

## MISSION & MINISTRY CONNECTION

Helpful additional reading for our yearly theme: **I Am A Church Member.**

As we formally bring a close to our series “I Am A Church Member”, I have been thinking about the book written by C.S. Lewis titled *Screwtape Letters*. In this masterpiece of Christian writing from the 1940’s are 31 letters each dealing with a way or method that Screwtape desires to destroy, tempt and corrupt the people, the pastor and the church. The summary below will help you get a clear picture of Lewis’ work.

*“In a brief preface, C.S. Lewis says he discovered the bundle of Screwtape’s letters somewhere, but will not say how he managed to come across them. Screwtape is a devil, he warns the reader, and Screwtape’s version of events, therefore, should not be taken as the truth. Then the letters begin. In them, Screwtape advises his nephew, Wormwood, on how best to tempt a British man, called only “the Patient,” into sin and, eventually, into Hell. Wormwood is an inexperienced devil, and he has gone to a training college to help prepare him to tempt humans into sin. Screwtape complains, however, that this college has taught Wormwood nothing because of its incompetent director, Slubgob. By the second letter, readers learn that the Patient has converted to Christianity and has begun going to church. The Patient is most likely in his mid-thirties and he lives with and takes care of his aging mother.*

*The Patient’s mother is a difficult woman. She makes many demands on the Patient’s time and energy. In the early letters, Screwtape advises Wormwood to make the Patient think that being Christian is an internal, spiritual thing rather than an external way of being in the world. After the Patient prays, Wormwood should make him fight with his mother about insignificant details about the house and chores. Over the course of these early letters, the dynamic between Screwtape and Wormwood begins to take shape. Wormwood keeps himself invisible as he follows the Patient around on Earth. He essentially whispers in the Patient’s ear, encouraging the Patient to experience negative emotions and to pursue unhealthy distractions.*

*Unlike Wormwood, Screwtape is an experienced tempter. He has already won souls for Hell. This has earned him, it seems, a mid-management position in Hell’s vast “Lowerarchy”—a devilish corporation that determines how best to organize Hell’s temptation strategies on Earth.*

*After World War II begins, the Patient worries about whether he will be drafted. Screwtape advises Wormwood to exploit the Patient’s uncertainty, and soon, there is a period of relative inactivity during the war. During this time, Patient makes new, unnamed friends. These friends, however, are not Christians. They are skeptical and worldly. Screwtape advises Wormwood to make the Patient a hypocrite. The Patient should think he is better than his fellow, humble churchgoers because he has such smart and sophisticated friends, and he should think he is better than his friends because he, unlike them, is a Christian. As a result of the negative influence of these friends on the Patient, Wormwood, very briefly, seems to be doing a good job winning over the Patient’s soul. Soon, however, after reading a book and going on a walk by an old mill, the Patient experiences a reawakening of his faith. This reawakening amounts to a second conversion, and, during it, the Enemy—God—forms a barrier of grace around the Patient that appears to Wormwood as a noxious fog.*

*After the Patient's second conversion, Screwtape advises Wormwood to tempt the Patient with sexual pleasures. Screwtape instructs Wormwood to make a list of all the young women in the Patient's neighborhood that would prove to be bad marriages matches for the Patient. But the Patient falls in love with the Woman. A Christian girl a Christian family, the Woman has a tremendously positive influence on the Patient's life. Screwtape hates the Woman. During this time, Wormwood reports Screwtape to Hell's secret police because Screwtape writes that the Enemy really loves humans. In Hell, this claim is heresy. It contradicts Hell's essential teaching that the Enemy's love is a lie that the Enemy uses to mask His self-interest. Wormwood continues to make poor progress with the Patient and, during an episode of intense anger, Screwtape transforms into a giant centipede. This is a normal occurrence, he, an outward manifestation of his inner "Life Force", is able to clear his name with Hell's authorities by explaining that he was only speaking of the Enemy's love for humans as an analogy for the Enemy's incomprehensible preoccupation with humankind.*

*World War II, meanwhile, grows active again. The Germans begin to drop bombs on the Patient's unnamed hometown. The Patient's unspecified duties place him in harms way, and he soon begins to fear for his life. Screwtape advises Wormwood to exploit the Patient's cowardice, but not to the extent that the Patient prays for help with it. During one bombing, the Patient acts according to his duty. Because he is afraid, however, the Patient feels himself to be a coward. This is bad news for Wormwood, Screwtape says. It keeps the Patient humble. Screwtape warns Wormwood that the Patient's soul is prepared for Heaven, and he advises Wormwood to keep the Patient alive as long as possible. That way, Wormwood can use the Patient's whole life to tempt him away from the Enemy and into sin. But the Patient dies during a German air raid, and his soul is taken into Heaven. Because of his failure, Wormwood must take the Patient's place. Wormwood begs Screwtape for mercy, but Screwtape laughs, saying there is no mercy in Hell. Screwtape concludes the final letter by saying how excited he is at the prospect of eating Wormwood alive." (sourced from sparknotes.com)*

I have read and reread the Screwtape's letters. In many ways, I am concerned and grieved as I see how true, even today, the evil one (Screwtape and Wormwood types) works to tear down the lives of God's people. Let us not be foolish to forget the schemes of the evil one. Let us fervently pray that God protects us all as we move forward in our lives together as members of Lord of Life and the greater Christian church on earth. Let us be clear minded of the devil's temptation but not fearful or frightened. Let us go confidently forward knowing that while the devil may tempt us away from the things we learned in the study, our God is greater and has promised to be with us always.

For the last five weeks we covered an important topic, what does it really mean to be connected to the body of Christ called his church in a true biblical way, not our definition but a biblical one. I am so proud of the board of Lay Ministers and their efforts in speaking to each of the chapters that were assigned to them. Each of them wrote thoughts, feelings and insights from their heart. Sharing with God's people helpful and insightful reflections that we can all apply and consider.

Let us give thanks to God for our church, all its members, and the many volunteers and staff who serve the church.

Blessings, Pastor Below

## A Note from our Director of Music and Worship

“Sundays and Seasons” is a popular worship planning resource published by Augsburg Fortress. This, along with the “Worship Planning Book” published by Concordia Publishing House, is one of my go-to resources when pulling together a service. It is good to take advantage of multiple sources to get the creative juices flowing, and consider the same texts in different ways. In this year’s “Sundays and Seasons,” there is an introduction to Lent, written by Pastor Anne Edison-Albright, that resonated with me, and I want to share her words with you here:

“We are called as Christians to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ not only on Easter Sunday but on every Sunday. Many congregations will bury the word *alleluia* to mark the beginning of Lent...we know that Lent is not a time to bury Jesus. Jesus is not dead. The newsworthy event—Jesus died and did not stay dead—is the good news we are continually called to share. The world-inverting miracle of the incarnation, “God-with-us”—which we might associate more with Advent or Christmas—also has deep resonance in these forty days.

“Christ is risen *and* the season of Lent also deserves to be its own thing. It’s the same good news with the emphasis on a different syllable. A grieving mom spoke of how she tried to go to church at Christmas but couldn’t bear the overwhelming imagery of baby-related joy, backed up by cheerful music and tinsel everywhere. When she returned to church in Lent, “the church looked how I felt: bruised.” She decided she was ready to return to church. In Lent she could hear, see, and sing the incarnation and resurrection hope is a way that also acknowledged the reality of loss and death. Lent is a time when everything we do in worship...reminds us simultaneously of the reality of death, the reality of resurrection life, and Jesus’ experience of life, death, and resurrection life with us.”

As we head into this subdued season, consider incorporating silent reflection into your devotional life. Below is a short meditation that might be used with your spouse, your family, or a close friend. Designed for weekly use, you could easily use it more frequently; it is good to mull over the same text more than once. Take turns being the leader and the responder(s). This order of devotion also incorporates a time of silence, which might feel uncomfortable at first. That’s okay. Start with a short amount of time, maybe just one minute, and add a minute each week. Set a timer, or maybe use a large sand timer, so that you can have a method of keeping track without checking your watch. Allow and challenge yourself to be still. Remember that there is no one right way to meditate in silence, and that each experience might change drastically from one time to the next. That’s okay, too. Give it a try.

### Greeting

The God of healing, hope, and wholeness be with you all.

### **And also with you.**

The Son of righteousness fill you with hope and peace.

**May it be the same for our neighbors and friends.**

The Spirit of holiness and resurrection stir within you.

**May the wind that brought forth creation from chaos continue to do so.**

Prayer

Holy God of all creation, every breeze, tide, and tectonic shift is known to You. All times and places are held within Your infinite expanse of grace. Guide us in Your mercy to perceive our place of rest in Your faithfulness, which You have revealed to all through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord. To Him, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Reading

**Week of Lent 1** – Luke 4:1-13

**Week of Lent 2** – Luke 13:31-35

**Week of Lent 3** – Luke 13:1-9

**Week of Lent 4** – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Week of Lent 5** – John 12:1-8

Litany for Reflection: Psalm 103

*This psalm moves through a variety of human emotions, including awe, regret, hope, and gratitude. Reading through it responsively each week allows you to reflect on where you may find yourself during a particular week. Considering this range of emotions and reactions prepares the mind for the meditative silence that follows.*

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!
- <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- <sup>9</sup>He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- <sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup>As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

- <sup>14</sup>For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.
- <sup>15</sup>As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- <sup>16</sup>for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.
- <sup>17</sup>But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who  
fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,
- <sup>18</sup>to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.
- <sup>19</sup>The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.
- <sup>20</sup>Bless the LORD, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his word,  
obeying the voice of his word!
- <sup>21</sup>Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will!
- <sup>22</sup>Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Silence for Reflection

*This time may be welcome and invited; at other times, the quiet is disruptive or unsettling. Wherever you are, as your thoughts come, ask God to hold them for you. Be still, and allow yourself to settle into the rest of this time. The time of silence concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

Go in peace. The Spirit of healing goes with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Elin Gomez*

## **Lay Ministry**

During February we completed our study of the book "I Am A Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer. Hopefully the messages in this small book are enhancing your life as a member of Lord of Life. Please consider reading any or all of the short chapters again. When you do, the lessons become richer.

March brings the Lenten Season. We prepare for the Easter victory. Part of the preparation is to learn about Jesus the man. He was human experiencing many trials and tribulations we face. But we also know He carried our sins to the cross; an action we may have difficulty relating to but will forever give praise.

When attending the Midweek Lent services, members of Lay Ministry will be handing out a brief Bible Study about Jesus called "Behold the Man!" Each week you will receive a Bible Study you can review and complete during the week. When you return to the Midweek service the following week you will receive answers to the study questions and the material for the next week.

We will also have a pulpit exchange with five other Pastors from the area. Pastor Mark will be with us on Ash Wednesday. He will rotate with the other Pastors during the next five weeks of Lent.

Lay Ministry hopes the planned Bible Study and Pulpit Exchange enhances your Lenten experience this year.

May God continue to bless you and your family.  
Board of Lay Ministry

## **Pre-Kindergarten Class**

February in the Pre-Kindergarten classroom has been busy. Units about Penguins, Friendship & Valentine's Day, as well Healthy Hearts have kept us busy thru these cold grey days.

Our investigation about penguins spilled over from January into February as we learned about different species of penguin, their habitats, lifecycles, and behaviors. The children crafted a penguin picture with scissors, paper, glue and watercolor. They also sculpted a penguin using Model Magic dough, and created a landscape for it to live in using play dough, rock, bits of sticks and a variety of other objects. Little hands inside a baggie full of Crisco, placed in a bucket of ice water helped the children understand how blubber helps to keep arctic animals warm in the freezing ocean waters and on icy tundra. We also investigated how oily feathers help keep the birds dry by using oil pastel crayons to color a picture, then painting a watercolor wash over their drawing. We observed how the paint was absorbed into the uncolored portions of the paper, but beaded up on the colored areas.

Our class motto is “Be Kind”. The time leading up to Valentine’s Day was perfect for us to put practicing acts of kindness into full gear. We were very mindful of our words and actions and of the feelings and needs of others. This is not a small task for children at this age. Learning to put consideration of others at the same level as self requires a great deal of emotional maturity, awareness, and self-regulation. Our kiddos love putting pom poms into our Kindness Jar when they have been observed or reported doing or saying something kind. When our jar is full we have a little celebration, and our jar filled up quickly during Valentine’s Day preparations! The children also worked on collaborative art projects, requiring them to share space, materials, and artistic process – a challenge for some. These lovely canvas creations are proudly displayed in the hallway.

Valentine celebrations are always filled with lots of hearts and talk of love, which makes it so easy to keep conversations about God’s love for each of us, and talk of showing that love to others, at the forefront. Our little ones are quick to point out that they know Jesus lives in their hearts!

We transitioned from talking about valentine hearts into learning about our real hearts. Our dramatic play area has become a Doctor’s Office and we are learning lots of fun facts about our hearts and the amazing bodies God created for us. During a conversation about the position and size of our hearts (about the same size as your fist), one of the children said, “My heart is much bigger than that because I have sooo much love for Jesus in my heart!” That made my week!

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring – we have been stuck inside too long by our crazy winter weather. We would also like to thank everyone who so graciously helped to make pancakes, set up and take down the tables and chairs for our Pancakes and Pajamas night. How kind of you! We all appreciate your time, effort, and support.

*Miss Mary Ann*

### **Preschool and Kids’ Day Out**

Thank you to the members of the Mission and Ministry Council for setting up, making and serving pancakes, tearing down and cleaning up after our Annual Pancakes and Pajamas Night! At least 115 students, siblings, and parents enjoyed the evening – eating pancakes, making Valentines and watching Tom Bonham Productions share his puppets and marionettes!

Each class in our preschool enjoyed Valentine parties complete with special snacks, decorations, games, and the sharing of Valentine cards with friends. In Chapel and Sonshine Time we have focused on the love that God has for each one of us through both the stories that Jesus told and the example that Jesus was to all of us. Each teacher has shared during circle time the stories about The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, and Jesus Blesses the Children.

In Sonshine Time we talked about what the children would want to do with Jesus if He were physically walking beside us. Many said that they would do their favorite things with Jesus: go to the park, eat ice cream, and share their favorite toys with Him. One little girl said that when

she was afraid at night, she would look under her bed and that Jesus would be there! Such innocent faith in Jesus!

Dr. Stanford, a local dentist visited this month. He gave the children toothbrushes and talked to them about the importance of brushing, flossing, and eating the right foods. Everyone was amazed by his magic coloring book and enjoyed the video of Gina the Giraffe and King Cavity.

A storyteller from the St. Louis County Public Library came on the last Friday of the month to share a story and teach us some finger exercises and songs. The children are now looking forward to her monthly visit.

Five new students have joined our preschool family since the beginning of January. Over 30 students are already registered for the 2019-2020 school year!

*Miss Ann*

### **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16). So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

**March Circle of Concern Needs:**

- Pasta Sauce – Critical
- Jelly
- Condiments
- Snacks
- Canned Pasta
- Bar Soap
- Hand Soap
- Adult Diapers/Incontinence Products
- Baby Wipes

The Yellow Meal-A-Month Bags are on the Circle of Concern barrel in the entryway. Please take one, bring your items in those bags or a paper bag, and place them in the barrel. Circle has informed us that they can no longer reuse plastic grocery bags. They can only accept brown paper bags.

**Our goal is 500+ cans each month. Thanks for your support!**

***Happy Birthday To:***

- Robbie Doebert 3/3
- Scott Strand 3/3
- Joe Delmore 3/5
- Paul Kammeyer 3/6
- Ian Bossi 3/10
- Carter Gilbert 3/12
- Donna Bremer 3/13
- Nicholas Roux 3/13
- Wayne Kinzel 3/14
- Carressa Pounds 3/16
- Florence Potthast 3/17
- Charlene Valett 3/21
- Beth Eatherton 3/26

***March Wedding Anniversaries:***

- Don & Robbie Doebert 3/15
- Bill & Betty Loebig 3/26

***March Baptism Birthdays:***

- Jean Urban 3/1
- Cindy Gutzler 3/3
- Samantha Eatherton 3/5
- Mary Kinzel 3/14
- Marcella Quinn 3/15
- Kim Doebert 3/17
- Elisabeth Smith 3/18
- Brian Strand 3/20
- Matthew Strand 3/20
- Florence Potthast 3/24
- Jace Mitchell 3/26
- Paul Kammeyer 3/29
- Ernie Peck 3/30

<b><u>Serving Teams</u></b>		
Mar 3	8:00	Team 2
	10:30	Team 4
Mar 6	7:00	Team 6
Mar 10	8:00	Team 1
	10:30	Team 8
Mar 13	7:00	Team 7-11
Mar 17	8:00	Team 5
	10:30	Team 10 - COGS
Mar 20	7:00	Team 10 - COGS
Mar 24	8:00	Team 3
	10:30	Team CAAN
Mar 27	7:00	Team 5
Mar 31	8:00	Team 2
	10:30	Team 4

<b><u>Lay Readers</u></b>		
Mar 3	8:00	Mark Bossi
	10:30	Regan Reed
Mar 6	7:00	Tracy Heaton
Mar 10	8:00	Zach Zeigler
	10:30	Marty Schamber
Mar 13	7:00	Robbie Doebert
Mar 17	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Carla May
Mar 20	7:00	Mark Bossi
Mar 24	8:00	Janet Kammeyer
	10:30	Kristie Nolan
Mar 27	7:00	John Dye
Mar 31	8:00	Tracy Heaton
	10:30	Regan Reed

<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>
Team #3
Janet Kammeyer
Carla May
Debbie Schelp
Charlene Valett
Kathy Roux

<b><u>Nursery – 10:30</u></b>	
Mar 3	
Mar 10	Carla May
Mar 17	Colleen Clasen
Mar 24	Kristin Dye
Mar 31	Barb Below

<b><u>Lay Ministers</u></b>		
Mar 3	8:00	Justin Langrehr
	10:30	Joe Delmore
Mar 6	7:00	Ted Greer
Mar 10	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Brian Andrew
Mar 13	7:00	
Mar 17	8:00	Mark Kammeyer
	10:30	Nehemiah Langness
Mar 20	7:00	
Mar 24	8:00	Ted Greer
	10:30	Gene Valett
Mar 27	7:00	
Mar 31	8:00	Justin Langrehr
	10:30	Donnie May

**Counting Teams**

Mar 3            Steve Mueller  
                     Carol DuMontier

Mar 10          Yvette Hagstrom  
                     Cindy Young

Mar 17          Ken Rosemann  
                     Marilyn Evensen

Mar 24          Linda Rosemann  
                     Dennis Oneal

Mar 31          Jean Urban  
                     Sue Andrew

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