

The Messenger

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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LENT

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!





3/9 Kevin Webster

3/15 Corey Edsall

3/16 Tessa Rusch

3/18 Couper Barletta

3/19 Donald McClean

3/22 Bobby Saathoff

3/28 Charles Skipper

3/28 Thomas Roesel

3/29 Marian Davis

3/30 Kelly Shannon

3/31 Edith Roe



Acts of Mercy

Martin Luther wrote, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." In this Lenten season, we remember that we are called to act with compassion, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the sake of this hurting world.

In the two congregations of our Chesapeake Country Area Ministry, there are many ways you may engage in acts of mercy and kindness. Perhaps consider making donations for the Blessing Box in Cordova, volunteering with the Talbot Interfaith Shelter, or making a habit of a weekly phone call with one of our members who is no longer able to come to worship and would really appreciate being kept in the fellowship of the congregation.

Here's another idea: During each of the 40 days of Lent (remember, to get to 40 we exclude Sundays), place one canned good item or hygiene product into a box for donation to our Blessing Box in Cordova and the new Blessing Box we are creating for Easton. You will be surprised how fast your box fills up as each day you place in your item and pray for those who will receive that blessing!



SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

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. One way this can be done is by mailing offerings to the church or using Tithe.ly.

The direct link to our Tithe.ly account is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1747825>
If you are having trouble setting up your account or have any questions about Tithe.ly,
please contact Donna Stevens, Financial

Secretary 410-310-2107 or dstevens62@icloud.com



Lenten Wednesday Evenings: Dinner and a Movie!
6:15pm at Grace Lutheran
All Wednesdays in March



- March 1st – Adam and Eve: Lost Innocence (Genesis 2:4—4:26)**
March 8th – Biography: Noah and the Ark (Genesis 5:28—9:28)
March 15th – Mysteries of the Bible: Abraham (Genesis 11:27—25:11)
March 22nd – Mysteries of the Bible: Joseph (Genesis 37—50)
March 29th – Biography: Moses and the Ten Commandments (Genesis 2:4—4:26)

The stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses figure quite prominently into the themes of Lent and Holy Week. In each of their stories, we are invited to deeply contemplate the realities of sin, separation, grace, and redemption. In Adam we are confronted with our own rebellion against the vision of God. In Noah's story we experience what it means to discern our relationship to God in the chaos brought by our own sin. We learn of God's desire to be in covenanted relationship with humanity in the story of Abraham. In Joseph we hear of God's people in desperate need of liberation and redemption. The journey of Moses prefigures the Easter mystery for us and points us to new life through the water of baptism.

On Wednesday evenings, we will gather at Grace Lutheran Church at 6:15pm. A simple soup supper will be available. Anyone interested in providing a crockpot of soup for one of the evenings is encouraged to be in touch with Pastor Jonathon or Nicole Barth. Additional side items, especially bread, are also invited.

After our session with Dinner and Movie, around 7:25pm, the night prayer office called "Compline," which lasts about 10 minutes, will be prayed either in the main church or in the Good Shepherd Chapel, depending on the evening.

Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus

An illustration of Jesus with his arms raised, holding a golden halo.

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)



THIS MONTH USHERS



Tellers

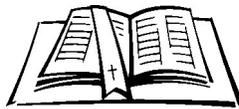
Ushers

March 5 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
 March 12 Keith Davis and Donnie Davis
 March 19 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
 March 26 Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore

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 March 12 Debbie Dudrow and Donna Stevens
 March 19 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
 March 26 Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore

Lectors

March 5 Betty Jean Mumford
 March 12 Debbie Dudrow
 March 19 Bobbie Leaverton
 March 26 Robert Saathoff



March 5 Declan Corley
 March 12 Joshua Lewis
 March 19 Couper Barletta
 March 26 Corey Fisher

Communion Assistants

March 5 Robert Saathoff
 March 12 D. Mike Hiner
 March 19 Betty Jean Mumford
 March 26 Fred Meers



March 5 Gavin Corley
 March 19 Preston Rickwood

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.



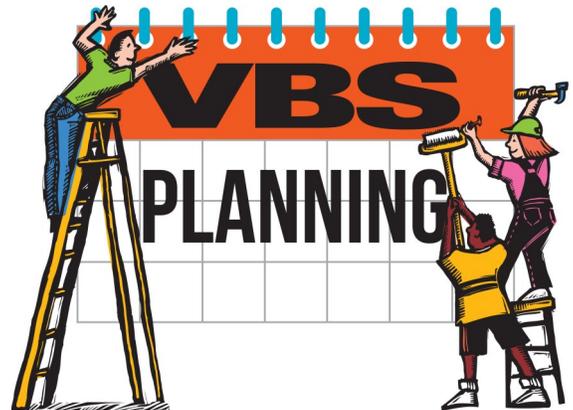
March

Bobbie Leaverton

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.

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Last year's Vacation Bible School was a success due to the hard work and dedication from members of both St. Paul's and Grace and we want this year's to be even better! Please join us on Wednesday, March 8 at 4:30 pm as we plan and prepare for VBS 2023.



Chicken Casserole

Submitted by Debbie Dudrow

8 pieces skinless, boneless chicken breasts

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 pkg chipped beef (soak in water 20 minutes before)

1 pt sour cream

Pepper to taste

Put drained chip beef in bottom of pan, add pepper. Add chicken. Then mix sour cream and chicken soup together. Pour over top. Bake at 275 for 3 hours.



The 36th annual Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA will meet Friday, June 9 through Saturday, June 10, 2023. Synod Assembly will take place in person at Grace Lutheran Church in Westminster, MD. We need 2 lay members to attend. Please let Pastor or Deacon know if you are interested.



Spring Clean Up Day

As we prepare for the Easter Season, we would like to ensure the church looks its best. We will have our annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday, March 25 with a rain date of Saturday, April 1. More hands mean faster work!



Spring will be here soon!

As spring approaches, we need to plan and prepare for our Community Garden. Our first little 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.



Palm Sunday-Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (April 2nd)
Holy Eucharist
8:45am at St. Paul's & 10:45am at Grace

Holy Monday-Jesus Cleanses the Temple (April 3rd)
Vespers (Evening Prayer)
5:00pm at Grace

Holy Tuesday-Jesus Curses the Fig Tree (April 4th)
Matins (Morning Prayer)
8:30am at St. Paul's

Holy Wednesday-Judas Iscariot Plots with the Sanhedrin (April 5th)
Holy Eucharist
12:00 Noon at Grace

Maundy Thursday-Jesus in the Upper Room (April 6th)
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 (April 7th)
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! (April 8th)
The Great Vigil of Easter
8:00pm at Grace

Easter Sunday-The Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord (April 9th)
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

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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.

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Office: 410-364-5147

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Deacon Michael Hiner

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Choir Director and Organist: Julie Hawley

Phone: 412-600-6326

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