

I Can't Remember

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." - Jeremiah 31:31-34

The older we get the more common we use the phrase, "I don't remember." Grocery lists have to be written down. Facts have to be looked up. Names have to be repeated. Why is it that at the same time our memory fails to recall information about daily life, it is so sharp at remembering the hurt others have brought? Cutting words heard during childhood haunt for years. Actions that were wrong stay with us as if it were yesterday.

Imagine if we had a perfect memory. On the one hand, it would make parts of life easier. On the other hand, it would make life miserable as we replayed our own harsh words, impure thoughts and sinful actions. Imagine if God kept a record of every thought, word, and action that we have done that is not in line with his holy will. The Scripture says, "If you, O Lord, kept a record of sin, who could stand" (Psalm 103:10). We couldn't. If God truly treated us as our sins deserve, we would have only his punishment to look forward to.

While God has a perfect memory and has the right to treat us as our sins deserve, he has chosen not to. Of his own volition he has chosen to forgive us and remember our sins no more. God has not aged to the point of amnesia; he has loved to the point of sacrificing his Son. With sin paid for, God chooses not to hold it against us. This is the essence of the new covenant God has made with his people. A covenant not based on how good you are, but on how good and gracious God is.

The next time you forget someone's name or have to run back to the grocery store because you forgot something, recall the amazing love God has for you because of Christ. He remembers your sin no more!

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for your love that sent your Son Jesus to pay the price our sin deserved. We are grateful that you have chosen to remember our sins no more and rather treat us as your loved children for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Weekly Mission Prayer

Early childhood education – Lord, thank you for the many amazing opportunities you give us to share your love with so many others. Continue to bless our synod's early childhood ministry to train teachers and to support programs in our congregations that reach children, and through them, their parents. Please use those who are visitors to our country and exposed to your Word through our churches and schools to return home and share the hope of Jesus with their loved ones. Amen.

Congregational Leadership

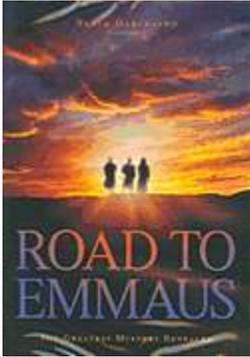
Our elected leaders will be working with our Circuit Pastor and District President and guiding our congregation through the upcoming pastoral transition. If you have questions or concerns during this time, please contact them: Dan Woltman (Cong. President) - wolt2012@comcast.net; Dale Manzel - dale.manzel@searshc.com; Billy Miller - bmiller@economypacking.com; Pastor Peter Prange (Circuit Pastor) - pastor@jerusalem.lutheran.org; Pastor David Rutschow (District President) - sewdp@aol.com.

Bible Study - Heroes of Faith

Hebrews 11 is like the Bible's Hall of Fame, describing people who did or witnessed amazing things--not by their own power or skill, but by God's gift of faith. Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m., as we look at the lives of these Heroes of Faith and learn to trust God in our own lives.

Road to Emmaus DVDs Available

On Easter evening, Jesus explains to two disciples why it was necessary for him to suffer and rise from the dead, and the disciples discover the joy and hope that Easter brings to them and all people. **Road to Emmaus** is a 30-minute video that tells the story of that conversation. DVDs are available in the entryway for you to take for your personal spiritual growth and/or to share with a friend. Share the good news of Easter!



Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday - April 5

6:15 p.m. - Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. - Worship w/Holy Communion

Good Friday - April 6

7:00 p.m. - Tenebrae (Service of Darkness)

Easter Sunday - April 8

8:00 a.m. - Easter Festival Service

9:15 a.m. - Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. - Easter Festival Service

LWMS Annual Convention Winston-Salem

Winston-Salem, North Carolina is a small and friendly city accessible by car or RV, train, and air. Please join us at the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Annual Convention in Winston-Salem, June 21-24, 2012. Early Bird registration must be postmarked by **tomorrow**; all others postmarked by May 1 to avoid late fee. For more news, please visit www.lwms2012convention.com and www.VisitWinstonSalem.com

Caring Hearts

Starting April 15th Ruth Kline will be taking all of the calls for Caring Hearts at 847-683-7258.

This Week's Birthday

- Apr. 7 Caryn Grossman
- Apr. 7 Tim Wagner



Serving the Lord Today

- Ushers (8:00): Mark Kreklow, Bill Miller
- Ushers (10:30): Deborah Weniger, Doug Salzwedel
- Accompanist: David Frick
- Refreshments: Lush, Weniger

Serving the Lord Next Week (4/2-4/8)

- Church Cleaning: Schubring, Weniger
- Ushers (8:00): Cal Tobison, Jeff Bruemmer
- Ushers (10:30): Mark Jones, Al Schubring, Deborah Weniger
- Accompanist Sun.: Elisabeth Wagner
- Refreshments: Easter Breakfast

Give Thanks to the Lord!

- Worship Attendance: 36 (14-8:00/ 22-10:30)
- Lent Worship (3/21): 11
- Sunday Bible Study: 11
- Sunday School: 4
- Heritage Woods: 10
- Other Bible Studies (2): 11