



## Observing a Holy Lent

Last week, when Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the Lenten season, the liturgy invited us to “observe a Holy Lent.” I struggle with that phrase. How can I observe a season that is set apart and unlike anything else in the year? This is always the question that I face as I struggle to decide what I will give up, or what I may add to my spiritual life. In other words, what can I do to make this time in the church year matter?

First, Lent is not about giving up or adding to our lives. As a matter of fact, our actions are really not the primary focus at all. The time in which we prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter allows us to reflect on the incredible expanse of God’s amazing love. It is about our awareness of our own mortality and that our creator calls us into a relationship with Him. We are invited to struggle with our own weaknesses, always drawing attention to the wonders of the grace that is given to us by the One who loves us. This, to me, is the gift of Lent.

The good news is that at the end of the season, we celebrate the resurrected Christ. We celebrate with a renewed heart, graciously recalling the lessons we learned in the Lenten season about ourselves, those around us, and our amazing God. We don’t leave the gifts in the season. They become part of our daily journey.

Holiness gives way to the ordinary. I don’t negatively mean this. The very nature of the term holy refers to something sacred and set apart. My hope is that while observing a spiritual discipline during Lent, the practice may become such a part of life, that it becomes second nature. It becomes a regular part of our day. Perhaps it is understandable to see why a season of Ordinary time follows the Easter season in the church year.

Praise be to God that we are given seasons in our lives in which we can reflect on the incredible and boundless love of the Holy One. We are called to remember that we are children of the Most-High God. That, to me, is the gift of this season. And it all starts with a commitment to observe a Holy Lent. May we honor the season, ourselves, and our God very well.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Joe



Coffee Fellowship

March 1st: Glen & Freda Neie

March 8th: Charles & Sheryl Christian

March 15th: Michael & Larisa Oborny

March 22nd: Scott & Megan Terry

March 29: Joe & Cazandra MacDonald



March 1st: Zeke Kasel, Elizabeth Mahaney, Cooper Nichols

March 8<sup>th</sup>: Alec Actkinson, Katy Mahaney, Charley Oborny

March 15<sup>th</sup>: Madison Osborn, Rory Pomper, Lane Terry

March 22<sup>th</sup>: Maryn Terry, Brody White, Caeleb MacDonald

March 29: Alec Actkinson, Elizabeth Mahaney, Lane Terry

Head Usher: Scott Terry



March 2<sup>nd</sup> Wanna Bock

March 4<sup>th</sup> Payzlee Ware

March 8<sup>th</sup> Todd Christian

March 16<sup>th</sup> Tim Kasel

March 24<sup>th</sup> Kristin Kasel

March 24<sup>th</sup> Rory Pomper

March 29<sup>th</sup> Mikayla Ware

March 30<sup>th</sup> Cindy Coburn

March 31<sup>st</sup> Sheryl Christian



March 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott and Megan Terry

March 13<sup>th</sup> Ben and Lori Osborn

March 20<sup>th</sup> Tom and Terri Nichols

## SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!!!!

**King's Kids Camp** (entering grades 2-4)

**June 12-14**

**Promise Seekers Camp** (entering grades 4-6)

**July 6-10**

**SYC** (entering grades 7-12)

**June 15-19**

**Music on the Mountain**

(Music Camp) entering grades 7- 12)

**July 5-10**

Wedding shower for

Garrett Foote & Megan Skiles

March 29, 2020

2:00-3:30 cst

Hamlin Memorial UMC

Selections: Williams Sonoma,

Pottery Barn, Bed Bath & Beyond,

Dillard & Amazon

Youth Fund Raiser Pot Luck

April 5, 2020 12:00 noon



Closing Prayer

A Minister's Prayer

**Lamb of God,**

When I grow weary with strain of work, high stress,  
Guide me to sweet meadows of presence,  
Lovely oases in wastelands of inhumane worlds.

**Gentle Master,**

When I feel wounded, lonely, forlorn,  
Call me home to fields of grass, green, pristine,  
Symbols of hope amidst despair, lack of care.

**Staff of Life,**

When I push against the pace of grace,  
Comfort me with warm embrace, calming as cool  
breezes, waves of welcome peace loft ad night air.

**Good Shepherd,**

When I cannot find words to preach, guide, teach,  
Draw forth from my heart truths to console  
abandoned souls With blessings flowing like water  
down slopes of melted snow,  
Giving comfort to the lowly,  
Courage to the faint of heart,  
Peace to the afflicted,  
Light to people groping  
In dark thickets Of doubt an despair,  
Good news for young and old,  
Lean and spare all entrusted to my care.  
All this I pray, in your name O Lord!

Susan Muto & Adrian van Kaam



In Memory of :

Ella Ruth Williams given by Rick & Joyce Ketcherside

Ella Ruth Williams given by Bonnie Warren



What is Lent and Why Does It Last 40 Days\*

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lenc-ten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



We have a website! Visit [www.hamlinmemorialumc.org](http://www.hamlinmemorialumc.org). It is a work in progress, so please be patient. If you have any pictures to contribute please send them to Cazandra at [cazmac9910@gmail.com](mailto:cazmac9910@gmail.com) or text to 575-405-0768.