



Minister's
Message
for Lent



THE HISTORY OF LENT: A Season of Reflection and Renewal

Lent is a sacred season observed by Christians worldwide, marking a period of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving leading up to Easter Sunday. The word **Lent** comes from the **Old English** word *lencten*, meaning "**spring**" or "**lengthening (of days)**", reflecting the increasing daylight during the season. In Latin, it was called *Quadragesima*, meaning "**fortieth**", signifying the 40-day period of preparation. Its origins trace back to the early church, where believers prepared for baptism through fasting and penance. Over time, this practice evolved into a broader observance for all Christians, reflecting Christ's 40 days of

fasting in the wilderness.

By the 4th century, the Council of Nicaea (which gave us the Nicene Creed) formally recognized Lent as a period of spiritual preparation. Early Christians adhered to strict fasting rules, abstaining from meat, dairy, and even fish in some traditions. Though modern observances vary, the central focus remains on deepening one's faith through self-discipline and devotion.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when many believers receive ashes on their foreheads as a symbol of repentance. The season includes significant milestones such as Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and Holy Week, culminating in Good Friday and Easter Sunday, celebrating Christ's resurrection.

Throughout history, Lent has remained a time of reflection, sacrifice, and renewal, inviting believers to grow closer to God. Whether through fasting, prayer, or acts of charity, this season continues to serve as a powerful reminder of God's grace and love.

To enhance our Lenten preparation, we will have a series of mid-week worship services focused around the theme: **Savior, Servant, Friend**.

Lent provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, and Friend, Jesus. It is a time to marvel at the many blessings we received when he laid down his life for us on the cross and then rose victorious from the grave. Each service in this series dwells upon a different aspect of our greatest Friend and what each characteristic means to us as his followers and friends.

Join us Ash Wednesday at Noon or 7:00 pm, and then each Wednesday in Lent for a Soup Supper at 6:00 pm and then our worship at 7:00 pm.

I pray that this will be a meaningful time for you.

Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles

The vast majority of people like to excel at something. Most of us like to do what we do in a manner that is truly first-class. Whether we are involved in one of the trades, or whether we are working in a profession, we like to excel in what we do.

Similarly, in the Christian life, most of us like to demonstrate our love for the Lord in ways that will reflect properly on Him and that will bring honor to Him. As His servants, we take great care that our Christian service is of such quality that what we do for His sake is first-class. Thus, whether we sing a solo in a worship service at church, prepare a meal for someone who is a shut-in, or teach a Bible class, we strive to do what we do for God in the very best way possible.

The Apostle Paul indicates we are also to excel in the grace of giving. "You are so rich in all you have: in faith, speech, and knowledge, in your eagerness to help and in your love for us. And so we want you to be generous also in this service of love" (2 Cor. 8:7). In other words, just as we might seek to excel in other ways which demonstrate our Christian faith in action, we are also to excel in the "service of love" through giving.

In the context of the verse we just read, Paul commends the Macedonian Christians for giving as much as they were able and more. When we follow their example, we experience "grace giving" in action, not only giving as we are able, but also, giving beyond our ability. This is possible only as we demonstrate the fruit of the Christian life by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. As we step out by faith (which is one of the signs of a Spirit-controlled life), we are able to give in ways which might seem improbable or impossible at first. The Spirit of God thereby motivates us and compels us to excel in the grace of giving!

One anonymous writer penned these powerful words: "God has a storehouse of blessings. Prayer is the key to that storehouse. But faith both turns the key and unlocks the door."



Looking Ahead

March Dates

Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Egg Hunt
Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday Worship
Breakfast



Jan. 26, 2025

Feb. 22, 2025

Prayers offered for the following during this month.

Pastor Will Hazzard

Lilian Powell

Debbie Liebzei t

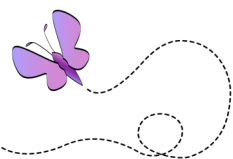
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Condolences to:

Karen & family

Lemley family

Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all.



MARCH NOTES

DATES TO REMEMBER

You're invited to
Lunch Bunch!



LUNCH BUNCH: is Thursday 3/6/25- 11am at Spencer's SW, 7800 McNair Lane. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY/QUILTING will meet on Wednesday, 3/12 from 9-11 in the Fellowship Hall. . Karen Musgrove and her daughter, Amy will demonstrate the knitting machines at 12:30pm. Tammy Poynor will bring snacks. Please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE: is Wednesday 3/19/25— 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Faithfulness from Psalm 22 & Gather magazine. Phyllis Elrod will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!



WINE & DINE is Thursday, 3/27, 6 pm @ Please watch the bulletin for more information..

SENIOR GAME DAY : Wednesday, March 26, bring your own lunch 12:00, games @12:30.



**SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED,
SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH.**



FRIDAY'S DURING LENT

STATIONS of the CROSS

Journey to the Cross - with scripture and singing, beginning at 12 noon continuing through Lent, Friday 3/7;14;21;28 and 4/4.

JOIN US WEDNESDAYS

March 12, 19, & 26, @ 6 pm, for Soup Suppers during Lent. Vesper service at 7 pm. Sign up sheets in the Narthex.



WORK DAY
Sat. March 8th - 9am



WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 13 @ 9am



CHURCH COUNCIL

March 23
11am



Dvid Gaenicke
Christa Schroeder
Jillian Hunter
Dakota Warren
Lilly Christenson
Greyson Fitzgerald
Kevin Schindler
Shawn Hunter

04
05
07
09
10
13
16
27

JANUARY FINANCIALS

	January	Total
Receipts	31,956.00	31,956.00
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17
Difference	15,886.83	15,886.83
Expenses	22,802.93	22,802.93
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17
Difference	6,733.76	6,733.76
Loan Receipts	1,550.00	1,550.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00
Difference	465.00	465.00



Please join us as we begin our Journey to the Cross on Ash Wednesday, March 5
There will be two services:
12 noon and 7 pm.



Lenten Vespers will be held
March 12,19,26 @7 pm
Soup Supper @6 pm

Suggested scripture readings for the 40 days of Lent.

Day	Biblical Texts	Day	Biblical Texts
1	Mark 1-4	21	Luke 8-11
2	Mark 5-8	22	Luke 12-16
3	Mark 9-12	23	Luke 17-21
4	Mark 13-16	24	Luke 22-24
5	1 & 2 Thessalonians	25	Acts 1-6
6	Galatians	26	Acts 7-10
7	Philippians & Colossians	27	Acts 11-16
8	Philemon & Ephesians	28	Acts 17-22
9	Matthew 1-7	29	Acts 23-28
10	Matthew 8-12	30	1 & 2 Timothy & Titus
11	Matthew 13-18	31	Hebrews 1-10
12	Matthew 19-24	32	Hebrews 11-13 & James
13	Matthew 25-28	33	John 1-5
14	1 Corinthians 1-9	34	John 6-10
15	1 Corinthians 10-16	35	John 11-16
16	2 Corinthians 1-13	36	John 17-21
17	Romans 1-8	37	1 & 2 & 3 John & Jude
18	Romans 9-16	38	1 & 2 Peter
19	Luke 1-3	39	Revelation 1-11
20	Luke 4-7	40	Revelation 12-22

2025 REDEEMER COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Jan Lemley, President	lemleyjanice@gmail.com	664-9404
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Bruce Wearda, Treasurer (non council)	brucewearda@gmail.com	661-776-5229

BUNCO FUNDRAISER



IT'S BUNCO TIME



FRIDAY, MARCH 7— 5:30 pm

I Fellowship Hall
\$15.00

Join us for good fun—good food-
good fellowship and great prizes

Raffle prizes!

If interested call Linda 599-0799
or 664-9404 (Jan)

Redeemer Lutheran Church
2525 Belle Terrace



COME SEE OUR NEWLY
REFURBISHED FELLOWSHIP HALL



IN HIS SERVICE

Area of Service	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Flowers	Julie	Laura	Sue	Judy Peterson	
Assistant	Jan	Louise	_____	_____→	
Acolyte	Leo	Maia	Darynne	Leith	Emily
Lector		Nate	Judy		Karen
Greeter		Karen			
Counters					
Coffee Hour		Judy	Linda	Jan	Fellowship



Pictured above, Leo Olson, Maia Olson, Emily Evens, Pastor Jon, and Darynne Coomer present their lighted candles which have been Blessed for the year ahead

Candlemas, Feb. 2, was observed with the Blessing of the Candles. Here Pastor Jon, Darynne, Maia and Leith begin to process to the Chancel.

(Pastor's message in the Feb. Newsletter explains Candlemas and it's similarity to Groundhog Day.)



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2525 BELLE TERRACE, P O BOX 13132-93389, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Pastor: Rev. Jon Christenson 832-7881 Secretary: Phyllis Elrod

E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@gmail.com Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		 Lenten Meals				1  World Day of Prayer
2 Worship 9:30 Coffee hr. 10:30  TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY	3	4 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Pacifica 10 am	6 Lunch Bunch 11 am	7 BUNCO 5:30	8 Work Day 9 am
9 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour 10:30  DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	10	11 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	12 Prayer Shawl quilting 9-11 Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	13 Worship & Music 10 am	14	15 Garden Club 9-noon
16 Worship 9:30 am Pot Luck 10:30 Council 11:00	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	19 Afternoon Bible Study Pacifica 10 am Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	20  HELLO SPRING!	21	22 Glass Club
23 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30	24	25 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	26 Game day 12:00 Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	27	28	
30 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30	31					