



Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”

March, 2020

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” – Matthew 4:10b

In Matthew 4:1-11, we find Jesus going into the wilderness, following his baptism by his cousin John in the Jordan River, in order to commune with God the Father. This was to be a sort of spiritual retreat, just before Jesus begins his period of active ministry. But another than the Father comes to him in the wilderness, the one of many names: Beelzebub, Lucifer, Satan, the Evil One, the Devil. Three times the Devil approaches Jesus, each time bringing a new temptation for Christ to face. First, in the midst of Jesus’ fast, the Devil tempts him to change the small round stones of the desert wilderness into bread, and eat. Such a thing has never been a temptation for me, as I have no power to turn stones into bread. But Jesus could do such a thing—he is the Son of God! But he turns down this temptation, saying that the Word of the Father is all the sustenance that he needs.

Then the Devil takes Jesus to Jerusalem, to the highest point on the Holy Temple of God, and challenges Jesus to jump, and thereby prove the prophecy of the Psalms, that the angels would bear him up, and not allow any hurt to come to him. Jesus’ rejoinder is to say, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” This could be a valid temptation for us, as we often want God to prove himself, his power, his guidance, his love, to us. And sometimes God will allow such tests, though not often. The best policy here is to follow Jesus’ lead, and NOT put the Lord our God to a test!

Lastly, the Devil takes Jesus to a high mountain, showing him all the nations of the world. The Devil promises that if Jesus will bow down and worship him, he will deliver all these nations to serve Jesus. But Jesus answers simply, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”

In the 1960’s, the comedian Flip Wilson presented a character named Geraldine, who was always getting into trouble. Her justification, when confronted, was always the same: “The Devil made me do it!” Sorry, Geraldine, and all those who think like her, but the Devil cannot make you do anything. He can and will present temptations to evil, and to turn away from our faith and our God. But we each make the decision whether to bow down to him, or to continue to follow God in our pursuit of righteousness.

May we seek God’s forgiveness, and get back on the path of righteousness when we fail and fall prey to the Devil’s temptations. Amen.

Pr.

Anyone else have trouble with Lent sometimes? I do. Life happens and I find that it has been more difficult to stay committed to whatever I have decided to “do” for the season. I tried giving up certain foods. I tried doing more devotional reading. I tried giving up a possession each day. I tried to “do” something each season. I often failed. Lent is about penance and sacrifice. We should be penitent everyday and Christ made the ultimate sacrifice for us. So, this year for me, less “doing”, and more “being.” Being in His word. Being open to letting God “DO” His will in my life. Being mindful of His holiness, power, and sacrifice. Being mindful of the joy and life to be found in Him.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

Gabi

Treasurer's Report: Thanks to everyone for being so faithful with your giving! We're in good shape and well ahead for the year. Please don't forget about the plus \$10 for the building fund. God bless all of you!

Fellowship: We will have a soup and bread meal each Wednesday before our Lenten service. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who wish to contribute.

Property: I talked with Georgia Power about our last two months' big spike in usage in the fellowship hall. Apparently the thermostat was not set down when we left or maybe not down enough. I think probably 55 degrees would be good so it could get pretty cold and still not call for heat. We did have weather stripping installed under both doors so that should help. Work day for March will be Saturday the 28th.

Education – Our Bible study on the Lord's Prayer will resume after Easter.

Worship and Music: We are trying a new service time for our service at the Oaks. Many people sleep in on Sunday morning. We were told that most people eat dinner on Sunday evening, and following dinner there is generally nothing scheduled. Beginning on March 8, and on a trial basis, we will be doing our Sunday service at 7:00 PM. Hopefully, that will allow us to reach more people.

During the Theological Conference in January, one of the speakers discussed providing more information on things like the church seasons, the catechism, and other Lutheran doctrine issues. Most of us received this information when we were young...most likely in catechism class...but we haven't heard it since. With that in mind we started providing this type of information each Monday with our thought for the week. Hopefully, you will find this information interesting, educational and enjoyable.

This past Wednesday, we held our Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner and service. That starts our Wednesday dinners and services for Lent. We hope to see you each Wednesday from now until Easter.

Mission and Ministry: Looking ahead to fun possibilities this year! Any thoughts and ideas are welcome. Outreach is everyone's responsibility! If you hear of some event or opportunity we might participate in, let us know!



2nd – Eli Ervin

15th – Karen Erickson

27th – Don Grigsby



Sunday – March 1st – Executive council

Wednesday – March 4th – Lenten meal – 6:00 Service – 7:00

Saturday – March 7th – **TURN CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR!** ☹️

Sunday – March 8th – Council meeting

Wednesday – March 11th – Lenten meal – 6:00 Service – 7:00

Monday – March 16th – AARP Driver’s Class – 9:00 – 4:00

Wednesday – March 18th – Lenten meal – 6:00 Service – 7:00

Wednesday – March 25th – Lenten meal – 6:00 Service – 7:00

Saturday – March 28th – Cleanup day starting at 9:00

	<u>Mar. 1</u>	<u>Mar. 8</u>	<u>Mar.15</u>	<u>Mar.22</u>	<u>Mar 29</u>
Altar Guild	Wayne	Carolyn	Judy	Junior	Linda
Comm. Asst.	Matthew	Junior	Chuck	Gabi	Wayne
Usher	Junior	Mel	Judy	Wayne	Carolyn
Lector	Lynne	Matthew	Junior	Chuck	Lynne
Sermon	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor
RP/Thrive	Wayne	Pastor	Gabi	Wayne	Pastor
Oaks	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Chuck	Chuck

