



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
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"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

March, 2015

Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

This month we continue our 40 day Lenten journey to the Cross of Golgotha where our Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins. Lent is intended to be a penitential season, a time for us to reflect and grieve over our sin that sent Jesus to the cross. Never a comfortable task, we may at times avoid repentance and confession, 'am I really all that bad?' we wonder, 'am I really a poor miserable sinner?'

To help us focus on a right attitude toward confession and the absolution God promises us for Jesus' sake, I have copied the following article from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Commission on Worship (worship.lcms.org).

May God richly bless our church family as we journey to the cross together!

--Pastor Harmon, a.k.a., poor miserable sinner.

Are We Really Poor, Miserable Sinners?

Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector confronts us with an important question: Are we really "poor, miserable sinners"? We often think like the first man. He comes to the temple certain that God is so pleased to see him. "God, I thank you that I am not like other men," (Luke 18:11). Every now and then he's struck by his own failures and inadequacies, but it's easy to get over that. He compares himself with others: "I may not be perfect, but at least I'm better than him!"

The other man stays far back knowing he is not worthy on his own to be near God. He knows he deserves nothing from God but death and punishment forever. He clings to nothing but God's mercy. He begs, "God have mercy on me, a sinner," (Luke 18:13).

The first man, the Pharisee, is not alone. We are often with him-full of ourselves, full of sinful pride, full of judgment of others to make ourselves look better. We're often foolish, sin-blinded optometrists removing specks from others' eyes.

But thanks be to God that the second man, the tax collector, is not alone either. Christ is with him. When Jesus calls, sinners come. Jesus calls sinners, only sinners, into communion with Himself. Where Christ is, where His Church is, where He still offers forgiveness and hope and life eternal through His holy Word-there you will find sinners.

Thanks be to God, there we are gathered, too. We kneel or stand with the tax collector. We do not bound into God's presence full of ourselves and our goodness, but mindful of our failure to fear, love and trust in God above all things. We have not loved God or our neighbor as we ought. God owes us nothing; yet, He is merciful. So we say the truth even when we do not feel it: "I, a poor miserable sinner." We humbly stand next to the tax collector.

Some would say that words such as these go too far-that we must be careful not to ruin our self-esteem. But listen to what the Lord Jesus says, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matt.9;12,13 NKJV). Best of all "I tell you that this man...went home justified before God" (Luke 18:14).

This Jesus who poured His blood out for us speaks into our ears and hearts words of real comfort, joy, and power: "I forgive you all your sins." He gathers us sinners at His table and feeds us His body and blood, given and shed for our forgiveness. And there is rejoicing in heaven!



Happy Birthday

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3-1 Jim Schlaver
3-1 Samuel Schumacher
3-2 Monica Hillmer
3-3 Marty Boomgarden
3-7 Doug Smith
3-9 Gene Carrell
3-11 Hannah McCreight
3-14 Dianne Weber
3-17 Jake Weber
3-17 Nick Weber
3-20 Matthia Duryea

3-22 Mette Smith
3-23 Grace Olinger
3-23 Katelyn Olinger
3-25 Deb Nelson
3-25 Nancy Kounovsky
3-27 Bette Rinck-Vandahl
3-28 Ava Ford
3-28 Bonnie Baggenstoss
3-29 Sarah Kammerer
3-29 Wendy McConnell
3-30 Donna Wentzel
3-30 Michael Williams

Happy Anniversary

3/11 Joel & Clare Tarcha
3/12 Clint & Nina Hanson
3/12 Dave & Joni Moss
3/14 Keith & Shirley Zuehlke

Lent 2015

- ◇ Soup Suppers: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- ◇ Lent Services 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Concordia Women

Save the Date..... Retreat 2015 is coming!!!
Friday Evening April 10th & Saturday, April 11th
Please join us!

Concordia's Corner

Men's Bible Breakfast is March 14th
7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellow-
ship, study and food.

Daylight Savings Time begins March
8th. Please set your clocks ahead 1
hour before you go to bed Saturday
night (March 7th).

Sr. High Youth: There will be a mov-
ie night meeting Sunday, March 1st at
5pm at The Scheer's house.

Women: Retreat 2015 will be Saturday,
April 10th & 11th. More details will be
coming!

Sr. High Youth

**March 14th Meeting
6pm
The Scheer's house
Thank you Jeremy Schumacher for leading!**

Mission Experience Board Meeting

Concordia will be hosting the Mission
Experience Board meeting on March 14th.
There are 6 people coming in with Pastor Mike
that need a place to sleep for Friday, March
13th & Saturday, March 14th.

Please let the office know if you can help!

Call Committee Update

We thank you for your prayers, please
continue to pray for us and for God's will
during the interview process.

The top two candidates are being
interviewed this month.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Concordia's Call Committee

Concordia's Website

The address is: www.steamboatlutheran.org



Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and
choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events
and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!