



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 2020*

CENTER ON THE CROSS

Dear Servants of Christ,

The cross of Christ stands at the center of our observance of the Lenten season. We remember what our Savior did for us by dying in our place to save us from sin and death forever. As part of our focus during these 40 days that lead to Good Friday, then, is making the cross something that truly does have a bearing on our day-to-day living. Here are some ways to look to the cross this Lent and be renewed in your walk of faith.



Center on the cross as a **reminder**. The cross reminds us that we are sinners who need to confess our sins and receive forgiveness in Jesus.

Center on the cross as a **guide**. Daily we are faced with decisions about what to do in our lives. The cross guides us to follow God's will in our words and deeds, as Jesus did.



Center on the cross as a **comfort**. On the cross Jesus announced to the repentant thief, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Those words of comfort wash over us as well when we look to the cross and recall that it opens up the door of heaven to us.

Center on the cross as a **motivator**. In times of weakness and struggle, the cross stirs us to continue on, as Christ did, and draw on the power of God to stay committed to Christ and share the Good News of salvation found on in Him who died in weakness but rose in might.



In His love,
Ron

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Creating Unity Through Living Water

Because the Church is called to be God's primary agent for transformation in the world, *we intentionally focus our Living Water ministry on collaborating with, and building up, the local church.* Working with the local fellowship of believers promotes the long-term success of our work by allowing us to address emotional, relational, and spiritual needs along with the physical ones.

In 2019, Water Mission brought together pastors from different denominations in Honduras to organize and execute safe water and sanitation initiatives. In Malawi, we partnered with Ruth's Shawl to train 170 pastors, local leaders, and community members on Biblical principles. In Peru, safe water commissioning ceremonies became venues for interdenominational cooperation—events where various churches presented songs, dances, skits, and prayers.

Our mission to end the global water crisis is an undertaking we know is enormous and incredibly urgent. Through collaborations with like-minded partners like you, we believe we can bring safe water to the *2.1 billion* people around the world that currently lack access.



In 55 countries and counting . . .

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

A Biblical study of Ecclesiastes continues through March

What if it is death that teaches us how to truly live??? Keeping the end in mind shapes how we live our lives in the here and now. Living life backward means taking the one thing in our future that is certain—death—and letting that inform our journey before we get there.

Looking to the book of Ecclesiastes for wisdom, *Living Life Backward* was written to shake up our "expectations and priorities for what it means to "live the good life." Considering the reality of death helps us pay attention to our limitations as human beings and receive life as a wondrous gift from God, freeing us to live wisely, generously and faithfully for God's glory and the good of His world.

Join us on January 5.



March Servants

Greeter/Usher: Richard Drake
Communion Assistant:
Cliff Waugh

Snacks:

- **March 1—Mary Collins
- **March 8—Ron Voss
- **March 15—LaDonna Retzlaff
- **March 22—Linda Drake
- **March 29—Lenore Heckart

Flowers: Mary Collins



March Mission Giving

NALC General Fund—**\$500**
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Warrenton, Virginia—\$1,000

Lenten offerings directed to
Water Mission

LEGACY GIFTS MATTER!

Prayerfully consider including
the North American Lutheran
Church and/or the Seminary in
your will or estate planning.
Pass on the love of Jesus to
future generations.

Lenten Prayer



Grant, all might God, through the yearly observation of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

LET RON KNOW OF ANY PRAYER REQUESTS.



Midweek Lenten service will be held each **Tuesday** at 6:30. Locations are as follows"

March 3, 10, 17: Home of Ray and Mary Collins, 255 Stamy Road in Robins (395-0189)

March 24, 31, April 9 (Maundy Thursday), April 10 (Good Friday): Home of Lyle Gerdemann, 855 White Pine Circle, (360-2469)

Lenten Outreach Projects

- **50 Bibles will be purchased and donated to NALC Disaster Assistance.
- **Supplies for Health Kits will be purchased during Lent and assembled on Maundy Thursday.
- **Financial Donations received at Lenten worship will go to Water Mission. (Read more about Water Mission in this newsletter.)

Lenten devotional booklets will be available on Sundays, beginning February 23.



Lenten Sermon Series for Mid-week Services Road Signs to Calvary

Signs show us what to do, what not to do. Signs keep us safe. Everyday traffic signs can guide us on the road to Calvary.



Ash Wednesday



March 10



March 24



March 3



March 17



March 31