



Our Mission... to seek, share, and serve our Savior

# Holy Crossings

**MARCH 2023**

## THE CHALLENGE OF THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent constitutes both a challenge and an embarrassment to Lutherans. Each year as the season approaches it brings with it the temptation to vacillate between whether our response will affirm our freedom in Christ or whether there is something important in the sacred observance of the season. The struggle often is that we do not know where we stand because our feet seem to be stuck in both camps.

On one side, our conscience serves to remind us that (if we are the practicing Christians we claim to be) we had better "do something" about observing the most sacred season in the Christian calendar. We are reminded further of what we know all too well, namely, that we have been over-indulgent and maybe are even drawn to attend a Fat Tuesday event otherwise known as Mardi Gras on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Then comes the thought that maybe it would be a good idea to place ourselves under some kind of spiritual and physical discipline. It would not hurt us to "give up something for Lent and on the level of personal habits we could stand a more rugged Christian discipleship.

On the other side, even the world in its own careless way seems to expect something of Lent. The cable History Channel among others promote that it is a time when the claims of Jesus Christ appear to enter the scope of legitimate inquiry. Publishers issue books of sermons and devotions dealing with the cross of Christ; pastors preach messages on the events surrounding Calvary. Motion picture theaters cater to the seasonal fashion by endeavoring to book "religious" films.

On yet another side, a sense of indignation stirs within the Lutheran, even to the pitch of revolt, at what the Church has done with Lent in the past. When we see how the priesthood has used Lent to manipulate and

exploit the faithful; when we survey the fuss and feathers it has raised over dietary prescriptions, and the way it has proclaimed its manifold regulations, specific demands, and sacrificial requirements, we are left wondering what it is all about. We want to draw the line with Luther and cry out, "**Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.**" and postulate the principle that every day is Lent for the Christian who lives every day in the shadow of the Cross.

Such being the situation, we have our choice of the horns of the dilemma. Understandably, there will be a strong temptation to straddle. For example, when the office assistant complains to her pastor that she is the only girl in her office who did not wear a smudge of ashes on her forehead on Ash Wednesday; that she, who says her prayers daily and disciplines her life and sings in the choir and tithes, is being singled out during Lent as apparently the only non-Christian on the staff.

What will the pastor do? Will he open the Book of Galatians or will he order a supply of ashes? Or will he do both? Or neither? Or prefer not to go as far as prescribing the eating of fish during Lent. But will patronizingly throw a fish, so to speak, to the whole Lenten idea. That is, He will make some occasional references to Lent here and there during the worship service; hold a special series of midweek services; and recommend certain Lenten readings.

But before we throw the baby out with the bathwater, so to speak; maybe we need to step back and remember that the basic concept of Lent is that it is as a time of prayer and fasting in memory of our Lord's passion and death.

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Are we really ready to give that only lip service? For to that our Roman Catholic friends, who by and large take the Lenten season rather seriously, will smile gently at clumsy Lutheran attempts to mark the occasion, and will murmur, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

So how do we spend time in contemplation of our Savior and of his vicarious sacrifice in our behalf? Is there a better time is there for such sustained reflection than during the sacred days prior to the celebration of His resurrection? If the task of the Church during Lent is to make this experience real to the people who are Christ's body, then Lent can become a time when material things are put again in their proper secondary position; when we see in the spiritual the unconquerable forces of life. It can become a time of self-examination, when we reflect upon our present position in the pilgrimage and check our directions. It can become a time of personal readjustment, not through mental resolutions to do better but through yielding ourselves afresh to the God who demands to be obeyed. And it can become a time when, by following the battered path to Calvary, we identify ourselves once again with the Savior who makes all things new.

## SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Calling all Women!! Friends, neighbors, co-workers. We will be studying 1 and 2 Peter in June and July this summer and will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. A sign up and schedule of chapters each week will be available very soon. Mark your calendars for the dates of June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 19 and 26. Please join us for one or all of these Wednesday evenings as schedules permit. Questions? Contact Michele Lein.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

**Bloopers & Blunders**

**"He who sits in the heavens laughs." Psalms 2:4**

- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Bertha will be leading a weight-management series Tuesday nights. She's used the program herself and has been growing like crazy!
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- Thursday at 5:00 PM there will be a meeting of the Little Mother's Club. All ladies wishing to become "Little Mothers" will meet with the Pastor in his study.
- On Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.
- Thursday night--Potluck supper.
- Prayer and medication to follow.
- The Lutheran men's group will meet at 6 pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.
- The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

What, NO coffee?! Don't panic! Sign up sheets are posted in the Commons. Haven't served before? Sign up with another person/couple to help. Just like Uncle Sam, we want YOU!





- Melvin Fulbert ..... March 5
- Vicki Case ..... March 6
- Michele Lein ..... March 6
- Chloe Peterman ..... March 14
- Faith Sumpter ..... March 17
- Cora Lein ..... March 23
- Nivin Fulbert ..... March 28
- Daniel Lein ..... March 29

### ESSAY CONTEST

Lutheran's For Life essay contest. Here's an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to write a life-affirming essay based on the theme **Just As...I Am**. Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"

is the theme verse, and is required in the formation of the essay. **Deadline for submission is April 1st.** For more information visit [www.bit.ly/LFLessay](http://www.bit.ly/LFLessay).



### LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION



"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" is the theme for the 40th Biennial LWML Convention, to be held **June 22-25, 2023** at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

Registration Costs:  
 January 9 - March 14: \$160  
 March 15 - May 10: \$180  
 May 11 - June 10: \$205

Information is available at [lwml.org/2023-convention](http://lwml.org/2023-convention)

### FOOD DRIVE

The BASIC Youth Group is collecting non-perishable food for the CAP agency food shelf. There will be a table in the back.



<b>March 18</b>	Make, Take or Give
<b>April 25</b>	Bible Bookenders
<b>April 30</b>	Voter's Meeting



## THE LUTHERAN HOUR



**The Lutheran Hour** can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

### **March 5**

#### **"An Arresting Encounter"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A devoutly religious person has an arresting encounter with Jesus and learns what it means to be "born again." (John 3:16)

### **March 12**

#### **"Thirsting for Life"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Jesus gives living water to those who are spiritually dehydrated. (John 4)

### **March 19**

#### **"Bad Karma vs. Good Creator"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When bad things happen, is it "bad karma" or an opportunity for our Good Creator to be doing a greater work? (John 9:3)

### **March 26**

#### **"Is God Missing in Action?"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Is God "missing in action?" Not if we see things from God's eternal perspective. (John 11)

## LWML SPRING RALLY

**April 1, 2023**

**Mt Hope**

**Lutheran Church**

Bloomington, MN

Speaker: Pastor

Mark Moss with

Lutheran Heritage

Fund



## MAKE, TAKE or GIVE!

Join us on **Saturday, March 18th at 10:00am** for a Holy Cross Women's Event. Bonnie Nowak will lead us in a fun craft that you can keep or share. Come and enjoy a morning of fellowship and brunch as well as exploring what the bible has to say about salt.



If you have old/decorative salt and pepper shakers and/or buttons bring them along. Pray for good weather; this is Minnesota after all!!

## LENTEN SUPPERS



Our Lenten soup suppers will be served each Wednesday through March 29th. It's a great opportunity to come together to fellowship and... to serve others. Signup sheets are posted in the commons to contribute to our suppers. Busy? Sign up to provide crackers, butter, milk, bread or bake some cookies/bars that can be frozen and pulled out as we need them. Never helped? Here's your opportunity!! Questions? Contact Pam Hunter.

## MOWING VOLUNTEERS

I know it doesn't seem like it, especially this week... but Spring will eventually be here! And we are in need of some volunteers to help with mowing the church grounds. It's a great way to get outside and get



some sunshine, fresh air, and exercise. Lawn mowing can also be a form of therapy, no one bothers you and you can't hear your phone! Talk to Dave Albrecht, Denny Case, or Rich Vannett to help out.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES



**The new offering envelopes should arrive the first week of March.** Until then, please place your offerings in a plain envelope marked with any designations beyond general fund giving (Missions, Building Fund, Special Offerings), or use a 2022 envelope you haven't used yet.

If you use a plain envelope, please include on the envelope your name and offering envelope number if you know it, especially if you are giving cash, for recording purposes. If you need an envelope, there will be envelopes available on the work counter opposite the kitchen marked for the next few Sundays. Once the envelopes for 2023 arrive, you can pick them up on the counter as well.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study in the back of the sanctuary after worship. Feel free to get a cup of coffee first and snack before we start at 10:15 am.



## HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you have a prayer request for today, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to the office at [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

## TIME OF GRACE



Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

Subscribe to **Time of Grace** ([www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org)) resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

**Pastor Mike Novotny**

The Core, Appleton, WI  
KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am

## MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30 minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

[www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities)

## 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



**A weekday 2-minute devotion that helps you see Jesus at work in your world.**

### Refrigerator

Everyone I know owns at least one. Occupies a place of prominence in the kitchen. The most opened door in the house. Especially if you have teens. Many have an additional one purring in the garage or utility room. Beverages for all ages. Overflow eats for family gatherings.

We always clean the kitchen one out before taking a trip. No desire to return to fuzzy mold growing on items that shouldn't be fuzzy. Refrigerators store perishable food for our bodies. Food that needs restocking by someone in the house. At least until some future transporting technology arrives.

Churches serve as refrigerators for the soul. Yours could be a giant walk-in refrigerator. Or more of a mini-house church variety. Matters not. Someone has to stock it.

You and your family pull open the door either in-person or on-line. You peek in to see what's for dinner. You rummage through the cheese drawer

seeking a wedge of sharp Irish Dubliner that goes well with the Fuji apple and Castelvetrano olives. Or maybe just a glass of OJ.

Children never think of restocking the fridge. They just open and eat. Pure consumers. Adults comprehend that consuming and providing go hand-in-hand. Can't consume without putting something in.

Church is no different. It requires adults who generously restock the soul fridge through their gifts of time and money. Grace comes to us freely through Jesus' Spirit and the pages of the Bible. Experiencing that grace in the company of others through the ministry of a church takes adult hearts who understand refrigerators don't magically refill.

Be generous to your local church. Be an adult who helps the fridge stay full.

**Rev. Bill Woolsey**  
President and Founder  
FiveTwo Network

**Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! [www.fivetwo.com/2mm](http://www.fivetwo.com/2mm)**

## 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

If you or someone you know is in a crisis or emotional distress, call 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline! This free and confidential lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. It is comprised of a national network of more than 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.



## Men's Bible Study



**Stories for Witness** every Tuesday from 8:00-9:00 am join us for Men's Bible Study. Discover the witness value of stories. We will review the great sacred story arcing over every disciple's life and find themselves in the stories Jesus tells in the gospels. We will also consider their own stories for witness. The point of witness is just where the Christ story, the story of another, and my own story intersect. To emphasize the visual nature of Jesus' stories, art will be used extensively.



**MARCH 5****Second Sunday in Lent**

"Back to the Basics"

John 3:1-17

**MARCH 12****Third Sunday in Lent**

"Who's Really the Thirsty One?"

John 4:5-26

**MARCH 19****Fourth Sunday in Lent**

"The End of the Blame Game"

John 9:1-41

**MARCH 26****Fifth Sunday in Lent**

"Can these bones live?"

Ezekiel 37:1-14



This Lenten season we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, contemplating what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Written by theology professor Reed Lessing, each service explores the meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with the location highlighted. Parishioners will learn things they may not have known before as they grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>Midweek 2</b>	Bethany
<b>Mar 8</b>	<b>Midweek 3</b>	The Mount of Olives
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Midweek 4</b>	Gethsemane
<b>Mar 22</b>	<b>Midweek 5</b>	The Courtyard
<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>Midweek 6</b>	Pilate's Judgment Hall
<b>Apr 2</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Bethphage
<b>Apr 6</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Upper Room
<b>Apr 7</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	Golgotha
<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>Resurrection of our Lord</b>	The Empty Tomb

## BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Bible Bookenders will be meeting **Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 pm** at church. We will be discussing *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*. Please join us for the historical fiction account from New York Times bestselling author Patti Callahan on the tale of the unlikely friendship turned true love between Joy Davidman and C. S. Lewis.



We will be meeting on Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 pm and Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 pm. Our book club selection is *Colors of Truth* by Tamera Alexander.

Invite your friends to join us. All are welcome, men and women and teenagers. Questions? Ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia Harvey or Michele Lein.

## CAMP OMEGA



Get ready for the best summer ever! Summer camp registration at Camp Omega is now open! There are camps available for a wide range of ages. Register now [www.bit.ly/campomega](http://www.bit.ly/campomega).

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, MARCH 2023

**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:

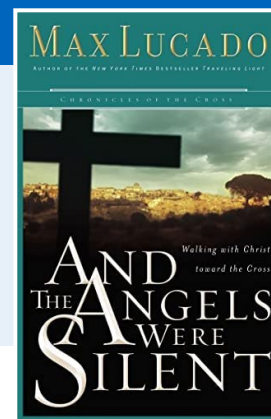
But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires 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.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

**BOOKS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON**

We have pulled some books from our church library that are a good read as we enter into the Lenten season. Two written by Max Lucado are *And the Angels Were Silent* and *Six Hours One Friday*. Another book is *The Day Christ was Born/The Day Christ Died* by Jim Bishop. We also have *Stories Behind the Traditions and Songs of Easter* by Ace Collins. All are displayed in the commons - take a look! They are available to check out. If you have other books to recommend, let us know and we'll share that information.







A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice		
<b>19</b> <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>22</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>5th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>29</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Make, Take, or Give