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Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey

Council president—Jeff Atkinson—402-432-6212
Council members—Mike Unverferth, Judy Hornung,
Jerri Daugherty, Curtis Olson, Gabe Allen

March Helpers

Lector—Janna Harsh

Communion Assistant—Linda Sestak

Clean—Weeks 1/2 Jeff and Tonya Brown

Weeks 2/3 Annie Mumgaard/Curtis Olson

Usher—Clint Harsch

Altar—Janna Harsch

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Bethlehem Star



March 2022

Lent

The duration of Lent was set at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD as 40 days. Lent historically was a time of fasting, penitence, and spiritual renewal. It was often a time of instruction for baptism on Easter. For those who had been excommunicated for some grievous sin, Lent could be a time of penitence and renewal as a prelude to being accepted back into the community.

Fasting, penitence, and spiritual renewal. All remain in some form or another a part of Lent. Catholics may observe days of fasting. The Eastern Orthodox churches are often even more strict in their adherence to fasting. For some Catholics, the last vestige of fasting is giving up meat on Fridays. But you can have fish. I'm not sure what to think about the fact that Jesus' death and resurrection means we can get fish tacos at Taco Bell on Fridays, but there you have it.

The practice of "giving up something for Lent" has long been a staple of Catholic spirituality, and increasingly in some of the mainline Protestant traditions. The Evangelical churches don't really observe Lent at all.

Some years I give something up – never terribly successfully. Other years I don't. If you choose to, I usually suggest picking something that you feel stands in your way of being who God calls you to be.

As a person of faith and pastor, I typically focus on the spiritual renewal angle. That does include a bit of penance. Lent is a time to recognize that we too often drift from that which grounds us and when we do, the earth and people around us suffer.

What I like best about the way we do Lent is learning and growing in faith as a community.

Sunday morning worship during Lent will continue its march through John's gospel. The rest of Lent, including our midweek services, will be an opportunity to experience some faith practices together – home devotions and faith practices, morning prayer, and midweek evening prayer. A more detailed plan can be found on the next page.

This really is a continuation of what I talked about in my newsletter article last month. That one was about being "monk-ish" in our ordinary lives. It was about living simply, more grounded, and more connected. You might want to take a look at that article again.

If you recall, that more contemplative life had six main components: **worship; inner work (prayer and meditation, etc); doing our daily tasks mindfully; study; solitude; and community.** This Lent we will have a chance to practice all of those.

As we begin what will, I hope, be our first relatively normal Lent since 2019, I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to grow in your own spiritual life. I hope that as we journey through Lent together, we can also grow as a community.

Blessings as we begin the journey,

Pastor Kris

LENT COMPONENTS

Home devotions: During the week, we'll read the scripture and meditations for the week; look at the paintings; and try some of the practices on our own. For those without internet access, I'll print the paintings.

Online Morning Prayer: I'll offer my own reflections and some suggestions as we work through the devotional activities

Midweek: We'll share our experiences and reactions to the week's devotional activities and have some activities for all ages

LENT SCHEDULE

March 2: Ash Wednesday worship with Communion and Imposition of Ashes. Although this will be livestreamed, it is an experiential service that will be much better in person if you're able. If you choose to watch online, have some ashes or soil on hand.

6:30 at Zion; 8:00 at Bethlehem

Morning Prayer—Monday through Friday live at 7:30 am. This will be a short prayer and reflection based on some of my experiences as we go through this devotional. It will be Live on my Facebook page and shared to the church Facebook pages and YouTube channel. There will also probably be some sort of written recap weekly for those not online

Midweek Services

March 9: Zion, 6 pm

We'll touch on the devotions from both Ash Wednesday and the first Sunday in Lent

March 16: Bethlehem, 6 pm

Second Sunday in Lent devotion

March 23: Zion, 6 pm

Third Sunday in Lent devotion

March 30: Bethlehem, 6 pm

Fourth Sunday in Lent devotion

April 6: Zion, 6 pm

5th Sunday in Lent devotion

Holy Week – the Holy Week devotions will be on your own, although I will continue to do the morning Facebook Live based on the Palm Sunday through Easter devotions, so we'll continue to walk through together. Worship schedule is as follows:

Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm Bethlehem, 8:00 pm Zion

Good Friday – 6:30 pm, Bethlehem only

Easter – 8:00 am Bethlehem; 10:00 am Zion

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter will be live-streamed. The midweek services don't lend themselves to an online option so they will be in person only. I'll do a little recap on my Thursday Facebook Live.

Calendar

Beginning March 2, Ash Wednesday, we will no longer offer a Zoom option. We will return to live streaming to the church YouTube channel. You can find the link to that and the bulletin on our website: <http://bethlehemdavey.org/worship - online and in person>

There will be no online option for midweek services

March 2 6:30 pm at Zion; 8:00 pm at Bethlehem—Ash Wednesday worship with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

March 6 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion.

March 9 6 pm Midweek—Zion

March 13 10:30am—Worship

March 17 6 pm—Lent midweek, Bethlehem

March 20 10:30 am—Worship , Holy Communion

March 23 6 pm—Lent Midweek, Zion

March 27 10:30 am—Worship

Church for the sake of the world:



Presenting our donation to Ali Shull of the Davey Park Improvement Project. We donated \$5000.