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UPCOMING DATES

March 1
Elders

March 8
Church Council

Wednesdays:
Soup Supper
Lenten Vespers



NEWSLETTER

The Season of Lent and Repentance

Lent is a time for self-examination, repentance, and faith. The following resource was written by Dr. Kenneth Korby as a tool to help self-examination according to the 10 Commandments. Here is an opportunity to read through the points of examination for each commandment and use that for your personal reflection and mediation. If you would like to receive the thoughts in a single booklet that you can keep in your Bible, please speak to pastor and ask him for one.

Self-Examination and Reflection

The Ten Commandments preach repentance; that is, by them God shows us our sin and how much we need a Savior.

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

- My God is that which I love, trust and fear most in my life. I expect my comfort, good and delight from my God.
- Do I look to God my heavenly Father, for all love, good and joy? Is everything measured for me by what pleases me?
- In all things am I self-centered and selfish?
- Do I see my worry and fretting as sin against trusting God?
- Do I complain about the troubles, people, work and suffering God lays on me?
- Do I love the things God gives me more than I love him? And do I cling to what God takes away, even though he gives me himself?

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

- Do I curse? Have I cursed?
- Do I use God's name cheaply for oaths that are frivolous or false?
- Do I stand up and swear by God's name when it is for the truth of the Gospel or for the benefit of my neighbor in need?
- Do I pray with fervor in times of trouble? Am I bored and indifferent in prayer?
- Is it so that I cannot speak about God truly because I am bored with God's Word, neglect the study of the Catechism, doctrine and God's Word?
- Is my heart and life in the praise of God in worship? Am I mouthing things while my heart is far away?
- Is my life, marked with the name of God in Baptism, characterized by thanksgiving and praise?

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

- Do I strive to make the day of rest holy? Do I care about holy living?
- Do I use the Word of God and prayer to make my time, work, study and life holy day by day?
- Am I lazy and bored with the Word of God? Have I any fear of God over this neglect?
- Do I honor the Word of God highly by studying it gladly, learning it by heart, and living it? Do I despise the Word of God by neglect, paying no attention to it when it is read or preached?
- Do I love my fellow Christians by being present with them in worship to sustain them? Am I quick to make excuses for neglecting worship because of what someone else has said or done, or to do other things I like more?
- Do I spend time complaining about the worship, the pastor or other people?
- Do I learn the Word gladly so that I may teach others?

Called to Eternal Glory

In his wisdom, God called the soul of Tom Jurgenson to himself on February 16th. A Christian funeral was held for Tom on February 20th and his earthly remains were laid to rest waiting for the resurrection on the last day. We give thanks for God's mercy in granting Tom eternal salvation and pray that God continue to comfort those who mourn, especially Tom's family.

New Bible Study Series

We will begin a new Bible study series on March 1st. We will examine the irreconcilable conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees of his day. We will examine the main teachings and characteristics of the group and study how Jesus confronted them and responded to them. We will also examine our own hearts and thoughts that we be able to identify and repent of what Jesus exposes. We will learn to identify the leaven of the Pharisees in our time. Finally, we will discuss how to respond to charge of being pharisaical. Everyone is welcome to come on Sundays starting at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School Children and Palm Sunday

The children will participate in the procession of palms on March 29th.

Church Note

Please mute your phone or turn it off before the Service. Parents, if you would like a sheet that helps identify the major parts of the service to use with young children, please talk to pastor. It can be used to help children follow the flow of the service as well as reinforcing what is spoken and sung.

Stingers Picnic and Game

If you would like to attend a pregame picnic before attending a Stingers' game this summer, please talk to pastor. The cost is \$25 per person and we need at least 25 people to attend.

The Season of Lent

The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: "lengthen," when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. The season of Lent originated as a period of fasting in preparation for Christ's resurrection. It was also a period of intensified instruction for those preparing to be baptized. This period has long been associated with forty days, though it was not until around 600 A.D. that the beginning of those forty days was set to the seventh Wednesday before Easter (Ash Wednesday). Sundays have never been counted as part of the forty days of Lent. Thus, they are labeled *Sundays in Lent* rather than *Sundays of Lent*. One of the church fathers referred to the Sundays in Lent as "inns and havens, for those to rest in who have taken upon them the course of fasting in this holy time of Lent, that they may refresh their bodies a little from the labors of fasting." While worship during Lent is solemn and muted, the gospel remains the central focus as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

The theme for our Sundays in Lent this year is: Exactly What I Need. We recognize the phrase "I didn't know I needed that" as a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent. Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

- March 1st – Lent 2 – Exactly What I Need: Faith
- March 8th – Lent 3 – Exactly What I Need: Water
- March 15th – Lent 4 – Exactly What I Need: Sight
- March 22nd – Lent 5 – Exactly What I Need: Life
- March 29th – Lent 6 – Look Up To See Your King

Midweek Services

The theme of our Midweek Lenten Services this year is: *It Is Finished*. Each service begins at 7:00 p.m. In our midweek services we will explore the prophecies of Zechariah, offering an enriching look at our Savior, particularly as Zechariah's prophecies relate to the events of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. The midweek services will review the three articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is a long-standing practice in the Lutheran church to use the time in Lent to review parts of the catechism.

The weekly sub-themes are as follows:

- March 4th – Midweek 3 – Scattered Sheep
 - Week 3 matches up with the Second Article, Part 1 (beginning with the words, "I believe that Jesus Christ"). The Zechariah prophecy mentions the covenant name of the LORD three times. The explanation to the article mentions that Jesus is my Lord.
- March 11th – Midweek 4 – The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth
 - Week 4 matches up with the First Article. The Zechariah prophecy mentions the Lord doing good for his people, and the people responding in service and obedience. The explanation to the article follows the same pattern.
- March 18th – Midweek 5 – The Kingly Priest
 - Week 5 matches up with the Second Article, Part 3 (beginning with the words, "All this he did"). The Zechariah prophecy describes the priest on the throne. The explanation to the article has us living under him in his kingdom.
- March 25th – Midweek 6 – Look at the One Who Was Pierced
 - Week 6 matches up with the Third Article. The Zechariah prophecy includes the Lord's promise to pour out the Spirit of grace. The explanation to the article expands on what it means to have the Holy Spirit poured out on us.

Soup Suppers

Soup suppers will precede the Wednesday Lenten services and will start at 6:00 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday service will begin at 7:00 p.m. There are two services on Good Friday, a Divine Service that starts at 3:00 p.m. and the Service of the Seven Words starting at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Schedule

This year, our Easter Sunday Schedule will be: 8:00 a.m. Divine Service; 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast.

Confirmation Day

Confirmation Day this year will be on April 26th. Three young ladies will be confirmed this year: Ella Kannas, Sophia Kannas, and Shelby Larcom. Everyone is invited to an informal reception in the fellowship hall following the service.

Evangelical Heritage Version

If you would like to purchase a copy of the translation we are now using in our services and Bible studies, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The cost is \$24 per Bible.

Bible Readings for 2026

One year of a three-year plan to read through the Bible is available in the Narthex. The schedule is worked so that you don't have to start with year one. The Spirit will bless your time in the Word!

Volunteers

We are in need of some volunteers for the following: folding newsletters and preparing the elements for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Please consider helping out in this way. The sign-up sheets are on the shelf in the Narthex.

Winter Weather and Worship:

Please be reminded that we will hold our regularly scheduled services for those who are able to make it to church. If conditions are poor enough, we may cancel Sunday School, Bible classes and other activities but we will always hold our services. Check Operation Snowdesk for cancellations. Please use your sound judgment to determine whether or not you should travel to and from church in hazardous conditions.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2026

Members Present: Martin Fabrizius, Jim Buffington, Aaron Butenhoff, Matt Sindelir, Kent Larson, Justin Kannas, Pastor, Jay Remmele

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:35 a.m.

Opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda as presented.

Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the December 14, 2025 council minutes as presented.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Chairman’s Report: No report.

Elders Report: MMSP to accept by Holy Baptism: Lucas Ronald Pedersen.

Trustees Report:

- Trustees will look into options to fix or replace the accordion style partition in the basement. They are looking for one that will fit the existing track if possible to make installation easier.
- The trustees have found a handicap remote door opener that should be easy to install. Matt will get it purchased and installed.
- Trustees will look at the damage to the parsonage basement caused from water seepage from all the rain we had last spring. May need to pull some of the baseboard off to fully assess damages.

Financial Secretary’s Report: MMSP to accept the Financial Secretary’s corrected November report, December report and fiscal year 2025 report as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: MMSP to accept the Treasurer’s corrected November report, December report and fiscal year 2025 report as presented.

Planned Giving: No report.

AV Committee: No report.

Pastor’s Report:

- New pew registers have been ordered.
- Olivia vacancy: committee work at those churches continues. They are hoping to have a vote in the spring of 2026.
- There were no MLC students available this summer for our Music Academy.
- MMSP to hold only one Easter Sunday service this year. Service time is 8 a.m.
- Pastor will attend the WELS conference in Chicago January 18th – January 22nd.
- Pastor will attend the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Governing Board Meeting on February 15th- February 17th.

Old Business and Action Committees

Church Operation Manual: will be distributed to council members after the annual meeting.

Budget Committee: Budget was approved last month, no changes needed.

Nomination Committee:

- Financial Secretary candidates: Jon Heller and Todd Marxhausen
- Recording Secretary candidate: Scott Claussen
- Elder candidate: Aaron Butenhoff

Updates in Narthex: Ross will work with a plumber to get the water cooler installed.

New Business

Bailer Estate Gift:

- There is \$1,746.03 remaining after purchasing the Bibles. It will be recommended to the voters to add these funds to the 2026 Bailey Estate Gift.
- 2026 Bailey Estate Gift disbursement proposal: 25% to WELS World Missions, 25% to WELS Home Missions, 25% to Martin Luther College, 25% to Immanuel for vestments and paraments.

Church IT:

- Martin will work with Todd and Kelly to set up an official IT committee to keep up with IT at church including items such as a current laptop for Pastor. This committee will also incorporate the AV committee work. Martin will present a proposal to council.
- Justin is looking into new accounting software. He is hoping to get it in place in 2026.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- January 18, 2026 after potluck; voters’ meeting
- February 8, 2026 at 11:30 am council meeting
- March 8, 2026 at 11:30 am council meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully,
Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT					
January 1st through January 31st, 2026					
GENERAL FUND					
January 1st			January 31st		
Balance	Contributions	Expenditures	Balance		
\$ 57,257	\$ 17,693	\$ 23,022	\$ 51,928		
WELS CONGREGATIONAL MISSION OFFERING		MLC - CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT		LUTHERAN INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATION (LIMA)	
2026 Commitment	Year to Date Contributions	2026 Commitment	Year to Date Contributions	2026 Commitment	Year to Date Contributions
\$ 34,000	\$ 2,779	\$ 1,600	\$ 140	\$ 2,200	\$ 271
Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions	Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions	Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions
\$ 2,833	\$ 2,779	\$ 133.33	140	\$ 183	\$ 271

QR Code for Online Giving



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

