

The Measure of a Mustard Seed

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches” (Matthew 13:31,32).

Who is America’s richest man? America’s tallest mountain? Largest lake? Largest city? Most populous state? If you answered Elon Musk, Denali (Mount McKinley), Lake Superior, New York City, and California, you are part of the proof that Americans pay attention to big things. We live in

The kingdom of heaven is like...

bigger houses, eat larger meals, and work longer hours than almost any other people in the world. We tend to live by the maxim, “Bigger is better.”

But Jesus takes the “less is more” approach. He says: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.” Have you ever seen a mustard seed? It’s so small that you

could hold thousands in your hand. Why would Jesus tell us this? Because it’s possible to be so focused on what looks big and impressive that we overlook him and his blessings.

It’s a common mistake. At first glance, there was nothing big or impressive about Jesus. When he came to establish his kingdom, he arrived as a child of a poor girl in a conquered country. He was born in a barn. He grew up in an obscure village. His followers were nobodies. He never wrote a book or held a high position. He never lived in a palace or even a house of his own. After a few years in the public eye, he was killed on a cross like a common slave. On Good Friday, he looked small and powerless.

When Jesus spoke about the mustard seed, he gave us a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. The measure of a mustard seed is not its tiny

size but the huge plant that it grows into. In the same way, the measure of Jesus’ humble life and death is not how many people missed its meaning at the time but what he accomplished. By his perfect life and his innocent death, Jesus has freed the world from the guilt of sin. Countless millions who have put their trust in him have become part of his eternal kingdom.

When Jesus rose from his humble grave to conquer death on Easter morning, he proved that what seems small and weak can be amazingly powerful. It’s Easter time again—why not celebrate by exploring what his life and death and resurrection can mean in your life? You might be surprised!

-WELS Outreach newsletter

Holy Week

It comes at the very end of this month, but it is the high point of every church year...Jesus entering Jerusalem to become the sacrificial Lamb who



would pay for our sins on the cross and rise from the dead on Easter Sunday as proof of his victory. We have five different

opportunities to worship that week. Join us to hear how God was actually put on trial in the person of Jesus Christ.

Palm Sunday: *Welcome to the King* (normal service times)

Mundy Thursday: *Respite* (6:30 p.m.)

Good Friday: *Evidence* (1 p.m.)

Easter Sunrise: *Easter in Word and song* (6 a.m. with breakfast served at 7 a.m.)

Easter Festival: *Vindication* (9 a.m.)

Holy Week Devotions Martin Luther College will again provide a series of devotions for use during Holy Week. This year’s devotions use the theme *The Savior We Need*. Two thousand years ago, God’s people were expecting the Messiah to be a conquering hero who would rescue them from their Roman oppressors. Instead, he came as a suffering servant who

died at the hands of those Romans. This is what Paul called the foolishness of the cross. But the Bible makes it clear that the Jesus those people received—the Jesus we are blessed to call our Savior today—is far greater than any we could ever have designed on our own.

Instead of printed devotional booklets, you can access these devotions easily and conveniently using digital formats, beginning on March 22nd. You can request that the eight devotions be sent to your personal email on a daily basis, Palm Sunday to Easter, March 24-31. In the email, you'll receive the written devotion and the link to an audio recording by the author. More information on how to request the devotions will be shared in the weeks ahead.

We pray that these devotions will comfort and strengthen them as they ponder the life and death of Jesus, who is truly the Savior we need.

Congregational News



Easter lilies You are invited to help beautify our church this Easter by providing an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one or in honor of a particular individual, etc...The list will be inserted in the Easter Sunday bulletin. There are sign-up sheets on the cabinets in the entryway. The cost is \$10 per lily. Please mark your payment "lilies" and place it in the Zion Ladies' Aid mailbox (top center). The **deadline to sign up is March 17th**.

Easter Breakfast Signup The signup sheet is up on the bulletin board. If anyone is able to help out by donating some of the food / bakery / drink items needed to put on our Easter breakfast, there are plenty of spots open. All donations are appreciated!

Building & Grounds As was decided at the annual meeting, some larger projects will be moving forward this year, including putting a new roof on the parsonage. The timetable was moved up and should be completed by the time you read this (early March). The other projects – are slated to be

done by this summer (insulation for the ceiling in the church sanctuary and a portion of the fellowship hall roof that needs replacing).

Dartball Year in Review In the first year back after a many decades absence, our church dartball team ended the season with a very



respectable 21-27 record (we had a winning record the second half of the season at 13-11). We had some experienced players, but many were playing for the first time. The end of the year tournament is the first weekend in March. Thanks to those who participated. From all outward signs, a good time was had by all. If you're interested for next year, contact Rustin Billings.

Save the Dates Here are some long-term dates to put on your calendar....

- **April 6th** Bags Tournament in the fellowship hall (bring your friends even if they're not members)
- **April 13th** LWMS Spring Rally at St. Matthew's, Iron Ridge
- **August 5-8** Vacation Bible School – put it on the calendar and tell your friends!

Open Enrollment St. Lucas Lutheran School in Kewaskum participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP), which has open enrollment from February 1 – April 18. The program completely covers tuition fees for St. Lucas students who qualify within the family income limit. With the help of this program, a quality Christian education is available to all at St. Lucas. For more information, call the school principal, Mr. Mark Hesse, at 262.626.2680.

KML News

Groundbreaking Ceremony A formal groundbreaking ceremony for KML's new facility expansion will take place on **Monday, April 8th** from 6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., right before the regularly scheduled General Board meeting. It

will take place in the Performing Arts Center. Join us to thank God for this ministry blessing!

International Student Hosts Needed KML is seeking families to host international students for the 2024-2025 school year. The number of host families that we have available determines the number of international student applications we will be able to accept. Host families receive a stipend of \$800/month to provide housing, meals, and transportation from early to mid-August through the end of May. Applications for hosting for the 2024-2025 school year need to be submitted by **April 25, 2024**. If you are interested in serving as a host family and would like additional information, please visit kmlhs.org/hostfamily.

Save the Dates Join us at KML on **Friday, April 12th**, from 5:00-9:00 PM for *A Salute to America* at Family Music Fest. Monies raised at this event will go toward the improvement of technology within the KML Music Department. This event features elementary and high school musical performances, games, live auction, and Science Fair projects from our Lutheran Elementary School students. Food options include a fish fry, concession items, and a dessert bar. Join us for a night of music, food, and family fun!



We also invite you to join us for an incredible evening at the *2024 KML Golden Gala* on **April 20th**, beginning at 5 p.m. The KML gym will be transformed with golden glamour, not only in honor of KML's 50th year, but in celebration of 25 years of the KML Auction/Gala fundraising event. Final registration is due by April 1st. Go to www.kmlhs.org to register.

Area Invitations & Opportunities

Luther Prep Musical On Friday-Sunday, **March 8-10**, at 7 p.m., Luther Prep will present *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. The performances will take place in the auditorium (1300 Western Ave., Watertown). Tickets can be purchased by calling 920-261-4352 weekdays

between 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. or online at www.ticketsource.us/Lutherprep.

WELS Youth Night at KML This is a new event for all youth from our KML federation churches. There will be a series of youth-focused activities for our youth to remind them that they are not alone and to be encouraged to enjoy the faith they have. All 8th - 12th graders are welcome. The date is **March 8th, going from 7 – 9:00 p.m.** Register with the QR code from the poster on the bulletin board.



WLC Choir Concert The Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir will give a performance of its Spring Tour Concert on Sunday, **March 17 at 2:30 p.m.** in the college's Center for Arts and Performance. Free tickets can be reserved through the Box Office, 414-443-8802 or wlc.edu/BoxOffice.

OWLS Meeting The next meeting of Flyway OWLS (Chapter 77) will take place **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac. The speaker for March is Linda (Janie) Niedfeldt, published author of a number of historical fiction books. Her presentation will focus on some of the different starting points for research to write historical fiction? Her slides will show historic places in Fond du Lac and elsewhere, plus reveal copies of old photos and papers. Throughout the presentation she'll share background drama, hilarious scenes, and heart-warming stories.

If you have any questions, contact Stefanie Gutermann at 920-583-2166 or gutermann@utilitytool.com

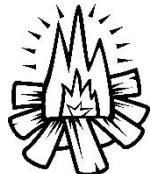
Register for the 2024 LWMS Convention Convention registration is now open at www.lwms.org The website has all of the workshops, speakers, menus, tours, and detailed information you need to prepare for your Sioux Falls convention experience **June 27-30, 2024**. New this year is a *Weekend Registration option* to attend on Saturday and Sunday only. LWMS has reserved blocks of rooms at several area hotels. Once you've registered for the convention, you'll receive an email confirmation with information about the hotels and how to make your own reservation. Can't wait to see you in Sioux Falls this summer!

Children's Choir / Teen Choir Do you have children who love to sing? The National Conference Children's Choir is an upper elementary choir of unchanged voices chosen on the basis of choral experience. This group will sing for several services throughout the National Worship Conference - **July 30 - August 2, 2024** at Carthage College, Kenosha, WI. Applications are now being accepted. <https://welsworshipconference.net/childrens-choir/>



Summer Camps for Kids

It's not too early to think about registering for a summer camp for your child(ren), especially when most of those camps are filled to capacity even before summer begins. We have two WELS camps within an hour and a half of our area. The first is the more familiar one – **Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI**. Camp Phillip has a camp for your children or grandchildren, from kindergarten through 8th grade and beyond. The summer camp season at Camp Phillip begins on June 9th and ends with the Fall Family Camp on August 30 – September 2nd. Pick up a postcard from the cabinets to see all the offerings this summer or go to their website for more information or to register (<https://www.campphillip.com>).



The other area camp is **Camp Bird, located in Crivitz, WI**. Camp Bird is a youth camp for WELS youth currently in grades 5-8, located near Crivitz in Marinette County. Registration for camp opened February 17th, but you can go to their website at www.campbird.org to see what's open for the three 5-day camps they run (July 7-12; July 14 –19; and July 21 – 26). The price for each child is \$250 / week and \$150 for each additional sibling. Swimming, canoeing, boating, hiking, challenge course, kickball, volleyball, archery, arts & crafts, campfires, Bible study, games, camp songs and many other activities are waiting for you this year!

Christmas Rhine River Cruise Have you heard of Germany's famous Christkindlsmarkts (Christmas markets)? Trying to come up with some new

places to travel? You're invited to travel to Germany's Cologne, Koblenz, and Nuremberg, and more, and embark on a five-day cruise down the Rhine River to enjoy many world famous Christmas markets in Germany and one in France in December of this year (2025)

Tour highlights include round trip airfare from New York, first class hotel accommodations, sightseeing with English-speaking guides and admission fees. An optional cruise shore excursion package is available for purchase. The tour is beginning to fill up, so please see the link below for more details. Contact Pastor Bode for more information.

