

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2022

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

“FIELD TRIP” TO THE SEMINARY: the youth group will travel to the seminary (FW) next Sunday, March 27. We will explore the grounds and attend a prayer service. **All are welcome to join us!** If you would like to join us on our walk through the campus, we’ll meet at the seminary at 3:00pm. If you’d like to join us for just the service, it begins at 4:00pm. Talk to Pr. Mullet for more information or to discuss travel arrangements.

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 toothbrushes! More info is available on the tables!

ALTAR GUILD AND FLOWERS: we are looking for folks willing to help out with altar guild tasks. We are also looking for someone(s) to coordinate altar flowers. Please contact the church office!

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!

CALENDAR

Sun. Mar. 20 (Lent 3 - Oculi)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation
Tue. Mar. 22	8:30am Greek Study
Wed. Mar. 23	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 6:00pm Potluck Supper 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Mar. 24	7:00pm Bible Study (Ephesians)
Sun. Mar. 27 (Lent 4 - Laetare)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation 3:00pm Meet at seminary / 4:00pm prayer service

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A couple weeks ago I introduced the Latin names of the first two Sundays in Lent (*Invocavit* and *Reminiscere*). Today I'd like to include the third and fourth Sundays in Lent: *Oculi* and *Laetare*.

OCULI (AH-koo-lee): The third Sunday in Lent means “My eyes.” It also comes from Psalm 25: “*My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.*” The Gospel recounts the healing of a deaf and mute man. His eyes were rightly fixed upon the Lord. We likewise, having been rescued from the entangling net of our sins, fix our eyes on Jesus.

LAETARE (lay-TAR-ray): The fourth Sunday in Lent means “Rejoice.” It comes from Isaiah 66: “*Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her; all you who love her.*” *Laetare* matches with the third Sunday in Advent, *Gaudete*, which also means “Rejoice.” Its color is, technically, rose (think of the rose candle from the Advent wreath!), and some churches use rose-colored paraments and vestments on this day. *Laetare* is a brief respite—a time of rejoicing—before the beginning of Passiontide, as seen in the Gospel reading, the feeding of the five thousand. There Jesus provides a meal to strengthen us for what is coming. For this reason, this day is also sometimes called “Refreshment Sunday.”

We might begin to see the pattern unfolding through the season of Lent. The first three Sundays in Lent all have to do with spiritual warfare, especially the victory Jesus has won for us over the devil and his demons. But we also consider our own battle with sin, death, and hell, and look to Christ who is our strength in the midst of these battles. Then comes the fourth Sunday in Lent, *Laetare*. It provides a time of rejoicing in Christ's victory and a time of refreshment in His gifts to us. This prepares us for the final two weeks of Lent, especially Holy Week. Here the battles against devil, world, and flesh reach their climax as Christ dies and rises to conquer sin and death forever.