

March 2011

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

For some people, Lent is a “dark” season of the church year. This is due to the fact that it is a season where we remember Jesus’ journey to the cross. Indeed, Jesus’ suffering and death paid the price for our human sinfulness. He took our sin upon himself when he gave his life for each and every one of us. When we remember how Jesus suffered, it can make us grieve for him and for our sin.

The other reason that some view Lent as a dark time is because we are all longing for the promise of Spring. Winter has cast its shadow over our lives in many ways, especially this year. We are tired of the deep, biting cold; tired of shoveling, and ready to see the trees bud and the grass turn green again.

But Lent doesn’t have to be such a “dark” time. All around us we find glimpses of the light. Even Ash Wednesday, a day when we are reminded that “from dust you have come and to dust you shall return,” has images of light underlying those very words. Why? It’s because God created human beings from the dust when he brought order to the chaos that existed before Creation. This calls to mind God’s words from Genesis, “Let there be light.” In John Chapter 1, it tells us that God brought light into the darkness, and that light was shining into the world when we were created from the dust.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that while we began in God’s light, we will also experience God’s light at the end of our earthly lives. “. . . to dust you shall return” means that the glory of creation will be with us once again upon our earthly death. Indeed, when we return to the dust, we will experience the power of the resurrection, and truly enter into the “new creation” of eternal light and life.

No, Lent does not need to be a “dark” season of the church year. For by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives begin and end in God’s light. Jesus’ death and resurrection makes our resurrection possible. And what a resurrection that will be!

In Christ,
Pastor Heather

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

Sun. Mar. 6th: Mark and Linda Nygard will be with us in Glenburn and Lansford to share about their experience as missionaries in Cairo, Egypt. Mark will preach at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM worship services. All are welcome to attend a potluck in their honor following 11:00 AM worship in Glenburn. We continue to keep Mark & Linda and the nation of Egypt in our prayers in this time of transition.

Wed. Mar. 9th: ASH WEDNESDAY. There will be two Ash Wednesday services in our Parish where people can come and receive Holy Communion and imposition of ashes. One will be held at the *Lansford United Methodist Church at 11:00 AM*. The second will take place in the evening at *Trinity Glenburn*. A “meager meal” of soup and sandwiches will be served from 6:00-7:00 PM, followed by a worship & praise service featuring some special musical guests. David Anderson & Kelly Patten, contemporary musicians from Arizona, will lead us in song, praise & prayer. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat Ministry.

Sun. Mar. 27th: Special events will take place on this day in Glenburn. First Communion students and parents will gather at 4:00 PM to begin preparation for First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 17th. Then a Family Game Night will take place at 5:30 PM. Bring a game to play and your favorite frozen pizza. At 7:30 PM we will hold a meeting for 8th-12th grade youth.

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULES

GLENBURN

Soup supper at 6 PM, Lenten worship at 7 PM

Wed. Mar. 16 – St. Philomena Catholic

Wed. Mar. 23 – Burlington Choir, First Baptist

Wed. Mar. 30 – Hope Lutheran

Wed. Apr. 6 – Trinity Lutheran

Wed. Apr. 13 – St. Philomena Catholic

LANSFORD

Lenten Worship at 7 PM

Wed. Mar. 16 – LUMC – Pastor Janet Gwin

Wed. Mar. 23 – St. John's Catholic – Father Walter

Wed. Mar. 30 – LUMC – Pastor Heather Brown

Wed. Apr. 6 – St. John's Catholic – Pastor Luke Oakes

Wed. Apr. 13 – LUMC – Pastor Todd Olson