

PEACE TALKS

A PUBLICATION OF PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISIT US ONLINE PrinceofpeaceFHills.org

THE GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO PASTOR MARK

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. Luke 9:28-29

As we've been reading through Luke's gospel this year, I've been struck by how often Luke mentions that Jesus is praying. Luke shares specifics about Jesus and prayer eleven times and twelve times, Jesus himself teaches his disciples how to pray. For Luke, prayer is a very significant part of Jesus' life and the life of the church.

In our world, we often take prayer for granted. We're thankful for the opportunity to pray but we really don't take advantage of it. We use prayer as something of a last resort. How often have you (or a friend) said something like this; "I've tried to fix this problem on my own but it hasn't worked so I guess I'll pray." Sometimes, we use prayer as a way to try and coerce God into doing what we want. I was reminded of a bumper sticker that said; "Most of us want to serve God, but we want to serve in an advisory capacity."

In fact, prayer is spiritual warfare. In Ephesians, Paul reminds us that our struggles are against the forces of evil and deception, not against other

humans. He uses the illustration of armor and describes how God is protecting us. He refers to sword of the spirit (the Word of God) as our offensive weapon. And then he says, "Pray in the Spirit at all times."

This week, I spoke with two of my close friends. I recognized that if I don't talk to them our friendship will wither. In the same way, Satan recognizes that if Christians do not pray, their relationship with God will wither. It's easy for God to seem distant and uncaring, if we are not talking to him. Satan will do everything in his power to make our prayer life infrequent and uninspired.

Prayer changes us. As we share our needs and concerns with our heavenly Father, we are moved to a greater openness to the needs of those around us. As we lift up the needs of others, we also are moved to serve and connect with others. As we pray for God's will to be done, we seek to be agents of that divine will in our world.

Martin Luther once observed, "As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray."

Lent is often seen as a season of self-denial. People give something up for Lent. I'd encourage you to do

something else. The season of Lent is an opportunity to renew your prayer life. Consider setting aside a few more minutes each morning to bring special requests to our Lord. Consider spending a few more minutes in the evening, reflecting on your day and giving thanks for the blessings that you have experienced. Join our Tuesday evening prayer group (we meet on zoom at 7:15-8:00pm on Tuesday evening. Email me for the zoom link).

As we remember God's incomparable love for us, remember that he loves to hear our prayers. As we journey in this season of Lent from the mount of transfiguration to the wilderness of temptation, to the garden in Gethsemane and to the cross of Calvary and the empty tomb, remember that God who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead, hears your prayers and delights in answering you.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Schumm



Observing Lent

- From Stephenie Hovland

Lutherans view the season of Lent with serious intention, but we know that the practices of eating fish on Fridays and “giving up something” are optional and voluntary. Some react to the Catholic traditions by going the opposite direction, while others choose to incorporate the traditions that mean the most to them and their reflection on Jesus’ suffering and death. As you observe Lent, consider the following list of suggestions to mark this time of year in a meaningful way.

- ◆ **Attend Lent worship services.** There is no doubt about it. If you want to get closer to God and understand more about Jesus’ suffering, you need to participate in the Divine Services directly related to Lent. They offer different experiences than Sunday morning.
- ◆ **Attend Holy Week services.** This is where the sense of Good Friday comes close. As we participate in Holy Week worship, we can partake in the Last Supper, feel the sorrow, and know that our sins nailed Jesus to the cross. We get a feeling for what the disciples experienced.
- ◆ **Strip your “altar.”** Some churches strip the altar on Maundy Thursday, leaving it bare until Easter. Consider how you can have that same effect in your home. You may decide that for the whole season of Lent, you put away knick knacks and decorations. You may strip your table: remove the tablecloth and let the bare wood show. Put away your more festive personal adornments (ornate jewelry, colorful scarves, and bright ties) for more conservative colors during Holy Week or for the whole season of Lent. How much more we appreciate Easter colors, clothes, and decorations when we have gone without!
- ◆ **Give up something.** Don’t do this unless you’re doing it for the right reason. Giving up sweets so you can lose a few pounds or so that you can be a “martyr” is not the right reason. Instead, give up something in order to point to Jesus. Every time you long for the thing you gave up, remember Christ’s suffering and your sins. Confess and thank Jesus for his sacrifice.
 - ◇ Give up something unconventional. If you like the idea of giving up something, but you don’t want it to be chocolate like everyone else, consider fasting from these things:
 - * Gossip (hearing and spreading it)
 - * Complaining
 - * Swearing
 - * Nagging
 - * Worrying
 - * Skipping church
 - * Being too busy for prayer, Bible study, etc.
- ◆ **Add something.** This is like a reverse fast. Instead of, or in addition to, giving something up, you may



want to add a new habit for the season of Lent. Remember that whatever you add should enhance Lent, therefore it should not be a stumbling block to your relationship with God. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- ◇ Keep a prayer journal
 - ◇ Read a chapter of the Bible every day
 - ◇ Call/text/write to a different person from church each day
 - ◇ Read a chapter of a theologically sound book every day
 - ◇ Read or write a devotion each day
 - ◇ Call/text/write to a different family member each day
 - ◇ Daily acts of kindness
 - ◆ **Sprout some plants.** Choose a bulb or some seeds. Plant them and make sure they’re easily seen. As they sprout and grow, you will be reminded of how Jesus was buried, then rose, how what people thought was finished and dead is now alive. It will also remind you of your own faith. As the Holy Spirit came to you through the waters of Baptism, your faith sprouted and grew. Think of your baptism whenever you water your plants.
 - ◆ **Plan for Easter.** Easter can sneak up on you, and you might be disappointed you missed opportunities to spread the Word and encourage others. To help you plan for Easter, think about doing some of these things:
 - ◇ Plan the menu. If you’re having people over, ask them to bring some of the dishes. Plan your schedule so the cook does not miss church.
 - ◇ Invite people to church and to your table. Do you have a lonely neighbor, a single parent who struggles to get food on the table, or a recent widower at church? Invite them to sit with you at church and then share your meal with them.
 - ◇ Order items for Easter baskets. It’s fun to shop for Easter baskets, but boy is there a lot of sugar! Consider replacing some of the candy with things that point to Jesus:
 - * Arch books about Easter from Concordia Publishing House
 - * Religious Easter trinkets from Oriental Trading
 - * Christian jewelry
 - * T-shirts with Christian messages
- No matter how you observe Lent, remember that it should always point to Christ and not our efforts. We don’t get bonus points from God if we act holier than our neighbor. We are not better Lutherans by ignoring all the Lent practices. Pray about how you can observe Lent in a God-honoring way this year.



SHINE YOUR LIGHT

- From Elaine Echols

building. It is done by the people. It is done out in our community. It is done through prayer and guidance by the Lord and the Holy Spirit who equips us. We should be beacons of light in our community.

Life can be lonely as a lighthouse keeper, but God is our power source. Plug into His Word and His promises. People will be drawn to the light. Pray for those who need to know The Light- for Jesus is the light of the world. The world can be pretty dark. Shine your light for others to see!

Invite others to any of the upcoming mid-week Lenten services

Pray now about who you might invite this Easter and then ask- knowing God will do the work to soften their heart to respond Invite and bring someone to PoP Movie matinee -usually the last Friday of the month at noon

Share in the opportunity to get others informed about the ministry at

Another Way Pregnancy Center. Laugh 4 Hope comedy night is coming Friday, April 1st at Ward Church in Livonia (see additional article)

Invite someone to join with you in serving at Family of God. Let them experience the joy of serving others firsthand the third Monday of each month. This might make a big impact on both as you bless others

Be that light reflecting God's love to those around you!

Shine your light!

Lighthouses are known for guiding ships at sea. The light sends a warning, too.

As we head into the Lenten season, a reminder that we need to shine our lights to guide others through this season to the cross and then the empty tomb. How can that be done?

Ministry is not done in a church



Forever Young

A group that gathers together people from churches in the NW Detroit area

“THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST”

Mel Gibson's movie portrays one of the most significant events of the Christian religion – come view it with us! After the movie, Pastor Tyler Cronkright from Family of God Lutheran Church, Detroit, will lead a discussion and answer questions.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
14175 Farmington Rd., Livonia

THURSDAY, MARCH 10
Sloppy Joe lunch 12:00 ♦ Movie 1:00

FREE WILL OFFERING

Please register by contacting:

Barb Karowich 734-480-1644 or Linda Waara 734-245-5733



Gather with Friends

Season of Lent Worship Schedule:

Mid Week Services on Wednesday March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6

Join us each Wednesday at Noon beginning on March 2, Ash Wednesday, for worship with lunch following in our Community Center. Worship is also offered at 7:30 p.m. Each week will offer a different Pastor preaching on the Lenten theme of *"Hands of the Savior"*. Due to the rotating schedule you will want to come for the season at noon *or* 7:30 to avoid duplicate topics. Join us! If you can make time at noon, come and meet some of our friends from neighboring church families!

Upcoming Sunday worship themes:

- * March 6, His Temptation, our Salvation Luke 4:1-13
- * March 13, Special Presentation by Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- * March 20, Now is the time for Salvation, Luke 13:1-9
- * March 27, The Prodigal Father, Luke 15:11-32
- * April 3, Wicked Tenants, Luke 20:9-20
- * April 10, Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion, Luke 23
- * April 17, Easter Sunday, The Day Death Died, 1 Corinthians 15

In the Sundays after Easter we will begin a sermon series on the visions of Revelation.

Laugh4Hope Comedy Night

JOIN AWPC FOR A NIGHT OF LAUGHTER WHILE SUPPORTING OUR LIFESAVING MINISTRY!

Friday, Apr 1, 2022 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT (doors open at 6:00 PM)

A promotional graphic for a comedy night. On the left is a portrait of comedian Daren Streblow. To his right is a purple and pink background with the text 'LAUGH4HOPE' in a stylized, colorful font inside a white-bordered box. Below that, the date and time '04.01.22 | 7PM' are displayed in large white and yellow text. At the bottom, it says 'Purchase tickets at awpc.brushfire.com or call (248) 939.5900' in white text.

LAUGH4HOPE

04.01.22 | 7PM

Purchase tickets at awpc.brushfire.com or call (248) 939.5900

Another Way Pregnancy Center's annual Laugh 4 Hope comedy night fundraiser tickets are on sale. Enjoy an amazing performance by Professional Comedian, Daren Streblow, participate in our raffle baskets, and learn more about AWPC and how we support families facing unexpected pregnancies.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

28000 New Market Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan
Phone: (248) 553-3380
www.PrinceofpeaceFHills.org