

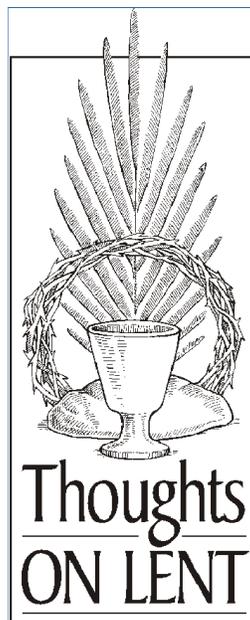
March 2018

Volume 55, Number 3

fasting and prayer of Lent do not have as their goal nice feelings, even nice religious feelings, and certainly not self-righteous pity and remorse meant to impress God. Lent seeks a true rending of the heart, an inward change, repentance, and reverence for the miracle of God in the flesh suffering, dying, rising for you.

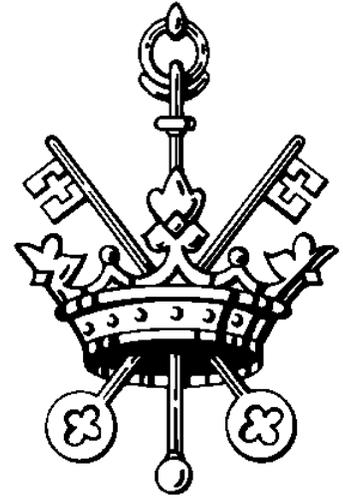
The goal of Lent is to move you deeper into the expectation of the Resurrection, to comfort and assure you of the grace of God who looks not upon your sins, but upon the perfection of His Son, your Lord. Therefore, remember, o man, that you are but dust, and to dust you shall return, AND, by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, from dust you shall arise! Let your eyes and faith fix upon Him.

Though covered with great shame and with great sorrow, though wounded by your selfish deeds, you come contrite and broken hearted. You come to Bethany, and plead for mercy: "Spare us, Lord." And so He does, for the Lord's inheritance is



Remember, o man, that you are but dust. The season of Lent begins the 9th of this month, on Ash Wednesday. The day of ashes draws its symbolism and meaning from the day of the Fall, when the Lord God said to our first parents, "For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." [Gen 3:19] Dust and ashes are marks of the severity and deadly reality of your sin and frailty. But even as that first indictment of the dust-ness of man was pronounced with the promise to send the Seed to defeat Satan, so likewise you stand covered in the ashy dustiness of sin, but with your eyes firmly fixed on the promise of the resurrection. You stand on the threshold of Lent, from which Easter is about forty days away. Remember, o man, that you are but dust, and to dust you shall return, AND, by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, from the dust you shall arise!

This is the sum total of Lent: Easter is coming. As you await the resurrection and prepare for its celebration on Easter, there is certainly a somber mood to things, but it is not sad. It is joyful. It is an expectant and toned down joy, a joy that waits to be let loose in all of its excitement on Easter morning. There is something then that makes the joy of Lent peaceful and quiet. It can be very moving. But the



in you, by His Spirit.

Though the devil has abused you, though you've suffered by his reign, though he never has given you all the things you thought you'd gain, yet you plead, "Spare us, Lord." And so He does, for God's Son has paid your ransom and has offered you His kingdom.

Your heart beats strongly as you contemplate His grace, which has wonderfully provided an escape from Hell's embrace. Therefore you plead, "Spare us, Lord." For God's promised One has promised that by His Blood you are now His fondest!

Come to Bethany this Lenten season, and hear the Absolution; let it ring through all your life. Christ washes away your guilty ashes; the Spirit gives you faith in Christ which thrives. And so you plead, "Spare us, Lord." And so He does, for though into death God's loved ones sold Him, yet the grave—it could not hold Him.

For this reason the Lord of blessed visitation visits you in these sin ruined days. He grants to you His grace and favor; He plucks you from your evil ways. "You have spared us, Lord, so we approach. You hand us not o'er to reproach. We will sing Your praise together, Father, Spirit, Son - forever!"
Amen.

Pastor Trouten

March 2018

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	27	28			

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28
29	30					

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
8	9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood			7:30 PM Lenten Vespers	10:00 AM Ladies' Study		
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Ladies' Study			7:30 PM Lenten Vespers			7:00 PM Game Night
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class			7:30 PM Lenten Vespers			
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11	9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class		6:30 PM Edlers' Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg	7:30 PM Lenten Vespers			
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
12	9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood Palm Sunday				10:00 AM Banner Folding 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday	7:30 PM Good Friday	7:30 PM Holy Saturday



Lent, Holy Week, & Easter Services

During Lent, a Vespers service will be offered at 7:30 PM every Wednesday through March 21st. Maundy Thursday Mass will be celebrated on March 29th at 7:30 PM. Good Friday (March 30th) a solemn service will be held at Bethany at 7:30 PM. The Easter Vigil will begin on Saturday, March 31st, at 7:30 PM. On April 1st, Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with an Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt at 7:30 and Mass at 9:00 AM.



Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase lilies this Easter there are two ways to place an order:

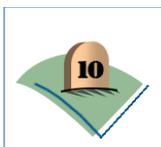
- 1) Cut out this form, put it with the donation in an offering envelope marked "Easter Lilies," and place it into the offering plate.
- 2) Cut out this form and leave it in the Church Office with your donation.

The Cost of each plant will be \$15.00
All orders must be placed by Palm Sunday, March 25th.

Name: _____

Quantity: _____

Inscription: _____



March Mile Stones

Birthdays:	Date	Baptisms:	Date
Katarina A. Varsogea	7 th	John R. Nelson	1 st
Robert E. Lee	11 th	Lauren L. Christensen	5 th
William F. Langmeyer	12 th	Nicolas C. A. Varsogea	17 th
Rebecca A. Varsogea	14 th	William F. Langmeyer	18 th
Gina K. Smith	18 th		
Rev. C. D. Trouten	21 st		
William W. Dalman	26 th		

Anniversaries:	Date
Hans D. & Susan P. Derkatsch	5 th
Arthur C. & Judith A. Lindblom	31 st

These are listed so that you can celebrate these milestones with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

"If one member is honored, all the members rejoice."

[1st Corinthians 12:26]

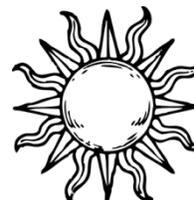


Worship Anew airs Sunday mornings at 7 AM on channel 21.2 EPTA, Sunday at 8 AM on Comcast 252 or Frontier 9, and on Comcast 55 or Frontier 25 at 4:00 PM on Sundays and Mondays at 10 AM. This month's schedule is:

- 4th – on Jn. 2:13-22 by Rev. J. L. Elsner
- 11th – on Num. 21:4-9 by Rev. W. Mueller
- 18th – on Mk. 10:32-34 by Rev. Dr. W. A. Maier, III
- 25th – on Jn. 12:20-43 by Rev. P. Shoemaker

Sunshine Corner

Please remember in your prayers our shut-ins: Stella Westerfield, Jerry Greene, Florine Sievers, Marilyn Dalman, & Mary Allmandinger.



Bethany Lutheran Church Women News

It's not too early to start your spring cleaning and gather up those unwanted items to donate to our Rummage/Yummage sale. Last fall's sale was a big success and we're hoping to have the same success for our spring sale which will be held on April 28th from 8 a.m to noon. We'll start setting up for the sale the third week of April and will need many hands to accomplish the task. Donated items should be brought to the church no later than Thursday, the 26th. Let's do this, ladies, and make this our best sale ever.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

The Confessions



The Large Catechism: Sixth Petition
And lead us not into temptation.

“We Christians must be armed and daily expect to be incessantly attacked, in order that no one may go on in security and heedlessly, as though the devil were far from us, but at all times expect and parry his blows. For though I am now chaste, patient, kind, and in firm faith, the devil will this very hour send such an arrow into my heart that I can scarcely stand. For he is an enemy that never desists nor becomes tired, so that when one temptation ceases, there always arise others and fresh ones.

Accordingly, there is no help or comfort except to run hither and to take hold of the Lord's Prayer, and thus speak to God from the heart: Dear Father, Thou hast bidden me pray; let me not relapse because of temptations. Then you will see that they must desist, and finally acknowledge themselves conquered. Else if you venture to help yourself by your own thoughts and counsel, you will only make the matter worse and give the devil more space. For he has a serpent's head, which if it gain an opening into which he can slip, the whole body will follow without check. But prayer can prevent him and drive him back.” [LC 109-110]

The Life of the Church

The season of Lent lasts 40 days, not counting the Sundays. It rained on Noah in the ark for 40 days and nights. God purged Israel of its unbelieving elders by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. When Our Lord went out into the wilderness to overcome the temptations of the devil, He prepared Himself by fasting for 40 days.

Every year we use the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday to celebrate God's repeated victories in driving back sin, death and the power of the devil. Lent is not a time for us to seek out and do battle with the devil. It is not a time for us to challenge our Old Adam to single combat. It is not a time to rid the world of evil. Lent is not a time for reinventing the wheel or for duplicating Christ's efforts.

Lent is a time for celebrating what Jesus has already accomplished for us by His perfect life and selfless death on the cross. But how can any season in which we are discouraged from even saying Alleluia be considered a celebration? The tears of Lent need are not the salt tears of the recent widow. They are the joyful tears of the new mother or the new father. Anyone who has ever wept for joy or in relief or for lack of anything even like the right words can understand Lent.

Lent is rich and complex and very beautiful. It is a somber celebration, a time of reserved rejoicing, a season of whispered worship and profound prayer. Lent is not for moping or being miserable. Its for rejoicing in the victory of God over all our foes.