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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Historically, Lent developed as a season of preparation for Holy Baptism. Liturgically and theologically, Lent is the church's refocus on the significance of Holy Baptism. The daily drowning of the old Adam in us through contrition and repentance, which characterizes the entire Christian life of discipleship, is deliberately intensified during Lent as a renewal of faith and life in Christ. This repentance is always the divine work of the Holy Spirit through the Law and the Gospel. The Law crucifies the old Adam, and the Gospel raises up the new man in us. Thus, a Lenten focus on the cross and Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ is not aimed at an emotional response but is a pointed proclamation and confession of the Law and the Gospel, a preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Lent is properly penitential when it brings the cross to sinners and sinners to the cross of Christ as the fountain and source of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Our theme, "For us" is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand *why* God would send His Son to die for us.

The phrase "for us" also captures much of the Reformation's theological emphasis—and Luther's understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us *for us* so that we might become like Him.

Our Lenten preaching series hymn "O Love, How Deep" (*LSB* 544) was originally a twenty-three-stanza poem written in the fifteenth century by an unknown author. In the nineteenth century, an Anglican cleric named Benjamin Webb translated the hymn into English and then chose six stanzas for use in English hymnody. The doxological stanza was added later.

Some hymns tell a story, others teach, and still others create pictures in our minds of the great works of God. Some hymns do all three, weaving together a tapestry that is beautiful yet simple, wondrous yet easy to understand. "O Love, How Deep" is that kind of hymn.

Although it does not appear in the first stanza, the most pointed and beautiful language in the hymn is expressed in the phrase "for us." The phrase is reminiscent of the language of the Nicene Creed: "Who *for us men* and for our salvation came down from heaven."

Join me for our Lenten Journey to the Cross. Let us be reminded with fresh minds this year of our Savior, Jesus Christ and the Sacrifice that He made for us. Let us be humbled. Let us let go of pride and self-interests. Instead, as we are reminded of our Lord's sacrificial life and death for us, let us be sacrificial. Let's give up of ourselves and show the Love that Jesus first showed us.

May God Bless this Lenten Journey for you.

Pastor Nicholas Thackery



**JANUARY ATTENDANCE
AND OFFICIAL ACTS**

	5 pm	9 am	Total
December 6-7	0	62	62
December 13-14	27	82	109
December 20-21	40	156	196
December 27-28	32	84	116
Communion			159

Transfers/Releases:

None

Official Acts:

Burials: Patricia Patterson and Pauline Doyen

Baptism: None

News-worthy Notes



JOY Group

Please join us on March 17th for a served meal. Be sure to sign up in the narthex so we know how much food to prepare.

Ladies, you are invited to our "Ladies Night Out" on Tuesday, March 10th.

Hor d'oeuvres served at 5:30 pm

Dinner served at 6:00 pm

Stuffed Pork Loin will be our main course.

Pastor and his group of men have invited you to a night of relaxation and fun! Join us for a three course meal, fellowship time in God's Word and a fun craft. Please RSVP to the church office with your name, phone number and the number attending no later than Sunday, March 8!

In-service will be to collect diapers and wipes for the Swaddling Clothes Ministry.

LWML NOTES

LWML Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm.



Mary's Circle will meet Thursday, March 5 at 10am
Hannah's Circle Canceled due to Ladies Night Out
Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, March 12 at 3:00pm

LWML EGG BAKE FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday

Serving 10:45-12:45

Proceeds will go to the LWML's adopted Seminary Student



The Endowment Committee has a total of \$25,000 to award this year to any individual or group with special needs or projects (should not be for ordinary operating expenses for the church). Application forms can be picked up at the church office and must be submitted by **April 20, 2026** to be considered. The balance in the Endowment fund at the end of 2025 was \$829,871.13.

Don't forget to direct your Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial. Simply go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 **before March 31** and say "Thrivent Choice." They will ask for your phone number and date of birth. They can be directed to Good Shepherd or other Lutheran non-profit organizations.

Swaddling Clothes Ministry Meetings

March 11th at 6:00 PM

March 25th at 5:00 PM

Pizza and Game Night



Friday, March 13th
5:30 pm



you are the *key* to a
Legacy of Life

Join us for a shared meal as we celebrate the growth of life-affirming, Christ-centered healthcare in Fort Dodge.

MARCH 21, 2026
6:00 PM

Prairie Lakes Church
200 Ave O · Fort Dodge

Reserve your seat at
obriaiowa.org/events

\$15/person
Purchase by March 20

Help us *unlock* the sound
of one more heartbeat

obria | MEDICAL CLINICS



IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TUITION ORGANIZATION

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..."

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR 2026-2027

We have an online form
filler to make it extra easy!

APPLY AT:
IOWALUTHERANSTO.COM

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS:

- You must be an Iowa resident with the child/children in grades K-12 at a Lutheran school for the 2026-2027 school year
- Family income, the amount shown on Line 11 of the Federal Tax Form 1040, can be no more than 400% of the poverty level
- Must apply for ESA as well

DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2026

SAVE THE DATE – Youth Gatherings

SR Youth Gathering (Grades 9-12) October 2-4,
2026, Location: Camp Okoboji

JR Youth Gathering (Grades 6,7,8) October 24-25,
2026, Location: Sheraton – West Des Moines



We will be needing **Lilies** for our **Easter Services**. If you would like to provide one, please bring it in During Holy Week.

-Thank you in advance.

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Sioux City will be taking a group of 25 youth and adults on a mission trip, basing out of Hope Lutheran Church in Sulphur, OK in June of this year. They are trying to raise \$18,000 to cover travel expenses as well as materials for the people who need help. They will be helping people who have not been able to afford to rebuild after the tornado disaster in April of 2024.

If you choose to support this project, please send donations to the district office.

Iowa District West
c/o Julie Mann
409 Kenyon Rd Suite B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

memo "OK Mission Trip".
Thank you and God Bless.



March 2026

Sunday,
March 8th



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Times and dates are subject to change						
1 9 am-Divine worship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study C.I.A. Meeting	2 12 pm-LL Preschool	3 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing; 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm-LWML Board	4 12 pm-LL Preschool 12:30-Lenten Svc 5:00-Singers 5:15 pm-CC Class 6pm-Board of Ed 6:00-Ringers 7:00pm Lenten Service	5 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 10:00 am-Mary's Circle 12 pm-LL Preschool 5 pm-Beacon of Hope Meal	6 8:15am-LL Preschool 9am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	7 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
8 9 am-Divine worship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study **Daylight Savings Time Begins	9 12 pm-LL Preschool	10 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 5:30-Ladies Night Out	11 12 pm-LL Preschool 12:30pm-Lent Svc 5:00 pm-Chr Outreach 5:00-Singers 5:15 pm-CC Class 6:00 pm-Swaddling Clothes 6 pm-Ringers 7:00 pm-Lent Svc	12 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 3:00 pm-Dorcas Circle	13 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30 pm-Pizza & Game Night	14 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
15 9 am-Divine worship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	16 12 pm-LL Preschool	17 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30-Trustees 7:00-Council	18 10:30 am-Lamplighters 12 pm-LL Preschool 12:30-Lenten Svc 5:00-Singers 5:15 pm-CC Class 6:00-Ringers 7:00pm Lenten Service	19 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	20 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9am- Bible Study at Ardy's Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	21 5 pm-Divine Worship
22 9 am-Divine worship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	23 12 pm-LL Preschool	24 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm-Elders	25 12 pm-LL Preschool 12:30pm-Lent Svc 5:00pm-Swaddling Clothes 5:00pm-Singers 5:15 pm-CC Class 6:00pm-Ringers 7:00 pm-Lenten Service	26 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	27 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	28 5 pm-Divine Worship
29 9 am-Divine worship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study LWML-Egg Bake 10:45-12:45	30 12 pm-LL Preschool	31 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool				

FOR US



Lenten Services

Wednesday, March 4
Wednesday, March 11
Wednesday, March 18
Wednesday, March 25

Each Wednesday we will have a service at
12:30pm and at 7:00pm

St. Paul will have a 2:00pm and a 7:00pm service.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 2

God's character, His nature, is self-giving love. Everything Jesus does, He does "for us." This phrase will be introduced this week in the series hymn. *Pro nobis*, or "for us," appears again and again in the series hymn. Jesus is baptized, fasts, is tempted, overcomes temptation, and, in doing so, begins His work of undoing the power of the devil (Mark 1:9–13). It is especially worth noting that because Jesus suffered when tempted, He can "help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). He not only helps us in our weakness, but His love for us extends all the way into the grave.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

Jesus talks all about seeking us in our texts this week. He does not wait passively until we get up the gumption to ask Him for help. Nor does He act out of selfish gain, like our health-care system seems to do so often today. Praying, teaching, working. In all these things, Jesus seeks us out and looks for ways to help us. This work is often overlooked because it is so ordinary. Water, bread and wine, the folly of preaching. In all these ordinary works, Jesus continues His ministry among us. This ministry of forgiveness means that Jesus continues to strengthen and help us.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

We talked about angels during Midweek of Lent 1. Tonight, we will talk about the darker side of the story—that is, demons. Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God and His giving of Himself to us. Demons, with Satan chief among them, seek to undermine everything God is and does, even today. In our sermon tonight, we will hear how Jesus heals a man with a demon (Mark 5:1–13) and how that work of healing continues today.

MIDWEEK OF LENT 5

Jesus foretells His own betrayal, death, and resurrection in today's text (Mark 8:31–9:1). This shows us that the way of salvation only comes through the path of suffering (Hebrews 2:10). Jesus' suffering, His Passion, does not simply mean that He sympathizes with us. Rather, it means that He participates in our suffering, and we in His. His betrayal, the crown of thorns, the shameful cross—all of these lead to how Jesus "gave His dying breath," as we sing in the series hymn. In the Passion reading, we will also hear how He dies (Mark 15:33–47) and what that means for us today.

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

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Fort Dodge IA 50501

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Pastor Nicholas Thackery

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We're on the web
www.goodshepfortdodge.org
Check us out on Facebook
Good Shepherd Fort Dodge

I'm not Lucky



James 1:17

*I'm
Blessed*

LCMS Stewardship

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785* "We Praise You, O God."

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

*We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!