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A message from Pastor Quinn

The Minor Prophets: Amos

While his name does not occur anywhere else in the Old Testament, the Prophet Amos has left for us a record of his entire ministry. In his book he reveals to us how he was called by the Lord from his work as a shepherd to be a prophet. Through his preaching we learn about the times in which he served and the people whom he served. Amos lived in the southern kingdom of Judah under King Uzziah. His ministry, however, was done in the northern kingdom of Israel which was ruled by King Jeroboam II. Hosea and Jonah were prophets in Israel during Amos's ministry and Isaiah and Micah served in Judah.

The history of Amos's day is recorded for us in 2 Kings 14 and 15. From that record we learn that the work God called Amos to do would not be easy. That was primarily because of King Jeroboam II. Jeroboam II did evil in God's eyes and continued to lead the people into sin. In fact, God says that Jeroboam II was no different than Jeroboam I. The first Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He usurped power from King Rehoboam (Solomon's son) and took the 10 northern tribes of Israel with him. It was in the north that Jeroboam I set up places of worship. He built idols. He claimed to still be worshiping the Lord but the places of worship he set up were very easily adaptable to the pagan worship of the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land which the Israelites were supposed to have driven out. The Canaanites worshiped Baal and Asherah. Under Jeroboam I the Israelites did too. Jeroboam II, reigning about 150 years after the first Jeroboam did absolutely nothing to correct these sins. He felt no need to. Financially Israel was flourishing. But it wasn't just Jeroboam II who didn't care his attitudes prevailed among the people of Israel, too.

The people of Israel were experiencing a time of great prosperity. It was the silver age in their history. Under Jeroboam II they were able to extend their kingdom to include territories they hadn't possessed since the days of David and Solomon. So this time of spiritual apathy and corruption was accompanied by military success, national pride, peace and prosperity. The Israelites of Jeroboam II's reign sinfully took full advantage of their prosperity. From Amos's writings we get the picture of injustice and corruption among the people. The rich oppressed the poor, looking out only for themselves, feeding only their greed. Religious activity at Israel's shrines was thriving but this religion was not accompanied by godly living. The people weren't worshiping the true God and the LORD's judgment was coming.

It was Amos's job to announce that judgment. "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (Amos 5:21-24). The Lord also made it abundantly clear why this judgment was coming on his people: Despite countless warning the people had rejected him to follow other gods and refused to repent (see 2 Kings 17:7-18). Shortly after Amos's ministry God's judgment came on Israel. The Assyrians swept through the promised land and deported many of the Israelites from it, never to return.

By his power and grace our God has preserved the message he delivered to his Old Testament people through the Prophet Amos. These words still speak to God's chosen people, to his believers, today. The Lord still expects much of those who have been called by his gospel and enlightened with his gifts. What are we doing with the Lord's blessings? Through Amos God calls us to repentance too.

Through Amos God calls us to demonstrate our faith in our lives, both at work and at home. The Lord looks for the fruits of our faith and warns against temptation to abuse his gifts and take his grace for granted. What judgment is on those who do so? The worst—God will remove his grace.

While judgment made up the lion's share of Amos's message, God's love and desire to save is also evident. Really the two are intimately connected. God warns of judgment for sin because he is passionate about the salvation of the world. He is so passionate that he sent his Son to secure it by his life and death as the world's substitute. That message and the invitation to believe in the Lord as Savior is also in the book of Amos. "Seek me and live," says the Lord (Amos 5:4). The last chapter of Amos's book sums up God's gospel plan for those who remain believers in him.

¹¹ "In that day I will restore
David's fallen tent.
I will repair its broken places,
restore its ruins,
and build it as it used to be,
¹² so that they may possess the remnant
of Edom
and all the nations that bear my name,"
declares the LORD, who will do these things.
¹³ "The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman
and the planter by the one treading grapes.
New wine will drip from the mountains
and flow from all the hills.
¹⁴ I will bring back my exiled
people Israel;
they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in
them.
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.
¹⁵ I will plant Israel in their own land,
never again to be uprooted
from the land I have given them,"
says the LORD your God (Amos 9:11-15)

Coming Up in March:

March 1	Forensics Dinner 12 noon
March 4	Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm
March 7	MLS Science & Fine Arts Fair
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 11	Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm
March 18	Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm
March 19	Home & School Society 6:30 pm
March 20	Spring begins
March 25	Soup Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Worship 7:00 pm

Time Change

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 8th at 2 AM. Be sure to spring y our clock ahead one hour.

Easter Offerings

Midweek Lenten Services	Christian Relief Fund
Palm Sunday	Roscommon
Maundy Thursday	WELS Jubilee
Good Friday	WELS Jubilee
Easter	MLS Foundation

A free will offering basket will be at the back of the church March 22 and March 29 for donations to help supply an Easter dinner for those of our congregation needing a little extra help in these times and a box for non-perishable items will be located in the narthex.

Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest but about who came and never left your side.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Good Shepherd will again have a soup supper before each Lenten service. Lenten evening services will be February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, and April 1. Sign up sheets are on the large bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign up so we will know how many to expect. All suppers are potluck with soup, bread, and dessert on the menu.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras originally began in the Roman Catholic countries but today when we hear the words "Mardi Gras" we usually think of the celebration in New Orleans. But Mobile, Alabama; Houston, Texas; Galveston, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; and Rio de Janeiro

are also noted for their celebrations. Literally, “Mardi Gras” means Fat Tuesday and is of French origin. Mardi is the French word for Tuesday and Gras is the French word for big or fat. In the French language, the adjective is placed AFTER the noun it describes so it’s really Tuesday Fat.

In Great Britain, Ireland and Australia the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday and pancakes are the traditional food.

One of the delicacies that has made its way to Midland, Michigan is the Polish sweet called Paczski. Made much like a large Bismarck, a paczski may be filled with various fruits including strawberries, blueberries or prunes. Confectioners’ sugar coats the paczski making it hard to eat without getting powdered sugar all over everything. Fortunately the taste is worth the inconvenience.

History says that the French brought the Mardi Gras celebration with them to the New World from France in the early 1700’s when they settled in Mobile, Alabama. Throughout the years, the celebration has become a carnival with some of the cities vying to be known as having the biggest celebration. For some reason, Bourbon Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans still receives the most publicity for Mardi Gras.

Scripture Readings for March

March 1 Lent 1

Genesis 22:1-18
Romans 8:31-39
Mark 1:12-15
Psalm 6

March 8 Lent 2

Genesis 28:10-17
Romans 5:1-11
Mark 8:31-38
Psalm 73

March 15 Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians:1:22-25
John 2: 13-22
Psalm 19

March 22 Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21
Psalm 38

March 29 Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33
Psalm 143

Our shut-ins

Please call the church office for contact information.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Brighten someone’s day. Remember them with a card and best wishes.

March Birthdays:

March 1	Jonathan Gunsell
March 6	Mike Browning
March 14	Laura Krueger
March 14	Angie Beyersdorf
March 14	Norene Garchow
March 16	Norman Retzloff
March 16	Jeff Crawford
March 17	Susan Pifher
March 17	Jennifer Wirth
March 18	Bill Prince
March 22	Grace Johnson
March 22	Kyle Hocquard
March 26	Katelynn Pifher
March 26	Dane DeLong
March 28	Ruthanne Fick
March 28	Sue Rummel

Anniversaries in March:

March 25	Mike and Amy Browning
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Easter Worship Times

Easter will occur on Sunday, April 12th this year and we will celebrate with a Sunrise Service, Easter brunch and our Easter Festival Service. Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00am followed by Easter Brunch. Sign-up sheets are on the large bulletin board in the hallway for the food that is needed, if you can help with setting up and cleaning up and if you and your family will be attending. Our Easter Festival Service will begin at 9:30 am. If you have an unchurched friend or neighbor, this would be a perfect time to invite them as we worship our risen Savior.

Service Veterans To Be Remembered

Rhoda Daniel presented our LES with an American flag and a certificate stating that this flag was flown over the Headquarters of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A wooden frame has been made to hold both the flag and the accompanying certificate. Now we need your help. We want to make small metal plaques engraved with each serviceman's name, rank, and field of service and attach these to the wooden frame for display.

To date, we have information for Mitch McGill, Greg Lyvere, Kenneth Bow, Len Lehman, Dan Lehman, Ted Lehman, Glenn Garchow, Jack Hillis, Gary Garchow, Rhoda Daniel and Ron Daniel. It doesn't matter if the serviceman is now deceased. They are to be honored, too.

School News **Principal Tim Thies**

Saturday, March 7, is the 2009 Michigan Lutheran Seminary Fine Arts Fair at MLS in Saginaw. All of our students in grades 3-8 will be participating in the area of forensics, music, art, science, math, and spelling. The ribbons, judging sheets, science and art projects will be set up on display in the school hallway on Sunday, March 15. Please plan to stop by before, between, or after services to see our student's accomplishments. All students may take their projects and ribbons home after the late service on March 15.

Due to the Saturday, March 7th Science and Fine Arts Fair, there will be no school on Monday, March 9. The MLS Booster Club is sponsoring a "3 on 3" basketball tournament for all WELS students from our Michigan District Churches in grades 5-8. The date is March 21. A poster, and more information concern-

ing the event can be found on the school bulletin board, or you may contact Mr. Thies for an entry form.

On Friday, March 27, our 3-8 grade students will be going to Michigan Lutheran Seminary to see the spring performance entitled Arsenic and Old Lace. This 2 ½ hour performance is the dress rehearsal prior to the public viewing Friday evening, March 27, Saturday, March 28, and Sunday, March 29.

Wolverine Camp

This year the 6-8 graders took their "end of the year trip" during the last week of January when they accompanied seven of our sister schools, and approximately 95 of their students on a weeklong outdoor educational camp in Wolverine, Michigan. The Board of Education gave their approval for this trip in the beginning of the year as it recognized the numerous benefits that such an event would offer.

Probably the biggest and most obvious benefit was the opportunity for Christian fellowship. All of the schools and students in attendance were united in faith and fellowship and each day the students and chaperones gathered around God's Word to grow in their faith. This fellowship also gave our students the opportunity to rub elbows with future classmates as each school in attendance will have many of its students continuing on together at Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Another important benefit of the week was the diversity in education. Many topics and activities took place that would not be able to be covered as in depth in the traditional classroom setting. Some of these included activities such as: muzzle loading, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snow tubing, drifting and many others. The students also took part in captivating discussions and demonstrations on topics such as: tracking, survival, Indian life, weather, pioneer life, farming, raptors, and life during the time of the Civil War.

This is the second time that Good Shepherd has participated in this biannual event. While they are at camp, all of the students and chaperones stay in heated lodges and receive three square meals a day. Even though the word "camp" makes this sound like a weeklong vacation, it definitely is anything but a vacation from school. Instead, it is a week long adventure where school takes on a different "look".

The organizer of this event, Mr. Mike Falk, is the principal and upper grade teacher from St. John's Lutheran School in Bay City. We thank him for all of the work he puts in to organizing this wonderful learning experience for our children.

Preschool News **Director Dana Schwab**

One of our favorite themes in the preschool is dinosaurs. The children are fascinated by their appearance, size, and sometime ferocity. We learn the long names, whether they ate meat or plants, and how they used their bodies to defend themselves from predators.

God created the dinosaurs in the same six days He made the universe so we disregard the mention of evolution in the books we have. We don't know how they became extinct or when, whether or not they were on the ark, or what colors they were.

When asked what dinosaurs they would like for a pet, most answered "a plant eater." When asked which one they would want to be, most answered "Tyrannosaurus Rex."

We have a few field trips planned for the month of March: the lizard and snake exhibit at the Midland Center for the Arts, a visit to MidMichigan Regional Medical Center, and to the Dow Gardens to see the butterflies. Our theme in March will be insects and butterflies.

Caring for Your Family and Others with Our Generous Savior's Gifts

By Pastor John Kenyon

Our generous God has given us all kinds of gifts. He has made us who we are, and in His wisdom put us here to live in this time and place. He has given us the priceless gifts of His Son and His Word and Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He has made us His own dear members of His family now and forever.

He also has given us money and property as blessings to use for ourselves and our families. In this article, we will look at some of the basic ways we use God's blessings to bless our families and also those around us.

God has put us in families to bless us—to support ourselves and each other spiritually, emotionally and financially. Regardless of what form your family may take at the moment, our Savior seeks to make family a blessing for us.

One of the ways that we help provide for our families is with a will. A will is an act of love, in which you direct how you would like your blessings of money and property to be used after our Savior calls you home into the glory he prepared for you and has promised to you as your inheritance. A will accomplishes several things:

- It honors and shows love to our Savior, since He has given you everything to use to His glory in the many ways Christians use His gifts.
- It blesses and shows love to our families and friends as it seeks to give gifts to them.
- It honors and shows love for our Savior's Gospel, when some portion of the gifts He has given you is used so that people will continue to hear His Gospel, or perhaps hear it for the first time through your gift. It allows you to be the one who has the final say in how your money and property which our Savior has loaned you for a while will be used while you enjoy the glory of heaven.

Two thirds of Americans don't have wills. If you're past 18, you're an adult and you need one. Even if you think you don't have much, you do have some blessings from God, and a will takes care of them. It is a gift to your family to have one, since it helps take care of things in a good, orderly way after our Savior calls you into His glory.

If you don't have a will, or would like to update one, or have any questions about any kinds of estate planning or gifting, you can contact me at the numbers below. —Pastor Kenyon

Pastor Kenyon is the Christian Giving Counselor for the Michigan and North Atlantic Districts of our Synod, and a member of St. Paul congregation in Stevensville, MI. He visits individuals and congregations and helps with setting up wills, trusts, gift annuities and other kinds of gifts for individuals and their families, and endowments for congregations. All these services are freely provided by our Synod to the members and churches of our Synod. Pastor Kenyon has been a mission pastor, and also served congregations in Minnesota, Florida, and most re-

cently, Bangor, Michigan. Call the church office for contact information.

Choir

The choir at Good Shepherd needs more members. It is always a pleasure to hear the choir sing and if you have been blessed with a good singing voice and the time, why not volunteer and share your talent? The Easter season is almost upon us and this would be a perfect time to join the choir. If committing to an every week schedule at the present time isn't feasible, would you be able to make practices for the Easter and Christmas seasons? If you think you might be interested, please contact Amy Lindesmith our choir director.

Refreshments

A sign-up sheet for refreshments is now on the bulletin board. We serve refreshments the second Sunday of each month immediately after the 8:00 am worship service. You don't have to be Betty Crocker or Julia Childs to bring cookies or dessert. Juice is furnished and the coffee is made by the deacon on duty that month. If everyone takes a turn bringing refreshments, we can easily have refreshments every month all year long.

Flowers for the Altar

The flower chart has a lot of blank spaces on it right now. Birthdays and anniversaries are always nice to be remembered by putting flowers on the altar that particular Sunday. If you would like to remember a special occasion or just in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have received, please check the sign-up sheet and put your name down for the Sunday you want fresh flowers for the altar.

Retreat 2009

Today's Christian Women's Retreat 2009 will be held March 13-15 at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing, Michigan. This is the 15th Annual Retreat and the theme will be "Salvation - Lord, you have the words of eternal life." from John 6:68. You may register by mail or online. Visit www.tewr.org to download a registration form from their website using the codeword: *retreat*.

Retreat Committee Members are from the following WELS congregations: Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Bay City, MI; Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church, Midland, MI; Cross of Glory Ev. Lutheran Church, Washington, MI.; and Divine Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Lake Orion, MI. Take the time to enjoy this

special weekend with your sisters in Christ, gathered around the Word.

Volunteers

No organization can function without a certain amount of volunteer time and churches, in particular, rely heavily on volunteers to fill in the corners for various projects. Folding church bulletins, listening to children read, being Picture Lady or Picture Dad, doing the Crusader Connection, and doing copy work for the teachers are just some of the things that volunteers are doing currently at Good Shepherd. If you are available for a couple of hours each week, please call the office at 835-4181 and see if there's something that you can help out with. We need you!

Arsenic and Old Lace at MLS

The MLS Court Street Players will be presenting the hit stage play and movie "Arsenic and Old Lace" March 27, 28 and 29. The play was on Broadway for a successful run of three years and a movie was released in 1944 starring Cary Grant. as Mortimer Brewster.

Mortimer Brewster has two maiden aunts and a brother Teddy who all live together in the family home. His two aunts have developed a special "charity" for lonely, old bachelors and Teddy thinks he's President Theodore Roosevelt. Then Mortimer's other brother, Jonathan, shows up with a plastic surgeon named Einstein. Jonathan is trying to escape from the police.

Mortimer makes frantic attempts to stay on top of the situation as his bride waits for him next door. He's also pushing the panic button that he may turn out to be as nutty as his aunts and his brothers. We won't spoil the ending by telling it here.

Tickets are available in advance by contacting the MLS Business Office at 989-793-1041, extension 236. Performances will be on Friday, March 27 beginning at 7 pm, on Saturday, March 28 at 7 pm and on Sunday, March 29, at 2:30 pm.