

## **THE SERVANT**

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328  
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;  
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15  
Ron Voss, Pastor

\*\*\*\*\* **March 2017** \*\*\*\*\*

### **Lent Begins March 1**

Dear Servants of Christ,

What is Lent? “Lent is derived from the Middle English “Lente” which means “springtime.”

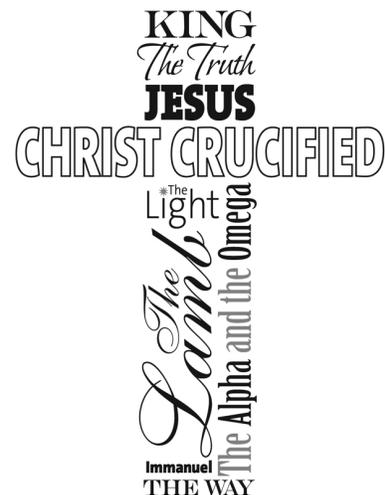
What is the history of Lent? Although Easter is the oldest Christian season, the observance of Lent appeared between 200-300 A.D. Lent was a time of preparation for persons being instructed in the Christian faith before their baptism. Following the model of Jesus’ time in the wilderness, new adult converts practiced Lenten penance and prayer for forty days while waiting to receive their baptism, confirmation and first Lord’s Supper at the Saturday evening vigil before Easter.

Today Lent calls us to take time out and look back on the impact of our baptism on our lives. How are we doing, we who have died to sin and come alive to new life in Christ? In repentance we ask our Lord to clear our hearts and lives of sin’s self-centeredness.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday’s somber repentance and leads us to Holy Week’s bitter story and Easter’s joy in Christ’s resurrection.

These forty days (excluding Sundays) are the first half of a larger rainbow arch, centered over Easter. The other half includes the Easter season’s fifty days in which we celebrate our baptismal rebirth in Christ.

Why is Lent important? The Lenten period allows us time to focus on the story of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for sinners on Calvary’s cross for the sins of the world, for your sins and mine. At our mid-week worship services, we will have



readings from the Passion history of our Lord.

How can Lent affect my faith walk? Through added times of Scripture reading and prayer, we will draw closer to God. Hopefully, there will be an increased understanding of why Christ had to die to pay for our sins. And we will be called upon to daily reaffirm our baptism and recommit our lives to Christ.

May Lent 2017 be a time of spiritual deepening and renewal for you.

In Christ's love,  
Ron

Mid-week Lenten worship will be held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at the home of Lyle Gerdemann, 855 White Pine Circle in Robins. The meditations will be based on the parable of the Prodigal Son, recorded in Luke 15. Those attending will receive the pamphlet "From Fear to Love," a Lenten Reflection on the Parable of the Prodigal Son." This is written by Henri Nouwen. Hear about a loving Father who offers redemption and forgiveness and services will include Our weekly readings from the Passion History which is a Gospel summary of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, drawn from the four Gospels.

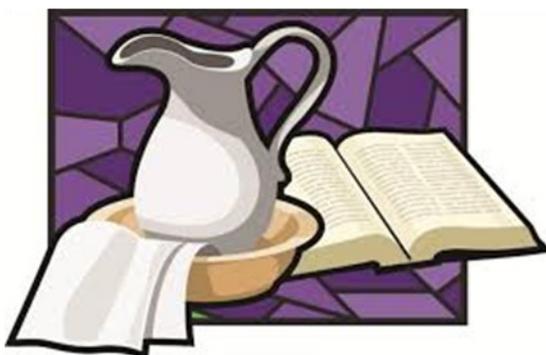


*LIFE APPLICATION STUDY BIBLE*

These are available to anyone. Please let Ron know of your interest. Also, devotional and study materials are



Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.



### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Individuals who have qualifying Thrivent Financial annuities and/or insurance products will accumulate *Choice Dollars*. If you qualify, please consider designating them to Servants of Christ Lutheran Church. Visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836 for details on how to designate and give.

Have you included planned giving in your will? Do you have a will? If so, do you review it annually? With our busy lives, we have many things to do and often neglect our wills. You are encouraged to contact your financial advisors and keep your wills current. And, consider remembering The North American Lutheran Church and Servants of Christ in your will.

### The Gift of the Word of God

Among all the gifts the gift of the Word of God is the most valuable. For if you take this away, it is like taking the sun away from the earth. For if the Word were removed, what would the world be but a hell and mere realm of Satan . . . For only the Word keeps a joyful conscience, a gracious God, and all of religion, since out of the Word, as from a spring, flows our entire religion. Without the word and Christ, the world would not continue to exist for one moment. Therefore, though there are many great gifts of God in the world . . . Yet the one which includes and sustains all the others is the Word, which proclaims that God is merciful and promises forgiveness of sins and everlasting life.

Martin Luther  
exposition on Psalm 122 in 1531

### March Servants



Greeter/Usher: Tami Gerdemann  
Communion Assistant: Katheryn Opperman

Snacks:  
\*\*March 5—Mary Collins  
\*\*March 12—Becky Cooper  
\*\*March 19—Arnods  
\*\*March 26—Tami Gerdemann

*Our March Mission Outreach Giving will be directed to the North American Lutheran Church General Fund (\$250) and to Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenton, Virginia (\$500). In February \$250 was given to NALC and \$500 to Friends of Madagascar.*

## Evangelism = Faith + Sharing

The above phrase is so true! I'm sure you've noticed how many times it has appeared in our Sunday worship folder.

- ⇒ **Share** your faith with a friend, a neighbor, or a relative. **Invite** them to worship with you.
- ⇒ **Join** Ron for door-to-door invitational calling . . . Listen and learn. If interested in joining him, let him know.
- ⇒ Invitational fliers are available for **distribution**. If you would like assistance with this work, speak to Ron.

### *2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*

This year we remember and celebrate the Protestant Reformation. As part of our celebration, we will focus on the following three topics in our Sunday morning study over the next three months:

- ⇒ The life and ministry of Martin Luther
- ⇒ What does it mean to be a Christian in the Lutheran faith community?
- ⇒ Review and discuss key articles of The Augsburg Confession (one of the major confessional documents of the Protestant Reformation).

You will find these studies interesting, informative, and inspirational. Join us each Sunday as you are able.



### Topics Discussed at Our February Brunch

\*\*\*The congregation may have a part-time intern, beginning in the fall of 2017.

\*\*\*The City of Robins is still updating the abstract on the church property they are buying. This must be completed and the closing accomplished before Servants of Christ can begin using the building.

\*\*\*The congregation is on target with its 2017 income and expenses plan.