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[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranChurchDavey)

Our designated **Souper Bowl** project is \$20 grocery gift cards for our Little Free Pantry. You can bring them to the annual meeting if you attend in person, or get them to Mike, Jerri, or Judy.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 96
Davey, NE 68336

Lent

I'm usually kind of excited about Lent. I've always enjoyed our mid-week meals and conversations. I loved Holden Evening Prayer. Last year we switched it up a little bit, and I was enjoying that, but we didn't get to finish it out. I don't think any of us thought this much later we'd still be dealing with Covid. I didn't.

Now Lent is coming again. Last year, one of the funny memes going around when the pandemic shut things down was "this is the Lentiest Lent I've ever Lented." At this point, we've essentially lived almost a year of Lent. Lent is a time when we're reminded of our mortality. It's a time of repentance and turning toward God. Even if we didn't really want to dive this deep into mortality and repentance, we've been forced to.

Most of us have had to come to terms with the fact that we're not in control—we can't fix everything and we don't know as much as we thought we did. As the numbers of Covid deaths climb, I don't think I know hardly anyone who hasn't either been infected themselves or known someone who was. I've had 5 friends or acquaintances who've lost a parent to Covid. One former high school classmate lost both parents within days of each other from Covid. We've had near constant reminders of mortality.

Racial unrest has reminded us that repentance is always in order. We are reminded that repentance doesn't mean just being sorry, but rather means turning around...righting the ship. That's what's needed when it comes to how Black and Brown people have suffered in this country, even when we don't think we're the ones directly responsible.

Some have their heels dug in and are so far not willing to look at their own need for repentance and make an about face. We can only trust that God's grace will continue to work on them to bring about needed changes.

And all of us are just tired. Tired of isolation, tired of the polarization, tired of the meanness. We're tired of worrying that we or someone we love will get sick, tired of how much longer it takes to do everything, and tired of the unpredictable fickleness of technology. For some, anger is the prime manifestation of the pain we all feel at least a little bit.

The truth is, we have been living Lent for almost a year. But often, when we're most at the end of our rope, that's when we're the closest to God. It's when we are forced to trust that because God could bring the dead Jesus to life, God can use the pain of the last year to make us alive...maybe more alive than we were before....maybe really and truly alive.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Kris

Lent, part 2

So what will Lent look like this year? I don't completely know. Some of the details will depend on Covid...like how we meet in person, if at all. But here's what I'm thinking as of this writing, starting February 17. These are all designed to be switched to virtual only if needed, based on the Covid situation.

- Ash Wednesday—the current plan is for an in person option at Zion. Folks from either congregation can go (we'll probably do the same thing on Maundy Thursday, only at Bethlehem.) There will also be a Zoom option with some instructions on how to prepare and do the imposition of ashes at home. The service will be fairly short with no singing—I'm exploring ways to use the other arts. We won't do communion. I've been reading some of the advice from medical folks about the imposition of ashes in person—since Covid is mostly airborne and not contact, the thinking is that imposition of ashes is pretty safe given the short face to face duration as long as all wear masks. And as always, if numbers get bad again, we will switch to all virtual. We may also explore a drive-up option
- On Sundays we will continue with Zoom worship as we have been at 10 am, with virtual communion the first and third Sundays.
- An additional in person service will begin on Sunday February 21—at first probably just once a month at each church. This service will consist of the same prayers, scripture and message as on Zoom, but there will be no music. I'm exploring ways to incorporate the other arts. We will have communion distributed as we did before we stopped gathering again.
- We won't decide anything about Holy Week and Easter until it's closer
- Everything will return to virtual only if we go back into the red category on risk dials or we are advised to by health officials.
- For Lent midweek I'm thinking about looking at some of the noted people of faith in history and look at spiritual autobiographies—I'm not sure yet whether it will be in person with a virtual option or all virtual
- Please plan to stick around on February 7 for our virtual soup lunch—I'd like feedback from the congregation and to get a sense for who might come to an in person Ash Wednesday service and who might be interested in a drive up option. We can also talk about midweek services.

Calendar

- January 31** 10:00 am—Worship on Zoom
11:30 am—Annual meeting with both in person and virtual options. Masks required for in person
- February 7** 10:00 am—Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Stick around after worship for a virtual **“Souper Bowl.”** Make some soup and grab a bowl while we talk Lent and catch up with each other. Our hunger fighting money this year will be directed toward grocery gift cards for the Little Free Pantry. Bring cards or money if you come to the annual meeting, or get them to Mike, Judy Hornung or Jerri Daugherty in Davey.
- February 8—14** Pastor Kris will be on vacation, but we'll mostly be at home. I'm still available for emergencies.
- February 14** 10:00 am—Worship on Zoom
- February 17** 7:00 pm—Ash Wednesday in person at Zion or on Zoom. Masks required in person
- February 21** 10:00 am—Zoom worship with communion
11:30 am—in person at Bethlehem with communion.
- February 28** 10:00 am—Zoom worship
- March 7** 10:00 am—Zoom worship
11:30 am—In person at Zion with communion

Church offerings can continue to be mailed to:

Mike Unverferth
2800 W. Branched Oak Rd.
Raymond, NE 68428



Both churches also have an online giving option through tithe.ly. The easiest option is to download the tithe.ly app on a mobile device. Then just search for either church. You can also give from a laptop or PC – go to this link and instead of downloading app, click on “give online.”

<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>

Log in for worship Sunday at 10

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81041105173?pwd=MXVtc2RRckxUY3JLLzRGdFcxVGZvdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 4110 5173

Passcode: 349445

Phone : 312 626 6799

Log In for Annual meeting Sunday at 11:30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89643779816?pwd=L0lRZURWVjQxdldHWWFTUTRjZlJwQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 4377 9816

Passcode: 104587

Phone : 312 626 6799

Lent Projects

There are two options for our Lent projects. I'm hoping we can make a significant contribution to both, but if you're not able to do both, pick whichever one works best for you.

Option 1—Lutheran World Relief Personal Hygiene Kits

Lutheran World Relief sent out a request for Personal Hygiene kits. Given the pandemic and multiple natural disasters, their shelves are bare. Instructions for the kits are on the back of the insert. These kits are sent globally. Make your kit at home and there will be opportunities to bring the kits to church for boxing and shipping. If you're able to pitch in a few bucks for shipping that would be swell.

Option 2—Lutheran Family Service Rally 4 Kids

This is a Nebraska option. Lutheran Family Service in Nebraska provides a variety of services to families in need throughout the state...health care, mental health services including addiction treatment, diapers, help for those suffering from abuse and neglect, poverty, foster care and adoption, and immigration and refugee services.

Usually the rally is a one day event, but this year it's a weeklong drive from March 7 to March 11. If you come to in person worship at Zion on March 7, you can bring a contribution then. Or you can mail it to Mike. If we can raise \$600, we qualify as a church sponsor. If you write a check, make it out to the church with LFS or Rally 4 Kids in the memo line.

If you want to look at all the programs LFS has to offer, here's the link:

<https://www.lfsneb.org/>



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



PERSONAL CARE KITS

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS

- Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents