



# The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

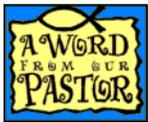
March 2018

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

## Thoughts from here and there...Preparation

February 11, 2018 was Scout Sunday. Some information in the Scouting program was used in the Sunday morning sermon. There was one item that was not mentioned, and that is the Boy Scout Motto, Be Prepared! This for the individual has a number of applications.



Winter weather may be dangerous. It is necessary to dress warm to meet the chill factor. Preparation for work is important, whether it is in the barn, driving a truck or teaching school. Lesson plans are vital in an attempt to reach the minds of the students. Perhaps another place to prepare is when you go grocery shopping either at Hometown or Walmart. It is better to shop after one has eaten than before. Planning meals provides a shopping list when you don't find what you need in either the pantry or the cupboard. You are sure to find other areas where preparation is not only needed, but very helpful.

The next obvious question is what is necessary for the preparation for Easter? This is more than the Easter that we will celebrate on April 1, but the Easter we will experience at the time of our own rising. Jesus once said "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." John 5:25-29 (NRSV)

Lent is a time to help us prepare for Easter. Jesus is the way the truth and the life to help us to prepare for our own Easter. The necessary question is always, "What are you doing to prepare?"



## Spotlight on the Family

### Lenten Collage

Cut a cross from heavy cardboard and cover it with brown paper. The heavy

cardboard will allow the children to use push pins to pin the following items to the cross. The items can be drawn of colored paper or the pictures could be torn from magazines or newspapers.

**Palms:** the crowd waved palms to celebrate Jesus' coming into Jerusalem. This is why we call it Palm Sunday.

**Bread and Cup:** the bread symbolizes Jesus body and the cup his blood. Jesus gave new meanings to these symbols at the "Last Supper," or Communion which we observe every month.

**Towel and Basin:** Before the Last Supper, Jesus took a towel and basin and washed the disciple's feet. He did this to teach them humility and service.

**Nails:** Nail symbolize Jesus' suffering as he hung upon the cross.

**Crown:** Jesus wore a crown of thorns. We are promised the crown of eternal life. This is a wonderful symbol of Easter.

**Vine:** Jesus spoke of himself as the vine and we are the branches. If we live in him, he lives in us and we will be enabled to accomplish much for Jesus and for ourselves.

**Photographs:** Put a photo of each member of the family on your Lenten collage. We are all children of our heavenly father.

This is only a few of the symbols of the season. A trip to a religious book store would open up a wealth of resources that you might use to create a Lenten Collage.

### SERMON



### SCHEDULE

## Sermons for March

The Sermon On the Mount has much to teach us about life and relationships. "Jesus began his sermon with words that seem to contradict each other. But God's way of living usually contradicts the world's. If you want to live for God, you must be ready to say and do what seems strange to the world. You must be willing to give when others take, to love when others hate, to help when others abuse. By giving up your

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own rights in order to serve others, you will one day receive everything God has in store for you."

March 4: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 13, Sermon Title: God's Flavor

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. (The Message, Eugene Peterson)

March 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 14-16, Sermon Title: Christians On Parade

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. . . . Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. (The Message, Eugene Peterson)

March 18: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 17-18, Sermon Title: Alive and Working

"Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working. (The Message, Eugene Peterson)

March 25 Passion/Palm Sunday: Lesson: Psalm 31:9-16; John 12:12-16, Sermon Title:

With tears of joy and shouts of praise the crowd welcomed Jesus as a potential king. He will be king, but in his own time and place, not now.

March 29 Maundy Thursday: Lesson: John 13:1-17, 31b-35, Sermon Title: Love One Another as I Have Loved You

The last supper is not a time for our mourning; it is a time to accept the sacrifice of Jesus and apply it to life.

March 30 Good Friday, 1:00 P.M. - Combined service with the Mazomanie United Church of Christ, Pastor Denise Cole. Lesson: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 19:31-42, Sermon Title: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

In the cross of Christ I glory,/Towering o'er the wrecks of time;/All the light of sacred story/Gathers round its head sublime./When the woes of life o'ertake me,/Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,/Never shall the cross forsake me,/Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

April 1 Easter Sunday, Communion Sunday, April Fools Day: Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Sermon Title: He Lives

We do not serve a dead lord, but a risen Savior who provides salvation to all who will accept him and his way of life.



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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## Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

March 1, Women's History Month

March 2, World Day of Prayer, Employee Appreciation Day

March 4 (S) Third Sunday In Lent

March 11 (S) Fourth Sunday In Lent, Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17 St Patrick's Day

March 18 (S) Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 20, First Day of Spring

March 25 (S) Passion Palm Sunday

March 29, 6:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper, Candlelight Communion

March 30, 1:00 p.m., Good Friday Service

April 1 (S) Easter Sunday, Communion Sunday



### A Promise and A Prayer

#### A Promise

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

#### Thoughts

Easter is a day to celebrate victory. The victory of good over evil. The victory of life over death. The victory of Christ over Satan. Easter is a day to celebrate victory. It is also our victory. Thanks be to God who give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### A Prayer

Blessed God thank you for making it possible for me to live a victorious life. Because of what you have done I can live with confident hope and rejoice in the faith which you have made possible. Help me not only to enjoy what you have done for me, but to share this grand news with others. Amen.



### Officers for 2016 - 2017

#### Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520 (Continued on [page 4](#))

### Recipe of the Month

#### German apple pancakes (Apfelfannkuchen)

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

(This is Helga's recipe after watching grandma make these pancakes.)

About 2 cups of unbleached flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/3 cup sugar

4 eggs, separated

1 teaspoon Vanilla extract

Enough milk to make a fairly thick batter (about 2 cups)

Some Cortland or Macintosh apples, cored peeled and sliced

Some sugar and cinnamon, mixed together to sprinkle on top

Put the flour and baking powder into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the center and add the sugar, vanilla and the four egg yolks.

Mix it up a little bit.

Add enough milk to make a fairly thick batter.

Whip the egg whites separately and fold into the batter.

Heat a small amount of corn oil in frying pan on medium heat.

Add some batter into it, when slightly set layer apple slices on top.

Carefully turn the pancake when the bottom is golden brown and cook from the top side until done.

Sprinkle with the mix of sugar and cinnamon.

Guten Appetit



Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845  
Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

### Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



### Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, March 17, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's.



### Greeters

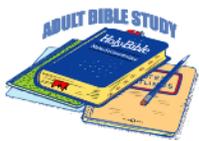
March 4 – Joyce Reimann

March 11 – Ray and Colleen and Family

March 18 – Joe and Carol Hodgson

March 25 – Judi Salava

April 1 – Steve and Karen Wilkinson



### Adult Bible Study

We are meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Wilkinson, 817 Brown St., Arena. Our study guide is "John: The Way to True Life" by Douglass Connally. The Gospel of John has much to reveal; to us that helps us to explore the divinity of Jesus. WE will not meet on March 28.

Worship on Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



### Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



### Something to Think About

"Some people who talk about the environment talk about it as if it only involves a question of clean air and clean water. The environment involves the whole broad spectrum of man's relationship to all other living creatures, including other human beings."

~Gaylord Nelson



### Humor

Liven up the last days of Lent with these jokes

By Carol McPhailcmcphail@al.com

Retrieved from:  
[http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2015/03/liven\\_up\\_the\\_last\\_days\\_of\\_lent.html](http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2015/03/liven_up_the_last_days_of_lent.html)

A Catholic priest spied a parishioner enjoying some tasty smoked sausage on Friday during Lent -- a strict no-no in the church. The priest, being a pragmatic soul, told the man for his penance he was to bring a load of lumber to the church to help repair the roof.

The man grumbled, but went off to do his penance.

He arrived at the church on the next Friday and proceeded to dump a huge load of sawdust into the parking lot.

"What's this?" the priest wanted to know. "I told you your penance was a load of lumber, not sawdust."

The man replied coolly, "Well, if that sausage I ate was meat, then this sawdust is lumber."



John Smith was the only Protestant to move into a large Catholic neighborhood. On the first Friday of Lent, John was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill.

Meanwhile, all of his neighbors were eating cold tuna fish for supper. This went on each Friday of Lent. On the last Friday of Lent, the neighborhood men got together and decided that something had to be done about John; he was tempting them to eat meat each Friday of Lent, and they couldn't take it anymore.

They decided to try and convert John to be a Catholic. They went over and talked to him and were so happy that he decided to join all of his neighbors and become a Catholic. They took him to church, and the priest sprinkled some water over him, and said, "You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist, and now you are a Catholic."

The men were so relieved, now their biggest Lenten temptation was resolved.

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The next year's Lenten season rolled around. The first Friday of Lent came, and just at supper time, when the neighbor were sitting down to their tuna fish dinner, there came the wafting smell of steak cooking on a grill.

The neighborhood men could not believe their noses! What was going on? They called each other up and decided to meet over in John's yard to see if he had forgotten it was the first Friday of Lent.

The group arrived just in time to see John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was sprinkling some water over his steak on the grill, saying, "You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish."



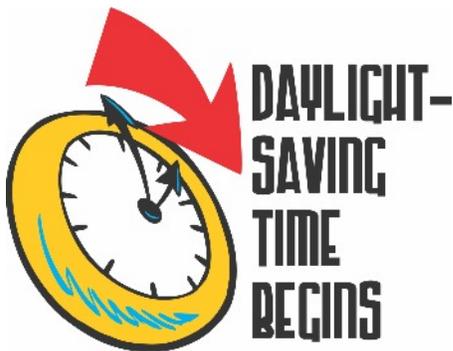
A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent. The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. What are you going to give up?"

His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor."

Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!"

His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer."

To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy."



We move the clocks ahead one hour ahead at 2:00 A.M. on March 11.



## *Maundy Thursday*

March 29, Maundy  
Thursday Potluck  
Supper and Candlelight  
Communion, 6:00 P.M.  
in the Fellowship Hall.

We remember the  
upper room and the last  
supper Jesus had with  
his disciples.



1:00 P.M., March 30

We will be joined by the  
members of the  
Mazomanie United  
Church of Christ and  
Pastor Denise Cole for a  
combined Good Friday  
Service.



April 1 is April Fool's Day. April 1 is also Easter Sunday. April 1 is also a Communion Sunday.

What a day to celebrate God's cosmic joke on the devil and the skeptics who challenge God's wisdom and design

Worship is at 10:00 A.M. Come and seek God's blessing that he has in store for all his children.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED