

From the Pastor

Liturgical seasons provide opportunities to experience all the important themes of Christian faith during the course of one year. These church seasons bring us from anticipation of Jesus' birth (Advent) to honoring the Light that came into the world when he was born (Epiphany), through the celebration of his resurrection (Easter) to honoring the earliest Christians who spread the Gospel after Jesus' ascension (Pentecost).

Lent comes after Epiphany and before Easter. It is the time when we remember that Jesus didn't simply come into the world to heal and teach, but he came to be put to death for the sake of humanity. During the season of Lent, we follow Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the cross.

Lent is intended to have an impact on our day-to-day lives. Following Jesus' journey to his own execution reminds us that he died bearing the sins of all humanity. He rose from the dead as a sign that he had conquered the power of death, bringing the promise that humankind would no longer need to be burdened by sin. Lent gives us the opportunity to re-direct our lifestyles to show appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice.

Lent isn't about giving a bad habit up or taking a good habit on – though sometimes that can be part of how we observe the season. Lent is about living our lives in response to Jesus' journey to the cross. It's a season to display gratitude for God's gift of forgiveness to us, and a time to reflect that forgiveness in our own lives.

So this Lent, consider starting each day with a "thank you" prayer to God. Or pick one of God's commandments (like "love your neighbor as yourself") and focus on living it out every single day leading up to Easter. Find a way to grow closer to God during Lent, and to express your gratitude that Jesus died for our sins. Truly delving in to the spirit of the season will help you appreciate this piece of our faith story even more.

Practicing Lent helps prepare us to celebrate Easter. So let's spend the next 40 days focusing on ways to grow closer to God, knowing that Jesus has already brought God's forgiveness to us. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Katya

Midweek Lenten Worship & Fellowship

March 5 is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. Please join us for worship with Communion and imposition of ashes at 7pm.

Midweek evening prayer will take place on the following five Wednesdays. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer service and hearing from a variety of speakers throughout Lent. All midweek worship services will begin at 7pm.

A light meal will precede worship on Ash Wednesday and the following five Wednesdays in Lent, beginning at 5:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you would like to help serve one of the meals.

LEAD Conference

Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) is a day of worship, inspiring presentations and informative, engaging workshops, designed for congregational lay leaders and pastors. This year's LEAD conference will be held on March 8th from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mt. Horeb. Any interested church member is invited to attend! Pastor Katya will be leading a session this year on using social media in the church.

“Evansville Cares”: A Campaign for the Care Closet

The Evansville Ecumenical Care Closet building is in need of a new roof. Water is leaking into the building, and patches have proved ineffective. Now is the time for a more permanent solution in order to maintain our building and continue the important ministry of EECC.

In February we launched the “Evansville Cares: Restore the Roof” capital campaign. The goal of this campaign is to raise \$45,000 to purchase a new roof for the Care Closet building. The Evansville Fund has already committed \$2,000 to support the campaign, and all sponsoring congregations have committed to having a special offering to the campaign on February 23rd. The volunteers and clients of the Care Closet invite you to make a caring impact in our community through a special financial gift. You may send a check to the Evansville Care Closet, 206 S. Madison St., Evansville, WI 53536.

Refugee Resettlement

with Lutheran Social Services & the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

When refugees arrive in the US, they often have very few possessions, and receive only a small stipend to get started with their lives in this country. In order to welcome refugees and help them get settled here, the Refugee Resettlement program helps furnish apartments for newly arriving families.

This Lent, we will have special offerings throughout the season to provide some “welcome boxes” for arriving families. **Our goal is to assemble 16 Bedding Boxes for a twin-sized bed.** Each week a different item will be collected at worship on Sunday, and will be brought forward during the offering. Please give as generously as you are able!

3/9 Laundry baskets

3/16 Mattress pads*

3/23 Pillows*

3/30 Plastic hangers (8-10)

4/6 Twin sheet sets with pillowcases*

4/13 Blanket, comforter, bedspread

** Please provide new or like-new items whenever possible.*

Would you prefer to contribute financially? Bedding Boxes also require a clock radio. Any designated offerings received during Lent will be used to purchase clock radios or other needed items for as many Bedding Boxes as we are able to assemble. Additionally, all coffee hour offerings collected through Lent will go to support this program. **Thank you for supporting refugees in our area!**

Change in the Staff of the South-Central Synod of WI

After serving 6 years as Assistant to the Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Rev. Sara Yotter will be leaving synod staff to accept a new call to a congregation. She writes:

“I give thanks for these years, with all the joys and the sorrows that have come.... It has been my honor and privilege to walk with your congregations in times of great joy, as when you called a new pastor, and in times of deep conflict or despair.”

Quilting News

The quilters recently donated 5 quilts to the Refugee Resettlement project! We could use a few more helpers, to either sew kits at home or to help at our Monday 9am meetings. We are also looking for donations of sheets & lightweight blankets for middles. A couple of us knit sweaters for Knit for Kids, and would appreciate donations of partial skeins of worsted or sport weight yarn. For more information contact Betty Hamilton at 882-5757.

A Day with Brian McLaren

First Baptist Church in Madison will be hosting “A Day with Brian McLaren” on March 8th. Brian McLaren has authored over a dozen bestselling books and was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 most influential Christian leaders. This event will be a day of learning that will include discussion of changes in the culture and what they mean for church as well as a time of conversation and experimentation with music in worship. The cost of this event is \$35 or \$15 with a student ID. You can view the full day’s schedule and register online at firstbaptistmadison.org.

From the Mailbag

From Lutherdale: “Your gift of \$1600.00 in support of Lutherdale’s ministry is a blessing and greatly appreciated. Your partnership plays an important role in Lutherdale being a vibrant and strong Christian ministry....”

From the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin: “Thank you for your very generous 2013 gift to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin in its work with Campus Ministry. Your gift of \$2000.00 is greatly appreciated and campus ministries will greatly benefit from the dollars you have shared....”

From ECHO: “...THANK YOU for your church’s continued support of ECHO...”

From ELCA World Hunger: “... Thank you for your recent gift of \$4000.00 to ELCA World Hunger... We are grateful for your generous gifts and partnership. Together – we accompany families and communities striving for justice, peace and that all may be fed.”

Lutherdale 2014 Summer Programs

Camp is not just for Confirmation students! Lutherdale offers fun-filled faith-based summer programs for individuals in 1st – 12th grades, as well as family camp opportunities and year-round retreats. Call 262-742-2353 or check out www.lutherdale.org for more information about programs that might interest you and your family. Several families will be receiving a camp brochure in the mail. Information is also available in the church office.

Copier

Members may use the photocopier in the church office to make personal copies for 5 cents per page. There is a container on top of the file cabinet, next to the copier, where you may place your payment. Please ask for help if you are unsure of how to use the machine.

Thank You!

Cooksville Lutheran Church relies on volunteers to accomplish the many tasks of ministry. This month a special thank you goes out to:

- Rich Krake and Curtis Brandt, for their faithful service in 2013-14 as Council president and vice president.
- Ilene Axford, Anne Remley Haines, and Sue Parsons for serving as this year's Council president, vice president, and secretary.
- All who donated items for the refugee family arriving February 20th.

In-Kind Donations Appreciated

Looking to support Cooksville Lutheran with a tangible gift that can be put to use right away? Please consider donating the items below:

- Bulletin board for the church office
- Postage stamps (Forever stamps preferred)
- Plain white photocopy paper, or cardstock of any color
- Bottled water (for those who can't drink our water with nitrates)

February Council Highlights

- Council officers were elected.
- A committee was appointed to review the congregation's by-laws.
- Plans for Lenten worship were shared.

Next council meeting: Monday, March 17th, 7:00pm

Stay in Touch

Please contact the church office if you or a family member:

- Have a change of address or phone number
- Would like to be added to the prayer list
- Are interested in church membership
- Would like a visit from Pastor Katya
- Become hospitalized or homebound
- Would like to be baptized

Pastor Katya: 608-616-5075 (cell)

cookvillelutheranpastor@gmail.com

Church: 608-882-4408 (phone)

cookvillelutheran@litewire.net (email)

Council members:

Ilene Axford (President), 873-6914

Anne Remley Haines (VP), 882-9997

Sue Parsons (Secretary), 295-8796

Curtis Brandt, 873-0757

Herb Hanson, 455-6778

Donna Gunn-Huse, 931-8402

Richard Krake, 882-5609

Tom Severson, 873-6552

Sue Wollin, 455-5374

Tom Parsons (non-council treasurer), 295-1697, tom.parsons@ymail.com

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