

News From the Pews

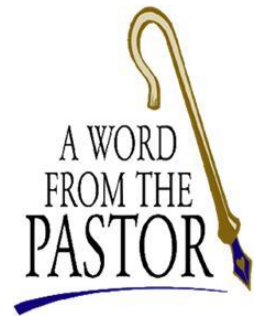
The Newsletter of
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER (LCMS)
20 North St., Enfield, CT ✉ 860-749-3167
<https://lcorct.org> ✉ lcorct@gmail.com

“We Serve Because Jesus Loves You”

Winter 2022

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I think I am done with the cold. Yes, I’m pretty sure I’m tired of these temps 20 degrees and below. I am now officially looking forward to *lenzin* (Old High German, *spring*) or *lente* (Middle English, *springtime*). Perhaps you noticed the similarity here to our word Lent. The Church-Year season of Lent occurs late Winter and early Spring. We know it as the 40-day preparation leading up to the chief event in the life of Christ—His Easter resurrection.



The observance of the Season of Lent goes way back.

In A.D. 325, the Council of Nicaea recorded the first reference to the specific number of days for Lent: 40. Later, these 40 days were associated with Jesus’ 40 days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4) and to the 40 years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34). A few years after the council, in A.D. 329, the father of orthodox Christianity, Bishop Athanasius (ca. A.D. 296-373), asked his congregation in his paschal letter to keep a fast of 40 days. This seems to be one of the earliest statements about a Lenten season. In the fifth century, Pope Leo the Great explained to his congregation in a Lenten sermon that “Lent was appointed to prepare souls for a fruitful commemoration of the mystery of Easter; as a time of inner purification and sanctification, of penance for sins past, or breaking off of sinful habits, of the exercise of virtues, especially almsgiving, reconciliation and the laying aside of enmity and hatred.”¹

As the Christian Church as done for centuries, we continue the Lenten discipline this year. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 2) we will gather around God’s Word in His House to receive the blessings of Christ in and through that Word. Our service and sermon theme will be “Witness to Christ: People from His Passion.” This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those who were present as part of Jesus’ journey to the cross. Along the way, we’ll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate; sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver); as well as others. I’m looking forward to sharing this Lenten Season with you!

Our Lord Jesus bless and keep you,

Pastor Coons

¹ Timothy H. Maschke, *Gathered Guests: A Guide to Worship in the Lutheran Church* (St. Louis: Concordia, 2003), 56.

Lent 2022

Services times are Wednesdays, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 2

Theme: John the Baptist

Midweek of Lent 1, March 9

Theme: Mary, the Sister of Lazarus and Martha

Midweek of Lent 2, March 16

Theme: Malchus

Midweek of Lent 3, March 23

Theme: Peter

Midweek of Lent 4, March 30

Theme: Barabbas

Midweek of Lent 5, April 6

Theme: Pontius Pilate

Cleaning Volunteers are always needed

Please sign up to clean on Saturdays. Refresh your memories by taking a look at the cleaning routine posted. Thank you for serving.



If you are unable to serve, please contact Tom Savage, Worship Chair.

February: Darlene Johnson
March: Gayle Pueschel
April: Jane Murray

Sunday Readers

If you would like to volunteer, please see Tom Savage or Pastor.

8:00 a.m.

Feb 6 Tom Savage
Feb 13 Rich Suter
Feb 20 Mark Parlapiano
Feb 27 George Arendt
March 6 Gayle Pueschel

March 13 Doug Suter
March 20 Marcos Iglesias
March 27 Ron Smith
April 3 Tom Savage
April 10 Rich Suter
April 17 Mark Parlapiano
April 24 George Arendt

10:30 a.m.

Feb 6 Tina Currier
Feb 13 Margaret Scully
Feb 20 Darlene Johnson
Feb 27 Linda Stevens
March 6 Tina Currier
March 13 Margaret Scully
March 20 Darlene Johnson
March 27 Linda Stevens
April 3 Tina Currier
April 10 Margaret Scully
April 17 Darlene Johnson
April 24 Linda Stevens

Ushers' Schedule

Feb: 8:00 a.m. Rich Plumb / Mike Stimpson
10:30 a.m. Dave Herzig / Joe Scott

Mar: 8:00 a.m. Tom Savage / Aaron Coons
10:30 a.m. Aaron Coons / Linda Stevens

Apr: 8:00 a.m. Mark Parlapiano / David McCollum
10:30 a.m. Aaron Coons / Joe Scott



What Luther Says: 1532, From a sermon delivered in his home on Matthew 7:15-23.

"Everywhere the sheep's clothing works destruction. It is said that wolves howl and bark like dogs, so that the sheep stands still until the wolf has caught up with it. Certain other animals are said to do the same thing. That is why Christ says: My dear man, my dear child, listen to no one; pay no attention to a sneak; hold to the church that says: I believe in Jesus Christ. Repeat this confession and say: I believe no more than that I have been baptized and have been saved through my dear Lord Jesus Christ. Be quiet, you honeyed tongue. You come in sheep's clothing; nevertheless you are the wretched devil."