

# The Messenger



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

12095 Blades Road, P.O. Box 368, Cordova, MD 21625

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## What is Lent?

The word "Lent" comes from a word in Old English—and it means "to lengthen." It notes that as we journey from Winter towards Spring the days are getting longer—and we are about to embark on a journey with our Lord. In the early church, the time before Easter—the time which corresponds to the lengthening days—was used as a time of prayer, penitence, self-examination, and preparation for celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. However, during the 2nd century, as recorded by Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons, the time of preparation was quite short. The Council of Nicaea in 325 recommended the approximate length of the season as it now stands. It was during this time that persons would be instructed in the faith and prepared to receive Holy Baptism and Confirmation, rites which are most appropriately celebrated at Easter. Reaching into the rest of the Church, this was the time that penitents—those broken by sin and shame—were reconciled to amendment of life and relationship with the Church.

In Latin, the name for Lent is Quadragesima, which indicates that Lent lasts 40 days (Sundays are excluded from that count). These 40 days correspond to the time that Jesus was taken into the wilderness and tempted by the powers of evil. This numbering of days shows that we are on a journey during this season. This is a journey which will see us accompanying Jesus to the cross and eventually to his resurrection from the dead.

Often we give the impression that Christians only experience celebration and the "comfortable" feelings. However in Lent, we confront our own brokenness, depression, sin, and heartbreak and bring them to the foot of the cross, waiting in hope for the Risen Christ to make us whole.

Many people ask about the practice of "giving something up" for Lent. In the Lutheran tradition, we are free indeed to take up such a practice to cultivate discipline, or we are free to not do so. In more recent years, people have been encouraged to take on a helpful spiritual practice, rather than giving something up. So instead of giving up chocolate, consider praying Morning Prayer from the front of the hymnal each day or by making a time for conversation and reflection with the Pastor, using the form for Individual Confession and Forgiveness in the front of the hymnal (page 243).

We are people who are together on a journey, following Jesus Christ. We will follow Jesus through the wilderness, witness his signs and wonders, and go with him to the cross. Don't miss the opportunity to be in worship and study during these days!





2/1 Beth Roesel

2/1 Vicki Sump

2/1 Gareth Davis

2/1 Ember Stichberry

2/2 Preston Rickwood

2/8 Alison Ward

2/9 Tyler Shannon

2/10 Diana Oburgh

2/13 Aubrie Sitchberry

2/14 Ella Barletta

2/15 Chris Rice

2/16 Catherine Stichberry

2/17 Henry Spies V

2/19 Bobbie Leaverton

2/19 Liam Brown

2/21 Casey Edsall

2/21 Deneen Rickwood

2/22 Olivia Hawley

2/23 Kay Miller

2/24 Mackenzie Short

2/28 Sandy Cep

*Simplicity and Denial – Traditions in Lent*

*During Lent, we abstain, or fast, from many things.*



The Gloria in Excelsis or “This is the Feast” and the Alleluia are both omitted from our liturgy, not to return until Easter. Also, bells are not rung in our churches during Lent. Our bells are silent from Ash Wednesday until the Gloria is sung on Maundy Thursday. Similarly, we do not adorn our altar with flowers during Lent.

Our images, artwork, crosses, crucifixes, and icons are veiled, with the exception of the images used for Stations of the Cross, creating a more austere worship space. In the eighth chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus foretells his Passion and Death to come, which provokes those in the temple courts to anger, to the point of preparing to stone Jesus to death there. However, he withdraws from them and hides, escaping death, until the time for his Passion has come. The veils in the church represent this hiding away. Our joy, too, will be unveiled with the Resurrection.

**We will not have any altar flowers during Lent, from February 18 through March 24, 2024.**



God has been generous to us in many ways. We believe that sharing these gifts in His name is a tangible way of expressing one's faith. As active Christians, we are called to give generously to assist our neighbors through our time, talents and treasures. If you are not able to attend services in-person, but still want to send offerings to the church; this can be done by mailing offerings to the church or by using Tithe.ly.

The direct link to our Tithe.ly account is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1747825>



**Soup and Sandwich**

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**We will be in contact with everyone that has helped in the past. We are always looking for new help!**



*To all of the donors who dropped off coats, all who are too numerous to mention, we send a heartfelt thank you for supporting the winter coat drive.*

*Special thanks to Sandy Cep for delivering the coats where they were needed the most.*

On Lenten Wednesdays we will have dinner and a movie beginning at 5:15 pm at Grace with Sung Compline at 6:45 pm.

“Compline” comes from the Latin completorium, which means to complete. It is the last common prayer before retiring for the night. It marks the completion of our day and heralds life’s end. It leads back into the darkness of the night, but a darkness different from that of vigils. It is not the darkness of waiting where all the possibilities of good and evil were still ahead. This is the darkness of God’s mysterious presence, the abyss of his mercy into which he let us fall. Compline may be understood as a daily exercise in the art of dying. For what is sleep if not a little rehearsal for death? But dying a death which will open the fullness of life and light. That is why the cantor sings the wonderful song of old Simeon on the threshold of death: “Now Lord, you will let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your saving deed which you have set before all: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32).

Taken from Christ in the Desert Monastery



**ST. PAUL’S ANNUAL FISH FRY**

**SATURDAY, March 9, 2024 - 3-7pm**

**Fresh Perch & Trout**

fried potatoes, green beans,  
applesauce, stewed tomatoes,  
cornbread and dessert.

***Can’t come and eat?***

***That’s OK...***

***Take Out’s are Available!***

***Please invite your friends,  
family and neighbors!!***

**Spring will be here soon!**



As spring approaches, we need to plan and prepare for our Community Garden. Last year our garden was able to produce vegetables, herbs, and flowers which were shared in the community at our Blessing Box and provided decoration for our worship services and events. Those with green thumbs and even those who don’t, there are plenty of opportunities to help! If you are interested in helping, please contact Deacon Hiner or Meredith in the office.

**Ash Wednesday Services**

February 14, 2024

7 AM Grace Lutheran

4 PM Grace Lutheran

7 PM St Paul’s





# THIS MONTH USHERS



## Tellers

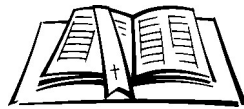
## Ushers

February 4 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth  
 February 11 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens  
 February 18 Keith Davis and Donnie Davis  
 February 25 Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore

February 4 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth  
 February 11 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens  
 February 18 Debbie Dudrow and Donna Stevens  
 February 25 Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore

## Lectors

February 4 Donna Stevens  
 February 11 Bobbie Leaverton  
 February 18 Betty Jean Mumford  
 February 25 Robert Saathoff

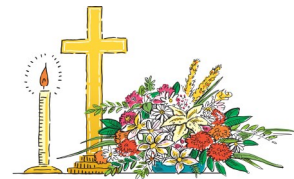


February 4 Declan Corley  
 February 11 Couper Barletta  
 February 18 Corey Fisher  
 February 25 Joshua Lewis



## Altar Flowers

February 4  
 February 11  
 February 18 Lent  
 February 25 Lent



Altar Flowers

February 4 Gavin Corley

February 18 Morgan Sauca

## Communion Assistants

February 4 Robert Saathoff  
 February 11 Robert Saathoff  
 February 18 Bobbie Leaverton  
 February 25 Fred Meers



Communion Assistants



February

Betty Jean Mumford  
 and Samantha Lewis



**CROSS OF ASHES** — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."



Pastor	Jonathon Moyers	304 400-5379	revjmoyers@gmail.com
Deacon	Mike Hiner	443 496-1383	mhiner24@gmail.com
President	Tom Roesel	703 795-8922	thomas.roesel@gmail.com
Vice President/Property	Darian Sump	410 924-7876	dsump@sumpassociates.com
Treasurer	Debbie Dudrow	410 924-8368	rdudrow@verizon.net
Secretary	Lyn Hollingsworth	410 714-3876	laph@goeaston.net
Financial Secretary	Donna Stevens	410 310-2107	dstevens62@icloud.com
Worship, Music, Education	Wendy Sauca	410 829-0411	swmmsauca@yahoo.com
Evangelism, Outreach	Nicole Barth	717 682-4857	nmb9393@yahoo.com

**Just as a reminder, the minutes from church council meetings are available for congregational review at any time. They are stored in binders (by year) in the Sacristy.**



**We need volunteers for the Talbot Interfaith Shelter on Friday, March 1. We have 8 am to 11am, 11 am to 2 pm, and 2 pm to 5 pm shifts available for 2 volunteers. In addition, we also need dinner supplied.**



Homeless Outreach

**Palm Sunday-Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (March 24)**

Holy Eucharist

8:45am at St. Paul's & 10:45am at Grace

**Holy Monday-Jesus Cleanses the Temple (March 25)**

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

5:00pm at Grace

**Holy Tuesday-Jesus Curses the Fig Tree (March 26)**

Matins (Morning Prayer)

8:30am at St. Paul's

**Holy Wednesday-Judas Iscariot Plots with the Sanhedrin (March 27)**

Holy Eucharist

12:00 Noon at Grace

**Maundy Thursday-Jesus in the Upper Room (March 28)**

Holy Eucharist

7:00pm at St. Paul's

All-Night Vigil

Beginning at 10pm at St. Paul's

following until Matins (Morning Prayer) at 7:00am Friday

**Good Friday-Christ gives himself on the hard wood of the cross for our salvation (March 29)**

The Seven Last Words of Christ Devotion

12:00 Noon at Grace

The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

2:15pm at Grace

The Evening Liturgy of Good Friday

7:00pm at St. Paul's

**Holy Saturday-This is the night! (March 30)**

The Great Vigil of Easter

8:00pm at Grace

**Easter Sunday-The Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord (March 31)**

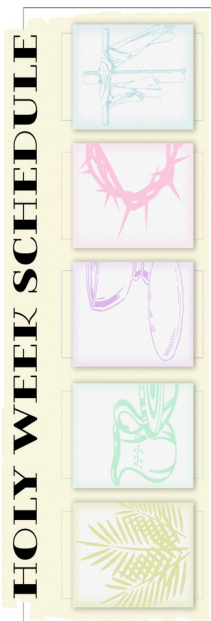
Sunrise Service with the New Fire

6:00am at St. Paul's

The Festival Eucharist of Easter Day

8:45am at St. Paul's

10:45am at Grace



# Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ___ Father    | 10 + 15 = ___ in        |
| 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly  | 10 - 5 = ___ God        |
| 9 + 9 = ___ the        | 6 - 3 = ___ to          |
| 12 + 12 = ___ blessing | 12 - 6 = ___ and        |
| 2 - 1 = ___ Praise     | 6 + 6 = ___ Christ      |
| 7 + 7 = ___ has        | 18 - 9 = ___ our        |
| 11 + 11 = ___ every    | 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus     |
| 13 + 13 = ___ Christ   | 1 + 1 = ___ be          |
| 8 + 8 = ___ us         | 7 + 6 = ___ who         |
| 10 + 10 = ___ realms   | 2 + 2 = ___ the         |
| 8 + 9 = ___ in         | 10 + 5 = ___ blessed    |
| 5 + 5 = ___ Lord       | 4 + 4 = ___ of          |
| 10 + 11 = ___ with     | 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual |

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

**Ephesians 1:3, NIV**

Answers: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

What did the enamored deer say?  
*I'm very fawn-ed of you!*

What question did the penguin ask on February 14?  
*Waddle I do without you?*

What do you call two birds in love?  
*Tweethearts!*

What did one bee say to the other?  
*I love bee-ing with you, honey!*

## Valentine's Day jokes for animal lovers

What did one sheep say to the other?  
*I love ewe!*

And how did the other sheep respond?  
*You're not so baaa-d yourself.*

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?  
*They are very scent-imental creatures.*

## CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

*Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.*

<p>a. We</p> <p>b. Above all,</p> <p>c. My command is this:</p> <p>d. And over all these virtues put on</p> <p>e. Greater</p> <p>f. See what great</p> <p>g. There is no fear in</p>		<p>1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12</p> <p>2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13</p> <p>3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18</p> <p>4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8</p> <p>5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1</p> <p>6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19</p> <p>7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14</p>
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Answers: a, b, c, d, e, f, g

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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P.O. Box 368  
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Return Service Requested

Worship Service Begins at 8:45 am  
Please inform the church office of any  
changes in your personal information:  
Address, phone number, marriage or  
divorce, or new births so that we  
can keep our records up-to-date.

Secretary: Meredith Lewis—

Cell: 443-496-0903

Office: 410-364-5147

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Office Email: [info@stpaulscordova.org](mailto:info@stpaulscordova.org)

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