

MARCH NEWSLETTER

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A Christ-focused Word-centered Family

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The Plan

By Rev. Tom Tuura
Pastor of United Lutheran Church

Last month we discussed the 'call'. I recounted a bit of my history and calling. This month we will talk about the 'plan'.

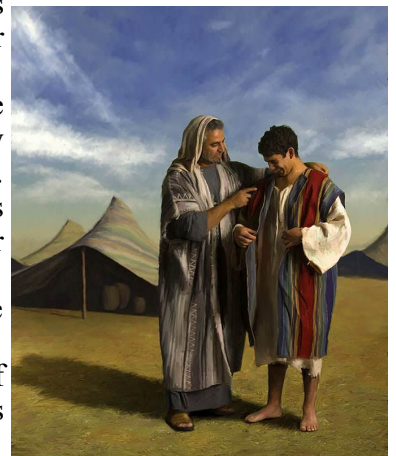
I mentioned the whirlwind that was felt by Judy and myself throughout this process.

Here's a heads-up--the whirlwind is often felt when we begin to discern God's plan, not only the calling. In fact the whirlwind, is often one of God's tools for various life chapters—maybe we'll come back to that in the future.

Over the next few months, we are going to see God's plan unfolding in the lives of some familiar Bible characters from the book of Genesis as we study Joseph. Parts of that story also involve what we could describe as a whirlwind. Yes, I said Joseph. There are several in the Bible. Not Mary's husband, nor is it the one who temporarily gave up his tomb either—Jesus only needed it for three days.

The only one left is the Joseph, dreamer, prisoner and prince of Egypt. All the way back into the book of Genesis. Joseph, with his coat of many colors. Remember who this is and how this fits together? He's one of the 12 sons of Jacob--and remember—the wives, Leah and Rachel? Joseph's mother was Jacob's second wife Rachel.

According to the Bible Project guys "...After the flood, and then a little later again, leading up to the Tower of Babel, the world reels out of control in violence and death. God scatters the world by destroying their ability to communicate evil by suddenly creating many languages" (Gen 10-11).



So the big question is what is God going to do to rescue and redeem His world this time? Well out of that scattering at the Tower of Babel, Moses, the author of Genesis, traces a genealogy that leads to one family, Abraham. And out of that very imperfect family God promises to bless the world.

So we are picking up the story of God's blessing which takes us all the way into the next book of the Bible, Exodus, and in the process explains the history of the nation of Israel, and God's promises to them and ultimately to us, through the most famous Israelite, our Savior and coming king, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He, the Lord Jesus, didn't--and all this didn't just appear out of nowhere. There was a plan!

Joseph is Abraham's great grandson, one of the 12 sons of Jacob. That's a one minute review of where we are.

Why are we here? Well to show that God wants to bless and touch even the most messed up families. And that God has a plan out of the chaos. So we need to hang in there.

God has a plan and He wants us to know that. He had a plan for redemption all the way back in the first book of the Bible. He has a plan for you and for me. Like we used to say in the evangelism explosion days, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." It sounds trite, but it is most certainly true. And the good news is even when we mess up that plan through our foolish actions and decisions, He is able to get us back on track. Proverbs has some good thoughts here, "Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established." (Prov 15:22)

And another verse, "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Prov 16:9)

And of course Jeremiah 29:11 which says 'plans' in the old NIV, "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil to give you a future and a hope."

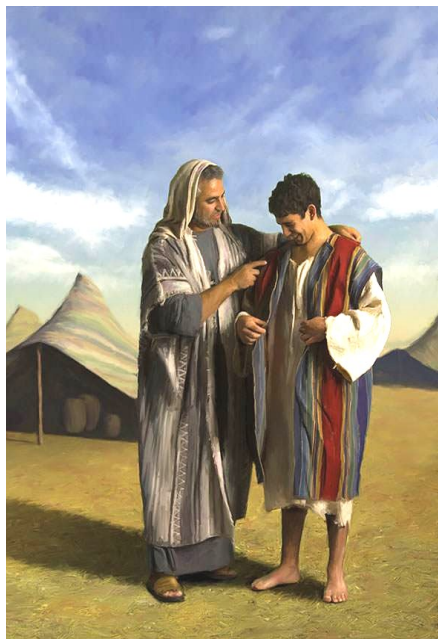
And finally, one last passage from the New Testament. This is good. *"regarding His plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things in accordance with the plan of His will"* Ephesians 1:10-12 NASB

All of that which happened to Joseph, his brothers, and later the nation of Israel itself, were bricks in the foundation for Christ Jesus. And for us, His plans to redeem and to save.

If Joseph were here and could speak, perhaps he would say, "Yes, God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life."

That's my two cents

Pastor Tom ###



Join us as we begin a 10 week series on Joseph in the book of Genesis entitled, Joseph, Dreamer, Prisoner and Prince. Discover with us the unfolding plans of God in this dysfunctional family.

United Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 13, 2025

Members Present: Doug Olson, McKenzie Roeber, Matt Maxon, Tom Biernbaum, Lisa Karnes, Pastor Tuura, Drew Detlefsen and Mike Williams.

Doug called the meeting to order. The group recited the Mission Statement and Matt opened with a reading from Mark.

Doug opened the meeting with a positive and encouraging message. Discussion was held about proper conduct if a congregational member has a concern. If anyone has a question about church service or a church issue, it should be directed to the Deacons.

Lisa read the minutes from the January meeting. One correction was made. Doug Olson and Sara Pehrson were not in attendance at the last meeting. Lisa made a motion to approve the minutes. McKenzie seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The P&L and balance sheets were reviewed. McKenzie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Drew seconded. All approved. New signature cards need to be signed at the bank. Discussion was held. Tom made a motion that McKenzie Roeber and Megan Mullen be on the Parish Education and Luther League accounts. Lisa Karnes, Mitzi Urwiler and Mike Williams will be on the CD, General, and Memorial Committee accounts. McKenzie seconded. All approved. Lisa deposited \$300.00 that was sent to the church in the Memorial account. It was given in memory of Mildred Christensen. Discussion was held by the council in regard to the church's contribution for Pastor Tuura's pension. Discussion was held. Mike made a motion that ULC shall match 6% of Pastor's salary for the contribution to his pension. McKenzie seconded. All approved. According to the church constitution, the council is to appoint 2 members to audit the church bookwork. Discussion was held. Tom made a motion that Maureen Schuester and Mitzi Urwiler be appointed to audit the church bookwork. Matt seconded. All approved.

Deacon's Report: Tom reported for the Deacons. Steve is contacting STEMM to arrange a time for them to preach the message and give an update on their mission. This would be the quarterly mission Sunday. Lenten services will be at 7:00. Confirmation will remain at 5:30 with supper being served at 6:00. Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:30 am, breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by the Easter Service at 9:00. This Sunday (February 16, 2025) is Installation Sunday for Pastor Tuura. Doug will lead the service and Jason Holt will be giving the message. A congregation member talked with Doug about having the announcement read during the service instead of just referring to the bulletin. Lisa explained that there is a copy of the bulletin and insert every week on the church website.

Trustee's Report: Sears from Wayne has an estimate to replace and install the carpet in the parsonage for \$5,314.55. Lisa made a motion to approve the bid. Tom seconded. All approved. Jon is still checking into information regarding the pews. Mr. Harrington's class at school will be building a new shed for the church. A donation would be appreciated. It will be completed when the students are able to. In the parsonage the kitchen faucet needs replacing.

Parish Ed Report: McKenzie presented the minutes from the previous Parish Ed meeting. The totals in the accounts are as follows: Parish Ed-\$10068.80 and Luther League-\$3439.18. Molly has discussed having the Sunday school students make Valentine cards and sing at the nursing home. Due to low attendance during Sunday school because of illness, this has been put on hold. Parish Ed is going to host an event on 2/23 to honor our elder members of the church. All members will be invited to a meal following Sunday school. The meal has been generously donated by Laurel Hometown Market. Sunday school families have been asked to bring a side, salad or dessert. The meal will start approximately at 11:00. Fellowship coffee will be scaled down to just serving coffee. Pastor Tuura is looking into possible stateside mission trips for the Youth. It does not sound as though anyone is interested in attending FLY this year. Thank you notes were received from two college students for the care packages they received. Still looking into making a new church directory.

Lenten meals will be starting March 5th with Ash Wednesday. The schedule for those serving is as follows:

March 5: Women

March 12: Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High)

March 19: Sunday School (PreK-Elementary)

March 26: Women

April 2: all Members

April 9: Men

Confirmation will Be May 19th and Graduation recognition will be May 4th.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tuura has been busy, as usual. He has been working on the service schedule and planning services. He has been learning software and updating. Pastor Tuura's will be installation will be on February 16th. He has performed a baptism and funeral. He has made multiple visits including the nursing home service. Pastor Tuura has ordered and received his new computer and is hooked up to the printer. He has attended the young adult bible study, parish ed meeting, ministerial association meeting and organized the first youth meeting. Confirmation has been moved to Wednesday nights. Pastor Tuura is looking ahead to Lent, summer and beyond. He will be on vacation April 21-May 2. He is working on updating our social media and has contacted Shelley Groene and Katie Bose for their assistance. The church will be serving the Lenten breakfast for the community student on March 19th. Lisa will get that organized.

Other Business: Annual reviews need to be completed for employees of the church. Doug has received information about a potential gentleman that may be interested in being a youth leader. Discussion was held. The Youth Worker call committee includes Doug, Kody Urwiler, Lisa, and Mary Ankeny. It may be a good idea to include a representative from our youth group. Tom Biernbaum will give devotions at the next meeting and be the communion steward for March.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Karnes.



2. KACI GROENE
5. CLAIRE LEGER
6. TOM & JAN ANDERSON
MARLIN BOSE
RACHEL HANGMAN
7. REANNA LAWYER
CHRIS HANSEN
8. KAYLEE SWANSON
PASTOR TOM TUURA
10. DENNIS CHRISTENSEN

11. AALIYAH KOLAR
12. CRAIG KARNES
13. JUDI HARRINGTON
MASON KORT
KYLIE MAXON
17. CHARLES STANLEY
DUSTIN SHOWEN
22. DWIGHT PAULSON
KIRT CUNNINGHAM
CORTNEY QUANBECK
24. LELAND CARSON
JAN ANDERSON
JACK HINTZ
27. DAISY ABTS
ZACHARY SPAHR

March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11:00 am Private Baptism
2 9:00 am-Worship with Communion 10:15 am-Sunday School 5:30 pm-Reserved for Meeting	3 2:30 pm-Bingo at Hillcrest Care Center	4 Blood Drive 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	5 Ash Wednesday 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am-Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm-Confirmation 6:30 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Worship	6 9:00 am- Sarah Circle 5:00 pm- Ruth Circle	7	8
9 9:00 am-Worship 10:15 am-Sunday School Blood Pressure Checks	10	11 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm-Parish Education Meeting	12 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am-Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm-Confirmation 6:30 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Worship	13 7:00 pm- Church Council	14	15
16 9:00 am-Worship 10:15 am-Sunday School	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	19 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am-Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm-Confirmation 6:30 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Worship	20	21	22
23 9:00 am-Worship 10:15 am-Sunday School 2:30 pm-Hillcrest Service	24	25 5:30 pm-Young Adult Bible Study	26 7:00 am-Youth Breakfast 9:30 am-Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm-Confirmation 6:30 pm-Supper 7:00 pm-Worship	27	28	29
30 9:00 am-Worship 10:15 am-Sunday School	31					

SAVE LIVES WITH LIFESERVE


LAUREL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Laurel Fire & Rescue Hall
Tuesday, March 4
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

BE THE LEADER BEHIND THE LIFESAVERS
 Organize. Inspire. Save lives. One blood drive at a time.
 your leadership saves lives

By becoming a Chairperson with LifeServe, you'll be the leader behind the lifesavers, ensuring that every pint collected helps a local patient in need. Together, we can make sure no one has to go without the life-saving blood they rely on.
 make a difference > lifeserve.info/host

Schedule an appointment by calling LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 or scan the QR Code.



SCAN CODE TO SCHEDULE

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED


LifeServe BLOOD CENTER

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.


Quilting Update

Thank you to everyone that helped with the quilts! This year, 40 quilts were made by Arllys Monson. Many were delivered to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk. They distribute to locations in the USA and worldwide. Quilts are always in demand there.

Also, 7 quilts will be given to the graduating seniors this year and 4 quilts were delivered to the Hospice Unit at the prison in Lincoln. We also kept a few in case of a local disaster.



Please pray that these quilts will warm the hearts that receive them to know the love of Jesus who cares for them.



CAMP Assurance

ANNUAL SUPPER and Auction

SATURDAY, MARCH 15
5:00PM - 8:00PM
 WAYNE CITY AUDITORIUM | WAYNE, NE

SMOKED PORK SANDWICH MEAL
FREE WILL DONATION

HEAR TESTIMONIES FROM CAMPERS AND STAFF WHILE ENJOYING OUR PIE AND BASKET AUCTION!

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF CONCORD INVITES YOU TO:

TEACHING WITH EXCELLENCE

AN EVENT FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SMALL GROUP LEADERS


FEATURING: **DR. GREG CARLSON**

SATURDAY MARCH 15
 9 AM-2PM

\$15
 CONFERENCE AND LUNCH

TEACHING SESSIONS | WORKSHOPS | LUNCH
 MINISTRY RESOURCES | NETWORK WITH OTHERS

Register by: March 9



More Information
 PASTOR MARK PATERFIELD
 402-584-2396
www.efcoconcord.org



ALTAR GUILD for March

Cherry Urwiler, Mitzi Urwiler, Judy Williams & Shelley Groene

March 2 (White) Transfiguration Communion

LECTOR - Diane Peterson
GREETERS - Scott and Diane Urwiler & Family
COMMUNION STEWARD - Tom Biernbaum
USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott & Evan Urwiler, Tom Biernbaum
ACOLYTE - Treyten Lawyer
NURSERY - Katie Bose
COFFEE - Jon & Megan Mullen, Tim & Teresa Granquist, Don & Erica Diediker

March 5 (Purple) Ash Wednesday

LECTOR - Doug Olson
COMMUNION STEWARD - Steve Luedtke
GREETERS - Gary Schmitt & Marlene Jussell
USHERS - Verneal Gade, Craig Kames, Gabe Abts, Jon Mullen, Marlin Bose
ACOLYTE - Jacob Kolar

March 9 (Purple) First Sunday of Lent

LECTOR - Erica Diediker
GREETERS - Tim & Teresa Granquist
USHERS - Steve & Jacob Luedtke, Nick Kort, Drew & Koby Detlefsen, Ron Lundahl, Jon Pehrson
ACOLYTE - Mason Kort
NURSERY - Amy Kort
COFFEE - Matthew & Kiley Maxon, Charley & Paige Green, Jim & Karen Thompson

March 12 (Purple) Mid-Week Lenten Service

LECTOR - Lisa Kames
GREETERS - Dennis, Lisa & Amy Christensen
USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn Urwiler, Don & Erica Diediker
ACOLYTE - Bryson Urwiler

March 16 (Purple) Second Sunday in Lent

LECTOR - Sara Pehrson
GREETERS - Don & Erica Diediker
USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott & Evan Urwiler, Tom Biernbaum
ACOLYTE - Aliya Detlefsen
NURSERY - Kayla Detlefsen
COFFEE - Gary Schmitt & Marlene Jussel, Kody & Stephanie Urwiler, Marlin & Mary Bose

March 19 (Purple) Mid-week Lenten

LECTOR - Mike Jacobsen
GREETERS - Doug & Keila Olson
USHERS - Verneal Gade, Craig Kames, Gabe Abts, Jon Mullen, Marlin Bose
ACOLYTE - Treyten Lawyer

March 23 (Purple) Third Sunday in Lent

LECTOR - Amy Kort
GREETERS - Dustin and Laura Showen & Family
USHERS - Steve & Jacob Luedtke, Nick Kort, Drew & Koby Detlefsen, Ron Lundahl, Jon Pehrson
ACOLYTE - Jacob Kolar
NURSERY - Teresa Granquist
COFFEE - Jerry & Glenda Johnson, John & Nancy Abts, Jack & Rozanne Hintz

March 26 (Purple) Mid-week Lenten

LECTOR - Kody Urwiler
GREETERS - Charley and Paige Green & Family
USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn Urwiler, Don & Erica Diediker
ACOLYTE - Mason Kort

March 30 (Purple) Fourth Sunday in Lent

LECTOR - Megan Mullen
GREETERS - Heath & Mckenzie Roeber
USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott & Evan Urwiler, Tom Biernbaum
ACOLYTE - Bryson Urwiler
NURSERY - Stephanie Urwiler
COFFEE - Doug & Keila Olson, Jon & Sara Pehrson, Tom & Pam Biernbaum

Lent



Laurel Concord Ministerial



*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. Isaiah 60:1*

You are Invited to the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On the following WEDNESDAYS from 7:00 -7:45 AM

March 5 – St. Mary's

March 12 – Immanuel Lutheran, LCMS

March 19 – United Lutheran

March 26 – Evangelical Free Concord

April 2 – Concordia Lutheran

April 9 – Presbyterian

April 16 – Faith Community

Colorectal Cancer is the

2nd

DEADLIEST CANCER in Nebraska

940

estimated number of new cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed in Nebraska in 2025

360

estimated number of deaths from colorectal cancer in Nebraska in 2025



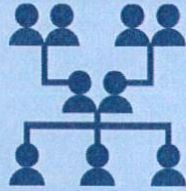
	FIT/FOBT	FIT DNA	Colonoscopy
What is it?	Checks for blood in your stool	Checks your stool for blood DNA that is not normal (commonly called Cologuard)	Checks for small growths in your colon (polyps) that can become cancer
How is it completed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At home • No prep needed • Collect a stool sample 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At home • No prep needed • Collect a stool sample 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed in medical setting by specialist • Prep needed before test is done
How often?	Every 1 year	Every 3 years	Every 10 years
Things to consider	A colonoscopy is required if test is not normal	A colonoscopy is required if test is not normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist removes any small growths found and sends for more testing • Will need ride to and from test

Individuals that are at a **higher risk** of colorectal cancer may need to get screened at an earlier age, more often, or may require a specific test.

Those that are at a **high risk** include:



Personal history of colorectal cancer



Family history of colorectal cancer



Personal history of inflammatory bowel disease



Personal history of radiation to the pelvis or abdomen

Colorectal Cancer Signs and Symptoms

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, talk to your healthcare provider as soon as possible.



A change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea, constipation, or narrowing of the stool, that lasts more than a few days



Cramping or abdominal (belly) pain



A feeling that you need to have a bowel movement that's not relieved by having one



Weakness or fatigue



Rectal bleeding with bright red blood



Unintended weight loss



Blood in the stool, which might make the stool look dark brown or black



There may be NO symptoms right away, which is why it is important to be screened at the right age



Blood Pressure Checks
Sunday, March 9, 2025
During Fellowship Time