

THE ASCENSION ANNOUNCER



Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

February 2012

Lent 2012: Back to the Basics

I'll never forget a conversation I had with an older gentleman in my first church. I was talking about the importance of attending Bible study in our lives of faith, how it was important to keep growing in God's Word on a regular basis. When I was finished, this dear man looked me straight in the eye and said, "Pastor, I was confirmed when I was 14. I figure I learned all I needed to know about God then."

I sat there dumbfounded. I didn't say anything at the time but, the more I thought about it, the more worried I became. That's like saying, "I learned how to divide when I was 8 but I don't think I need it anymore," or "I learned how to read when I was 6 but just don't see a need to keep reading anymore."

Learning the Small Catechism in our confirmation instruction is just like learning our ABC's in Kindergarten. It's just the building blocks for a lifetime of learning and study. The alphabet joins together to form words and those words become sentences and those sentences become paragraphs and those paragraphs become gateways to knowledge. So it is with the Small Catechism. These concepts join together to become statements of faith and those statements become a life lived in Christ and that life lived becomes a witness of Christ's forgiveness to the world. This is what the confessors meant when they wrote these words in the Formula of Concord in 1577:

Such matters also concern the laity and the salvation of their souls. Therefore we also confess Dr. Luther's Small and Large Catechisms as they are included in Luther's works. They are "the layman's Bible" because everything necessary for a Christian to know for salvation is included in them, which is handled more extensively in the Holy Scriptures. (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Art. I, para. 5)

So, for our Lenten journey this year, we are going back to the basics. The great football coach, Vince Lombardi, would start every training camp by holding up a football and saying, "This is a football. The goal of this team is to get this ball across the goal line." In that same spirit, I say to you: "This is the Small Catechism, the basics of our faith. The goal of this congregation is to live out these concepts as a witness to our world."

With this in mind, I want to ask you to take something up for Lent. I know, I know, usually we give up something for Lent but, this year, I want you to take something up for Lent. If you already do daily devotions, please add one of the Six Chief Parts to your reading each day. Read the Ten Commandments and their meanings on Monday, The Apostles' Creed and its meanings on Tuesday, and so on. If you don't do daily devotions, start during this Lenten season. Dust off your old Small Catechism or pick up a pocket-sized version on the table in the narthex. Take just a few minutes each day to read just one part. If you're looking for a greater challenge, consider reading the Large Catechism throughout Lent. Each of our mid-week services will focus on one of the Chief Parts of the Small Catechism. It would be very beneficial to read the corresponding section of the Large Catechism each week in preparation for Wednesday.

Whatever you do, don't believe that you learned all you need to know about God in confirmation. There is a depth of knowledge and relationship waiting for us. It starts by remembering the basics.

In Christ,

Pastor Tom

Spiritual Growth In Lent

Many people choose to give up something for Lent. Instead, you may want to take on something for your Lenten discipline. You may want to read the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine from Luther's Small Catechism each day according to the following schedule:

Monday—The Ten Commandments

Tuesday—The Apostles' Creed

Wednesday—The Lord's Prayer

Thursday—The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Friday—Confession

Saturday—The Sacrament of the Altar

Sunday—Daily Prayers, Table of Duties, or Christian Questions with Their Answers

So, dust of your Small Catechisms from your confirmation instruction. If you can't find it, we have small, pocket-sized editions of just the Six Chief Parts available for you. The Small Catechism is also found on page 321 in *Lutheran Service Book*.

Memorial Gift

Wish List

The Board of Elders and the Pastor maintain a list of items that they feel would benefit the worship life of the church and the general appearance of the congregation. The items currently on the list are:

- Candelabras & Candlesticks
- Banners
- Update Outdoor Sign in front of church (which still says "School.")

If anyone would like more information on the above items, please contact an Elder or Pastor Vanderbilt.



**Celebration
Luncheon
February 5th**

SERVING ASCENSION IN FEBRUARY

	Lay Readers	Greeters	Acolytes
2-5	Wendy Golter	Dave & Liz Brown	Samantha Golter & Corryn Schreiber
2-12	Liz Brown	Trish & Mark LaLumonder	Korryn LaLumondier & Kealey Terrell
2-19	Jeff Meyers	Phil Weinert	Gordon Bradley & Ian Conner
2-26	Joan Johnson	Dennis & Linda Fritz	Samantha Golter & Emily Kendall

The Serving Ascension Page will only be mailed to participants without email. Readers will still receive a copy of the bulletin. The Serving Ascension Page is available at www.ascensionmadison.com and it will be emailed to each monthly volunteer. If you are unable to serve please secure a replacement and call the church office at 868-2346.

USHERS	ELDER
Dave Brown & Rick Speitel	Brian Meyers

ALTAR CARE
Pam Oehlkers & Cindy Dougherty

COFFEE HOUR	
2-5	Sharon Lorenz
2-12	Kathy Meyers
2-19	Debbie Diers
2-26	Beth Newton

Happy Birthday

- 2/1 Diane Gupton
- 2/4 Billy Etter
- 2/6 LaVon Golter
- 2/10 Emily Kendall
- 2/16 Bertha Sauer
- 2/21 Sara Brown
- 2/24 Brian Meyers
- 2/25 Frances Boggs
- 2/27 Carolyne Willis
- 2/27 Erick Kendall



Happy Anniversary

- Chance & Megan Terrell, 2/14
- Corey & Katie Shaffer, 2/10/08
- Russ & Jane Gullett, 2/16/85
- Keith & Sharon Lorenz, 2/21/73
- Danny & Joan Johnson, 2/22/74

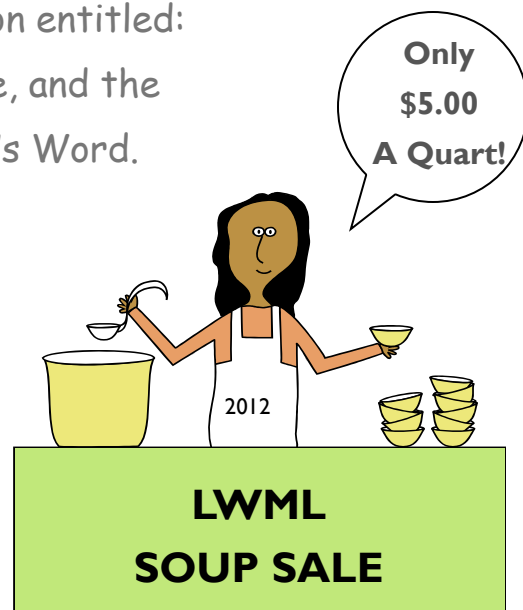
If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or has been left out, please call the church office so our records can be updated. Thanks.



You are invited to join the ladies on Saturday, February 11th at the home of Elsa & Ron Krengel for our regularly scheduled meeting. Please come at 10:00 a.m. Brunch will be served. Directions to their Hendersonville home are available upon request. A carpool from Ascension will be available leaving at 9:30.

Carolyn Willis will lead our Devotion entitled:
Love Letter to God, our First Love, and the
Bible Study: The "Heart" of God's Word.

**The annual
"Soup Sale"
will be held February 19.**



Linda Fritz is checking into the Quilt making for Lutheran World Relief, so we'll have an update from her.

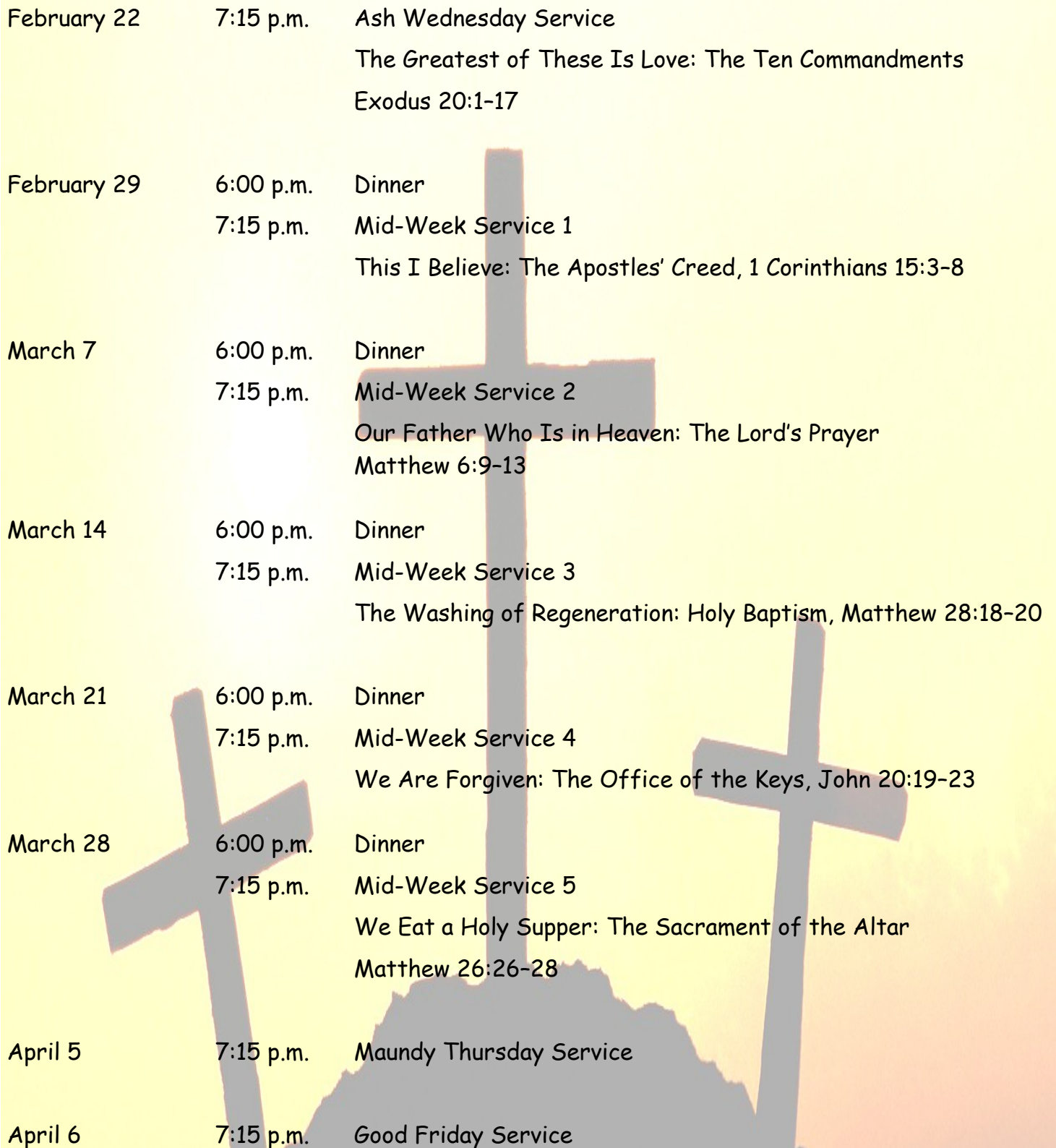
Remember to bring your "Mighty Mites"

Dates to Remember: **April 14, 2012** Middle TN Zone Prayer Service at St. John's in Burns, TN. Theme: "Go Light Your World" Matthew 5:15 **June 8-10, 2012** Mid-South District LWML Convention at the downtown Marriott in Knoxville.

Visit us on the web at: www.lwml.org and www.midsouthlwml.org

Ora Mae Golter, LWML President
824-7745

Season of Lent



February 22	7:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service The Greatest of These Is Love: The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17
February 29	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	Mid-Week Service 1 This I Believe: The Apostles' Creed, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
March 7	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	Mid-Week Service 2 Our Father Who Is in Heaven: The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13
March 14	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	Mid-Week Service 3 The Washing of Regeneration: Holy Baptism, Matthew 28:18-20
March 21	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	Mid-Week Service 4 We Are Forgiven: The Office of the Keys, John 20:19-23
March 28	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	Mid-Week Service 5 We Eat a Holy Supper: The Sacrament of the Altar Matthew 26:26-28
April 5	7:15 p.m.	Mauddy Thursday Service
April 6	7:15 p.m.	Good Friday Service

Youth at Ascension

The Youth at Ascension are now on Facebook!

I have created a Facebook group to help pass along information to youth and parents. This will come in handy as we start working towards the National Youth Gathering in 2013.



We need a logo—if you want to submit a logo for the Youth at Ascension Facebook page, draw something and give it to Sara. In March, both the Confirmation and High School groups will vote on which logo they want to use.

Visit us by going to www.facebook.com/YouthAtAscension

High School Youth Activities

Sunday Morning Bible Study (Discipleship)

- Grades 9-12
- Time—9 am

Mid-Winter Youth Gathering



"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." - Ephesians 4:4-7

- Dates—February 10-12, 2012
- Grades—9-12

We will meet at church after school on Friday and will return to church on Sunday afternoon. More specific details to come.

Contact Sara!

Here is all of my contact information
Phone #: 615-672-5259
E-mail: sara.vanderbilt@hotmail.com
Find me on FaceBook!

Behind the Scenes--

Imagine for a moment that you live in the rural area of Haiti. Just before dawn breaks you can hear the chickens beginning to squawk and stir and you arise from your mat on the dirt floor of your home, dress and in the darkness you lay out the clothes and shoes that your two children will wear to school. Then you quietly step outside to the plastic water bucket and use a cup to dip out some water and wash your face, arms and hands.

News From Trinity/HOPE!



Next you pick a few mangos and take them back to your house. This will be the morning meal for your family. As the roosters crow you awaken your children show them the mangos they will have for breakfast and tell them to get dressed and off to school.

You start your day by walking down a gravel pathway to the stream. There is news that your neighborhood is supposed to be getting a community well but nothing has been done; probably another broken promise. At the stream you lower your bucket into the slow moving water and fill the bucket with roughly six gallons of water; about fifty pounds. You take a dense cloth from your pocket and arrange it in a circular pattern and place it on top of your head, pick up the bucket and place it upon your head and raise yourself up carefully, as your mother and her mother have taught you. With the fifty pounds of water on your head you head off towards school on the small trail that leads up the side of a mountain; the journey may take you an hour, depending upon the weather.

When you arrive at school your first duty will be to get the fire started. When it is burning you peek into the school to just make sure that your children have arrived safely. At 8:15 the principal will come and tell you how many children are at school today in each grade so you will have a very good idea of how many portions you need to prepare.

Next you start cooking the rice, then the beans and finally the sauce made with vegetables oil, dried fish, tomato paste and Maggi. Now you have time to sit and think about how blessed you are to have a job as a cook at a school with a feeding program. Your prayers have been answered as your children are being educated and learning about Jesus Christ and being fed a Trinity/HOPE meal.

Around 11 AM you will begin to serve the lunch and by 1:30 your pots have been cleaned and you head for home with your children talking about what they learned today. It will probably take you about an hour to walk home. Your children will have time to do their homework and you will try to find something for them to eat before bed, but usually there is nothing more to be found. The sun goes down and the school cook and her family lie back down upon their mats on the dirt floor of their home and say their prayers, giving thanks for all the blessings that our Heavenly Father has given to them.

Jay Brinkmeyer, Christ Lutheran, Lincoln, NE [Jay lived in Haiti for two years as well as having been there numerous times with mission teams.]