

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

March 2013
Vol. 31 No. 3



THE UNREPENTANT THIEF

By John Kester, Pastor

*Luke 23:39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:
"Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"*

He'd made some choices. I wonder if he had it to do all over again if he would have made some different ones. For the choices he had made hadn't worked out so well for him. Living by his own rules had brought him to the place called 'The Skull.' Here he would die an agonizing death. Oh, he'd been his own man. You couldn't take that away from him. No one had ever told him what to do. But where had this arrogance gotten him? Golgotha. Condemned to die – a painful, shameful, lonely death.

You might think his wretched condition would – on this final day of his life – help him realize how desperate he was. You might think that today – of all days – he might beg for a helping hand. You might think that being in the presence of the Holy Son of God might affect him in a positive way. But faced with one final choice he makes another bad one. The text tells us that he hurled insults at Jesus. Our English translation hardly conveys the sense of the Greek word. The Greek is a form of the word blasphemy. Blasphemy is impious or irreverent words about God. I think the thief knew who Jesus was. And even in this last real choice he would make in his life he chose to do things his own way. Instead of acknowledging the power and authority of the only Son of God he chose to mock Him. On a day when he could have had his sins forgiven and been granted the blessings of heaven he stuck to doing things his own way. He refused to trust Jesus to give him life.

I don't know that we are so different from this man who hung on a cross next to Jesus. Day after day we are faced with making decisions about what we will do with our lives. We chose – over and over again – between doing things the way we want to do them or submitting ourselves to the will of God. We choose between arrogance and selfishness or submission to the will of God. Each of these decisions effects the direction our lives will go. Some decisions draw us close to Jesus and some separate us from Him. And someday, like the thief on the cross we will make our final choice. It will be the same decision that confronted him. It is simply this. What will you do with Jesus? It is the most important choice we will ever make. Will we, like the thief, blaspheme the only one who can give us life or will we beg for grace? The thief said, "**Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!**" I hope when that moment of decision comes for us that we will say it a little differently. I hope we can say, "You are the Christ. You are alive. Please save me."

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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PO Box 307 clchurch@live.com
Cleveland, MN 56017 www.clevelandchurch.net

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Classes for Kindergarten-Adults
10:00 am – Fellowship Time
10:30 am – Worship Service including Junior Church

Link to prior monthly newsletters
for the Cleveland Church of Christ

http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1_212



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2013

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- March 2 – Men's Fellowship 7:30am
- March 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins*
- March 10 – Crossroads College Day at church*
- March 10 – Fellowship/Potluck meal*
- March 12 – Dorcas Fellowship 1:30pm*
- March 12 – Church Board meeting 7:30pm*
- March 13 – Bible Study 6:30pm*
- March 13 – Women's Bible Study 6:30pm*
- March 16-17 – 30 Hour Famine for youth*
- March 17 – Breakfast to break the 30 Hour Famine
- March 17 – Monthly Building Offering
- March 20 – Bible Study 6:30pm*
- March 20 – Women's Bible Study 6:30pm*
- March 21 – April newsletter articles due
- March 21 – Ladies Night Out 5:00pm*
- March 24 – Palm Sunday
- March 27 – Women's Bible Study 6:30pm*
- March 29 – Good Friday Service 7:00pm*
- March 30 – Carter K Celebration Party 11am-2pm*
- March 31 – Easter Sunday Early Service 8:30am*
- March 31 – Easter Breakfast 9:30am*
- March 31 – Easter Sunday Late Service 10:30am*

COMING IN APRIL 2013

- April 6 – Men's Fellowship at 7:30am
- April 7 – Elders Meeting
- April 9 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm*
- April 9 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm*
- April 10 – Bible Study at 6:30pm*
- April 14 – Monthly Building Offering
- April 17 – Bible Study at 6:30pm*
- April 20 – KJLY Women's Seminar at Hillside Church, Mankato, MN
- April 28 – Fellowship Sunday*



BIRTHDAYS: March 2- Sage Anderson, Darlene Schmidt; 4- Aaron Rogers; 5- Tom Engelrup, Maggie Sveback; 10- Frank Heldberg; 11- Iris Krenik; 12- Joshua Nyamutora (son of missionary in Zimbabwe); 14- Jordan Phillips; 15- Dayton Hale, 15- Babu Samuel (missionary in India); 16- Wendy Eckert, Claudia Theis; 18- Helen Boldthen; 19- Mercy Samuel (daughter of missionary in India); 20- Liz Rogers; 26- Bob Potter; 28- Jordan Gish; 29- Elsa Ely; 30- Mildred Wakefield

ANNIVERSARIES: March 10- Lowen & Dorothy Richter; 13- Lance & Janice Fahning; 17- Gary & Nancy Kunz; 18- Dan & Jolene Christensen



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship meets the first Saturday of every month only. Men, plan to come for time of fellowship and coffee on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:30am at the church.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10. In order to be on time for worship service, set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday evening, March 9.



CROSSROADS COLLEGE DAY at church

On Sunday, March 10th, we will be hosting a group from Crossroads College which is located in Rochester, MN. During the 9:00am Sunday School hour, college personnel will be sharing the exciting story of what is going on at the college. During our 10:30 am Worship Service, the musical group Adoration will be sharing in song and Dr. Joe Sprinkle will be bringing a message from God's word. We look forward to the chance to be blessed by the ministry of Crossroads College and in turn to bless them with our morning offering. Following the worship service, there will be a Fellowship/Potluck meal.

www.crossroadscollege.edu

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The Dorcas Fellowship will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 1:30pm at the church. All women are welcome!

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Church Board members will meet at the church on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30pm.



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

We will meet on Wednesdays February 13 and 20 at 6:30pm at the church. We are studying the Bible book of 1 Peter chapter 3. All are welcome!

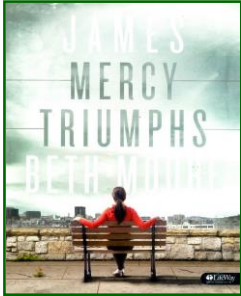
LADIES NIGHT OUT

The Ladies will meet at The Long Horn Steakhouse in St. Peter on Thursday, March 21 at 5:00pm. Come and join with other ladies for fellowship and a meal cooked for you.

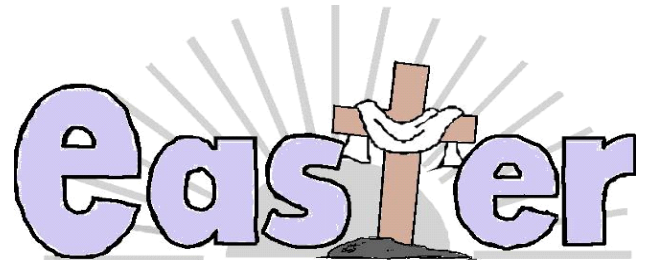


LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, if you would like to participate in an in-depth Bible study, plan to attend the Beth Moore Bible study on the book of James – *Mercy Triumphs*. It will run for eight weeks starting Wednesday, March 13, from 6:30-8:00pm. Each week will include a



teaching video by Beth Moore on topics including joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom – gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility and prayer. There will be a cost of \$15.00 for the lesson book. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer by March 3rd. Contact Sandy Krenik if you have questions.



Central to the message of the church is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event sets Jesus apart from all other religious leaders who have ever lived. Each year we celebrate the events surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We will come together on Good Friday, March 29 at 7:00pm to solemnly remember the suffering of the Savior who died for us. We must never forget that our salvation was purchased by the precious blood of Jesus. On March 31 we will celebrate the resurrection. We will hold two unique services at 8:30am and 10:30am with a continental breakfast in between at 9:30am. We invite you to come to one or both services to celebrate the resurrection of the Savior.



MARCH 16-17

The statistics are staggering. Every day 20,000 children under the age of 5 years old die from hunger related causes. Nearly 1 billion people – 1 in every 7 people in the world – will go to bed hungry tonight. 2 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. The problem of hunger is enormous. And while we do not have the resources personally to solve the problem we can do something. Teens in our community have been coming together for years to do what they can to help hungry people. This year we are planning a 30 Hour Famine to draw attention to the issue of hunger in our world. Teens will be collecting money, fasting and learning about hunger so that they can be part of the hunger solution. March 16 and 17 are our designated days for the Famine. We are asking teens to stop eating when they go to bed on Friday night and then fast until breakfast on Sunday morning. Each teen that participates will find sponsors to donate money to feed our sponsored child and to give to other hunger projects. We have set a goal of raising \$1,000 this year to combat world hunger.



We extend our sympathy to the Amy Poll family on the passing of Amy Poll on Saturday, February 16. Her funeral was held here at the church on Wednesday, February 20th. Please continue to keep Art Poll and the entire Poll family in your prayers.



DID YOU KNOW...

Minnesota Teen Challenge is changing its name to Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge to more accurately reflect who they serve. Find information at www.mntc.org.

CELEBRATING CARTER



From Carter's Mom, Becky Kern

It's time to celebrate Carter and to thank all of you! We are planning a Celebration and Thank You Party on Saturday, March 30 from 11:00am-2:00pm at the Cleveland Church of Christ.

Carter's journey with Leukemia started on August 3, 2009 when he was 2 years old. He has gone through so many challenges and has faced so many obstacles. Hundreds of needle pokes, hundreds of medicines and his space has been invaded over and over again. And the entire time, he's held onto his smile! He will always be our brave little soldier. We are so grateful for God's mercy and healing. We are so grateful for the staff at Children's (hospital) that so compassionately cared for him (and us). And we are so thankful for all of you that cheered him on and prayed for his healing. Your kindness and your generosity still amazes me. Every word you wrote on CaringBridge, every word you spoke to us and every kind thing you did for us will forever be remembered.

This March 30th party is for YOU! Please join us. Lunch will be served and we'll be playing BINGO. And there might even be a special video clip to watch.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/carterkern>

ELDERS MEETING

Our church elders will be meeting on Sunday, April 7 following the morning worship service.



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

APRIL 28

For years we have held a Friend Day service where we make a concerted effort to invite people from the community to worship and fellowship with us. We want to share the love of Jesus with our community. This year we are adding an event that is designed to help us see the size and scope of ministry of the people who call Cleveland Church of Christ home. We are encouraging everyone who is part of this congregation to reserve April 28 on your calendars. We want you to come and be encouraged as you fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We plan to highlight the ministries we share in together, eat a meal that we share together and fellowship around the table with those who come to celebrate our church family. Please make plans to attend. You won't want to miss this event.



www.pinehavencamp.org

PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 2013 CAMP SCHEDULE

Based on grades going into Fall 2013 / Cleveland is in Zone A

May 9-11	Work Weekend
May 24-27	Fishing Weekend
June 9-12	4th Grade
June 14-16	Ladies Retreat
June 16-22	11th & 12th Grade
June 23-28	5th & 6th Grade (Zone A)
June 28-30	Adult Weekend
Jun 30-Jul 5	Family Week
July 14-20	9th & 10th Grade (Zones A & B)
July 21-27	7th & 8th Grade (Zone A)
Aug 3-5	MAN UP (30 camper limit)
Aug 8-11	Family Weekend
Aug 16-18	Motorcycle Weekend
Aug 18-20	Leadership Retreat
Aug 30-Sept 2	Last Chance Camp
Sept 5-8	Scrapbook Weekend

ADDRESS CHANGES:

- 📍 Evelyn Engelrup Ctry Neighbors: 507-357-4104
175 E Derrynane
Le Center MN 56057
- 📍 Alice Will Alice cell: 507-779-4896
76 S Lexington Avenue, Apt 106
Le Center MN 56057
- 📍 Brian & Kelly Esser (Brody, Riley, Kenley)
407 Lyd Blvd
Mankato, MN 56001