

St. James News

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Jesus' WORDS of FORGIVENESS from the **Cross**

The Word of the Lord: Luke 23:33-34. *When they came to the place which is called the skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

"Remember O man, that thou art dust and unto dust shalt thou return." (Genesis 3:19). With these ancient words reminding us of our mortality and of the sin which caused it, we with millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world find ourselves once again in the season of Lent. We begin again to watch Jesus Christ in His suffering, to stand beside Him in His agony, to be with Him through the valley of the shadow of death. It is the least we can do. After all, we are the ones who caused His suffering; we made it all necessary.

It is most fitting that the first day of Lent should be called Ash Wednesday, reminding us of the medieval practice of sprinkling ashes on the heads of penitents who wished to be restored to the fellowship of the church. For if there is one thing that Lent makes clear to us, it is our need for ashes, our need for penitence, and, above all, our need for forgiveness. The first word our Lord Jesus Christ spoke from the cross is a word that forgives, *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

Father, forgive! Even while they are nailing Him to the rough timbers and the pain seethes through His body, He asks that those who nailed Him there might be forgiven. Without Jesus Christ, we are nothing but lost and rebellious sinners who do not know what we are doing. But because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross the Father forgives, and God promises that all who have faith will inherit eternal life.

The forgiveness of the Father, however, does more than wash the slate clean for us. A criminal who is pardoned is still a criminal. You can lower a fever by taking aspirin, but the infection that caused it still remains, but when the Father forgives He does more than pardon; He does more than excuse the consequences of the disease. He makes us His own, God lives in us. If sin means to walk away from God and be lost in total confusion, not knowing what we are doing, then forgiveness is the Father reaching out to take us back to Himself. We are no longer lost, we are found. We are no longer going about in total confusion. We are beginning to know what we are doing.

The Father who forgives us for Christ's sake is reaching out to us now as we sit in the ashes of our penitence to take us by the hand so that we might walk with Him. Not away from Him, but with Him. The heavenly Father is involving Himself in our life at home, on the job, in our community, and in our recreation. God is making Himself the whole point and purpose of our life,

and may we who sit in ashes, let the Almighty enter our lives.

The Father who forgives us for Jesus sake is reaching out to us now as we sit in the ashes of our penitence to heal the hurts we have caused ourselves and others. He is reaching out to us, and is making us His ambassadors for the body of Christ on earth. Jesus is using us to love the world and proclaim His message of forgiveness to it.

We have entered the season of Lent to sit beneath the cross of Christ with ashes of repentance on our heads, having been rebellious, lost, and confused sinners, not knowing what we are doing. We have seen the Christ of God above us, in the midst of His shame and agony, pray as our great High Priest, *Father forgive them.* We are forgiven for His sake. So let us rise from our ashes and by the power of that forgiveness walk with the Father and every day offer ourselves to Him for Him to use.

The suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ have an eternal value. That is why the Scriptures tell us the story of Lent. We must not think that it is something which we all know, something old and unattractive. We will discover that as we again accompany our Lord on His last journey, these events will impress themselves deeply upon our hearts and will serve to build and strengthen our Christian faith. Here is the center of Christianity. This must occupy our minds during the Lenten season.

Lent is a time of sober reflection, but also a time of quiet joy; and as the people of the Gospel we should raise our hearts to Jesus in glad and joyful expressions of gratitude for our salvation. May God bless this Lenten season upon us all and let it serve to increase and strengthen our faith in our Savior!
Amen.

Pastor Nirva

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Church Attendance

Wednesday, January 27	19	
Sunday, January 31	230 & 166	
Wednesday, February 3	35	
Sunday, February 7		172 & 197
Wednesday, February 10		18
Sunday, February 14		193 & 149
Ash Wednesday, February 17		180 & 100
Sunday, February 21		136 & 178

Communion Attendance

Wednesday, February 3	31	
Sunday, February 7	133	
Sunday, February 14	89	
Sunday, February 21	113	

Baptism

Matty Jo Lanars infant daughter of Matthew and Molly Lanars on February 7, 2010 by Pastor Schoenfeld.

Funerals

Louise (Speigner) Hechsel on February 8, 2010. She had died on February 4, 2010 at the age of 100 years, 5 months and 17 days.

Romeo Oestreich on February 4, 2010. He had died on January 29, 2010 at the age of 91 years and 1 day.

Transfers/Releases

Jason Engel Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Glenn and Jan Kuck and confirmed children, Brooke and Jordan to St. John's Lutheran Church, Winsted

Moved without Transfer

Roger Biersdorf, Jim Henning, Christopher Hemming, Mark Luhman, Lane and Jana Makela and children, Jacob, Brooke and Elizabeth, Todd Babatz and confirmed son Taten, Meagan Roberts and children, Isaiah, Elijah and Lydia



SCRIPTURE QUIZ

(answers at bottom of next column)

1. How many times did Noah send the raven out of the ark?
2. Which Old Testament prophet told King Hezekiah that Babylon would carry off all of Judah's wealth?
3. Which Old Testament prophet prophesied that 30 pieces of silver would be thrown in the House of the Lord to the potter?
4. How did Jesus combat Satan in each of His temptations by Satan?
5. What, according to Hebrews, is sharper than a two-edged sword?

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The LWML Prayer Service was not held in February due to poor weather conditions on February 1 and again on the following Monday, February 8. We will reschedule the service for sometime this fall.

The March meeting will be our annual work night with a Potluck Dinner at 6:30 PM, March 1 in the school's cafeteria.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors in March: Wallace Kern (6), Marilyn Engel (7), Lorren Glessing, Lois Siedschlag (8), Deane Cloose (9), Gordon Gruenhagen (10), Viola Collins (11), Marlene Jensen (12), Mavis Scheer (13), Ken Klammer (16), Pat Diers (18), Edna Stueven (20), Mark Glessing, Helen Yager (22), Jerome Engel, Harvey Oestreich, Lorraine Luhman (23), Edward Reinmuth (25), Marlin Hessel (27), Henry Bergquist (28), and Gladys Doering (31).

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 14

Comic: "My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."

Answers: 1. One (Genesis 8:7) 2. Isaiah (Isaiah 30:6) 3. Zechariah (Zechariah 11:12-13) 4. Quoted scripture (Matthew 4) 5. God's Word (Hebrews 4:12)

Were You There?

One of the hymns in our hymnal is titled: "Where You There?" The hymn asks each one of us a series of questions. It asks,

*Where you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?*

Because of our sin we deserved to be there. We deserved to be nailed to the cross and forsaken by God eternally. If we would have been there we would have been left in hell forever. But Jesus was there for us; He rose again from the dead and now gives us the assurance that because of Him we do not have to be there. He was there on the cross for us. Certainly this gives us something we can be thankful for during this season of Lent.

However, as we move through this Lenten season and again relive the drama of the passion of our Savior Jesus, in a way we can say that we were there. For as we listen to the words of the Scripture we stand at the foot of the cross and see the nails which were driven into His hands. As we read the Bible we see the people take the lifeless body of Christ off of the cross and ultimately at the end of this Lenten season we will see the empty tomb.

Furthermore, in Romans 6:3-4 it says this: "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Through His Word and Sacraments God has given you faith in Jesus and connected you to the cross and the empty tomb. Your old sinful nature was crucified with Christ upon the cross and through faith in Jesus you too will rise out of the grave to eternal life.

Therefore, may we say with joyful gratitude and renewed understanding of God's grace, Christ was there for us. At the end of Lent let us say, "Yes, we too were there." We were there as we again heard the familiar words of Scripture. We were there as we again made our journey through the passion, suffering,

death, and resurrection of Christ. Through faith in Jesus we were there. Because He suffered for us we were there on the cross. Because He rose from the dead for us through faith we too will one day be there in eternal glory with Him.

This Lenten season let us all come and make the journey again which the Lord made for us. Let us again come to church and stand at the foot of the cross and see the nails which were driven into His hands. On Good Friday let us again witness how Jesus died on the cross and was laid in the tomb. And finally on Easter Sunday once again with joy and rejoicing, let us be there as we see how Jesus triumphantly rose from the dead and gave us a reason to hope.

Were you there?

Jesus was there for you and this Lenten and Easter season you too can say you were there. To God be our eternal thanks for being there for us so that through faith we may be with Him for eternity.

Pastor Schoenfeld

Elders' Zones

Our congregation is divided into zones so that each Elder has about 100 members he prays for and is available for those members to contact regarding church matters. A letter introducing himself to you is sent after the election of a **new** elder and to new members when they join our congregation. However as the years go by and some elders have been serving for two terms, it may have been 6 years since some of you have received a letter.

The current elders' zones are printed below so that everyone can check to see who their elder is presently. The newly elected and appointed elders have placed introduction letters in their members' church mailboxes.

Randy Heuer - Albrecht-Cardinal
Tom Krohn - Christensen to Engel
Tom Langemo. - Farrier to Gulso
Dale Engel - Gummerus to Jensen
Kevin Gummerus - Johnson to Kubasch
Michael Goede - Laager to Montgomery
Neal Glessing* - Moorhead to Ryks
Bret Stueven - Schaal to Thorson
John Zander - Tyson to Zillmer

*Neal Glessing has been appointed to fill the term of Gerry Vogelsang, who has stepped down due to health reasons.

Sharing God's Love

God asks us to be witnesses for Jesus Christ but many Christians are intimidated by the idea of sharing their faith. Maybe you want to share your faith with others, but knowing what to say and how to say it stops you in your tracks. We would all hope that at some point we could share the good news of salvation with those around us and we know that the Holy Spirit can help us to do so. But what about those times when

you're just not sure WHAT to say?

ONE way to share your faith is to be an example. Here are some practical things you can do without having to say much at all:

- One of the ways to share your faith is to demonstrate the very things you believe by staying positive and having a good attitude even in the middle of a crisis in your own life.
- Treat people with respect and dignity, no matter the circumstances. Jesus treated people right, even when they mistreated Him. People around you will wonder how you're able to show this kind of respect for others. They may even ask.
- Find ways to be a blessing to others. It shows that you live what you believe. Saying you're a Christian is one thing, but living it in tangible ways is something else. God's Word tells us that others will know you are a Christian by the fruits of your faith.
- Don't compromise your beliefs. Show people that your Christianity means living a life of integrity.
- The ability to forgive quickly is a very powerful way to show how Christianity really works. Try to be a model of forgiveness.

Someone may just ask you how you are able to forgive that person who is so hard to forgive, or how you can remain so upbeat even though it would appear that circumstances of life should be causing the opposite effect. And when they ask, you'll have all kinds of great stuff to share!

Board of Evangelism

Hymns You Like to Sing

Back by popular demand: *A Hymn Festival* for all members of the congregation and community. Last year's festival was extremely well received and plans are underway for another one.

We will welcome the choir from St. John's in Howard Lake who plan to join us. We will also welcome Mrs. Ruth Mackie as our organist. Ruth is the Director of Parish Music at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Mankato. Ruth's gift is playing hymns, and she plays them very well. Her energy and enthusiasm in leading congregational song is infectious.

This is an opportunity for you to come and be fed through Word and music, to relax and rejoice with others, and to sing your favorite hymns.

Come join us on **Palm Sunday, March 28th at 4:00 PM in the church.**

There is no charge or offering collection. Instead, we ask you to bring a food offering that will benefit our local food shelves.

Food Collection

For the Wavery Food Shelf

Sunday, March 14

Social Ministry is asking us to share our blessings with neighbors less fortunate during the month of March. Please bring a gift of non-perishable food items or cash (checks may be made payable to St. James Church).

Save and Share Thrift Shop

A community non-profit thrift shop has been established in Cokato. The shop is managed and operated with volunteer staff with net revenue donated as follows:

- 1/3 to local community Christian ministry projects
- 2/3 to international Bible translation and Bible distribution projects

(Our school was once the recipient of their profits because we are a local community Christian ministry)

Enthusiastic, capable and willing volunteers are needed to help fulfill this mission. Assistance is needed in the following areas:

- A. Volunteers willing to work as team members to **sort, price and shelve** donated merchandise. Teams will work from approximately 8 AM until noon (or at team's option until donations are processed). A break/staff meeting at 9:45 AM will include prayer prior to opening the doors to the public at 10 AM. If sufficient interest is expressed, an evening sorting shift may be arranged.
- B. Volunteers will to work as **cashiers or cashier counter assistants** on flexible shifts. Morning cashiers/assts. are asked to arrive at 9:45 AM for and daily updates).

Mission Statement

- Responding to our conviction that God has called us to:
- a) further His Kingdom by translation and/or distribution of His Word
 - b) to encourage volunteerism and fellowship in a Christian atmosphere
 - c) and to wisely use and reuse the material resources God has given us.

Hours of Operation

- Thursdays:** 1:00 to 7:00 PM
- Fridays:** 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Saturdays:** 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Couples Bible Study

Young couples are encouraged to join the once-a-month Sunday evening Bible class. *Improving Communication in Your Marriage* is the study book that will be started this month.

Join them on Sunday, March 21st, 6:00 PM at the Nirva parsonage for this month's get-together.

Benevolence Fund

We thank God for the successes and guidance in this endeavor over the past year. Your weekly support has enabled us to contribute not only to the social, physical and financial needs of families, but spiritual needs as well. In May we received a grant from Wright Hennepin Electric's Operation Round-Up program. Our 2nd annual Action! Auction was a great success in September.

In 2009 we received 93 requests from approximately 122 people. Needs met include:

- Paid a portion of Rents
- Gasoline for driving to and from work or job hunting
- Meeting needs of the unemployed
- Paid a portion of electric and gas bills
- Prescriptions and medical bills
- Food (thanks to our collections at church and school-and the Thrivent match)

On Thursday afternoons committee members meet in the church office with those requesting assistance. If you know someone in need, please refer them to the church office for an appointment.

The **FINANCIAL REPORT** printed below was presented at the Voters' Meeting January 31, 2010. This Benevolence Committee report does not contain any of the Social Ministry food drive receipts. January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

Opening Balance	\$ 593.30
Total Receipts*	18,056.19
Total Expenditures	<u>17,418.00</u>
Closing Balance	\$ 1,230.69

Expenditures by Category

	Amount	% of Budget
Housing	\$ 6,289.00	36.10%
Utilities	4,633.04	26.60%
Food***	429.00	2.46%
Fuel	2,630.98	15.10%
Clothing	.00	0.00%
Other****	1,827.70	10.49%
Petty cash**	534.44	3.07%
Medical	<u>1,074.64</u>	<u>16.17%</u>
Totals	\$17,418.80	100.00%

- * Includes \$2,000 from Wright-Hennepin Operation Round-Up Grant
- * Includes \$3,222 from St. James Action Auction
- ** Petty Cash account is emergency funding available in the Church Office
- *** Food was primarily furnished by 3 food drives in 2009
- **** Includes emergency living allowances and other one-time expenditures

From Our Parish Nurse

Most of you are aware of the “WALK TO CALVARY” program going on at St. James. If you have not been involved yet, there still are four Wednesday opportunities to come walk with us at the school and refresh your mind and spirit with the Lenten scriptures. Even if you are not able to walk for the distances designed for each week, please just come and see the special spot set up for that night. It is not just meant for the exercise portion, it is also designed to remind us of the Lenten portion of the scriptures.

Do you need a natural mood booster for the remainder of the winter-season? Happiness doesn't have to wait for springtime, flowers and birds. Omega 3's- the good for you fat found in fish and some other foods (I have written about previously) can improve your mood. Also hand-holding and hugs help to release endorphins which elevate our feeling of well-being. Don't be afraid to ask for hugs.

Here are some Herbs that help with good health and add flavor to foods-

BASIL- this herb is a natural anti-inflammatory, antibacterial that is also a rich source of magnesium.

CAYENNE PEPPER- this herb is spicy and is believed to be a natural pain reliever and as well as possibly a cholesterol reducer.

DILL-the oil from this herb may help to neutralize carcinogen (cancer cells). Research being conducted.

CILANTRO- known as a disease fighter.

CORIANDER SEEDS- it is thought to help control blood sugar, cholesterol and free radical cell production.

Here is an interesting model for health, called "PAIN"

P stands for Prudence. This is the basic good common sense stuff about health. Eat five to nine servings of vegetables and fruits every day. Get eight hours of sleep per night. Find a way to fit in exercise every day (should have 30 minutes). Don't smoke or use drugs. Wear your seatbelt. Limit your alcohol intake. Limit your intake of deli meats with nitrates. Don't eat so much salt. Drink six to eight glasses of water a day. Pray. Keep a sense of humor. And remember: all things in moderation, including moderation.

A stands for Acceptance. If you have a chronic health condition, you have to take care of yourself. Acceptance also means positive things: God loves us all no exceptions. Accept that God really, truly loves you. Accept the reality of hope, kindness, and compassion in the world.

I stands for Individuality. Everybody is unique. Your body is unique, and so is your health situation. Treat yourself with kindness and love, err on the side of caution in health practices, and know that you are beloved of God.

N stands for Needs. Honor your needs. You need exercise, sleep, food and purpose and meaning in your life. Even if the regular paycheck of you current job seems like it alone should fulfill you. You need God. You need Prayer. Without vision, people perish.

**PAIN- PRUDENCE,
ACCEPTANCE,
INDIVIDUALITY, AND
NEEDS ~ NO PAIN, NO GAIN**

Blessings for the Lenten Season- looking forward to Easter

Your Parish Nurse,
Darlene Lind

There are no limits with God.

His resources are far beyond your abilities. Never say, "I can't" without saying, "He can." Never feel you are weak without knowing that He is strong. You will never have to hold back or turn back because of fear, for He is with you...you will never have to be defeated, because His victory is yours...you will never have to settle for the ordinary, because His life is extraordinary.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear Reverend Ken Klaus on The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

Reverend Klaus has announced his retirement from the Lutheran Hour coming in January of 2011. He will continue to work with Lutheran Hour Ministries. No decisions have been made as to who will succeed him.

March 7-Does God Love You?- It's easy to think so, when times are good. But what about when problems pile up, difficulties descend, and miseries multiply? (Luke 13:4-5)

March 14-The Sinner's Friend-Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus proved Himself the Friend of sinners. He reached out to those who needed Him most. (Luke 15:1-2)

March 21-A Big Loser-Coming soon! (Philippians 3:8)

March 28- "TBA"

Missionary News From Michelle Gillard

Agriculture & Christian Living: There is one thing I always say about Ugandans, "All Ugandans are farmers in one way or another." Most Ugandans I know will be able to tell you how to plant and harvest well in this fertile land, even if they don't farm for their occupation. Linda & Delano Meyer serve as agricultural missionaries for LCMS World Mission. They were successful farmers for 22 years in Minnesota but have served in West Africa for the last 15 years. They live in Sierra Leone. Jacob, Amelia and Evangeline did some traveling with them as they conducted workshops all over the country. Having the Meyers come and share about agriculture and Christian living was a blessing to this country. Check our [blog](http://blog.ugandaconnection.wordpress.com) <ugandaconnection.wordpress.com> for more details on their teaching.

Story time is going well. Every Thursday at 5 p.m. Amelia, Evangeline and I take popcorn, puppets, songs and a book with us down the road. It is a short walk to meet up with the kids in the village. They love the puppets a great deal. They also like stories with "sound effects" like animals or funny voices. I laugh so hard when the translator copies my voices. When I make an oink...they make the sound for oink in Luganda. Isn't that funny. Same animal...but different oink.

Jake adds...

Please pray for the LCMU as they grow together as a relatively new church body.

What else can you pray about? More missionaries! Our boss was visiting with us last Monday. One thing that came out of the conversation is the need for more missionaries in Uganda. These would be a [GEO](#) positions (2-year commitment). GEO missionaries are often college-aged or retirees—but not always. They could be single or a couple. They'd be based in a small to medium sized town and travel to villages within a 40 mile radius to stay for days at a time, teaching and mentoring Lutheran leaders. This is in the possibility stage right now and we don't have any position descriptions on the LCMS WM website but please pray with us for more harvest hands in Uganda.

Youth News

Lenten Soup Suppers

The Youth and Lila will continue to serve Soup Suppers from 5:00 to 6:30 PM in the school cafeteria Wednesdays before the evening Lenten services. Homemade Soup, a variety of sandwiches, desserts and beverage will be served for a free will offering.

Come enjoy!!!

March

- 3 Chicken Noodle or Cheese
- 10 Vegetable or Wild Rice
- 17 Chicken Dumpling or Beefy Noodle
- 24 Bean 'n Ham or Chili

Skiing/Tubing/Snowboarding

Weather permitting we are looking at March 13th for our annual trip to Powder Ridge at Kimball for an evening of fun. We will leave from the school at 3 PM and return around 10:30 PM. Cost will be dependent on the number of participants. The most it would cost could be \$30.

Sledding

at

Highland Hill

Join us on Sunday, March 14th from 2 to 4:00 PM at Highland Hill for sledding. Everyone is welcome for an afternoon of fun.

Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday is April 4th this year and we will be serving breakfast from 7 to 10 AM in the school cafeteria. Come enjoy Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Sausage Links, Desserts and Beverages. Plan to join us on this joyous morning for food and fellowship.

School News

"**March Madness**" is coming to St. James! Well, not really, but during March the Girls 5th and 6th grade basketball tournament is in full swing! St. James is once again hosting the invitational tournament March 4-6. This is a great fundraiser for the school and volunteers are needed to help. Please stop in and see how you can be of service.

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) also begins March 7-12. Our theme this year is ***Securing each child's future for a life of service.*** "There are varieties of service, but the same Lord." 1 Corinthians 12:5. This year we are focusing on certain colors and how they have meaning for us. As a kickoff for the week the congregation members are invited to the school for an Open House on Sunday, March 7. Please come over and take a look at the classrooms. The rooms will be open for a half an hour after each service. Continuing the festivities, each day will be assigned a color. We have special dress up days, lunches, and activities. The children enjoy this week a great deal. Making this year even more special is the fact that **Beach Night** has been rescheduled to coincide with NLSW. Come to the Beach (gym) on Thursday, March 11, for Fun Night!

There are two other special days on the school calendar of which we should be aware. **March 9** at 7:00 PM is **Kindergarten Round Up**. If you know of someone that is looking for a school home, please make them aware of St.

James. **March 16** at 7:00 PM is also our **Preschool Registration**.

Toward the end of this busy month we also reach the end of our 3rd quarter! The theme for March is **Love Always Protects and Trusts**. We can trust that the Lord will sustain us through these busy times when the calendar might seem like a different kind of "March madness." Our Bible verse for the month sums up everything nicely, "**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**" Proverbs 3:5.

BOOK SALE/FUNDRAISER

The school is planning to hold a used book sale in conjunction with the PTL Dinner Sunday, April 18, 11 AM to 1 PM.

For the next few weeks we will be accepting book donations from any families within our church, school or community. Please see the following guidelines for the types of books we are looking to collect.

- Books in good to excellent condition
- Hard or soft covered books
- Sports, Children's, Cookbooks, Adult, Christian, etc...
- NO magazines (including National Geographic)
- NO encyclopedias or reference books older than 2000

Donated books can be dropped off at the school or church offices. Please call, with any questions.

Come

to the **PTL Dinner**

Sunday, April 18

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

In the Fellowship Hall

Menu:

Pork Chops – prepared by the
Wright County Pork Producers
Scalloped potatoes
Corn – Coleslaw
Applesauce
Rolls – Dessert – Beverage

Tickets: \$8-adults, **\$5**-children ages 4-12,
Free-age 3 and under, **\$2** for an extra chop

Everyone is welcome!

Stewardship

Jeff Foxworthy says that if you know all four seasons as—almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction—you might live in Wyoming. A lot of other people in wintry states might say the same thing. But in March we observe the beginning of spring. As the trees and bushes bud, the grass starts to turn green, and the soil takes on a smell of new life, we look forward to the beginning of a new cycle with warmer weather and a new start for seedtime and harvest.

Sometimes as God's stewards we may feel that stewardship is more of the same old, same old. But, just as spring starts a new cycle of life, so also Easter with its joy and celebration starts a new cycle of life for us as God's stewards. During the reflective season of Lent we look forward to the joy and celebration of Easter. This is a great reminder that we are "Easter people," that is, people of hope. Hope is stronger than memory. Memory mostly makes us think about past failures, unfulfilled promises, frustration and disappointment, but hope refreshes us with a new start, not just at spring time, but for every new day.

During Lent we reflect on the extravagant love of Jesus as He went all the way to the cross and death as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and failures. Philippians chapter two reminds us: *"Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (vv8-11 NIV)

One day every knee will bow before Christ, even the knees of those who did not believe in Him, and confess Him as Lord of lords and King of kings. Those who do not believe will be forced to bow their knees when they see Jesus coming in glory and then they will go away to everlasting sorrow. By contrast, our knees will bow in humble adoration and our voices will proclaim *"How great Thou art!"*

Just as the earth comes back to life in spring time, so also we are renewed day by day to live as God's redeemed stewards who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. This new life is not boring! It is exciting as we experience God's power in our lives and look for opportunities in which we can manage our time, talents, relationships and financial resources in a way that honors Him and provides so many blessings to others and ourselves.

Let's "spring" to new life as God's redeemed stewards who, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, manage all that we are and have to God's glory!