

The other night Rita and I went up to South Bend for dinner. Walking around downtown I noticed a series of green flags. Being the curious person that I am, I mused aloud what they might mean. Rita just stared at me and said, "It's almost St. Patrick's Day."

"Why is that important? It's barely a holiday."

"We live near Notre Dame. You know, the Fighting *IRISH*?"

"Ohhhh..." I am always amazed at the patience that Rita shows me and am eternally grateful she's the brains of the operation. Now I realize I really should find something green to wear. I have never really thought too much about St. Patrick's Day before, so I decided to read up on the man.

What a fascinating life he led. If you ever have a chance, then check out some books about him. The man lived a life worthy of a summer blockbuster movie. There's daring escapes, seemingly impossible odds, and miraculous events galore. Yet, when reading his story it wasn't the over the top events that caught my attention, but a simple moment right before he started his mission to Ireland.

He received a call from God to go to Ireland, but instead of answering it he tried to ignore it. Yet it persisted till he finally answered. However, even up to the day his mission was to begin he had his doubts. How could God call an uneducated flawed man such as Patrick to do something so important?

Patrick's doubts are mirrored throughout Scripture. Moses told God he shouldn't go to Pharaoh because he couldn't talk clearly. Gideon told God he shouldn't lead as judge because he was the least member of the least tribe. The list goes on and on. Time and time again God calls people who feel unready, unprepared, or unworthy.

The truth is God doesn't call the prepared, God prepares the called. If we wait for the right time or when we feel ready, then we'll never answer the call God has given us. We'll always have an excuse or a reason.

Every one of us has been given a call by God. We have a call to go out and serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We can only do this if we trust, not in ourselves and our own abilities, but rely on God. Let God lead us and trust that the Holy Spirit will give us the talents to answer.

For what we do is not for our own glory, but for God's. St. Patrick didn't go to Ireland because he wanted some corned beef. He went to serve his Lord and Savior. He trusted in God to be with him and guide him. Let's follow Patrick's example and be ready to answer the call and trusting in God the whole way.

God Bless, Pastor Ed

Enrollment for the 2023-24 Little Ones' Preschool year is open to all LUMC church families and current preschool families NOW.

Families in the community and surrounding areas may register beginning March 13. Your child must be 3 years old before August 1, 2023 for our Preschool classes and age 4 before August 1, for our Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Registration forms will be available in the church office or from Carlene Weber.

TOPS Club is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Room 206, use north east door. Looking for new members to join us!

Cardio Drumming

Classes are Saturdays at 9:00 AM in Trodie Hall. FREE Bring a 55 to 75 cm ball, a 25+ gallon bucket and drum sticks. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

Coming Up!

Daylight Savings Time Begins THIS Sunday, March 12

**Blood Drive – Tuesday, March 14, 2:30 – 6:30 PM
Here at LUMC**

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM

Lesson: Carol McDougal, Snack Potluck

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, March 22, 10:00 AM

Meet in the Fireside room.

Lesson: Karen Taylor Devotions: Nancy Gross

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

March 12 Pastor Ed & Rita

March 19 Carolyn K.

March 26 Dixie

Please plan to bring about 4 dozen cookies. Thank You

Food Pantry Needs:

pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, rice, pasta or potato sides, macaroni & cheese, Hamburger Helper, soup, shelf stable milk

Thank you for supporting our Food Pantry