

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE LAKES

Receiving and sharing God's mercy together

With you
is the
fountain
of life;
in your
light do
we see
light.

Lenten Services

All Evening Services are at 7:00 pm

Lenten Evening Vespers: March 29 and April 5.

Simple Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm. Service at 7:00 pm.

Palm Sunday April 9— 10:00 am. Cantata

Maundy Thursday April 13— Seder Meal 6:30 pm.

Good Friday April 14—12:00 Noon.

Easter Sunday April 16—8:15 am and 10:30 am.

The theme for Lent this year is "Son Ripened Fruit". Based on the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5:22.

Winsome Women Christian Retreat

May 16 & 17, 2017 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Meet with women from all over the state and share some time on the island away from everyday distractions. Guest keynote speakers: Sheila Walsh, Carole Wolaver, and Steve Green. "Shaped by the Potter" is this year's theme. "We are the clay, You are the Potter" (Isaiah 64:8b).

Contact Angie Riley for more information. 517-260-3148. Sign up sheets are on the volunteer desk.

New Member Class

Sunday's April 23— June 4 at 12:00 noon

Would you like to join the family of LCOL, or maybe take a refresher course about the Lutheran religion? Now is the time. Pastor Ruhl will lead the class that starts April 23, and runs until June 4, (Pentecost). A light lunch will be provided. Sponsors for the new member candidates are needed. Please see the sign-up on the volunteer desk.

Seder Meal Service

Maundy Thursday April 13, 6:30 pm

A meal to celebrate and remember the Passover night when God rescued the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

Everyone is invited, please sign up on the volunteer desk.

PRAYERS

INTROIT

(or Psalm Prayer)

My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

For he will pluck my feet out of the net.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after;

That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

He will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

COLLECT

(or Gathering Prayer)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Isaiah 42:14-21 For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Ephesians 5:8-14 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

John 9:1-41 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains".

ORDER OF GOD'S SERVICE

God brings us together...

- ◇ Invocation, Confession & Absolution
- Opening Hymn "Christ Whose Glory Fills" #480
- ✚ Opening Song "Rising"
- Psalm Prayer
- The Introit, Kyrie, Hymn of Praise & Collect

Around His Word...

- ◇ The Old Testament Isaiah 42:14-21
- Choir "Love Beyond Degree"
- ◇ Epistle Ephesians 5:8-14
- ✚ Scripture Song "Good, Good Father"
- ◇ The Gospel John 9:1-41
- ✚ Children's Message
- Message Hymn "O Son of God in Galilee" #400
- ✚ Sermon Song "Whom Shall I Fear?"
- ◇ The Message *Here's Mud in Your Eye!*
- ◇ The Creed

And Blesses Us!

- ◇ The Prayers
- ◇ The Offering, Announcements & Offertory
- ◇ The Lord's Prayer
- ✚ The Sacrament "Amazing Grace, My Chains"
"Here in Your Presence"
"Rise Up and Praise Him"
- The Closing Prayer
- Closing Hymn "Lord of Glory" #402

✚ **Indicates Praise Service element only**

◇ **Indicates Both Services**

About Holy Communion

"Though we must be reverent and must be appreciative of what Communion symbolizes, Communion also speaks of intimacy and fellowship. And so we look back. We look back to the cross. We remember what Christ accomplished for us. And we are reminded of His love for us. We are to look ahead. The Scriptures say to do this "until he comes again" (1 Corinthians 11:26). The first time Jesus came to this earth, He came as the Suffering Servant. The next time, He will come as the Conquering King. Communion is an observance to remind us that Jesus will come again. Communion is a time to look within. We are to look within and ask the Holy Spirit to show us any areas of our lives that may not be pleasing to God (see verse 28). Once we acknowledge these areas, we are to repent of these sins. To fail to do so and then to take part in Communion is to eat and drink damnation to yourself, as the King James Version renders it. Or, it is to eat and drink, "not honoring the body of Christ" (verse 29).

So come to the Communion table in joy. Come in reverence. Come in honesty. If there is something that isn't right, this is the time to deal with it. Communion is an ideal time to make a commitment or recollection to Jesus Christ.

If you are still uncertain about receiving communion you can come forward and cross your hands over your chest to receive a blessing.

Reprinted from the Greg Laurie Daily Devotional (used by permission).

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Pastor:** Rev. Mike Ruhl
- Music Minister:** Rex Engle
- Elders:** Richard Rose & Jim Previch
- Altar:** Barbara Parker
- Acolyte:** Daniel Merrill
- Praise Team:** Sue Weber, Linda Baker, Cheryl Bias, Dennis Pickford, Chris Morningstar, Laurie Connin, Bill Fetters
- Choir:** Cheryl Boner, Don & Joan Connell, Eileen Fry, Kay Helf, Karen Rose, Gordon & Nancy Stites, Chet & Jean Yarger
- Ushers:** **Tom Mrakitsch**, Dick Covell, Gordon Stites, Andi Langenderfer **Mark Arledge**, Clif Weber, Ed Audet, Jay Fernamberg
- Multi Media:** Rick Baker, Sonya Merrill
- Greeters:** Tom & Jodie Fenstemacher, Connie & Bob Barth
- Lay Readers:** Kathy Schmidt & Ron Wyman
- Coffee Connection:** Team David
- Children's Message:** Ken Pollack
- Christ Connection:** Cheryl Boner, Mary Lou Wyman, Debbie Bruton

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

Past Members Jerry & Kathy Fischer called to say they are interested in going to the New Luther Movie on May 3rd. What a nice surprise to hear from them. They got the information from the afternoon prayers and are looking forward to seeing their past church family. You can join the group by signing up on the volunteer desk. Tickets are \$9.

Board of Education Has quite a nice display set up in the Narthex. Each table showcases a segment of Christian education available to everyone. Each month plan on seeing a different ministry set up to inform our members about all the great things happening at LCOL.

Final Intarsia Pieces The stained-glass and carved dove depicting the Holy Spirit were put in place this week. Linda Krueger did the beautiful work on the stained-glass and Phil Bauer created the dove. Your talents are truly God-given.

Church Council Voted to move the council meeting to the third Wednesday after the third Tuesday of the month, enabling Pastor Ruhl to participate in the meetings while he's here on Wednesdays.

Charity Sunday

Today's door offering will benefit the Catherine Cobb Shelter for Women in Adrian.

Stewardship Message. James 2:17

Please submit your prayer requests to the website or email them to lcoloffice@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Sun. March 26	8:15 am	Divine Service	
	9:30 am	Easter Breakfast Mtg	Room B
	9:45 am	Christ Connections	
	10:30 am	Praise Service	
Mon. March 27	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Big Boy
Tue. March 28	10:00am	Bible Study	
	10:45am	Meals on Wheels	Julie Bauer
	10:00 am	Chocolate Making	Kitchen
Wed. March 29	10:00am	Staff Mtg/ Rehearsal	
	11:00am	PHD Meeting	Library
	6:00 pm	Soup Supper	
	7:00 pm	Lenten Vespers	
Thur. March 30	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Group	
	6:00 pm	Praise Practice	
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	
Fri. March 31		Office Closed	

Birthdays

3/27	Keelie Hooks, Alberta Pendley
3/28	Magdalena Newberg, Larry Warncke
3/29	Neil Jacobs, David Rohrback
3/30	Dave Jordan, Ida Snyder
3/31	Angie Riley (50)
4/1	Kathy Fisher, Sophia Sexton

Baptism Birthdays

3/24	Molly Schmitz, Olivia Schmitz
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Anniversaries

3/30	Larry & Neva Warncke
3/31	James & Molly Schmitz

Operation Christmas Child

Suggested items for shoeboxes: Small toys, cars, jump ropes, batteries (packaged or with ends taped), plastic shoeboxes. Drop items off in the Children's Worship Center.

TO OUR GUESTS

Welcome! We know that visiting a new church for the first few times can be awkward. We hope you will discover there are many wonderful people here and there are opportunities for you to find good friends and feel like you are a part of something bigger. We offer Christ Centered worship and Christ Connections Sunday School, along with a fellowship hour every Sunday at 9:30 am. Feel free to leave your contact information in the red booklets in the pew so we can better serve you in your walk with Christ.

Helpful information

Restrooms and a water fountain are located in the hallway and fellowship hall. Changing tables are in both women's restrooms.

There are quiet rooms at the back of the Sanctuary. You can still see and hear the service and your child can play with the toys in the little bags just outside the quiet room door.

TIME & TREASURE

Last Week @ LCOL

Worship	3/19	183
Our Treasure		
General Fund	\$	3837.00
Debt Retirement:	\$	585.00
General Fund Weekly Need:	\$	6,305.00
Mortgage Balance 2/28/17	\$	148,085.11