

From your pastor...

Have you noticed anything missing in worship lately?

We're still reading God's Word. We still celebrate the Lord's Supper. We are still singing hymns and psalms. So what's missing?

Since Transfiguration, we haven't used the word "alleluia" in worship.

The Christian church has historically omitted the most joyful and jubilant songs during the season of Lent. Since "alleluia" means "praise the Lord," and is an exclamation of joy and praise, it is appropriate for the church to omit it in Lent, as we observe a season that focuses on somber repentance.

"But wait, pastor! Aren't the Sundays during the Lent season not technically part of Lent?"

You're absolutely right! Easter Sunday is the most important holiday of the Church year. It's the day we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead, sealing the victory for us and guaranteeing our eternal inheritance. On any Sunday that we gather to worship, we celebrate our crucified and **risen** Savior. (This is why you'll see Sundays *in* Lent and not Sundays *of* Lent.)

This joy, the joy of faith that is confident of forgiveness, love, and eternal life, never diminishes, even in a solemn season like Lent. We simply choose to show our joy in a muted way during Lent, even on the Sundays in Lent, as we look forward to Easter morning when we will gather to joyfully sing our alleluias to the risen King!

(And of course, if an alleluia slips through the cracks during Lent, it won't hurt one bit to express our unending joy as redeemed children of God!)

God bless you in the coming weeks as you anticipate our Savior's resurrection!

- Pastor Wilde

**Church Council News:
Our financial report – as of March 17 2019**

	March 17	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	\$11,495.25	\$126,458.75
Offerings	\$13,421.37	\$105,881.32
Tuition/FEF/ Reg	\$ 1,592.00	\$ 11,098.91
Other		\$ 936.44
Total Receipts	\$15,013.37	\$117,916.67
Difference	+\$3,518.12	-\$8,542.08

Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$47,000

Church Properties have installed LED lights in some of the classrooms and the new library. They will paint the ceilings to cover up the areas from the light change.

The Council approved the LOVE offering recipients for 2019. They are MLS Financial Aid and New Beginnings home in Milwaukee. You can use the LOVE offering envelope in your box at any time during the year. The LOVE door offering will be received on Thanksgiving and all monies received for the year will be divided between these two organizations.

The theme for VBS this year is “Set Sail”. We are looking for a sail boat to have on display that week. Let Pastor Wilde know if you have one we can use.

Our quarterly Voters' meeting will be April 30th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Kobe

“Save the date”

As we all know, Pastor Wilde is getting married in August to Meghan Battermann. A congregational party is scheduled for June 23rd. More information will be coming closer to the date. After the wedding they will be gone for a few weeks. Since we are planning our big 150th celebration in September, we want to have a potluck shower party for them before the wedding.

150th anniversary update:

- We are planning a special service and potluck on September 8, 2019
- We are reaching out to “sons of the congregation” and former pastors. Our hope is that some may be able to come and preach here sometime during the year.
- The band “Branches” who were here last year have agreed to come again this year.
- Planning meetings are going to take place during the next few months. The first one is April 6th at 1pm at the church.

LWMS Spring Rally is April 7 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Grand Blanc. The lunch starts at 1pm and the rally begins at 1:45pm. The speakers are Linda Liesener and Mike & Cheryl Valus. They will be talking about their trip to the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM).



Our Lenten Theme
this year is

**“Symbols of
Our Savior’s
Suffering”**

Each week we
have been learning
about a different
symbol and then
add it to our
banner.

We sincerely
thank the member
who made the
banner and the
symbols for us.

Holy Week Schedule
Maundy Thursday Communion Services at noon & 7pm
Good Friday Communion Services at noon & 7pm
Easter Festival Services at 8 & 10:30am