

Ash Wednesday



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAIRIE HILL

MARCH 1, 2017 7:00PM

*Our mission is to be a family of faith Gathering around Word and Sacrament,
Forming disciples, and Proclaiming the Gospel to the world.*

www.stjohnprairiehill.org phone: 836-8666

Welcome to Prairie Hill

Welcome Visitors

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill. We are a loving and welcoming family of faith, excited about what God has done and continues to do for us. We rejoice that you have chosen to worship with us. This bulletin along with the screen in the front of the sanctuary will guide worship. The page numbers for the service refer to the front of the red hymnals in the pew. You will find hymns in the back of the same hymnal. The * indicates where you are invited to stand. We desire and encourage children to participate in our worship, but just in case, a cry room and a bathroom are located near the church entrance. If you have any questions about our church family, membership, or interested in conversation with Pastor Kyle, call the church office at 979-836-8666.

Statement of Faith

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill is a congregation of people who love Jesus and are passionate about God's Kingdom. We are firmly rooted in the Lutheran "flavor" of Christianity, with a strong emphasis on the power of God's grace.

Season of the Church Year: Time After Pentecost + Liturgical Color: Purple

The Sanctuary colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated. **Purple**, associated with Lent, suggests repentance and solemnity.

Worship Times

Sundays: 8:00 and 10:05 a.m.

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We encourage you take this bulletin home, pray the prayer list, note dates, and reflect of the scripture readings.

Pastor

Council Member

Accompanist

The Rev. Kyle Merkle

Gayle Bednar

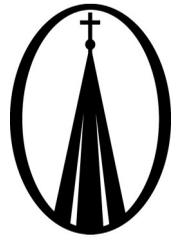
Mary Longhofer



Ash Wednesday 7:00PM

March 1, 2017

“A Place to Call Home”



*OPENING PRAYER

P: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors.

C: Call forth our prayer and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence, in the mercy of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Gracious God, break forth light into the dark places of our hearts and confront us in all that we keep dark. O God, turn our hearts toward you this day and during the entire Lenten season. O Holy One, we bring our secret sins to you.

A moment of silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **C: Holy God, have mercy on us.**

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others **C: Holy God, have mercy on us.**

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare **C: Holy God, have mercy on us.**

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation **C: Holy God, have mercy on us.**

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: Holy God, have mercy on us.

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace **C: Holy God, have mercy on us.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited to come forward to receive ashes on their foreheads. While you wait, take a moment to quietly reflect upon your life. All are invited to pray this prayer from Martin Luther: *Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on what was mine; yet set me on what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not. Amen.*

FIRST READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ” Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20--6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying,

and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL TEXT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The word of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION OF SCRIPTURE

***SERMON**

Pastor Kyle Merkle

***HYMN OF HUMILITY**

O, Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

#319

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share God’s peace with one another.

OFFERING HYMN*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

#184

OFFERTORYPraise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

#885

***DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

SING TWICE THROUGH

#473

Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to
say the words;
You are holy, God

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, the anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: reveal yourself to us in the breaking of bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace and love, O God, now and forever, Amen.

***LORDS PRAYER**

P: Remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come To The Table

#481

Eat This Bread

#472

***ABSOLUTION**

P: By the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As we begin this Lenten journey may we, with humble hearts, offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. And may the body and blood of Jesus Christ that you just received, strengthen you for your journey. Finally, as a called and ordained servant of the Church of Christ, and by God’s authority I humbly announce to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

C: Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage and send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love that we have graciously received through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

#335

***DISMISSAL**

P: Marked with an ashen cross, go now in peace. Be merciful.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Join us for worship on Wednesdays during Lent at 4:30pm or 6:30pm
With a Soup Supper in between services at 5:15pm.**

March 8th - Ten Commandments - Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28	4:30PM, 6:30PM
March 15th - Creed - Ezekiel 36:22-32	4:30PM, 6:30PM
March 22nd - Lord’s Prayer - Matthew 9:6-15	4:30PM, 6:30PM
March 29th - Baptism - Romans 6:1-14	4:30PM, 6:30PM
April 5th- Holy Communion - Luke 22:14-20	4:30PM, 6:30PM
Palm Sunday Sunday, April 9th	8:00AM, 10:05AM
Maundy Thursday Thursday, April 13th	7:00PM
Good Friday Friday, April 14th	9:00AM
Easter Sunday Sunday, April 16th	6:30AM, 10:05AM
	*Breakfast following the early service
	Sunday School Egg Hunt 9:00AM