

# THE INFORMER



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

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## March 2022

O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is observed on March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. The forty day period chosen by the Church Fathers as the period of time for Lent came from Jesus' temptation in the wilderness right after the beginning of His public ministry. Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan for forty days. As this Lenten season begins, we spend this forty day period remembering that we are dust. We remember that we are creatures created by our God for His good pleasure. We remember that we are fallen sinful creatures who have no hope of rescuing ourselves from our sinful condition. We remember that we are dead in our trespasses and sins. But most of all, we remember Jesus. Jesus stood against all the temptations of the devil and lived a perfectly holy human life. Jesus lived the life we were supposed to have lived.

You strove with Satan, and you won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God's eternal Word.

Jesus stood firm against the temptations of Satan. He remained faithful where we were unable. He faced the lies of the devil and the riches of this world and the siren song of self-importance as He held fast to the revelation of His God. Jesus fixed His trust on His heavenly Father and He never allowed that trust to waver, regardless of the difficulties He faced.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God's love.

Throughout His temptation and throughout His life, Jesus suffered the uncertainty and difficulties of life in this fallen world. He carried the weight of this world's sin - the sin of each and every human being - and He committed Himself to His heavenly Father's care. Jesus remained steadfast in faith, steadfast in prayer, steadfast in trust, and steadfast in righteousness. Jesus lived the human life that each of us is unable to live. During this Lenten season, we remember Jesus' life, given for ours. We remember Jesus' sufferings, borne for us. We remember Jesus' faithfulness, redeeming us.

Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven's praise.





## The Word from the Chairman!



Finally! The month of March is here! It's true, this is the month when the weather can be a little dicey, but it means Spring is getting closer!

March certainly has some pretty important dates in it. One of those important dates is March 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is Ash Wednesday this year. Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent and we gather every Wednesday for a soup and sandwich dinner before we join together in our midweek Lenten services. Let's hope the weather cooperates and we have sun and warmth instead of snow and cold!

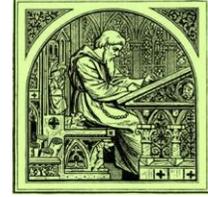
Two other important dates in March are St. Patrick's Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>. That's the day when everyone thinks or pretends to be Irish! And, of course, the most important date: my wife's birthday which is the 18<sup>th</sup>!

And, just to keep our hopes up, the last important date is the first day of spring on the 20<sup>th</sup>. That is only a couple of weeks away! So let's all keep calm and shovel on!

Kevin



## The Elders' Corner



**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

**Hebrews 10:23**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to consider the lives our God has given to each of us and to offer those lives to our God in service to His kingdom. Through the prophet Joel, our God calls us to “return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

How do we return to the Lord? We return to Him by holding fast the confession of our hope. That means we hold fast to our Savior Jesus by holding fast to the confession of the one true faith in Him. We return to the Lord as we give ourselves to the call He’s placed on each of us.

How does that call express itself? It expresses itself through the love and good works our God gives each of us to do. It expresses itself as we live out of the salvation freely given to us. It expresses itself as we live in the power of that salvation in the community of God’s people.

We are reminded to gather together as His people regularly. As we do that, we place ourselves at our God’s disposal. He provides each of us His love, His encouragement, and His leading through His Word and Jesus’ holy body and blood. From these gifts we are enabled to live His life in this world. We’re enabled to serve one another. We’re enabled to stir up one another to love and good works. We’re enabled to live together in our Savior’s steadfast love!

# Christian Education News



*Our Sunday School classes continue! Our younger students are learning about Joseph, his coat, his brothers, and his life in Egypt. Our older students are studying Old Testament characters such as Moses and Joshua. Through these lessons our children learn more about the Bible as they also learn important life-lessons through the lives of God's people!*

## Choir News

**Your St. Peter Choir is back to work as it adds its musical offerings to our Lenten season! Choir rehearsals are every Thursday evening at 6:30. If singing gives you joy and you're looking for an enjoyable fellowship opportunity, this is the place for you!**



## **A Schedule for Reading the Bible in 12 Months ~March**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Numbers 23 & 24	Mark 7:14-37
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Num 25, 26, & 27	Mark 8:1-21
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Num 28, 29, & 30	Mark 8:22-38
4 <sup>th</sup>	Num 31, 32, & 33	Mark 9:1-29
5 <sup>th</sup>	Num 34, 35, & 36	Mark 9:30-50
6 <sup>th</sup>	Deuteronomy 1 & 2	Mark 10:1-31
7 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 3 & 4	Mark 10:32-52
8 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 5, 6, & 7	Mark 11:1-18
9 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 8, 9, & 10	Mark 11:19-33
10 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 11, 12, & 13	Mark 12:1-27
11 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 14, 15, & 16	Mark 12:28-44
12 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 17, 18, & 19	Mark 13:1-20
13 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 20, 21, & 22	Mark 13:21-37
14 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 23, 24, & 25	Mark 14:1-26
15 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 26 & 27	Mark 14:27-53
16 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 28 & 29	Mark 14:54-72
17 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 30 & 31	Mark 15:1-25
18 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 32, 33, & 34	Mark 15:26-47
19 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua 1, 2, & 3	Mark 16
20 <sup>th</sup>	Josh 4, 5, & 6	Luke 1:1-20
21 <sup>st</sup>	Josh 7, 8, & 9	Luke 1:21-38
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Josh 10, 11, & 12	Luke 1:39-56
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Josh 13, 14, & 15	Luke 1:57-80
24 <sup>th</sup>	Josh 16, 17, & 18	Luke 2:1-24
25 <sup>th</sup>	Josh 19, 20, & 21	Luke 2:25-52
26 <sup>th</sup>	Josh 22, 23, & 24	Luke 3
27 <sup>th</sup>	Judges 1, 2, & 3	Luke 4:1-30
28 <sup>th</sup>	Jud 4, 5, & 6	Luke 4:31-44
29 <sup>th</sup>	Jud 7 & 8	Luke 5:1-16
30 <sup>th</sup>	Jud 9 & 10	Luke 5:17-39
31 <sup>st</sup>	Jud 11 & 12	Luke 6:1-26



# LOOKING AHEAD



In the 1999 movie entitled *Fight Club*, the “first rule” of fight club was “never talk about fight club.” As the above parody of that movie suggests, that would not be a bad “first rule” for our personal Lenten season practices either.

Many Christians “give up” something during Lent as a way of participating in this penitential season. The Bible often links fasting with repentance so Christians throughout the centuries have fasted during the Lenten season. The particular fast chosen can be based on particular days or hours of the day or specific meals or foods. Personal pleasures or habits such as chocolate or coffee are not consumed as another way of “fasting” during the penitential season of Lent.

Regardless of the type of fast... regardless of what may be given up during the Lenten season, the point is to remember that we are dependent upon our God as the Supplier of all we need and desire. We deny ourselves in order to remember that He is God and that we are dust.

Just as important, the point is *not* to make a show of our personal spirituality by talking about what we are or are not doing “for God.” As with our giving, we are to fast in secret. And He who sees in secret has promised to bless us.

So feel free to choose a fast this Lenten season. And honor your heavenly Father as you observe that fast. But don’t let your fast be turned into an opportunity for sinful pride. Remember the first rule of Lent Club!