

# Covenant NEWS



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March - April 2017

## Pastor's Perspective

So here we are, yet again, on this journey of Lent. It will be different, but, in a sense, it will be rather familiar. It will be the same cross, the same dark tomb, the same death of our Lord and Savior. And yet with each annual forty day cycle we come with slightly different emotions and unique stories that have shaped us since the previous one, that might just make us appreciate the story of Jesus' sacrifice slightly more than the year before. Of course, no matter how hard we try, we will never fully understand the gravity of those fateful days for Jesus.

No matter how many times we hear the story year after year, and even with the many instances in between, we will never realize just how much He loved (and still loves) all of us. Nevertheless, with each Lent we try a little harder. We try to understand why: why did Jesus die for us when we so often do not deserve such a sacrifice of eternal proportion.

One promise I can make to you as we take on this first journey of Lent together (at least in the same place), is that I will not help you figure it all out. Come Good Friday I will not have you to the point of completely understanding all the boundless love of God. And yet, more importantly, I already know something greater: nonetheless, God has it taken care of already. No matter how little or great you feel spiritually fed during these forty days, God still loves you just the same. We will try a little harder together to experience that love. We will struggle together in asking why. And, finally, we will be captivated together at the end, when we hear the Greatest News of all time that absolutely never gets old. Welcome, yet again, to the immersion in the story that saved us all forever!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Brad*

\*\*\*\*\* Installation of Pastor Ross \*\*\*\*\*  
The Rite of Installation for Pastor Bradley Ross  
will be held on Sunday, April 2 at 4:30 pm at

**\*\* Installation location moved to Covenant \*\***

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant*

19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 Phone: (216) 662-0370

CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net Web site: www.covenantmaplehts.org

Rev. Bradley Ross, Pastor: 440-223-9771 buckeyecross@hotmail.com

## Retirees Luncheon!

The next Retirees Luncheon is set for Thursday, May 11 (moved from April due to Holy Week) at noon in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendars!

If you have an idea for a guest speaker, or a topic you would like to learn more about, please contact the Church Office.



## Annual Flower Sale

The Covenant Lutheran Women's group is again sponsoring a plant sale. It's a great way to order your vegetable and floral plants for the year while supporting CLW. You are also welcome to make a donation to buy plants for the Covenant grounds.

Orders must be placed with payment by Monday, April 24.

Pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 from 9AM-Noon.

The order sheet will be available from the Church Office, in the sanctuary or from Coordinator Arlene Lasher. Contact her for a form or with questions at 216-663-1939.

## Sunday School Classes

The Berean Bible Group now meets with Pastor Harry's class on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Parlor for morning coffee/goodies, and extensive conversation combined with laughter. The group is open to anyone.

Jody Bernardo teaches elementary to confirmation students and confirmation through high school kids are with Chuck Dickey. We hope to see even more participants at Sunday School and the potlucks in the future.

## Meet the Ross Family!

You probably know my name by now, but I am Brad Ross, and I am honored to be serving as your pastor. I'll let you know some various things about myself to help us get to know each other better. I grew up on a farm in Upper Sandusky, Ohio (about half-way between Columbus and Toledo), where my father still farms about 1,100 acres of corn and soybeans. My mother was a pre-school teacher for over twenty years before taking on a position at the high school, where my siblings and I attended, as a computer lab aid (to make sure those teenagers actually do school-related work on those enticing technological devices).

I am the youngest of four, and so of course, spoiled-rotten from birth, and now my nine nieces and nephews are the spoiled-rotten ones (all of them live in Ohio). I graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, with a degree in religion, before moving onto Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus. More importantly than receiving my Masters of Divinity degree there, I met my wife, Sarah.

We married in the summer of 2013 before she graduated the next spring with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. For two years she has been a nurse in the emergency room dealing with the full gamut of patients. As for my career so far, I have served St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baroda, Michigan (southwest corner of the state, near the shores of Lake Michigan), for the last five years. Perhaps the most important detail for Sarah and myself is that we have a chocolate lab named, Zoey, who will be turning six in April (already has gray hairs, so we must be stressing her out).

We are looking forward to this new chapter in our lives together, including spending time in ministry with all of you! Thanks be to God!



## Board of Mutual Ministry

Now that we have Pastor Brad, we wanted to have a meeting with him to have the Committee get acquainted and help him with getting to know our Congregation. So we had the meeting right before his first 5:00 P.M. Saturday Service. All had time to tell Pastor about themselves and what they do in the Church along with what they think the purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is. Yes, even Pastor Brad had to do this.

The Committee is liaison between the Congregation and the Pastor. The suggestion box at the main church entrance has not been used and we would encourage all to use it. We will have places in Covenant News and others to give your comments. We will use the Committee that best suits the Church's needs. One of the main efforts of the Committee is to support the Pastor to prevent him from burning out and also support the Congregation spiritually.

There are many pamphlets on what the Mutual Ministry Committee should be doing and not doing and we will try to find one that best fits our Church with copies to each of the Committee members. Our plan is to have meetings about once a month or as situations exist. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer and in time to get ready for his 5:00 Service

*Dick Ptak, Chairperson*

## Events for the Lenten Season:

### Mid-Week Lenten Soup Supper & Worship

This year we will join again with the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Master during the Wednesday evenings of Lent for soup supper and worship with the Holden Evening Prayer, beginning March 8 and continuing through April 5.

The mid-week Lenten observance begins at 6:00 p.m. with the soup supper, followed by the Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m. The service will end at approximately 7:30 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Covenant will host the first three Wednesdays supper and worship dates, March 8, 15 & 22. The fourth and fifth Wednesday supper and worship dates, March 29 & April 5, will be at Lutheran Church of the Master.

The five Lenten mid-week soup supper and worship provide each of us with the opportunity for community fellowship with the people of our sister ELCA congregation and share with them the beauty and quiet time of the Holden Evening Prayer. These events will help us to prepare our minds and our hearts for the sacrifice of Christ's life for our salvation that we observe during Holy Week. Members and visitors are welcome for supper and worship each of the five weeks.



## Let's Head Back to Camp! Camp Covenant

Covenant is again hosting a summer day camp for local children. "Camp Covenant" is designed to enrich your child academically, spiritually, physically and socially. The camp operates from June 12 to July 28. Doors are open from 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. Extended care is available until 5:30 for an additional \$125.

Enrollment packets are available by email (below) or from the Church Office. You may also get an enrollment packet from the camp director, Sister Sharon.

**REGISTRATION IS FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED!** We anticipate full enrollment, so don't delay! Registration dates are Saturdays April 15 and May 6; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

The \$305 supply/activity fee is a one-time fee for the entire summer and must be paid in full PRIOR to the start of camp. It covers one t-shirt, reading/math materials, spiritual lessons, educational supplies, games, crafts, playground equipment, snacks, treats, stipends for our teen volunteers and compensation to adult staff.

We look forward to a wonderful, spirit-filled summer with your child at CAMP COVENANT 2017!!

For registration packet or more information, contact:

Sister Sharon Steward, Camp Covenant Director

[www.CampCovenantKids.com](http://www.CampCovenantKids.com)

[campcovenantkids@yahoo.com](mailto:campcovenantkids@yahoo.com)

### Events During Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on March 1st this year and begins the Lenten season. Many events are planned between now and Easter, on April 16. Some of these events are in conjunction with or hosted by Lutheran Church of the Master, 860 Northfield Road, Bedford. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you!

#### Ash Wednesday Eucharist:

March 1, 7:00 p.m. at Master

#### Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

March 8, 15 & 22 at Covenant.

March 29 & April 5 at Master.

#### Palm Saturday Children's Event:

Saturday, April 8, 9:30 a.m.

(More information provided on page 4.)

#### Palm Sunday:

Sunday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m.

at Covenant

#### Maundy Thursday: April 13

at 7:00 p.m. at Master.

#### Good Friday: April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

at Covenant

#### Easter: Sunday, April 16

Easter Vigil at Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.

Festival Eucharist: 9:00 a.m.

Planning Ahead: Sunday, April 30

10:30 a.m. Potluck & a Movie,

details to come.

### Camp Covenant Registration

The following items are due at the time you turn in your camp application:

\* The registration packet, which is available upon request.

\* \$305 camp activity fee PER CHILD. This includes one t-shirt which must be purchased new this year. Extra T-shirts can be purchased for \$10 each.

## Lent 2017: Resources for Discussion and Reflection For the First Four Sundays of Lent Prepared by the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission of the NEOS-ELCA & Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

### **Fasting: First Sunday of Lent: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7), Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11**

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights...”*

On Ash Wednesday, we hear Jesus speak of the disciplines of Lenten faith: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. In the reading from Matthew, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert and into a time of fasting. Jesus does not give up something for these forty days, as we frequently do during this season. What is to be gained from giving up something for forty days? Is it soda or television, sweets or cigarettes, meat or shopping for non-essentials? The practice of giving up something that has some measure of control over us leads to a temporary mastery over an object or habit. It can also be an offering to God for God’s gifts to us. Jesus, led into the desert, encounters solitude and fasting, prayer and silence. He experiences a deep communion with the Father. This is not a mere mastery of a habit or a break from temptations. This is a life-altering event. Jesus is given the strength to counter the devil and to hold fast to the kingdom of God. Jesus sends the devil away, empty and unsuccessful.

\* What if you spent forty days in deeper communion with God? \* What would you really have to leave behind in order to enter a desert-like experience? \* In your parish/congregation, what are some ways this season of Lent is observed as a desert-dwelling time? \*

### **Prayer: Second Sunday of Lent: Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (2 Timothy 1:8b-10), Matthew 17:1-9**

*“But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and do not be afraid.’”*

Once again, we see Jesus retreating from the crowds and distractions of the world. In this passage, Jesus and a few of the disciples go up a mountain to encounter God in the event of Transfiguration. So great this encounter, Jesus’ face shone like the sun and his clothes became white. Jesus, once again, is spending time in deep communion with his Father. For us, deep communion with God is prayer. The second of three Lenten disciplines, prayer is time when we respond to Jesus words, “Do not be afraid.” Peter wanted to build tents for Jesus and the prophets, to remain in God’s holy presence. While we can’t always seek out mountains or deserts, we can come before God in times of prayer wherever we are.

- \* What are your deepest longings that you need to bring before the Father in prayer? \*
- \* When is it easiest for you to pray? When is it most difficult? \* What keeps you from prayer? \*
- \* In your parish/congregation, what forms of prayer are most meaningful for the community? \*

### **Almsgiving (Acts of Mercy): Third Sunday of Lent: Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42**

*“Sir, give me this water, that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”*

A request for water and the Samaritan woman’s act of mercy develops into an encounter with Jesus as living water and into a proclamation of the Good News. The third discipline of faith, almsgiving is not limited to throwing coins into a homeless person’s hat. Almsgiving is the spiritual practice of giving ourselves in acts of mercy. Jesus asks an outcast woman for a drink of water. Her act of kindness opens her to the possibility of receiving what she needs. This woman needs a life-change found in the mercy of Jesus. This is a holy encounter at its very best. Mercy begets mercy. Like Jesus in the desert or in the mountains, this woman is in a wilderness of her very own. Following her encounter with Jesus, her sins are made whiter than snow. Then she joyfully shares this experience with others.

- \* When have you encountered mercy? \* What difference did it make in your life? \* What acts of mercy does your parish or congregation practice?

### **Seeing God’s Kingdom with New Eyes: Fourth Sunday of Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41**

*“The man born blind said, ‘I do believe Lord,’ and he worshiped Jesus.”*

In John’s account, the man born blind doesn’t ask Jesus to heal him. Yet following this moment with Jesus, the man can see, both physically and spiritually. He proclaims to the world, “I do believe.” We’re well into the forty days of Lent by now. Close to the emergence from the desert or the decline from the mountain, we meet up with this man born blind. Our Lenten disciplines (fasting, prayer, almsgiving/acts of mercy) not only allow us to encounter God but also allow God to make his work visible through us. It is the same with the man born blind. He is given new sight for the kingdom and for God. God uses him as an instrument to share his gift of sight with the world.

- \* In the midst of fasting, praying, and acting with mercy, do you encounter God and become a vehicle for his works? \*
- \* Like the man born blind, how have you been gifted by God even when you have not asked? \* How can God use your parish or congregation? \* When has your parish or congregation seen a situation with new eyes? \*
- \* When has God used your parish or congregation for his good works? \*

*(For more information on the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission, go to [www.lccovenant.weebly.com](http://www.lccovenant.weebly.com))*

# The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

## March 2017

Sunday Servers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00 Service at Master	2	3	4 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Nel Lanese Lect: Maud Wright Cruc: Ethan Lockmiller Ush: A&B Treichel AG: Ptak, Lanese, Bowsey Greet: M&J Garvin	5 <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	6	7 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	8 6:00 Soup Supper at Covenant	9	10 6:00 Farmers' Market Staff Party	11 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Allan Treichel Lect: Ted Lockmiller Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: Schirmer, Frajter, Dobush AG: Rusher, Senderak, Skowronski, Susaneck Greet: A&P Hohenstein	12 <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	13	14 7:00 Council Meeting	15 6:00 Soup Supper at Covenant	16 7:00 Bd of Ed Meeting	17	18 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
		***** 8:00 – 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall March 13 – 31 *****					
AM: Alex Hohenstein Lect: Steve Dobush Cruc: Emily Garberich Ush: Garvin, Zahn AG: Rusher, Senderak, Skowronski, Susaneck Greet: Lois Gerstenberger	19 <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	20	21 7:00 Ev. & Soc. Min. Meeting	22 6:00 Soup Supper at Covenant	23	24	25 5:00 Service at Triune
		***** 8:00 – 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall March 13 – 31 *****					
AM: Marie Zahn Lect: Bert Zahn Cruc: Katie Garberich Ush: Senderak, Besednjak AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: S&C Senderak	26 <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	27	28	29 6:00 Soup Supper at Master	30 5:00 Cov.-Hope Community Meal	31	April 1 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
		***** 8:00 – 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall March 13 – 31 *****					

\* "Master" = Lutheran Church of the Master, 680 Northfield Road, Bedford. \*\* "Triune" = Triune Lutheran Church 4810 W. Mill Road, Broadview Hts. \*

# The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

## April 2017

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*** 6:30 AM Easter Vigil*** Lect: Daralynn Constant Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: Garvin, Zahn, Garberich Greet: Jen Garberich							1 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Maud Wright Lect: Nel Lanese Cruc: Ethan Lockmiller Ush: A&B Treichel AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: Don & Ron Schirmer	2 <b>Fifth Sun. in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sun. School 4:30 Installation at Triune	3	4 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	5 8:00-2:00 ECOT Testing in PH 6:00 Soup Supper at Master	6	7	8 9:30 Palm Saturday Children's Event 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Allan Treichel Lect: Ted Lockmiller Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: Schirmer, Frajter, Dobush AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn Greet: Janet Wilkens	9 <b>Palm/ Sunday</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	10	11 7:00 Council Meeting	12	13 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service at Master	14 7:00 Good Friday Service at Covenant with Master	15 12:00-1:00 Camp Cov Registration NO Saturday Eucharist
*** 9:00 AM Easter *** AM: Alex Hohenstein Lect: Steve Dobush Cruc: TBD Ush: Garvin, Zahn, Garberich AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn Greet: Barb Gaglione	16 <b>Easter</b> 6:30 Sunrise Vigil 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Eucharist	17	18 7:00 Evangelism & Social Ministry Meeting	19	20 7:00 Bd of Ed Meeting	21	22 5:00 Service at Triune
		***** 8:00 – 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall April 17 – May 5 *****					
AM: Bert Zahn Lect: Marie Zahn Cruc: Emily Garberich Ush: A&B Treichel AG: Plak, Lanese, Bewsey Greet: Harry & Sheila Werner	23 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	24	25	26	27 5:00 Cov.-Hope Commun. Meal	28	29 NO Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
		***** 8:00 – 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall April 17 – May 5 *****					
AM: Allan Treichel Lect: Ted Lockmiller Cruc: Katie Garberich Ush: Senderak, Besodnjak AG: Plak, Lanese, Bewsey Greet: Bob & Donna Franz	30 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Potluck & Movie	May 1	2 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	3	4	5	6 12:00-1:00 Camp Cov Registration 5:00 Sat. Euch. at Covenant
		***** 8:00 – 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall April 17 – May 5 *****					

\* "Master" = Lutheran Church of the Master, 680 Northfield Road, Bedford. \*\* "Triune" = Triune Lutheran Church 4810 W. Mill Road, Broadview Hts. \*

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant presents  
**PALM SATURDAY CHILDREN'S EVENT Saturday, April 8, 9:30 a.m.**

for Children ages 3 through 8th grade. This event for children will be held at The Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Road, Maple Hts., OH 44137, 216-662-0370 CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net

Holy Week and Easter are the heart of the church year.

Palm Saturday prepares children for the whole range of the church's experience from Palm Sunday through Easter. The day will include storytelling, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

(Space is limited to the first 40 children that enroll, so please register early!)

**Registration:**

Children's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/  
Chaperone's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the church office by Thursday, April 6 so that Covenant will have adequate supplies for the activities on Saturday, April 8.

Lunch will be provided (Sub sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverage).



Don't forget to  
 "SPRING FORWARD"  
 and set your clocks ahead one hour on the morning of Sunday, March 12. You won't want to miss the Eucharist service for the Second Sunday in Lent!

## Blessed Birthday

### Wishes to...

A blessed birthday to each of the following Covenant members born in

**March:**

- 3/2 Claudia Senderak, Alexandra King
- 3/4 Scott Spychola
- 3/5 Maren Dickey
- 3/11 Harry Werner
- 3/16 Deena Gaglione-Hernandez
- 3/19 Christopher Gaglione
- 3/24 Daralynn Constant, Avery Lockmiller
- 3/30 Toni Ridgell
- 3/31 Vanessa Besednjak



**April:**

- 4/2 James Gradert
- 4/5 Bruce Constant
- 4/7 Dorothy Devorak, Gary Edler
- 4/10 Jackie Blogna, Ted Lockmiller
- 4/20 Bob Franz, Tom Susaneck
- 4/22 Helene Egley (100!!), Annie Copeland
- 4/27 Charlotte Zaranka
- 4/28 Marion Lick

## Happy Anniversary

### Wishes to...

- 3/12 Christy & Mark Hambleton
- 4/9 Deb & Chuck Dickey
- 4/15 Sheila & Harry Werner



# *Covenant* NEWS

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

**Help the Church avoid additional postal fees; please notify us of your address change.**

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter online instead, contact [covenantlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:covenantlc@sbcglobal.net).

The newsletters are always available our website [CovenantMapleHts.org](http://CovenantMapleHts.org).

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
proudly presents its annual

## *Palm Saturday Children's Event*

**Saturday, April 8, 9:30 am**

The Palm Sunday Festival is free & open to all children of the community along with their parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents & friends, who are welcome to assist the children with crafts & activities.

**All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.**

**See page 4 for registration form.**

**Covenant Lutheran Women  
Annual Plant Sale:  
Orders must be placed  
with payment by April 24.  
Pick-up is scheduled for  
Saturday, May 20  
from 9AM-Noon.**



Full details on page 2.

