
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

February 2019

Lord ... By This Time He Stinketh

The Bible should be read by the nose.

Like incense from a thurible, the Bible pours out fresh meaning when we take the time to “scratch and sniff” its stories. For example, the perfume that Mary used to anoint Jesus’ feet becomes the aroma of sacrificial love. And how can one read the story of the Prodigal Son without smelling the stench of the pig sty on his clothes? The Bible invites us to catch a whiff of poor Lazarus, whose oozing sores mix with the odor of decaying garbage in an alley where only the compassion of bad-breathed mongrels soothes his pain.

We often add antiseptic scents into biblical characters, as if they walk around with 24-hour anti-perspirant and anti-bacterial hand soap. But our most beloved Bible personalities are earthy, often dirty, and usually smelly. Shepherds smell like shepherds and sheep like sheep. We miss the warmth of the Christmas story, for example, without the smell of the manger hay, the stable manure, and the sweat of two weary travelers—one, a mother perspiring through labor.

This olfactory challenge is not just a biblical issue. It has become a mini-theme for this new year 2019... for me –and for Our Savior Lutheran Church.

My new year started as our new canine companion, Graham, insisted on going outside at 4 in the morning ... to encounter a skunk head on... or raised-tail-on. Right back into the house she stormed... to spread her newfound fulsome fragrance. A week or so later, the sewer backed up on our newly completed bathroom tile floor. For me, 2019 was ushered in by the foulest of fumes.

Of course, Our Savior has its own nasal nuisances. Most of you are aware of an eerily, mysteriously moving sewer-like odor wafting its ghostly way through the church like some spectral fiend. With dogged determination, we have consulted plumbers, replaced seals, poured all manner of chemical concoctions—everything short of exorcisms—to counteract this rank smell—all to no avail.

Some odors are simply unpleasant, but others are more serious. The Bible does not shrink from the most putrid odor of all—the smell of death. In John 11, Jesus’ friend Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus arrives late for the funeral. Sister Martha declares in the unmistakable English of the King James’ Version: “Lord, by this time he stinketh!” “Death stinks,” Martha proclaims, a fact that Nicodemus knew all too well.

You see, Nicodemus tried to cover up the stench of Jesus’ death with 100 pounds of myrrh. No doubt, Jesus broken body needed it, soaked in the perspiration of Gethsemane where Jesus sweat was like drops of bloodthe smell of the whip and thorn on broken flesh ... the sickening stench of spit and hate. By the time he died, Jesus’ body ‘verily stinketh.’ Not even a million pounds of myrrh could undo the smell of hate.

Only God could turn death’s repugnant odor into the sweet balm of love. God opened Jesus’ tomb to a wondrous perfume that could not be replicated by Chanel, Dior, or even Avon. God gave us a whiff of pure love so we might spread that life-giving aroma to this world’s pig sties. Indeed, there are many bodies that need the sweet-smelling fragrance of safety and love... the immigrants on their 2,000-mile sweaty journey, the refugees on a dusty retreat from the sulphur fumes of guns and bombs, and for all of us who bear in our bodies the stench of sin, God’s grace is “sweet perfume, delightful.”

And so the Bible’s Good News comes alive...

for the prodigal, who smells of the pig,
for Lazarus, who carries the odor of death,
and even for Graham, stained by the skunk.

As we breath in the incense of New Life in Christ, together with all the Bible’s odorous characters,
we catch a whiff of the very redolence of heaven.

Nancy's Health Notes

I'm on a soap box this month—safety for everyone to protect your body, mind, and soul.

Every day, we either experience or see some activity or behavior that is not safe. Society is always in such a hurry it reminds me of a gerbil who keeps running in the wheel. Never making process to a goal just repetitive nonstop running. Where are you going in the rush of activity? I want to list just some of the areas that are contrary to living safely.

Cars must no longer come with turn signals as the majority of people do not use them when changing lanes or turning.

Have you noticed that so many people dress almost entirely in black and very dark clothing? I see these individuals walking or riding a bike after dark. No one wants to accidentally hit someone because you did not see them. Think before walking out at night.

At sunset, drivers often have not turned on headlights. It is very difficult to see dark cars. But is one reads the handbook from public safety, it is also a law to turn lights on at sunset.

The big danger now is texting while driving. Anyone can see people glued to their cell phones while driving. If you have to respond to a call, pull off the road and take care of it safely.



Flu season is alive and gaining steam. It is never too late to get the immunization. Don't forget to wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizers and cover coughs and sneezes.

Sharing medications! This can be a fatal mistake. Drug interactions caused by this activity are seen in multiple settings. Prescriptions are provided for an individual based on specific need and not "this made me feel good. You can try it." Do not share medicine and do not use out dated medications.

How can you ensure safety of your mind? Take time away from electronic devices and games. There is a place for them but not all day and night. Engage in activities that can promote learning. Remember books? They still exist. Music, listened to live, adds another dimension. Don't forget the wonderful experience of having a face-to-face conversation with family and friends. Enjoy the world around us by taking a walk in one of the numerous parks nearby.

Safety for your spirit comes from spending some quiet time. Reading a daily devotional and your Bible is a good place to start. Praying is having a conversation with God. All that is needed to cover it all. THANKS! GIMME! OOPS! And WOW!



Proverbs 1:33

Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN

The Giving Tree

becomes

The Gratitude Tree

Thank you to all who graciously donated gifts of socks, mittens, underwear, pajamas, and toys to the kids of Bucker Children's Home. This holiday season, the people of Our Savior really came through and Remona of Mother's Day Out was able to deliver Christmas cargo like never before. Thank you!



Gratitude for Gifts of Grace

A SIMPLE "THANK YOU" FROM PASTOR AND LOIS

In the Greek language of Jesus day, those three words were joined together by a common root: gratitude, gifts, and grace. Lois and I experienced all three from your congregation Christmas gift. So, let us respond to yet another year of your generosity with gratitude for your gift by God's grace. It is God's grace that calls us to be a community. It is God's grace that empowers us for service. And it is God's grace that points us to the year 2019 with eager anticipation and fervent hope.

After many years, saying "thank you" may sound trite, but when words fail to express a deeper appreciation for all that we are for each other, let us fall back on the Great Thanksgiving for God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ.



Soup-er Sunday

February 3 is Super Bowl Sunday. For most folks, that means football; for Our Savior that means a special offering for World Hunger. We'll roll out an enormous soup bowl to remember those for whom life is more than a game... those for whom a bowl of soup might mean making it through another day. Plan prayerfully to turn February 3 into a "Soup-er Sunday"



"Warm Up" With Lutheran 101

If the winter chill has you singing the blues, come join us for heartwarming fellowship and lively discussion about our faith. Our first meeting will be some time around mid-February. We'll learn about Lutherans, tour the history of the Reformation, and deepen your faith in Christ. Topics like sin and grace, the liturgy and the Sacraments, prayer and the Holy Spirit, Christian denominations, and any topic you bring to the table are always on the agenda... along with a pot of Lutheran coffee!

If you're new to the Lutheran Church, this is the perfect group to understand about Lutheran worship and teaching. If you'd like to join Our Savior, you'll get the information you need in this setting of Christian friendship and faith. If you've been a Lutheran so long that you no longer remember the Six Chief parts, you need to be a part of this class. Either way, sign up in the centrum to join us in February. We'll set a date once we have enough sign-ups. (If childcare is needed, just let us know!)



Great Love Stories of the Bible

Join us for four evenings of reveling in romance, living the lore of love, and exploring those relationships that help us understand God's role in our marriage today. The Bible offers a unique perspective of love that is well worth our time and appreciation. Sometimes we may be surprised, sometimes we may even blush, many times we will laugh, but always we will come to realize how our relationships are lived under the grace and forgiveness of Christ. Since love is in the air for Valentine's Day, let's try to get started in February.

We'll offer two possible dates for our initial meeting:

1) *Sunday, February 10 at 5:30pm* or 2) *Monday, February 11 at 6:30pm*. Either way, we will begin with a potluck supper followed by our first love story of Ruth and Boaz. Sign up in the centrum and we'll set up the exact meeting time for the next 3 romantic evenings at our first gathering. Friends are welcome and babysitting will be provided upon request.



Bring a Friend to Church

On the verge of Valentine's Day, we'll celebrate the love of Christ with a "Bring a Friend" *Sunday, February 10th*. Bring a friend and spread God's love around. What better gift for Valentines that God's love in Jesus Christ.

Learning the Sunday Lessons



Our Lesson Study group was discontinued through Advent and Christmas but we are ready to study the upcoming Sunday lessons to prepare for worship if

enough sign up in the centrum. Probable times could include Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday at 7pm. Please sign up and indicate which is best for you.



Thank you for Prayers

Stephen Moore appreciates all the prayers before his final meeting with the doctors after his cancer treatment. The

treatment worked, the prayers were welcomed, and Mr. Moore is free of cancer! Thanks be to God and to all who offered prayers and encouragement.

February

Birthday

2	Valente Chavez		
3	Barbara Cisneros		
	Yiyaine Floyd	20	Gordon Johnston
5	Michael Anthony		John Lippincott
6	Pat Smith		Ralph Rogers
7	Craig Gerold	21	Cindy Castilleja
	Susan Starr		Jackie Howk
8	Robert Holmes	22	Jerry Combs
	Bill Speake		Maynard Semmler
	Mike Williams	24	Vie Engsborg
10	Caroline Finamore		Jordan Starr
	Timothy Murphy	25	Sue Rickmeyer
	Whitney Sprouse	27	Logan Jacobs
14	Emily Snyder		Anthony Omata
15	Judy Hocker	28	Grayson Granados
17	Nancy Wilson		
	David Brashear		
	Coen Enright		
	Alexander Nivens		
	Lisa Witwer		

Baptisms

1	Pat Smith
7	Theresa Taylor
8	Jaeden Freeman
	Cody Hardi
15	Jackie Howk
17	Jennifer Gipson
19	Ross Hutchinson
22	Rachel Shafer
23	Jarret Combs
24	Stacy White
25	Jaylen Freeman
27	Greg Barabas
28	Dorothy Hutchinson
29	Ashlee Morton

Wedding Anniversaries

4	John & Lois Schelter	35
10	Randy & Pam Peterson	6
14	Brian & JoAnn Dannen	30
14	Herb & Rita Salmons	32



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	2/3-2/17			2/24-3/10	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00	
Assisting Minister	Lois Schelter	Chip Cannon	Mark Murray	Rand Peterson	
Greeter	Paula Fincher	Jerry Combs	Paul Cross	Eleanor Adix	
	Darren Mann	Kaethe Combs	Karen Staton	Edda Farrell	
Ushers	Mark Hall	David Anderson	Thane Katz	Dennis Chubbs	
	Dave Shafer	Jon Cook	Kris Semmler	Matt Chubbs	
Reader	Earl Herndon	Richard Mastin	Mark Hall	Debbie Zimmermann	
Communion	Paula Fincher	Richard Mastin	Carol Murray	Debbie Zimmermann	
Assistants	Thane Katz	Shari Murphy	Dave Shafer	Jon Cook	

ACOLYTES

	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	Mar. 3
8:30am	Marie V. Alicia V.	Yiyaine F. Haidyn J.	Marie V. Alicia V.	Yiyaine F. Haidyn J.	Marie V. Alicia V.
11:00	Jesse R. Jeremy R.	Madison R. Jeremy R.	Olivia R. Caroline F.	Joshua E. Jonathan E.	Madison R. Jeremy R.

CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

411 North Town East Blvd.

Mesquite TX 75150

Office: 972-226-0510

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www.oslmesquite.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship—8:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Sunday School—9:45am

Pastor—John Schelter

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage Paid

Mesquite Texas

Permit #98



Mardi Gras Celebration

*How about a sparkling “Champagne”
Brunch and Mardi Gras Celebration?*

Sunday, March 3rd at 12:30pm

*The best pancakes, sausage, bacon,
and sparkling grape juice are
served up for you and the whole
family. Who will be the next Mardi
Gras King and Queen? Who will
win the limbo? Who will wear the
most beads in the parade?*

Come find out!!

*The Jubilation of Mardi Gras celebration
on February 11 quickly gives way to the
most somber day of the church year on
March 6th—*

ASH WEDNESDAY



It is the only time which black is
the liturgical color.

It is a confrontation with our sin
and mortality.

It is a confirmation of new life
in Christ.

**SHARE WITH US THE IMPOSITION OF
ASHES AND HOLY COMMUNION
ON MARCH 6TH, 7:00AM & 7:00PM.**

(There is no meal on Ash Wednesday)

Make Mardi Gras Magical

Sign up in the centrum to help decorate, cook, or
clean up for this year's Mardi Gras bash, March
3rd, 12:30pm. If you're a shopper, there's even
a slot to get Mardi Gras groceries. Anybody
want to help search for crawdads this year? Call
the office at 972-226-0510

February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 8:30am Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Service 5:30pm Service					1	2 9:00am Men's Basketball
3 "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday Offering 12:30pm Council Meeting	4	5 9:30am Mother's Day Out	6	7 9:30am Mother's Day Out	8	9 9:00am Men's Basketball Mission Endowment Fund
	<i>Minister's Week @ TCU</i>					
10 12:30pm Council Meeting	11	12 9:30am Mother's Day Out	13 7:30pm Confirmation Class	14 9:30am Mother's Day Out	15	16 9:00am Men's Basketball
17 12:30pm Nursing Home Service Gym Reserved	18	19 9:30am Mother's Day Out	20 7:30pm Confirmation Class	21 9:30am Mother's Day Out	22	23 9:00am Men's Basketball
24	25	26 9:30am Mother's Day Out	27	28 9:30am Mother's Day Out		

