

This Week at VIC

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Today 2/21	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Tuesday 2/23	1:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday 2/24	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
Sunday 2/28	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch

Announcements

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning this week are the Safford and Visingardi Families.

Lenten and Easter Services – *O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)* Lenten services are on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The youth will prepare a free will donation supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. to raise funds for their "Higher Things" conference this summer. Topics for the upcoming weeks are:

- 2/24 *The Wound of Betrayal*
- 3/3 *The Wound of Apathy*
- 3/10 *The Wound of Denial*
- 3/17 *The Wound of Mockery*
- 3/24 *The Wound of Abandonment*
- 4/1 *A Meal for the Wounded*
- 4/2 *The Wound that Heals*
- 4/4 *The Wound of Death is Vanquished*

General Fund Income –

Weekly Budgeted Income	\$ 3,272.86
Actual Income Received Last Week	\$ 1,170.00
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$ 94,912.94
Year to Date Actual Income	\$ 94,781.64

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church



*... and the angels
ministered to Him.
Mark 1:13*

The First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Satan Tempts Jesus by Julius Schnoor von Carolsfeld. Permission to use this image is limited to personal and congregational use. Courtesy of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - the World Mission Collection. *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel* by C.F.W Walther copyright 1969 by Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. To order this book contact www.cph.org or 1-800-325-3040. Scripture text is based on *Revised Standard Version* © 1946, 1952, 1971 Division of Education and Ministry of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All Rights Reserved.

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WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshiping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn of Invocation: #434 – Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Corporate Confession and Absolution: pg. 290

Service of the Word -Divine Service Setting Three: pg. 186
(omitting *The Gloria in Excelsis* and the *Alleluia* before the Gospel)

Psalmody

Psalm 91:9-13; antiphon Psalm 91:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.

¹⁶ **With long life I will sat-isfy him and show him my sal-vation.**

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

¹⁰ **no evil shall be allowed to be-fall you, no plague come near your tent.**

¹¹ For he will command his angels con-cerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot a-gainst a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the be-ginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-18 (English Standard Version)

The Sacrifice of Isaac

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

New Testament Reading

James 1:12-18 (English Standard Version)

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:9-15 (English Standard Version)

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Sermon Hymn: #656 – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Sermon:

The Litany: pg. 288

Communion Hymns: #600 – Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

Closing Hymn: #418 – O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Weekly Stewardship Focus

Mark 1:13 – "And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him." God the Father cares for Jesus even in the midst of his temptation in the wilds. God cares for us in every situation as well. Jesus realized this and always acted from the basis of trust in God the Father's provision. This is likewise the basis for our life lived in Christ: God cares for us, so we need not act out of fear or greed.

**The Readings for today –
The First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 22:1–18
James 1:12–18
Mark 1:9–15

Christ Jesus Defeats Our Temptation and Saves Us by His Faithfulness

In faith and the fear of God, Abraham prepared to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. At the Word of the Lord, he *"took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son."* And *"when they came to the place of which God had told him,"* Abraham bound Isaac *"and laid him on the altar"* (Gen. 22:6, 9). Then God stayed Abraham's hand and provided *"for himself the lamb for a burnt offering"* (Gen. 22:8). That Lamb is God's own beloved Son, Jesus, in whom *"all the nations of the earth"* are blessed (Gen. 22:18). As the Substitute for all the sons of men, Jesus is driven by the Spirit *"into the wilderness"* to be *"tempted by Satan"* (Mark 1:12–13) in order to endure and defeat all temptation. We are tempted by our own desire, which conceives and *"gives birth to sin"* (James 1:14–15). But this blessed Man, Christ Jesus, remained *"steadfast under trial,"* and He has received *"the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him"* (James 1:12). His faithfulness, His victory, and His life are now given to us by His grace in the Gospel.

**A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –
The Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16
Romans 5:1–11
Mark 8:27–38

By the Cross of Our Lord Jesus, We Inherit Life Everlasting with God

In His covenant with Abraham, the Lord promised to be with him, to bless him, and to make him *"the father of a multitude of nations."* It is *"an everlasting covenant"* in Christ Jesus, the seed of Abraham who is blameless before God Almighty. All who believe in this Lord Jesus are the offspring of Abraham and are blessed *"throughout their generations"* (Gen. 17:1–7) because the Christ has suffered many things. He was rejected and killed, and after three days He rose again (Mark 8:31). To comprehend this theology of the cross, we must set our minds *"on the things of God"* and not *"on the things of man"* (Mark 8:33). *"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8). Therefore, having been *"reconciled to God by the death of his Son,"* much more *"shall we be saved by his life"* (Rom. 5:10). Baptized into His cross and resurrection, *"we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"* and by faith we rejoice in the hope of His glory (Rom. 5:1–2).