

# Samuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

## February 2023



### WHAT MAKES A DISCIPLE?

We've started off the new year in the book of Mark and we're leaning hard into the subject of discipleship. Jesus calls the most unlikely group of misfits to walk with him in his mission here on earth. These are young, illiterate fishermen, trouble makers, tax collectors, and women of the night. It doesn't make any sense... until we realize that's who he came to save. These are the people uniquely qualified to go out into the world to "make disciples of all nations". The most important thing on their resume is willingness. They really don't know what they're getting into, but they drop their nets and follow "at once".

**That's what we're trying to do.**

We want to be a group of people instantly obedient to Christ, recognizing him for who he is and taking him at his word.

With permission from  
Pastor Kelli Glasgo, the Church of Damascus Road

Do you need renewal? The Lenten Season is the perfect time to turn to the Bible - the Word of God. Recommit yourself to discover the path Jesus is walking with you. Renewal is an intentional process and a gift and promise from God. It regenerates our sense of purpose, bringing us hope and the promise of Christ's mercies each day. Renewal helps reveal innovative solutions for old situations, repairing or replacing something worn or broken, or revitalizing with new life a commitment.

The Lenten Season is the perfect time to renew our support of the Great Commission Society of the NALC. The Great Commission is dedicated to carrying out instruction from our Lord Jesus Christ, given to us in the Gospel of Matthew,

***"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Mathew 28:19- 20(KJV)***

It seems odd to me.  
Ash Wednesday is the same day as  
Valentine's Day this year.

I'm thinking - the two don't seem to fit together.  
But then I am also thinking THIS IS AWESOME!

John 3:16

For **G**od so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten  
Son, that whosoever believeth in  
him should not perish, but have  
everlasting life.



What a great experience to have the day we pause to think about love, is also the day that Christians are encouraged to think about the greatest love of all...  
The love of God wonderfully demonstrated in the coming death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ for us!

We officially begin the Lenten Season in the Church year with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Samuel Lutheran Church will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 14, 2024, beginning at 7:00pm

### The Lenten Season

**Lent** is a time that reminds us of the great love of God for us when He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. **Bible verses** tell us that humans have no ability to save themselves from spiritual and physical death after the fall of Adam. There is nothing a man can do to attain salvation, the sin of man is so great, but the love of God is greater. Lent helps us to remember and value the heavy price Jesus paid for our sin on the cross.

The Lenten Season is a time for us as believers to spiritually prepare for the celebration of Easter, which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent is a period of forty days during which the believer can take extra time reading and studying God's Word and in prayer. It is a time of self-denial; a time to draw closer to the Lord by putting extra time and effort into Scripture reading and prayer, taking the time from other things that one might normally be involved in each day.

It is my hope that you will set aside extra time this Lenten Season for reflection, scripture, and prayer. Here are some passages to get you started:

### 1) Matthew 6:16-18 – Keep a Secret

*“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites...But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:16-18)*

No need to tell everybody what you’ve given up for Lent—if you’ve given up anything. Keep it in secret. It’s a secret between you and God. What could be more powerful than a secret like that?

### 2) 1 Peter 5:6 – Reveal Your Struggle

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. (1 Peter 5:6)*

Humility gets a bad rap in our culture. After all, aren’t you supposed to let the world know how great you are so that you get some credit for all the good stuff you’re doing? What if you actually revealed how much you struggle, even in your faith? Be guided by this Lent Bible verse. God can help us when we let God know how helpless we are.

### 3) Isaiah 58:6-7 – Take on Something

*Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house...” (Isaiah 58:6-7)*

Giving up something to celebrate Lent? You could also do as these verses suggest: take on something. Volunteer at that soup kitchen. Make a donation to your favorite charity. Donate some clothing or food for the poor. Giving can be another way of doing a Lenten fast. Taking on as you give up.

### 4) Mark 1:12-13 – Find Your Wilderness

*At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.” (Mark 1:12-13)*

The gospel of Mark is so succinct. In two verses the writer describes all that happened to Jesus for those 40 days. We often get fixated on how Jesus went without food but notice here how the wilderness part of the experience was also crucial. To be alone. To be tested. To be with the wild animals *and* the angels. Before Jesus could begin His ministry, He needed that wilderness time. Can we not find a way to do the same as we look to grow in faith? Look for a Lenten retreat in your community.

### 5) Colossians 2:16-17 – Honor Your Choice

*Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (Colossians 2:16-17)*

Okay, so maybe you gave up desserts for Lent, and now Easter is coming, and you can’t wait to gorge on some jelly-beans or chocolate eggs. There’s always going to be some worthy soul out there who will say, “Shouldn’t you just give up those things anyway, all year round?” You can respond with this Lent Bible verse. It’s not about what’s healthy or not. It’s about Christ. You made that choice for Lent to remember God. And to honor God.

### 6) Daniel 9:3 – Seek Inward Things

*Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. (Daniel 9:3)*

All these outward things we do for Lent, the fasting, the time of silence and stillness, even wearing some different clothes, they are simply ways to help us do the inward things. That is to seek God in Lenten prayers, asking for God’s mercy.

### 7) John 3:16 – Remember His Sacrifice

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

This was what came out of Jesus’s wilderness experience. This was what all those trials gave Him the inner strength to share with the world, even as He knew what suffering would be ahead.

A timeless message, always, for Lent.

Credit Christianity.com

# February



Children's  
and Adult  
Sunday School  
10:00am  
All Are Welcome



Worship Service at Samuel Lutheran  
February 14, 2024  
7:00pm

## Samuel Lutheran's Little Disciples



Will be collecting  
**NEW**  
pillows, pillow cases,  
and twin sheet sets.

All items will be donated to the  
BEACON OF HOPE SHELTER in Fort Dodge  
Items can be brought to the Church  
until February 14th.

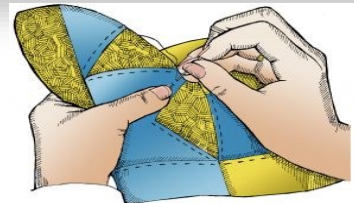
AND....DON'T FORGET  
Quarters4Christ  
Collected on Children's Sunday February 18th



February 7  
SLCW & Bible Study  
10:00am

February 21  
Bible Study  
10:00am

Meals-on-Wheels delivers Feb. 5-9



## QUILTING GROUP

Every Tuesday 9:00am  
Coffee Fellowship 10:00am

*Beloved,*  
let us *love* one another:  
for *love* is of God; and every one  
that *loveth* is born of God,  
and *knoweth* God.  
1 John 4:7

## **SAMUEL FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**February 1st~ Hunter Baack**

**February 4th~ Sandra Thomason**

**February 6th~ Marilyne Johnson**

**February 8th~ Tori Morgan**

**February 9th~ Steve Elston    Blake Morgan    Don Reed**

**February 12th~ Tim Dooley**

**February 19th~ Mark Ketchum**

**February 20~ Theo Spangler**

**February 23rd~ Angelina Contreras    Reece Demuth    Anna Belle Hinz**

**February 26th~Jaxson Baack**



Buried on the last page of this Newsletter is a topic I have been dreading...

At the November Church Council meeting, Pastor announced his anticipated date for the end of his commitment in serving Samuel Lutheran Church as Supply Pastor. We all sat in silence – while very appreciative of the advanced notice, and very aware that eventually the time would come, those were words hard to hear and absorb. It then became official in the Pastor's Report in the Annual Report book. So if you haven't read the whole book, now's the time. At the end of his report, just after bragging about our attendance being up 21% in 2023, Pastor made his announcement to all that he would like to be done around June of 2025. Again, while we all knew that this time would come...I'M NOT READY!

PASTOR: We are so grateful for the time that you have graciously given us as Supply Pastor since 2020. We thank the Lord that you were able to commit yourself to serve us for 5 years, however, it seems that that time has gone by all too quickly. You have served us well and we have been blessed to have you. God indeed answered our prayers! But we also realize you would like to enjoy and relax in your retirement years.

CHURCH: While we are extremely sad that Pastor Paul's time here will come to an end, this opens up a world of possibilities as to the future here at Samuel. I ask that you pray for Pastor Paul and Susan as they also have a world of possibilities in their future. I ask that you pray for guidance as we again think about 'change' for Samuel Lutheran. I ask that you pray for our Samuel family as we embark on this phase of our journey without a 'called' pastor. We will take many opportunities throughout this next 18 months to gather as 'CHURCH' to invite all to share your thoughts and ideas. I feel our future can not be decided by a group or a committee. It will take ALL our voices, our thoughts, and our ideas....I look forward to hearing all of them!