

SALT

ADDING FLAVOR TO LIFE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR LORDS UM CHURCH

Our Lords UMC
 5000 S Sunny Slope Rd
 New Berlin WI 53151
 414-425-7030
 Office Hours
 Mon- Thurs: 8:30AM - 12:30PM

Be still and know
 I am God.
 Psalm 46:10

This psalm has significance during this Lenten season. We've had to say goodbye to loved ones last year and already this year with the passing of Hans and Helen's grandson and Abbi and Emma's grandmother most recently. This psalm has provided comfort during this time of grief. Some of us are struggling with emotional and physical pain.

We are wilderness people. God is teaching us how to be patient during times of joy and sorrow. Ecclesiastes 3 talks about the different times and seasons of life. The main thing is that we have time. There is still time for us to grow. Sometimes we are called to be like Moses and watch the bush burn. Other times we sit with friends and talk, like in the book of Job. Sometimes I stick my foot in my mouth and need forgiveness just like the apostle Peter. There is time to explore and time to rest. Time to walk long distances without the anxiety of having to be back to meet a schedule.

I recently read a book titled *A Way Through the Wilderness*. The author talks about rediscovering the precious commodity of time when we wander in the desert. It's only in the wide open spaces of life where we discover that there is enough time to do anything we want. Our prayer life helps us to focus on what Gods wants. And what God wants is what we need.

A few years back I spent a day on retreat at St.Bedes. I learned about the Sabbath Way – to live each moment of life moment by moment. Sounds simple, right? Try it. Moment by moment by moment. It takes discipline not to allow the past to catch up with you while you are simultaneously not worrying about the future. Live in the moment. Live in the now.

Lynn Scott says the *Sabbath Way* means tending to our life in God so that we might be the Presence of God in the world. According to St. Iraneaus, God's greatest glory is a person fully alive! Pastor Lynn is a spiritual guide who practices Reiki (a form of spiritual healing). I decided to be fully alive at the retreat and allow Lynn to lay her hands on me. Hey, hey, hey, it's not what you think (Bishop Lee laid her hands on me when I got ordained years ago)!

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All I can say is there were several moments when I felt the Holy Spirit descend upon me. There was an angel in the room taking care of me. At one point Jesus held my hand and I knew that no matter what I was dealing with, He would be there too.

All this simply because I took the time to be still. We all need to take time to care for ourselves. To be still and know God. To know how much we are loved by Jesus Christ. God took the time and breathed life into us (Ruach/Reiki/Chi/Shekana/divine energy) so that we could live with God and each other. In God's Kingdom, we have all the time in the world. When we center our lives around Christ, time becomes timeless. We are eternal beings. So just *be*. God will take care of you.

See you **Maundy Thursday 3/29 (7pm)** for a Seder meal.

See you **Good Friday 3/30 (7pm)** for Caiaphus the High Priest. See you Sunday.

GOD bless you



Finding Your Sacred Space

On Saturday, March 3, UMW offers a time of renewal, reflection and relaxation in a program, "Finding Your Sacred Space." The focus of this program is to discuss what Lent means to you and how to find God, even in your busy schedule. The program starts at 9:00AM and goes until about 12:00PM, with a variety of activities. Mark the day and time on your calendar and bring a friend along!

Mission Crafters

The Mission Crafters (the new name adopted for Creative Crafters) program is in full swing, making filter socks for the Water with Blessings program. This program provides low-cost water filters in Third-World countries. So far, about 40 have been made; the goal is to make 100. Yarn and directions are available if you want to make them at home.

In addition, bag mats are being crocheted from "plarn" (yarn made from plastic bags!) to be given to a homeless shelter. This project is quite time-consuming, to say the least, as the plastic bags have to be cut into strips to be crocheted into the mats. Again, directions and supplies are available if you want to help with this project at home.

For a change of pace, hats, scarves, and mittens will be knitted and/or crocheted for the 2018 Mitten Tree. These workshops are open to all knitters, crocheters, and anyone who wants to help missions in some way.

Saturday at the Movies

The first Saturday at the Movies was an interesting time. After watching the movie *Priceless*, some discussion was held regarding human trafficking. It was decided to continue showing movies on a Saturday afternoon at least through the winter months. On February 17, the movie All Saints was shown.

Watch the Sunday bulletins for information about future movies.

UMW Book Discussion

On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, the UMW book discussion group will meet to talk about the book *On Pluto*, from the Nurturing for Community category. This group meets in the library corner of Fellowship Hall. This book covers a most relevant topic for our times – Alzheimer’s, often called “a death in slow motion.”

As written in the UMW Reading Program catalog,

“For close to 10 years, writer Greg O’Brien, diagnosed with early on set Alzheimer’s, has chronicled the progression of this monster of a disease that is akin to having a sliver of your brain shaved off every day. O’Brien offers an illuminating blueprint of strategies, faith and humor needed to fight this disease, a day-to-day focus on living with Alzheimer’s – not dying with it - and a hope that all is not lost when it appears to be.”

The discussion of this book promises to be a most interesting and learning experience.

The books for the April and May discussions are *America’s Original Sin* and *Bus to Corinth*, respectively, if you want to get a headstart.

UMW Ushering at Church

To help with the Sunday services, UMW has offered to usher the second Sunday of each month. Four women are needed each time. The next date to serve is Sunday, March 11; daylight savings starts this day!!! Please contact **Gwenda Szczygielski at 262-786-5265** if you would like to participate in this aspect of the church service.

Trustees Committee and other church committees will not meet on March 6. The time will be used to continue the discussion of church governance changes.

Start thinking Spring and May cleanup of the church grounds.



Outreach Jail Ministry

Our Lord's UM Church has a jail ministry to reach out to those in the Milwaukee County Jail. At church, this program has one volunteer who helps to provide a library service to the inmates who are usually awaiting their trial or are serving short sentences. This volunteer has participated in this project for nine years, and reports it is the most rewarding experience out of many other volunteer activities. In that time, she has never had, never experienced any problems with the inmates. Furthermore, each week, at least several of the inmates express their great appreciation for the service she and the other four volunteers provide.

At this time, more volunteers are needed to continue this essential library service. If you believe it is an activity where you can help, please contact the church office. More information about the activity and necessary training will be given at that time. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 25:35-40. . . *for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. . . And when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give you drink. And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee or naked and clothe thee. And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee? And the King will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."*

Easter offering:

This year's Easter Giving (March 25th-April 8th) will be designated to help support **New Berlin Feeds**, in partnership with Worldwide Hunger Relief, Inc. Monetary donations will be used to purchase non-perishable meal items that will be bagged and packaged for distribution during an upcoming community outreach event at OLUMC on April 22nd. If you would like more information regarding this event, please watch for additional publications or talk with Elizabeth or a member of Outreach.



Caring Ministries Team

".... because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit...we can endure suffering and find hope." Romans 5:3-5

In the scriptures it shows us humans as broken and imperfect, but it also tells us that God understands us, loves us, no matter what we do or who we are, He still

seeks us and wants to strengthen us. As we journey through our daily lives full of ups and downs, pain and suffering, we can find the strength and endurance to make it through and build our character. Our strength comes from God who can transform our sufferings into many blessings and new hope. It's not in our circumstances that defines us, but in the power and love of God, who will never let us stay broken or feel lost. It's in the hope and trusting in God that gives us strength to withstand and see the beautiful life God has in store for us.

Please remember that your church and this Caring Ministry Team is here to support you and show you God's love is always near. Don't hesitate to call the office if you are in need of encouragement and love.

Monday-Funday Fellowship:

There are times in our lives that we may feel anxious, overwhelmed by our busyness, or feel lost and lonely. There is a place to come and relax and enjoy the fun of being with others. It's here at your church on the third Monday of each month in the Garden Room. We meet at 10:00am for about an hour & a half; for a time to get away, visit and share your stories, faith and have lots of laughs. It's a place to come and feel comfort, make friends and leave feeling loved and encouraged. Mark these upcoming dates and time on your calendar to join us and bring a friend along: March 19th, April 16th, and May 21st. Hope to see you there! If there are questions or need a ride, call **Rebecca Radick at 262-679-2710**. God's Blessings to each of you!

Lenten Retreat:

On Saturday March 3rd, come join others from 9:00am-Noon, for a time to relax, reflect, and be renewed. The theme this year is "Finding Your Sacred Space." The Bible has many stories of Jesus going to a solitary place to pray. Time to be away from the needs of the people, the pressure, all the worries, to pray and visit with His Father. Jesus needed to be renewed and be refilled in His great love and be strengthened to follow God's plans. Come bring not only yourself but a friend to hear devotionals, meditations, receive a back massage, and find ways you can be refueled too. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for easier planning. For more information contact **Rebecca Radick at 262-679-2710**



Chaplains Corner:

A Walk Through the Beatitudes, Part #3

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” – Matthew 5:5

What does meekness mean in today’s society? Shown in the Bible in Matthew 5:5, it is seen as not haughty, forward, arrogant or aggressive. So why does Jesus bless meekness? Does our society lean toward being meek, or, are we increasingly becoming haughty, forward (domineering), arrogant or aggressive?

Common groups of synonyms for the word meek include: humility, humbleness, modesty, reserve and restraint; submissiveness, willingness, adaptability, servility, and lowliness of spirit; and patience, tolerance, endurance, gentleness and peacefulness. Can any of us claim to meet five of these descriptions? Can any of us meet more? Who can claim to meet all of these? Only Jesus can. So why does Jesus set such lofty goals? These are the ways I believe Jesus would like people to be.

Has anyone tried to apply this, 100% of the time, to their neighbor, family, friends; colleagues at work; strangers you pass by on the street; reckless drivers; people who do a poor job of serving you in the restaurant, the store, at the airport, in the doctors office and more; and in any of the many varying directions that life takes us? Has anyone ever made a negative or derogatory statement to another person when they are under stress and lived to regret it? Do we let our emotions rule us? How many of us say I’m sorry or apologize, even when they feel that they are in the right?

It is my contention that Jesus gave us these ideals as something to work toward daily. It is only by striving to reach these goals, and more, that we will ever fulfill His commandment to *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* – Mark 12:31. It is only when we continually try to reach that lofty goal as a society that we will be able to fight off total anarchy as it increases through society today. If we wait for someone else to ease the tension that we see around us and in the news, nothing will change.

Change begins with us, myself included, and needs to continue through us if it is to become permanent.

Can we follow Jesus’ example and share His patience, His tolerance, His endurance (as He provides a love that never fails), His gentleness and His peacefulness? What a big change we can make in the world if we put God’s love into action in what we think, say and do - **Chaplain Tony**



March Birthdays

Edward Heinert	1st
Sue Radzius	2nd
Wenda Cichucki	5th
Pete Merschdorf	5th
Mary McGarry	7th
Isabella Veit	9th
Dave Broker	11th
Kathy Depies	11th
Mark McGarry	14th
Christopher Rodriguez	17th
Marge Mewhorter	19th
Jenny Slater	20th
Alyssa Beltrame	23rd
Dave Pauly	27th
Jennifer Heinert	29th

Worship in March

4th - Traditional | Communion

11th - Traditional

18th - Praise

25th - Youth | Communion

29th - Maundy Thursday @ 7pm

30th - Good Friday @ 7pm

All are Welcome - Free Play

Friday March 30th 7:00PM

“CAIAPHUS THE HIGH PRIEST”

CAIAPHUS: ANTHONY SUMINSKI

Narrator: Pastor Keith

**Our Lord’s United Methodist Church
5000 S. Sunny Slope Road
New Berlin, WI 53151**

New Berlin Feeds:

Our Lord's is proud to partner with Worldwide Hunger Relief Inc. to create **New Berlin Feeds** on Sunday, April 22, 9:30 am to noon.

The event is an opportunity for our church family to partner with businesses and individuals in the community to come together to help make food packs that are then distributed by Worldwide Hunger Relief to feed the hungry. Our goal is to raise \$4,000 so we are able to pack 20,000 meals on April 22.

The day begins with a Worship Welcome from 9:30 am – 10:00 am. Two shifts of volunteers are needed for 10:00 am – 11:00 am and 11:00 am – noon. Each shift will need at least 60 volunteers in order to pack 10,000 meals during their shift.

For additional details and to sign up to volunteer please visit Our Lord's website, New Berlin Feeds page:

<https://www.ourlordsumc.org/new-berlin-feeds>

Additionally, volunteer sign-up sheets will also be available at church beginning this Sunday. A link is being set up on the website to take monetary donations via PayPal and special offerings will be taken on Sundays prior to April 22 to help us raise the \$4,000.

Let's serve together as a church family and community to make a difference in people's lives!

