

# Good News

## Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer March 2021

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This is Christ's church, and there is a  
place for you here!

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### LCOR's 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Paul T. Christian</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Dean Freeburn</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bill Banze</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Brian Barnes</b>
<b>Outreach Team</b>	<b>Marva Farrington</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>Gregory Bergeret</b> <b>Bruce Smith</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>Christan Stager</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>Dee Christian</b>

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.*

*~Psalm 51:1*

## *A word from Pastor Paul:*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Lenten journey is an expedition that leads us to the cross. Our faith is shaped by and lived in the shadow of the cross of Jesus. God's manifold love and grace shadow us from the scorching heat of sin, death and the devil. The shadow cast by the cross of Calvary gives us the promise of salvation and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ the only one ever able to defeat the power of the cross. During Lent we ponder what it means for us to abide in the shadow of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

The cross is such a prevalent symbol in our society. You see it around and near the places you go and frequent on a routine basis. They are on churches and storefronts, hanging from rear view mirrors and plastered on the bumpers of cars, markers along the side of the highways and used as headstones and grave markers in private, public and national and international cemeteries like Gettysburg, Arlington, Normandy and Iwo Jima. People adorn themselves with crosses around their necks and wrists. Crosses are used as rings, earrings, toe rings and even nose rings. Especially in today's tattoo happy society they have been inked into one's skin in every place imaginable of every color, shape and size.

You see a wide range of people accessorize their wardrobe, bodies, automobiles, homes, offices with the symbol of the cross. A broad spectrum of personalities – from Madonna, Lady Gaga, and Ozzy Osborne to Deacons, Pastors, Bishops and the Pope all have the cross as an accoutrement. What are we, you and I, to make of the cross displayed in so many forms and fashions across the landscape of our lives, country and world?

What does the cross mean to you? That is the question to ponder this Lenten season. What does the cross stand for in your life and the faith you profess? Is it more than a symbol or does it actually mean something in the way you live your life publicly and privately? Has the cross become so commonplace that it has become just another benign symbol in Americana? Have we lost the sense of power that the cross represents as a tool of corporal punishment for acts committed against the state? I pray you come to the foot of the cross this Lenten season and every season of your life to ponder what it means to know the true and ultimate power of living your life in its shadow. The cross was a symbol used by ruthless sinful human beings to represent death and punishment. The cross on Calvary is used by a loving and merciful God to symbolize life and forgiveness. May the cross be more than a symbol, a piece of jewelry or art work. May its shadow be a place where you come to know the depth and breadth of the love Jesus Christ has for you. As you journey through the shadows this Lenten season be mindful of the fact the shadows give way to a bright and glorious morn. May you share the hope and joy that come from living in the shadow of the cross with and reflect the love of Jesus Christ in your thoughts, words and deeds. I leave you with

verse from a Lenten hymn from the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and entrust it to your hearts and minds to ponder:

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;  
may our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew;  
till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,  
graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.  
(LBW H# 93, Jesus, Refuge of the Weary, st. 3)

Blessings on your journey,  
Pastor Paul

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### *Just a Note*

#### *Lenten Soup & Service.*

Please join us at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays throughout March for soup and bread and at 6 p.m. for Compline service in the fellowship hall as we gather to share fellowship and prayer on our Lenten journey.

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#### *Spread the Word!*

Did you know that our church services are streamed live on Facebook each Sunday morning? If you can't make it to church on a Sunday, be sure to join us on Facebook Live at [Lutheran Church | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/our.redeemer.49) (https://www.facebook.com/our.redeemer.49). Tell your friends, too. Perhaps they would like to see how a traditional Lutheran worship service is conducted.

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#### *Homeless bags*

Members are encouraged to take a bag or two from the table in the Narthex to keep in your car to help out others in need. The bags are stuffed with items that can help a person down on their luck – bottle of water, food items (may need to be replaced), toiletry items, tissues, a hand-written inspirational quote, even a pair of socks, and can be easily handed out your car window! Please help spread the love of God to those in need!

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#### *LCOR Website.*

You may have noticed that our website is currently down. We are in the process of updating the information and adding a new look. We are hoping to have it completed by mid-March. Watch the bulletin for the announcement of its launch!

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## *Council President's Report*

Your Congregation Council is hard at work for you. We are busy putting together the annual report and should have it ready soon. Dee, her son, and others are busy putting a new web page together. It should be a doozy. To make the changes we need to make in our By-Laws we found that we also needed to make changes to our constitution. When looking into making those changes, we found that there was more than one constitution being used by the council. In checking with the Synod, I found out that we need to pass a new constitution for our congregation. The council is currently working on putting this together. As a matter of fact, we agreed to the wording of the new constitution at our meeting on February 21, 2021. We will be presenting this document to the membership at a special meeting after our service in about 2 months. A second meeting of the membership will be required to pass the constitution. Once the new constitution is in force, we will present the changes to the by-laws. The Congregational Council has been participating in a couple of internet meetings with Reverend John Wertz. One was called "Council Launch". This program was designed to move our leaders beyond reacting to ministry in the pandemic and to begin planning for 2021 and beyond. The second was the beginning of several sessions on strategic planning. We are doing some targeted planning that looks at our congregations' purpose, mission, and vision first and then builds on that to identify some goals and strategies. These are about one-hour meetings with things to do to prepare for the meetings and then the time on Zoom is focused on discussion. The council felt that it would be beneficial for members of the congregation to participate as well. If you are interested; we will be meeting again on March 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Please contact me at (804)732-4050 or [deancdu4u@netzero.com](mailto:deancdu4u@netzero.com) if you would like me to provide the link.

We are working on nominating a lay member for the "Serving Boldly Award". More on who we have picked soon. I hope some of you participated in the "Midwinter Power in the Spirit". This was provided over the internet and was a version of the Power in the Spirit that usually takes place in person in July. I found it to be very fulfilling. There are plans for one this July. We need two council members to fill the remainder of the terms of Christan Stager (Stewardship) & Marva Farrington (Evangelism & Social Ministry), as they are both moving out of our area soon. Please think about who we will ask to fill in these two positions. Maybe you are being called to step up and serve your church or maybe you could encourage a member that might have the talent to serve. Contact a council member if you have information that might help. Pray that God will help provide those leaders.

We are now under contract with Specter Properties to find a tenant for the Chapel area of our church. You may have seen the sign in our front yard. All the renovations have been completed. We have beautiful new chandeliers, new heat and air conditioning, new locks on the door, and double doors separating the chapel area from the remainder of the church. The annual assembly will be provided online this June. The Synod will be sending more information on this.

Let's pray for some good weather so we can get out and enjoy God's wonderful world and pray that this virus leaves us soon with the least loss of life as possible.

*Dean Freeburn*

Congregational President

## *Outreach Team*

Reaching out to our neighbors

Members:

Pastor Paul & Dee Christian  
Peggy & Bart Connors  
Dean Freeburn  
Ruth Knight  
David & Jeane Pemberton

Paul & Mary Propst  
Gerlinde Smith  
Martina Smith  
Chair, Marva Farrington

The Outreach Team last met on January 19<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM. Even though our Team cannot reach out to our neighbors due to COVID restrictions as we'd like to, we forge on as we are able.

We continue to support the Downtown Churches United (DCU) in Feeding the Hungry through the Hope Center in Petersburg. In January there were 2,020 meals served to the hungry.

An update on the Walk Against Hunger fund raiser, one of the projects that LCOR traditionally annually assists. The updated amount raised (drum roll please) is over \$69,000! Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who help. The Hope Center is still accepting donations towards this fund raiser.

The Outreach Team will meet on March 16<sup>th</sup> via zoom at 6 pm. Contact Marva if you would like to join the Team.

Marva Farrington, Chair

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### *Feeding the Hungry*

Thank you to all those who help prepare the bag lunches for the hungry at the Hope Center. 100 bags were prepped on Sunday after worship on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February and 100 sandwiches were prepared after the Lenten service on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The sandwiches were added to the lunch bags and delivered to the Hope Center on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. Thank you to all those who helped prepare the bag lunches to feed those who were in need and hungry



If you would like to assist with the next Feeding of the Hungry, or if you have questions, please contact Peggy Connors or call (443) 386-1034.

## *Worship Notes*

What is Lent? The word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lengten,” which simply means “spring” — when the days lengthen and new life springs forth. It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. It is, to borrow a phrase from C.S. Lewis, a season of a kind of “happiness and wonder that makes you serious.”

As we continue our Lenten journey, we take time to reflect, repent and reconcile our lives with God. It’s kind of like starting anew. People often look at this season as a time of cutting something out — foods, behaviors, social media, toxic relationships — or adding something in — more gratefulness, more nature, more downtime, more kindness.

Throughout these 40 days, as we look toward the cross, we will have some victories and some failures. Of one thing, we can be assured: “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

God’s mercies are new every morning. This scripture from Lamentations gives us words of hope to cling to! Certainly after the year we’ve had, we are looking for the hope in starting things anew. What better way to “restart” than to reflect, repent and reconcile ourselves to God, God’s will and God’s way?

With God, we are not alone. And with God, our strength is renewed.

So whether we find ourselves needing to add in more of the good stuff — humility, gratefulness, self-control, tolerance, forgiveness — or cut out the bad — addiction, shame, guilt, greed, envy, bitterness — with Him, we can feel hopeful as we look to Easter because our gracious and merciful Lord is sovereign over it all.

### ➤ Upcoming Services and Activities

- March 3 – Lenten Soup and Service – 5:30 Soup/6 p.m. Service in the Fellowship Hall
- March 7 – Lent 3 - Service with Holy Communion at 10:15 a.m.
- March 10 – Lenten Soup and Service – 5:30 Soup/6 p.m. Service in the Fellowship Hall
- March 14 – Lent 4 - Service of the Word at 10:15 a.m.
- March 17 – Lenten Soup and Service – 5:30 Soup/6 p.m. Service in the Fellowship Hall
- March 21 – Lent 5 - Service with Holy Communion at 10:15 a.m.
- March 24 – Lenten Soup and Service – 5:30 Soup/6 p.m. Service in the Fellowship Hall
- March 28 – Palm Sunday - Service of the Word at 10:15 a.m.
- April 1 - Maundy Thursday - Service with Holy Communion at 7 p.m.
- April 2 – Good Friday – Service of the Word at 7 p.m.
- April 4 – Easter - Service with Holy Communion at 10:15 a.m.

## Volunteers Needed

Thank you to all who serve as worship assistants! We are in need of volunteers to help with our worship experience, especially on the altar guild. If you are interested in helping out on any of the subcommittees or just want to know more about what each does, you can talk to one of the following members:

Altar Guild – Edna May

Music/Choir – Cindy Nicol

Usher Board – Bart Connors

Soundboard – Melissa Watts

Lay/Communion Assistant/Acolyte – Dee Christian

Dee Christian, Committee Chair

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries* **March 2021**



Melissa Watts

9<sup>th</sup>

If we have missed your

Gerlinde Smith

16<sup>th</sup>

Birthday or Anniversary,

Kelly Sharpe

20<sup>th</sup>

please contact Marva and

Dee Christian

20<sup>th</sup>

give her the missing

information!

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## *Spring Forward*

Don't forget to move your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night,  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>!**



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## *Scriptures for March Services*

### **March 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

### **March 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12 or 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

### **March 14<sup>th</sup> ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

### **March 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

*WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE in MARCH 2021*

<b>March 7, 2021</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:15 A.M.</b>
Lay Asst: Kelly Sharpe	Sound Board: Melissa Watts	
Acolyte: Emily Christian	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Peggy Connors	Altar Guild: E May	
Tellers: B Smith/D Christian		
<b>March 14, 2021</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>	<b>10:15 A.M.</b>
Lay Asst: Christan Stager	Sound Board: Martina Smith	
Acolyte: Elizabeth Christian	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Brian Barnes	Altar Guild: J Pemberton	
Tellers: P Propst/M Watts		
<b>March 21, 2021</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:15 A.M.</b>
Lay Asst/Cantor: Dee Christian	Sound Board: Mark McLain	
Acolyte: Emily Christian	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Melissa Smith	Altar Guild: R. Knight	
Tellers: B Smith/K Sharpe		
<b>March 28, 2021</b>	<b>Palm Sunday - Service of the Word</b>	<b>10:15 A.M.</b>
Lay Asst/Cantor: Martina Smith	Sound Board: Melissa Watts	
Acolyte: Isaac Watts	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Bill Banze	Altar Guild: E May	
Tellers: B Smith/D Christian		
<b>April 1, 2021</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday – Service with Holy Communion</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
Lay Asst: Kelly Sharpe	Sound Board: Martina Smith	
Acolyte: Emily Christian	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Bart Connors	Altar Guild: J Pemberton	
Tellers: (Hold for Sunday)		
<b>April 2, 2021</b>	<b>Good Friday Service of the Word</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
Lay Asst: Dee Christian	Sound Board: Melissa Watts	
Acolyte: Elizabeth Christian	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Peggy Connors	Altar Guild: R Knight/SB Bergeret	
Tellers: (Hold for Sunday)		
<b>April 4, 2021</b>	<b>Easter Service with Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:15 A.M.</b>
Lay Asst: Kelly Sharpe	Sound Board: Melissa Watts	
Acolyte: Emily Christian	Accompanist: Cindy Nicol	
Ushers: Sarah Riser	Altar Guild: E May	
Tellers: B Smith/D Christian		

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>February 28</b> <b>Lent 2</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship Service of the Word	<b>March 1</b>	2  6:30 PM Strategic Planning meeting - Zoom	3  5:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	4	5	6
<b>Lent 3</b> 7 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Communion 11:30 AM Worship – Education mtg	8  7:15 PM Neighborhood Watch	9  Melissa Watts' B'day	10  5:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	11	12	13  
<b>Lent 4</b> 14 <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b> 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship Service of the Word 11:15 AM Church Council	15	16  Gerlinde Smith's B'day  6 PM Outreach Team Meeting - Zoom	17  10:30 AM NARFE Mtg 12:00 PM DCU Meeting – Zoom 5:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	18	19	20  Dee Christian's B'day Kelly Sharpe's B'day
<b>Lent 5</b> 21 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Communion	22	23	24  5:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	25	26	27
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 28 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship Service of the Word	29  	30	31	<b>April 1</b>  7:00 PM <b>Maundy                      Thursday</b> Worship Service	<b>April 2</b>  7:00 PM <b>Good Friday</b> Worship Service	<b>April 3</b>  