

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEEK OF MARCH 13, 2022

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jim Cleveland; Carolyn Wilkins; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Darlene Welsh

**THE YOUTH GROUP** will meet TONIGHT beginning with supper at 6pm.

**ALTAR GUILD AND FLOWERS:** we are looking for folks willing to help out with altar guild tasks: communion set-up and clean-up, filling candles, cleaning vessels and other metalware, and so on. We are also looking for someone(s) to coordinate altar flowers. Please contact the church office!

**THE WOMEN'S GROUP** meets this Saturday, March 19, at 9:00am.

**CHOIR:** interested in singing in our new choir? We're hoping to put together a few pieces for Easter Sunday and beyond. Contact Pr. or Megan Mullet!

**LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP & POTLUCKS:** Join us for a potluck at 6pm and Divine Service at 7pm every Wednesday in Lent!

**"A SEASON OF HOPE" PROJECT:** we are partnering with Lutheran World Relief to make personal care kits to send to our neighbors in need around the world. This week's item is towels! Much more info is available on the tables!

#### CALENDAR

Sun. Mar. 13 (Lent 2 - Reminiscere)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study / Instruction 11:30am Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group
Tue. Mar. 15	8:30am Greek Study
Wed. Mar. 16	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 6:00pm Potluck Supper 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Mar. 17	7:00pm Bible Study (Galatians)
Sat. Mar. 19	9:00am Women's Group
Sun. Mar. 20 (Lent 3 - Oculi)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study / Instruction 11:30am Confirmation

## THE BACK PAGE

Today's readings and therefore the sermon (and most all of the hymns, too!) center around the topic of prayer, and more specifically the idea of "wrestling with God" or "struggling with God." I haven't quite finalized my sermon as I write this Back Page, but I wanted to offer a few reflections on this topic.

There is an important connection between Jacob's wrestling with God in the OT reading from Genesis 32 and the Canaanite woman's "wrestling" with Jesus in the Gospel reading from Matthew 15. Both of these people struggled or wrestled with God for something they wanted or needed. But Jacob's physical struggle is, I think, really just a picture of what's happening on the inside. It's that internal wrestling that we see more clearly in the Canaanite woman—and that we're all familiar with!

We all have to wrestle with God from time to time. This usually happens because the promises of God in the Scriptures seem to be absent from our daily lives. The good things God promises just don't seem to happen. Prayers seem like they go unanswered or even ignored. And in those difficult situations it's so easy to give up, turn away from God, or try to handle it ourselves. We might even be tempted to stop praying altogether! After all, if God already knows what we're going to ask, why do we need to ask?

I think the answer to these struggles can be found in the Gospel reading for today. The Canaanite woman calls Jesus the Son of David—which shows she believes He is the Messiah! And so when she prays, when she struggles with Jesus, her saving faith is revealed. And what does that faith do? It holds God to His promises!! Even the dogs get to eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table. God has promised salvation to *all* who believe, Jew and Gentile alike. That includes you and me, too! So hold Him to it!

One last thought. If God already knows what we're going to pray for, why should we pray at all? And the answer is that we as Christians have a relationship with our Lord and Savior. Every good relationship is built on trust and communication. In that sense our relationship with God is no different. He has communicated His promises to us in the Scriptures. We communicate back to Him with prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. We ask Him boldly to keep His promises—we hold Him to them! Even when we're wrestling with God in difficult situations, there is great comfort in the power of prayer. We know God will keep His promises to us! And prayer for ourselves and others helps us remember those promises, that even in our struggles we might have peace.