

St. John's Monthly Newsletter

March 2019

Behold the Man!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—*John 1:1-3, 14*

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal, triune God, who we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyperspiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive, spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something other-worldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of her God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyperspiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodiless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodiless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we’ll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Jacobsen

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod March 2019 Newsletter Article

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us . . . us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). **And to give you those means of grace, He gives** pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (The Small Catechism, 16).

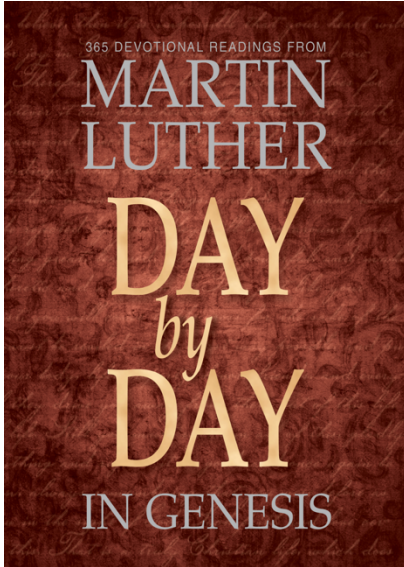
So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

Serving this March:

Elders: Brock Montgomery & Collin Richey
Ushers: 8:00 am: Jacob Shepard & Laverne Schaal
10:30 am: Todd Smith & Robert Koelling
Altar Guild: Cindy Phipps & Sara Doehring

The Acolyte 3-month schedule is on the ledge outside the church office.

Book of the Month:



Day by Day in Genesis: 365 Devotional Readings from Martin Luther by Luther, Martin

The Book of Genesis traces the very beginning of not only human history, but also God's people and His plan to redeem humanity. In this narrative, we see glimpses of Christ—a promise in Genesis that is now fulfilled.

Martin Luther spent the final ten years of his academic career lecturing on the Book of Genesis. He discussed every chapter and almost every verse, bringing out themes as varied as vocation, marriage, prayer, the nature of the Trinity, the work of the Holy Spirit, Law and Gospel, and the theology of the cross. Genesis, Luther said, "is made up almost entirely of illustrations of faith and unbelief, and of the fruits that faith and unbelief bear. It is an exceedingly evangelical book."

Day by Day in Genesis presents 365 short devotional readings from Martin Luther's commentary on the Book of Genesis, addressing vocation, marriage, prayer, and the promise of Christ.

Call or email the church office if you want us to order for you!

Prayer Requests:

Those In Need of Comfort, Health, & Recovery (Recently Added):

Paul Welton	Shirley Donnell	Joan Zauner
Tara Stortzum	Andrea Kleiboeker	Howard Nelms
Margy Leihy – Friend of the DuFrain's		Beth Dunlap – Friend of Jill Ferree
Larry Wynn – Brother of Marlene ZuHone		Steve Owens – Nephew of Edith Creek
Jules Martin – Brother of Michael Martin		

For those Serving Our Nation:

Jason Wetzel - stationed in Iraq

Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

Alan Phelps	Howard Diepholz	Bob Zschau
Richard Grice	Paul Welton	Chuck Cookson
Ava Gass	John Kendall	William Kroening
John Koester – Brother of Helen Smock		Russ Smith – Father of Todd Smith
Helen Conrady – Niece of Derald Doehring		Judy Yott – Aunt of Pastor Jacobsen
Kathy Beaver – Friend of Joyce Zschau		Rose Weber – Mother of Julie Gass
Auggie Doehring – Brother of Derald Doehring		Paul Morrison – Barb Kirts' Dad
Ken Maleske – Father of Kris Maleske		Marilyn Leftwich – Sister of Norma Schussler
Dan Johnson Jr. – Son of Dan & Virginia Johnson		Kevin Shaffer – 2 nd Grade Teacher's Husband
Carol McDaniel – Sister of Doug Blume & Nancy Gass		Dan Kruger – Brother of Pat Wetzel
John Koester – Brother of Helen Smock		Bob Pierce – Father of Tina Smith
Larry & Leanne McClain – Kim Shepard's Mother and Stepfather		

Birthdays:

2 – Dylan Haugh, Laura Dixon

3 – Cassie Thoman, Christopher Wetzel

4 – Gina Jones, Kevin Lange, Lola Maldonado, Madaline Shepard, Barbara Degler,
Clara Moore

5 – Christopher Miller, Michael Moody, Tom Roth

6 – Donna Cole, Chantel Thompson

7 – Serena Hall

8 – Samantha Eads, Marilyn Perryman

9 – Tom Jones, Rachel Kepp

10 – Janice Mann, Michael Diepholz

11 – Sheila Atwell

12 – Don Bareither, Mary Ellen Aylor, Michael Long

13 – Hilda Alms, Richard Woelber

15 – Ellie Gass, Joan Hoenes, Grant Jackson, Heidi Larson, Alyssa Shepard, Kaitlyn Walker

16 – Shannon Cobb, William Kearney, Jack Pierce

17 – Joel DuFrain

18 – Kyndall Croft

19 – Ryan Hill, Sarah Hubbart

20 – Sydney Allee

21 – Joe Fonner, Cody Overton, Laveta Reel

22 – Kris Bott, Brent Mauck, Bob Meier

23 – Jeffrey Allee, Myles Bott, Carol DuFrain, Susan Vadakin, Charlotte ZuHone

24 – Gary Hurst, Anthony Maldonado

25 – Jennah Lane

27 – Jack Harper, Olivia Lawler, Janet Uphoff

29 – Briar Rhoads

30 – Shane Deters, Nancy Maxedon

Anniversaries:

Jeff & Tina Prior March 10, 1995

Jesse & Wendy Durdel March 17, 2000

Larry & Nancy Maxedon March 18, 1967

Lynn & Rachel Farmer - March 20, 1993

Donna & Edwin Cole March 26, 1967

Howard & Doreen Nelms March 31, 1961

Monte & Cindy Overton March 26, 1977

Church & School News & Announcements:

Acolytes: There is a new schedule for March through May on the ledge. Please contact Bailey if there are any dates you are not able to make it. We are also taking volunteers for the Lent and Easter services. Those dates are listed on the schedule.

Easter Lily Orders: The lily order forms are out. Please fill out and place in the giving plate or put in the clear plastic hangers outside the church office. Orders are due by Thursday, April 11.

Greece Trip: Are you looking for a fun, exciting, and adventurous vacation for you and your family? Would you like to see many of the cities of the Bible? We are putting together plans to go on a cruise through the Greek Isles in 2020. If you or someone you know is interested have them call Pastor Jacobsen or come to an informational meeting in the family room Sunday, March 10 after the late service.

Auction: Tickets for the auction are now on sale. Tickets are \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, and \$200 per table of 8. Thank you!

Archery Tournament: March 16 the school will be hosting our 2nd-Annual Archery Tournament. If you can assist or need more info, contact Trent Duckett or Larry Miller.

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule:

Wednesday Lent Services

Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Wednesday, April 3, 10

8:30 am & 6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 18

12:30 pm & 6:30 pm

w/Holy Communion

Good Friday, Friday, April 19

12:30 pm & 6:30 pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20

5:00 pm

w/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 21

6:00 am (no communion)

8:00 & 10:30 am

w/Holy Communion

Lenten Meals

March 6: Ladies Aid - Soups

March 13:

March 20: Thompson, VanHovel, Walker, Maldonado, & Lucier families

March 27: St. John's School Athletics

April 3:

April 10: Elders