



The Informer

March 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

Volume 63 Issue 7

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Mask Policy:

In accordance with Governor Pritzker's guidance, wearing a mask is now optional as of *Monday, February 28th.*

From Pastor's Pen:

"[The soldiers] stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisted together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him." Matthew 27:28-31

Dearly beloved of Christ the crucified,

What hat are you wearing today? It is an old expression that seeks to determine the job you are doing and role are you fulfilling. All of us wear a variety of "hats" or "uniforms" on any given day. We call these vocations.

Jesus also wore a variety of hats such as a prayer shawl and rabbi's cloak, as well as a son's cap, a carpenter's hardhat and numerous others. In the end, though, he wore a crown of thorns. Adorning Jesus with a robe, staff and crown was some soldier's idea of a good joke. "Every king needs a crown," they snickered as they pressed the needles into his sweaty brow.

When you think about it, it was actually an appropriate uniform for the work He was doing that day. It was a symbol of the piercing, bloody pain and agony which was the punishment that sin deserved. It was the punishment that He, in innocence, endured for us all.

If uniforms or hats tell the world what we do for a living, then the brutal and bizarre attire that Jesus wore that day tells it what He did with His dying. Isaiah foretold it: ***"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed."* (Is. 53:4a, 5)**

The hat Jesus wore was seen by the Father in heaven as the most beautiful crown of glory. By wearing that crown Jesus has made it possible for us to receive the crown of eternal life. Through the forgiveness He purchased for us while wearing a crown of thorns we are now given a new uniform: His halo as we are made holy in faith, the robe of His righteousness to cover all our sins, and scepter of His kingdom to rule for us. During this season of Lent let us consider the crown of thorns our Savior wore as we prepare to receive the crown of glory we receive by His grace.

I look forward to seeing you both on the Lord's Day and at our midweek services as we prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Feast.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Umberger

Even now,
says the LORD,
return to me
with your
whole heart.
Jer. 2:12



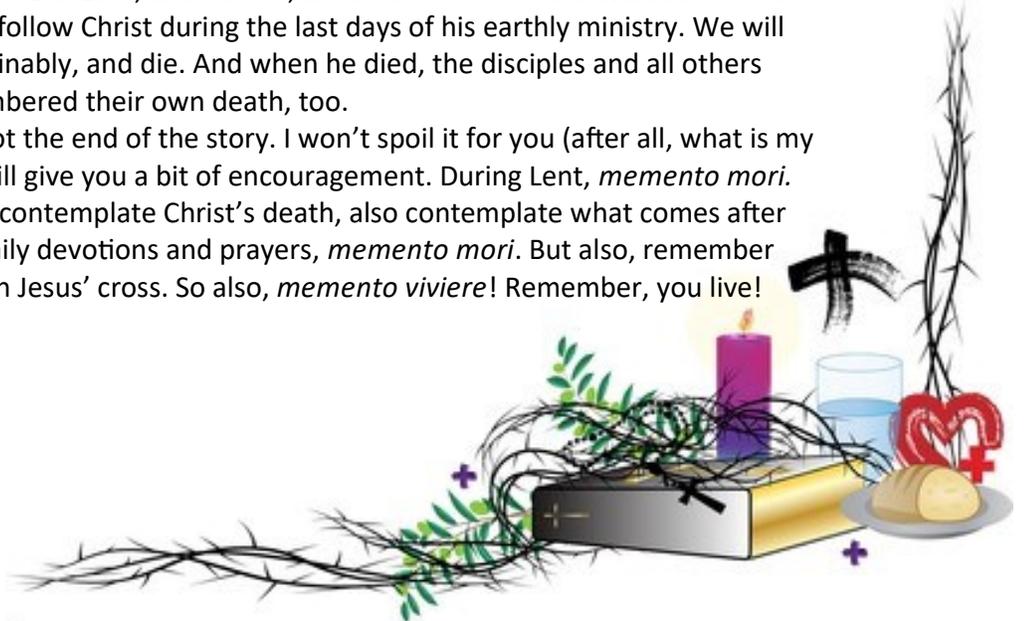
Vicar's View

Lent, and especially Ash Wednesday, is a good time to remember something: *Memento Mori*. This is Latin for "Remember you die." It is the concept of remembering the fact that you, as a human, will one day die. There is no escape. We know what the wages of sin are, and that is death. We know that ever since Adam and Eve sinned, death entered into the world, and lately, it seems like he is the big boss in charge. So many we know have died or are dying. The recent pandemic has snapped us out of those false thoughts of immortality that humanity gets every so often.

But Lent is not just about looking into a solemn, open grave. It's not about screwing up our faces and making ourselves miserable. It is a time for spiritual discipline, yes. Perhaps it's a time of fasting or a time of increased prayer. But Lent, like Advent, is also a time to look forward. Over the course of the days of Lent, we will follow Christ during the last days of his earthly ministry. We will see him be rejected, suffer unimaginably, and die. And when he died, the disciples and all others who followed him probably remembered their own death, too.

But we know that that is not the end of the story. I won't spoil it for you (after all, what is my Easter Sunrise service for?) But I will give you a bit of encouragement. During Lent, *memento mori*. Remember your death. But as you contemplate Christ's death, also contemplate what comes after that. So, as you go through your daily devotions and prayers, *memento mori*. But also, remember that your eternal life was won upon Jesus' cross. So also, *memento vivere*! Remember, you live!

In the Trinity,
Vicar Lackey



T	S	E	N	O	T	S	E	S	E
E	T	H	U	N	G	R	Y	S	T
Y	T	R	O	F	A	S	T	E	D
P	S	L	E	G	N	A	S	N	E
L	I	A	N	T	A	S	E	R	V
I	L	H	D	E	T	P	M	E	T
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E	V	I	L	R	S	O	T	L	L
D	S	E	V	A	O	L	O	I	E
T	P	M	E	T	E	W	O	W	L

WILDERNESS
 TEMPTED
 DEVIL
 FASTED
 FORTY
 HUNGRY
 STONES
 LOAVES
 ANGELS
 FOOT
 SATAN
 WORSHIP

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

- Mar 5:** Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
- Mar 6:** Jeff Belan
- Mar 12:** Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
- Mar 13:** Jeff Belan
- Mar 19:** Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
- Mar 20:** Jeff Belan
- Mar 26:** Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
- Mar 27:** Jeff Belan

Greeters

- Mar 5:**
- Mar 6:** Charlie & Joan Britton
- Mar 12:**
- Mar 13:** Judy Dugan & Molly Lackey
- Mar 19:**
- Mar 20:** Judy Dugan & Rhea Oakes
- Mar 26:**
- Mar 27:** Barbara Honert & Karen Schmidt

Acolytes

- Mar 6:** Stratton Churchill
- Mar 13:** Brayden Medinger
- Mar 20:** Alice Schmidt
- Mar 27:** Lydia Merritt



Communion Assistants

- Mar 2– Ash Wednesday:** Dennis Boarts
- Mar 6–** Jonathan Schmidt
- Mar 20–** Brian Kern

Altar Guild

- Dawn Antolik
- Stevee Antolik



Eternal Candle

- Mar 6:** Gail Massey
- Mar 13:** Lucille Perley
Thankful for God's Blessings
- Mar 20:** Ed & Janet Wachs
In Honor of their Anniversary
- Mar 27:** In honor of Elizabeth Antolik's
Baptismal Birthday



Flower Chart

Since Ash Wednesday until Easter is a solemn time of contemplation and not a time of celebration, we will refrain from decorating the Chancel until Easter, at which time it will be decorated with Easter lilies.



Church News

Birthdays this Month:

2nd Gabrielle May	21st Carmae Kern & Jaxon McKay
3rd Ruth Poole-Mayerhofer & Earl Schaefer	22nd Chris Caldwell & Savanna Kern
6th Colin Scheer	23rd Susan Bowman & Janet Wachs
7th Elizabeth Antolik	24th Jackson Merritt
9th Robert Coon	26th Jeff Belan
10th Nikki Chellew	28th Ronda Little & Nancy Williams
14th June Sutton	29th Mary Ann Eckert
15th Keri Pena	30th George Fellows, Cassandra Johnson & Ruby Pancrazio
16th Kevin Rossmiller	
17th Brian Kelly	
18th Stacey Reed	



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
1/30/22	169	83
2/06/22	154	72
2/13/22	116	106
2/19/22	160	131

Average monthly attendance of St. John's Membership: 23%

Simply Giving for January: \$2725.00

Membership Report

Deaths:	Address Update:
Jan Hansen (2/06/2022)	Melody Williams
Judy Knudsen (2/19/22)	1003 N 1500th Ave
	Orion, IL 61273-9105

REMINDER- ALL BOARDS WILL MEET ON Thursday, March 3rd at 6:30pm.

Please plan to attend.

Parish Planning will meet on **March 10th at 6:30pm.**

There is a **Voter's Meeting** scheduled for **Sunday, March 13th at 10:15am.**



Church News

LWML

The LWML March meeting will be on Thursday, March 24th at 1:00pm in the Janssen rooms. The program will be preparing Easter cards for our shut-ins. All ladies are invited to join us for fellowship and service. Looking forward to seeing you!

Donations– Toothbrushes and toothpaste

This fall LWML will be preparing personal hygiene kits for the shelters. Each month we will be collecting different items to use in the kits. March's collection will be travel size toothpaste and toothbrushes individually packaged. Look for the LWML Donation Box in the concourse. We hope the congregation will help us with this project. Thank you!

Rummage Sale

The Board of Human Care and the Board of Youth & Family Ministry have been cleaning house. On **Saturday, March 5th from 10am-1pm** we will be holding a preschool liquidation sale in the gym. Many items will be free. Please invite anyone who may need craft supplies, toys or books.



Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of St. John's invite you to lunch on **Thursday, March 17th at 11:30am** at the Deerfield Restaurant. We hope you will join us!

Youth Lock-Up

The Board of Youth and Family is planning a lock up on **Friday, March 18th**. Watch the bulletin and Facebook for more information!

Easter Lilies

We will be purchasing Lilies to adorn the altar at Easter soon. The cost is yet unknown, so please watch the Bulletin for more information. We need a total of 44 plants to fill our crosses.

Thank you!!



Notes from the Balcony

This year the season of Lent runs almost the entire month of March and half of April. It is a time of prayer and reflection focusing on the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus. The forty-day length of the season commemorates the forty days Jesus spent in prayer and fasting in the desert between his baptism and the start of his public ministry.

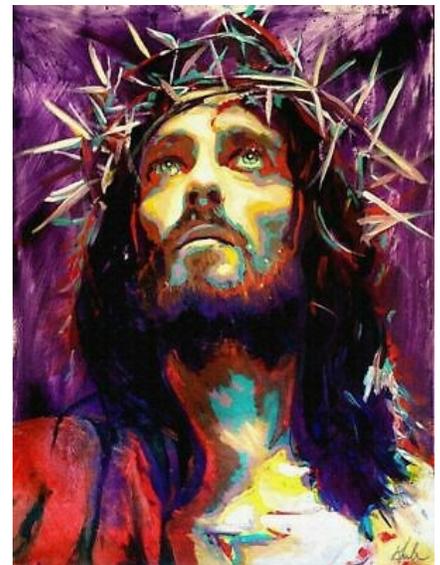
Interestingly, the first definition of quarantine from the Merriam-Webster dictionary is “a period of 40 days.” Quarantine certainly has been a word of great interest, confusion, and debate in the last couple of years. Perhaps we can apply it in a useful way to our observance of Lent and think of these 40 days as a time of spiritual isolation from the distractions of the world and take extra time to pray and reflect. This is where fasting can be a useful tool. The addition of Lenten services at church and personal devotion time can play a beneficial role to our spiritual health and focus while in “Lenten Quarantine.” Devotional material abounds in book form (check out our church library), booklets (Portals of Prayer), or online (Lutheran Hour Ministries has daily devotions that can be read or listened to online or added to your phone as an app). Any Lutheran hymnal also has a wealth of devotional material in the form of hymns, especially from the Lenten section.

One such hymn is on one of our church member’s favorite hymn list. *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*, LSB 450, is a seven stanza hymn which uses beautiful poetry and vivid imagery to describe our Savior’s sacrifice out of love for us. Here is a taste of this beautiful hymn:

1. O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine
2. How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face no languish that once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

Be sure to look up the rest of the hymn, it is useful as a beautiful conversation with your Savior. May God bless your Lenten season.

His servant,
Christine Engebrecht



From the LCMS

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”(Matt. 10:16–22)

Christianity has never been comfortable. When the church gets comfortable in the culture, her confession gets watered down. The proclamation of the Law is diminished, and the proclamation of the Gospel gets lost. As goes Europe, so, soon, follows North America. Canada already has “hate speech” laws similar to Finland’s. Probably not in this generation, but maybe in the next, Christians in America will likely have to stand before the courts like our Finnish brother and sister. What will we say? We will confess, as our friends in Finland have at every opportunity, that all humans are precious and created in the image of God, and that all of us are sinful and in need of a Savior, Jesus. We preach Christ crucified. The church is cruciform (i.e., cross-shaped). That’s not comfortable. It never has been. But we have a hope beyond the creature comforts of this life. Jesus promised persecution. And He promised resurrection.

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 10:28–33)

Jesus rose triumphant from the grave. He will not abandon to the grave those who belong to Him. He will raise His martyrs, His confessors, His saints from all time and all places. Body and soul will be back together. All the elect will be gathered into His new heavens and new earth to life in perfect bliss in the presence of the Triune God and of one another. This hope is what emboldened and encouraged the martyrs. It is what emboldens and encourages Bishop Pohjola and MP Räsänen. It will be what emboldens and encourages us, our children and our grandchildren when we face persecution. The era of comfortable, “country-club” Christianity is over. I’m OK with that. It will sharpen our confession of Christ crucified for sinners. As the church faces increasing harassment in the West, harassment will soon turn to persecution. It will fix our hopes on the certain resurrection that awaits all the Lord’s church. A decade ago, the official (once Lutheran) Finnish church defrocked Bishop Pohjola. It expelled his vibrant and growing congregation from their building for refusing the state church’s unbiblical practice of female pastors and false teaching about marriage and sexuality. What happened to Pohjola’s congregation? Did it die? No. While it lost a beautiful building, it soon rented a space from some Seventh Day Adventists. Now the ELMDF (the LCMS’ newest partner church) has planted 40 congregations. When I ask my friend, the bishop, how things are going, he responds, “Every time they attack us, we grow.”

Be bold. Be courageous. Nothing can diminish our hope. Nothing can daunt our confession.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Excerpt from the article, “The End of ‘Comfortable’ Christianity as featured in The Reporter

Church News

Lenten Midweek Service Schedule

Wednesday, March 2nd: Ash Wednesday *“Do Not Weep for Me, but for Yourselves”*

12:00pm– Worship with Communion

5:30pm– Lenten Supper– served by Rhea Oakes

6:30pm– Worship with Communion

Wednesday, March 9th: “Father Forgive Them”

5:30pm Lenten Supper- served by the Boards of Elders and Human Care

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 16th: “Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise”

5:30pm Lenten Supper– served by the Executive Board and the Trustees

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 23rd: “Behold, Your Son... Your Mother”

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 30th: “I Thirst”

5:30pm Lenten Supper– served by the Boards of Youth & Family and Outreach

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, April 6th: “Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Holy Week Schedule:

Thursday, April 14th: Maundy Thursday-

Worship with Communion at 12:00pm and 6:30pm

Friday, April 15th: Good Friday- 6:30pm

Saturday, April 16th: Easter Vigil- 5:00pm

Sunday, April 17th: Easter Sunrise- 6:30am

7:30am– Breakfast served by the youth

Sunday, April 17th: Easter Festival-9:00am



Church Calendar

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	2 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 12:00p Ash Wednesday Worship w/Communion 5:30p Ash Wednesday Supper 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Ash Wednesday	3 All Boards Meet in Prep for Parish Planning 6:30p Board Meetings 6:30p Elders Meeting 6:30p Trustee Meeting	4	5 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 10:00a Youth Rummage Sale 5:00p Worship w/ Communion
6 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	7 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	8 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:30p Guitar Jam	9 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Mid-week Lenten Supper 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Mid-week Lent Worship	10 6:30p Parish Planning	11	12 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
13 9:00a Worship 10:15a Voter's Meeting	14 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	15 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	16 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Mid-week Lenten Supper 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Mid-week Lent Worship	17 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	18	19 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship/ Communion
20 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	21 9:00a Informer Deadline 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	22 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:30p Guitar Jam	23 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Mid-week Lenten Supper 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Mid-week Lent Worship	24 1:00p LWML	25	26 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 12:00p Baby Shower 5:00p Worship
27 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	28 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	29 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	30 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Mid-week Lenten Supper 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Mid-week Lent Worship	31		

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

1450 30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Phone (309)792-0755
Fax (309)792- 0776
Email: office@stjohnsem.org

Walking in the



Light of Christ!



Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am

Office Hours

Mon- Thurs 8:30am-12noon

Inside our Sanctuary:

