



It Happens each time our Lord gathers His people and serves them with His life-giving Word and His Gospel Sacraments. As we receive Him and His good gifts, our faith is emboldened, and together we call upon our merciful God. We boldly approach His throne of grace to petition and to extol Him, saying the Prayer of the Church and praying the Lord's Prayer.

### **The gift of prayer**

Set within the Divine Service, the public prayers of God's holy people are properly viewed as the Spirit-empowered response flowing from Spirit-engendered faith that receives Christ and His salvation.

One contemporary theologian puts it this way. The prayers offered by the Church during worship are part of her "respiration," what she "exhales" in the power of the Spirit after having first deeply "inhaled" of the Spirit's life-giving breath.

Through His perfect life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, the incarnate Son of God has removed the barrier of sin between us and God and gained for us "access to the Father by one Spirit" (Eph. 2:18).

In the waters of Holy Baptism, this sacred privilege is conferred upon us. In the Divine Service it is exercised corporately by the communion of saints.

### **Linking Word and Sacrament**

The common practice in Christendom is to position the Prayers between the Service of the Word and the Service of Holy Communion. Linking these essential structures of Christian liturgy underscores their significance and their relationship as the way in which the Good Shepherd feeds and cares for His flock through His Word and His Sacrament.

The juncture at which the Prayers are said also reminds us of the "rhythm of our worship." Our sacrifice of praise and our petitions to the Lord are offered in view of His tender mercies proclaimed and bestowed upon us in the reading of His Scriptures and in the preaching of His Gospel.

To understand and affirm the connection between the sacramental (God's giving to us, which is always primary) and the sacrificial (our giving back to God, which is secondary) is crucial if the theology and practice of Christian worship is to be Christ-centered and Gospel-oriented.

In saying the Prayers, the congregated members of Christ's body carry out their God-given status as a royal priesthood of believers. They glorify the Lord and intercede before Him, serving Him and their neighbors.

That these requests are humbly yet confidently offered to the Lord is confirmed by the manner in which the presider at the Divine Service concludes them: "Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord" (*Lutheran Worship*, p. 168).

Our certainty is based upon the sure promises of our Savior: "If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven" (Matt. 18:19), and "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24).

### **The words Christ gave us**

Along with the Prayers, we further entreat our heavenly Father and request His mercy and aid in the words that His only-begotten Son has given us—the Lord's Prayer.

Early in her history, the church incorporated the Lord's Prayer in the order of the Divine Service as an integral element. She did this because of the importance and supreme value of the "Our Father."

This prayer was given by the Lord as a response to a request by the disciples to be taught to pray, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name...'" (Luke 11:2).

In obedience to our Lord, therefore, as the fruit and exercise of faith in Him and His saving Gospel, we pray the very words He has graciously given us.

Led by His Spirit, we unite with our Christian brothers and sisters in the congregation—and with the church across the world and throughout the ages. We present the seven divine petitions to our heavenly Father "as dear children ask their dear father," concluding with the word of sure and certain faith, "Amen, Amen... it shall be so" (*Small Catechism*).

Traditionally, the Lord's Prayer and the Words of Institution are closely bound in the Service of the Sacrament. In praying the Lord's Prayer in connection with the Eucharist, we humbly request our heavenly Father to sanctify and consecrate us as we eat Christ's body and drink His blood, that in true faith we may receive all the benefits of this heavenly meal and rejoice in the foretaste it gives us of the feast to come.

How abundantly our Lord Jesus Christ graces us, especially in the Divine Service! As He gathers us to impart His salvation by His Spirit's power at work through His Word and Sacraments, He simultaneously mediates the words of praise and intercession we address to our Father in heaven. He blesses them to His glory and to the good He ordains for us and our neighbors!

**FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE  
AND OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Church Attendance**

	Sat	8:00	10:30	Total
<b>Feb 2-3</b>	52	55	89	<b>196</b>
<b>Feb 9-10</b>	44	71	86	<b>201</b>
<b>Feb 16-17</b>	72	32	41	<b>145</b>
<b>Feb 23-24</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Comm</b>				<b>147</b>

**Transfers/Releases**

**Transfer In:** Bea Hilken from Woodlands Lutheran, Montverde, Florida

**LWML NOTES**

**LWML Board Meeting** is Tuesday, April 2 at 1:00 pm.

**Lenten Services** continue on April 3 and 10 at 12:30 and 7 pm.

**Holy Week Schedule**

- Maunder Thursday** with Holy Communion at 7 pm
- Good Friday 12:30 and 7 pm
- Easter Vigil** with Holy Communion Saturday, 5 pm
- Easter Sunrise** 7 am
- C.I.A. sponsored breakfast between services
- Easter Festival** with Holy Communion at 9 am

**March 31 is the last date** to direct your Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial. Call 1-800-847-4836 and choose, direct Choice Dollars. They will ask for your phone number and date of birth. They can be directed to Good Shepherd or other Lutheran non-profit organizations.

**LORD'S CUPBOARD DRIVE-  
MONTHS OF MARCH/APRIL**

Christian Management is collecting the following items:

- On March 31) Personal hygiene
- On April 7-14) Paper products/household goods
- See poster in the Overflow Room for weekly donations.**

There is a box in the Overflow for your donations.

**We will need** lilies for our Easter services. If you would like to provide one, please bring during the end of Holy week. They may be picked up after the Easter Festival service!! Thank you!

*Newsorthy Notes*

**C.I.A. Youth and Sunday School**

-After much discussion, it has been decided that the C.I.A. Silent Drama will be discontinued. Instead, Sr. C.I.A. will be involved in the Good Friday service in different ways. Watch for more details.

-Saturday April 20, 2019: **Jr & Sr** Easter Breakfast Prep & Service-3:30 pm-5 pm (we will worship together @ the 5:00 service)

-Sunday April 21, 2019: **Jr & Sr** Easter Breakfast – 7 am-10:30 am

**Endowment and Legacy Fund.** If you or a committee you serve on has a special need for funds please pick up an application at the church office **The deadline for submitting applications is April 7th.** Also, any requests for scholarship funds for anyone going in to church work or Christian Education must also be submitted by April 7th. The Endowment Committee will meet after April 7th to award funds.

**“Ready, Set, Retire,”** a free workshop for those retiring in the next several years, will be held Tuesday evening April 2 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Citizens Central in Fort Dodge. Topics include Social Security, anticipating retirement expenses, planning how much to withdraw from investment accounts, and more. Please pre-register by calling Iowa Central (515-574-1293). Questions? Contact Barb Wollan, [bwollan@iastate.edu](mailto:bwollan@iastate.edu) or 515-832-9597.

**Bell Choir** is missing a green hand cart. If you have borrowed, please return ASAP!

**Beacon of Hope** Meal will be on Wednesday, April 3 at 5 pm. This is a one time change!

**Christian Outreach** is looking for suggestions of speakers or topics for the Fireside Chats which begin in April. Please return to the church office.

Topic Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Speaker Ideas : \_\_\_\_\_



**Attention Spring Cleaners!** When doing your cleaning, if you find bedding that you no longer need or use, please consider donating them to our Good Shepherd Quilters. Just drop them off in the office, and they will be turned into quilts. Each year these ladies turn unwanted bedding and fabric into hundreds of quilt to be shared here in Fort Dodge, other places in Iowa, and all over the world.



**The rocking chair** in the narthex has been designated the GIVING CHAIR. If you or someone you know is in need of warmth, please take a quilt. The need may be spiritual, mental, or physical warmth. We at Good Shepherd want people to know that God loves them and we do to.

# April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12 pm-LL Preschool	2 8:15 am- LL Preschool 8:30 am-Pastor Winkle 9:00 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:00 pm-LWML Bd. 6:30 pm—Bd of Ed	3 8:15 am – LL Preschool 12:00 pm – LL Pre- school 12:30 pm – Lenten Service 4:45 pm – Children’s Bells 5 pm Beacon Meal 5:30 pm – Meal; Family Singers 6:00 pm – CC Classes 6:15 pm – Shepherd Ringers 7:00 pm – Lenten Service	4 7 am-Men’s Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	5 8:15 am- LL Pre- school 12 pm-LL Preschool	6 5 pm- Divine Worship
7 8 am-Divine Worship with HC 9:15 am-SS/ Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM- Divine Worship	8 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm- Compassionate Friends	9 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing 10 am-Mary Circle 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 4 pm-Ch. Outreach 6:45 pm-Hannah Circle	10 8:15 am – LL Preschool 12:00 pm – LL Pre- school 12:30 pm – Lenten Service 1:30 pm-Martha Circle 4:45 pm – Children’s Bells 5:30 pm – Meal; Family Singers 6:00 pm – CC Classes 6:15 pm – Shepherd Ringers 7:00 pm – Lenten Service	11 7 am-Men’s Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm-Dorcas Circle	12 8:15 am- LL Pre- school 12 pm-LL Preschool	13 5 pm- Divine Worship  Ch. Outreach Chocolate Breakfast- Time TBA
14 8 am-Divine Worship 9:15 am-SS/ Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM-Divine Worship with HC	15 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	16 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:15-Ch Mgmt 6:30-Trustees; 7:00-Council	17 8:15 am- LL Preschool 10:30 am- Lamplighters 5:15 pm-Praise Team 12 pm-LL Preschool	18 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 7 pm-Maundy Thursday Worship with HC	19 OFFICE CLOSED 12:30 pm- Good Friday worship 7 pm—Good Friday Worship with C.I.A. assisting	20 3:30 pm- CIA Prep 5 pm- Easter Vigil with HC
21 7 am-Easter Sunrise Between services-C.I.A. Breakfast 9 am-Easter Festival with HC	22 Possible snow makeup	23 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing 6:30 pm-Elders	24 8:15 am-LL Pre- school 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15 pm-Praise Team 6:15-Shep. Ringers 7:15 pm-Family Singers	25 7 am-Men’s Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	26 8:15 am- LL Pre- school 12 pm-LL Preschool	27 5 pm- Divine Worship
28 8 am-Divine Worship 9:15 am-SS/ Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM-Divine Worship Voter’s Meeting following	29 12 pm-LL Preschool	30 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9:00 am- Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool				*Times and dates are subject to change

Good Shepherd  
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*We're on the web*  
**[www.goodshepfortdodge.org](http://www.goodshepfortdodge.org)**  
Check us out on Facebook  
**Good Shepherd Fort Dodge**

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out” (Deut 28:3-6).

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deut 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deut 28:2a).

If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deut 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit.

By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have.

It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2). *From LCMS Stewardship Ministry*