



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
970 879-0175

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

March, 2016

REPENTANCE

John the Baptist announced: "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8). Jesus continues: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17). Martin Luther begins the 95 Thesis with "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matthew 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

The primary definition of "repent" recorded in most dictionaries is "to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin." While this is a common understanding, this is but one aspect of the larger process where remorse or regret begins the overall change of direction that encompasses repentance, which literally means "to change one's mind."

This is why I prefer to work with meaningful "descriptions" rather than strict "definitions." For example, last Sunday, I shared a description of "repentance" by considering the process anyone would go through in order to find the "Best of the Boat" hamburger. Instead of me repeating here what I said then, consider how you would go about the process for yourself.

The process you just described to yourself is the "life of repentance" for yourself. By description, "repentance" is a "thoughtfulness" and a "change of mind and heart about a previous point of view or course of behavior." By description, "repentance" becomes a "reflective consideration of your beliefs and positions," a "reevaluation," sorting the "good" from the "missing the mark."

For our repentance, I'd like to identify the "good" within a Christian congregation. This, of course, begs the question: "what is a healthy church?" Related to this is "what are the characteristics of a healthy congregation?"

Being a pastor who holds to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, the fundamental health of the Christian Congregation is founded upon Word and Sacrament. These are the means through which the Holy Spirit works. The redemption purchased in Christ is mediated to us through these Means of Grace. His Resurrection-Life becomes ours through Word and Sacrament.

As the Scripture reveals, Word and Sacrament establish and secure the life and work of the Christian and the Congregation. I remember asking, "how does Word and Sacrament become practical in congregational life?" An experienced pastor responded saying, "worship, witness, nurture, fellowship and service." I searched the Scriptures for support, wanting to know the truth of these five practices. In my search, I discovered their validity and necessity.

My goal here is to introduce these basics to you. I will continue to explore them with you in the future. And, in the future, I will ask for your help to evaluate our Word and Sacrament ministry made visible through these five practices of Christian life and community.

Amazingly, I have been with you for four months now! During this time, I have been meeting with various congregational groups, leaders and members. I have been listening, paying attention, watching on Sunday, making notes and praying for the gift and evaluation of the Spirit concerning our common-life together. I live the repentant life. So do you. Let's do it together!

Pastor Craig



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Happy Birthday

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

3-22 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 & Easter 2016

- ◇ Soup Suppers: 3/2, 3/9, 3/16 5:30 - 6:15 pm
- ◇ Lent Services 3/2, 3/9, 3/16 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Holy Week 2016

- ◇ 3/20 Palm Sunday Services : 8 & 10:30am
- ◇ 3/23 Passion of The Christ Movie: at 6:30pm
- ◇ 3/24 Maundy Thursday (Communion) 6:30pm
- ◇ 3/25 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 6:30pm
- ◇ 3/27 Easter Sunday Services: 6:30am (Communion) & 8am (Communion) Traditional
- ◇ 3/27 Easter Sunday Service: 10:30am Contemporary
- ◇ 3/27 Easter Breakfast served 7:30am-10am Downstairs

Concordia's Corner

Men's Bible Breakfast is March 12th 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th. Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night (March 12th).

Women: Retreat 2016 will be Saturday, April 5th at Sue Krohn's house. More details will be coming!

Thank You!

Pastor Craig & Sheryl and Clare & Joel thank you for the Epiphany gifts. It is a



Concordia Women

Save the Date..... Retreat 2016 is coming!!!

Welcome to Concordia!

Jacob and Caryn Mielke

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!