

**CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAMUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

500 Village Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

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Rev. Keith Schreiner, Pastor (507)828-3333
Mr. John Festerling, Principal (507)872-6353

From the **PASTOR**—

Power of the Gospel

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. – Romans 1:16

Crucifixion was a most shameful way to die. The condemned individual was stripped of both clothing and dignity, nailed to a wooden cross, and left there to die slowly over the course of hours or days. It was an execution reserved for only the very worst of criminals.

With all this in mind, you might expect the early Christians to have been ashamed or even embarrassed about what had happened to Jesus. Instead, from the very beginning, the message of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross has been at the heart and core of Christianity.

As he addresses a group of Christians in Rome, the apostle Paul even calls Jesus' suffering and death "the gospel," which means "good news!" He writes, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

How could Paul and other Christians be so positive about the shameful death of Jesus? The answer is that by Jesus' death, God was accomplishing something wonderful for all people.

The prophet Isaiah put it like this: "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." The reason Jesus died that shameful death on the cross was to take away all our sins—our lust, pride, selfishness and greed...every cruel word we have said to hurt other people... every wicked action for which we are ashamed and wish we

could take back. All these sins, for which we deserve to be punished, were placed on Jesus and he took the punishment in our place.

Jesus' suffering and death on the cross means that we are saved from God's punishment for our sins. It means that relying on Jesus as our Savior we can look forward to eternal life in heaven that our Savior has prepared for us.

Thank God for the message of the gospel, "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Powerful enough to wash away our sins. Powerful enough to bring us home to heaven one day. Powerful enough, and important enough, for us to rely on Jesus alone for salvation.

During this Lenten season I pray you will take advantage of the opportunities to once again here what Jesus has done for you. Come to our mid-week services and be filled with sadness over our sins, joy over what Jesus has done for us, excitement as he allows us to share him with others!

PIONEERS

The Pioneers met on February 12, 2017 to continue work on pine cars, and enjoying a snack of cookies and lemonade. The kids sanded and painted their cars. Some very creative designs were created! The cars will next be coated with a clear lacquer finish to bring out the creative painting, and then axles and wheels will be assembled. The derby is set for Friday, March 10th. Everyone is encouraged to come cheer on the racers and see the results of the hard work they have performed. A total of seventeen Pioneers were in attendance. The derby on March 10th will take place of the March meeting.



CLYF

We met on Sunday, February 19th and did a community service project. We tied fleece blankets for Avera Marshall to add to their supply that they give to babies at the hospital.

Our next scheduled activity is going to be an afternoon of "Speed Gaming" on Sunday, March 26 from 2-4PM at Samuel. We are hoping to be joined by our other area WELS youth. We are also inviting this year's 8th graders to join us for this activity. So plan now to attend!

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Part of our preparation for the season of Lent includes our celebration of the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. For those who are new to our congregation I am reprinting the reasons behind and also our procedure for this ancient custom.



Custom:

Ash Wednesday derives its name from a custom of the imposition of ashes that reflects the theme of Lent - repentance. Lent is not Holy Week but a preparation for Holy Week. We prepare first with a sober evaluation of ourselves in the light of God's Law. This attitude of repentance and the sense of mortality produced by the Law (we are sinners who will die!) was invariably connected with ashes, as in the Messianic 102nd Psalm, "For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears." Jesus referred to this practice of wearing ashes as an indication of what was in the heart, "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes" (Matthew 11:21). Ashes are also a symbol of our mortality, more than a symbol - a future reality for all of us, "Dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19). Abraham, the man of faith, understood this. "I am nothing but dust and ashes," he proclaimed to God (Genesis 18:27). The custom of sprinkling earth or dust or ashes over a casket before burial reflects this truth. The first of Dr. Martin Luther's 95 Theses reads, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent!' (Matthew 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." A penitent heart is a humble heart, a penitent heart is one aware of its own mortality. Prepared with a penitent and humble heart we are ready to hear the glorious good news that "with Christ there is forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness of sins there is also life and salvation" (Small Catechism). The austere Ash Wednesday Service reflects the character of the penitent heart! The ancient and Lutheran practice of the imposition of ashes contributed to this reflection. Unfortunately, it has fallen into disuse in many of our "Lutheran" churches. But through this day and season of repentance, we are once again directed to Christ, in whom alone there is life, and of whom Job sang, "I know that my Redeemer

lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes - I and not another. How my heart yearns within me" (Job 19:25-27).

Procedure:

We offer this ancient and traditional rite for those who wish to participate. **Please keep in mind that you are not required to take part in this aspect of the service if you do not wish to! It is only for those who, at present, feel comfortable with the practice.** Early on in the service the ushers will direct those who desire to receive ashes to come forward and stand before the Altar, where the minister will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return! Members will approach the Altar and return like we do for Holy Communion. Unlike the Lord's Supper children are also invited to come forward, at their parent's discretion, and participate. As with anything we do in worship we do it to the glory of God and to edify God's people. We pray that that is what will happen. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor and he will be happy to speak to you about this matter.

Rotation:

This year we at Christ will have a pulpit exchange with St. Peter's of Balaton. Take time – make time to sit at your Savior's feet and listen to him as he tells you and shows you how much he loves you.

“REPENT: TURN TO JESUS”

Even in this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, Christians often have a difficult time understanding repentance. While the papal indulgences of the 16th century are no longer an issue, believers today can still be deceived into not taking sin seriously by false teachings, worldly influence, and even their own apathy. *“Repent: Turn to Jesus”* is the theme for our mid-week Lenten series this year. This series will teach us about repentance and forgiveness through Jesus' death as we journey together toward the cross and the empty tomb. What better way can we spend our time, this Lenten season, than gathering together for worship? These special services begin at 7:00PM.



PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS

Don't forget that during Lent we will meet at the church from 5-6:15 on Wednesday evenings. You can then join your parents in the basement for supper before our Lenten Vespers service.

LENTEN MEALS

Many members really enjoy our Lenten meals. They are served prior to worship each Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:30 PM. We hope you will join us for this wonderful fellowship opportunity. Our youth groups help with these meals and proceeds are divided up between the groups.

Desserts: We are again asking the members to provide desserts. You can choose what day you would like to provide treats by signing up on the sheets on the table by the bulletin board. Thanks.

SOCIAL MEDIA

I am hoping that if you are someone who uses Facebook you have already checked out our church Facebook page and, of course, have "liked" it too. If not I hope you will do so very soon. And while you are out there be sure to check out our new Facebook page for the school. In a very short time we are also going to be launching a new church webpage that has an updated look. We pray you take advantage of these ways to keep in touch with everything that is going on at YOUR church. It's also a great way to share your faith with family or friends who



might also be looking for a church or school. By the way if you know of someone that might be interested in learning more about us Pastor is always more than happy to contact people and talk to them about their needs and what Christ has to offer them.

PARKING AT CHURCH

Not having a parking lot at church does have some drawbacks. One is that we can't designate any handicapped parking for those who need it. That is why we have tried to keep the spots on Marshall Street in front of church open for those who have more difficulty with their mobility. So if you are able we ask that you leave those parking spots open for those who might need them. Thanks for your Christian Cooperation!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Hopefully you picked up the “Endowment Brochure” after it fell on the floor as you opened your newsletter. It contains a lot of information about the endowment fund that our congregation set up a few years back. I suppose many only equate endowment giving with their estate planning and, while that is a major cog in the foundation wheel, giving to this fund can be done any time. And any amount can be given to this fund as well. The hope is that, over time, the fund will grow so that more ministry work can be done through our church. Maybe you have reached the age where you need to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA and you’d like to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Or maybe you have an excess on your budget and you could give a donation to the fund. Read through the brochure and give it a thought.

COUNCIL CORNER

Greetings from your Board of Education! **SAVE THE DATES!!**

MONDAY, MARCH 6th: Kindergarten Round-Up will be held at Samuel Lutheran School.

MONDAY, MARCH 13th: Pre-K Round-Up will be held at Samuel Lutheran School.

ALL SUMMER: Please help get the word out – as we are fast approaching the summer months (perhaps not fast enough!), we are putting an emphasis on filling the available seats in our Pre-K/Early Childhood program, as we want to ensure as many of God’s children are hearing his word on a daily basis as possible! As part of this effort, we will soon be advertising our program on the radio, and we also have a new Facebook page dedicated to the school and ECC program (don’t forget we also have one for the Church as well). We encourage you all to visit these pages and “Like” them, as that essentially is free advertising.

As we are all aware, Samuel Lutheran School provides an excellent opportunity for our children to hear God’s Word on a daily basis. Also, it has proven year after year to also provide an education second to none. If you happen to know of any young families that may be looking for a Pre-K/ECC program, or would have the desire to have their kids in a Christian learning environment, I would encourage you to speak to them about what Samuel has to offer.

God’s Blessings to you all. Craig Heil

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Kindergarten Round-Up at Samuel Lutheran School will be held on Monday, March 6th. The evening will begin at 6:00 with a pizza/pop supper served in the school cafeteria. At 6:30, we will go to the Kindergarten room for some fun and fellowship time. We will have a short devotion/Bible story followed by an introduction to our reading series, "The Superkids". Mrs. Flock, the school nurse, will be available to answer questions about vaccinations and health forms for children entering Kindergarten and a representative from Southwest Coaches will be here to give information about bussing for your child. If you are planning on coming, please call the school office (532-2162) no later than noon, Monday, March 6th. If you have any questions, you may call the school office or Mrs. Festerling (872-6353). We hope to see EVERYONE there!



PRE-KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Pre-Kindergarten Round-up will be held on Monday, March 13th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at Samuel Lutheran School. Children that will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1 and are not currently enrolled in our Pre-K program are invited, along with their parents, to join us for a pizza and pop supper followed by an hour of fun. At Samuel, we provide a learning environment with God's Word as the focal point. Reading and math readiness, music, physical development, and listening skills are also an integral part of our program. You may choose to enroll your child mornings (Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings for the 2nd year, Tuesday and Thursdays for 1st year) or you may enroll all day--up to five days a week. The center will open at 7:00 a.m. School will start at 8:15 a.m. and end at 11:50 for half-day enrollment or end at 3:00 p.m. for the full day enrollment. The center will remain open until 5:30 p.m. for those that would like to take advantage of the after school program. If you are interested or know of someone that might be interested, please call the school office at 532-2162 no later than noon on Monday, March 13th, so we will know how many to plan for the pizza supper. If you have any questions, please call the school (532-2162) or you may call Mrs. Zander at home (337-0996).

SLS NEWS AND NOTES

We are celebrating Spirit Week at Samuel the week of February 21-24. The children are dressing up for themed days including “stuffed animal/PJ day,” “dress-up day,” and “blue and white day.” We are ending the week with a pep rally on Thursday to send the BB team on its way hoping they will use the gifts with which God has blessed them to play well. The Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten roundups are coming up on March 6th and 13th respectively. Information is being sent out to prospective families. If you did not get information and have a child for Kindergarten or Pre-Kindergarten, please call the school office to get a copy of the information sent to you. Grades 3-8 are gearing up for the Afternoon of the Arts on Sunday, March 19, at 3:00 pm. We will have displays of art work by students in grades K-8, band solo/duets, and a musical review entitled “For Which It Stands.” You will find the musical review an enjoyable presentation of fresh new songs about national treasures around our nation, including the Statue of Liberty, the Gateway Arch, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Liberty Bell. There will also be a tribute to the US Flag. Come and join us for an afternoon of entertainment.

FUN-DRAISER EVENT

Paint, Canvas and Conversation. Join us for a fun afternoon to raise money for the church and school landscaping projects. Come paint, have fun and take home your own painting to hang on your wall! We will be led by a qualified instructor to help us create our paintings. Adults of all skill levels are invited! Date: Sunday, April 2nd 3-5pm Location: Brau Brothers (near Perkins) Cost: \$30 which includes all supplies and a beverage. Sign-up sheets are located at church and school. Payment will need to be made by Sunday, March 26th (payable to church or school) to Heather Fischer, Jennifer Schreiner or Sarah Zander. Please join us for an a few hours of FUN and fellowship.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Submitted by Wes Hoflock—January 9, 2017

Present: Pastor Schreiner, Dan Herrmann, Lucas Tietz, Lyle Patzer, John Festerling, Wes Hoflock, Tom Vanderwerf, Tom Werner, Mark Patzer.

Minutes of the December 12th council meeting were read, modified and approved.

Pastors Report: 1. Pioneers are planning a pinewood derby. The CLYF is looking at having a trip to the boundary waters in June. 2. The middle school fun night went very well. There were 13 students present. All had a good time. 3. The Christmas Eve candle light service went well with positive comments. There were about 150 in attendance. Thought we should keep the same time for 2017. 4. There were 125 Christmas candy bags filled with only a few left over. 5. The annual meeting is set for Sunday January 15th at 7:00 p.m. 6. Pastor is working on the Mission Festival 7. Hoffman and Brobst donated a copier, it will need a few modifications. 8. LRPC will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. 9. The painting of the church started on January 9th. Pastor and Lyle Patzer met at the church to take a look at replacing the vents in front of the church. 10. Call Teacher update- There was a call put out for a Teacher / Director Karla Opperman. The call was sent out on January 9th. **Elders Report:** Membership changes –1). Out by release, Charles & Merri Jo Wilgenbusch and adult child, Megan. There was a motion to accept, it was 2nd and approved. 2). in by transfer and accepted- Roland & Cynthia Rokeh from St. Peter's LC Balaton, MN- WELS.

Financial Secretary: Report was presented.

Treasurer's report: A complete treasurers report Thru Dec. 31th 2016 was handed out and approved with a total net income of \$39,622.23, that was down \$-4689.55 over 2015.

Stewardship: Pastor explained where missions were going.

Evangelism: Will meet on Wednesday January 11th with Pastor and Perry Shultz. They will discuss possibly using money for some outreach programs.

Education Report: 1. Christmas for kids was canceled. 2. Mrs. Kotecki and aid are working on Early Childhood Marketing strategies 3. There was talk of a possible new milk cooler. 4. There was a new score board installed. 5. New sound proof boards are up. 6. Basketball is in full swing.

Maintenance: 3rd street basement drain is being worked on.

Old Business: The funds for painting the church will come out of the Anniversary Fund and the Building improvement Fund.

New Business: Approval of committee members for various boards are as follows: Board of Stewardship: Lyle Patzer (chair)- Dan Herrmann-Gary St Aubin. Board of Elders: Arlen Meyer (chair)- John Schmutge- Clarence Possail- Don Shultz
Financial Secretary Board: Tom Werner (chair) Brian Onken-Ray

and Joan Sorenson-Steve Paxton- Gene Pequin- Wayne Mitzner
-Mark Patzer

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Submitted by David Biastock—January 3, 2017

Attendees: Darik Lyons, Charlie Hoflock, Mr. John Festerling, Nick Noble, Craig Heil, Pastor Schreiner, and Dave Biastock.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections from the November 29 meeting.

Financial – Treasurer Reports: Darik reviewed financial activities for December along with current account balances.

Discussion held around the lunch account and that we have funds available for improvements to our kitchen. Some potential ideas: garbage disposal and milk cooler. Mr. Festerling will discuss further with Mrs. Goblish to come up with a list of items and Pastor will check with the Long Range Planning Committee to see if that group had any ideas.

Old Business: Aide for grades 1&2 – no response so far to our job posting in the bulletin. EC Call – information sent to District President. Call meeting with a list of potential candidates will be held January 8.

EC Marketing – need to have stuff ready by February 13 for the summer program and getting ready for round up. Preschool screening will be held on March 13.

Lunch Report: No report.

Pastor/Teacher Reports: CLYF – beginning to plan BWCA trip as the major event for 2017. Meeting with parents will be held January 15. Pioneers – next monthly meeting will be held January 8. PTF backboards – order has been placed. Scoreboards – were installed during Christmas break along with the remaining sound proof panels.

Friday Fun Day – next fun day will be January 20 with a Hawaiian theme.

From the Board: Board positions for 2017 – positions will remain the same as 2016: Chairman – Craig, Treasurer – Darik, and Secretary – Dave. Nick indicated Health Source will provide free messages for the teachers. Nick will work with Mr. Festerling to find a date and time that would work best.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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E-Mail: christluth@christlutheran-marshallmn.org

Website: www.christlutheran-marshallmn.org

Pastor Keith Schreiner (507) 828-3333

Worship Services

Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

(Memorial Day-Labor Day: Sunday: 9:00 AM, Monday: 7:00 PM)

(Advent & Lent: Wednesdays - 7:00 PM)

Holy Communion: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

Service Broadcast times

KMHL Radio Station at 8:00 AM on Sundays

VAST cable channel 17 and Charter cable channel 180

at 6:30 PM Tuesday and 12:30 PM Wednesday

Samuel Lutheran School

500 Village Drive, Marshall, MN 56258

Phone: (507) 532-2162

E-mail: samuel@christlutheran-marshallmn.org

Principal: Mr. John Festerling

Teachers: Mrs. Amy MacArthur Mrs. Nicole Kotecki

Mrs. Julie Festerling Mrs. Lois Zander



EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Samuel Lutheran School

