



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe
February 2018

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 discover its basic meaning means 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 2 weeks, and eventually, in recognition of the forty days of our Lord's temptation, to forty days. Since Sundays were never fast days, these days were during Lent but not considered part of Lent. As a result Lent runs from Ash Wednesday up to Easter Sunday.

For many, including Lutherans, Lent is a time of commemoration. The Scripture lessons each Wednesday evening 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 his 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 on the passion or suffering of our Lord but then 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 poured out on 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 upon 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 complete. The payment for sin had been made. The wrath of God appeased. The power of sin, death, the devil and the grave were 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!

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

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Direct Deposit Information

Designate: WELS European Chaplaincy

IBAN: DE98 5519 0000 0938 6260 25

BIC: MVBMD55

Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 4

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

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 11 and February 25

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -
at the Southside Chapel

February 11 and February 25

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

Munich, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 15

Worship is at 18:30.

Vilseck, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 17

Worship is at 11:00.

Zurich (Switzerland Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 18

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

Easter Retreat – Magdeburg

Plans are underway for the Easter retreat. If you think you will be coming, please respond as soon as you can. We can firm up commitments later. We are booked for 56 guests. With members coming and going it is hard to predict what space we need. If we need more rooms, we can try to add them. First come, first served as far as the rooms are concerned. We will start on Thursday evening and go through Sunday worship.

Memorial Gift

A memorial gift of \$2,000 has been given to the European Chaplaincy work by Mrs. Hunt. Mrs. Hunt made the gift in honor of her son, Nathan, who is stationed at Ramstein and in memory of European chaplain and his wife, Rev. and Ruth Renz.

Offering Statements

If you make your offering through direct deposit or by check and would like an offering statement for 2017, please let me know.

Chili Supper and Cook Off

It has been a tradition here to have a Chili Cook-off. How about Saturday, March 3rd? As usual we will meet in Spiesheim at 16:30. Get your chili recipe out and your chef hat on and join us for a night of fun and fellowship. If you don't have a favorite chili recipe, we will also need people willing to bring bread, sides and desserts to round out the meal. Drinks will be provided. Please let us know by Sunday, February 25th if you think you will be coming.

Offerings

As of January 1st, the balance in the church account was €54,006.61. On January 31st, our balance was €53,547.37. During January we received worship service offerings equivalent to apx. \$2,320.95. We also received gifts of €1,676.35 in direct bank deposits. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these generous gifts in support of this ministry.

Sunday School 2017-2018

Sunday School materials are now available ONLY for those who are part of our European church. The copy masters and teacher's guides can be found at the available links at Dropbox.

GRADE 1-2

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sfguf1u8ewmkv2d/AABpsGCrFPqPGWgOkW5IIS1Ca?dl=0>

GRADE 3-4

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/epp5vo3q74vb55j/AADAYGHjIJ3sAum-F7AUPOYHa?dl=0>

GRADE PreK-K

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e579x1q1k9fln0e/A AAWGks9slN5PRzKhl9wHr_Ha?dl=0

GRADE 5-6

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zxkpskflebmtos7/A AAdk6VtoViaO-JeMDeoadGqa?dl=0>

Student lessons will be ordered as needed. Contact Pastor Stuppy or Marge Stuppy (mastuppy@gmail.com) if you need anything or have questions.

Things to Know – Synod Web Sites**Military Devotions** – by Rev. P. Ziemer

<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/>

WELS Church Locator

Use when on vacation, business trips, relocation.

<http://welslocator.locatorsearch.com/>

Online Referral – Special Ministries

Special Ministries can supply devotions and other spiritual help and teaching tools to members of the military, prison inmates, special needs individuals. Click on the link below to submit an online referral for someone who can benefit from Special Ministries' materials.

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>