

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1 & 2

To facilitate growth in commitment to Christ and in connection to people through the church

Middle School Stuff

CONFIRMATION

February 2nd: Lesson

February 9th: Lesson

February 16th: Fellowship

February 23rd: Lesson

Lent begins on **March 9th**. Please make sure it's okay with your mentor to continue this year. If you change, let me know. Remember that during Lent our confirmation students come for soup supper, worship and a short time with mentors. Be ready!

30 HOUR FAMINE

Start collecting pledges for the 30 Hour Famine that begins on February 25 right after your lunch. I'll be giving you more information on schedules and what you need to bring and what our service project is and any other information you might want to know. Just make sure you come on Wednesday nights.

High School Stuff

PHUNDAY NITE

February 6th: Super Bowl Sunday

February 13th: Cooks & hosts for the Interfaith Shelter

February 20th: Dinner & a game

February 27th: Dinner & a game

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The study of Revelation will continue for a while. Jennifer Dills, whose been teaching dancing, lost her twin sister to cancer so she's taking a break but we will get back to dancing soon. Tammie Lindsey is busy being a mom to two swimmers, but plans for the Facebook group are progressing. Otherwise, I need your help getting teachers to finish out the year.

Souper Bowl of Caring Stuff

The Super Bowl between the Packers and Steelers is on February 6th. We're collecting donations after each service that Sunday. Will you volunteer to help? It's not hard. All you do is stand at the sanctuary door with a big soup pot and people put money into to pots. The money goes to Food for Lane County and ELCA Hunger Appeal.

Looking Ahead Stuff

FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Camp Lutherwood is sponsoring a retreat for high school students the weekend of April 8, 9, & 10. Save the date and I'll have more information later.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

OLYO Middle School Rally on March 5th & 6th. The rally is open to all Oregon middle school students. You get to meet lots of Oregon Lutherans, you have a great time, and we get to be great hosts. The Rally begins around 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and ends with Sunday School on Sunday. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Middle School room. Your cost is \$15.

Summer Mission Trip Stuff

Fund Raising

1. CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP We grossed \$463 and netted \$347.25.

2. Continue collecting CANS AND BOTTLES everywhere you see them. Ask neighbors and family to share! We'll schedule a couple of Saturdays to scour the neighborhood for donations.

3. 144 ENVELOPES I hope you've sent letters to family and friends outside of Emmaus. Now you need to sign up to explain the program to Emmaus members and to accept donations on Sunday mornings. I also need your picture to make an information poster. Get it to me SOON!

Covenant

Remember to sign up to help with worship. We need greeters and communion assistants and acolytes and lectors for February and March. It's part of your commitment.

Remember to attend worship services and Sunday School.

Continue to make your family deposit. You can put the check or cash in the offering. Just use pew envelopes and mark that it's for New York or the mission trip or any other way that makes it clear why you have given the money.

Stuff from Me

Keep your focus on Jesus!

How do you like the new format? I hope this mailing this newsletter to everyone will help communications with parents and youth. A copy of this letter will still be in the Youth room, Middle School room and on the information kiosk. I'll have extras available for you to pick up if you want one.

This month we're beginning to read the book of the Bible that I find hardest to understand. Leviticus is the book of rules and regulations and Lutherans speak of grace, so I think we find it hard to deal with the laws. Just remember, though, that these laws were given to a people who had been living in slavery and were just developing their own sense of identity. There are also safety and health rules and rules for caring for other, such as the poor, that made the Israelites different from the people around them. Anyway, as you read this book ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what can be applied to your life and ask for some wisdom on how to deal with the difficult issues Leviticus presents to us today.

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