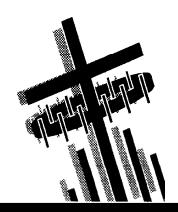
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Comments



324 2nd Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ March 2024

Jesus is the Beginning and the End

Reflections from

the Pastor

Pastor Alec Fisher

It all starts with Jesus, and it all ends with him. Jesus is the beginning and the end.

John begins his gospel account, writing, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5) Jesus is the one who gives this world its start, its very being. He is the source—the source of light, the source of life itself. Without

him, we would be nothing. Yet, John continues, The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not

know him. (John 1:9-10) The world, which was created through him, could not even recognize him.

Jesus' own life and ministry would reveal his true nature to the world, his power and identity as the Son of God through whom all was created. As Jesus enters Jerusalem the crowds come to meet him, because they are amazed at what he has done, specifically that he gives life. John writes, *The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So, the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining*

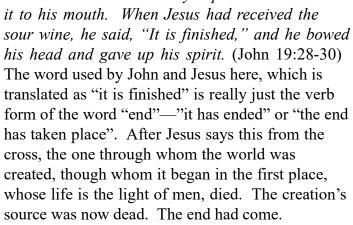
nothing. Look, the world has gone after him." (John 12:17-19)

That Thursday, Jesus would have his Last Supper with his disciples. John writes, Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (John 13:1) While all things began in Jesus, he knew that his own end was near. Still, he continued to love his disciples sharing with them his light and his life until the end would come.

When John records Jesus' death in Jerusalem, he

writes, After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held

It all starts with Jesus, and it all ends with him. In Revelation, which was also written by John, Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the



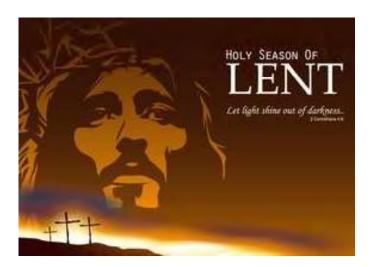
CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:13) Throughout this Lenten Season, we have been focusing on the story of David and talking about what it means to be "after God's own heart". For Holy week our series will change once again. On Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday we will be reading through parts of the Gospel of John, and our focus will be on Jesus revealing God's own heart to us in his death and resurrection not only as one who loves us and dies for us, but as the one through whom all things hold together. This short Holy Week series will be called "The Beginning and the End".

While Jesus' life means life for us, his death is also our death. We're going to talk about what that means for us—what it means for our relationship with God as well as what it means for our relationships with those around us. And, even as we move through the events of Holy Week, we also remember that the crucifixion is not truly the end of the story. Remember that it all starts with Jesus, and it all ends with him. Jesus is the beginning and the end. BUT he is also our *new* beginning. May our lives be caught up in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as he has come to give us his light and bring us new life.

In Christ, **Pastor Alec**





The LWML will meet March 6th in the multi-purpose room at 11:30am (note: this is 30 minutes later than usual) for a

short business meeting, then the group will attend the 12:15pm Lenten Service for their topic.

Thanks to Carmen Divers for designing and creating the bulletin board for the 2024 Door Offerings.

Guiding Through God's Love

First Sunday Door Offering for March will be collected on March 3, 2024 and will go to the Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries (CCM) to provide hope, help and healing to the vulnerable in our county. They provide a wide range of programs, services and solutions to those in need.

The Sunday morning small groups will resume March 10. The 9:00am study will be Forgiving What You Can't Forget. The 10:30am study will be Heaven. Each one will last 6 sessions but will not meet on Easter Sunday. Please consider coming to one of these groups! All adults and teens are invited. Groups meet in the FLC media room.

Bristol Raceway Ministries Chaplain John Abernathy is seeking individuals who would like to become a chaplain in motorsports. If you love Jesus and enjoy sharing His love with race fans, drivers and others, then this might be your calling. Please contact Chaplain John at 828-781-0205 to find out more about this awesome ministry.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to the needy in our community. Generous gifts like yours make it possible for us to help meet the increasing needs of those who are hungry in our area. We depend upon faithful friends like you to enable us to continue to address their needs. Thank you for putting your compassion into action. You are an amazing blessing!

Sincerely, Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir. Hickory Soup Kitchen

David Puett has been assisting the folks at the Catawba County Historical Association on an exhibit at their museum located at the old courthouse in downtown Newton. The exhibit will highlight the boys who participated in the Hickory soap box derby during the years of 1967 to 1972. The exhibit grand opening date is on Saturday, March 9, at 11:00am but will be available for 6 months.

On display will be the winning cars from 1968 to 1972. Several cars are of the "sit up" style and several are of the "lay back" styles. The winning cars, along with their family, got to go to Akron, Ohio to complete there in the national race.

You'll also see some old black and white photos, and bracket sheets, trophies, helmets and other cool items that have been saved from those years.

Also will be a "loop video" that consists of interviews with our derby director, a 1969 Super 8 home video, plus old newspaper articles, and black & white photos that have been supplied by other drivers.

If you have YouTube, type in *Downthe Hill:CatawbaCountySoupBoxDerby* to view a part of the exhibit. It's 22 minutes long, and it's GREAT! The link is:

https://youtu.be/1YXiQZG7CHo

During the February Family Night, the Evangelism Committee put together 50 bags for the Hickory Care Center. The children made Valentine cards to put in each bag. Thank you for all the donations received. We were able to make a bag for each resident. Enjoy the pictures below:



THE CHURCH FAMILY

Joys, Prayers, & Concerns

Mission outreach for:

- our ministry of Guiding through God's Love
- local outreach ministers: CCM, Soup Kitchen, University Christian High School, Pregnancy Care Center
- Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission (malim.org)
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation

<u>For those who mourn</u> the death of Susie Dietrich (niece of Pastor David & Kathy Ludwig)

<u>Hospital</u>: Waylon Mosteller (at Levine, Charlotte, infant relative of Sylvia Lail)

Rehabilitation: Robert Sigmon at Iredell; Glenn Wilson (Kathie Albright's father, Piedmont Health & Rehab, Salisbury)

Recovering: Fred Abromaitis (2/25)Judy Baker (2/18); Lois Hunt (2/18); Bob Rinehart (2/18); Jim Starkey (2/11); Patty Starkey (2/25); Linda Sturgill (2/25); Rita Crotts (2/11 Tony Lail's sister); Reshea Tucker

<u>Undergoing treatments</u>: Doris Smith; Courtney Brown (3/3 friend of Jim & Pat Hamby); Barbara Jones (3/3 sister of Lois Hunt); Julie Taglauer (2/18); Tammy Fletcher (2/11 at Abernathy, aunt of Misty Lail); Michael Pannell (friend of Jim & Pat Hamby) <u>Under doctors' care</u>: Ralph Day (2/25); Carmen Divers; Becky Rimmer; Brian Rose (2/18); Nicole Rose (2/18); Rita Roseman; John Sigmon; Virginia Crew (sister of Jim Starkey); Angela Hallman (3/3 daughter of Jimmy Gantt)

For shut-ins: Brandon Caldwell; Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; Don Lefevre; Peggy Mays; Carolyn Smith; Randy Smith; Thomas Tucker at Grace Village & Memory Care, Granite Falls; Alice Yount

If not otherwise updated, prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for four (4) weeks. Some dates are listed next to names to indicate when a person has been added to the Prayer List. Please update the church office with any changes within four (4) weeks to help us keep the Prayer List current.

Offerings



January 28, 2024: \$ 2,845.00

February 4, 2024: \$5,310.00

February 11, 2024: \$3,590.00

Ash Wed., Feb. 14, 2024: \$ 258.00

February 18, 2024: \$ 3,653.00

Wed., Feb. 21, 2024: \$ 548.00

February 25, 2024: \$4,850.00

The average required weekly budgeted amount needed: \$ 6,243.00

Capital Improvement Fund

published weekly in bulletin

Total: \$ 21,054.00

March 2024

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3rd Sunday of Lent 9:00a 1st Service 1 9:15a Children's SS 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service 5:15p Family Night	10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p New Testament Survey	9:00a Circuit Mtg (Winkel) 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (zoom)	Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:30a LWML 12:15p Lenten Service 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	7:00p CMT (FLC)	10:00a Zumba 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 10:00a Zumba 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	2 8:00a Men's Group (FLC)
9:00a 1st Service & Small Group 9:15a Children's SS 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a 2nd Service 1st & Small Group	11:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 12:15p Lenten Service 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	7:00p CMT (FLC) 7:00p Church Council	10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	16
17 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00a 1st Service th & Small Group 9:15a Children's SS 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service & Small Group	10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	19 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen 12:15p Lenten Service 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	7:00p YMT (FLC)	10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	23 11:30a Feed the Needy
		26 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p A-Z Bible Study	7:00p Maundy Thursday Service 7:00p CMT (FLC)	10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 7:00p Good Friday Service	30 RESURRECTION SUNDAY
31 Easter/Resurrection of Our Lord 7:00a Sunrise Service 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 nd Service 中中						

March 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!

2	Caroline Dale Scarlett McKelvain	19	Linda Bowman Justin Lackey		Anniversaries
3 4 5 6	Samantha Wilson Pam Godfrey Jim Starkey Elizabeth Abernathy Ronald Duncan	21	Becky Rimmer Kaitlyn Sain Doris Smith Dan Sturgill Cade Hamby	13 17 19 24 26	Harrison & Rachael R. Tilley Frank & Mary Kerns Brad & Kim Fulbright Brian & Nicole Rose Mark & Payton Dockery
8	Susan Fulbright Carmen Divers Amy Locke 23 Mary Ross 25		Robert Kraay Matt Lail Viviann Wall Joseph Isenhower		* ///*

Catherine Mundy

Pastor Richard Schwandt

John Sigmon

Kayla Baker

Alex Bolch

Eric Wilson

25

26

28

31



Team

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18

Dale Matthews

Sarah Moropoulos

Don Peck

Keith Rhyne

Linda Sturgill

Richard Duncan

Benjamin Campbell

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A Prayer for Lent/Palm Sunday

Jesus, you rode into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna. Save us." You experienced a parade of palms and shouts of joy.

Today, our cries are not jubilant celebration.

Many of us are in shock at the current state of the world.

Many cry tears of grief and loss.

Many live with fear and anxiety.

Many of us worry about the unknown future.

Hosanna. Save us.

In this trying time, grant us your peace and strength.

Jesus, you do not arrive in Jerusalem on a charging steed.

You enter riding on a donkey.

You confuse our love of celebrity with your humility.

You confound our desire for winning with your vulnerability.

You die on a cross. You are executed.

You are not the way of imperial power and principalities.

You are the way of righteousness and radical compassion.

In your passion, shake us, confront us, and teach us your ways.

And grant us your conviction, your strength, and your peace.

Blessed are you who comes in the name of all that is holy and sacred. Amen.



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Our Mission Motto is

Guiding Through God's Love

CHURCH STAFF

Adm. Pastor.......Rev. Alec Fisher
Assoc. Pastor.....Dr. David Ludwig
Assistant Pastor..Rev. Richard Tucker
Organist.....Danny Foster
Secretary.....Jill P. Lafone
Adm. Assistant.....Nancy Rinehart
Newsletter Staff.....Nancy Rinehart
and Jill Lafone
Contributors: CLC Family & Friends



Christ Lutheran Church

