

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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Rev. Don Mulfinger, Vacancy Pastor

March 2019

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

**Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am,
followed by Fellowship,
Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:45**

Wednesday Bible Class at 10:30 am

Wednesdays, March 6-April 10

5:45 pm Soup and Sandwich Suppers
followed by

7 pm Lenten Services

We Have Names!

A man who was conducting a survey knocked on a front door, and a little boy opened the door and stared at him. The man asked the boy how many people lived in the house. The boy replied, "There is Jimmy and Mary and Sophie and Bobby..."

The man impatiently said to the boy, "Just give me the numbers." The boy replied, "There are no numbers in this house, they are all names to me."

A fun little anecdote, don't you think? However, when I read it, I thought of the many Baptism services I have done over the years. In that service, part of the responsive reading is

P: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are Mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

C: Our Lord has called each one of us to be His child. Now Christ has called [*Name of child*] to be His special child through the sacrament of Holy Baptism."

God has many children to care for – more than 7 billion at last count. I am comforted, knowing that He does not look at Don Mulfinger as number 4,739,897,013. He looks at me as me, He looks at you as you, and that person we might have noticed earlier today as His special person with their own name, identity, personality, and life.

Does that apply to little ol' me? Yah, shure, you betcha! You know why? Because I'm not just little ol' me – I'm special in God's mind, and in His heart, and in His eternity.

And so are you!

Pastor Don



The last month was brutal - even for native Minnesotans this has been a little too much to endure! We set a record for snowfall and have had some of the coldest nights in many years. But, keep the faith, spring will be here (none too soon) and this endurance run of snow and cold will become one of those stories that we tell when talking to our friends from warmer climates, "Yes, we're tough up in Minnesota, we lived through the winter of 2019!"

More optimistically, the Call Committee is moving forward at a pace to get our new pastor installed this spring. We have reviewed the candidate information packets provided to us by the Synod District office and have narrowed our list to five possible pastors. Their names will be sent to the District office for the required background check, which will take a couple of weeks. While the background check is being done, we will continue the screening process with telephone interviews. The Committee will formulate questions for each candidate, which may be general or questions specifically drawn from the information packet provided to us. If there is a question you'd like asked, please tell a Committee member and we'll try to include that in the interviews.

Remaining steps of the Call Process:

We will conduct the phone interviews.

We will prayerfully deliberate, using all of the information we have obtained.

We will vote to determine who our call candidate will be.

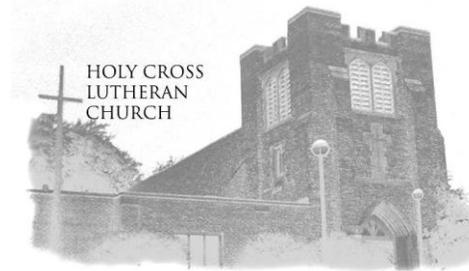
After choosing the candidate, but before the call is extended, we will hold a Congregational meeting to present our choice and to explain why we chose that candidate. During that meeting, the members of the Committee will do our best to answer any questions you have.

We will then vote to call the candidate. If the vote is favorable, we will extend the call and wait for an answer, which could take two weeks or a month. If our call is accepted, we will prepare for the installment.

I hope this clarifies the remainder of our Call process. But the key thing will be making the Lord central to it, so please keep the Call Committee in your prayers.

My prayer for you is that your car starts, you stay warm, and that you find a place to put the snow from the next storm.

Steve Blomberg
President



Ivah Pannkuk is settled in at the Masonic Home, 11501 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington 55437. She is in Room E231A, 952 948-7465. She's doing fine, following her hip replacement surgery.

February Mite Offering was \$114.89, thank you.



Lenten Soup Suppers begin this Wednesday, and once again we ask our Holy Cross cooks and bakers to share your gifts with us! Please sign up in the narthex to indicate which Wednesdays during Lent you will bring your soups, salads and desserts.

“Our Community Survey Day is March 3, we will go out individually or in groups of two or more. Please prayerfully consider participation, as we are heading into Lent. If you would like to participate in the community survey on another day, any of the deacons would be happy to go with you, schedules permitting. Thanks,” *Ralph Asher*

We will be offering spring garden flowers for our Easter worship services again this year, to set the stage for a glorious celebration. **But**



this year, the Easter plants will be a fundraiser for our We Care Fund. As before, you may order a plant to take home after the services, or you can simply make a donation to the We Care Fund drive. *The Altar Guild*

Come join us for Adult Bible Study, as we continue our walk through the Gospel of Mark, reading a chapter each Sunday. We will start at 10:45 in the Family Room and go on our merry ways at 11:30. Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy the time with us.

“Our lives are hectic, but we need to remember the Brooks family. If you can keep Steve company so Roberta can go out, that helps. If you are cooking, Steve loves comfort foods, casseroles and veggies; Roberta likes lighter salads, fruits and veggies. Homes always need work— snow shoveling, leaves out of the gutters, general maintenance and cleaning. I have a more specific needs list, please check with me if you are wondering how you can help. Thank you!” *Shelley*

Our We Care Fund provides a way of helping the families and friends of Holy Cross with financial assistance when they need it. Please contact Pastor Don if you need assistance, all requests are confidential. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please put your gift in the offering plate and mark it " We Care Fund".

Errol and Judy Sorenson picked up more than \$2124.00 of baked goods from Cub in February, sharing them with CES. Thank you both for your dedication and hard work!

“Dear Hands in Ministry, thank you for the gift of hats for newborns, oversize mittens for burn units, tiny baby blankets and surgery dolls to Hennepin Health-care. Your gift strengthens our efforts to partner with the community and our patients

and their families to ensure access to outstanding medical care for all. We are grateful for the support of friends like you, whose ongoing generosity makes this important work possible. Thank you again for your contribution.” *Jesse Hicks, Sr Dir. Of Dev.*

“Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,595.00! A new year brings thoughts of starting fresh, second chances, and renewed convictions. The Bible is full of history that shows just how much God understands our need for these feelings. We got our second chance, our only and best chance when Jesus conquered the grave! But somehow we keep wandering, and that feeling of renewal is motivating. Every day we get to share that renewal with our students. Accepting responsibility for our actions, understanding repentance, and joyfully receiving forgiveness is powerful. Starting a day without the past hanging around your neck is freeing! Law and Gospel, repentance and forgiveness, what joy it is to not only teach about these concepts but to put them into practice! Happy New Day! Serving the Master Teacher,” *Sarah JS Wippich, Principal, Trinity First Lutheran School*

The MN South District of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League is hosting an old fashioned Lutheran Hour Rally on Sunday March 17 at 4 pm at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato, including a message from Lutheran Hour speaker Rev. Michael Zeigler, music from the Hosanna Praise Band, a massed choir composed of members from area churches, and Ministry Expolearn more about LHM resources and sharing the Gospel. For more info and registration details, please call Rev. Greg Heidorn at 507 273-8546 *Kevin Bonine, LHM MN-SO Dist President*

HOLY CROSS YELLOW PAGES

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BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Vivian Struffert | Mar 2 |
| Dane Yeager | Mar 4 |
| Darla Meyer | Mar 7 |
| Emily Gorski | Mar 10 |
| Michelle DuBois | Mar 13 |
| Milly Phelon | Mar 15 |
| Caleb Likely | Mar 20 |
| Jack Risser | Mar 24 |
| Judy Nyman | Mar 27 |
| Deborah Beiersdorf | Mar 29 |

COUNTERS

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 3 | M Blomberg and R Woodraska |
| 10 | L Oolman and R Woodraska |
| 17 | M and K Lange |
| 24 | L Oolman and A Horrmann |
| 31 | M Blomberg and G Klatt |

USHERS

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3 | E Copeland and M Blomberg |
| 10 | L Oolman and A Tatham |
| 17 | T Phelon and K Lange |
| 24 | L Oolman and A Horrmann |
| 31 | E Copeland and M Blomberg |

DEACONS

Jim Scanlon and Jim Likely

ALTAR GUILD

Jean Anderson and Donna Bristol

MEN'S SHEDS

Men's Sheds give retirees a place to talk, give back and feel valued, continued from last month.

Members of the Hopkins-based Men's Shed, ranging in age from late-50s to mid-80s, are part of an international movement to address isolation and loneliness, particularly among men after they've retired.

An 'isolation buster'

Not surprisingly, Hopkins Men's Shed founder Phil Johnson was recently honored with a "50 Over 50" award from AARP for his work as an "isolation buster."

He's quick though, to sing the praises of Susan Newville, coordinator of the Hopkins Activity Center where they meet and who has been the group's greatest cheerleader and idea generator. Since the group formed Dec. 6, 2016, she has collaborated on many of their more than 100 activities, ranging from civic projects (planting hostas, trimming trees, painting walls) to tours (the State Capitol, National Weather Center in Chanhassen, Federal Reserve Bank) to enjoying guest speakers. Peg Gaard from Open Circle Adult Services recently led a discussion about caring for a loved one with dementia.

"What a great concept," Newville said. "It's so much fun to listen to them chat and fool with each other and do projects and plan."

The biggest benefit, she and others agree, is the opportunity for men to come together in a judgment-free zone to just hang out. Stan Valensky, 69, of Chanhassen, was attending the Hopkins Men's Shed for the first time, invited by a friend. He'll be back.

"Summer, you keep busy," said Valensky, who recently retired from Polaris. "But winter ... it drives you nuts. Anything I can do to keep busy. This is what I'm looking for - an escape to keep me retired." His wife likes Men's Sheds, too, Valensky said.

"Anything to keep me out of the house."

*By Gail Rosenblum, Star Tribune
Submitted by Shelley*

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE

At CES there is no "typical" neighbor coming to get food. Each person has their own story, history and dreams. They are working through their struggles and challenges just like we all are, but they come humbly to CES asking for help. And help we can, because of the support we have from individuals and congregations like yours.

Please be a part of the Minnesota Food-Share March campaign ending April 7.

This is a statewide food and fund-raising drive that fills up the "storehouses" of food shelves like CES.

FOOD

Cooking oil
Flour 4 lb bags
Sugar 4 lb bags
Meat soups, stew, chili
Canned chicken, tuna, salmon
Canned fruit
Rice, dry beans
Tomato sauce
Coffee (small bags) and tea
Jelly, jam
100% fruit juice

HYGIENE

Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Bar soap
Body wash
Shampoo, conditioner
Deodorant
Shaving cream
Razors
Feminine products

Toilet paper
Laundry powder
Laundry pods
Dish soap, small bottles

Thank you! *Chris Nelson*

THESE STITCHES DON'T HURT

A rural Minnesota doctor is giving a new twist to putting in stitches.

Dr. Erik Bostrom, a family medicine doctor at Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin, Minn., sews a personalized baby blanket for every infant he delivers. Bostrom, 33, isn't an obstetrician. But in rural hospitals, delivering babies is part of a family doctor's job. And for Bostrom, it's become his favorite part.

"Much of my time is spent taking care of old and sick people," he said. But when a baby is born, "rather than sadness and hardship, people are full of joy and excitement. It's a really cool part of medicine."

Bostrom has been on staff for about two years at Riverwood. A native of Mora, Minn., he chose to practice in a rural area and entered a special U of M program geared toward rural practice. As a new doctor hoping to build goodwill with his patients, Bostrom thought it would be nice to give a personalized gift to newborns. A colleague suggested baby blankets, which had the doctor scratching his head at first. "I've sewn a lot of people, a lot of skin," he said with a laugh. "But I never sewed fabric."

An experienced woodworker, Bostrom decided to give sewing a try. He watched a YouTube video and consulted with his mother and his sister-in-law, who has a small business making decorative pillows. "They taught me how to use a sewing machine. It was actually a lot easier than I thought it would be," he said.

At first, Bostrom sewed only the blankets, putting "cuddly fabric" on one side and flannel on the other. Then he sent them out to be embroidered with the baby's name, date of birth, length and weight. But after about a year, his embroiderer moved out of state. So he found a used, "very fancy" sewing machine that can do both regular stitching and embroidery, and taught himself to operate it.

"The best part of it in my mind is that it was made by Husqvarna, and that's the same brand as my chain saw," he said. "And I thought it was cool that I could cut down trees and sew baby blankets with the same brand of equipment."

Bostrom estimates that he's delivered about 240 babies, many of them during his medical school residency. He's given about 15 blankets so far, but that number is likely to grow quickly. News of his sewing skills "is starting to get out now, so I think a fair number of moms are kind of expecting it," he said. Nonetheless, he's gratified by their response. "They're usually pretty excited," he said. "A couple of them have teared up on me."

Bostrom spends three to five hours on each blanket, with the embroidery typically using about 20,000 stitches. He sews several blankets at once, then adds the embroidery later. "Three years ago, if you had told me I would be creating gifts for people by sewing, I would have laughed at you," he said. "But making something for someone makes it that much cooler. I never thought sewing could be so much fun."

He's looking forward to making a few extra-special blankets in the years to come. "I'm getting married in May," he said, "and my fiancée is expecting me to make these for our children."

By John Reinan Star Tribune, submitted by Shelley

March 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 2 8:30 am AA Meeting 3-5 GA Intergroup |
| 3 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA | 4 | 5 | 6 10:30 am Bible Study 5:45 pm Soup Supper 7 pm ASH WED Service 8:15 pm Choir Rehearsal | 7 7:00 pm Dea- cons meeting 7 pm BoD Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 8 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 9 8:30am AA Meeting |
| 10 <i>Daylight Saving Begins</i> 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA | 11 10:30 Mothers and Others Prayer Group 6:30 pm ICAN | 12 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting | 13 10:30 am Bible Study 5:45 pm Soup Supper 7 pm LENTEN Service 8:15 pm Choir Rehearsal | 14 2-4 Hands in Ministry 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 15 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 16 8:30 am AA Meeting |
| 17 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA | 18 | 19 | 210 10:30 am Bible Study 5:45 pm Soup Supper 7 pm LENTEN Service 8:15 pm Choir | 21 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 223 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 23 8:30 am AA Meeting |
| 24 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA | 25 | 26 | 27 10:30 am Bible Study 5:45 pm Soup Supper 7 pm LENTEN Service 8:15 pm Choir | 28 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 20 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting | 30 8:30 am AA Meeting |
| 31 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA | | | | | | |