



# Cornerstone

## FEBRUARY 2023

## Amazing Grace and the Season of Lent

The calendar has turned to February, and in 2023 that means only one thing to me... Lent Season is upon us! That's right, it is time to prepare our hearts and minds for the incredible journey Christ made to the cross on our behalf. In case you are wondering why February makes me think of Lent it is because this year Ash Wednesday is on Feb 22nd!

What is Lent? The season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. The practice of marking these 40 days before Easter has been celebrated in the church for over 1500 years.

Why 40 days? The number 40 is connected with many biblical events. God flooded the earth by having it rain for forty days and nights (Genesis 7:12). Moses was also on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, on two separate occasions (Exodus 24:18, 34:1 - 28), receiving God's laws. He also sent spies, for forty days, to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance (Numbers 13:25, 14:34). The prophet Jonah powerfully warned ancient Nineveh, for forty days, that its destruction would come because of its many sins.

There are other instances as well recorded in the Bible, but 40 is particularly significant during the season of lent because of the forty days Jesus spent in the

My grace is  
sufficient for  
you, for my  
power is made  
perfect  
in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. Here at Christ Lutheran it is a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

Every year we have a theme for the Lent season that helps us focus on what Christ did for us and keeps us from just going

through the motions of marking another season of the church calendar. This year our Theme is "Amazing Grace"! 2023 marks the 250th anniversary of when former slave trader turned poet and pastor John Newton wrote the hymn to accompany a sermon he preached on New Years Day. For all who long for God's promise in the midst of grief, despair, guilt, and shame, "Amazing Grace" is one of the world's most hopeful hymns. It sings of the Good news we have in Christ and shares God's

comfort and love for his people.

After the Ash Wednesday Service we will be holding special Wednesday Services leading up to Holy Week. During each of our lent services we will focus on one of the stanza's of "Amazing Grace" and how they communicate the amazing love and promise of God to us.

The service will open with a few songs, a short devotional and then we will break into small groups where we can discuss together

the impact of God's grace in our lives, both where we have seen it at work and where we need it in our lives. Services will begin at 6:30pm and be about 55 minutes in length.

There can be no better time to reflect on the grace Jesus bought for us on the cross than this season. Let us remember and worship Christ together this season of lent!

In Christ,

~ Pastor Wes

*PS ~ We want this lent season to be a time for the whole family to enjoy! If you have kids and want to be a part of the lent services I want to encourage you that we will have a breakout group just for parents and their kids to discuss God's amazing grace together as a family.*

## Lent Season & Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service - February 22 @ 6:30pm

Lent Services - Wednesdays, March 1 - March 29 @ 6:30pm

Palm Sunday Breakfast - April 2 @ 10am (Following the service)

Maundy Thursday Communion Service - Thursday, April 6 @ 6:30pm

Good Friday Service of Remembrance- Friday, April 7 @ 6:30pm

Sunrise Easter Service at the Christ Lutheran Cemetery - April 9 @ 6:30am

Easter Service at Christ Lutheran - April 9 @ 9am



# Pray for our Mission & Ministry Partners

*This past Sunday we introduced our mission and ministry partners of Christ Lutheran (In case you missed it, check out this past Sundays Mission Partner announcement at the 32:11 mark <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVonfkfL-M8&t=4275s> ). As you heard on Sunday, we want to go beyond just sending money, but intentionally develop relationships with our partners. One of the ways we will do that is by updating Christ Lutheran of the prayer requests of our partners.*

## Mission Partners:

**Feed My Starving Children:** Wednesday, January 18th marked the beginning of the food allocation process for the quickly approaching 2023-2024 fiscal year. Please lift our entire Department of International Programs in prayer as they review the numerous applications from our partners all over the world and determine how many meals each partner will receive.

**Love INC:** Prayer for the winter session for our Fresh Start program that began January 16. Pray that those involved by and in need can learn new skills and set goals that will help them for life. Fresh Start is a series of weekly classes in a safe and encouraging atmosphere designed to help participants. This “transformational ministry” program is based on Love INC National’s Redemptive Compassion philosophy to lend a hand up, not a handout.

**Human Trafficking:** World Vision offers a guide for those wishing to pray for those affected by Human Trafficking. Pray for an end to human trafficking. Pray for action. Pray for prevention. Pray for protection. Pray for restoration. Pray for justice.

**Mn Adult & Teen Challenge:** Pray for women in their program that have CPS (child protection) cases that need freedom from drugs/alcohol and want to be reunited with their children. Pray for the women’s center opening in Brainerd and that if it could be open ahead of schedule. Pray that God will remove any barriers that people might have that would stop them from staying or coming to MnTC. Pray that God will open new doors so they can continue to spread the word about Him, addiction, and freedom in Christ.

## Ministry Partners:

**Lutheran Congregations In Mission for Christ (LCMC):** Our association would like to encourage people to use the Lord's Prayer as an outline to pray for the congregations of the LCMC, for the leaders of our LCMC association, and for those who don't yet know Jesus as their Savior.

**Inspiration Point:** Pray for the upcoming winter retreats; Winter Blast (7-12 grades) and Senior High Retreat (9-12 grades). Pray for the campers that will register for camp this summer, that God will prepare their hearts for them to be impacted by Christ's love in a real and tangible way. Pray also for the dozens of young adults that have been hired to serve on staff the summer of 2023.



# The Beast Tour - Why you haven't seen us at Church

Good morning from Islamorada, Florida. Yes, it's warm and sunny, with doves cooing and a light breeze blowing through the palm trees.

You know, paradise, especially since Maddie, husband Kaden and new granddaughter Chase are here with us.

This stop is the only one that Karen and I had planned prior to leaving. We are staying here with friends, but the rest of this RV trip we are simply winging it... letting the wind blow us where it may.

Since we left Maple Plain January 16<sup>th</sup>, we've driven through 9 states. Overall, the trip has been going well, with a few unpleasant surprises, like finding our plumbing frozen (new on-demand water heater ordered) and seeing diesel prices rising the further south we go.

But we have seen the sunrise over the snowy Smoky Mountains, followed a young manatee down a clear Gulf Coast Florida river and had a big whitetail buck chase does past a campfire we were sharing with friends near Panama City, so the balance sheet is firmly in the black.

This trip is more than about collecting memories, however, it's about a reset. Karen and I are in the midst of a transition. We are new grandparents and

retirement, whatever that is, is closer than ever. We are marinating on the meaning of both of those.

But the primary reason for the trip, at least for me, is to get outdoors with Pierce who, since Covid and graduation from full-time education, is spending too much time in front of the TV and social media.

Like any young adult, he wants to carve his own path and we are helping him develop the tools to do that. This trip will hopefully allow us to break current habits.

He went tarpon fishing last night, an evening made memorable by the appearance of a large orange/black striped iguana near the shore, and several tarpon spotted.

We are staying here for five more days, and then heading to Naples to visit my dad and his wife, along with other friends in the area, and then we are headed up the east coast, hopefully finding warmer weather to avoid plumbing issues again...RVs get very small when the shower isn't usable!

We expect to be back in Maple Plain toward the end of March. In the meantime, we miss you all. Hoping someone is lighting the candles and giving out hugs on Pierce's behalf!

Steve



# Christ Lutheran, Let's Pray Together!



## WEDNESDAY PRAYER

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCHES AND OUR COMMUNITIES

### WED 12-12:30PM - Beginning March 1st

Each Wednesday we invite local churches to gather in prayer at noon to pray for their church and their community. Each local gathering is united with the other prayer gatherings not only in day and time but in the reading of the same passage of Scripture. Wednesday Prayer begins with the reading of a short passage of Scripture and then an invitation for the group to respond in prayer. Then pray for the ministries and people of our churches, schools, government, surrounding community and the world.

### Thursday morning prayer - 7 - 8am

Every Thursday morning our local church community gathers at area churches to pray together. See the schedule and plan to attend one soon!

#### Prayer Schedule:

February 9 - Village Church  
February 16 - Delano E-Free  
February 23 - Maple Plain Community Church  
March 2 - Riverwood Covenant Church  
March 9 - Christ Lutheran Church



### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Come for the bacon...stay for the prayer! Every other Friday from 6-7am

#### Upcoming Prayer Breakfast Schedule:

February 10  
February 24  
March 10  
March 24

### Join the *NEW* Sunday Intercessory Prayer

Gather each Sunday at 8:30am to pray for the upcoming worship service. Pray for those involved in the service, the message, and for the people attending the service. THEN take turns being available after the service to pray for people of the congregation who come forward with prayer for any request they might have. If you are interested in joining this intercessory prayer team, call or email Pastor Wes!

## Kitchen Clean-up Day

We need YOUR help! On Wednesday, February 15th at 9am we will be cleaning the kitchen. Please contact Mary Couser (612) 306-2618 or JoAnn Ree (763) 229-1661 if you are available to help.





Mn Adult & Teen Challenge  
Freedom from addiction starts [here](https://www.mntc.org/).

***Mathew 19:25-26 “...Who then can be saved? Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”***

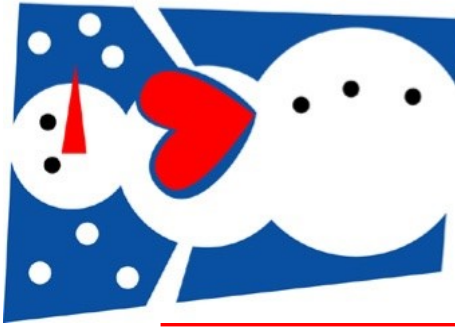
I mentioned a few weeks ago our CLC council's desire to be more connected with our mission partners and provide opportunities for everyone to be in relationship with those mission partners. Last week Pat and I attended the graduation ceremony for the adults completing the long-term care program at MN Adult Teen Challenge (MNATC). What an amazing ceremony and display of Love, Faith, Support and Hope. I have been to many graduation ceremonies over the years but have never seen that kind of excitement for the future. In all the personal testaments and thanks every graduate mentioned God's grace and glory as part of their recovery. All the current clients of MNATC attend the ceremony to enthusiastically share their joy for the graduates and the graduates give encouragement back to those still in the program. I'm a recovery alcoholic, 12/17/22 marked 30 years of sobriety for me. I appreciate firsthand what a monumental achievement it is for these graduates. Praise God for his healing miracles.

MNATC mission is to assist men, women and teens in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life-controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. They do this through counseling, community legal & professional help and by nurturing their client's faith in Jesus. MNATC provides programs throughout MN for all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. They are helping individuals' and families get a new drug/alcohol/chemical free start by learning to seek and trust in God's amazing grace and mercy.

If you would like to learn more about MNATC you can check out their programs on their website (<https://www.mntc.org/>) If you are interested in learning more about what it's like to volunteer with them, see me or Steve Pennaz. We look forward to hosting their choir this Fall.

Yours in Christ, Mark Mundahl





# February

		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY												
5	SUNDAY	9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Coffee & Cookies with C. S. Lewis 10:20am Anchored In Christ	6	MONDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	7	TUESDAY	8	WEDNESDAY	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	9	THURSDAY	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study	10	FRIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	11	SATURDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	4
12	SUNDAY	9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Coffee & Cookies with C. S. Lewis 10:20am Anchored In Christ	13	MONDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	14	TUESDAY	15	WEDNESDAY	9:00am Kitchen Clean-up 4:30pm Kingdom Kids 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	16	THURSDAY	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	17	FRIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	18	SATURDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	25
19	SUNDAY	9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Coffee & Cookies with C. S. Lewis 10:20am Anchored In Christ	20	MONDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	21	TUESDAY	22	WEDNESDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY 4:30pm First Communion Class 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	23	THURSDAY	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study	24	FRIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	25	SATURDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	4
26	SUNDAY	9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Coffee & Cookies with C. S. Lewis 10:20am Anchored In Christ	27	MONDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	28	TUESDAY	29	WEDNESDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	30	THURSDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	1	FRIDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	2	SATURDAY	9:00am Quilting 10:00am Coffee Time & Devotional	3

