



# Christ Lutheran Church

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March 2020

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Lent, I begin to think about what thing or things I will give up for the season. I am sure that most of you remember when I gave up chocolate and what a struggle it was for me. Yet, ultimately, it is the struggle that brings us closer to God. It is the struggle that reminds us that this is the time for self-reflection and repentance. Lent is the time where we literally “turn around” and realign our lives and refocus on our relationship with God.

As we walk though the season of Lent awaiting the Glory of Easter Sunday, we also see the awakening world around us as early spring flowers begin to pop out of the ground, and migrating birds return. Just as they return spring after spring, we know that Jesus will also come again.

My wish for each of you during this season is that you will find the hope

and joy of a deeper relationship with our Lord.

Blessings to each of you,  
Pastor Linda

### MARTIN LUTHER SAYS:

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.



### SPECIAL LENT PUPPET PLAY THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MARCH

You will not want to miss church on Sunday, March 1st. The youth and children of the church will be presenting a special puppet play to kick-off the beginning of Lent during the Children's Church time. Let me assure you, that you are in for a big treat. It is great to have so many talented young people in our church!

## WHY GIVE SOMETHING UP OVER LENT?

The practice of fasting (or “giving something up”) during Lent is not required for Lutherans because it is not commanded in Holy Scripture. Rather, as a matter of Christian freedom, depriving oneself of a pleasure of the flesh, such as chocolate, is a way to remember daily the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay for the world’s sin.



**Social Ministry Team meets March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Sunday school room.**

## IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP FOR LENTEN BIBLE STUDY!

Our Lenten Bible Study this year will take place on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Sunday School room on the following dates.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>

This year we will be discussing Simon Peter who left everything to follow Jesus and possessed a passion that would change the world. He was poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. He was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God’s extraordinary call. Come learn more about this very interesting disciple of Christ.

If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the Narthex so that we know how many hand-outs to make.



## “FIRST WEDNESDAY”

Come join Pastor Linda on Wednesday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>** for fellowship, coffee, and a short Biblical devotion. We will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Sunday School Room. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Linda at 717-386-8762 or Lindashank@centurylink.net.

## NEW “GRIEF SHARE” SESSION TO BEGIN IN MARCH

The next “Grief Share” session will begin on **Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**. The group will meet from **3 to 5 p.m.** in the Sunday School Room. If you know anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, please tell them about the program. For further information, they can call 717-386-8762 or contact me via e-mail.

Lindashank@centurylink.net.



**No “SECOND SUNDAY SWEETS” this month. Instead join us for a Lenten Breakfast March 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## PERRY VILLAGE MINISTRY

Why not join us at **2 p.m. on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** for a short service at Perry Village. The residents love having someone chat with them before and after the service.



### “MORNING GLORIES”

The “Morning Glories” will meet on Monday morning, **March 9<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m. at the Church.  
All are welcome.



**Congregation Council meets  
March 10, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the  
Sunday School Room.**

### LENTEN BREAKFAST – SATURDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

We will meet in the Parish House for breakfast on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and then have Bible Study on a Lenten topic. This is a perfect opportunity for those who can't attend the daytime Lenten Bible Study to participate. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend so we know how much food to make. I hope to see all of you there.

## BOOKS AND BEYOND – SPRING DATES AND SELECTIONS

Why not join the group in reading these classics. The group meets at 10 a.m. on the following dates at the New Bloomfield Library.

March 18 – *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott

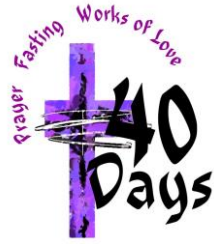
APRIL 15 – *Sold on a Monday*, by Kristina McMorris

MAY 13 – *Paper Wife* by Laila Ibrahim



## HAVE YOU HAD YOUR PHOTO TAKEN FOR THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY YET???

If not, please let Olive, Pastor Linda or Gay know so that we can arrange to take your photo.



*Help us this Lenten season to cultivate a heart of love by sharing snack and personal care items with Students in need.*

*We are collecting snack and personal care items during Lent to be distributed in the "Pantry" at West Perry High School to students in need.*

*"The Pantry" is a discrete area where Students in need can stop by and pick up items of need that may not always be available to them at home for whatever reason.*

*Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with others!*



## Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 26 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 P.M.
- March 1 "Kids Puppet Children's Sermon"
- March 3 Lenten Bible Study, 1 P.M.
- March 4 First Wednesday 9:30 am  
Social Ministry Team meets 7 pm
- March 5 Grief Share Group, 3 P.M.
- March 8 Perry Village 2 pm
- March 9 Morning Glories 9 am
- March 10 Lenten Bible Study, 1 P.M.  
Congregation council 7 pm
- March 17 Lenten Bible Study, 1 P.M.
- March 21 Lenten Breakfast 8:30 am
- March 24 Lenten Bible Study, 1 P.M.
- March 31 Lenten Bible Study, 1 P.M.
- April 1 First Wednesday 9:30 am
- April 5 Palm Sunday
- April 7 Lentin Bible Study, 1 P.M.



March 2020

## Steward your soul for a fuller life

*Jesus teaches, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”*

Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” –**Mark 8:36, 37** (NIV)

Instead of the superficial “How’s it going?” a wise colleague asks friends, “How is your soul?”

The question requires effort. To answer it I must plunge deep inside – below the constantly churning waters of everyday joys, hopes, ambitions, desires, anxieties and disappointments. These are so strong, especially our desires and ambitions, that if we are not careful they can absorb all our time and energy.

Jesus repeatedly warns us not to let our desires and our worries overwhelm us, keeping us from paying attention to the soul. Our soul is where we connect with God, the source of our greatest strength and truest identity. Without attention, our soul can wither like a plant without water. As with all the treasures God has given us, we must be stewards of our souls.

The mystics of old and modern prophets (such as Richard Rohr, Marjorie Thompson, and Howard Thurman) teach us to employ prayer, holy silence, and other spiritual disciplines to tend our souls and keep worldly worries and desires from drowning us.

This month, begin a daily practice of caring for your soul. You might begin with five minutes of spoken prayer followed by five minutes of silence. Or reflect deeply on a Scripture passage. Or try prayerful yoga. (Your pastor might be able to give you some resources or ideas.)

With a little practice and attention, you can become stronger, more centered, and more spiritually resilient.

How is your soul?

--*Rob Blezard*

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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**Thank you for your generous donations to the “Noisy Offering” during the Advent and Christmas season. The \$675. donated has been sent to the ELCA Good Gifts program and designated to purchase the following: 2 piglets, 20 chicks, 2 roosters, 1 pair of goats, honeybees, 2 water fliters, 2 sets of farming tools, farming field school for a woman, school rees and uniforms for 2 girls, school supplies for 8 children, and 8 mosquito nets.**

***A THOUGH TO PONDER:***

*“Remember how we’d talk every night at bedtime? I miss that.”*

*God.*

*From God Speaks by Charles Robb*

**ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH**



- |            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash        | Holy Week     | Palm Branch  |
| Wednesday  | Holy Thursday | Forty Days   |
| Sacrifice  | Good Friday   | Jesus        |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover     |
| Prayer     | Easter        | Foot Washing |
| Fasting    | Palm Sunday   | Resurrection |
| Lent       | Purple        | Love         |







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