

Pastor's Message for Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year Lent begins in March. Ash Wednesday is March 5, the first Wednesday of March.

Many years ago, I read an article by Rev Dr. David Lose, a Lutheran Pastor in Minnesota (ELCA). The article always stuck with me. I am sharing a portion of that article below.

"Lent.

Among many Christian congregations it's become something of a dirty, four-letter word. To start, many churches no longer observe this age-old (fourth century!) tradition - it's too old-fashion, too "Roman," too medieval for many denominations in America to handle.

And even among those traditions which do honor the season, rarely is there the same kind of enthusiasm or expectancy which greets a season like Advent. After all, there are no presents at the end, no fun and games along the way. And giving up things, please! We've had to sacrifice enough already because of the economy, thank you very much; why should we give up anything more for God?

Penitence. Sacrifice. Contemplation. These are the words of Lent. I have a hard time believing they were popular even in the days of the Puritans - you know, when folks actually held competitions to see who could resist the greatest temptation or avoid the most pleasure - let alone now, when delayed gratification is viewed with suspicion and everyone from politicians to advertisers promises that we really can have it all."

Now really no one looks forward to Lent like we do with Advent. Advent, we know brings Christmas and it is only four weeks long.

Now Lent brings forth Easter, but it is 7 weeks long and its emphasis, like he wrote, is Penitence, Sacrifice and Contemplation. Not fun topics. Twenty plus years ago Mel Gibson's movie, The Passion of Christ was released, and everyone went gaga over it. You see every year during the Lenten season we relive the Passion of Christ, especially Good Friday.

But the issue is, Lent is an important part of our Liturgical Season. To understand Easter, we must have Christmas and Lent. We do not understand the importance of Christ's sacrifice and his resurrection otherwise.

As we begin that long slow journey we call Lent, let us remember why we do it.

I further quote Rev. Lose,

"Yes. I need Lent. I need an absence of gifts so that I might acknowledge the Gift. I need a time to be quiet and still, a time to crane my neck and lift my head, straining to hear again what was promised me at Baptism: "You are mine! I love you! I am with you...always!"

I need Lent to remind me of who I am - God's heir and Christ's co-heir - so that, come Easter, I can rejoice and celebrate with all the joy, all the revelry, all the anticipation, of a true heir to the throne. Thanks be to God!"

God's blessings on your Lenten Journey,

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stewart Marshall

Please be sure to read the special announcement on page 4

OTHER NEWS



Birthdays for the month of March

- 2 Maribeth Floyd
- 3 Arleen Parsley
- 3 Art Kroll, Jr.
- 5 Phyllis Dunger
- 7 Margaret Alexander
- 9 Dallas Cossey
- 19 Brennick Riederer
- 20 Jeffery Bunting
- 25 Don Richter
- 29 Tricia Jacobs

If we forgot you, we apologize, it means we most likely don't have it. Please see that the office receives it. Thanks



Baptismal Anniversaries for the month of March

- Charlene Parker Grant
- Charleen Weathers
- Julie Shorts
- Arleen Parsley
- Kaye Meins

Perfect Attendance!

Sunday School Attendance for the month of January

Students:

- Ainsley Riederer
- Espen Riederer
- Kingston Riederer
- Cormick Riederer

Adults:

- Tricia & Harold Jacobs
- Gene Forrest
- Bill Witt
- Phyllis Dunger
- Steve Lochmann
- Donna Marshall
- Susan Marshall
- Danelle Riederer
- Cathy Webb
- Pastor Marshall



Sunday Average Attendance for last Sunday of January & first half of February— 47

Sunday Average Attendance online for last Sunday of January & first half of February— 5

Views — 8

Last Sunday of January & first half of February Offerings — \$20,638.32

Craft Day in the Fellowship Hall

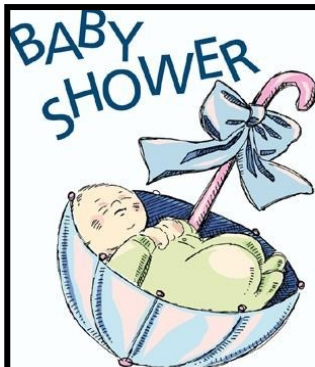
There will be a craft afternoon on Saturday, March 1st in the fellowship hall starting at 1:00 p.m. These are such enjoyable afternoons with other crafters from our church. We really enjoy creativity and fellowship. Please join us with whatever craft you like and a snack.

If you would like to come to the craft afternoon but don't feel you have a craft that is fine. Just come along and visit with us.



Thank you for the many prayers, cards, texts and well wishes for healing for Jim. He is much better. We are so blessed.

Joyce Anne & Jim Green



Let's shower them with Love!

You are cordially invited to a Baby shower for

Megan Raddle and Baby Boy
April 6 at 2 p.m.

Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church
Hosted by: Amanda Dunger, Erin Foster & Cathy Webb.

Diapers & wipes are needed

LWML NEWS

MARY GUILD

The February meeting of Mary Guild was opened with a devotion by Julie Shorts. It was based on John 19:1-11 and was entitled, "More Power to God." It made clear that the power of the Gospel frees people from their sins. Roll Call was answered with a Bible verse by thirteen members. Cherrie Bradley, as Leadership Development Chairman, reminded us to cultivate the gifts given us by the Holy Spirit. Cherrie also presented the topic which was a book report on the novel, *The Seat Beside Me*. Anyone, anywhere and at anytime can witness to their faith in Jesus as their Savior.

The mission project for the month was a donation of \$350 to the Lutheran Indian Ministries. The Vision of the LIM is that every nation, tribe and people come to know the Father's love. That they understand the forgiveness, salvation and healing that comes through Jesus Christ. That they come to know God's purpose for them and thrive in stable and healthy communities with leaders devoted to Christ. Founded in 1985 they serve Native American communities throughout the country.

Dallas Cossey served as hostess. There were no birthday celebrants in February.

In March: Kaye Meins will open the meeting with the devotion. Arleen Parsley will present the topic. Gene Forrest will serve as hostess. For our mission project we will sponsor an animal through Lutheran World Relief.

We closed with the League Pledge.

Submitted by
Kaye Meins



Esther Guild is a Mailbox Member program of Lutheran Women in Mission. Our February email focused on Valentine's Day. Members were

encouraged to share their love with people in their lives. A devotion called "God's Valentine to Us" was included.

In February we focused on food Neighbor to Neighbor to share with those in our community. Most community food banks are desperate for donations during the winter months. This is the time when seasonal work is scarce, limited funds are diverted to heating costs, and many people have put the generosity of the Christmas holiday behind them. We are encouraging everyone to donate food to the collection box in the Narthex. Additionally, please remember to include some items in your grocery budget to put in the collection monthly. A little can go a long way if we all participate.

The LWML National Convention is June 26-29. Registration opens March 1. These conventions are full of worship, bible study, and fun. Put it on your calendar and come to the convention. For more information, please go to <https://www.lwml.org/convention>.

The South Arkansas Zone rally is at Zion Lutheran Church in Ulm on April 5th. The theme is "God Works Change". It will open for registration at 9:00 am and lunch will be served around noon. There is no cost for attending. Pastor MacDonald will give a presentation on Fort Wayne Seminary life. Afterward there will be games and activities. There will be no business meeting, but President Jane Hubsch will provide an update on events this summer. Another fun event to attend.

If you are not on the Esther Guild mailing list and would like to be, please let Erin Foster know and she will add you to the group.

Submitted by
Erin Foster

SPECIAL TO THE NEWSLETTER

At the request of a few members, we will start having a hymnal only service the fifth Sunday of the month. Every month that has 5 Sundays we will do the Hymnal only service. We will use Divine Service 3 page 185 in the hymnal. The psalm will be in the front of the Hymnal and the lessons will be on the back page of the bulletin.

Any feedback on this would be welcome and please direct it to one of the elders. Phillip Dunger, Steve Lochmann, Steve Shorts, Bill Witt, Honorary Elders, Don Richter and Waymond Meins.

Hearts for Jesus: Help 4 Haiti

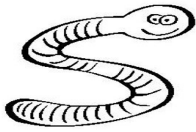
Haiti's children face a lot of uncertainty. Over the past decade, the nation of Haiti has suffered four hurricanes, two major earthquakes and two catastrophic floods. They live in poverty (58%) and the families earn \$3.65 per day or less. Many have limited access to necessities like good food and water, adequate housing and medical care. Because of this about 25% of Haitian children do not live with their birth parents (often living instead on the streets or in orphanages). Violent gangs have arisen across the country making it dangerous for children to attend school and church.

In the midst of so much uncertainty, Haiti's children need to hear that Jesus, their Savior loves them and will never leave them. Our "Hearts for Jesus" this year will go to helping short-term mission teams travel to Haiti to share the gift of Jesus Christ as they provide medical care, build homes and minister to the hurting Haitian people. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation will share books of God's love in a lasting way. When you give a Haitian child a book about Jesus, written in a language they can read and understand, you're sharing the Good News, even if the child can't go to school or Sunday School.

"Hearts for Jesus" is an offering given every February, the month of Love so you each can be a part. The Sunday school children and Adult Bible Class offerings will go toward this special mission project. If you want to be a part of bringing *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, *Luther's Small Catechism* and *devotions* in the Haitian Creole and French languages (spoken throughout Haiti), just make your check out to Trinity and note in the memo place "Hearts for Jesus" or give cash specified to this mission project. You can introduce other children to Jesus for only \$5 per student.

Thank you!

Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6

Psalms 78:45

Matthew 23:24

Judges 14:8b

Acts 12:23

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22

Deuteronomy 7:20

Exodus 16:20

1 Samuel 24:14

Isaiah 50:9

Isaiah 59:5

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggot, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

March 2025

	Elder	Ushers	Acolyte	Lector	Flowers by...	Counters
SUN 2	Phillip Dunger Bill Witt	Harold Jacobs		Erin Foster	Charleen Weathers & Joyce Anne Green In celebration of Arleen Parsley's birthday"	Judy Clinton Julie Shorts Sharon Calabretta
SUN 9	Steve Lochmann Phillip Dunger	Andrew Raddle John Alexander	Brennick Riederer	Steve Lochmann	J.P. & Phyllis Dunger "In celebration of Phyllis' birthday"	Phillip & Amanda Dunger
SUN 16	Steve Shorts Steve Lochmann	Robert Floyd Phillip Dunger		Robert Floyd	Amy Kalkbrenner "In celebration of Margaret's birthday"	Tricia Jacobs Cherrie Bradley Lynne Russell
SUN 23	Bill Witt Steve Shorts	Harold Jacobs Andrew Raddle	Kaleigh Frye	Cherrie Bradley	Siri Richter "In celebration of Don's birthday"	Joyce Anne Green Charleen Weathers
SUN 30	Phillip Dunger Bill Witt	Steve Lochmann Dan Riederer	Ainsley Riederer	Bill Witt	Judy & Rachel Clinton "In loving memory of Ray"	Judy Clinton Julie Shorts Sharon Calabretta

Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Service Attendants

Altar Care: Kaye Meins & Phyllis Dunger

MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Transfiguration Sunday						1 1:00 Craft Day in the Fellowship Hall
2 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Elder's Meeting 5:00 Worship in Hamburg Transfiguration of our Lord		4 	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 Ash Wednesday worship	6 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study 1:00 Mary Guild Meeting		8 Int'l. Women's Day
9 Daylight Saving Begins 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 1:00 Confirmation Class 1 st Sunday in Lent		11 8:30 Pastors Circuit meeting at Zion in Ulm	12 6:30 Mid Week Lenten Worship	13 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study		15
16 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Council Meeting 5:00 Worship in Hamburg 2 nd Sunday in Lent	17 St Patrick's Day		19 6:30 Mid Week Lenten Worship Newsletter Deadline	20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study		22
23 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion 1:00 Confirmation Class 3 rd Sunday in Lent			26 6:30 Mid Week Lenten Worship 10:00 Newsletter Committee	27 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study		29 Earth Hour
30 9:30 SS/Adult Bible Study 11:45 Worship w/Communion Mighty Mites Sunday 4 th Sunday in Lent						
						

Trinity Lutheran Church
4200 Old Warren Road
Pine Bluff, AR 71603
Tel. No. (870) 534-4316
Fax. (870) 534-5494

Return Service Requested

Recipient's Name
Street Address
City State 95555

Trinity Lutheran Church

Pine Bluff, Arkansas



youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurch8885



www.facebook.com/trinityowr