

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

King's Chronicles

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"Who is Really Responsible for Crucifying Jesus?"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent begins again this year on February 26th with our celebration of Ash Wednesday. It seems like each year in our Lenten Sermons we touch on who was actually responsible for crucifying our Lord Jesus.

Often in our Bible classes, people want to discuss this issue in some depth. Many thoughts are often offered: the Romans, Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas the High Priest, the Jews, the soldiers. We inevitably also come to discuss our own culpability, for we talk about whether our own sins forced Jesus to die.

The correct Biblical answer comes from Jesus Himself in John Chapter 10. In verses 17ff Jesus says: "My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. NO ONE TAKES IT FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN MYSELF. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This command I have received from My Father."

Who was responsible for the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus? God Himself! In His incredible plan to save us who were lost in our sins, God in His mercy was willing to

give His One and Only Son for us. As St. Paul makes clear: "For while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). It isn't totally wrong for us to say that we are responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus, for the Law of God reminds us that it was for our sinful nature and for the actual sins we have committed that God the Father gave Jesus over to death. But knowing this truth, the Good News of the Gospel which we celebrate during these 40 days of Lent is that while it was God's plan to send Jesus, Jesus laid down His life for us ON HIS OWN ACCORD.

As one verse of one of our favorite Lenten hymns summarizes: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (TLH 175)

Join us as we respond to God's love for us in the death of Jesus in Lenten Worship this season!

Worshipping with you,

Pastor Randy Boelter

Official Acts

The following acts were performed or are scheduled to be performed by your Pastor on behalf of the congregation:

Funerals

Margaret Elizabeth Wittwer, born January 6, 1926, died in the Lord in Grosse Pointe Woods on December 25, 2019. Funeral Service held at Christ the King on Saturday, January 11, 2020. Cremation, with interment pending. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: John 10: 14ff.

Shirley Ann Wiederhold, born on November 5, 1925, died in the Lord on Saturday, January 18, 2020 in Mt. Clemens, MI. Funeral Services held at A.H. Peters on January 25, 2020. Interment on January 26th at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Detroit. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: Mark 14:3ff

Avery Quinn Cooper, daughter of Jeff and Michelle Cooper, Funeral Service held Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Christ the King. Burial: Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley, MI. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text II Samuel 12: 23.

Divine Worship

Sunday Worship
8:15am & 10:45am

Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sunday
8:15am
2nd & 4th Sunday
10:45am

Monday Worship
7:00pm
2nd & 4th Mondays of
the month

Divine Service and Preaching Schedule for February and March

Our Sunday Services during the Lenten Season (beginning March 1) will feature a preaching series entitled "The Sermon on the Mount." Some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus in Matthew chapters 5-7 will be related to the events surrounding Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In the process, God will powerfully reveal to us that the cross of Jesus is itself the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith this season.

Sunday, February 2, 2020 - Presentation of our Lord. Services 8:15am with Holy Communion and 10:45am

Sunday, February 9, 2020 - 5th Sunday After Epiphany. Services 8:15am and 10:45am with Holy Communion. Guest Preacher: Pastor Dan Conrad from Mexico City, MX.

Monday February 10, 2020 7:00pm with Holy Communion

Sunday February 16, 2020 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany Services 8:15am with Holy Communion and 10:45am

Sunday, February 23, 2020 - The Transfiguration of our Lord. Services 8:15am and 10:45am with Holy Communion

Monday, February 24, 2020 - NO MONDAY EVENING SERVICE with Ash Wednesday Celebrated this week.

Sunday March 1, 2020 - First Sunday in Lent Services 8:15am with Holy Communion and 10:45am

- "Salt and Light" Christ calls you and me to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen His great love on the cross can spend our Lent savoring His salvation and shining with His glory and grace in the very places He has placed us. Mt. 5:13-16

Sunday March 8, 2020 - Second Sunday in Lent Services 8:15am and 10:45am with Holy Communion

- "Prayer and Fasting" Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with Him, and we learn more about Him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to Him. Mt. 6:5-18

Monday March 9, 2020 - 7:00pm with Holy Communion

Sunday March 15, 2020 - Third Sunday in Lent Services 8:15am with Holy Communion and 10:45am

- "Do Not Worry" So much of our lives are spent in needless worry about what might happen to us or what has happened to us. Jesus teaches us to stop being anxious. Rather, we are to trust Him and believe that He knows what is best and that He will take care of us to the very end. Mt. 6:25-34

Sunday March 22, 2020 - Fourth Sunday in Lent Services 8:15am and 10:45am with Holy Communion

- "Judge Not" We live in a very judgmental world. Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to us. When we leave all judgment to God, then we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes. Mt. 7:1-5

Monday, March 23, 2020 7:00pm with Holy Communion

Sunday, March 29, 2020 - Fifth Sunday in Lent Services 8:15am with Holy Communion and 10:45am with Holy Communion

- "Build on Rock" We often build our lives on shaky foundations. Then we are surprised when things collapse! Jesus reminds us in His teaching that He is the only solid foundation, the Rock of our Salvation. On Him alone we build! Mt. 7:24-27

Pastor Dan Conrad and his family will return to our area on a missionary furlough in February. As such, he will serve as our Guest Preacher and Bible Class Leader on **Sunday, February 9, 2020**. Come and hear about the progress that is being made as he continues to assist in the education of Lutheran Pastors for ministry in Central and South America.

Divine Worship continued...

Wednesday Midweek Services

Our Preaching Sermon Series this Lent for our Midweek Services is entitled: "By His Wounds, We are Healed." The innocent Son of God had no sins of His own for which He deserved to die, yet His enemies falsely accused Him of violating every Commandment of God! In each Midweek Service, we will see that it was our sin, our disobedience, that Jesus bore in His body on the cross. The Word of God tells us: "The LORD laid upon Him the iniquity of us all." Jesus indeed suffered the penalty of death in our place, and "by His wounds, we are healed!"

Wednesday February 26, 2020 Ash Wednesday Services 11:15am and 7:00pm Holy Communion at Both Services

- "The Wounds of Blasphemy" John 10:33 and John 19:7. Jesus is accused of blasphemy and misusing God's Name. The wounds of blasphemy that we have committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on the cross. Though we have been brought low by our sin, Jesus blesses us with New Life in Him through His cross.

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 Midweek Lent II Services 11: 15am and 7:00pm

- "The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath" Luke 6:2,7. Jesus is accused of violating the Sabbath. The wounds of violating the Sabbath which we committed against our Lord were laid on Christ on His cross. Though we have been brought low by these sins, Jesus will bless us with New Life in Him through the cross.

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 Midweek Lent III Services 11:15am and 7:00pm

- "The Wounds of Dishonoring Authority" John 19:12. Jesus is accused of dishonoring authority and calling Himself a king. We remember the wounds of dishonoring authority that we have committed against our Lord and remember they were laid on Christ on the cross. Though we have been brought low through this sin, our Lord will bless us with New Life in Him on the cross.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 Midweek Lent IV Services 11:15am and 7:00pm

- "The Wounds of Murder" John 8:44, 11:48 and Mt 12:24. Jesus is accused of inspiring rebellion and the destruction of Israel. He is accused of being in league with Satan who is "a murderer from the beginning." We remember the wounds of murder and violence that we have committed against our Lord and others. These wounds were laid on Christ on the cross. Though we have been brought low by this sin, our Lord will bless us with New Life in Him through the cross.

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 Midweek Lent V Services 11:15am and 7:00pm

- "The Wounds of Adultery" Matthew 9:11. Jesus is accused of associating with tax collectors and prostitutes. We remember that the wounds of adultery that we have committed against our Lord and others were laid on Christ on the cross. Though we have been brought low by these sins, our Lord will bless us with new life in Him through the cross.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Midweek Lent VI Services 11:15am and 7:00pm

- "The Wounds of Stealing" Luke 23:2. Jesus is accused of forbidding the payment of taxes. We remember that the wounds of stealing and dishonesty we committed against our Lord and others were laid on Christ on the cross. Though we have been brought low by such sins, our Lord will bless us with New Life in Him through the cross.

Lenten Dinners

Lenten Dinners will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:45 in our Church Library beginning Ash Wednesday, February 26th. If you or your group would like to provide a Lenten Dinner for our congregation, a sign up sheet will be located in the Church Office. Our dinners provide a wonderful time of fellowship during the colder months of February and March. Plan on eating dinner with us and then joining us for worship at 7:00 P.M.

Bible Class

Sunday Morning Bible Class is held each Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30. The group is presently beginning a study of the Book of Amos.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class is just beginning its study of the Book of Romans. You are welcome to join us!

Adult Instruction

Adult Instruction is held as needed and as agreed upon by the Pastor and those who wish to take our course of studies. Presently, we have 4 in our adult instruction class, and we will be completing our current classes in middle February. Should you or someone you know wish to have a refresher course in Lutheran Doctrine or join our congregation, please have them call the office. It is possible for us to hold a class during Lent and finish our instruction just before May.

Pray the Litany

The Litany is prayed on the 2nd and 4th Saturday morning of each month beginning at 9:30 A.M. You are most welcome to join us as we take God at His Word of Promise and bring our needs and the needs of our congregation to Him in prayer at these services. Each service is approximately 20 minutes long, and prepares us for worship the next morning on the Lord's Day.

Sunrise Assisted Living

Opportunities Abound - each first and third Thursday of each month to join us in sharing Christ's love with our neighbors at Sunrise Assisted Living, Aline and Mack Avenues. We continue to meet on these Thursdays at 10:30 A.M. for a short worship service, and a visit with the residents of the memory care unit of Sunrise. The staff has been very welcoming of us for many years, and the residents look forward to our visits. Come and join us for worship and make a resident's day with a friendly visit!

1-1-1 Mission Endeavor Continues!

Don't forget that our commitment to our English District Mission Endeavor 1-1-1 continues each week and each Sunday!

What is it? One dollar-per week- per baptized member young and old alike helps the English District to plant some new congregations in growing areas in the U.S.A. and Canada. Every contribution helps! Thank you for taking part in this worthwhile mission project. It is also a wonderful way for our Sunday School children and our Junior Confirmation Students to participate with us in sharing our blessings by growing God's church here in His Kingdom of Grace on earth.

Girl Scout Cookie Project

Dear members of Christ the King,

Our Senior Girl Scout troop is selling Girl Scout cookies again this year to be donated to our military service men and women stationed overseas, as well as to our veterans. As a service project our troop has embraced for the past eight years, we have mailed nearly 3,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to servicemen and women in active duty overseas. Many of these past recipients have been the service men and women we pray for each week at Christ the King. In addition, we have personally handed out boxes of cookies to our proud veterans at the VA medical center in Detroit. All of our recipients have been so thankful! The soldiers often comment that the cookie care packages are such a morale boost, and they are so grateful the people back home are thinking of them. Our veterans are truly grateful as well- some moved to tears - that our community donates cookies to honor them for their past service. It's amazing how a small act of kindness can have such a great impact!

We are so appreciative of your strong support of our efforts over these past several years! If you would like to donate toward our military cookie service project again this year, please see Stephanie or Karen Westrick. Cookies are \$4/box, and our troop will be collecting money through the end of March to purchase the cookies. If you would like to purchase cookies with a check, you may make the check out to **Girl Scout Troop 75334**. Also, if you know of anyone serving overseas and would like us to consider sending them a care package, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Stephanie and Karen Westrick
Girl Scout Troop 75334

Preschool Happenings



Registration and Open House

Our priority registration for our 2020-2021 school year began on January 28th and will run through February 8th. On February 10th, our registration opens to the public. **Our Open House will be held Sunday, February 1st from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.** Please take a brochure from the Welcome Center and give it to someone who may be interested in our half day threes or fours program for next year. The Open House date is on the brochure!

Preschool Lawn Signs

Now that we are kicking off our registration for the 2020-2021 school year the preschool would like to encourage you to put your lawn sign out in your yard so our name is visible in all communities. They are available in the Welcome Center. Thanks for helping us advertise!

Youth Group News



February and March Youth Group News

Our confirmation students get to kick off the month of February with an exciting Confirmation Day Trip to Toledo Ohio on the 8th. Pastor Brad Scott has offered to host our annual confirmation retreat in his backyard this year (the University of Toledo Rec Center). The Pastors have collectively decided that an all day event will work much better for all concerned rather than the all-nighter/overnighter!

With a four day weekend for some school districts and an entire week off for others I will see who is still in town and attempt an outing with the kids the week of February 16th – parents keep an eye out for my regular emails regarding this.

The following Sundays we will be meeting with Pastor Rutter for our weekly get-togethers and activities from 4:00 until 5:30...always a good idea to RSVP to Mrs. J if your son or daughter can attend for planning purposes and also just in case we have had to cancel a meeting.

- February 2nd, 16th, and 23rd (no meeting on the 9th – Confirmation Retreat recovery day)
- March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

Help Wanted - Fill-In Youth Group Leader

Yes, Mrs. J is very fortunate to be able to head to Florida with her family in tow for a nice vacation starting the 7th of March. If anyone reading this loves children and would like to organize even one outing with the youth group while I'm away, please let me know. It is a very rewarding position! If organizing an outing isn't possible, just attending a meeting with the kids at St. Paul's on a Sunday would be great!

News Briefs

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are available every Sunday. A sign-up chart is in the Welcome Center, and you are welcome to sign up each week. The cost is: one vase \$18 or both vases \$36.

It is always nice to have individuals or families sign up for altar flowers to commemorate a special day or to remember loved ones. Also, it saves on extra charges for Christ the King, because if no one has requested them, the church pays for them.

When you sign up, please place a check in the offering plate labeled ALTAR FLOWERS, so it is designated properly.

If at any time you wish to increase the amount of flowers in the vase or have a special request (color or type), please contact either Vicki in the church office or Pam Zimmer. They will contact the florist. This prevents any miscommunication. Thank you!

Women's Guild

Congratulations to Carol Graf our Lutheran Woman of the Year! Carol will be honored at the Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon on March 17, 2020 at the Burton Manor in Livonia. The guest speaker will be Dr. Paul Maier. Tickets are \$29.00/person. Please order your ticket before February 28, 2020. For more information, contact Beverly Zimmermann or Judy Champine.

2020 Chili Cook Off with First English Lutheran Church

Plans are being made the week of February 1st with our friends at First English for our annual Chili Cook Off which is enjoyed as a fellowship event between our two congregations. Money raised that evening is shared by each congregation and dedicated to a mission project at each church. The date, which will most likely be a Saturday evening in March, will be announced soon! Find your favorite chili or soup recipe, enter the contest, and come and join us for a fun evening!

You are cordially invited to attend a meeting of the Pipeline Chapter of BNI at Christ the King, every from 7:00am to 8:30am. We are looking for Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters and many other professionals to pass referrals to.

BNI is a business and professional networking organization whose primary purpose is to exchange qualified business referrals. The organization presently has over 5,800 chapters throughout every populated continent in the world. Last year, members of BNI passed over 6.5 million referrals which generated almost \$2.8 billion (US) worth of business for each other.

What makes BNI unique is that it allows only one person per profession to join a chapter. Thus, once you've joined, none of your competitors can participate.

The Pipeline BNI Chapter is currently looking for many professions to whom we can refer business. We would like to personally invite you to a meeting so you can learn more about the organization and find out if you would be interested in generating a steady source of referral business for yourself.

Please let us know if you plan to attend. Call Olga Tecos at 313-570-3276 and we will reserve a place for you! Remember to bring plenty of business cards to pass around as you will meet lots of local business professionals. Also be prepared to give a brief (30 seconds) synopsis of your business to the group. We look forward to seeing you next Tuesday.

Stewardship***“How Much is Too Much?”***

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at the table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said ‘Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’” (John 12:1-5)

Can you picture this scene in your mind? It’s about a week before the Crucifixion (although only Jesus knows that), and Christ is visiting at the home of His good friends, Lazarus and his sisters. Lazarus is there at the table with Jesus, being served by Martha, who has prepared and now sets before them one of her feasts for which she was undoubtedly famous. But where is Mary? She should be helping her sister! Instead she is kneeling before Jesus with a pint of expensive perfume, and she pours the whole bottle on His feet.

The Bible says, *“The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”* You can imagine it was! You can see the heads swivel. “Where is that aroma coming from?” And then the gasps as they realize what she’s done. This is not a wealthy family, after all. “Isn’t this a little excessive?” they wonder. But it’s Judas who speaks—and not at all favorably. *“Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”*

Judas and Mary were not on the same wavelength at all. For Mary, nothing was enough for her Lord. This extravagant act could only hint at the depth of devotion in her heart. Judas, on the other hand, was devoted only to Judas. Verse 6 enlightens us: *“He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.”*

Would it be too offensive to say that we, too, are thieves? Have we ever withheld from the Lord what was His—for isn’t it all His? Aren’t we also deceivers at times, pretending to have concern for others when we really have only our own interests at heart? Mary loved and worshiped her Lord even before she knew He would give His life to save her from her sins. We who are on the other side of Calvary must have an even greater sense of gratitude. Let us ask the Lord’s forgiveness for our selfish and cold hearts and His enablement to give of ourselves and our resources without restraint.