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«Company Name»
«Address Line 1»
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«City», «State», «ZIP Code»



Our Mission:
To relate to
God more
intimately,
to evidence the
fruit of the
Spirit, and to
bring Jesus
into all our
relationships.

Hunters Ridge
Community Church
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HRCC News

From the Pastor's Pen...

My family attended a Lutheran Church in my growing up years. I became a follower of Jesus at the age of 15 while I was attending Knox Bible Church in Chicago. A year later I was going to Foster Ave. Baptist Church in Chicago and I have been a part of Baptist churches for the past 50 years. When I was going to the Lutheran church the season of Lent was observed. When I went to the Bible church for a year and have been with the Baptist church for 50 years the season of Lent had not been observed.



I have learned from some of my colleagues that Lent is observed around the world and its focus is on repentance, faith and seriousness in following Jesus. Here in America Lent is preceded and celebrated with "Fat Tuesday" (this year it occurred on Tuesday, February 21st.) Then Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year on Wednesday, February 22nd.) An article from Wikipedia states, "The term Mardi Gras is French for 'Fat Tuesday,' referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Many Christian congregations thus observe the day through eating pancakes or, more specifically, the holding of pancake breakfasts, as well as the ringing of church bells to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrove_Tuesday. Then when Lent begins people often give up something for Lent; things like television, Facebook, cussing or removing something unhealthy from their diet.

I know there may be times when we are led by God to give up something temporarily, but I hope that Lent means more than just giving up something. To me it seems like Lent should revolve around repentance and humility. I don't think it should focus primarily on, "Look what I have given up, so I can feel good about myself." I would hope it would be a time to exalt Christ, a time to remember the sacrifice Christ made by coming to this world in humility and self-denial. The Apostle Paul writes in **Philippians 2: 5-11**, "**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**"

This verse tells us that Jesus was the same essence as God, equal with God and has existed for all time with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Yet Jesus did not regard His exalted position as something to be **grasped**, or "held on to." Instead

Continued...

He **emptied Himself**, and He took the form of a **bond servant** or slave. Jesus did not cease to be God, but He functionally subordinated Himself to God the Father for His time on earth. Jesus chose out of humility to limit Himself in a human body. And Jesus became **obedient** to God by submitting Himself to go to the Cross and death on that cross for our benefit. Jesus reached the bottom of the human condition as He died like the most lowly criminals when He died on the cross. Yet because of His **obedience** He was then reinstated to glory. **“God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** Jesus didn't come to be served. Instead, Jesus came to serve. His **humility** was on full display from the beginning to the end, from Bethlehem to Golgotha and the cross.

Humility is key for all of life. Lent is a time to give glory to God, and not just for a season but every day in our lives. As I said there may be times when we are led by God to give something up temporarily, but the temporary sacrifice shouldn't be our goal. We should do it for an ongoing, ever-deepening intimacy with Christ. We should do it for the glory of God.

Please know that I love you and desire all of us to be shaped and formed in the image of Jesus.

Pastor Howard

Therefore my **DEAR FRIENDS**, as you have always *obeyed*
 -Not only in *my presence*, but now **much more in my ABSENCE**-
 continue to **work out your salvation** with **FEAR** and **TREMBLING**,
 For it is **GOD** who *works in you* to will
 and to **ACT** according to *His good purpose*.
 PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

Scrap & Craft

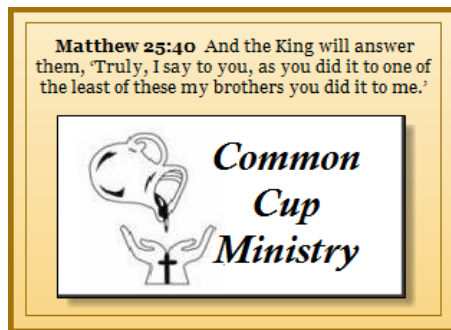


Are you experiencing cabin fever these days? Why not join us for Scrap & Craft this month. Bring a craft or something else that you would like to work on. Come and enjoy fellowship, fun, and of course - food!

Friday, March 17, 4:00-10:00 (bring your own dinner)

Saturday, March 18, 9:00-4:00 (pot luck dinner at noon)

Please let Becky Anderson or Dawn VandenBerg know if you plan to attend so we can prepare a table for you.



We are now serving 377 McLeod County students each week with the Weekend Backpack Program. These students are from Hutchinson, Lester

Prairie and Glencoe schools. Please continue to bring in those pudding cups. The need in our community is great, and they are much appreciated.

The Common Cup annual meeting will be held at Hunters Ridge at noon on Monday, March 27. Come and find out more about what Common Cup has been doing this past year. You may be surprised at all we do! Coffee will be provided.

There is always good information in the Common Cup Corner about the ministry. Please check it out.



Saturday, May 6 is the date for our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser that raises money to help send campers to Village Creek Bible Camp. Mark the date on your calendar, and plan to join us for good food for a good cause!



Reading about the real life story of a remarkable person can influence, motivate and encourage us. Our library has several biographies of amazing Christians from whom we can learn much- and they are the featured books this month. Check out books about Charles Spurgeon, Billy Graham, and Amy Carmichael and many more - and be inspired!

Biographies
engage
&
inspire.

No More Mortgage!



We celebrated the mortgage being paid off at a potluck after the annual meeting on Sunday January 29th.

2nd John

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| CHILDREN | FATHER | MANY | THEE |
| CHRIST | FLESH | MERCY | TRANSGRESSETH |
| COME | FOUND | NOT | TRUST |
| COMMANDMENT | GRACE | PAPER | TRUTH |
| CONFESS | GREET | PARTAKER | WALK |
| DECEIVERS | HEARD | PEACE | WORLD |
| DOCTRINE | HOUSE | RECEIVED | WROTE |
| DWELLETH | INK | REJOICED | WROUGHT |
| | | REWARD | |

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<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>

Read Through the Bible

In 2023 we will be reading through the Bible using a portion from the Old and a portion from the New Testament each day.

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| 1. Num 20-22; Mark 7:1-13 | 9. Deut 7-9; Mark 11:19-23 | 17. Deut 30-32; Mark 15:1-25 | 25. Josh 19-21; Luke 2:25-52 |
| 2. Num 23-25; Mark 7:14-37 | 10. Deut 10-12; Mark 12:1-27 | 18. Deut 32-34; Mark 15:26-47 | 26. Josh 22-24; Luke 3 |
| 3. Num 26-28; Mark 8 | 11. Deut 13-15; Mark 12:28-44 | 19. Josh 1-3; Mark 16 | 27. Judges 1-3; Luke 4:1-30 |
| 4. Num 29-31; Mark 9:1-29 | 12. Deut 16-18; Mark 13:1-20 | 20. Josh 4-6; Luke 1:1-20 | 28. Judges 4-6; Luke 4:31-44 |
| 5. Num 32-34; Mark 9:30-50 | 13. Deut 19-21; Mark 13:21-37 | 21. Josh 7-9; Luke 1:21-38 | 29. Judges 7-8; Luke 5:1-16 |
| 6. Num 35-36; Mark 10:1-31 | 14. Deut 22-24; Mark 14:1-26 | 22. Josh 10-12; Luke 1:39-56 | 30. Judges 9-10; Luke 5:17-39 |
| 7. Deut 1-3; Mark 10:32-52 | 15. Deut 25-27; Mark 14:27-53 | 23. Josh 13-15; Luke 1:57-80 | 31. Judges 11-12; Luke 6:1-26 |
| 8. Deut 4-6; Mark 11:1-18 | 16. Deut 28-29; Mark 14:54-72 | 24. Josh 16-18; Luke 2:1-24 | |