



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe

March 2017

LENT – A TIME FOR MEDITATION, REPENTANCE, AND PREPARATION

Lent is upon us once again. The word "Lent" itself is from the old English word which means spring. The German word "Lenz" also means "spring." From what I could find out its basic meaning is "to lengthen" and refers to the lengthening of the days in the spring time. Since a part of the pre-Easter season always falls in spring, it is only natural that through the ages this season from Ash Wednesday to Easter should come to be called Lent.

The early Christians remembered Lent with special devotions which were held during the forty hours during which our Savior lay in the tomb. The period of commemoration was later extended to two weeks, and eventually, to 40 days in recognition of the forty days of our Lord's temptation in the wilderness. Since Sundays were never fast days and considered to be part of Lent, Lent extends past 40 days and runs from Ash Wednesday up to Easter Sunday.

For many, including Lutherans, Lent is a time of commemoration. The Lenten Scripture lessons retell the journey that our Lord took to the cross. It begins with his meeting with his disciples to celebrate the Passover on Maundy Thursday, the night he instituted the Lord's Supper. It ends with the Lord's dead body being placed in the grave to await the resurrection on Easter morning.

Lent is also a special time of spiritual contemplation. Our focus is not only on the passion or suffering of our Lord but it also

extends to the cause for that suffering. That cause, of course, is our sinfulness. Christ came into the world to carry the burden of our sins on himself. Even though he was holy, without sin, he took on our sins and suffered their consequence. The wrath of the Father was directed toward him. He endured the pain and torment of hell and died in our place.

When we see the dire results of our sins, we cannot help but grieve. It is our sins and those of the world that brought this pain and suffering on our Lord. Lent is a time when we focus on our need to repent of our sins and look to Jesus as our only hope and salvation.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this observance. In the Medieval church it was customary for penitents to come to church on this day in sack cloth and bare feet. After finishing their prayers, they threw ashes on their heads - ashes, made from palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday.

The Lenten season ends with the glorious message of Easter morning, "He is risen!" It assures us that his work was done and was complete. The payment for sin had been made. The wrath of God appeased. The power of sin, death, the devil and the grave were all broken. What a glorious day and what a glorious promise Jesus gives us - "Because I live, ye shall live also!"

So, while Lent is a season of repentance and sorrow over sin, it is also a time when we look ahead to the joy of Easter day. May the Lord bless your meditation this Lenten season!

Easter Retreat

This year's Easter Retreat will be at Rothenberg ODT, April 13-16, 2017. We have 43 signed up. Sounds like a nice crowd! Please contact us for the address of the hostel and restaurant.

March Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -
contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

March 5

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study, fellowship and a potluck dinner.

Netherlands -
contact Pastor Stuppy for location and time details

March 7 - *tentative* -

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -
contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

March 12 and March 26

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship, Bible study, and Sunday school.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -
at the Southside Chapel

March 12 and March 26

Worship is at 16:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday school, and fellowship.

Munich, Germany -
contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

March 16 - *tentative* -

Worship is at 18:30

Vilseck, Germany -
contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

March 18

Worship is at 10:30

Zurich, Switzerland area -
contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

March 19

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship and Bible study.

Offerings

Local offerings for the period were €983.70. These were direct offering at worship. Additional support was given through direct deposit and gifts to the Synod designated for the European ministry. These figures should be available next month.

Direct deposit through IBAN

If you make offerings through direct deposit through IBAN, contact me for the information. Pastor Josh Martin's name has been replaced with mine - Donald William Stuppy. If you used "Savior of the Nations Lutheran Church" with the account, it has been changed to "WELS European Civilian Chaplaincy." The number I emailed last month is the correct IBAN for the church account. If you have problems or need more information, please let me know.

CONTACT US

If you have need of pastoral assistance or just want to talk, please make contact. Your e-mails, phone calls, and letters are welcomed. The contact information does not change.

Pastor Don Stuppy
Telephone: (+49) 6732-600-3933
Pastor's handy: (+49) 173-4199572
Margaret's handy: (+49) 173-4199580
Email: WELSchaplain@gmail.com
www.welseurope.net