

Context: Danevang Lutheran Church Newsletter March 2024

POINTS TO PONDER – The Temptation of Jesus, a Lesson for Us Today:

The first three Gospels (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13) contain a narrative of Christ's temptation in immediate connection with His baptism, and with the beginning of His public ministry – The overall narrative offering proof to the reader that Jesus is God the Son, fully man and fully God.

Examine the version in Luke 12:1-13(ESV)

1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” 4 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” 8 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” 9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ 11 and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” 12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Ponder:

1. The number 40 – be it days, years, or otherwise as used in the Bible: While it may literally mean 40, most importantly it conveyed to the Jewish audience of the day that it “took exactly and perfectly however long was needed to perfectly fulfill God's purpose”. The 40 days would cause the early Jewish audience to remember significant mention of “40” in context of completion of a time of testing, trial or probation (mentioned 146 times in Scripture) --- so just a few:

- Moses' lived forty years in Egypt & forty years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery.
- Moses was also on Mount Sinai for 40 days & nights, on two separate occasions receiving God's laws.
- Moses sent spies, for forty days, to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance.
- Jonah warned ancient Nineveh, for forty days, that its destruction would come because of its many sins.
- Ezekiel laid on His right side for 40 days to symbolize Judah's sins (Ezekiel 4:6).
- Elijah went 40 days without food or water at Mount Horeb.
- Because of their sins after leaving Egypt, God swore that the generation of Israelites who left Egyptian bondage would not enter their inheritance in Canaan (Deuteronomy 1). The children of Israel were punished by wandering the wilderness for 40 years before a new generation was allowed to possess the promised land.

2. In verse 13, we see that the devil is now going to wait and try again at “an opportune time” –

- What in this event concerning Jesus' temptation made it “an opportune time”? Fasting for 40 days --- and, in context the devil did not wait until the end of those days and only produce 3 events of

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temptation – The devil was there, providing temptations in 3 different contexts, over the duration of the period of fasting.

- What later events indicate that the devil did exercise a “next opportune time”? Agony & betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Crucifixion.

3. Three specific temptations are described.

- How might we categorize the temptations? They fit generally in to Economic power (bread), political power (all the kingdoms), and spiritual power (God and his power at your bidding). These are the realms where mankind “goes off the rails”. Satan knows how to leverage those temptations, and we see the evidence all around us.

4. Look at how Jesus countered and rejected the temptations.

- Jesus quoted God's Word.
- Who else in the story used God's Word? The devil. What was the difference? Unlike the devils misuse of Scripture, Jesus used God's Word in context, for the purpose intended. So, a “right understanding” of God’s Word is certainly useful.

5. How does the Gospel of John describe Jesus? READ John 1:1-5 – (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- In thinking about the John 1 description (Jesus is the very “Word” of God), ponder this: Would not “knowing scripture” from Jesus' perspective also be considered “knowing one's self”?

Points to Ponder OR Thoughts on what we might take away from this story:

- The devil will take advantage of opportunity – providing temptations when our resistance is weakened by life's events.
- Given Christ's example, what tools do we have with which to resist temptation?
 - Don't pretend the tempter is not there, or not real: Jesus confronted the devil directly with God's Word rather than brushing him off as some delusion related to the affects of fasting.
 - Putting other things aside to be attuned to the Spirit of God within us (as in the example of fasting).
 - RIGHT knowledge (not just knowledge, but knowledge in the context of understanding the heart of God) of God's Word and promises – essentially “know God and his heart for you”.
 - Important take away:
Knowledge of self: intimate knowledge of who you are as a human in God's kingdom. Inherent, FOR US, to both this item and the one before about knowledge of God, is diligent study of Scripture, which includes fellowship and study interactions with others on the same journey. Proverbs 27:17 tells us that “iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend’s countenance.” – helping prevent scriptural things from becoming rooted and interpreted via one’s own understanding. -----

Paul gives us this Word from God:

Hebrews 10 (ESV):

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Happy Pondering, Chuck

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Member? Voting Member? Associate Member? Membership at Danevang Lutheran? What is it?

Well the old marketing slogan states, “membership has its privileges” and similar to most churches, and certainly Lutheran churches in general, this is true at Danevang Lutheran, including voting in elections, use of the church and the community hall at a reduced fee, and in some cases a burial space in the cemetery. The standards for membership are spelled out in church governing documents. First, one must “become” a member: there are various paths, such as growing up in the church, being Baptized & Confirmed, or a Baptized individual from another church being officially brought into membership by a confession of faith and confirmation. In any case, the process is intended to promote a fellowship of believers aligned with the beliefs of the Creeds of the Church. Individuals are formally “received” into fellowship in the Church.

Historically, after reception in membership there are three standards by which one maintains an active or “voting” member status: attending, receiving communion, and contributing to the church – After all, it is a “fellowship” of believers: If one does not participate in the community, receive the means of grace through communion, and contribute to the well being of the church, how then, are they to be a “fellow member”? At Danevang Lutheran, our governing documents state that a “voting member” (what many term “active” member) is one who is “confirmed” and has “communed” and “contributed” in the current or preceding year. Notice it does not say “attend” – However, to receive communion one must either attend, or receive communion from those ministering for our church (which is possible for the home or hospital bound). Oh, and asking members to contribute something a least once in the last 1-2 years simply is not a disagreeable requirement for a member of a fellowship of believers. There is a provision for “associate members” for those who keep actual membership at another church, but “participate in the life and mission of this congregation”. Associate members do not vote. Someone who was accepted into membership and has ceased to “participate in the life and mission of the congregation” is, simply, no longer a member.

Announcements

Serving This Month: Altar Guild - Darleen Miksik

Greeter – Juhl Miksik

Readers for Sunday Services

March 3 – Velda

April 7 – Ann

May 5 - Karen

March 10 – Jenny

April 14- Doyle

May 12 – Maria

March 17 – Karen

April 21 – Velda

May 19 - Linda

March 24 – Maria

April 28 – Jenny

May 26 - Doyle

March 31- Linda

Greeters are needed for the month of April & November, 2024.

Learning with Fellowship

Ladies Bible Study: Ladies Wednesday morning bible study continues 9am-11am in the Educational Building. *NO Ladies Bible Study on March 13th.*

Sunday School: Each Sunday, 9am to 9:45am in the Educational Building. Open to all adults and children before church service. Coffee will be served. We will discuss the scripture readings for the following Sunday.

Meetings

Council Meeting Monday, March 11 at 10 AM.

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Pot-Luck Meal – Last Sunday March 31st after service

Services

Sunday 10 AM. Services. Baptismal Service on March, 10th.

Upcoming Event (see flyer next page)

Danevang Lutheran Church is hosting a “Betty & Eddie Vacek Fish Fry Fundraiser” April 6, 2024 == This will be “togo” plates only with pre-purchased tickets for pick up from Noon to 2:30 pm at Danevang Community Hall.

If you receive a newsletter by mail, we will cease mailing the newsletter in the near future (This saves the overhead related to production and mailing of paper copies). If you want to continue to receive the newsletter, please subscribe to the newsletter on the danevanglutheran.org web site, OR send your email address and request sign up for the newsletter and updates to this email address:

newsletter@danevanglutheran.org .

Either option will result in an email to you that allows you to "opt in" to receiving the emails providing links to the newsletter and information updates."

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Betty & Eddie Vacek Fish Fry Fundraiser

(All proceeds will go to Betty & Eddie to assist with recovery
from a fire in their home in Danevang)

April 6, 2024

Noon- 2:30 pm

Danevang Community Hall

357 County Road 426

Pick- up Only

\$ 15.00 per plate

**PRE-EVENT TICKET SALES
ONLY, NO PURCHASES ON
DAY OF EVENT**

Contact Ann 979-541-6584 for more information

Sponsored by Danevang Lutheran Church

***Communities coming together to help one
another!***



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Remembering What We Were Made For

Just like many of you, I recently attended an Ash Wednesday service to mark the beginning of another Lenten season. The message of Ash Wednesday is an important reminder of our identity: that we are mortal beings created out of dust who will return to dust at the end of our natural lives. Even though we realize that God will resurrect the dead in faith to eternal life with him and dust we will not remain, we cannot escape the present reality of the fleeting nature of our lives lived here on earth.

The Lenten season draws us into deep reflection as to who we are, whose we are, and what we were made for. As followers of Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that our identity is shaped not by our accomplishments, wealth, social status, talents, or even our personality. Our identity is shaped by God: our creator, redeemer, and sanctifier. We belong to He who made us, redeemed us, and guides us in our daily living. But what exactly were we made for?

As Lutheran Christians we are fond of what Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9: “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.” These verses shaped the Reformation and emphasize that good works can never save us. It is God’s grace that rescues us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. It cannot be earned; this ever will only be a free gift of God!

Yet we often miss the very next verse. Paul in Ephesians 2:10 continues: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.” During these 40 days, I pray that we can remember again what we were created to do in this life we’ve been given to live on this earth. From the time that God breathed life into you until the time that your body returns to the earth, God has created and saved you for a purpose: to do good works!

So how is God calling you to steward your time, your gifts and abilities, your relationships, and your finances for the Kingdom? How is God calling you to return to the very basic life orientation of loving God and neighbor? A church member recently suggested that sometimes we forget that God is in charge; that He is Lord, and we are not. As we reflect this Lent on Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem, the cross, and His sacrifice that saves us, may we also remember what we were made, and saved, for.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 ext. 2 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

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The 2024 Texas District Annual Gathering will be held on July 26-27 at Zion, Kerrville. The theme is LOVE WORKS based on Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."



We have extended the deadline to submit your idea for a breakout presentation!

We believe that each of you have unique perspectives, abilities, and talents that could be educational/instructive for those who attend the Gathering. If you have something you would like to share with others, please submit your idea by March 10 so the District Council can review and select presentations.

*All breakouts are approximately 40 minutes in length and are typically offered in two different sessions on Saturday.

<https://www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering/>

LCMC Texas District
2024 Annual Gathering



LOVE WORKS

LUKE 10:27

July 26-27, 2024
Kerrville, Texas

Have an idea for a breakout presentation? Submit your idea to us by March 1.

Scan the code for more details
or to submit an idea!



or visit

www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering



WHAT: LCMC Youth Gathering

WHEN: July 9-12, 2024

WHERE: Grand View University, Des Moines, IA
Registration for our youth gathering is open to students completing grades 7-12, youth leaders, and adult chaperones.

GROW: Get inspired and gain practical advice on what God may be calling YOU to do through keynote presentations and breakout sessions.

SERVE: Lend a hand and make a real difference in the community!

PLAY: Connect with other high school students and youth leaders from LCMC, then head out to The Green for mixers, games, inflatables, and an ice cream social. We've also set aside time in our schedule for you to spend quality time with your crew!

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Sunday & Festival Readings for March 2024					
Date	Church Calendar	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Sun, Mar 03, 2024	Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Sun, Mar 10, 2024	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Sun, Mar 17, 2024	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Sun, Mar 24, 2024	Liturgy of the Palms		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Sun, Mar 24, 2024	Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]
Mon, Mar 25, 2024	Monday of Holy Week	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Mon, Mar 25, 2024	Annunciation of the Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Tue, Mar 26, 2024	Tuesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wed, Mar 27, 2024	Wednesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Thu, Mar 28, 2024	Holy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Fri, Mar 29, 2024	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
Sat, Mar 30, 2024	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
Sat, Mar 30, 2024	Easter Vigil	OT and responses: #1: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 #2: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13; Psalm 46	Psalm 114	Romans 6:3-11	Mark 16:1-8

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Sunday & Festival Readings for March 2024					
Date	Church Calendar	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
		#3: Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16 #4: Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21; Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 #5: Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-6 #6: Baruch 3:9-15, 32-:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21, 9:4b-6; Psalm 19 #7: Ezekiel 36:24-28; Psalm 42-43 #8: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 143 #9: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 98			
Sun, Mar 31, 2024	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-2	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
Sun, Mar 31, 2024	Easter Evening	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	Luke 24:13-49

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Events in March 2024						
List Month Week Day March 2024 Go < Today >						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Greeter- Juhl Miksik Altar Guild- Darleen Miksik Readers March 3- Velda March 10- Jenny March 24- Maria March 31- Linda	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am: Sunday School (adults and children)			9:00 am: Ladies Community Bible Study	Hall Booked - Danish Heritage Museum of Danevang		
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am: Sunday School (adults and children)	10:00 am: Council Meeting, Monthly		9:00 am: NO Ladies Community Bible Study Today			
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am: Sunday School (adults and children)			9:00 am: Ladies Community Bible Study			
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 am: Sunday School (adults and children)			9:00 am: Ladies Community Bible Study			
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
11:10 am: Potluck after Church Last Sunday of the Month						
31						
9:00 am: Sunday School (adults and children)						
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						

🚫 Canceled event
🏛️ Church Service
📖 Classes
🏠 Community Hall Booked
👥 Fellowship
📅 General
👤 Meeting
🎵 Music Practice
🌿 Serving This Month