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The Third Sacrament?

Paging through the hymnal can reveal many secrets of the church. For instance, take a look at pages 243–244 in our red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. There you will find hidden in plain sight the church's liturgy for a rite largely unpracticed in the ELCA today: "Individual Confession and Forgiveness."

What's that doing there? The hymnal's introduction reminds us that individual confession may be offered in a congregation, at least on request or "in conjunction with pastoral care," but you could be forgiven for wondering if it's also there in part to save face. After all, the Augsburg Confession—the founding document of the Lutheran church that strives to demonstrate its conformity to the church catholic, if not the Catholic Church—expresses our commitment to individual confession: "Concerning confession it is taught that private absolution should be retained and not abolished." Why individual confession has fallen into disuse is a matter of history, but it's worth remembering that the "sacrament of penance" was at the heart of the Reformation and in a sense remains at the heart of Christian life. Luther realized that the sacrament as practiced in the church of his day obscured God's grace—Christ's work—by making that grace dependent on the penitent's deeds of satisfaction (the "penance" part) and inward state of contrition (raising the question, "Am I inwardly contrite enough to deserve God's forgiveness?"). Instead, the Small Catechism teaches that "confession consists of two parts," our confession and God's gracious absolution, "that is, forgiveness, from the confessor as from God himself." Therefore, while the standard Protestant numbering of sacraments is usually two—baptism and the Lord's Supper—Lutherans might say that "Absolution can properly be called the sacrament of penance," and "Therefore the sacraments are actually baptism, the Lord's Supper, and absolution (the sacrament of repentance)" [Apology to the Augsburg Confession XII:41, Apology XIII:4].

Does that mean we are missing God's grace if we aren't having individual confession? By no means! For one thing, confession and forgiveness takes different forms. Our Sunday worship often begins with a "brief order of confession and forgiveness." Luther even reminds us that besides the pastor's words of absolution, God's gospel of forgiveness is also shared "through the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters." By your baptism, you have the calling to share God's word of forgiveness with others! In the end, while the "third sacrament" of confession is always available to you (don't hesitate to ask), it too rests upon the foundation of your baptism. No one has said this better than Luther himself [Large Catechism IV:74–79]:

"Here you see that baptism, both by its power and by its signification, comprehends also the third sacrament, formerly called penance, which is really nothing else than baptism. What is repentance but an earnest attack on the old creature and the entering into a new life? If you live in repentance, therefore, you are walking in baptism, which not only announces this new life but also produces, begins, and exercises it. In baptism we are given the grace, Spirit, and strength to suppress the old creature so that the new may come forth and grow strong.

"Therefore baptism remains forever. Even though someone falls from it and sins, we always have access to it so that we may again subdue the old creature. But we need not have the water poured over us again. Even if we were

immersed in water a hundred times, it would nevertheless not be more than one baptism, and the effect and significance would continue and remain. Repentance, therefore, is nothing else that a return and approach to baptism, to resume and practice what has earlier been begun but abandoned."

May this Lent and Three Days (Maundy Thursday into Easter) find you experiencing God's forgiveness and power of repentance.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †

Nevagay Abel, Kelsey Dolan, Lois Johnson, Don & Neva Abel, Kevin Persaud, Mary Ann Hopper, Doris Kampfe, Roy Kloweit, Keith Talmadge, Lisa Jones, Carlos Vera, Mary Lofquist, Linda Severson, Dan Webber (friend of Bruce Solko), David Johnson (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), Mildred Anderson (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), Robert Kibble (brother of Vee Kerley), Pastor Paul Garchow (friend of the Lund family), Barb Schafer (friend of Phil & Susie Smalley), Carl Every (friend of Susie Smalley), Rita Swenson (sister of Graydon Anderson), Donna Koster (friend of Nevagay Abel), Bunny Alexander (friend of Linda Severson & Janette Erickson), Rick Banister (brother-in-law of Bev & Rod Bjerke), Christina Hollman (Karl Anderson's daughter), and our homebound church members.

(Please review this list and let either Pastor Scott or the church office know when a name can be removed).

Handbells

Reminder to all hand bell players, practice begins again on Wednesday, March 30th. Any new people care to join us? Show up at 6 pm for practice.

Thanks,
Diane Kirkland



Election Day at Shepherd of the Valley - Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Help is needed to provide cookies for the hospitality table to give out to our voting neighbors at Shepherd of the Valley on

Election Day. Cookies can be brought in starting Sunday, March 13th through Tuesday, March 15th, labeled "election" and put in kitchen off the library. We also need members to make coffee and replenish the cookie tray throughout the day. Please indicate on the signup sheet in the narthex if you can bring in cookies and/or help during the day at the hospitality table. Give an hour (or two) for this chance to welcome people in the area to our church. Thank you in advance to help make this a successful outreach day to our neighbors.

LIBRARY NEWS



Please check out Lenten/Easter books on table in the narthex.

March is Women's History Month. There are books related to this topic on south wall of the library.

New books have been added to the library collection. One that you will find especially interesting is **On This Foundation**, Book 3 of the Restoration Chronicles, by Lynn Austin. The Bible setting is the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. We also have the first two books in the series.

April 10-16 is National Library Week. We will have a book sale on Sundays April 10 and 17. You are invited to purchase new books for the church library.

Thank you to Karl Anderson for designing and purchasing new library pew cards promoting the library.

 Senior News

No Senior lunch in March because of Lenten/Easter meetings.



Save the Date
June 20-24
8:30-11:30 a.m.

VBS "The Quest for Christ"
a medieval themed week of fun.
Ages 4- 11 (12 and older are helpers)
\$10.00 for the first child \$5.00 for
each additional sibling.



EASTER GARDEN

It's time to order your plants for the Easter Garden. There is a sign up chart in the Narthex or call the church office with your order.

Palms for Palm Sunday are \$8.00 a bunch.

Tulips or Daffodils for the Easter garden are \$10.00 each

Orders must be turned in by March 6th.



EASTER BREAKFAST

The SVLC cooks will be preparing and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday, March 27 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

- Pancakes
- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage
- Fruit & Rolls
- Coffee, juice, milk

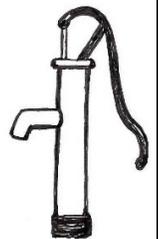
Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Kids under 5 are free.
Sign up in the Narthex.



2016 Lenten Project is "A Simple Water Well"

Our Goal is to raise \$2,500.00 from money at the Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten worship offerings.

To give a donation on Sundays, look for the water well. Over 1 billion people in the world lack access to safe drinking water, and approximately one-third of deaths in the developing world are caused by contaminated water. With each working well, 500 families gain access to safe clean water. Clean water is one of the most powerful ways to create change in the world. **With the installation of a water well, or spring box, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water.** When a community gains access to clean water, everything changes. Communities are healthier. People can work, farm and go to school. And together, they build stronger economies and a future filled with hope.



Can you assist at the services during Holy Week? We need Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Readers, Greeters, and Ushers (2) for the following services:

- Maundy Thursday, March 24 @ 7:00 pm
- Good Friday, March 25 @ 7:00 pm
- The Great Easter Vigil, March 26 @ 8:00 pm

Call the church office if you can help.

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

- March 2** - The Lord's Supper and Fellowship
- March 9** - The Lord's Supper and Food
- March 16** - The Lord's Supper and the Future

HOLY WEEK

- March 20 – Palm Sunday – 9:30 a.m.**
Worship with Communion & Procession of Palms
- March 24 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.**
Worship with Communion & Stripping of the Altar
- March 25 – Good Friday – 7:00 p.m.**
A Service of Tenebrae
- March 26— Great Vigil of Easter - 8:00 p.m.**
- March 27 – Easter Festival Worship**
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of January 31, 2016 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$15,745.02	\$15,406.66	\$15,745.02	\$15,406.66
Expense	\$18,049.05	\$15,177.51	\$18,049.05	\$15,177.51
Inc/exp plus offsets plus interest	-\$2,304.03	\$229.15	-\$2,304.03	\$229.15
	\$3,429.11	\$380.00	\$3,429.11	\$380.00
	\$0.65	\$0.67	\$0.65	\$0.67
Net income	\$1,125.73	\$609.82	\$1,125.73	\$609.82

C&B balance 1/31/16 12/31/15
(\$2,274.77) (\$3,539.41)

	Building Actual	Building Budget	Bld YTD Actual	Bld YTD Budget
Income	\$1,878.00	\$1,835.00	\$1,878.00	\$1,835.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40
Net inc/exp	-\$379.40	-\$422.40	-\$379.40	-\$422.40

Building fund balance 1/31/16 12/31/15
\$20,181.65 \$20,561.05

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin
 Also note: The second installment cost \$4600 and we have paid \$1494 of this bill as of 1/31/2016
 Balance on our mortgage - \$305,295.20

PRESCHOOL NEWS



The 3 & 4 year olds enjoyed coming to school in there pj's for a fun day.

Both classes did a great job making a valentine for their Mom's & Dad's! Each class made a special valentine bag to put all their valentines from their classmates in. They are now waiting to be able to get outside soon. Hope the ground hog is right about spring being around the corner. Registration for the 2016-2017 school year continues.

Attendance statistics are based on the 4 weeks
 January 21 - February 21

Average weekly worship attendance:: 99

Contributions are based on the 4 weeks

Average weekly contributions:

January 21 - February 21

Current & Benevolence - \$ 4,289.38

Building Fund - \$ 675.00

(Above figures include 2 Wednesday services.)

COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2016

- President - Janette Erickson
- Vice-President - Kay Brindle
- Secretary - Vicki Nitz
- Treasurer - Phil Smalley

Sunday, March 6th**5:30-7:30 PM**


YOUTH CONNECT
REC NIGHT
AT ROCKFORD 
LUTHERAN

Come Hang 
Out and Enjoy:

9 Square in the Air

Gaga Ball

Open Gym

 **Board Games**

Pizza and more!

Open To: *Jr & Sr High
Students*

Cost: *\$3/person*

RSVP to Mary Cannon:
mcannon@rockfordlutheran.org



 **Rockford Lutheran School**
*3411 North Alpine Road
Rockford, IL 61114*

SAVE THE DATES

Revitalizing Faith invites ALL collaborative parents & Kids to a

Free Family Fun Pillow Fight & Comedy Night

Friday, April 15, 2016
at Rockford Lutheran School
5:30-8:30pm

There will be stand-up comedy, practical parenting advice, and faith formation. It'll be 100% FUN or your money back! (Oh yeah. It's free.)

BRING A PILLOW!

Register at is.gd/pillowfight or scan the code below

lomc.org 1834 S IL Rt 2 Oregon, IL 815-732-2220 Find out more at lomc.org



Revitalizing Faith invites YOU to

Cross+Gen Training with Rich Melheim

Saturday, April 16
Cross-Generational Training for Pastors, youth workers, Christian educators, and volunteers including FAITH5 and Cross+Gen Faith Formation at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Rich shares different models for moving toward Cross+Gen faith formation and step-by-step strategies to involve parents in family ministry from cradle to graduation.

Schedule:
8am breakfast
8:30am Faith Five
noon Lunch
1-5pm Cross+Gen

Only \$15/person! Meals included!

Register at is.gd/youthleaders or scan the code above

lomc.org 1834 S IL Rt 2 Oregon, IL 815-732-2220 find out more at lomc.org



The 2016 Northern Illinois Synod

Congregational Resourcing Event

We Make the Road by Walking Together

Saturday, March 12
8:30am - 3:15pm
Kishwaukee College, Malta

Keynote speaker: Bishop Wayne Miller
Metro Chicago Synod




Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

find out more at nisynod.org/cre

Many timely workshops. See information on the kiosk.

AED Training

We have purchased an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and will have a training class soon. The training will cover AED, CPR and Choking.

If you would like to learn the procedure for using this life saving device, please see Kay Brindle or call the church office.



Social Ministry

We will be collecting new and gently used dresses, jewelry, shoes, and purses for Becca's Closet.

The Rockford chapter of Becca's Closet serves as a boutique to collect and distribute formalwear free of charge to hundreds of young women each year from Rockford and surrounding communities who would not otherwise be able to attend proms, homecomings, and other special events. The Rockford chapter—overseen and operated by Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries since March of 2011—gives away an average of 550 dresses each year. The Closet is located at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton Avenue, situated directly across from West Middle School.

[The first Becca's Closet](#) was created by Rebecca Kitman, a 16 year old Florida high school sophomore. Becca recognized that there were many girls in her community who were unable to attend their high school proms and homecomings because they could not afford to purchase formalwear for the dances. She launched a dress drive to provide prom dresses and accessories free of charge so that no girl would have to miss these special events. Becca was tragically killed in an automobile accident shortly after starting her "closet." Her friends and family continued her mission by forming a national "Becca's Closet" program, with 90 chapters to date. Rockford is the only city in the state of Illinois with an active Becca's Closet chapter.

KATIE'S CHOICE BOOK CLUB

The book for March is "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown.

Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story — the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal quest.

SOUNDS FROM THE SANCTUARY

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2015-2016 CONCERT SERIES

SCREW CITY SWINGERS



SUNDAY, MARCH 6 - 3 PM

The **Screw City Swingers**, an acoustic swing band formed in 2012, plays familiar songs from the 20s through the 50s in the gypsy style made popular by Django Reinhardt, renowned French jazz guitarist. String bass, guitar, mandola, violin, and clarinet form the sound that gets people tapping their feet to the infectious rhythm of swing. Pure musical enjoyment!

225 South Third Street, Rockford
Celebrating 160+ years of witness and service to the community
in the heart of historic Haight Village
815.962.6691

Freewill offering



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA)
2715 S. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61109
Phone: 815-399-5503 E-mail: svlcsecretary@att.net
On The Web: www.shep61.org.

Nonprofit Org.
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Rockford, IL
Permit No. 4261

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

2016 Church Council

Carol Bailey, Christian Education
Kay Brindle, Vice President &
Outreach
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
Janette Erickson, President &
Fellowship
Chad Farris, Property
Amy Kellogg, Youth Ministry
Robert Maness, Finance
Vicki Nitz, Secretary & Preschool
Laurie Pellant, Social Ministry
Sherry Scheider, Worship/Music
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Bruce Solko, Personnel
John Wolf, Stewardship

Staff

The Rev. Scott Benolkin, Pastor
Judi Fields, Secretary
Linda Longardner, Organist
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Susie Smalley, Music Director
Diane Kirkland, Bell Director
Patte Lund, Christian Education.
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
Anita Ralston, Custodian

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