Lenten Sacrifice

Jesus said to everyone, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23 CEB

Lent is the time of year we take time to look inwardly and ask ourselves how we are doing in relation to Jesus’ call and command in Luke 9. We prepare our hearts and minds, we prepare our lives for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many have given something up for Lent. My question to you is, “Why?” Why are giving going without chocolate, coffee, or TV for forty days? If you haven’t given anything up, then I ask you, “Why?” What does this time looking inward look like for you? We all do something to prepare our hearts for Jesus’ death, what we do will depend on how deeply we are willing to search our hearts to see if we are willing to follow Jesus as he asks us to.

Giving up something, or denying ourselves of something is a long practice in our Christian tradition. We give up something or deny ourselves so we can experience a little of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. We deny ourselves so we can draw closer to God in Jesus. Does it/Is it working? Do you feel closer to God in Jesus? What we are truly seeking is who God is and what God desires of us.

The gesture of self-denial is a spiritual practice. We give something up in order to see something else more clearly. That’s why we undertake any religious behavior. The spiritual practice is a path leading us to see more of God and to open ourselves up in honesty and humility. Think of it like cleaning out your garage: only when you clear it out can you see the space for what it is. We’re emptying ourselves before God to be more than we could be with all the clutter. Mark Lockard, Does God Care If You Give Up Chocolate? February 17, 2015, ministrymatters.com

What clutter in your life needs cleared away so you can fully see what God desires for you? I pray that in this season of Lent, you are able to take up your cross and follow Jesus more closely, because you are clearing away the space in your life to see who you can be in Christ. I pray that you are able to feel God’s love over you in a way that draws you out of yourself and into the very presence of God in ways that you have not experienced. I pray that this 40 day season of Lent brings about transformation in your life; that you are able to be the person that God created you to be. I pray that our church is able to experience transformation in ways that draw us closer to God and draw us out of ourselves that we might be agents of change in our community. May God speak to you this season, and may you be clear enough to hear.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Amy
A big thanks to Leanna Noble and family, and Craig Seitz and family, for organizing the Potato Bake for us. We count on this fundraiser every year. Thanks to the congregation for supporting our youth!

Throughout March will be taking late deposits for the Mission Trip July 5-11. This includes adults that would like to go. We are in need of at least one more female adult. And we could use even more than that.

**Youth Calendar**

March 1st – 6:00 pm AC Swing Choir --Sanctuary

Sundays 9:30 – Worship

Sundays 10:45 – Renegade Gospel Study -Loft

Sundays 2-4 (Except Mar. 1st) – Loft

March 23rd – Sky Zone 6pm

March 25th – Laser Tag 6pm

March 27th – Family Table Games 6pm
Thank You Note...
“Thank You” doesn’t seem enough to express my gratitude to the pastors, members and Fishes & Loaves for the many hospital visits, cards, prayers, and acts of kindness received during my recent hospital stay and recuperation period at home. May God continue to bless you all.

Helen Walters

Second Sunday Soups - March 8
It’s that time again, time for Second Sunday Soups. Chicken noodle soup and sloppy joes will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 Discipleship groups.

Church Dinner - March 22
We will be having a Church Dinner to benefit the Congregational Care Fund on Sunday, March 22. Jeff Miller’s ham loaf will be served.

175th Celebration in 2016
Next year will be our church’s 175th anniversary! If you would like to help in the planning for this celebration, please tell Janet in the office at 724-3158. We will have our first meeting in March.

From the Custodian’s Closet
To keep the spread of colds and germs to a minimum, please discard used tissues in the garbage cans, placed conveniently by doorways. Thank you for helping the rest of us stay well!

On occasion I find things left in pews or on tables. If you’re missing something, you may check the lost and found area at the 5th St. door. Or you may give me a call at 260-557-3455.

Debbie Bolduc, Custodian

Easter Flowers/Flower Garden Fund
If you would like to order an Easter flower or make a donation to the Flower Garden Fund “In Memory of” or “In Honor of”, please fill out the form below. Easter flowers are $12.00 each. After filling out the form, please return it to the offering plate or the Church office by March 20. A list of those who purchased an Easter flower or donated to the Flower Garden Fund will be in the bulletin Easter Sunday, April 5.

Please check one:

Easter flower(s) - How many________
Easter Lily__________Tulip________
Daffodil__________Hyacinth
Flower Garden Fund
I/We would like to donate ________

In Memory of_______________
In Memory of_______________
In Honor of_________________
In Honor of_________________
Given by___________________

March Birthdays
1 Nan Cook
2 Samuel Rash
3 Brenda Huggins - G.M.
4 Rhonda McIntosh
5 Chase Stahl
6 Jake Hawkins
7 Beulah Parrish
8 Sharon Jane Parks - G.M.
9 Liberty Gower
10 Teresa Hackman
11 Kent Koons
12 Kiersten Knaub
13 Jane Allison
14 Sheila Heimann
15 Sandy Howe
16 Kyle Martin
17 Nikki Callahan
18 Janet Evans
19 Samuel Rash
20 Allison Davis
21 Bonnie Werling-G.M.
22 Josh Brown
23 Ross Smith
24 Kamy Koning
25 Catherine Laucks
26 Jean Newton
27 Carl Shaw - G.M.
28 Mike Boyd
29 Sandy Howe
30 Heide Howe
31 Karen Tricker
32 Jim Newton
33 Colton Dotson
34 Keagan Martin
35 Jeff Boyd
36 Jim Laucks
37 Karen Tricker
38 Seth & Kelly Colclasure

March Anniversaries
4 Alfred & Elaine Plew
9 Grant & Deb Porter
30 Lou & Vicky Koning
31 David & Sandy Collier

Operation Help
A reminder that dishwashing soap is needed for Operation Help. A large basket with a sign indicating Operation Help is located at the end of the hall between the Chapel and the Narthex.

Set Your Clocks Ahead
One Hour on Sunday, March 8
Mark your calendars and plan to join us for an unforgettable Easter Event for families, An interactive walk through the events of holy week! The fun will begin at 6pm on Friday, April 3rd in the Sanctuary. Watch your email and Sunday bulletins for more info.

Help Needed!

We are in need of about 15 people who are willing to serve by telling stories and assisting families at the 5 interactive stations.

It would be great if these positions could be filled by older adults so younger families have an opportunity to participate together.

If you are willing to help in any way please sign up at the connection center in the narthex or contact Annette Gower at 724-6067 or gowercrew@gmail.com.

February was full of great speakers at MOPS! For our first meeting of the month we enjoyed hearing from Nancy Williams a counsellor, mom and pastor’s wife. She shared lots of practical tips on how to keep our hearts focused on our spouses. She reminded us that love is way more than a feeling and marriage is rarely easy. She also encouraged us to always try to focus on the positive in our spouse and be an encourager to them instead of a critic. For our second meeting we were joined by Donna Reish a mom of 7, language arts curriculum writer, teacher, speaker and book writer on parenting. Parenting information and encouragement pours out of this woman! She always has all the moms reaching for a pen as we jot down bits of wisdom offered by her on character and heart training children for the glory of the Lord. She also has much to share about making sure you have a parent controlled home, how to keep a schedule, the importance of family, how to work in one on one time with kids, chores, balance, all the ways dads can lead, teach and help the kids and mom, mom’s need for rest, giving yourself grace, and so much more! Donna’s overall topic this time was, “How to Raise Brave Kids.” Turns out the best way is by nurturing & training their heart so they are able to deal with the tough stuff in due time.
We will Once Again Be Collecting Easter Baskets and Easter Basket Items starting February 18th to March 22nd. We will be Giving these Baskets to Children At The Crisis Shelter, Child Protective Services and also Children at Our Wednesday Night Meal.

We will be taking Spring/Summer Items Starting February 12th. Clean out all those closets, attics, garages and basements and consider bringing your unwanted but gently used items to us. Thanks for your support!

Mark your Calendar for the upcoming events:
Prom Dress Event
March 15th
2-4 P.M.

March 17th
Pot of Gold Sale & Customer Appreciation Day at The Hope Chest
SPECIAL MEMO !!!

CLOSED

• GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Samuel Juengel

Elijah Wilder

MARCH RIDDLE

Why, can’t you iron a four leaf clover?

‘Cause you shouldn’t press your luck!

TANA’S COLORFUL WORDS!

Temporary Items

Has this happened to you? Recently at home cleaning, a box of our much younger sons, toys and trinkets were found. To my dismay, Jeff commented, “Throw them away.” Quickly I replied “No, they’re memories we need to keep!”

That evening “the box” returned to my thoughts but differently, while reading my devotional. We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18

My decision was made! Next morning those “precious things” in the box were given to other young children. If those items really meant that much to me they should be shared with others. The “things” in the box were given a “new birth”. And my renewed feeling was warm with gratifying peace!

“Thank you Lord, for showing me and allowing me to see material “things” are temporary, but YOUR LOVE is forever eternal! Amen”

Until the come out again!

THAT’S A FACT

“Their Job”

Kid’s First is trying to teach children in a way they can learn and hopefully remember. All children while at the Child Care Ministries, are taught they have a “JOB”. Now if you’re thinking, I thought children were there to play. You’re correct. Only child’s play is their job. Everyone has a job to care, play, learn, and develop at their own pace.

A child learns to play with a toy their job, put it away when done. Another job is to share while playing together, social skills hopefully teaches teamwork, a life skill. We teach children their job while eating, to sit at the table, on the chair properly (on their bottom) with their feet under the table.

These are a few examples of helping the children learn their jobs. JOBS come in various sizes, not all easy, and found in many places. So with a “get-er-done” attitude children are learning at doing their job.

AND THAT’S A FACT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9:30 am-Worship 10:45-Discipleship Groups 6 pm-Adams Central Swing Choir</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9-11 am-MOPS Meeting 5:15 pm-Staff 2 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9:30 am-Worship 10:45-Discipleship Groups Second Sunday Soups after the DiscipleshipGroups 2-4 pm-Youth</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-Easter Worship Planning Team 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>9:30 am-Worship 10:45-Discipleship Groups 2-4 pm-Prom Dress Event 2-4 pm-Youth</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9-11 am- MOPS Meeting 2 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-Administrative Council 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>9:30 am-Worship 10:45-Discipleship Groups Church Dinner to Benefit the Congregational Care Fund after Discipleship Groups, 2-4 pm-Youth</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>March 23-27-Spring Break 6 pm-Youth going to Sky Zone</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Palm Sunday 9:30 am-Worship 10:45-Discipleship Groups 2-4 pm-Youth</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Newsletter Deadline
Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
CONNECT—GROW—SERVE

March 1  Adams Central Swing Choir at 6:00 pm
March 8  Second Sunday Soups
          Chicken Noodle Soup & Sloppy Joes
March 22 Church Dinner to Benefit
          Congregational Care Fund
March 29 Palm Sunday