



THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

*****February 2018*****

LISTEN TO HIM ²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Eli'jah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah." For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; **LISTEN TO HIM.**" And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only. Mark 9:2-8

LISTEN TO HIM

Dear Servant of Christ,

We remember the Transfiguration of our Lord on Sunday, Feb. 11. This is an event not always remembered and, perhaps, even less understood. The whole concept of "transfiguration" eludes us. But there are five words in this passage in the gospel of Mark that are crystal clear, that require no definition: "Beloved Son . . . **LISTEN TO HIM!!!**"

The words "beloved Son," spoken by God, identify this Jesus. Not just another prophet, not just a great teacher, not just a fine example. This is the Son of God. That alone makes us sit up and take notice. But then the command, the "chant," the words that might appear on the banner attached to the Goodyear blimp: **LISTEN TO HIM.**

LISTEN! An important word. We might say it in our home when someone is talking during the evening news and we say, "Quiet. I want to **LISTEN.**" The word might be uttered by a doctor who tells a patient, "**LISTEN** carefully to what I have to say." A team coach might even say to the players, "**LISTEN** up!" **LISTEN!!!** Give it your full attention, process what is being said, act on it. And in this text our Heavenly Father, commands, "**LISTEN TO HIM!**" **LISTEN** to My Son!

LISTEN TO HIM

(next page)

LISTEN TO HIM Throughout the history of the Israelites as recorded in the Old Testament, we constantly hear God speaking to His people . . . Either His own voice or through the prophets. “Thus says the Lord,” “This is the word of the Lord,” “The Lord commands you saying . . .” Various phrasing for **LISTEN!** But never is that command, that *plea*, more pronounced than in this Transfiguration text: “This is My Son . . . **LISTEN TO HIM.**” **LISTEN** to the promised Messiah; **LISTEN** to the One who comes that you might have life and have it in all its fullness; **LISTEN** to the One who truthfully proclaims, “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” **LISTEN** to the One who promises, “I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in ME, he who **LISTENS to ME**, will not die but have eternal life.”

February 11. Sunday of the Transfiguration. You may not be familiar with the story. You might not understand the significance of the story. But you can **LISTEN** to the Son who loves you so much that in the weeks following the Transfiguration, He will set His face towards Jerusalem where He will die for your sins and mine.

So, do yourselves a favor . . . **LISTEN TO HIM!!**

In Christ’s love,
Ron

LISTEN TO HIM

Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.



**Ash Wednesday
February 14**

Worship for this service and all mid-week Lenten services at 6:30 at the home of Ray and Mary Collins, 225 Stamy Rd., Robins 52328 . These services will focus on the I AM sayings of Jesus.

What is Lent? “Lent” is derived from the Middle English “Lente,” which means “springtime.” It is the forty-day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. Holy Week commemorates Christ’s last week of life on earth. It is the final, most important part of Lent.

What is Lent Important? The Lenten period allows us to recall the Easter story and absorb its meaning. Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin. Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, our lives can be renewed: we can renounce sin and begin to live for God.

What should I do during Lent? Although Christians repent of sin throughout the year, Lent encourages a focus on repentance . . . turning away from sin. Prayer, meditation and reflection are vital components of Lent. And for some, the practice of fasting heightens the awareness of one’s sinful nature and increases the gratitude and joy of forgiveness and salvation provided by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



S T A Y I N F O R M E D

ALL ABOUT JESUS Bible Study continues through February

February 4—The State of Exaltation: Jesus Descended Into Hell; Jesus Arose From the Dead; He's Gone, Always Among Us, and Coming Back.

February 11—Why is Lutheranism About Jesus?

February 18—Christian Meditation: Focusing on Jesus.



New Class on the Old Testament Prophets begins March 4.

Lenten Offerings Will Go To Water Mission

Water Mission has provided safe water or sanitation to over 3,300,000 people in 53 countries. Donations are allocated as follows: 83% for programs; 11% for fundraising; 6% general and administration. *Water Mission* focuses on three things:

1. Safe Water Solutions: develop the water source; test and treat the water; store and protect the water; create access points to distribute water.
2. Sanitation Solutions: The most economical and effective solution provided is the Healthy Latrine pour flush toilet.
3. WASH Promotion: Community developers work with trained volunteers to promote awareness and practice of healthy water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) behaviors.



There's an old phrase: "Give a cup of water in the Master's name."
Here is your opportunity!

Called to *Serve*

February Servants

Greeter/Usher: Lyle Gerdemann

Communion Assistant: Cliff Waugh

Snacks:

**February 4—Mary Collins

**February 11—Tami Gerdemann

**February 18—Jackie Opperman

**February 25—Brunch



GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY Of FAITH WORDS

Confession: Admitting that you have sinned against God and desire His forgiveness.

Congregation: A group of people gathered together in a church for a worship service or Bible instruction.

God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the one Supreme Being, perfect in powers, wisdom, and goodness; Creator and Ruler of the universe.

god: Anything we worship or place first in our lives that interferes with our love of the true God; an idol.

Heathen: One who does not believe in the true God.

Homage: Paying extreme respect, almost worship.

Idol: An image or anything that is worshiped as a god instead of the true God; an object of passionate devotion.



Outreach Visitation continues through the winter months as weather permits. Let Ron know if you would like to tag along. We invite, we share the good news of Jesus, we encourage.

February Outreach/Mission Support

\$333 - The North American Lutheran Church General Fund

\$600 — Great Commission Fund

Thank you for your faithful giving that allows us to support various mission efforts!

The purpose of the Great Commission Society of the NALC is to mobilize disciples for the work of the Great Commission. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that is in desperate need of the Good news. We propose to do this by networking congregations and individuals who have a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel and a commitment to the calling of the Great Commission.