

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

43 N 3rd St., Hilbert, WI 54129

Office: (920) 853-3217

March 2023

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

What is Lent?

Lent, in the Christian church, is a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for fasting and abstinence (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. In Eastern churches Lent begins on the Monday of the seventh week before Easter and ends on the Friday that is nine days before Easter. This 40-day "Great Lent" includes Saturdays and Sundays as relaxed fast days.

A period of preparation and fasting likely has been observed before the Easter festival since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. It was a time of preparation of candidates for baptism and a time of penance for grievous sinners who were excluded from Communion and were preparing for their restoration. As a sign of their penitence, they wore sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes. This form of public penance began to die out in the 9th century, and it became customary for all the faithful to be reminded of the need for penitence by receiving an imposition of ashes on their foreheads on the first day of Lent—hence the name Ash Wednesday. Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Lent". Encyclopedia Britannica, 5 Jan. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lent>. Accessed 17 February 2023.

In the Anglican churches *The Book of Common Prayer* prescribes that Lent be observed with fasting. In Lutheran and many other Protestant churches, Lent is observed with various services and practices, though Lent is not formally observed in many Evangelical or nondenominational churches.

For us as Lutherans, Lent is a journey we take in faith as we follow our Lord to the cross. At the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday), we have the option of receive the imposition of ashes, in the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a reminder that from dust we have come, and from dust we shall return. We are reminded that the wages of sin is death and that we need a savior. That savior is Jesus Christ. As Lutherans, there is no mandate to celebrate Lent that would come from the Synod in Saint Louis. LCMS Presidents, District and Regional Presidents cannot mandate that all LCMS Lutherans attend Ash Wednesday, receive the imposition of ashes, and attend each and every midweek Lenten Services. If they did, the meaning of Lent would lose its importance in remembering the journey of Christ to the cross.

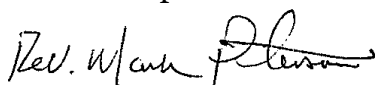
There are though many biblical examples of fasting and denying ourselves. The most common example is the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the Wilderness by the devil. That was a spiritual warfare on the most intense level. Jesus was hungry, and the devil tempted Him to eat, to worship him and all the kingdoms of the earth would be given to Jesus. Where Adam and Eve fell into temptation by eating fruit from a tree, Jesus resisted the devil for us by relying on God's Word alone. In resisting the devil in the wilderness, immediately after His baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus was ready for His journey to Jerusalem and the cross. He did this for us!!

In this Lenten Season as we journey with our Lord to the cross, and to that empty tomb on Easter Sunday we need to remember several things. One is that we were not sacrificed on the cross because Jesus being true God and true man was the only one who could keep the Law

perfectly on our behalf. Secondly, we remain at the cross just like the faithful disciple John, Mary (the mother of Jesus), and others. We also go to that empty, dark tomb where our Savior is laid to rest. All of these things remind us of the bitter suffering and death of Jesus for our sins. Finally, without Jesus facing the temptations of the devil in the wilderness, His suffering and death, there would be no Easter, no Christmas, and no Word and Sacrament, no church, and many other wonderful blessings that God has given to us. If there was no journey of Jesus to the cross, we would be forever lost and would have to stand in the presence of God and give justification for our lives, and our sins would be held against us.

In this Lenten Season, I look forward to journeying with you to the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection of Easter. Together, on this journey let us reflect on what the Lord has done for us. If you chose to fast, give up something for Lent, that is your right to do so as Christians. Just remember that if a person thinks by giving up something for Lent will earn you good marks as help your chance at salvation, then you are missing the true meaning of Lent and the journey of Christ to the cross for our sins.

In His Grip



Pastor Peterson



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead before bed on Saturday March 11th.

Military BibleSticks Lenten Mission Project

Together we can get God's Word to our servicemen and women!

Ash Wednesday (February 22) through Easter (April 9), we will be receiving funds to purchase Military BibleSticks for our troops at home and abroad.



Share the Good News of salvation with our troops!



Mission Matters

LCMS Campus Ministry in South Wisconsin District

Did you know that we have a campus ministry on several of our state or private colleges in the district? This month we will highlight a few of these. Because the support for these ministries comes from the district budget, part of the mission dollars we submit are used for this purpose. Having a Christ centered program on campus is a blessing for all students.

Calvary Chapel at UW-Madison:

Marquette University:

Milwaukee School of Engineering:

UW-LaCrosse:

UW- Milwaukee:

UW-Platteville:

Others: The names of students attending other schools are submitted to the District office where they are connected to area LCMS churches.

Students attending school in other districts can be connected to the LCMS ministries by submitting their names to LCMS U found on the LCMS website.

It is incredibly important that we connect

college-aged members to faithful campus ministries. As students are away from home for the first time in their lives, they are exposed to worldviews that are contrary to their faith. Now is the time for intentional pastoral care. The first step in that is connecting them to an LCMS campus ministry.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

March Events:

Woman's Day at Zion Lutheran, New Holstein

Date: March 25, 2023
Times: Registration/treats @ 8:30, Program 9- ~2:00, Lunch included
Speaker: Paula Huebschmann, St. John Lutheran, Plymouth
Theme: Rejoice – Pray – Give Thanks
Registration: Due by March 5, no fee (freewill offerings accepted)

St. Peter Women in Mission:

Tuesday, March 14 at 1:00. Bring your Winter Quarterly

April Events:

Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations

Saturday, April 15 at Immanuel Lutheran, Brookfield, 8:30 – 1:30

Zone 10 Spring Rally at St. John Lutheran, Plymouth

Date: Tuesday, April 25,
Time: 7:00 PM, registration time and details next month
Bible study by Zone Counselor, Rev. Mark Peterson
Special workshop: making table favors for the LWML convention in June. We will do this before the rally during the afternoon.

Gifts of Love:

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl Sunday gifts which were taken to the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Chilton. And a special thanks to Jan and Dean for using their Thrivent Card to supplement the gifts we provided. We also thank them for delivering everything! They were privileged to see some of the items being distributed while they were still there! It seems the cupboards were bare due to the increased demand for food items during January. What a blessing to be able to assist with this ministry.

Our next Gifts of Love ingathering will be for A Place of Refuge, our district ministry to expectant mothers in need of a safe place to live. This will start in April and finish on Mothers' Day.

Second Sunday Fellowship

It's been a lot of fun visiting with each other after worship on the second Sunday of each month. Stop in for a cup of coffee or some juice or milk and a little something to munch on. We've heard lots of good conversations going on accompanied by smiles and laughter.



LCMS groups respond to Selma tornado

By Sarah Reinsel



Forged by Fire cook Walt Organ of The Village Lutheran Church, Lacombe, La., stirs a pot of noodles on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Selma, Ala. Forged by Fire is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

On Jan. 12 a tornado tore through Selma, Ala. It was part of a larger storm system that affected dozens of counties in Alabama and Georgia.

The tornado's path went straight through Selma's downtown area, destroying buildings, blowing over trees and power lines, and causing significant damage to the homes of hundreds of residents. There were no casualties in Selma.

On Jan. 14, the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS Disaster Response, alongside the Rev. Ed Brashier, district disaster response coordinator for the LCMS Southern District, visited Selma to assess the damage and develop an action plan, partnering with the Rev. Steve Washington and his congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Selma, to provide relief for those affected by the tornado.

Using Trinity as a base, the LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO) Forged by Fire provided around 3,200 meals to people affected by the storm. Trinity also hosted a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), led by Brashier, for four weeks. Deaconess Kathy O'Day, disaster response coordinator for RSO Lutheran Church Charities, also brought a team down from northern Illinois to volunteer for a week and a half.

For one meal, handed out by means of a makeshift drive-thru in Trinity's parking lot, the Forged by Fire cooks combined 80 pounds of ground meat, more than 60 pounds of vegetables, 12 pounds of garlic and 60 #10 cans of pasta sauce into one enormous pot. Another enormous pot of noodles simmered nearby. This batch of pasta would feed about 800 people.

"I always like to think it's our way of giving a little hope. ... We get to model the love that Christ has given us to our neighbors," said the Rev. Paul Ernewein, director of Forged by Fire. "It's not just a bowl of food. ... It's a bowl of hope."

Each car, on its way out, stopped at the prayer tent, where the Rev. Dr. McNair Ramsey or the Rev. Tom Noon took a few moments to pray with the driver and other passengers and distribute Disaster Response resources and information about Trinity Lutheran Church. Ramsey is first vice-president of the Southern District, and Noon is retired.

The LERT volunteers provided free chainsaw work and tree removal to underserved homeowners in Selma. This mercy work creates numerous opportunities for praying with people and bearing the love of Christ to them.

"A lot of [the homeowners] ask us why we come so far and do this for nothing. And that's where we get to witness and tell them ... 'through the grace of God, we've been blessed. We want to be a blessing to you in return.' ... People cry. People pray with us, we pray with them. And it's just an easy way to help your neighbors [as] you would want them to come and help you," said Dave Schlesselman, a LERT volunteer and member of St. John Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Ill.

Latanya, a Selma resident, was one of the many homeowners assisted by LERT volunteers after a tree fell on her roof.

She was at home when the tornado struck. "I just heard this horrible sound like a roaring train. ... My window started shattering, and I heard the wind blowing so ferociously," Latanya said. A few moments later, the tornado passed, and her husband burst into the room to tell her a tree had fallen on the house.

Latanya got in touch with the LERT volunteers through a flyer after several dead-end attempts to seek help elsewhere. "I called Pastor Ed [Brashier] on Saturday ... and now they're here, just like they said they would [be]," she said.

The LERT volunteers had the difficult task of gingerly removing the tree without damaging the roof further.

"We've experienced so much devastation, but it's so heartwarming to know that there are people that care about us that don't even know us. And y'all are here working so diligently and free of charge. ... You don't get that too often, so we're very grateful," said Latanya.

"It was so heartbreaking ... to go across town and see that area devastated," she continued. "I don't think we'll ever be able to be the same, and I'm not saying we can't rebuild, or you can't get houses back and material things. ... But it has brought this community together as well, and we've had so

many people from ... other states ... come in and help. We're just so truly grateful for it."

As this issue went to press, the LERT volunteers had served 50 homeowners during their first few weeks of work in Selma. The Trinity LERT camp hosted around 20–25 LERT volunteers each week.

"It's amazing that so many people come from so far. We're doing it because we can ... help out our fellow neighbors, even though they're far away," said Janet Hill, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in East Moline, Ill. "[We're] blessed to be able to have the health and the ability ... to be here."

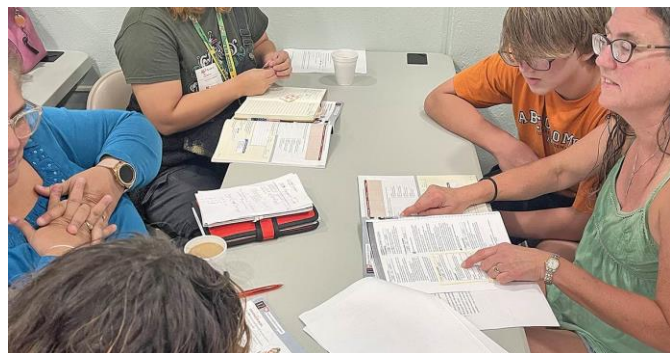
Anyone can become a LERT volunteer and bear Christ's love to people in need in times of disaster. Training sessions are held across the country throughout the year.

"Go," said Hill. "Go get trained. I think anybody can do it. We all have our talents. ... Just give a little bit of your time and come out here, and God gives ... the rest."

Find information on scheduled LERT training sessions and future deployments at lcms-lert.org.

From the mission field: Short-term team serves in Puerto Rico

By Cheryl Magness



Short-term mission volunteers Sheri Herman and her son, Jørgen (right), teach greetings to a group of beginning English speakers at Fuente de Vida Lutheran Church in Ponce, Puerto Rico, in November 2022. (LCMS/Ashley Lehr)

Thirteen volunteers from St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Esko, Minn., travelled to Puerto Rico Nov. 12–19, 2022, for short-term mission work at Príncipe de Paz (Prince of Peace) Lutheran Church

in Mayagüez and Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life) Lutheran Church in Ponce.

"It was wonderful to have this team returning after serving here in 2019. Both the missionaries and church members love continuing to build those relationships with fellow Lutherans from the United States," said Ashley Lehr, LCMS missionary to Puerto Rico.

At Fuente de Vida in Ponce, the team completed maintenance projects, including leveling church pews, remodeling and painting closets, and painting the staircase's ironwork at Fuente de Vida's mercy center, as well as the trim and tiles of the building used for Bible study.

The team also transformed the church's parking lot into a recreational area for children. They poured cement between the parking lot's two slabs of concrete in order to level the area and prevent the court from becoming overgrown with grass and weeds. Then they power-washed and painted the concrete to create a basketball court.

In Mayagüez, at Príncipe de Paz, the team painted the entire interior of the sanctuary. The formerly white chancel is now a rich teal. The team also painted the cross on the roof of the sanctuary.

The volunteers also put a lot of work into Príncipe de Paz's short-term volunteer housing. Projects included taking inventory of disaster response supplies and organizing them to be easily accessible, painting the kitchen, and installing a hood and a gas stove. The new gas stove will be especially helpful in the event of a hurricane because it can be used when the power goes out.

After working all day, the St. Matthews volunteers continued into the evening, teaching English-as-a-Second-Language classes to adult students.

"What a beautiful week it was," said Lehr. "Many thanks to St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Esko, Minn., for their great work at both churches!"

Learn more about Lehr's work in Puerto Rico at lcms.org/lehr.

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God’s grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus’ work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God’s Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn’t just remind us of the sufficiency of God’s spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying “no” to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you’ve learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You’ve learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Our Response to His Love

	2-05	1-29	1-22	1-15	1-8
General Fund	\$2606	\$1496	\$1242	\$1115	\$2347
Missions			\$5	\$50	\$20
Totals	\$2606	\$1496	\$1247	\$1165	\$2367

Happy Birthday

MARCH

- 9 Kurt Kamps
- 14 Casey Manders
- 15 Charley Fochs
- 16 Carissa Schwalenberg
- 17 James Fredrich
- 18 Marjean Plate
Patrick Hernke
- 22 Noah Koehler
- 23 Jonathon Ladwig
- 24 Devin Roehrig
Zachary Wittmann
- 25 Dale Mueller
- 26 Diane Roehrig
- 29 Adam Riemer
- 30 Maria Schroeder



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 11th Michael & Susan Hostettler
- March 24th Judd & Diane Roehrig



Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Man of Sorrows, People of Joy paints a revealing picture of Jesus as He winds His way to the cross. Using Matthew's Gospel as its source, we see Jesus as teacher, healer, comforter, and Savior. Our Shepherd's crucifixion and resurrection now make joy and true life available to His followers—to those who through faith entrust their lives to Him.

Our Lord Jesus, though divine in nature, took on human form and thus became intimately acquainted with our griefs and sorrow (see Isaiah 53:1-6). That God would send His Son to bear our sins and die on our behalf is testament to God's unbounded love—a love that declares believers innocent through the Savior's triumphant resurrection.

Lenten devotions are available to print at
<https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Read or listen to daily devotions from LHM at
<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>

Service times for Lent and Easter:

- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Midweek Lenten Services 10:30 a.m. (7:00 p.m. @ St. Luke)
- April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service 1:00 p.m.
- April 7 – Good Friday Service 1:00 p.m.
- April 9 – Easter Sunday (8:30 a.m. @ St. Peter, 10:30 a.m. @ St. Luke)

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri Koffarnus Bonnie Ott Bonnie Teinert			1 10:30 Midweek Service 7:00 Midweek Service @ St. Luke	2	3 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	4
5 Second Sunday in Lent <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	6 7:00 p.m. Joint Committee Meeting @ St. Peter	7 7:00p Bible Study	8 10:30 Midweek Service 7:00 Midweek Service @ St. Luke	9	10 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	11
12 Third Sunday in Lent <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School/ Fellowship Sunday Daylight Savings	13	14 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	15 10:30 Midweek Service 7:00 Midweek Service @ St. Luke	16 6:00p Elders' Meeting 6:30p Council Meeting	17 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	18
19 Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	20 Newsletter articles due Spring Begins	21 7:00p Bible Study	22 10:30 Midweek Service 7:00 Midweek Service @ St. Luke	23	24 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	25
26 Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Purple</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School	27	28 7:00p Bible Study	29 10:30 Midweek Service 7:00 Midweek Service @ St. Luke	30	31 10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton	

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion