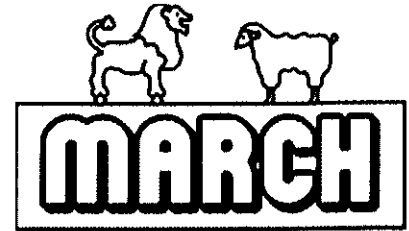


WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm w/Communion
Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday at 8:00am & 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10:30am)
9:15am Sundays - Family Bible Hour for ALL ages



MARCH 2017

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

No. 3

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ e-mail olscsheboygan@gmail.com ♦ olscsheboygan.com

Dear Saints of Our Savior's:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

With the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1, our public and private worship practices turn to ways we can focus on how Jesus redeemed us through His suffering and death. We sorrow over our sin that sent our Savior to the cross, but we also rejoice that through His death we may receive eternal life.

To that end, during this Lenten season I will be making time in my schedule to be available to you for Individual Confession and Absolution in my office on Thursdays from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Although as a Lutheran church we have always had the opportunity to confess our sins to one another, by offering posted hours for Individual Confession and Absolution with the pastor using the rite in our hymnal (LSB pp. 292-293), we are expressing commitment to the importance of using this means of distributing God's forgiveness. The penitential season of Lent offers the logical time for this schedule.

Our forefathers said in the official confessions of faith of the Lutheran Church: "Since Absolution or the Power of the Keys is also an aid and consolation against sin and a bad conscience, ordained by Christ himself in the gospel, Confession or Absolution ought by no means to be abolished in the Church." (Smalcald Articles Part III, Art. VIII). Martin Luther wrote in the Large Catechism regarding Individual Confession and Absolution: "Christ himself entrusted absolution to his Church and commanded us to absolve one another from sins. So if there is a heart

that feels its sin and desires consolation, it has here a sure refuge when it hears in God's Word that through a fellow human being, God absolves a person from sin."

Where's the power in it?

Confession and absolution are part of what the Lutheran church calls "The Use of the Keys." The Small Catechism says, "The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners but refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent." Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). Also, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:22-23).

Individual Confession and Absolution is the personal reception of forgiveness of sins from God, given through the pastor or a fellow Christian. Christ comes to us through means: the Holy Scriptures, Baptism, and Holy Communion. Through individual confession and absolution, He also comes to speak a word of forgiveness.

What happens in private confession and absolution?

Very simply, you go to the pastor, confess your sins and receive individual forgiveness. You need not mention any specific sin, although you are welcome to confess sins that trouble your conscience. The pastor doesn't probe into your life or try to make you

feel guilty. It's not a counseling session. You simply confess sin, using the rite in the hymnal. Then you receive full forgiveness from God through the pastor who says, "In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins...Go in peace."

Do I really need Confession and Absolution?

Before we think there's no need for confession and absolution today, we have only to look at our society to see that acts of confession and contrition are very prevalent and even popular on TV and in social media. But what is missing is the absolution that only Christ can give.

We are not forced to go to confession any more than we are browbeaten to be baptized or go to Holy Communion. However, individual confession and absolution fulfills the very essence of the gospel: "Your sins are forgiven!" Christ died for *you*. This is an individualized word to you from the pastor or fellow Christian, acting in the stead of Christ. Our Lutheran Confessions say, "It is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God's stead and by God's command. We are told that God requires faith to believe such absolution as God's own voice heard from heaven, and are assured that such faith truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins" (Augsburg Confession XXV 3,4).

Must I "tell all"?

No, you don't need to confess any specific sins. Of course, you may want to do so. There is great spiritual and psychological benefit in baring your soul. King David writes about his experience in Psalm 32. Sometimes a person cannot find real peace and assurance of God's forgiveness without full disclosure of what is troubling him or her. The pastor, of course, is under the "confessional seal" and is bound to confidentiality. He must not share with others what has been confessed to and forgiven by Christ.

There may be other ways you will take time to focus on Christ and his forgiveness this Lenten season such as attending our special Thursday Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer services under the theme "Repent and turn to Jesus." In any case, may the word go out: "Our Savior's offers the fullness of

God's grace, love, and forgiveness through Word and Sacraments at many times and in many ways!"

The Lord be with you!

Pr. Schulz +

Brat Fry

CEP STUDENTS & PARENTS

DATE: Sunday, March 12, 2017

TIME: 11:00am-2:00pm

The annual CEP Brat Fry is fast approaching on March 12th. Can't you smell the aroma of the brats, steaks and chicken breasts? Doesn't it make your mouth water? We hope that you will make plans to join us for this Brat Fry.

This Brat Fry is supports the Christian Education Program at Our Savior's.

Many thanks to the CEP students and parents for volunteering their time to make this a success.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Sunday, March 12th is the annual CEP Brat Fry and we need your donations of baked goods. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the small table to sign up. Please sign up by Sunday, March 5th, so we know how many baked goods to expect and can make other arrangements if necessary. There is NO need to prepackage or even precut your baked goods. We will take care of that. Baked goods may be dropped off at the church on Friday, March 10th from 9-noon in the office or 4:00-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. You may also drop them off prior to 11:00am on Sunday, March 12th. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT of the CEP BRAT FRY!**

Communion at every Sunday service

Acting on the results from the "Ready for the Future" interim ministry feedback that was approved by the voters at their meeting on January 15th, beginning in Lent we will offer Holy Communion at every Sunday service. (We already offer Holy Communion on every Feast Day service, and every Thursday evening service, which is the same service as the following Sunday services.) There are two main reasons for offering Holy Communion at every Sunday service.

First: Holy Communion delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation. Through Holy Communion the Holy Spirit strengthens faith because we eat and drink the true body and blood of our Savior and therefore also what he promises based on what he did for us by his body and blood. Because we recognize how dangerous and damnable sin is in our lives, we offer this unique and precious means of grace.

Second: Holy Communion unites us in Christ's forgiveness. St. Paul said, "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." Many people feel alone in this world. Holy Communion brings us together as the Body of Christ in a way that transcends time and space. Think of it: "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You...." With those words, which are spoken before receiving Holy Communion, we affirm that Holy Communion is a very special way of uniting us with Christ, with one another, and with believers throughout the world and throughout the ages. It's a foretaste of heaven here on earth. Being united to each other as the Body of Christ through the body and blood of Christ is a vital means for unifying us in our mission and ministry.

We don't have to offer - or receive - Holy Communion every Sunday service. We could offer it once or twice a year as was the practice in many Lutheran Churches in the past. However, following the practice of the early Church and the Lutheran Church for centuries after the Reformation, we want to offer at every main and Feast Day divine service the meal in which Jesus gives his living and life-giving body and blood. Our prayer is that our members see its value and commune often as well. It is pure gospel.

Other questions come to mind about offering Holy Communion at every Sunday service. They address practical issues so that the *way* we receive Holy Communion doesn't distract us from *what* we receive in Holy Communion.

Isn't this going to make the service longer? Our aim is to keep the service to around one hour. Considering the purpose of each part of the service, which could be categorized as "Gather" "Word" "Meal" and "Send," we strive to celebrate the sacrament in a timely, but not rushed, way in balance with the other parts of the service. So that the distribution of the elements does not become a distraction because of the length of time it may take, we may use "continuous Communion" distribution when there are many worshipers. Considering that most movies run nearly 2 hours, God's Elect don't mind if the service runs between 60-70 minutes. Use the waiting time during distribution to pray. We are in the presence of the living God!

Isn't it more work to set up and clean up afterwards? The divine service is the source and summit of our life in Christ. What an important way to serve our Lord and each other by preparing the gifts of God for the people of God! By offering Holy Communion more often, we are giving another opportunity for our members to serve. Consider helping with the altar guild, the group in charge of Communion set up and take down. Volunteer with your young children, so that they can learn more about the meaningfulness of Holy Communion. (It should go without saying that the additional cost for the elements is negligible).

Won't we take Communion for granted if we offer it more often? It is true that we sinful human beings tend to take good things for granted. When it comes to Holy Communion the answer is not to withhold the Sacrament as if "absence makes the heart grow fonder" is a proof passage from the Bible (it isn't). The solution is to regularly emphasize what Holy Communion is and offers. Take a look at "Christian Questions and Their Answers" from the Small Catechism on p. 329 ff. in the hymnal. Note question 20 and its answer. It reflects what Martin Luther once said, "If you knew how many fiery darts the devil was shooting at you, you'd run to the Sacrament of the Altar every chance

you got!" An early church father once described Holy Communion as the "medicine of immortality." Through Holy Communion the Great Physician preserves us in body and soul until we inherit eternal life!

Does this mean churches that don't offer Communion every Sunday are wrong? No. Not at all. Because God does not command an exact number of times to offer Holy Communion, there is no right or wrong about how often Communion is offered.

What about visitors? In general the unchurched are respectful of the practice of Closed Communion. Just as new guests at your home wouldn't think to open your refrigerator and help themselves to some food without asking, so unchurched visitors usually ask to learn about Holy Communion before receiving it. If you invite guests to worship and are concerned about leaving them in the pew while you receive Holy Communion, you might choose to remain in the pew with them instead of receiving Holy Communion. No one is forced to take Holy Communion just because it is offered. If a member would like Holy Communion privately later, the pastor is happy to offer it at a convenient time.

What is "Closed Communion"? We are a sacramental church. We believe that through Holy Communion God comes to us with forgiveness using tangible means. Because the gospel has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in his Supper and that receiving the Sacrament together unifies us in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We want to make sure those who commune with us understand what is being offered and what is being confessed in Holy Communion. We don't want to be presumptuous and put guests in the position of stating their agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. So Communion is "closed" to those who do not know or are in public disagreement with our confession of faith until there is a mutual understanding and agreement with what Communion is and what our church confesses.

Free Movie Night at Our Savior's

Mark your calendars! March 25th at 6 PM we will be showing "God is Not Dead 2" in the church fellowship hall. It has some of the same characters from the first movie, but an entirely different situation. A teacher is caught up in a legal battle that may threaten her ability to teach. Ms. Wesley is a dedicated beloved teacher with a strong faith. So when a student is hurting after the death of her brother, she reaches out to her teacher at a coffee shop. The student wanted to know how Ms. Wesley overcomes difficult situations in life. The conversation leads Grace to sharing the hope she finds in Christ. When the student asks a question about Jesus in the classroom, Ms. Wesley's reasoned response lands her in trouble with the ACLU. The trial offers answers to many questions that a Christian encounters during their faith life. Please plan to attend. The movie is rated PG and got 4.5 out of 5 stars on Fandango. Popcorn and soda will also be provided at no cost. The event is sponsored by the Social Activity Group. If you would like additional information, please contact Clara Murphy.

Have you missed a service due to illness or other emergency?

We do have CDs available of our Sunday morning 8 A.M. service.

Call Kory at the church office and she will mail you a CD of any of those early services. We will also have CDs available of the Ash Wednesday and special Lenten services such as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Pastoral Acts:

Funerals:

Mr. Victor Guenther
Age: 67
Died: February 9, 2017
Laid to Rest: February 15, 2017

Mrs. Glendoris Hofschield
Age: 91
Died: February 11, 2017
Laid to Rest: February 16, 2017

Parish Nurse News

Dear Friends in Christ:

One out of three adults have prediabetes. The good news is that a healthy diet and exercise can cut the risk of diabetes in half.

Diabetes strikes every part of the body.

Eyes: Diabetes can cause blurry vision, spots or other symptoms, and can lead to blindness.

Brain: People with diabetes are more likely diagnosed with dementia.

Heart & Brain: Risk of heart attack or stroke is two to four times higher in people with diabetes.

Kidney: Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure and can lead to the need for dialysis.

Nerves: Estimated six out of ten people have nerve damage that can cause numbness, burning, tingling and pain in the feet and hands (diabetic neuropathy).

Feet: Diabetes causes about 60% of foot and leg amputations that are not caused by accidents.

We all know about healthy diets but to review: fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins, yogurt (not overall dairy), decrease in sugar drinks, unhealthy carbs, and of course, the need to exercise.

God's blessings in all.

Prayfully submitted,

Deb

BP Sunday, March 5th

Office Hours

Mondays 9:00-11:00am

Thursdays 3:45-5:50pm

Memorial Gifts:

\$550 in memory of Rose Hurley

Mary Martha Report

Pastor Schulz opened our meeting with a devotion and a prayer. A short business meeting was held.

Captain Cory Roetheler from the Sheboygan Sherriff Department gave a very interesting and informative talk on "Senior Safe" dealing with the different types of scams, and how to avoid them. He gave some real life examples of people caught in a scam. He then fielded questions from the members.

Coffee and dessert were served. Then the meeting was adjourned.

Committee member

Rummage Sale, 2017

Please start accumulating your items for the rummage sale planned for October. I spoke to our janitor, David Kaboord, and he said we could start bringing things to church after Sunday School has ended in May. We will be using a different room in the fellowship hall this year, so please look for the poster on the door indicating the new location.

Many folks have asked us what the money is going to be used for this year. The funds have not been designated for any particular project at this time. We would like to make that decision at the October Voters' Meeting. Ideas of where it can be used will be welcomed and presented at that time. We look forward to working with you again and hope to see many more new faces along with the experienced rummage sale helpers. It is a wonderful way to meet folks within the congregation. Thanks in advance for your help and for your donations. Please feel free to contact Mike Feudner or Clara Murphy if you have any questions or ideas for this year's rummage sale.



Midweek Lenten
Morning/Evening Prayer
with Holy Communion
Thursdays, 10a and 6p

Join us for special midweek opportunities to worship during the season of Lent. Guest pastors from sister congregations in the Sheboygan area will lead us in worship under the theme: "Repent: Turn to Jesus"

Ash Wednesday—March 1
"Turn to Jesus and not Yourself"
Pastor Schulz

March 8
"He Changes Your Life"
Pastor Wayne King - St. Mark, Belgium

March 15
"Do Not Turn Away"
Pastor Schulz

March 22
"He Holds the Keys to Heaven"
Pastor Christian Gugel - Good Shepherd, Sheboygan

March 29
"He Longs to Forgive You"
Pastor James Hartman - Bethlehem, Sheboygan

April 5
"When You Face Temptation"
Pastor Schulz

HighLites

"Preparing Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time"

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2017

Sheboygan Lutheran High's cool!

Enrollment is in full swing at LHS. The freshman class is accumulating, students are shadowing with others for a day, and parents are making important decisions regarding their children's education.

Lutheran High has many measurable markers to attest to what makes our Christ-centered, liberal arts education equal its value. Not only do we offer Christian Leadership as a class, but LHS students have better than average ACT scores, obtain more scholarship dollars for college as a class than other area schools, and have 92% of our graduates going on to 2 or 4-year colleges and universities.

A few facts about achievement and college readiness: In 2016, the State of Wisconsin moved to testing 100% of high school juniors with the ACT as the new standard for achievement. Previously it was optional to take the ACT so rather than 47,000 students taking the test, now more than 66,000 juniors statewide are taking the test. As a result, the Wisconsin state average has decreased from a 22.2 on a 5-year average, to 20.5 for a Composite score. While the majority of LHS juniors took the test in the past, our average has remained fairly constant, rather than dropping, even now as we test 100% of our juniors. LHS continues to score above the state average, and we project to hold our same 2-point positive differential into the future at 23.78 for a 5-year average.

College readiness is also ranked by ACT with benchmark scores for designated college courses in English, College Algebra, Social Science, and Biology. Students attending Lutheran High show that they are very prepared for college-level work, scoring 20% higher than the state average benchmark. Thank you to all of our LHS Faculty for helping to prepare our students. That intentional instruction and guidance is what makes four years at LHS absolutely worth it!

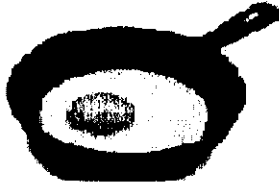
LHS is now working with Concordia University Wisconsin and UW-Oshkosh to make Dual-credit and CAPP courses available to earn college credit. LHS is also involved in Lakeshore Health Careers Academy and Youth Apprenticeships. We are proud to offer these courses to expand our offering to students.

So register now! We'll share the faith, encourage your children to be learners and leaders for life, and challenge them to make the most of their educational opportunities here. We'll encourage them to use their God-given talents and gifts. They can excel in literature, history, math, and science - even while being involved in athletics, fine arts, and volunteer work. Let our faculty enhance your child's high school experience. It's worth it.

In Christ,
Paul W. Gnan, Executive Director



Senior Citizens Bible Breakfast



is served!

Senior Citizens are invited to our monthly Bible Breakfast led by LHS Executive Director, Paul Gnan.

Join us in the LHS Commons for a hot breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by a Bible study, discussion, and fellowship.

The spring breakfast dates are Tues., March 21 & Tues., April 18.

Let us know you will be there by calling LHS at 920-452-3323.

Lutheran High Student Leaders of the Month

have been chosen based on their service, behavior, leadership, attitude, & academic achievements.

Senior - Sam Leibham

Trinity Lutheran-Downtown Sheboygan

Junior - Logan Zabel

Bethlehem Lutheran - Sheboygan

Sophomore - Emma Egbert

St. John Catholic - Kohler

Freshman - Emma Schmideler

Evangelical Free - Sheboygan

Lutheran High's Spring Musical and Student Art Fair Weekend

Save the date for:

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

THE
KING
AND I

Public Performances
Friday, April 28 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 29 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m.

Join us at the Annual Dinner Auction

Friday, April 7 - Preview Night

Live entertainment by the Good Hope Road Praise Band, preview of auction items and cash bar available.

Saturday, April 8 - Auction and Dinner

Silent & Live auctions, dinner buffet, and fellowship.

Early reservations are \$68 per person before March 29.

Donations greatly appreciated

Donate sporting event tickets, theme baskets, gift certificates, or even cash toward the purchase of an item for the auction and your donation can be tax deductible. If you have any questions or would like to donate, please call the Lutheran High office at 920-452-3323.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – 452-4005 – oslcsheboygan@gmail.com – oslcsheboygan.com

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday 10:00am Ash Wednesday Service 3:30pm CEP 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 NO THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00-9:30am Individual Confession & Absolution 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse		
5 7:30-10:30 Blood Pressure Screening 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship	6 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Class 6:30pm Board Meetings	7 1:00pm Mary Martha	8 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	9 9:00-9:30am Individual Confession & Absolution 10:00am Lenten Worship 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Lenten Worship	10	11
12 CEP Brat Fry 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship 11:30am-2:00pm CEP Brat Fry	13 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Class 6:30pm Council	14	15 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	16 9:00-9:30am Individual Confession & Absolution 10:00am Lenten Worship 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Lenten Worship	17	18
19 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship	20 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Class 6:00pm Sheboygan Police Neighborhood Meeting	21	22 3:30pm CEP 5:00pm Youth Night 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	23 9:00-9:30am Individual Confession & Absolution 10:00am Lenten Worship 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Lenten Worship	24	25 6:00pm Movie Night
26 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship	27 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Class	28	29 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir NO CEP	30 9:00-9:30am Individual Confession & Absolution 10:00am Lenten Worship 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Lenten Worship	31	Notes: