

The Spirit

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

March 2017



Lent and Hunger

Pastor William J. Matlack

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LENT

Originally, in the early Christian Church, Lent was an extended period of time when those anticipating baptism during Easter completed their final preparations and examinations, "Scrutinies" as they were called. Jerusalem Bishop Cyril is known to have described it as "Forty Days of repentance."

In the passing decades, this period of preparation became associated with Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. And it was expanded to apply to all Christians. So devout Christians discipline themselves with prayer and fasting, as Jesus did, during this period to properly prepare themselves to celebrate God's redemptive act in Jesus' death and resurrection.

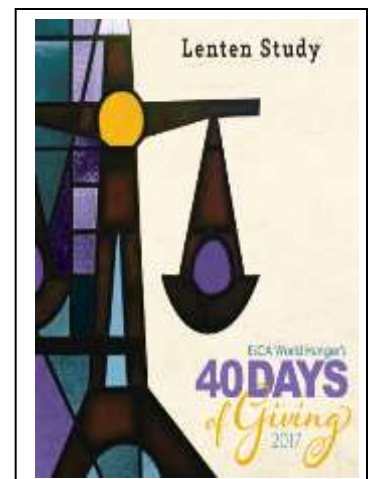
The resurrection is still acknowledged on each Sunday during the period so Sundays are not counted in the 40 days. Lent actually runs 46 days, from Ash Wednesday (the 7th Wednesday before Easter) through the day before Easter itself.

Lent is an important season for the people of God. It is a time to reflect on Christ's temptation in the wilderness, his loneliness in the Garden of Gethsemane, his death on the cross, and our own dependence on God's grace and mercy. The promise of Easter leads us through our own wilderness in this season of confession, repentance and, for many, fasting.

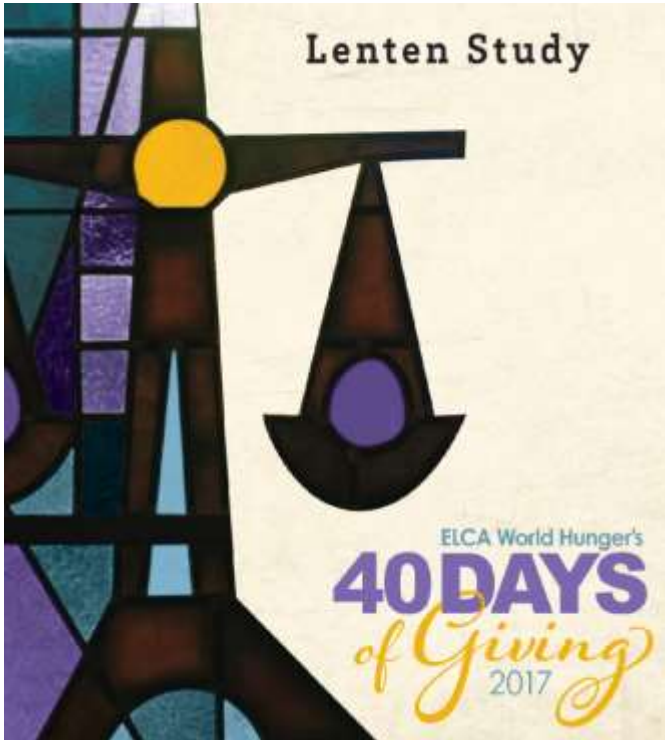
Through the prophet Isaiah, God reveals to us the depth and breadth of authentic fasting in the reading for Ash Wednesday: "Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6). In that same chapter, God reveals the hypocrisy of a people who would fast while practicing injustice: "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers" (Isaiah 58:3).

The connection between faith, worship and justice was central for Martin Luther. His concern for the poor and his sharp rebuke of economic injustice helps us today see the many ways our faith calls us to strive for justice in our world. In this, the 500th year since the Reformation, Luther's call for economic justice is more pressing than ever.

- Pastor Matlack



New Adult Study begins Thursday, March 16 @ 10 am



March 16:
A 'Household' Economy

March 23:
An Economy of Grace

March 30:
Livelihood and Vocation

April 6:
A Just World (Where All Are Fed)

April 13:
A Sustainable Future
(concludes with Maundy Thursday Table Service)

Wednesday, March 8 @ Holy Spirit Lutheran 4800 Orchard Lake Rd
Wednesday, March 15 @ Pine Hill Congregational 4160 Middlebelt Rd
Wednesday, March 22 @ West Bloomfield United Methodist 4100 Walnut Lake Rd
Wednesday, March 29 @ Spirit of Grace - A Lutheran-Episcopal Community 2399 Figa Ave
Wednesday, April 5 @ Shepherd King Lutheran, LCMS 5300 W Maple Rd



Congregational Life



Dinner with Friends is at **Mexico Lindo**, 6225 Highland Rd (at Airport) on Friday, **March 10** at **6:30 pm**. Please sign up by March 5 so reservations can be made.



WELCA is being **hosted** by **Sandy Thayer** at home, 4844 Cliffside on **Thursday, March, 16** at **6:30 pm**. A **huge thank you** to **Jean Samuelsen** and **Petra Mattern** for a wonderful time at the **January WELCA** meeting.



Holy Spirit hosts the **Wednesday, March 8** Lenten **Soup Supper**. Please sign up to bring a soup, rolls, or cookies, or to set up, clean up or serve. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board.



WELCA's 12th Annual "Stepping Into Spring" Fashion Show is **Thursday, April 20** at Bay Pointe Golf Club. Doors open at **5:30 pm**. Food, Raffle, Cash Bar. **Tickets are \$32**. See **Trudi Burns** or **Barb Kunkel** for tickets or to sign up to bring a basket for the raffle.



HSLC Rummage Sale dates have been set for **June 14 to June 17**.



Easter Food Drive

We're **collecting food for ten (10) families**: Hams, Dressing, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Cereal, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Soups / Mixes, Gravy (Jars or Mixes), Pasta / Sauces, Raisins, Cheese, Bread, Potatoes, Carrots, Eggs, Rice.

If you are donating a ham, please sign up on the bulletin board and the ham can be placed in the refrigerator or freezer at church. See **Nancy Green** if you have any questions.



Birthdays

Arlyn Reed	March 1
Thomas Butler	March 2
Nick Casagrande	March 5
Jean Butler	March 7
Ken Casagrande	March 7
Barb Church	March 7
Mary Freed	March 7
Kay Grabenstein	March 8
Trent Curlee	March 9
Nicole Voorhees	March 10
Valarie Ceccardi	March 14
Barb Eliason	March 16
John Johnsen	March 17
Matt Ceccardi	March 19
Thomas Kuljurgis	March 20
Sophia Dexel	March 24
Tim Sweda	March 24

Anniversaries

George & Chris Kuljurgis March 27

Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

March 2017

For health and healing and for those who grieve. For Bishop Kreiss, the Southeast Michigan Synod staff, the HSLC congregation and Pastor Bill Matlack.

Living farther into the new year, we pray our anticipation, joy, hope and openness to change and daily renewal of our faith and spirit do not diminish but grow and prove infectious in our relationships and encounters with others.

Pray God will grant us the wisdom and compassion to welcome and accompany strangers, immigrants and refugees who seek safety, freedom or new beginnings and that we not forget we, too, in our life or family histories have been strangers, immigrants and refugees hoping to be met with acceptance, respect and kindness.

During Lent, as we reflect on our lives and faith, we pray that we are honest with ourselves and not defensive about our faults and weaknesses and are always drawn to the cross where we find forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ.

We direct our confidence and prayers to God when we wonder who will help us, who is paying attention to our lives and who will deliver us from darkness and evil.

We give thanks for farmers and ranchers who carefully tend their crops, animals, orchards and resources and ask they be blessed with abundant harvests and wisdom in their planning and planting for the sake of feeding and sustaining the world.

Thank God for anointing us as forgiven, renewed children of God, marked and chosen to be disciples devoted to witness and service in the world.

Pray the Holy Spirit will guide and equip us to live in the light of Christ, to live differently than when we lived in darkness and hopelessness, that our lives be pleasing to God and a sure sign to others of God's love and ways.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesdays at 10 am

Knit, crochet or handwork

Bring a project to work on or we can supply you with yarn to make a prayer shawl.

We continue the fellowship by going out to lunch afterwards.



Men's Group

Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 pm

Food & Fellowship at
Mary Donnelly's Public House
3011 Orchard Lake Rd
Keego Harbor

All men of Holy Spirit are invited to attend.



Dinner With Friends

Friday, March 10, 6:30 pm



6225 Highland Road
Waterford, MI 48327

Sign up by March 5 so that reservations can be made.

WELCA

Women of the ELCA

Thursday, March 16, 6:30 pm
hosted by Sandy Thayer

WELCA is open to all women of Holy Spirit so please think about joining us.



Book Club

Thursday, March 23, 7:00 pm
discussing



WELCA's 12th Annual
"Stepping Into Spring"
Fashion Show

Thursday, April 20
Bay Pointe Golf Club
Doors open at **5:30 pm**

Food, Raffle, Cash Bar
Tickets are \$32.

Women's fashions provided by
The Clothing Cove, Milford, MI

Any questions or to purchase tickets, please see Barb Kunkel or Trudi Burns.

Ticket sale deadline is April 4.

Thank You to Our Monthly Worship Assistants

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Lector	Cindy Ward	Terry Rowland	Doug Opthoff	Liesa Helfer
Greeters	Cindy Ward	Terry Rowland	Doug Opthoff	Liesa Helfer
Ushers	Dan Bergman George Kuljurgis Andy Meyer Bob Frick	Dennis Kunkel Doug Opthoff Bill Thayer Tom Sweda Bob Burns	Tom Butler Russ Cossin Jarrod Dixel Jeff Parko Stan Samuelson Lukas Mattern	Jean Butler Janet Martin Mary Martin Hilda Sawicki Jeanne Myers
Counters	Mary Martin Janet Martin	Dan Bergman Marian Rowland	Stan Samuelson Ken Casagrande	Trudi Burns George & Chris Kuljurgis

Honor or Remember With Altar Flowers or Candles

You may honor or remember a special event or loved one by providing flowers for Sunday worship.

Altar Flowers are \$20 per week and Candles are \$10 per month. Please BE SURE to include in whose memory or honor the flowers or candles are given, or the event you wish to celebrate on the specially marked payment envelopes.

Spirit Newsletter by Email

Get the latest news and information from Holy Spirit emailed to you!

Easily share the news and events of Holy Spirit with others.

If you want to receive the monthly "Spirit" newsletter by email in place of your printed copy in the mail, let us know!

Email Cheryl: office@spiritdrivenchurch.com

Bulletin Announcements

Weekly bulletin information needs to be submitted no later than Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

April 2017 Newsletter

Please submit your information to the church office no later than March 15.

March 2017 Ministry Opportunities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm Handbells Narcotics Anonymous 7 pm	Zumba 6:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm	Zumba 9:30 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45 am Choir 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School Narcotics Anonymous 7 pm	Zumba 6:30 pm	Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am Men's Group 6:30 pm	HSLC Soup Supper & Service 6:30 pm	Zumba 6:30 pm	AA 7:30 pm	Zumba 9:30 am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 am Choir 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	Zumba 6:30 pm	Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am	Pine Hill Soup Supper & Service 6:30 pm Handbells 7 pm NA 7 pm	Adult Study 10 am WELCA 6:30 pm Zumba 6:30 pm	AA 7:30 pm	<i>No Zumba</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 am Choir 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	Zumba 6:30 pm Finance Meeting 7 pm	Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am Council Meeting 7 pm	WBUMC Soup Supper & Service 6:30 pm Handbells 7 pm NA 7 pm	Adult Study 10 am Book Club 7 pm Zumba 6:30 pm	AA 7:30 pm	Zumba 9:30 am
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:45 am Choir 10 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School NA 7 pm	Zumba 6:30 pm	Yoga 9 am Prayer Shawls 10 am	Spirit of Grace Soup Supper & Service 6:30 pm Handbells 7 pm NA 7 pm	Adult Study 10 am Zumba 6:30 pm	AA 7:30 pm	Zumba 9:30 am



Worship Service @ 7 pm

A Monthly Publication of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
4800 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323



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Our Mission:

We are CALLED by Christ in Baptism, GATHERED into community and SENT out to share God's grace.