



Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Friedheim
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Mr. Andrew Gavrun, Principal
Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School
Mrs. Jody Paschal, Director of Music
Mrs. Wava Lichtle, Parish Nurse
Mr. Brian Horning, Director of Youth & Family Life
Mrs. Tina Geels, Church & Parish Hall Custodian

“By grace you have been saved ... [as a] gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). All are welcome here! Let us worship together. We praise and thank you, God, for richly blessing us. Open our hearts to you, and to one another.

If you are visiting us today, we ask that you complete a Visitor Registration slip (yellow form) found at the end of each pew. You may place the visitor registration form in the offering plate or give it to one of the Deacons as you leave the worship service this morning. Please come back and worship with us again soon.

Large print (sight saver) bulletins are available. Just ask an usher!

Lent 4

March 11, 2018

The Order of Service

Service of Prayer & Preaching, LSB Page 260

The Hymns

LSB #571; TLH #345 (insert); #918

The Theme of the Day

Lent is a Time of Believing

Numbers 21:4-9

Healing comes by looking in faith

Ephesians 2:4-10

Sinners are saved by grace through faith

John 3:14-21

Eternal life comes by faith in Christ

The Sermon

“The Way of the Cross calls for faith in Christ
who hangs on a Cross” – John 3:14-21

The Acolyte

Lucy Lichtle

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

We send best wishes and God's richest blessings to all of our members who are celebrating birthdays this week—Amy Arriaga, Nancy Kaehr, Greg Wurm, Tammy Dahling, David Krueckeberg, Dirk Stoppenhagen, Brenna Scheumann, and Jim Wilkinson.



We rejoice with Jake & Nicole Stoppenhagen, Mark & Kay Jackson, and Kevin & Dawn Linnemeier who are celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. May our loving Father continue to guide and bless them through life's joys and challenges.

May the Great Physician give peace, good health, and strength to all who are in need of His healing hand. We especially remember in our prayers Marlin Keidel, Rae Fuhrmann, Marlene Duffey (Rosie Bultemeier's sister), Tom Bauermeister, Becky Adams (Shelly Kiefer's cousin), Deb Cunkle (Evie Fuhrman's niece), Pearl Littig (Michelle Knipstein's mother), Nancy Gardner (Keith's mother), Nora Rauner (Michelle Scheumann's mother), and Cathy Terhune (Sherril Bradtmueller's daughter).



We remember our Wyneken Remedial/Resource teacher, Becky Klenke; Sarah Rhymer who is at Adams Central; and Stan Stoppenhagen and Jacob Baumann, our 5th and 6th grade Sunday School teachers. May the Lord guide, direct, and bless them.

We remember those who are presently serving our country (active duty or in the Guard)—Jason Putteet, Alan Bergdall, Derek Schultz, Jacob Stoppenhagen, Jordon Head (Keith & Mitzi Gardner's son-in-law and Maddy & George's brother-in-law), Jacob Lee, Sam Conrad (Germany), Chandler Bultemeier (Waldo & Rosie Bultemeier's grandson), Daniel Conrad who is in Kuwait (friend of the Drier's), and Chad Hall (Doris Conrad's son-in-law). May the Lord protect and guide them in their missions.



We welcome the Piotrowski children—Abel Leroy Kenneth, Jackson Bert, Molly Kristine, and Demi Lee Ann—into church membership through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The children were baptized last Monday evening with Lisa Lee and Jacob Lee serving as sponsors. Their parents are Bert & Tia (Lee) Piotrowski. We pray that the Good Shepherd will keep an ever-watchful eye on these most precious of His lambs.

You will find our weekly "Time in the Word" study guide, Lent is a Time of Sacrifice, in today's bulletin.

Please come to our midweek worship service this Wednesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. The focus at this Wednesday service is the fifth verse of the 23rd Psalm – The Good Shepherd sets the table.

Would you rather attend services during the day? If so, you are welcome to attend chapel services with the students at Wyneken. Services are at 1 p.m. at Bingen and will last approximately one-half hour.

If you are coming to the evening service, consider having supper in the Parish Hall. It might make the evening a little less hectic. Serving begins at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come; enjoy a variety of soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts as well as Christian fellowship.



Worship Anew is on Sunday mornings at 7 a.m. on 21.2 and at 8 a.m. on Frontier 9 or channel 21.3. The show also airs on Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m. on Comcast 252 and at 4 p.m. on Sundays and 10 a.m. on Mondays on Comcast 55 or Frontier 25. "When Snakebit, Do What?" is the title of Rev. William Mueller's sermon based on Numbers 21:4-9. Numbers 21 records a rather unsavory episode from God's Old Testament people. They grumble and complain – yet again! In order to refine their faith, and to point the way to the ultimate Savior, God sends fiery serpents among them. Their method of salvation is much the same as the method of our salvation. Look to the cross! Look to Christ! For up-to-date information, check out their website at www.WorshipAnew.org. You can also watch this program on line or receive it by DVD's.

Can't make it to church? Listen to WZBD (92.7 FM), tuning in at 9:05 a.m. to hear our service live. You can also listen to the broadcast over the Internet by logging on to our website (www.zionfriedheim.org) and "Click here to listen to Zion's worship service on Sundays ..."

The Monday evening class meets tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Area. We will be going over the lessons for the following week. Bring along your copy of Time in the Word. This discussion will help shape Sunday's sermon. See you then!

Early-bird Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 6 a.m. in Bingen's Fellowship Hall.



Greeters are needed for the remainder of 2018. Sign up on the sheet in the south entranceway!!

Need a Thrivent T-shirt? There are extras in the Gathering Area in various sizes. Take one home with you today.

This week's secret code is NKKLK7. Go to www.games.childrensbulletins.com, enter the secret code, and access online games that reinforce this week's message.



Board of Stewardship's Food for Thought – Just as God brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea to new life in the Promised Land, so He brings us out of bondage to sin through the waters of Baptism to new life that lasts through eternity in Heaven. And just as the Israelites brought their firstfruits offerings, we respond to God's grace with our offerings. We “place [our] basket[s] before the Lord [our] God and bow down before Him” (Deuteronomy 26:10 NIV). God requires more than our offerings; He requires our obedience and our worship. He commands that we “bow down before Him.”

On Friday, March 23, there is a need for 12 volunteers to help with the student-packing event. There are three shifts on Friday. If you can only work for a portion of the day, that would be helpful. Just a reminder that those working with the students on Friday need to complete a Limited Criminal Background Check. This form needs to be completed and returned to Wyneken no later than March 15. Forms are available in the school office. On Saturday, March 24, help will be needed to pack the meals. There will be two shifts – in the morning from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. We need 100 people per shift. So, your help is definitely needed! In addition to the two shifts, seven volunteers are needed in the kitchen and for the sign-in table and other tasks. Please contact Pastor Dahling or Dawn Buuck if you can help with any of these tasks. Come as a family—mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, and kids—as there is a job for about any age. Want to volunteer to work a shift? Go to zionfdhm.pahunger@gmail.com, and indicate the shift you wish to work, as well as your name and the names of others working with you and the best way to contact you if there is a need to get back with you. You may also contact Dawn Buuck (724-7952) as she is coordinating the volunteer schedule.



The LWML Thursday morning Bible class is this Thursday, March 15, at the home of Bonnie Buuck.

Come to today's Soup and Sandwich Luncheon. Serving is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wyneken with carry-out available. There's also a craft and bake sale. Funds raised will go towards the Wyneken Endowment.

Browse and borrow anything that interests you in Roz's Reading Room and then return the book in the basket by the smaller shelf. (Place donations there too.)



All youth (grades 6-12) and their families are invited to an afternoon of fun and fellowship today. The group is heading to SportONE Ice House in Ft. Wayne for ice skating, broomball, and a bounce house. The group will carpool, leaving Wyneken at 12:20 p.m. Adult drivers are needed. The cost is only \$5. Please RSVP to Brian Horning at 301-1496.

The High School Youth will meet at Bingen at 6:30 p.m. tonight. Hope you can make it!

Meals of Grace coordinators are needed for 2018. Sign up in the entryway!

Your help would be much appreciated. Our youth will be preparing the Easter breakfast again this year (April 1); however, once again it falls during Spring Break and many of our youth will not be available to help. If you are willing to lend a hand with the breakfast, please contact Michelle Scheumann (705-4520).



In addition, there is a need for orange juice, milk, and breakfast rolls. Call Michelle if you can donate any of these items. Thank you in advance!

The Seasoned Walther Leaguers invite you to join them for cards and fellowship this Tuesday, March 13. Come to the Gathering Area at 12:30 p.m. and bring a snack to share!



The Trustees have set the date for Spring Cleaning! It's Saturday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Please bring rakes, buckets, wheelbarrows, gloves, or anything you feel would help with the clean-up process. The more hands, the quicker the job will be completed.

Lutheran Men of Song – We're not the Marines, but The Lutheran Men of Song are looking for a few good men who enjoy singing. We have openings for tenors, baritones, and basses. We practice on the 4th Sunday at 6:30 p.m. of every month at Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School. Please contact Tim Mueller at (260)438-1149 for information about Lutheran Men of Song, practice room location, and to let him know that you'll attend.

If you didn't order flowers for our Easter garden through the Decorating Committee and are planning on bringing them to church yourself, please have the flowers to church no later than 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 31. If you want to drop them off before Saturday, please put them in the church basement. If you want a note in the bulletin, you need to contact the church office by Monday, March 26.

Don't forget to direct your 2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31. If not directed by then, they will be lost.

The Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School and Church Annual Live & Silent Auction takes place Saturday, March 17, at the Allen County Fairgrounds. Join them for an evening of fellowship! Praise music provided by Redeemed. Silent auction will begin when the doors open at 6 p.m. Live auction will begin at approximately 7 p.m. ADULTS ONLY! (Must be 21 years-old to attend). No admission cost! Complimentary popcorn and desserts. Nacho bar and drinks available for purchase. Auction profits will go towards purchasing educational supplies and equipment for their school along with furnishings and equipment for the new classrooms! If you have any questions please contact Angie at 710-5558 or Carrie at 760-7358. You can find them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/BulldogAuction. Items to be auctioned off will be posted on Facebook between now and the auction.

Join other men in Christian fellowship on April 6-8 at Lakeview Villages in Seymour, IN as we explore the topic of "Woman and Man According to God's Plan" with Dr. Joel Biermann. Get away and enjoy God's great creation, eat like a king at our hog roast and fish fry and join in the Medieval Challenge, Archery Tag, and much more. Visit www.mensgathering.us for info and registration.

Cross Connections and St. John's Lutheran Church in Columbia City (2465 W. Keiser Rd.) invite you to a free presentation on "Understanding Depression and How to Help Those Going Through It." The presentation is on Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in their Fellowship hall. The guest speaker is Megan Beeching, a counselor at Cross Connections. To register call St. John's at 260-244-3712 or email deaconessintern.stjohns@gmail.com by March 10. A light breakfast will be provided. (See the flier on the bulletin boards for more information.)

St. John's Bingen invites you to their All-You-Can-Eat Fish and Tenderloin Dinner on Sunday, March 18. Serving is from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wyneken with carry out available. Dan's of Huntington is preparing the fish and tenderloin. Cost is \$9.50 for adults, \$5.50 for children (6-12), and free for those five and under. All proceeds will go to the Family Assistance Fund.

The Poe Volunteer Fire Department will have their Pancake and Sausage on Palm Sunday, March 25, with serving from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thrivent Community – Greater Hoagland is helping The Lighthouse, A Biblical Life Recovery Center in Ft. Wayne, get some needed items. The Lighthouse is a men's rehabilitation and discipleship program designed to begin healing the devastating destruction caused by a struggle with life-altering addictions. You can learn more about this ministry

through their website, www.biblicalliferecoverycenter.com. What's on the wish list? They are in need of stamps, toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, and shampoo. There is a tote in the Gathering Area from now through March 14. You can drop your items off at their office in Hoagland from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday – Friday).

Check out the flier in today's bulletin regarding Bingen's Potluck and Trivia Night on Friday, April 6, at 6 p.m. All are invited!

The Junior Cadets Basketball program (JCB) set for April has been suspended for the time being. As you have probably heard, Head Coach Austin Thoms resigned at the end of the basketball season. We hope to run the program again in the future so please watch for more information. Thank you for your interest in Cadet basketball. Don't forget, we are running a Summer Basketball Camp this year. Please visit www.clhscadets.com/summer for more information. If you have any questions, please contact our Athletics Office at (260) 969-6868.

Wyneken News

Just a reminder, volunteers who will be coming in on Friday, March 23, to help with Pack Away Hunger must have a Limited Criminal Background Check completed by March 15. These forms are available in the school office. Thank you for your help with this matter.

As you prepare for spring (and spring break), get your SCRIP from Michelle Knipstein (260-413-6249 or e-mail her at mmknipstein03@hotmail.com) this morning. You can also purchase SCRIP (limited availability) in the school office from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. while school is in session. There are SCRIP order forms at Wyneken's website, www.wyneken.org.

IREAD – 3 Testing for students in third grade is March 13-17. Parents, please do not schedule appointments or vacation days during these testing dates. THANK YOU!

The PTL is raising funds to purchase 30 new iPads, with a case for each iPad and a cart to house them. To fully fund this project \$11,200 is needed. How can you help? On the wall at school, 200 empty envelopes have been placed on the wall (will various dollar amounts put on each envelope). Take an envelope off the wall that corresponds to the amount you wish to donate, put that amount in the envelope, and turn it into the drop box or school office. Cash, check, and credit card are accepted. Thanks for your support of this project!

As of February 28, the Pre-K morning class is full. Any further enrollments in Pre-K will be placed in the afternoon class (12:15 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.). If you haven't sent in your enrollment forms for next year, please do so as soon as possible. They were due back March 2.

The 2018-19 school calendar has been updated and approved and can be found on the school's website (www.wyneken.org).

Sports

Girls' soccer practices can begin this week.

Spring soccer practice at Bellmont Middle School begins tomorrow from 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. for boys in grades 6-8. There is a flier in the school office if you need more information.

The wrestling season has ended. Results from the Ed LeBeau Concordia Open are as follows: PW01 – Carsten Hudson – 1st place; PW02 – Tristen Wurm – 3rd place; PW03 – George Gardner – 2nd place; SR05 – Chase Cornett – 1st place and Noah Short – 6th place; SR11 – Lukas Bobay – 4th place. Results from yesterday's LSAA tourney will be in next week's bulletin.

Attendance: Sunday Worship Service – 195 with 108 receiving Holy Communion; Sunday School – 44; Adult Bible Class - 9; Monday Evening Bible Class - 7; Early-bird Bible Class – 14; Midweek Worship – 102



Offerings – through March 7

Home Purpose – \$6,225.26
Missions (3-4) – \$666; Missions (3-7) – \$336.75
Door Collection - \$67 – International Missions/Worship Anew

THIS WEEK AT FRIEDHEIM

Today: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Soup & Sandwich – Wyneken
12:20 p.m. All Youth – Ice Skating (meet at Wyneken)
6:30 p.m. HS Oasis – Bingen

Monday: 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Class

Tuesday: 6:00 a.m. Early-bird Bible Class
9:00 a.m. Morning Glories
12:30 p.m. Seasoned Walther Leaguers

Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Immanuel House Open
6:00 p.m. Supper – Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship (choir follows)

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. LWML Bible Class – Bonnie Buuck
11:00 a.m. Chapel at Adams Heritage

Friday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Immanuel House Open

NEXT WEEK AT FRIEDHEIM

March 18 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
6:30 p.m. HS Oasis Youth – Bingen

March 19 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Class

March 20 6:00 a.m. Early-bird Bible Class
9:00 a.m. Morning Glories

March 21 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Immanuel House Open
6:00 p.m. Supper – Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship (choir follows)

March 22 9:00 a.m. LWML Bible Class

March 23 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Immanuel House Open
Pack Away Hunger - Wyneken

March 24 Pack Away Hunger - Wyneken

The Readings – Lent is a Time of Believing

Numbers 21:4-9 – Healing comes by looking in faith – From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 2:4-10 – Sinners are saved by grace through faith –But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

John 3:14-21 – Eternal life comes by faith in Christ – And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. [Jesus said:] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Turn to the Responsory found on page 263.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul – TLH 345

1. Jesus, Lover of my soul Let me to Thy bosom fly
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!
2. Other refuge I have none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

3. Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer?
Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall; Lo, on Thee I cast my care;
Reach me out Thy gracious hand!
While I of Thy strength receive,
Hoping against hope, I stand, Dying, and, behold, I live!
4. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind,
Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.
5. Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within,
Thou of life the Fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Tune: Simeon D. Marsh, 1884; Text and Tune: Public domain
Per website: <http://www.mmissary.com/database/public2.htm>

175th Anniversary Event

2nd Annual Potluck & Trivia Night

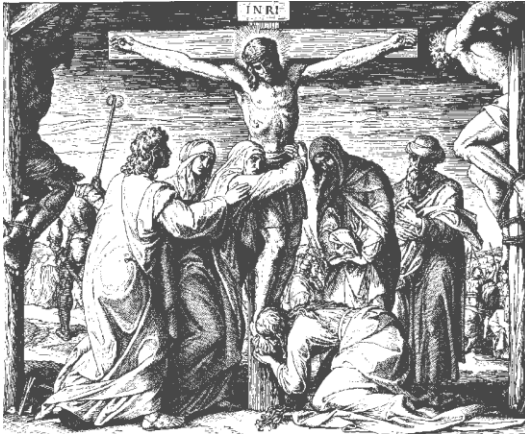
You are invited to a family-friendly Potluck and Trivia Night on Friday, April 6, at 6 p.m. at the Selking Farm (2633 W. 1100 N. Decatur, IN – ½ mile east of Hwy. 27). This event is a fun opportunity for members (and friends!) of Preble, Friedheim, and Bingen to enjoy fellowship, food, and fun. We had wonderful participation last year from all ages and congregations, and we expect the same this year!

- Hog roast, lemonade, water, and table service provided
- Bring your own drinks and a side to share
- All ages are welcome
- 6-8 people are suggested for each trivia team
- Additional entertainment will be offered for children
- Non-trivia participants are also welcome to come and enjoy cards and/or fellowship
- There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be received for the hog roast and trivia tables (proceeds will go toward Bingen's 175th Anniversary in 2020 as this event is sponsored by the 175th Committee)
- Pre-registration is not required, but it would be helpful if a member of your trivia team contacted Pastor Brock (260-301-1640 or pastorbrock@gmail.com) so we make sure to set up enough tables and have enough trivia supplies

**We hope to see you on April 6 at 6 p.m.
This is going to be fun!!**

Time in the Word 12-17 March, 2018

Preparation for next week, The Fifth Sunday in Lent



The theme for the Fifth Sunday in Lent is the fruit of the cross. Formerly, the fifth Sunday in Lent was named, “Passion Sunday.” Though the name has changed, the theme of suffering and sacrifice of Christ is prevalent. The fruits or results of Christ’s passion are given. In the Gospel, Jesus’ upcoming death is an hour of glory for both the Son and the Father. From this suffering, Jesus learns obedience (Epistle lesson). The new covenant, promised in the Old Testament lesson, is fulfilled through the death of the Lamb. Christ’s cross enables God and man to enter a new era of reconciliation. Because of the benefits of the cross, we can glory in it. With the end of Lent approaching, it is good to give consideration to the benefits of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Monday, 12 March 2018—*Psalm 116:1-4, 8; antiphon, Psalm 43:1*—In the antiphon, the psalmist cries out for deliverance from the wickedness that surrounds him. The rest of the Introit praises the LORD for His deliverance. When we are made to bear our crosses in our own lives, we, who are righteous by faith, also cry out for deliverance, and praise the LORD for the deliverance He has given us from our most fearsome enemies: the devil, the world, and our flesh.

Tuesday, 13 March 2018—*Psalm 119:9-16 key verse, verse 10—I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.* As the cross and suffering of Christ loom near us, we need the Lord’s presences in our life now more than at any other time. This Psalm speaks of this need.

Wednesday, 14 March 2018—*Jeremiah 3:31-34*—The cross establishes a new covenant. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God promises to establish a new covenant with His people – a covenant of grace. Through the atoning death of His Son, God has restored His relationship with rebellious mankind. All who trust in the sacrifice of Christ are incorporated into this new covenant (Romans 9:30). It is all God’s work; we can do nothing to earn our place in it.

Thursday, 15 March 2018—*Hebrews 5:1-10*—The cross teaches obedience and earns eternal salvation. Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant. It is by His perfect obedience, by His shedding of blood, by His death that we have received eternal life. He bore the cross, not for Himself, but solely for our benefit.

Here we see the human Jesus praying with tears and cries to avoid the cross. In an allusion to Gethsemane, Jesus’ appeal is denied. Through His suffering and death, Jesus learned obedience to God’s will. By His obedience He was made “perfect;” that is, He completed and fulfilled His God-given mission to die for the salvation of the world.

Friday, 16 March 2018—*Matthew 10: (32-34) 35-45*—The cross bears the fruit of eternal life. But at what price? Jesus clearly tells us, *Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.*

There are many loves we have in this life: family, work, church, country. The list is endless yet, our first love, our first priority must be to the Savior. Anything less is a violation of the First Commandment. The Father will honor the Son as He gave honor and obedience to the will of the Father. In following Christ we must acknowledge Him and follow in His ways. Christ is the one who willingly submitted to the will of His Father. It’s now all about you. Jesus proved this in His obedience and His trudge to the cross.

Saturday, 17 March 2018—The hymn of the Day is *Jesus, I My Cross have Taken*. Jesus willingly bore our sins in His body, and carried them to the cross. We, who have been incorporated into the body of Christ by our baptisms, must also bear crosses in this life. When our hour of trial comes, we beseech the Lord that He would give us the strength gladly to bear whatever cross He would. Luther writes concerning this, in the Large Catechism: *So there is just as great a need, as in all the other petitions, that we pray without ceasing: “Dear Father, Your will be done, not the devil’s will or our enemies’ or anything that would persecute and suppress Your holy Word or hinder Your kingdom. Grant that we may*

bear with patience and overcome whatever is to be endured because of Your Word and kingdom, so that our poor flesh may not yield or fall away because of weakness or sluggishness.”

Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent—*Almighty and everlasting God, who hast willed that Thy Son should bear for us the pains of the cross that Thou mightest remove from us the power of the adversary, help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord’s Passion that we may obtain remission of sins and redemption from everlasting death; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.*

A Prayer for aid against temptation: *O God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. Graciously assist us by Your heavenly aid and evermore shield us with Your protection, that no temptation may separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

A Prayer in times of temptation: *Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily needs, and especially in all time of temptation we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

A Prayer for humility: *O God, You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility after the likeness of Your only Son that we may never be arrogant and prideful and thus provoke Your wrath but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

For blessing on the Word: *Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Sources:

Prayers from *Lutheran Service Book* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Lectionary Preaching Workbook Series B John Brokhoff © 1981 CSS Publishing Lima, OH

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