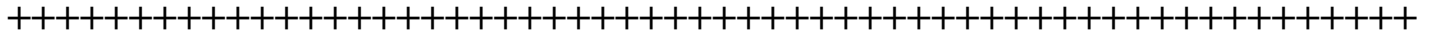


Samuel Lutheran Church March 2024



OUR GREATEST NEED, OUR ONLY HOPE

A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAN SELBO

Dear friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus as we enter this most holy time in the life of the Church.

The season of Lent is a time when we center our thoughts and our attention on the path our Lord walked on our behalf that led Him to the cross. It's a time when we remember the reason He had to die, and the suffering He endured in order that you and I might have life.

It is also a season that begins on *Ash Wednesday*, a day when we remember our mortality and of how *"from dust we came, and to dust we shall return."*

And yet, in spite of our sin and the many reasons why we deserve to die, the hope and the promise we have in Jesus is the security and the assurance of forgiveness and life.

The passage often associated with the beginning of the Lenten season, taken from the 18th chapter of Luke's Gospel, is a study in opposites. It's the story of two men who went up to the temple to pray. And what a contrast it was between the two. The one man was a Pharisee, a leader in the religious community. Highly respected and as disciplined as they come. He fasted regularly, tithed his possessions, and was often found in the temple spending time in prayer with God. In contrast the other man was a publican, a tax collector, one who was despised by the people, whose reputation in the community may well have been that of an extortionist and a cheat.

On the surface, the contrast between these two men could not have been greater. Their lives and their actions were as differing as they could possibly be...as were the prayers they offered to God. And yet, it was the tax collector, Jesus said, who went home justified that day. It was the tax collector, our Lord tells us, who was made right with God. It was the tax collector, and not the other, who went home at peace and assured and forgiven of all he had done.

And so, what does that mean for us and how, as we move into and through this season of Lent, can we be at peace and assured and confident of our standing before God? The first verse in our story makes it clear what was happening and what was at stake. Luke says, "Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt" Luke 18:9.

It all begins with the posture we take in our hearts. Not so much with our goodness and righteousness in life in comparison with others, but where we stand in the presence of Jesus and how we all, in comparison with Christ, come up short.

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

That was the tax collector's prayer. It needs to be our prayer as well. Human comparisons mean nothing. To see oneself as better or worse than another is missing the point. When it comes to our standing before God, it is one man, one woman, one youth or child, one person at a time, one on one, alone with God.

The season of Lent is not a time to stand before God and tell Him how good we have been in this life and how much we have done. Rather, it is a time when we are all lined up before God, and He tells us what we need to hear.


Our sin causes a separation. That separation leads to our death. Our only hope is Jesus. Our greatest need is taken head-on and addressed in the person and the work and the cross of Christ.

As we enter into the Lenten season, let the tax collector's prayer be ours. Let His words and confession lead us to our only hope.

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."



march



Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter.

Lent is a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal.

I encourage you to join us for worship this Lenten Season as we grow deeper in the Word of God as Pastor Paul provides us with a message of Grace and Forgiveness.

Worship begins at 9am on Sundays

Eagle Grove Area Ministerial Association

Lenten Luncheons
Every Thursday
Beginning at NOON



March 7 Sacred Heart
 March 14 Samuel
 March 21 Baptist



Children's and Adult

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday Following Worship at 10:00


Eagle Grove Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church 7:00pm
 Soup Supper begins at 6:00pm



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 10

SET YOUR CLOCKS **Ahead!**

Women's Fellowship



SLCW

March Meeting
Wednesday March 6 at 10am.

COME JOIN OUR **BIBLE** Study



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
March 6 & 20
10am

QUILTING GROUP



Quilting every Tuesday Beginning at 9:00 in the church basement Fellowship begins at 10:00 **EVERYONE WELCOME**



Meals-on-Wheels
Delivers March 18-22

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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OUR JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

As Christians we use the Lenten season as a time of preparation, reflection, and renewed faith. It is a time to focus on the cross, on the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. A time to focus on repentance and gratitude and to open our hearts to God's refining grace as we anticipate Holy Week remembering all Jesus did for us. There are many worship opportunities at Samuel during March.



**Palm Sunday
Worship 9:00am
March 24, 2024**

**Maundy Thursday/
Good Friday
Worship Service at
Samuel
March 28, 2024
7:00PM**



**Resurrection
— Sunday —**

**Easter Service at Samuel
March 31, 2024
9:00AM**

Breakfast to follow in the basement

Happy Birthday!



- March 1st~ Kathy Willard
- March 9th~ Jean Lehman
- March 10th~ Cole Grandgeorge
- March 13th~ Katie Spangler
- March 15th~ Jan Reed
- March 17th~ Aaron Wagner
- March 20th~ Melissa Hengestad
- March 26th~ Sue White
- March 28th~ Wayne Smith
- March 30th~ Cruze Morgan

Many is the time I heard you say
I would rather give a "Dollar" than bake today
And so, we are asking you to help more or less
To make our Bakeless Bake Sale a big success.

You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies.

You do NOT have to find the recipe.

You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients.

You do NOT have to mix.

You do NOT have to cook.

You do NOT have to cut.

You do NOT have to wrap.

You do NOT have to wash dishes.

You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen.

You do NOT have to deliver the baked product.

You do NOT have to stand in the heat/cold/rain

to sell the baked product.

You can use the enclosed envelope and

You can write a check to "SLCW"

and stay home and enjoy doing something yourself
or with your family!

The Ladies Annual No-bake Bake Sale will be March 10

during our Worship service which begins at 9:00am.

If you can't join us on that day,
you can mail your check.

It is helpful if you put No-Bake Bake Sale
on the memo line.

This offering goes into our SLCW treasury
and is used for all the missions we support (many local)
as well as the items purchased for our church kitchen.

The list of where our gifts go is published
in the annual congregation booklet.

Please prayerfully consider how you may
be a part of this special day.

We hope to see you on March 10th.

In Jesus' service,
Samuel Lutheran Church Women

