

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

***** **March 2019** *****



WHERE ARE YOU HEADED???



Dear Servant of Christ,

The following devotional in “Our Daily Bread” provides some food for thought.

What determines our direction in life? I once heard an answer to that question in a surprising place: a motorcycle training course. Some friends and I wanted to ride, so we took a class to learn how. Part of our training dealt with something called target fixation.

“Eventually,” our instructor said, “you’re going to face an unexpected obstacle. If you stare at it—if you target fixate—you’ll steer right into it. But if you look above and past it to where you need to go, you can usually avoid it.” Then he added, “Where you’re looking is the direction you are going.”

*That simple but profound principle applies to our spiritual lives, too. When we “target fixate”—focusing on our problems or struggles—we almost automatically orient our lives around them. However, **Scripture encourages us to look past our problems to the One who can help us with them.** In Psalm 121:1, we read, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?” The psalm then answers, “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth . . . **The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**”*

Sometimes our obstacles can seem insurmountable. But God invites us to look to Him to help us see beyond our troubles instead of letting them dominate our perspective.

Peace to you,
Ron

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—He who watches
over you will not slumber; indeed, He who
watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

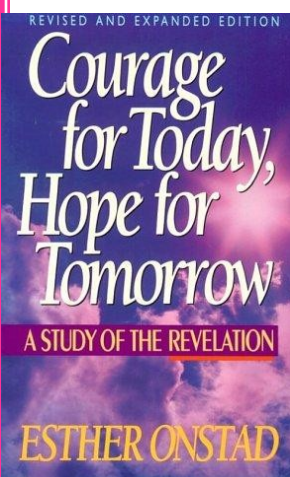


The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your
shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you
by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; the
Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever-
more.

Psalm 121

Is the *Book of the Revelation* a mystery to you? Have you wished you could understand it? Perhaps you have hesitated to delve into it because you could not grasp the meaning of its strange language and symbols. The Revelation to John, the last book in the Bible, abounds with symbols: trumpets, scrolls, beasts, wings, plagues, white robes, and crowns. Can this book really speak to US?



Esther Onstad's book, "Courage for Today, Hope for Tomorrow," is an excellent Bible study on the Revelation. The author explains the symbolism that depicts the conflict between God and Satan and the victory of God's people. The focus of the Revelation is the **victorious Jesus Christ who vanquishes every enemy and who will bring a new heaven and a new earth**. Re-read that bold type again because that *IS* the bottom line for all believers.

We look at the world, we read the news, and shake our heads and become discouraged. So, what better way to begin a new year than with hope and courage . . . both of which are found only in a risen, ascended, victorious Savior.

We continue our study of this book through February.



Ash Wednesday Service

March 6, 6:30 pm

Home of Roy and Mary Collins, 255 Stamy Dr., Robins

TUESDAYS, March 12, 29, 26, 6:30 pm

Home of Roy and Mary Collins

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Focus on SIN: The Seven Deadly Sins

SIN is: revolt against God

SIN is: humankind casting God's restraints to the wind

SIN is: the violent quest for unrestrained freedom which subordinates God's will to self will.

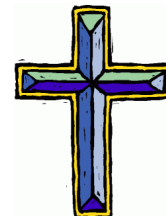
In this mid-week sermon series, we will examine SIN as our human condition and then look at the specific sins of **Pride**, **Lust**, **Gluttony**, **Greed**, **Laziness**, **Wrath**, **Envy**.

Looking at sin as our human condition and as specific acts will remind us of the love and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. His sufferings and death alone puts us right with God. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear."

Make your Easter truly meaningful by walking the road to Calvary.

Lenten Devotional Booklets

Available on the information table. Look them over, then select one (or more) to enrich your Lenten journey.



March Servants

Greeter/Usher: Ray Collins

Communion Assistant: Gerald Retzlaff

Snacks:

**March—Mary Collins

**March 10—Linda Drake

**March 17—Judy Waugh

**March—Tami Gerdemann

**March 31—Lenore Heckart





Water Mission is our Lenten mission outreach project. Midweek offerings and any special gifts donated on Sunday will go to **Water Mission**.

Water Mission provides safe water and sanitation solutions in more than 55 countries. Headquartered in North Charleston, S.C., **Water Mission** has over 250 staff members working around the world in permanent country programs located in Africa, Asia, Latin American, and the Caribbean.

Brief updates will be provided throughout Lent on their outreach efforts.

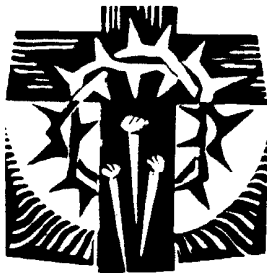
Pray for their work. Give generously.

BY CHOICE

Keith Wasserman has chosen to be homeless for a few days every year since 1989 in order to grow in love and compassion. "I go to live on the streets to expand my perspective and understanding" of people who have no homes to live in, says Keith, executive director of Good Works, Inc.

I'm wondering whether Keith's approach to become one with those he's serving might be a small picture of what Jesus did for us. God Himself, the Creator of the universe, chose to confine Himself to the vulnerable state of a baby, chose to live as a human, chose to experience what we all experience, chose to die on the cross for our sins.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5-8



Jesus chose the cross.

