

Mission Connection

Pastor's Message

Especially around holidays like Christmas and Easter you'll hear folks for whom regular communal worship is not a big priority wax eloquent about their "spirituality". They may not be "religious", they claim, but they're very "spiritual". Inevitably in the course of conversations with such people you're likely to encounter statements like: "I like to worship God in nature: playing golf, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, etc. After all, you don't have to go to church to worship."

I'll be among the first to grant that because God is everywhere present, God is certainly present in those idyllic scenes and settings. But don't be too quick to be overly romantic about the God you find there! While the God we meet in and through nature is certainly majestic and awe-inspiring, those natural surroundings quickly disclose that that God must also be harsh, capricious, ruthless, frightening, and unforgiving!

Nature itself bears witness to God. The elements do themselves praise the Creator:

- Psalm 8: ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!
- ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
- ⁹before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

Isaiah 55:12 "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

But while places like the lofty mountain tops, sweeping prairies, deep forest glens may offer praise, they were not specifically created as/for places of worship; they are not intended to be primarily places for human worship or the divine service. That place is the Church!

Lutheran understand "Church", as the assembly of believers among whom the gospel is purely preached, and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel. Church worship of the triune God is always communal, never private. Thus, if a group of believers in Christ Jesus should happen to be gathered on a mountain and there hear the gospel preached and the sacraments administered, then they are the church and worship has occurred!

Moments of private devotion or meditation on Hole #6 or on the banks of the Turkey River may be inspirational and enjoyable, but they can never substitute for the Divine Service when the God of the universe shows up in flesh and blood as He promised among two or three gathered in His name. See you Sunday?

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Over the Coffee



Sometimes I joke about what I'd do if I had
one day left to live.
You know, eat junk food,
go crazy, etc.
Today it hit me: Jesus knew,
and he washed feet.
He. Washed. Feet.



St. Croix Grief Support Meeting

Grief Support Grief, led by Chaplain Pat Malanaphy of St. Croix
Hospice will meet at Mission in Christ on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 2 9:00 am: Palm/Passion Sunday worship with Holy Communion
5:45 pm: light meal with Divine Drama Bible Study to follow at 6:00
Monday, April 3 9:00 am: Matins
Wednesday, April 4 9:00 am: Matins
Thursday, April 6 7:00 am: Truth Yoga
6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion
Friday, April 7 9:00 am: Matins
6:00 pm: Good Friday worship
Sunday, April 9 8:00 Coffee and Fellowship
9:00 am: Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion



MIC Council
March 14, 2023

The Mission in Christ Council met on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Those present were President Doug Puffett, Chris Schlee, Michelle Borrett, Leroy Littlefield, Terri Gould and Pastor Burkhalter.

Doug called the meeting to order.

Pastor led a devotion from the book of John.

Doug then asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. With no additions, Michelle moved and Leroy seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Terri then read the minutes of the last meeting. Seeing no additions or corrections. Chris moved and Leroy seconded a motion to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Michelle presented the treasurer's report for February. At the end of February, the checking account balance was \$4,807.34. The offering total was \$5,531.00. Of that, \$100 was designated for the Building Fund. This left \$5,431.00 going to the General Fund. The expenses for the month totaled \$6,318.87. A comment was made concerning the very reasonable amount charged for sanding the parking lot. Pastor commented that Harry Morley needed to subcontract that job once and he was very distressed that that person had charged so much. He did not charge for that sanding. Pastor suggested we talk to him and offer to pay at least his regular rate. With no other questions, Pastor moved and Chris seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

There was no official Worship Team report. Pastor commented that the group would be meeting the next week to finalize Holy Week plans.

Next in Pastor's report, he noted one visitation. For Joys and Concerns he listed Bible study materials for part 2 are better than he expected and there has been good attendance at the classes. Also, the Website merge is complete, the music files are now on the laptop and the Worship/Music Team has been training.

Upcoming dates to note:

- March 15 and March 22, Lenten midweek services at 6:00 pm.
- March 19, Lutheran Home Annual Meeting at 2:00 pm.
- April 6, Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 pm.
- April 7, Good Friday service at 6:00 pm.

April 9, Easter Sunday with fellowship beginning at 8:00 am with service at 9:00 am. This service will be Sarah Puffett's first Communion.

Numbers viewing Matins and Mass are up while attendance slightly declined.

Under Old Business, the calendar was discussed. Chris then moved and Michelle seconded a motion for the following dates:

- February 11, 2024, Annual Meeting of MIC
- October 19, 2023, Fall Friendship Dinner

June 11, 2023, Confirmation

Motion carried. Doug will ask last year's Fall Friendship Dinner committee if they would like to serve in this capacity once again. Pastor then reported that he is working with the Ekka family on a date for them to visit.

Moving on to New Business, it was decided to set April 29 as the day for Spring Cleaning at the church. A list of jobs will be prepared. Parishioners may choose a job and do it ahead of time, or come that day at 9:00 am. A meal will be served following the work.

Discussion moved on to banking business. Pastor moved and Leroy seconded a motion to remove Bill Green as authorized signer at Farmer's Savings Bank and add Doug

Puffett. Motion carried. Michelle then presented current CD rates. Chris moved and Pastor seconded a motion to take \$20,000.00 of Building Fund money and put it in a 7 month CD at FSB. Doug is to negotiate the best interest. Motion carried.



Council Meeting Minutes

(cont.)

Pastor then mentioned that Lois Cordes had contacted him to let him know the church would be receiving \$347 in Choice Dollars from Thrivent which had been designated by two families. Pastor wondered if the council would like to do something special with this money. Chris moved and Terri seconded a motion to table this discussion until next meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18 at 6:30 pm.

With no other business, Michelle volunteered for April's devotions.

Michelle then moved and Leroy seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting then closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cloud of Witnesses



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We believe that even those saints who have died are still alive in Christ Jesus. They are those giants of the faith upon whose shoulders we stand, and they, too, comprise this "great cloud". Here is a list of "cloud members" who are remembered during the month of April:

- April 4: Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589
- April 6: Marilyn Friedrich, died 2022, Mission in Christ partner; Albrecht Durer, died 1528; Matthias Gruenwald, died 1529;
Lucas Cranach, died 1553: artists
- April 9: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, martyr, 1945
- April 10: Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557
- April 19: Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573: renewers of the church
- April 21: Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109
- April 23: Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960;
Brenda Fredrick, Mission in Christ partner, died 2016
- April 25: St. Mark, the Evangelist
- April 29: Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380



Food Pantry/Community Meal

The next community food pantry date at St Mary is April 19 from 3-6:30pm. . Some items the pantry could use are sugar, brown sugar, cake or brownie mix, spam, canned chicken, pasta, vinegar, canned peas, applesauce, saltine crackers, pork n beans. Deliveries are made in Strawberry Point by calling Delaine (563 920 2753) before 3pm on the pantry date. If someone needs assistance before the pantry date, please call Delaine (563 920 2753) or the Emmaus pastorate office at (563 928 7200). The food pantry on March 21 served 21 households.

The community meal at St Mary on March 15 served 68. There were 38 deliveries, 23 carry outs and 7 dine in. The next community meal will be April 19 serving from 5-6:30. The menu will be loose meat sandwich, potato salad, fruit, cookie or bar. If someone would like a meal delivered in Strawberry Point, call Delaine (563 920 2753) or Kris (563 419 5329) before 3pm

on the meal date.

Thank you, Delaine

2023 Dates:

Wednesday, April 19

Wednesday, May 17

Wednesday, June 21

Emmaus Pastorate Office (563-928-7200)

Delaine Gruman (563-920-2753)

Sponsored by these local churches:

Emanuel Lutheran, St. Sebald Lutheran, Mission in Christ Lutheran, Community Bible, United Methodist, and St. Mary Catholic churches



April Worship Assistant Assignments

April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Lector: Terri Gould	Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Anne Puffett	Lector: Pete Wood	Lector: Chris Schlee
Fellowship: Potluck	Fellowship: Marge Downs	Fellowship: Lois Cordes	Fellowship: Chris Schlee	Fellowship: Bill & Rozella Green
Cleaning:	Cleaning:	Cleaning:	Cleaning:	Cleaning:



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A ministry of the NALC

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**We're on
Facebook!**

*Join us for Worship
9 AM Sundays
And online
through our
Facebook page or
Mission in Christ Website
Coffee and Fellowship
immediately following Service*

NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

