



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs. Colorado 80487

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

February, 2018

Fellow Redeemed,

Once again, we prepare to enter the Lenten season as we journey through the Church Year. Lent, however, is its own kind of journey. Lent is a journey we make as we travel with Christ from the glory of the Mount of Transfiguration to the glory of the cross for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, a journey that often struggles to find joy. But there is Easter!

This year our theme for our Lenten worship will focus upon the journey, but perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme will be "*Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey.*" All journeys must have a starting point; and in the preaching and teaching this Lenten season, we will consider our starting point a land of exile.

The land of exile from which we begin our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin—separation from our Creator and from one another. Our first parents were exiled from the Garden, exiling us into the wilderness of broken lives where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ's sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of eternity, the New Heavens and New Earth—the ultimate destination made possible by His death and established by His resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of many events that take place between the journey's beginning and its destination. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old Testament and then continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, even outside the guarded gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us. He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the desired end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare our ultimate dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. We enter this Lenten season contemplating the reality of our earthly journey but with eyes fixed on its destination—the empty tomb and the wondrous goodness of the New Creation. What joy there is in knowing that we do not walk this way alone!

Our "*Journey from Exile: A Lenten Journey*" begins February 11 as we stand with Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration. Our journey continues February 14 as we gather for Ash Wednesday. The Sundays and Wednesdays of Lent will develop this important theme.

I look forward to seeing you here!

Pastor Craig



Happy February Birthdays

2/15 Jeremy Schumacher

2/17 Bettiann Carrell

2/18 John Theis

2/22 Paula Rigoni

2/24 Keith Zuehlke

HELP NEEDED

Please consider serving in one of the following ways:

- ***Altar Guild***
- ***Trustee Help***
- ***Nursery Attendant***
- ***Sunday School Teacher***
- ***Usher, Reader or Greeter***
- ***Pro-Presenter (late service)***
- ***VBS Coordinator or helper***

Many hands makes light work!



Concordia Members' Corner.....

2017 Giving Statements were mailed. If you did not receive yours please let the church office or Jake Weber know.

Men's Bible Breakfast is February 10th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for food, fellowship and Bible study.

Lent Soup suppers and Worship Services start on 2/14! See below for more information.

Guys Fellowship Night: Monday, February 26th at 5pm at Dude & Dan's.

Gal's Fellowship Night: Monday, February 26th at 5pm at Aurum.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays 9:15-10:15am

Sisters In Spirit Happenings

- ***In March we will be meeting for lunch at the "Egg & I". We will reserve the back room. Details will be provided when a date is set.***
- ***We will have a fun gathering on Saturday April 7th.....more information to come.***

Lent 2018

We will be celebrating Lent on Wednesday Evenings starting 2/14- please join us!

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14th

Soup Suppers will be Wednesdays starting 2/14 from 5:30-6:15

Lent Services will be Wednesdays 2/14-3/21 at 6:30pm

- ***Please sign up on the entryway table to make soup, or bring rolls & desserts***