

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

March 2020 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR DAVE

Lent 2020: Stories of Faith

"... these are written that you may believe..." (John 20:31)

John's summary statement (above) addresses each person who hears or reads it with an invitation to believe. The personal stories of John leap off the page to become the personal story of each of us, as we believe. "Believing" in John is not merely intellectual assent, but an active response to the Word made flesh that carries each person across the edges of faith and action. Surprisingly simple, yet powerfully complex, four levels of believing emerge in John's narrative:

Absolute refusal to believe

(emphatic denial of faith, usually by religious leaders, often justified by an appeal to scripture)

"Believing" on the merely physical level

(for example, Jesus' words "you seek me because you ate your fill of the loaves," to those who received the free lunch of the feeding of the 5,000 but failed to understand the "bread of life")

Seeing and believing

(like Thomas, those who must see and touch; positive, but only available to those physically present in the first century)

Believing while not seeing!

(by the power of the Holy Spirit, a response by people of every time [us!] to the living presence of the living Christ; always dynamic, always deepening)

So, these stories of faith from John are spoken to us, those "not seeing," inviting us to cross the edges of biblical understanding, physical satisfaction, and the need for touch, to experience the life offered by Jesus.

Already in the second century C.E. these stories of active believing were drawn as frescoes on the walls of the catacombs outside Rome. Why? To prepare those "not seeing" believers for the full spiritual life of Easter, the celebration of Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. And so these stories come to us this year in Lent, in our Sunday and Wednesday worship services. We are invited to go deep, across the edges of our believing, to experience the presence and power of Jesus, along with:

Nicodemus (John 3)

(from physical birth to spiritual birth from above)

The unnamed woman at the well (John 4)

(from well water to living water)

The man born blind (John 9)

(from physical blindness to physical sight to spiritual sight)

Mary and Martha (John 11)

(from lament to belief in Jesus, the "resurrection and life")

Peter (John 18-19)

(from emphatic self-confidence to emphatic denial to forgiveness)

These stories of faith are also the inspiration for Rachel Held Evans' wonderful book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. We look forward to hearing the stories of faith of our Lent speakers: Bob Hill, Brent Jordan, Jen Julsrud, Kim Kroll, Mariah Loeffler-Kemp and Tricia Menz. But we will all become part of the drama of faith, as we listen to the biblical stories, lived out in the lives of our members, and each of us responds "I believe!"

Pastor Dave





Lent and Easter Schedule

Lent Evening Worship & Holy Communion Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1 Soup Supper is beforehand at 5:30pm
Holy Week begins April 5th, Palm Sunday Worship 8:45 & 11:00am
Maundy Thursday worship, 7pm, April 9th;
Good Friday worship, 7pm, April 10th
Easter Sunday is April 12, 6:25am (sunrise service), 8:45 am & 11:00 am

LENTEN SOUP SERVING TEAMS — JOIN IN!



Lenten Soup Suppers Are Here!

Our church community has a wonderful tradition of gathering to share in fellowship and food before services on Wednesday evenings during Lent. This is a time to connect, unwind, and eat delicious food before joining in worship at 6:15!

- Suppers will be at 5:30pm on Wednesdays- March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1. ALL ARE WELCOME!
- There is no soup supper on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 26) or during Holy Week.

If you are able, please consider contributing in service or with food. Volunteers can either use the Sign-Up Genius link: [Lenten Soup Suppers, https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4EA5AB2FA13-lenten](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4EA5AB2FA13-lenten) or e-mail Jess Kramer directly (kramjess@yahoo.com).

March Marbles The Hunger team supports a variety of organizations meeting the needs of community and global hunger. Our team members gather on Sundays in Lent and offer our Marbles to put in our “Well” in exchange for donations. For this Lent, we again will promote donations for Helping Feed Hunger.

These approaching weeks, we will share information and ENCOURAGE donations which fit you and your family. Envelopes for World Hunger, Second Harvest, CHUM or other donations will be available(along with reminders and pieces of information). We always promote donations to local CHUM and do remind members that Union Gospel, Salvation Army and Loaves and Fishes are also local charities. **Do you remember that each \$1 gift to Second Harvest will allow them to buy \$7 worth of food items?**

Form a Lenten plan for yourself, or you and a friend, you and your family!

We challenge you this Lent to bring food items for our CHUM collection! Pledge to earn extra cash to donate for your favorite Food Bank (kids: negotiate to put in your allowance or monies received for chores) Adults: give up a extra cup of Starbucks or Caribou coffee and donate those funds.

Bless you for your generosity and Your personal plan, Hunger Team

Did you know we serve at local “soup kitchens”? Sign up to serve! Come with friends or family or join in the team! If you have questions please talk with Brian Fischer or Marcia Semerau.

March 8, 4:30 to 6:30, Union Gospel Mission

April 8, 4:30 to 6:30, Union Gospel Mission (Easter, what a great way to share God’s Love!)

April 26, 2:00 to 7:00, Damiano

May 10, 4:30 to 6:30, Union Gospel Mission

May 24, 2:00 to 7:00, Damiano

If you currently receive giving envelopes for the year and would like to be removed from the list because you gift through simply giving or another means, please let Christine know. You can e-mail her at office@lcsduluth.org or call her at 218-525-1922 or stop by and let her know in person. We still welcome and encourage anyone to continue use of the giving envelopes.



Save the Date: Vacation Bible School June 15-19

All Aboard! Rocky Railway – Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

9:00 am – Noon

Preschool (age 3) – Current 4th Graders

Older students, parents, and congregation members are welcome to volunteer with us for the week! We have LOTS of FUN!

*All Preschoolers must be potty trained

The Deadline to Register for VBS this year will be Friday, May 1

Sunday School Announcements: “Faith Steps!”

Sunday, March 1 – Faith Steps Lesson

Sunday, March 8 – Faith Step Lesson

Sunday, March 15 – Faith Steps Lesson & Worship Practice

Sunday, March 22 – Faith Steps Worship and Easter Egg Hunt!

What are Faith Steps? Faith Steps are key pieces of our Christian faith that we want all children to know, learn, and hopefully even memorize! Faith Steps are songs, Bible Verses, and Baptismal Promises! At your child's baptism, you promised nurture your child(ren) in faith and prayer. You also promised to teach the Creed, Lord's Prayer, and 10 Commandments. (Those are three of our seven Faith Steps!) Faith Steps are a way for us to help you fulfill your promises. Plus, your child(ren) will learn God's Word by heart!

Preschool: “Jesus Loves Me”

Kindergarten: Daily Prayer

1st Grade: Fruit of the Spirit

2nd Grade: Lord's Prayer

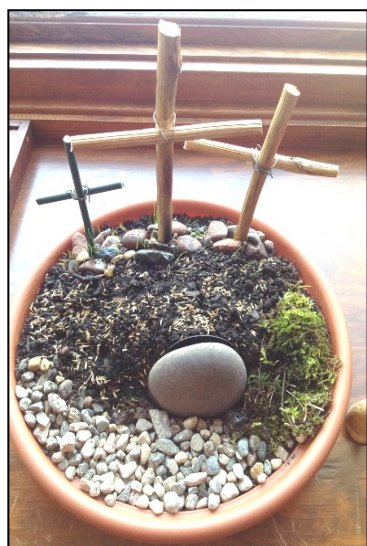
3rd Grade: 10 Commandments

4th Grade: Apostles' Creed

5th-6th Grade: Psalm 23



Practice your Faith Steps at Home! You can practice Faith Steps as part of your bedtime prayers, or before eating dinner, or even during breakfast. You can practice Faith Steps when you are in the car, or add it to your homework list. And the best part is? When children memorize something like a prayer or Bible Verse at this age, they will remember those words for the rest of their lives...



Save the Date: Sunday, March 29 will be our Annual Easter Garden Project!

As a family, create a beautiful centerpiece that re-tells the Easter Story in a memorable way. Each Easter Garden includes a cross, tomb, and a rock that rolls in front of the tomb. We will also provide grass seed, so the garden really “comes to life” as we get closer to Easter.

Note: there will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 pm - **“And They Lynched Him on a Tree”** - a concert at College of St. Scholastica’s Mitchell Auditorium featuring works by William Grant Still and the world premiere of Jean Perrault’s “We Three Kings.” Stay for refreshments and talk with co-conductors Josh Aerie and Jean Perrault, the Gichigami Trio, and orchestra/chorus members. Doors open at 1:00 pm. EventBrite pre-registration at <https://claytonjacksonmcghie.org/2020> is recommended. Suggested donation of \$15, but open to all.



Choirs sing with heart and voice and with praise; Echoing the joy and peace which they live; Always with order to honor they raise Our spirits, as we are then called to give;

Can we dig deep within our lives each day To find the will and way to serve and share All that God has given to bless our way; And challenge us to do, and also dare?

Do we sense God’s hand touching our inner pain; Soothing our aches with both grace and with love; Wiping away the tears that wash and stain; Leading us to seek God’s solace above?

Their music blesses each lonely being; In God’s great plan for hearing and seeing.

-Russ Tillotson



Easter Lily Garden

If you would like to share a blooming plant for decorating the altar at Easter in memory or in honor of a special person or occasion, please call the church office at 525-1922 or submit this form before **Thursday, April 2nd.** The cost is \$22 (no azaleas available this year). If you donate a plant for the Easter Garden, you are invited to take a plant after the 11:00 AM Easter worship service. You may wish to enjoy your plant at home or you may know of someone who is homebound or hospitalized and may appreciate receiving your plant.

Name: _____

Offering Envelope # _____

Number of Plants (\$22) _____

Amount of money enclosed: \$ _____
(\$22 per blooming plant)

Please indicate what you would like your notation to say:

...given in loving memory of:

...given in honor (or other similar notation) of:

...given by:

Easter is Sunday April 12th

Cultivating & Letting Go This Lent



Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.

Let go (verb): relinquish one's grip on someone or something.

As part of my work, I lead a team of artists in ministry called A Sanctified Art. We collaborate to create multimedia resources for liturgical seasons. Each season, we work from the Revised Common Lectionary to develop a bundle of resources around a theme that emerges from the texts. We sift through the lectionary scriptures, searching for motifs and ideas to be woven together into an overarching theme.

This year for Lent, the lectionary led us to Cultivating & Letting Go. Cultivating requires effort, energy, intention, care. At the same time, the gardener teaches us that cultivating also necessitates patience, waiting, relinquishing control, and letting go. As we enter this season of spiritual gardening, we invite God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge.

KonMari Your Spiritual Life

Our Lenten theme finds an interesting resonance with the current cultural phenomenon introduced by Marie Kondo. Through her book and subsequent Netflix series, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Kondo is inspiring a global movement of decluttering. Thousands of people are reexamining dresser drawers, folding T-shirts into more manageable rows. Thrift stores welcome an influx of overstuffed bags of stuff for which we say “thank you” and goodbye. But Kondo’s work digs deeper than superficial home organization tasks. Through the KonMari method, she invites you to evaluate which items cultivate — spark — joy. Then she urges you to let go of the physical and emotional baggage that is weighing you down.

With influence from Japanese aesthetics, Buddhism, and Shintoism, the KonMari method recognizes that objects are not passive, not in the purely-complaisant-isolated-substance way we assume, for everything carries a dynamic state connected with great potentiality. Humans engage meaning and project relationships, and in return things affect us. Kondo’s teachings reveal how material goods are often a reflection of our inner world. Sometimes, our sense of self-worth gets all tangled up in the items we possess. Applying the lens of stewardship, we recognize that in order to cultivate abundant generosity, we must first let go of our fear of not having — or being — enough.

Cultivating Prodigal Grace

One of the Lenten Gospel texts in this year’s lectionary is the well-worn tale of the Prodigal Son. Like many, I often read this story with frustration and a bit of righteous indignation, placing myself in the shoes of the older son. Shouldn’t good behavior be rewarded? Why should someone’s callous behavior be dismissed without consequences? As author of *Everything Happens for a Reason*, Kate Bowler, might say: I’ve developed my own version of a prosperity gospel where I expect to be rewarded for my good deeds, and treated well for doing the right thing.

Continued next page...

But what if we approached this story with curiosity about why the Prodigal Son splurges his wealth in the first place? Perhaps he throws away his money because he is trying to throw away himself. Perhaps he lets his material goods go to waste because deep down he believes he deserves a similar fate. In contrast, the older son hoards his generosity, believing material abundance and self-worth must be worked for, achieved, and gained by deeds alone. For both individuals, their wealth management exposes their feelings about worthiness.

In Luke 15:20 we see that the father is moved to compassion as soon as he glimpses his youngest son along the horizon line. He does not wait for an apology. He does not require repayment. Instead, he is moved wholly by his son's return. He doles out grace just as lavishly as his son squanders wealth. The father lets go of measuring his son's value based on how "good" of a steward he is, and cultivates worth rooted in unconditional love.

What might happen — in our homes, our churches, ourselves — if we let go of our fear of not being enough, and instead cultivate prodigal grace? How might your stewardship practices become an expression of abundant generosity?

Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity is a pastorist (pastor + artist) who uses art as a tool for spiritual formation.

Learn more about her work by visiting sanctifiedart.org and lislegwynngarrity.com.

SOURCE: CENTER FOR STEWARDSHIP LEADERS, LUTHER SEMINARY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019.
USED WITH PERMISSION.



Bell Ringing! Christmas is the time when The Salvation Army has the greatest opportunity to do the most good. The Red Kettle campaign is their largest fund raising event. THANK YOU everyone who helped with bell ringing this holiday season - Tom & Pat O'Brien, Lois Opseth, Bill Kovala, Bob Hill & Kathryn Sislo, Heather & Sara Kerola & Emersyn, Cal & Amy Loken, Pat & Susan Sage, Rachel Moseley & Oliver, Stan & Jan Burns, Roger & Helen Munson, Wayne & Kimberly Elmer, Linda Susens, Cyndi Venberg, the Rich & the Menz families, Byron & Susan Johnson, and Marcia & Mary Semerau. We covered 20 hours at Cub Foods on two Saturdays in December. People were richly blessed as a result of your generous contribution of time and for your giving spirit during this very busy time of year. **Thank you!**

Marcia Semerau, Reaching Out Leadership Team

Dear Friends, On behalf of The Salvation Army and those we serve, "Thank you" for being a bell ringer this past Christmas season! **Our records show that you raised a total of \$925.54.**



Here's a partial summary of the season:

Total amount collected in 2019 \$228,714.00

Total hours staffed by volunteers 2,875

Total hours staffed by employees 1,004

Volunteer ringers raised \$175,231.09

Top kettle locations were Mount Royal, Cub Foods then Fleet Farm

923 = Number of households assisted at Christmas with food and/or toys

3,140 = Number of individuals assisted at Christmas with food and/or toys

1,889 = Number of children assisted at Christmas with toys

Your time spent volunteering and giving this past kettle season is of great value to us as we provide food, clothing, housing, and other basics to those in need. Your help supports our work, not only at Christmas, but throughout the whole year. Sincerely, Kristy Eckart, Business Administrator

WELCA - Save the Date!! Spring Gathering! March 28th, 9:00AM-1:00PM

Grace Lutheran Church Hermantown

Registration is \$10 for a catered lunch and childcare is available on request.

Our speaker is Veronica Ciurleo, the director of the Duluth Harbor Mission and Millie's House.

Our morning offering will be divided, with half going to WELCA and the other half to Duluth Harbor Mission.

There is a poster with detailed information on the bulletin board across from the sanctuary.

Please talk with Lois Opseth or Marge Kangas about registration and carpooling!



Days for Girls workshops!

Wednesday and Thursday March 4&5th 9:00-2:00pm in the Lower Lakeside room.

Just a quick note that if you are not golfing or lying on a warm beach, consider warming yourself with friends, laughter and good deeds. We now have 2 working sergers and 6-7 machines. If you want to bring your own machine, cutters and boards please feel free or use the churches.

Bring a snack or lunch. Hope you can come.

Sue Boutin 218-349-5991

WELCA MINISTRY DONATION REQUESTS

A. Fabric (clean and in good condition)

1. 100% cotton
2. Canvas
3. Denim
4. Flannel
5. Sheets

B. Thread 50 weight

1. Polyester
2. Cotton
3. Serging thread any color
4. Crochet thread size 10
5. Yarn

C. Sewing Notions

1. Rotary cutting blades
 - I. 45mm
 - II. 60mm
2. Quilting pins
3. Plastic snaps
4. Universal sewing machine needles
5. Scissors
6. Janome plastic bobbins
7. Seam rippers
8. Olaf cutting boards
9. Quilting rulers any size

D. Colored washcloths

E. Colored girls cotton panties size 7-12

F. Gallon size Ziploc bags

G. Money donations



Please contact Sue Boutin if you have questions. We are so grateful for the generous support of this congregation!

Confirmation Announcements: Our Lent Schedule!

Our Lent Schedule: March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1:

5:30 – Supper (optional)

6:00 – Check in with Mentor (mandatory)

6:15 – Worship (mandatory)

Small Groups will take turns leading worship each week. But, whether you are leading or not, you are expected to be here every week. This may not “look like our typical Wednesday night” – but Lent is a big part of our Confirmation Year. You will be learning about the Bible Year – and especially Jesus/the New Testament – throughout the Wednesday Night Services.

High School Lock In!

In March, we will be having a high school lock in especially for our 9th and 10th grade students. For more information, please contact Katie Rich. The deadline to register will be Sunday, March 8.



Camp Vermilion! Camp Hiawatha! Canoe Country! Summer Camp! Family Camp!



Check your calendars and get registered! Bring a friend with you! Ask any staff here at LCGS about “camperships”!

VLM is also hiring summer staff, if you would like to know more go to **VLMcamps.org**!

Save the Date for the Annual Benefit for Youth Event in Duluth

“Journey Towards Possibilities”

Thursday, May 7, 2020

11:30 a.m. Reception & Registration | 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Program

Greysolon Ballroom -231 East Superior Street, Duluth



**Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota**

Online registration will open March 12, 2020. If you would like to be a table captain, please contact Marcia Semerau at msemerau@hotmail.com or 218-576-5531. For questions, please contact Development Events at events@lssmn.org or 651.529.8899. Tickets are Complimentary.

How You Can Help

Many of the women (with help) of our church support **Lutheran World Relief** by sending kits yearly to countries around the world. We pack such kits in May and October, we seek donations all year around. We send School kits, Personal care kits, baby kits and fabric kits. Full list of items and countries that we support are available on Reaching Out bulletin board in gathering space.

You can help by donating items all year long. A bright yellow box available by welcome area. Donating a few items at more frequent times helps us keep our supply cabinet full. Soap: we donate mild bars of soap (ivory or dial) in various kits; towels: both bath and hand towels; diapers: cloth flat fold type are always in need; school supplies like pens, pencils and notebooks. The baby kits include shirts and sleepers (no feet), socks, blankets, hoodies, and sweaters. These can be new or nearly new. Are your kids or grandkids outgrowing their baby ware?

Helping feels good, and helps so many others.



Lutheran World Relief

LCGS IS PRAYING

Good Shepherd randomly prays for all its members.
During these weeks we are keeping the following in our prayers:



March 1	Vicky Bennett, Jennie & Marty Emeott, Cora and Bo, Nancy Cayenberg, Steve Schafer
March 8	Tim and Laura Berdahl, Sanna and Karin; Christie & Bradley Erickson, Luisa and Jaeger; Debbie Cervenka; Tricia & Patrick Schmalz, Brenna and Aubrey
March 15	Tammy & Steve Benoit, Caitlyn, Danielle, Joshua and Andrew; Janelle & Ted Fresvik, Clare and Eli; Melissa & Brad Christensen, Ethan and Joshua; Sandra & Paul Scott
March 22	Sarah Galchus and Sophie; Bridget & Josh Friday, Morgan, Nolan, Bailey, Darby and Hadley; Grace & Ted Chura; Allie & Jason Sebok, Charlotte, Sorin, Talen and Benjamin
March 29	Kathy & Bill Belamy; Barbara Hanson; Cassie & Dave Chura, Wesley and Kate; Julie & Tom Seidelmann

Prayer *Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen* Ephesians 6:24

PRAYER REQUEST - If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your needs and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and it is after church office hours, please email Patti at office@lcsduluth.org.

PRAYERS FOR HOSPITALIZED PERSONS shared with the Prayer Chain (and in the Prayers of the Church) will begin with "God knows the names of all for whom we pray..." unless permission has been granted by the hospitalized individual or a family member of the individual. This is in keeping with our Privacy Policy. If you have questions/ comments regarding this policy, please feel free to discuss it with one of the pastors.

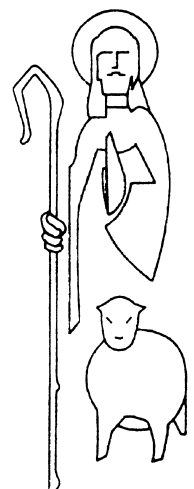
Snow Cancelations

It's that time of year again! We want to make sure everyone is safe out on the roads! If Schools are cancelled, we cancel all youth activities. Otherwise, we will use our weekly email and our Facebook page to announce weather related closings at LCGS.

If you are not already receiving emails, text "LCGS" to 22828 to be added to our email list. Please take a moment to "Like" our PAGE at facebook.com/lcsduluth

Worship Attendance

	8:45	11:00		8:45	11:00		8:45	11:00
1/26	91	30	2/2	91	76	2/9	116	69
	8:45	11:00		8:45	11:00			
2/16	91	26	2/23	84	48			



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)
1325 North 45th Avenue East, Duluth MN 55804-1507



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April
Newsletter
Deadline:
March 15

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Services at 8:45 am and 11:00 am
Office Hours: M-Th • 9AM-4PM; Friday • 9AM—12 NOON
Phone: 218-525-1922 •
Website: www.lcgsduluth.com

MEET THE STAFF

Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor
(home) 218-529-9715
email: dmesner@lcgsduluth.org

Pastor Tim Berdahl, Pastor
(home) 218-728-4382
email: tberdahl@lcgsduluth.org

Katie Rich, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
218-525-1922
email: kkrich@lcgsduluth.org

Christine Whitcomb, Office Manager
218-525-1922
email: office@lcgsduluth.org

Amie Abenth, Communications Coordinator
218-525-1922
email: communications@lcgsduluth.org

Stef Regenold, custodian
Greg Susens, custodian 218-525-1922

Sydney Fischer, Nursery Director 218-525-1922

Music Team:

Linda Turpening, Organist 218-525-1922
email: linda@archdirect.com

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director
218-724-9065 email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com