



# The Mountain Top

**ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI    MARCH 2020**

Happy March everyone and welcome to the season of Lent. I am writing this cover letter from sunny Phoenix, Arizona. June and I had the privilege to attend the Best Practice Ministry conference at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix. This is by far one of the best conferences I have ever attended and the participation from pastors, lay leaders, school workers and lay people helps point that out. This year attendance was limited to the first 2,700 people to respond. The conference takes place on the campus of Christ Church Lutheran and their school property. All of the presenters cover their own expense and donate their time. All of the food, snacks, and drinks and the like are all donated by the members of the church and they serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner for two days and breakfast and lunch the third. To help put all of this together they have a team of nearly 500 volunteers. To help fund some of the incidentals they have participation by nearly 100 vendors. The church also does weekly summer camps for children when school is out and the proceeds from those camps help fund any incidentals as well. This was the ninth year for the conference which started out with just over 250 people. I reflect on all of this as I am amazed and proud to see what God's people can do when they work together. I have included a couple pictures -side) to help you visualize the scope of what they do.



The above picture is of the mall area/school yard during a break between sessions, the vendors are located around the outer edges of the area. I think I speak for June as well as myself when I say it was an excellent conference. I attended a number of very interesting and informative breakout sessions and will be discussing some of those with all of you over the next several months. Just a couple of examples include looking into streaming our Sunday sermons and making them available on our webpage. Developing a new, new member program and look at the possibility of having a Zion Lutheran app available on smartphones.

(Cont. on next page)

**Pastor Rick Williams -**  
715-209-0479

**Office Hours: M/T/Th**  
**8:00am-5:00pm**  
**Wed. 12-8pm**

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.

**Office Secretary**  
Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075  
Office Hours M-W 8-3  
Days and times may change upon need of work.

**Church President:**  
John Pruss 715-292-4825

**Head Elder:**  
Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center:** 715-682-5185

**LFOJ Administrator:**  
Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

**Website**  
[www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)

**E-mail**  
[secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1111—11TH AVE WEST**  
**ASHLAND, WI 54806**  
**715-682-6075**

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am  
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm  
Sunday School 10:15am (Sept.-May)  
Bible Studies  
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am

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So, as I prepare to close for the month I would like to thank you all for allowing us to sneak away for a week to attend, it has been a refreshing experience. The other thing that I would like to conclude with is the fact that while it is impressive the way that Christ Church and her members pull together and put on this event. I am even more proud of Zion and her people and all that you do to expand God's kingdom. From the monthly missions, the support of the Brick, the sewing circle and all they do, to the LWML and altar guild, the work of the trustees, elders, the Sunday school program, Little Friends of Jesus, the Soup and Sandwich dinners and all the other feeding events and fund raisers. All of those things make a difference, all the ones I mentioned and the ones I didn't, everything we do to help expand Gods kingdom. Whether you are Christ Church Lutheran with her thousands, or Zion Lutheran with her hundreds, we are God's chosen people, put here to do His good and gracious work.

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.

God bless all of you and the work that you do in His name.  
Pastor Rick





Can you daydream for us? Okay, here is the scenario. When you come to church, try to pretend it is the first time arriving and entering the church.

What would you like to

see done. What changes might you do to make it more welcoming. Be somewhat specific. You don't have to go into complete detail, unless you want to. Prioritize your ideas. And then, what if money was no problem. What would you change?

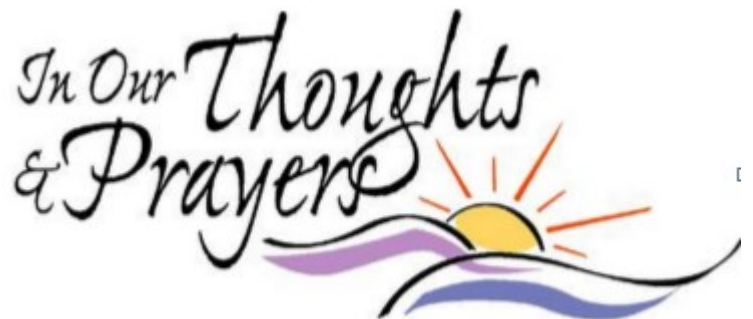


## PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Linda Larson-Nelson  
Bob Heggie  
Kate Smith  
Brad Prill  
Mary Siefers  
Jim Bullis  
Lloyd Koosmann  
Theresa Koosmann  
Penny Mattson  
Rebecca Gurske  
LeAnn Billing  
Angie Guski

Tim Smith  
Kevin Heggie  
Alice Balmer  
David Kaarre  
Mary Bullis  
Mike Dimich  
Helen Korpela  
Marty Kaarre  
Penny Larson  
David Gustafson  
Ellen Hudgeson  
Duane Lynch



Michael Thompson  
Curtis James  
and those in our hearts.

## PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them. Walt Schutte Arlene Zimmerman Violet Basina

Madge Houle Donna Graves Nancy Zehe

## PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families. David Wright Emily Melecha Tucker Melecha

Jordan Thimm Andrew Pruss





**Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord.  
Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.** Isaiah 1:18b

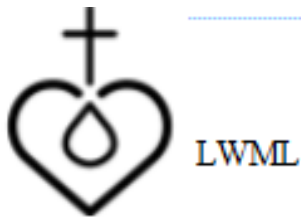
Today Herb had a routine eye appointment in Superior. We knew there was a winter-storm warning, but the morning was clear. We arrived at the clinic early, and Herb had the exam. We also made a short run to Duluth to pick up some "special" shoes for Herb, and we were on our way home.

By then, nature's snow-machine was operating on full-power and snow was coming down fast. Fortunately, our Highway 2 lane was clear enough that we could move along. It all went well until Iron River and then things changed. The lanes were snow-covered, heavy snow was falling, wind was blowing, and visibility was very limited. We were not in a total white-out, but there were some "blind spots" when a vehicle would kick up snow. Fortunately, most vehicles had lights on and were driving slower for these challenging conditions.

When we arrived home, I read that the Ashland Bay front was drifted in, and Washburn had white-out conditions. Upnorth most of us have traveled in white-out conditions and we know how scary it is when you can't figure out where your lane is, you can't see cars until you are practically on top of them, and landmarks are covered with snow... everything feels like a foreign landscape.



I got to thinking of this verse in Isaiah where the Lord invites us to come and reason with Him. "Though your sins are like scarlet" .... Inwardly we know sin stains us, and leaves a mark. We might even forget about these scars, but at unexpected times they show up and gnaw at our minds again. And leave us with a feeling of regret. God fully understood how "guilt" can weigh us down, so He wanted to be clear that the deep stain of sin can be removed by His Holy snow-white power. We might not see His forgiveness coming, this landscape of grace can feel foreign, but it is real... and **it is a promise by God**. The stain is erased, and we now carry His "white-out" story. We see with His new eyes. We know we are safe in His lane. We are set free!

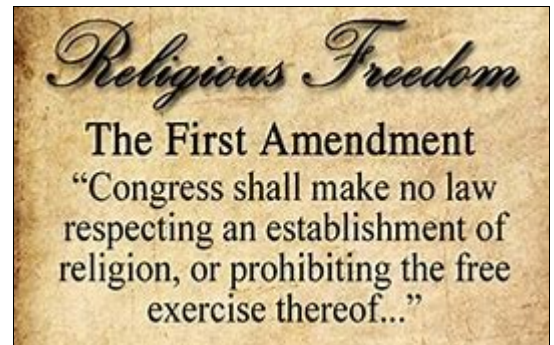


## Joy in Christian Freedom

[Jesus said,] “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*” (John 8:36).

When Americans are asked to state the freedoms allowed through their government, they may think of the freedoms of speech and religion guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

As Christians we know that real freedom comes with a price – the price paid in full for each one of us through the cross of Jesus Christ. Our Christian freedom from sin, guilt, and the Law’s accusation could not be paid for by our actions, but were fully and completely paid for by Christ’s death and resurrection.



Our freedom as Christians does not give us a license to live without regard to others. *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another* (Galatians 5:13). True Christian freedom responds to God’s love by reaching out in love and service to others.

**Prayer:** Dear Father, we know our true freedom is a gift from You. Help us to live as Your servants, using our freedom to Your glory and for the good of others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



## Zion’s Dartball

**2019-2020**

The team took

FIRST place for the regular season and SECOND during tournament play. Con-



# LENT: A TIME FOR GIVING UP OR TAKING UP?

What are you giving up for Lent? Are you sure that's a good idea?

Giving up things for Lent is a long-standing tradition in the Western Church. Doing so is generally understood to help us prepare for observing and celebrating Easter through experience some kind of suffering through deprivation. While there is nothing wrong with giving up things for Lent and in some ways it can be a valuable spiritual discipline, for many people the practice has devolved into a work of personal suffering through which they expect to better understand the sufferings of Christ.



How silly of us to think that denying ourselves chocolate for forty days or going without our morning boost of caffeine for a season even begins to approach the least of Jesus' sufferings for us. We've moved far away from the purpose and substance of Lent by the insignificant things we're willing to give up.

While no one is certain about how the practice of giving up things for Lent began or what the motives were of those who first observed Lent in this way, we can certainly see how giving up things for Lent has come to be practiced in our culture.

Far from being a time of solemn reflection and repentance, the beginning of Lent has turned into another excuse for people to engage in excess. Now, without the disciplines of fasting, self-denial, and prayer that followed, people revel in consuming all the things that were once prohibited during Lent — and much, much more. Mardi Gras (and its various regional adaptations) has become a celebrated cultural event that shows more of what the American character has become than our half-hearted observances of Lent.

By giving up things for Lent in the ways that we do, we've made this holy season into one more instance of our self-absorption. Like the New Year's Resolutions that we made just a few weeks ago, our commitment to observing Lent sacrificially is momentary and fleeting. We have a sense of what is good for us and what we must do in order to improve ourselves or our circumstances, but we lack the resolve to see our way through the self-denial that it takes to make the needed change an effective part of our lives. What we give up for Lent is often as petty and insignificant as what we resolve for New Year's — and ends up just as broken and meaningless.

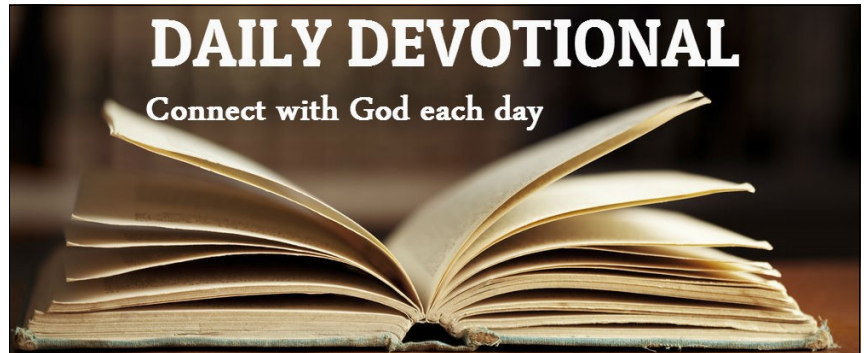
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Isn't it time for us to put an end to our empty observances of Lent? Are we ready for a serious go at journeying through Lent in a way that brings us to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's atoning work? If so, perhaps we should stop giving up things for Lent and use this sacred time to take up things instead.

The things that we should aim to take up during Lent are those things that we've let fall by the wayside as we've lived our lives at the breakneck speed of our culture. It might include taking up a daily devotion or taking up

the practice of meditative prayer. If we've been away from the gathering of God's people in worship, we could take up participating in the Divine Service on Sundays as well as the mid-week Lenten services.



What a difference Lent could be for us and make in us if we would take up reading God's Word daily, intentionally speaking the Gospel to one person a week, showing the love of Christ to the poor and needy through acts of mercy, or listening to recorded sermons or Bible studies.

Whatever we might take up for Lent, we should remember that, above all, taking up things for Lent in a meaningful way inevitably results in hearing the clear call of Jesus to take up our crosses daily. Taking up our crosses involves looking beyond our self-interests, desires, and pious actions (including giving up things for Lent) and finding joy, peace, security, and purpose — those things that are so glaringly absent in our culture — in the realization of what Jesus gave up and took up for us.

Take up something edifying for Lent and discover joy that giving up earthly things for a few weeks can never approach.

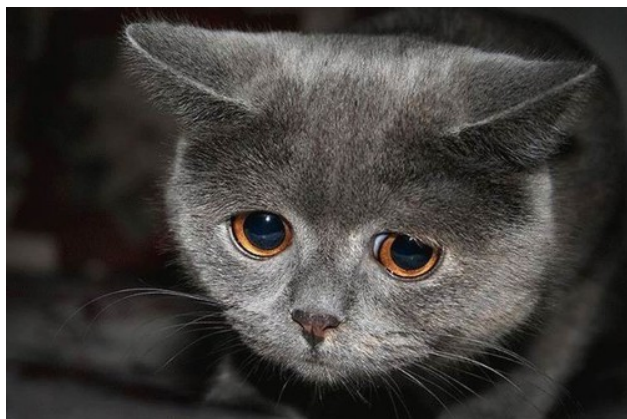
### **Questions to consider:**

- *What might I take up for Lent that would help me grow in faith and love?*
- *How can either taking up something for Lent or giving up something for Lent open doors for me to share God's Word with people in my life? How might it get in the way of it?*
- *In what ways can I use the season of Lent to be a witness of Christ to people who are caught up in the excesses of our culture?*



# MISSION

The LWML of Zion has offered to coordinate bi-monthly mission projects for 2020. The first project during March and April will be the collecting of donations of supplies and money which will be given to the Chequamegon Humane Association.



The CHA is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the homeless animals in the Chequamegon Bay area. They provide vaccines, spay/neutering, microchipping, socialization and medical care when needed. Their programs that serve our community include a low cost spay/neutering for low income pet owners, A Pet Food Pantry, low cost adoptions for Senior Citizens, and more.

Stop at the table in the narthex for their Wish List or go on line to Chequamegon Humane Association to see their list on Amazon. Our donations will help CHA to serve as a temporary haven for homeless animals.



**Thrivent Choice Dollars Expire Tuesday, March 31**

**Attention Thrivent Members**—Please direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion or LFOJ or wherever before they expire on March 31, 2020. Please keep in mind that the phones will be very busy Tuesday, March 31st so why not designate your Choice Dollars today. It is simple and doesn't cost you anything but your time.

YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE OF A PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER. There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to [222.thriventchoice.com](https://222.thriventchoice.com) or call 1-800-847-4835 and say "choice dollars" at automation.



# 2020 Lent

## Wednes-



Theme:  
Eyes on Jesus

March 4th  
"Betraying Eyes"

March 11th  
"Sleepy Eyes"

March 18th  
"Denying Eyes"

March 25th  
"Murderous Eyes"

## Soup/Sandwich Suppers

Currently we are short a couple committees and some people are on more than one committee, so that doesn't leave very many people preparing for our Soup/Sandwich Meals. Therefore we are going to have two Potluck meals giving the opportunity to those who may not serve on committees to participate. The Potlucks will be whatever people would like to bring. Also, we hope that others would help with the clean-up afterwards. Same time (5-6), same place. Hope to see you there.

## Soup/Sandwich Wednesdays 5:00-6:00pm

**March 4th** Pot Luck Supper

**March 11th** LFOJ

**March 18th** Pot Luck Supper

April 5th  
Sunday School will  
be participating  
during the service.  
Youth Brunch fol-  
lowing the service 10:15am



**Maundy  
Thursday**

April 9th  
6:30pm

"More Than Meet the  
Eye"

Good  
Friday



Dear God, before I even took my first breath, you already knew me and loved me. Thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to die for my sins. Thank you for the gift of eternal life you freely offer those who love you, and thank you for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit to lead me into Your presence until You call me home. You truly have given me so much, even when I was so far from you. Thank you!, Amen

## Sunday, April 12, 2020

7:00 am Sunrise Service

He is  
**RISEN**

## CAMP LUTHER - WHAT IS EVERY KID TO CAMP?

Every Kid to Camp is a ministry that sends kids to camp at no expense to their parents (except transportation) and provides financial aid through Camperships to those in need. The ministry goal is that every child in the North Wisconsin District, and beyond, attends a five-day camp before they reach the ninth grade.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

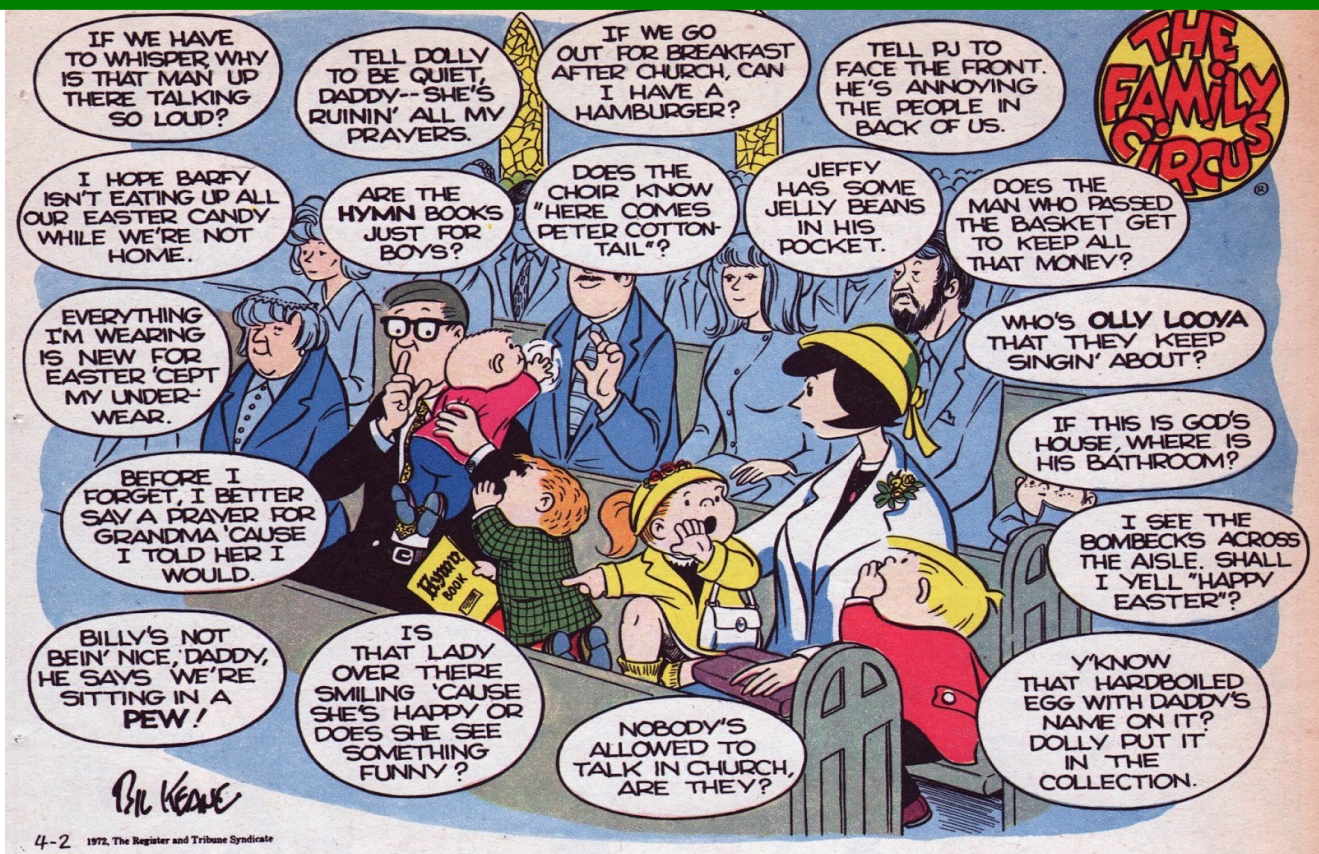
The purpose of the "Every Kid to Camp" ministry is to help kids build a stronger foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. It's a unique experience where youth grow in maturity, self-worth, and most importantly, in their relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a tremendous blessing that every one of our children should experience. It's about connecting KIDS to CHRIST through CAMP... one kid at a time.

### WHY IS CAMP SO IMPORTANT?

By age 9 (4th grade) most of the moral and spiritual foundations of a child are in place. By age 13 a child's spiritual identity is largely set. Summer camp is a life-changing experience that will make a difference in the spiritual life of a child - and their family. Lifelong habits, values, and attitudes are formed between the ages of 5 and 12. Kids who attend summer camp will see life through a different set of eyes...Jesus' eyes. Kids will not only build relationships with new friends, but more importantly, with Jesus Christ.

### THE GOALS OF EVERY KID TO CAMP ARE:

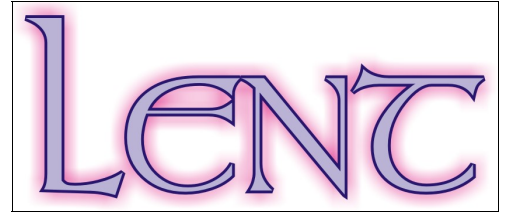
- help kids build a strong foundation of faith in Jesus Christ.
- help transform kids into spiritual champions.
- create memories and change lives of kids through a summer camp experience.
- give every child the opportunity to attend a summer at Camp Luther at least one time.
- send 300 kids to Camp Luther every year at no expense to their parents.
- provide Camperships to those in need of financial aid





# Test your knowledge about

*Answers on another page*



1. What biblical event does the time of Lent represent?
  - A. The forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18)
  - B. Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where he fasted for forty days, and was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-2, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-2)
  - C. The forty days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)
2. Which is the first day of Lent?
  - A. Ash Wednesday
  - B. Valentine's Day
  - C. Shrove Tuesday
  - D. Maundy Thursday
3. What is the original meaning of Lent?
  - A. Autumn
  - B. Spring
  - C. Fast
  - D. Penance
4. Which is the last Sunday of Lent?
  - A. Easter Sunday
  - B. Whit Sunday
  - C. Palm Sunday
  - D. Pentecost Sunday
5. Lent is known to be 40 days long even though from Ash Wednesday to the last Saturday of the season it is 46 days. Why?
  - A. Sundays are not included
  - B. Mondays are not included
  - C. Counting error
  - D. Saturdays are not included
6. How is ash for Ash Wednesday made?
  - A. By burning palms used during previous Palm Sunday
  - B. By burning logs
  - C. By burning books
  - D. By burning clothes
7. Which two people appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration?
  - A. Abraham & Noah
  - B. Abraham & Adam
  - C. Elijah & Elisha
  - D. Moses & Elijah
8. Which three disciples went with Jesus to the Mountain?
  - A. Peter, James & John
  - B. Matthew, Mark & Luke
  - C. Matthew, Luke & John
  - D. None of the Above
9. What did Luke say the two Old Testament Saints were discussing with Jesus?
  - A. Their time in heaven
  - B. He didn't say
  - C. His departure in Jerusalem
  - D. The end of the world
10. What did the Father call Jesus on the Mountain?
  - A. The greatest prophet ever
  - B. The Son of Man
  - C. The Word made flesh
  - D. My beloved Son
11. The Romans got involved in the case regarding the trial of Jesus because...
  - A. The Jewish authorities couldn't execute
  - B. They didn't agree with Jewish justice
  - C. They were the Conquering army
  - D. They were particular about such things
12. When Pilate wanted to let Jesus go, the Jewish authorities said he would be...
  - A. No friend of Caesar
  - B. Out of some bribe money
  - C. In trouble with his wife
  - D. Looking for work
13. The cause of death listed for a crucified man would be...
  - A. Asphyxiation
  - B. Shock
  - C. Loss of blood
  - D. Heart attack
14. After the resurrection the total number of witnesses who saw Jesus alive was about...
  - A. 12
  - B. 25
  - C. 100
  - D. 500+



## WHAT IS YOUR GUESS FOR 2020?

The sheet is on the bulletin board. Have your guess for when all the snow will be gone from 12th Street, from the end of 11th Ave. to the alley. Your guess must be posted by March 15th.



1 B	2 A
3 B	4 C
5 A	6 A
7 D	8 A
9 C	10 D
11 A	12 A
13 A	14 D







# 20 MARCH 20

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Mite Sunday  <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>2</b>  Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>3</b>  LFOJ Chapel 11:05am	<b>4</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:05am Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm Lent Suppers 5-6 <b>Lent Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Times Begins  <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>9</b>  10:00am Bible Study Sewing Circle 1:00pm Altar Guild 6:00pm	<b>10</b>  Sewing Circle 1pm  LFOJ Board Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>11</b>  Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm Lent Suppers 5-6 <b>Lent Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am	<b>16</b>  10:00am Bible Study  Council Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm Lent Suppers 5-6 <b>Lent Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>19</b>  LWML Gathering 10:00am	<b>20</b>  <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>23</b>  10:00am Bible Study  Sewing Circle 1:00pm	<b>24</b>  Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>25</b>  Confirmation S/S Activity 3:30-6:30  Lent Suppers 5-6 <b>Lent Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Food Shelf Sunday  <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>30</b>  10:00am Bible Study	<b>31</b>				



## MARCH Servers for Worship Services

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you to all who serve.

### Elders' Schedule March 1st to April 29th

Mar. 1 Darryl Doug  
Mar. 4 Darryl  
Mar. 8 Scott Doug  
Mar. 11 John  
Mar. 15 Darryl John  
Mar. 18 Doug  
Mar. 22 John Darryl  
Mar. 25 John Doug  
Mar. 29 Scott Doug  
Apr. 1 John  
Apr. 5 Scott Darryl  
Apr. 9 Doug John  
Apr. 10 Darryl  
**Apr. 12 7am John Doug  
9am Scott Darryl**  
Apr. 15 Doug  
Apr. 19 Randy John  
Apr. 22 Scott  
Apr. 26 Scott Darryl



### Acolyte's Schedule March 1st to April 29th

Mar. 1 Austin  
Mar. 4 Faith  
Mar. 8 Sophia  
Mar. 11 Eli  
Mar. 15 Ayeisha  
Mar. 18 Gloria  
Mar. 22 Austin  
Mar. 25 Adeline  
Mar. 29 Sophia  
Apr. 1 Ayeisha  
Apr. 5 Austin  
Apr. 9 Gloria  
Apr. 10 Austin  
**Apr. 12 7:00am Faith  
9:00am Ade;ine**  
Apr. 19 Ayeisha  
Apr. 26 Eli



March  
Becky Sapper 682-1110  
Paula Pruss 292-1898

### OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism Feb. 16, 2020  
Otto Paul Williams

### Greeter's Schedule March 1st to April 29th

Mar. 1 Nick & Jule Jarvela  
Mar. 4 Lori Landry  
Mar. 8 Janet Houle  
Mar. 11 Amy Bochler & Dawn Reardon  
Mar. 15 Honkala Family  
Mar. 18 Karen Wahl  
Mar. 22 Wickman Family  
Mar. 25 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow  
Mar. 29 Scott & Becky Sapper  
Apr. 1 June Williams  
Apr. 5 Brian & Linda Klobucher  
Apr. 10 Thurs. Warren & Peggy Draeger  
**Apr. 12 9:00am Lipske Family**  
Apr. 19 Bolz Family  
Apr. 26 Herb & Alice Ellis

### Usher's Schedule March 1st to April 29th

Mar. 1 Curt Harpster  
Mar. 4 Loren Munson  
Mar. 8 Scott Sapper  
Mar. 11 Larry Hildebrandt  
Mar. 15 Clarence Osmak  
Mar. 18 Ron Schwiesow  
Mar. 22 Chad Lipske  
Mar. 25 Tim Bauer  
Mar. 29 Bruce Honkala  
Apr. 1 Rick Nutt  
Apr. 5 Daniel Truchon  
Apr. 10 Jerry Frisco  
**Apr. 12 7:00am  
9:00am Tim Bauer**  
Apr. 19 Jerry Frisco  
Apr. 26 Chris Bolz

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**