

Glad Tidings

from First German

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February 2010

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REPENTANCE HAS MEANING

"I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6)

The season of Lent began with the observance of Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Three hundred repentant worshipers gathered on that day at First German. But you may have asked yourself, why do we call it Ash Wednesday? The name "Ash Wednesday" comes from the custom of sprinkling ashes on the heads of sinners, symbolizing both their repentance and their own mortality. Job's last words recorded in Scripture connect repentance and ashes as well: "I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job had experienced suffering in his life and had begun to question God. But when he was confronted by God, Job had to confess that he was dust, and to dust he would return.

What does it mean to repent? How does God's Word use the term "repentance"? As we look at God's Word we see that the word "repent" is not always used in the same sense. In fact, the word is used in a broad sense and in a narrow sense.

Broad Sense of Repentance

Jesus used the word "Repent" in his teaching ministry. After his temptation by Satan, Jesus began to preach: "Repent for the kingdom of God is near" (Matthew 4:17). Later he told people, "Unless you repent, you too will all perish." When we come upon the word "repent" by itself in the Bible, it often has two parts. First, we sincerely acknowledge our sins as sins against our God. This first part of repentance is called "terrors of conscience" as we recognize the depravity of sin. Second, we confidently look to Jesus' forgiveness, which takes away that sin. This is faith in Christ as our Savior. Without this constant repentance in our lives we would not be Christians.

Narrow Sense of Repentance

Sometimes, however, God's Word uses a narrow sense of repentance. Whenever I think of the narrow sense, I can't help but picture a misguided man, standing on a street corner with a sign hanging around his neck. His sign reads: "Repent or Die!" That person is probably thinking of the narrow meaning of repentance: to turn from sin. When this meaning occurs in the Bible, it is coupled with a call to faith. The apostle Paul said, "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus" (Acts 20:21). The two parts which we noted in the broad sense of repentance are spelled out here. Jesus even preached at times, "Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15).

Without the faith in Jesus, our sorrow over sin is not enough. We can be sorry that we got caught or sorry we hurt someone, but without trust in Christ as the One who paid for our sins we have nothing. Paul wrote, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). We trust Christ crucified as the Atoning Sacrifice who has made us "at-one" with God. We are God's forgiven children through the blood of his Son. Ash Wednesday has come and gone, but our repentance continues.

Pastor B. P. Schaefer



THE SEASON OF LENT

Our word lent is from an Old English word for spring (“lengthen” – the time of the year when the days grow longer). For us the Lenten season is a time to meditate deeply on the meaning of Christ’s suffering and death for our salvation. It is also an important time to concentrate on the continuing importance of amending our sinful lives.

In the Christian calendar the season before Easter (which we now call “Lent”) started out with two elements: an extended fast in preparation for the Resurrection Celebration at Easter and a strict period of preparation for those who wanted to be baptized. Typically Lent was considered a closed time (*tempora clausa*) during which marriages were not performed. Though many practices have changed over the centuries, Lent continued to include a fast of some type during these 40 days for many Christians. The Sundays in Lent were not counted as part of the 40 days since they were not fast days but retained their significance as “little Easters.” Let us walk to the cross and celebrate these “little Easters” together in Christ Jesus!

Pastor B. P. Schaefer

ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST

We will be having our Annual Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 4th. We will be serving hard boiled and/or scrambled eggs, hash brown potatoes, a variety of fresh fruits, breads, coffee cakes, mini cream puffs, eclairs and hot or cold beverages. The breakfast will be served between the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service and the 9:00 a.m. Festival Service.

The entire congregation, your guests, and friends are invited to attend. Enjoy the fellowship and an opportunity to visit with friends you may not see very often. A free will offering for the breakfast is appreciated. Sign up sheets are in the church lobby to indicate how you will support this project. *Donations of fresh eggs, decorated hard boiled eggs, and coffee cakes are important to the success of the breakfast.* Help setting up, preparation of food on Saturday beginning at 9:00 a.m. and serving and clean up are needed and appreciated. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Thank you.

Ralph Schwark, Fellowship Coordinator



LETTER FROM LUTHER

This February we remember God’s gift to his church on earth in the person of Martin Luther. We remember and honor him for his lifelong emphasis on the biblical truth that for Christ’s sake God declares us righteous by grace through faith alone (a.k.a. “Justification”). Luther died on **February 18, 1546**, while visiting the town of his birth. Blessed are those who die in the LORD.

Dear disciples of our Lord Christ,

St. Paul encourages the Thessalonians [1 Thess. 4:13-18] not to sorrow over the dead as others who have no hope, but to comfort each other with God’s Word as having a certain hope of life and of the resurrection of the dead.

It is little wonder if those are sad who have no hope. Nor can they be blamed for it. Since they are beyond the pale of faith in Christ, they must either cherish this temporal life as the only thing worthwhile and hate to lose it, or they must expect that after this life they will receive eternal death and the wrath of God in hell and must fear to go there.

But we Christians, who have been redeemed from all this by the dear blood of the Son of God, should by faith train and accustom ourselves to not fear death and to regard it as a deep, strong, and sweet sleep, to regard the coffin as nothing but paradise and the bosom of our Lord Christ, and the grave as nothing but a soft couch or sofa, which it really is in the sight of God. For he says, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep” (John 11:11) and again, “The girl is not dead but sleeping” (Matthew 9:24). Thus, too, St. Paul bans from his sight every ugly aspect of death in our mortal body and brings to the fore a wholly delightful and joyous picture of life when he says: “What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable... It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

Yours in Christ,

Martin Luther

MINISTRY ACTS

Baptisms

† Pachia Lee
† Sandy Yang

Funerals

† Bernice Meyer



ALTAR GUILD

Here is the schedule for communion helpers for the months of March and April. If you have any questions, give Mrs. Mrotek a call at 682-0839.

<u>March</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Clean-Up</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	James Zivko LuAnn Zivko	Phyllis Borucki Brenda Frozena
<u>Sunday</u>	James Zivko LuAnn Zivko	Phyllis Borucki Brenda Frozena
<u>April</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Clean-Up</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	Harold Paasch Rodger Smith	Shirley Jacob Cheryl Paszkiewicz
<u>Maundy Thursday</u>	Harold Paasch Rodger Smith	Nancy Becker Edith Becker
<u>Sunday</u>	Harold Paasch Rodger Smith	Sonja Witzak Kay Kerchefske - 11 25

Communion Linens - Marilyn Anklam for March & April



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Lenten season has begun, and soon Holy Week will be here. Here is a preview of those services. Join us in attending as many as possible.

Palm Sunday — March 28th — 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

We will shout our hosannas to the King who willingly suffered for us.

Maundy Thursday — April 1st — 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Once again we will hear our Savior say, “Take eat; take drink,” as we share in the Lord’s Supper. We will hear our Lamb say “Not My will, but Yours be done,” before we strip the altar of any paraments and lights.

Good Friday — April 2nd — 1:30 p.m.

We confess our sins and thank Jesus for His suffering and death. The Lutheran Elementary School students will sing and ring special anthems and parts of the liturgy during this service.

Good Friday Tenebrae — April 2nd — 6:30 p.m.

During this service of darkness, candles are snuffed as a picture of Christ’s redemptive work being complete. The end of the service features the lighting of a single candle reminding us of the hope of Jesus rising from the dead on Easter morning.

Easter Dawn — April 4th — 6:30 a.m.

The service begins quietly as the women walk to the tomb. The mood quickly changes to Alleluias when the angels share the good news-Jesus is risen!

Easter Day — April 4th — 9:00 a.m.

Share in the joy of responding, “He is risen, indeed!” Hymns, choir anthems, and instruments will lead us to share in the joy of our Savior’s resurrection.

Darin Menk, Chairperson



TREASURER'S REPORT

for the Month Ending January 31, 2010

Unified Budget Summary

	JANUARY, 2010			JULY 2009-JANUARY, 2010		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Receipts	\$48,190	\$42,845	\$5,344	\$379,069	\$341,746	\$37,322
Expenses	\$58,432	\$59,773	(\$1,341)	\$391,547	\$405,954	(\$14,407)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$10,242)	(\$16,928)	\$6,686	(\$12,478)	(\$64,207)	\$51,729

Line of Credit (Bank Loan): The Line of Credit balance was **\$195,876**.

Building Fund: At the end of January, the Building Fund had a balance of **\$19,997**. There were no large expense items (over \$500) in January.

Memorial Trust Fund: The total balance in the Memorial Trust “to be determined” fund was **\$42,789**.

New Capital Appeal: Total received to date: **\$148,303**. Bank balance: **\$2,268**.

Offerings: Weekly offerings for January averaged \$9,031; which was 6% LOWER than the same month last year, and 11% LOWER than the same month 2 years ago.

	OFFERINGS PER WEEK			TOTAL OFFERINGS		
	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
January	\$10,091	\$9,635	\$9,031	\$40,365	\$38,541	\$45,154
Total Fiscal Yr	\$10,917	\$10,567	\$10,342	\$338,413	\$317,004	\$320,599

Endowment Fund Balance: The endowment fund balance at the end of December, 2009 was \$359,792.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Schaller, Treasurer

HMONG NEWS

On January 4th we had Pastors’ Study Club at Howards Grove Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. The Pastors’ Conference was held on January 25th-26th at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Sturgeon Bay. This month I will be making many hospital and home visits.

Pastor Nau X. Lee

EVANGELISM

The members of the Evangelism Board have been busy this past month and we are looking forward to more work for the Kingdom of God. We are helping to implement Friendship Registers during the month of March. This will prepare us for Easter, when many visitors often attend. We have gathered a “Technology Committee” and are working on setting up guidelines for that. Members of the group are Matt Menges, Mike Nickels, Brian Wendt, Jeff Schwark, and Fred Benthien. They will look to maintain our website, a “Facebook” page, and other technology items. We have also jump started a “Sign Committee” with the help of Larry Nickels. Money was donated a couple of years ago and we are hoping to build a church sign on 8th street. Look for more details in the coming months.

We are planning an “Easter for Kids” on Saturday, March 27th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event has great potential to reach out to our community as well as to our congregation. It will involve different class settings and utilize our youth group and lay persons in a way similar to Vacation Bible School. We will have crafts, music, games, and the Easter story. Children 3 to 12 years old are invited to register by calling the church office (684-0101). Watch the bulletin for more information.

In Christ’s Service

*Ron Ronski, Director
Board for Evangelism*

Friendship Registers are coming to a pew near you!

Our Parish Planning Council recently approved the use of “Friendship Registers” to help us carry out our mission of reaching people with the good news about Christ. These simple friendship registers will help us learn who is visiting with us every Sunday. The plan is that each pew has a register which gets passed from person to person during the offering. Members and visitors will sign their names and check the appropriate boxes, while visitors are invited to leave their address/phone number/email address. Then, we can follow up on them and speak to them more fully about a relationship with Jesus, possibly at First German.

Members will also be able to register for communion by checking the appropriate box. Communion envelopes will be available as usual, but we still ask everyone to fill out the Friendship Register. After everyone has signed the register, it gets passed back down the row and all are invited to open it up and see who’s sitting nearby. Then, you can greet your neighbor by name and share the love of Christ with a fellow worshiper. If you have any questions or comments, please speak to a pastor or a PPC member. Thanks for helping us reach out in new ways.

First German Art Fair



**SUNDAY, MARCH 21st
SCHOOL GYM
8:30 A.M. TO NOON**

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Dennis Leckwee - Principal

David Lindemann
Shannon Peitersen

Board Members

Randy Blattler
Brian Wendt

Allen Liermann - Director

Scot Steckmesser
Mark Fischer

As a Board we are looking into full day Kindergarten. Even though this means moving Jean Fischer from a half time faculty member to a full time member, the need is here. One reason is, we have had parents with children in Pre-K4 and when it came time for that child to go to 5 year old Kindergarten, they either went to public or another Lutheran school with full day kindergarten. Thus the prospect of getting these parents back after they have left is not a good one. So please look for more on this in the near future. Just a note, we had Kindergarten Visitation Day on February 9th, with a potential of 15 students for the up coming Kindergarten class. A good portion of these families need the option of full day Kindergarten, so to build enrollment, we need to focus on the families with young children and that is where our Board, at this time, has been focusing its energy. (Pre-K3, Pre-K4, K5).

Our Board and staff wishes the Lord's Blessings on all the members of First German for their continued support of Christian education here.

In Christ's service,

*Allen Liermann, Director
Board for Lutheran Schools*

First German School Open House

**MARCH 17th - 19th
ALL DAY**

Visit classrooms of your choice,
stay for lunch, visit the book fair.



LWMS

The 47th Annual LWMS Convention will be held June 24th - 27th, at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, MO. It is being hosted by Mid-America and Missouri Valley Circuits. There will be workshops, missionary speakers, services, displays and St. Louis tours. Additional information and registration blanks will be on the table in the church lobby. Feel free to call me if you have any questions (920-682-5131). I have attended several of these conventions and they are very interesting, informative and they stimulate your interest in missions.

Elisabeth Knuth, LWMS Reporter

LADIES AID

Our February meeting was on the 11th with 17 members present. We had one guest, whom we welcomed and encouraged her to join us more often or better yet to become a member. We always welcome new members. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

We have taken on a new project of sending birthday cards to our shut-ins. The Treasurer's books were audited and everything was found to be in order. The Ladies Aid will again be paying the LWMS dues of \$75.00. We talked a little bit about the baby bottle project, and how well it was going. The video after the services really helped people understand why we were handing out these bottles. Please return the bottles by March 14th. We are also donating \$50.00 towards the making of a basket for the MLHS Sunday Showcase.

Pastor Schaefer continued telling us of his journey to Greece while a student at the seminary. One can hardly appreciate the beautiful and ornate carvings that were done so long ago and that they are still in such good condition. THANKS Pastor.

Marion Thiel, President

LANCER NEWS

MLHS Sunday Showcase — March 7th — 11:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Silent and live auction items, food, musical entertainment, kids games, and much more make this a great event for all ages! Bring the family, friends and neighbors. Enjoy a great day on MLHS' campus. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to replace the gymnasium bleachers. Preview the auction items by visiting the MLHS website: www.mlhslancers.com. Can't wait to see you there!

Are You An Organizer? In preparation for our 55th Anniversary, MLHS is looking for someone to help organize our archives (yearbooks, newspaper clippings, posters, pictures, newsletters, etc.) If you would be willing to help on this project (or "might" be depending on answers to your questions) please call Scott Reinhard at 242-9204.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tue., March 2nd -MLHS Board of Control Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
Sun., March 7th -MLHS Sunday Showcase Auction (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Visit www.mlhslancers.com/publications to view the entire MLHS calendar, including all sports schedules as they change!

PIONEER NEWS

Monday, March 15th — Pioneer Meeting from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Sunbeams and Buckaroos will be working on a Praying Hand project. The Girl Pioneers will be working on Lunchbag Scrapbooks. The Boy Pioneers will be working on Solar Energy and Electronic projects.

Sunday, March 21st — District Pinewood Derby@ Calvary in Sheboygan.

MANITOWOC LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Manitowoc Lutheran High School has a new ministry—the MLHS International Student program. Well, it's not new, but this is the first year our school has actively recruited international students. At the present time, we have eight international students: four from South Korea, three from China, and one from Germany. One additional student from Korea may have joined us by the time you read this.

One of the goals of these students is to learn English well enough to attend a U.S. University. They come to us through several agencies and the WELS CHOICE program, so they are screened before they are approved.

These students pay tuition of between \$12,000 and \$24,000 per year. \$6,000 of that is the housing stipend, which is paid to host families. Other expenses include books, materials, supplies, and health insurance.

Up to this point, MLHS has not needed to add staff to accommodate these students. Teachers have modified their teaching techniques, including providing printed notes. Miss Kristina Wessel is teaching their “English as a second language” class.

The greatest blessing to come from this program is being able to share our faith with these young people. They attend a Bible information class and participate in the daily devotion at MLHS. They attend church services with their host families. They interact with our students who are able to witness to the international students with their words and actions. Then these young people can take the knowledge of their Savior when they leave. Another blessing of the program is the cultural exchange, which benefits our students as well.

The plan is to enroll 12 international students for the 2010-2011 school year. Host families are still needed. Not sure about hosting full-time? They also need interim host families to host for weekends or short periods as needed. If you would like to find out more about being a host family, you can contact Mrs. Julie Nass, who is the program coordinator.

On Saturday, February 13th, the Federation met for its quarterly meeting. The 2010-2011 budget was presented. The Federation passed a balanced budget, with some minor adjustments. Also, there were just enough delegates present to pass the recommended changes to the Constitution. These changes had been presented about a year ago, and this was the first time since then that we had enough delegates present to vote on those changes.

Mark Fischer, Lead Delegate

SCHOOL MUSIC

Mr. Menk presented a workshop at the Northeastern Wisconsin District Teacher's Conference on February 11th. The workshop was well received. Over seventy people attended. May the Lord bless the efforts of these teachers as they prepare future musicians for their churches and our Wisconsin Synod.

Students are preparing for Manitowoc Lutheran's Music Festival (formerly the Bethany Music Festival). Students will perform for judges as soloists or small groups on the piano, with their voice, or on their instrument. Every one of our fifth through eighth grade students is involved in the choir and over twenty students are involved in solo or small groups. May God bless their efforts to put His gifts to use.

Our school musical will be performed on March 26th. All of our elementary school students will be involved. Preschool and Kindergarten students will sing about animals and tell a few jokes. Students in grades one through four will present *Wackadoo Zoo*. Students in grades five through eight will sing other silly songs and their piece from the Music Festival. We hope that you can join us for either the 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. performance.

*Darin Menk, Director
Church & School Music*



Easter for Kids

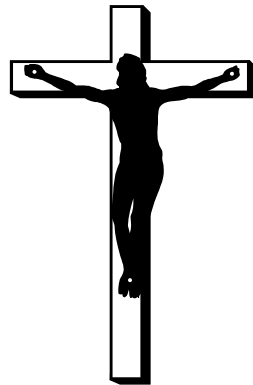
What is it? A morning full of fun for ages 3-12. Make crafts, sing songs, play games, eat lunch, and learn the Easter story.



Why? To reach out to our community and congregation with God's Word... so invite a friend and bring your child!

Where? First German Ev. Lutheran Church & School

When? March 27th, 9am – 1pm
(Registration begins at 9.)



Please Sign up in Advance:
Call 684-0101 or email
firstger@lakefield.net

Deadline for Advance Sign Up is March 25th, 2010.