Patrick's Day is that "everybody's Irish" on St. Patty's, because St. Patrick himself was actually (most likely) a Roman citizen living the "Britons" during the Fifth Century. So St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, wasn't even Irish.

Now, this all being said, I love St. Patrick's Day and we always try to do something to celebrate it each year. I want days like these to be memorable and special for my kids, even though their Anglo-Saxon heritage is readily given away by the way most of them are blonde, blue eyed, and fair skinned. We have very little, if any, claim to Irish heritage in our family history. However, what makes this day worth commemorating is remembering the way that God used St. Patrick to bear HIS Gospel under difficult and unlikely circumstances. This man who had been stolen away from his family at age 16, enslaved in a foreign land, and later escaped back home to his parents, only to eventually return back to the country of his captors years later as a missionary because God had told him to in a vision.

...And WE worry about being uncomfortable when God calls us to follow Him in ministry?

We were made for change because we are called to go and follow Christ. That hesitation, fear, and resistance within us is sin, death, and the Devil doing everything in their power to keep us right where we are. I pray for you all daily, that God would grant US the strength to stand firm, walk faithfully, and follow in the joy of Jesus. As always, it is a great joy and privilege to be your pastor. Thank you for allowing me to serve and grow beside you. God's blessings!

In His hands,
Pastor Jake

110 Robinson St. | Raynham, MA 02767

Tel: (508) 822-5900

Web: FamiliesInChrist.org

Elders Corner

Time flies! How many times have you heard that? It's already Lent and it seems in a blink of an eye we went from the joyous seasons of Advent and Christmas. Also in Epiphany when God and salvation was made known to the gentiles. Thanks are to God for that!

Now we are in the season of Lent, a solemn time of reflecting on sin and how we can atone for our sins? Maybe we should ponder on what God wants from us. We can look at where sin started and what the punishment was. Just as we all suffer that punishment because of one man and one woman's sin. Only one Man by himself can forgive our sins by what he did, that is Jesus Christ. Mortal man can't do anything to earn the forgiveness we need.

Growing up, a lot of people would give up something they liked or were asked to give up something for Lent. Particularly friends of our Christian faiths would make a big deal of what they were giving up. This always bothered me but I didn't know why. Then over the years, listening to the Bible stories, it wasn't through the kind of sacrifices that we make that God finds makes a difference (or pleasing in sight). Even the disciples doubted and Peter even denied Jesus. Denying Jesus is denying God, would break the First commandment. I was taught all or any sin condemns us, not what we think is big or small.

What did Peter and the disciples through Faith with the help of the Holy Spirit? They repented (turned or had a change of heart) and went on to do fulfill the Great Commission Matthew 28:19-20. No sacrifice or fasting is needed to create change in heart and what we do is what is pleasing to God.

Back in Epiphany one of the Old Testament readings from Isaiah the 58th chapter talks about fasting or giving things up, done for the wrong reason was not what is acceptable to the Lord. So it's not what we do outwardly that's important, that which makes us feel like WE are doing something, it's what we do inwardly. May be if we meditate on how we live and with the help of the Holy Spirit will create a penitent heart and do God's will. Now we will always fall short but if we repent (which means we are ready to change) God who is faithful and just will forgive us. In Portals of Prayer for January 21 "God Forgives ... Again and Again" (Psalm 103:12) He removes our sins "as far as east is from west". One thing he wants us to do that we all can do is bring others to Him (invite others to worship with us)?

Paul Bain,

Elder

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Steward Journey

When we reflect on our childhood, all of us can see many instances where we could have come to great harm or died – surely guarding angels were watching over us. Later, wrestling with career choices, marriage and building a family, we wondered about God’s purpose for our lives. Now, in old age and retired, we may ask ourselves a similar question: “for what purpose does God keep me alive – have I outlived my usefulness?”

The answer may be obscured by life’s predicaments and we may lose sight of what God has done and is doing through us. Not only did God give us life and everything to sustain it, but He also gave us the great gift of work. Most work is part of a huge network of interconnected jobs, industries, goods and services that work together to meet people’s physical needs. Other jobs meet people’s aesthetic and spiritual needs as well. Through work we also meet our own needs and exercise the gifts and abilities God gave to each of us. Work gives purpose, shapes and defines us, and can reward us with a sense of accomplishment and value. When work is done in and for the Lord, it benefits others and honors God [1 Cor. 10:31]. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” [Col. 3:23]. So, we are interdependent with other people.

Easily forgotten are acts of kindness we may have done for people that we thought were minor, but meant a lot to them. We can still reach out to people by being neighborly, talking to them, visiting the lonely and shut-ins. The bible says: as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience [Col. 3:12]. Jesus commands us “That ye love one another as I have loved you” [John 15:12]. And in the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus tells us who our neighbor is and how to treat him [Luke 10:25-37]. We may never know how our being touched the lives of others, but He does.

Never forget: you and I are of such great value to our heavenly father, that He gave His only son, Jesus Christ, for our redemption and we are useful for His purposes up to our last breath.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

Hartmut (Board of Stewardship)

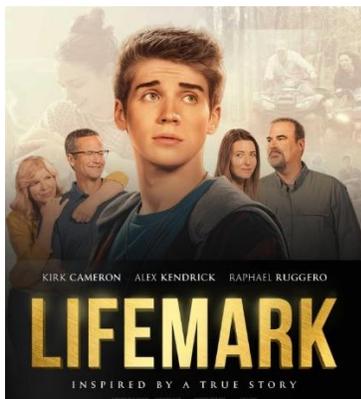
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Echoes

The month of March brings many changes in the weather..(actually changes seemed to start earlier.) We experience one day of sunshine, the next cold, rain or snow and the next warm again...As human beings our faith can be sunny and radiant or at times stormy and unpredictable. We may experience a dry or cloudy period depending upon our situations at any given time. How can we express the love of our Lord in these trying times, when we, ourselves may question His love...We aren't always witnessing as bright sunny days but as cloudy days. (should we say something or just stay out of it). Sometimes we mention our Savior's love and caring and the reaction may be frigid as a freezing wind It's alright because as Christians on earth we set a seed of Christ's Salvation and the Holy Spirit will do the rest. Someone's heart may be opened because of what we told them, how we care or how we live. People learn from example. It always make me ask myself what are people afraid of'. Seems that maybe if they acknowledge Christ is their Savior, they may feel their power is gone. Quite the opposite.. they gain strength in our Lord to live their lives much better. So let us all have the courage to speak to all and pray the Holy Spirit will give us the word and not be put off if we are ignored. It takes a long time for some seeds to grow and mature.. so too. .for a heart to be opened to the truth of our Salvation in Christ. May He Bless us all as we walk through His Lenten path and look forward to His Resurrection.....friendship thru Christ, Wini



Life Issues

Please join **Abundant Hope** for a free movie night at **LaSalette Shrine, Attleboro, March 31st at 7 PM!** See Peter Fuller for directions or questions.

Based on a true story of a teen mom who chooses the adoption process over aborting her baby, this touching film, **LIFEMARK**, asks an important question: If an abortion minded mother and father could look into the future and see their unborn baby, all grown up and standing right in front of them, would they still choose to end their baby's life?

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WOW WOMEN OF THE WAY

WOW Women of The Way

We had a great time again at All American Assisted Living making Valentine flowers with several ladies. The ladies also enjoyed interacting with the 2 teenagers, Jo and Eve, who joined us. See attached photos.

Thanks to all who joined us for the showing of the Sight & Sound movie Noah. We had a good meal prepared by WOW members and then thoroughly enjoyed the movie. The sight of all the live animals going up the ramp two by two into the ark was especially enjoyed by the children, who were enraptured by the whole 2 hour movie.

Don't forget our Lenten Soup Suppers. We had a good number of people for the dinner on Ash Wednesday. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help with the food.

We have already received several bags of winter wear for our donation to Citizens for Citizens. We will continue to accept donations through the month of March. Check your closets for any clean unused coats, gloves, hats, scarves, etc.

Our next meeting is March 6 at 10:00 AM at church. We will be doing some cleaning and organizing at the church after our business meeting.

Blessings to all
Pat Heather

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Happy Birthday!

Phyllis Mueller 3-01

Bryce Vickery 3-04

Sean Walsh 3-09

Griffin Dickerhoff 3-10

Sandy Boehmler 3-11

Julie Richardson 3-11

Bill Vickery 3-11

Noelle Vincze 3-17

Merle Unruh 3-17

Rhys Connors 3-18

Nicky Dickerhoff 3-20

Mya Jesus 3-22

Eleanor 3-22

Richard Newhall 3-30

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Important notes from the LCW office

All emails for the LCW office need to be sent to lcw.raynham@verizon.net Thank you.

Prayer List

Illness, healing, recovery, comfort, perseverance, and thanks:

Gene (Betty's brother-in-law), Walt Unruh, Rhys Connors, Claudette Yokell (Sharon Skov's mother), Mason Cohn (LeBeau friend), Amy Carey (Friend of Sharon Skov), Pat Zwicker, Pastor Dickerhoff and his family, Maggie and Harper Dickerhoff, Leslie (Bill Opheim's niece), Kathy Mueller (former daughter in-law of Mueller's), Audrey (Betty Mueller's sister), Kai Skov, Jon Ruele (Nephew of Fred and Phyllis), Naomi (Chris Anop's granddaughter), Sandy Hannant (Neighbor of the Bains), George Mather, Jennifer and Madison (Loved ones of the Rothwells), Joe Donnelly (Chris Anop's friend), Deanna Cassiere (Jurczyk's friend) Pam Chin, George Mather, John (Chris Anop's loved one), Bill Hansen (Fred & Phyllis's brother-in-law), Herb Jones (surgery recovery), Sally Healy (Bains neighbor in hospice), Dennis Moloney (Heather (Bain)'s father-in-law: upcoming cancer treatments), Sandra Fuller (healing), and those facing PTSD and Covid 19 .

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....most every morning, Bill Wolf is present at The Abortion Clinic next to Abundant Hope(which LCW supports). Bill needs LCW ladies willing to use their voice to read testimonies of former abortion clinic workers. Bill records these and broadcasts them on a low power FM frequency which can be heard by anyone who tunes in to that station within ¼ mile of the clinic. There is no need for the voice helper to be present at the clinic. Your voice may be heard by abortion clinic workers, and potential workers en-route to destroy the new life within them (also by the persons who bring them. See Bill for further info.

Thank you,

Bill

wwolf@swissmail.org

508-660-3140

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