

From the Pastor

The Shepherd's Staff

March 2014

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

SO, WHAT ABOUT LENT?

Is "Lent" dead? Who really observes Lent anymore but the Lutherans and the Catholics?

What's with the ashes and the minor toned dirges? Lent is that dark and somber period that leads up to hyper-Lent, Holy Week, and all reminds me of a six week long funeral procession. Not to mention that now we have worship services in the middle of the week too. Enough! Jesus arose from the dead! Can't we celebrate and focus on that? So, what's all the buzz over Lent?

Lent certainly is a time of humility, self-examination and repentance. Yet it is also a time of resurrection, forgiveness and new life. Both attitudes are predominant as we journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. Lent is a time of RE-NEWAL! It is a time of reflection on and rejoicing in the truth that God gave His only Son to die on the cross and rise for us! What wondrous love is this, oh my soul!

True, many churches and many Christians do not observe Lent. In fact, while many Christians may have heard about Lent, they probably have no idea what it's about. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days, excluding Sundays. Even in the season of Lent Sundays are to be observed as celebrations of the resurrection, mini Easters, if you will. It is a time to step back in a sense and consider one's standing before God. As we do so, we are (hopefully) led to contrition and repentance of our sin and pleading that God forgive us! I suppose, in some respects, it is kind of like a funeral procession... our own! In the face of God's Law and as we stand before Him we are hopelessly guilty and dead. But, like the young man from the city of Nain, Jesus stops the procession and raises us to new life! He does this though the cross that we focus on in the Lenten season, where He paid the price for all sin and redeemed all people. Thus Lent is a time of reflection and repentance, as well as forgiveness and rejoicing!

Many rituals and practices have arisen over the decades and centuries since the church has observed Lent. Like so often happens, the original intent of the ritual to help one faithfully journey to the cross is lost, and the practice becomes the object instead of an instrument. For example, the practice of self-denial or 'giving something up for Lent.' Rather than help one focus on and experience God's sacrifice of His Son in some small way, the discipline becomes the focus itself. What shall I give up? Chocolate? Smoking? Alcohol? It would be good for me if I gave some, or all of these things up... but why? You get the point. Yet, in spite of possibly being distracted, it can be very beneficial spiritually to fast (or give up) up certain things for Lent.

Traditionally, Lent was a time when adult candidates for Holy Baptism were prepared for their reception into Christ's body, the church, on the eve before Easter. Following that tradition, churches may offer special retreats or a mid-week series of services intended to instruct members so that they might grow in their faith. Lent is a wonderful time to combine stepping back for reflection and self-examination along with a time for study and growth in God's Word! This year at Shepherd of the Valley our mid-week series of services will focus on The Lord's Prayer. All too often this special prayer that we know so well, we really don't know.

So, what about Lent? I pray for you and encourage you to dedicate this time to the Lord and your spiritual growth and renewal. Ask yourself questions like "Who am I?" and "Who is God?" and "What is my relationship with Him?" Spend time in prayer and reflection. Do a little 'spring cleaning' in your spiritual house, your soul! Participate with fellow members in worship, fellowship and growth in God's Word. Follow Jesus from the mountain of His Transfiguration to the hill of His glory on Calvary!

God bless us all in our Lenten journey this year!

Pastor Dennis Krueger



CALLING ALL MEN

On Saturday, March 22nd, we have a special Lenten Men's Prayer Breakfast at Brandon's restaurant. The Men's Prayer Breakfast regularly meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at Brandon's at 7:30am. In March, however, we will have a special program and time of prayer as we mark the mid-way point through the Lenten season this year. All of Shepherd's men and their guests are welcome and encouraged to come!



QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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Hello Everyone!

We are back to full time work again and moving right along. We have learned that all of our personal care kits have been sent to the Philippines. The kits are most welcomed after the storm and devastation they have suffered. When I spoke with the director of Lutheran World Relief she said they are so thankful that we all pitched in to help them supply need items for so many. Thanks to each and everyone of you for your help and support.

Now we are working on quilts and have ten already completed. We also have several baby quilts in the process of being completed. We are in need of more pieces of fabric to use for the tops for the large quilts. Also, if you have any flannel scraps we could sure use them for the baby quilts.

We would like to thank Eva Carlson and Bernice Bennett for the sheets and material and thank you Helen Bedford for the sheets. Thank you to Jay Kenefick for the batting for the baby quilts. Thanks to Sandra Roberson for the material and thanks to Lee Radosevich for thread and embroidery threads for tying quilts.

If you are interested in coming by to see what we are working on, please stop in the fellowship hall on the 4th Saturday of each month (except in October when we meet the second Saturday and there are no meeting in November and December. If you want more information call Linda Olson at 276-0373 and I will try to answer your questions.

LWML Meeting and Game Evening

Come join us on March 14th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a brief meeting to keep everyone up to date on our projects and up coming events. Don't forget to bring your mite boxes. Please bring a hot or cold appetizer to share as we play. It will be a fun evening as we enjoy the games and great fellowship. If anyone needs a ride, please let us know at the office or contact Ruth Ann Krueger at 247-1166. Hope to see you there.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! An update on Central City Lutheran Mission.

We have always known that Shepherd of the Valley is a very loving and caring congregation, but we were amazed by the response we received from Ron's article in January's newsletter! We received coats, sweaters, lots of blankets, and shoes, including a huge box of bowling shoes from one of our preschool parents. We trust you have received a note of appreciation from the Mission, but if we missed someone, we are sorry. Please accept this way of thanking you. Rest assured that all the donations will be used. If anyone is interested in learning more about the work at the Mission, you may talk with either me or Ron. God bless you for caring!

Ruby Kraft



BOOK SALE & BALE SALE

We praise God and thank all who helped or donated books and baked goods for last months sale. We couldn't have done it without you! We received \$1,049.00 from sales, Thrivent, and TLC for Cancer Patients Group donations. All the money raised will go to the Social Ministry Assistance fund. Working together, we can make a difference and help others.



AWANA ELEMENTARY YOUTH PROGRAM

HELP!! Your help is needed! We need more adult leaders to assist with our Awana program. There is no preparation ahead of time, and no lesson to teach! Just come on Wednesday from about 6:00pm to 7:30pm and help! We need caring adults to assist with supervision and with listening to the children recite their Bible memory verses. Please contact Pastor Krueger or Drew Covert for more information or to volunteer!

BEING THE SALT OF THE EARTH, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Shortly after moving to a new community, a pastor went to a local barbershop for a haircut. The barber talked about many subjects, including politics and religion. When asked if he was a member of one of the local churches, the barber answered, "No, I'm not, but if I joined a church it would be the one down the street, the one with the steep roof."

The pastor recognized this as the church he had just come to serve. Without telling the barber who he was, the pastor asked, "Why? Why would you choose to join that church?" The barber responded, "Well, do you know Dino Smith, the man who owns the store next door? That's his church, and if all the people in that church are like Dino, that's where I would want to be."

It doesn't take much to figure out what kind of man Dino Smith is. He's the kind of man who lives his faith each and every day. He's the "salt and light" Jesus was talking about in His sermon on the mount. He's the kind of man that all who confess faith in Jesus Christ are called to be! May God bless our church with many 'Dinos' and 'Dinahs' – living witnesses of the love of God!

MILITARY BIBLE MEMORY STICKS



Our Lenten and Easter mission project is one we've done before, but well worth repeating. The challenge

before us is to donate a "Company's" (100) amount of Bible Memory sticks through the "Faith Comes By Hearing" organization to our men and women serving in the military. Each digital Bible-stick costs \$25.00. Faith Comes By Hearing also makes an additional Bible-stick available to the family of the military personnel at no extra cost! That means if we meet or surpass our goal we could be giving away potentially 200 or more Bible Memory Sticks! Last time we exceeded our goal by almost 25%! We CAN DO IT again. Faith Comes By Hearing has sent over 400,000 of these Bible Memory Sticks to our men and women serving in the armed forces. That amounts to 10 million dollars in digital Bibles! Praise the Lord! When you make your donation please write on the envelope and on the memo line of your check, "Bible Memory Stick." Thank you in advance for your generous participation.



SOUP SUPPERS START on March 12th at 5 pm following the 4 pm Midweek Lent service. Please sign up on the clip board in the lobby if you are willing to donate crock pots of soup, bread, or dessert for the suppers and then be sure to come by and enjoy these wonderful fellowship meals.

LENTEN MUSIC

A few moths ago in the midst of the Advent and Christmas seasons there were all kinds of beautiful and joyous hymns to sing. And sing, we did! We even took our music and singing on the road, Christmas caroling. Yet as we approach the Lenten and Holy Week season the music isn't quite the same. There are some beautiful, upbeat and joyous hymns for Palm Sunday and Easter. But Lent seems filled with dark and somber hymns with minor toned melodies that are anything but joyous. No wonder no one ever goes out Lenten caroling. The residents in the assisted living facilities might die!

OK, so I'm exaggerating a little. You have to admit, though, that the Lenten music is not as joyous and upbeat as the beloved Christmas carols. Yet, I would submit, it is quite beautiful in a different way. It conveys the beautiful message of the cross and our redemption through Jesus' blood. And there are some rather upbeat hymns like, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," and "Christ, the Life of all the Living." Granted, hymns like "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," and "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted," will probably not be broadcast over the radio as you drive in your car. They aren't all that favorably received when we sing them in church. But they are true treasures. The text and the tunes convey the wondrous message of Christ's suffering and death for us.

I've come across a Lenten hymn that is not in any of the Lutheran hymnals I've checked, and was written by a man named Peter Abelard sometime around 1130/1140 A.D. For those wondering, this is the very same Peter Abelard of the book, *The Love Letters of Abelard and Heloise*. The tune it is set to, "Bangor," is interesting, but of the same venue of many Lenten hymns. The words offer a significant Lenten message, at least they did for me. So I share them with you:

Alone Thou Goest Forth, O Lord

- 1. Alone Thou goest forth, O Lord, / In sacrifice to die; / Is this Thy sorrow naught to us / who pass unheeding by?
- 2. Our sins, not Thine, Thou bearest, Lord; / Make us Thy sorrow feel, / Till through our pity and our shame / Love answers love's appeal.
- 3. This is earth's darkest hour, but Thou / Dost light and life restore; / Then let all praise be given Thee / Who livest evermore.
- 4. Give us compassion for Thee, Lord, / That as we share this hour, / Thy cross may bring us to Thy joy / And resurrection power.

Pastor Dennis Krueger

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The group meets every 2nd and 4th Monday night of the month. We will be studying the Book of Daniel "Encouragement for Faith." Daniel is very enlightening and has prophecy, judgment, and salvation. A great book! Everyone is invited, 7:00 pm at the Alexanders' or Tourtillotts' home. If interested, call Marlene Alexander at 951-242-6571 for location.



Village Concert - Dorothy Doornbos Memorial Chapel 21233 Lemay Drive, Riverside (Air Force Village West) PIANO QUINTET: Isumi Kashiwagi, piano; Etienne Gara, violin; Francisco Fullana, violin; Elizabeth Beilman, viola; Yoshika Masuda, cello Sunday, March 9th at 3 pm

Tickets: \$20 / \$15 for seniors and students

What do you get when you unite a grand piano with a string quartet? You get the icing on the cake, otherwise known as the **Figueroa Ensemble**. Then you take each of the five individual musicians and you get five splendid gifts from USC's renowned Thornton School of Music. And in spite of their youth, as they continue their work on Doctorate degrees at Thornton, each artist has toured extensively in the U.S., Asia, Europe, and Australia, including the summer of 2013. Because of their association at Thornton, these young musicians have enjoyed working together previously, honing their musical skills together to produce a cohesive, balanced, and sensitive approach to their repertoire. Between them, competitions and awards won would fill a directory of "most impressive musicians" by any standards. Go to www.villageconcerts.net or email funds4art@earthlink.net, or call0951-697-2928 for more information.

Spring is in the Air

It is already March and we only have just over 3 months left to this school year! The children have learned so much and our families have been so supportive. Shepherd of the Valley School has been very blessed this year.

Registration for the Fall began February for our current families and open registration to the public begins March 1st at our Open House. Please pass the word to all your friends, family, and neighbors who have young children so we can fill all our rooms.

Next year our school will have use of the entire building. We are praying that the repairs and licensing procedures will not take too long so we will be able to occupy the rooms by December.

Upcoming Events:

March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 18 Spring Picture Day – LifeTouch
March 24 – Apr 4 Kindergarten Spring Break

Please continue to pray for God's many blessings on our school. In His Service, Linda Williamson, Director

prescripol registration

TROOP 210 GOOD EATS FUNDRAISER: Polly's Pies will give the troop 20% for all customers handing in a special flyer when they eat there on Monday, March 10th. Flyers are/will be available in the church lobby. The fundraiser will last all day, so enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner and then take home a pie. Polly's Pies is located in Moreno Valley at: 12625 Frederick St. (used to be Red Robin - next to movie theaters). Meet up with some friends or make some new ones. Thanks for your support!

TROOP 210 E-WASTE COLLECTION – Saturday, March 22 at Papa John's Pizza, 12254 Perris Blvd. from 8am to 3 pm. Televisions, monitors, computers, laptops, big screens, desktops, are the most valuable e-waste receiving 10 cents per pound. All other electronics receive 1 cent per pound. Thanks again for your support!

WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Do you have shoes, warm clothes or old sleeping bags or blankets in your closets or attic that you don't use or probably won't need? Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino needs old useable shoes and warm clothes especially for men but they also accept and distribute women's and children's items (washed please).



You may give them to Pastor Ron or Ruby or bring them to the office. In the cold months CCLM takes in 70 homeless men each night who frequently need shoes and blankets and something soft to sleep on.



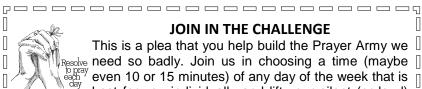
ISRAEL & JORDAN - June 2014 with Pastor Leland and Marcia Lantz of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Laguna Woods. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the Disciples, Abraham and David. Stand on the Mt. of Beatitudes and hear the blessings of Jesus. Sail on the Sea of Gali-

lee on a 1st century replica fishing boat. Walk the Way of the Cross to the site of Jesus' crucifixion. Celebrate His resurrection at the empty tomb. Legendary Bible sites come alive! Visit the Dead Sea; floating on the water, take a cable car ride at Masada, Jerusalem, with the Western Wall, Bethlehem, and much more. Join Pr. Leland & Marcia (and Marge Clark) on this wonderful journey. There is plenty time to sign up - trip flyers are available in the rack in the church lobby.

A Biblical Tour of Israel & Jordan: (November 18-28, 2014) An Experience of a Lifetime! A complete tour of Israel & Jordan plus many extras such as visiting Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, a cruise on the Sea of Galilee, going up to Mt Nebo where Moses died, Petra and much more! Arrangements can be made for departure from any airport. Rev Darold Reiner (LCMS) (Former LWML International Counselor) is leading this tour from Kalispell, MT. Contact him at 406-890-1149 or reiner@centurytel.net for a brochure.

Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food Bank

Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.



JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

This is a plea that you help build the Prayer Army we Resolve need so badly. Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is | best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud)

voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastor, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR **CAP EACH SUNDAY!** Thank You!

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Magazines and greeting card fronts. Bring to the church or office.



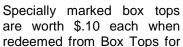
Being an LCEF investor means providing the dollars needed to fund loans for churches, schools and ministries within the LCMS. Your investment also provides money for housing loans for our

pastors and teachers. Why not talk to your congregation representative, Larry Alexander, today for more information about the ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. You can also get more information by calling 1-800-843-5233.



Thursdays at 9:30 AM In the Fellowship Hall Presented by Suzy Langhorne **Certified Instructor** FREE! Please join us.

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR

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March 2014

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Season of Lent						8:30 AM Cursilo Grouping @ Panera Bread 11:00 AM - 2 PM Preschool Open House (PS) 4:00 PM "Son of God" Movie Viewing at Harkins Theater
2 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (YO-H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean 6:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H) 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth (Y)	3 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H) 7:00 PM Women of Faith TLC (H)	5:30 PM School Board (O) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)	4:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S) 6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y) 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S)	8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AMTai Chi (H) 10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H) 11:00 AM What Does This Mean? (O) 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	7 10:00 AM School Chapel	9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study 9:30 AM Field Trip to Creation & Earth History Museum (Santee, CA)
9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean 6:00 PM Jr / Sr Hi Youth (Y) 6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H) BP Screening after Services	9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's	5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Y) 7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)	12 10:00 AM Womens Faith Journey TLC (0) 4:00 PM (& 7 PM?) Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Awen a/ Elementary (Y)	13 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AMTai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel 10:30 AM Crossways (O) 10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H) 12:30 PM Staff (O) 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	14 10:00 AM Good Grief TLC (H) 6:00 PM LWML & Game Night (H)	15 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H)
9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean 6:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H) 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth (Y)	17 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H) 7:00 PM Women of Faith TLC	8:00 AM School Pictures (Y) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 6:00 PM M & M Directors (O)	4:00 PM (& 7 PM?) Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Awana / Elementary (Y)	8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H) 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	21 10:00 AM School Chapel Wedding Rehearsal (S)	7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 8:00 AM Troop 210 E-Waste Collection @ Papa John's 4:00 PM Cannon/Cervantes Wedding (S-H)
23 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean 6:00 PM Jr / Sr Hi Youth (Y) 6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H) BP Screening after Services	24 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	25 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM Girl Scouts (Y)	26 10:00 AM Wemens Faith Jouney TLC (0) 2:00 PM Confirmation Class (0) 4:00 PM (8 7 PM?) Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Awana / Bernertery (Y)	27 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel 10:30 AM Fit to Serve (H) 12:30 PM Staff (O) 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	28 10:00 AM Good Grief TLC (H)	29
30 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (Y-O-H) 6:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:00 PM Messiahs Messengers (H) 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth (Y)	31 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	4	he	anyone would come after M must deny himself a take up his cr follow me	nd 'OSS	

The Shepherd's Staff



WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM 5th Sunday of the month - One service only at 9:30 AM

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

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DENNIS KRUEGER, SENIOR PASTOR RON KRAFT, EMMERITUS PASTOR LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Daylight Savings Time begins March 9th.
DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR!

March 2014



"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY"

Jesus Christ prayed. He went off by himself, if necessary, to talk to his Father. He was not secretive about it, but he did concentrate on it. When he came away from those conversations, his disciples noticed how much stronger and renewed he was. They were impressed and probably talked about it among themselves. Maybe they even tried it among themselves. But, what happened to him did not seem to happen to them. So they asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." He said, "Pray like this: 'Our Father who art in heaven." (Matt.6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4). What follows are words for prayer as well as a pattern for prayer. It is a starter for every kind of prayer. Our Mid-Week Lenten Series this year, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray," is based on what we call the Lord's Prayer. One Bible commentator has suggested it ought to be called, "The Church's Prayer." It is indeed the Church's prayer, as was taught by the Lord!

March 5 th	Ash Wednesday	4pm & 7pm	"Our Father, Who Art in Heaven"
March 12 th	Mid-Week Wednesday	4pm & 7pm	"Hallowed Be Thy Name"
March 19 th	Mid-Week Wednesday	4pm & *7pm	"Thy Kingdom Come"
March 26 th	Mid-Week Wednesday	4pm & *7pm	"Thy Will Be Done"
April 2 nd	Mid-Week Wednesday	4pm & *7pm	"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"
April 9 th	Mid-Week Wednesday	4pm & *7pm	"Forgive Us Our Trespasses"
April 17 th	Maundy Thursday	7pm only	"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"
April 18 th	Good Friday	Noon & 7pm	"Deliver Us From Evil"
April 20 th	Easter Sunrise Service	6:00 am	"For Thine Is the Kingdom, and the
	Easter Services	8am & 10:45am	Power, and the Glory Forever!"

^{*7}pm If there is sufficient attendance, 7pm services will continue to be offered. If not, they will be cancelled.