



A Monthly Newsletter — February 2021

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within them."

John 7:38



Weekend Worship

No In-person services
until further notice.

Sundays at 10:30 am
Live Worship Service
on Zoom; recordings
on website &
YouTube.

Office Hours: *Tues.– Fri., 9 am to 1 pm; 928-763-2422*

2275 Ricca Rd, Bullhead City, AZ 86442; communitylutheranchurch@gmail.com; clcbhc.com

*Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and
merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in
steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.*
Joel 2: 13



Mission Statement of Community Lutheran Church
Living Christ's love in all we do.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM

It Is Lent Again

Because of the increase in infections during this pandemic, we stopped in-person worship services towards the end of Lent last year and now we don't have in-person worship and we are worshipping over Zoom at the beginning of Lent this year. And yet somehow this seems appropriate to me. Lent is a season of soul-searching honesty. It is when we reflect upon how the powers of sin, death, and evil are more powerful in the world and in our lives than we like to think they are. And Lent is when we also reflect that upon our utter need for Christ's salvation and how God's grace is even more present than we often realize.

The Church often encourages people to keep spiritual disciplines during the season of Lent like fasting, being more prayerful, or giving more of your time and treasures for others. And part of our spiritual discipline as a worshipping community is to have Wednesday services throughout the season of Lent. This year, we will continue this discipline by having our Wednesday services at 6 pm on Zoom.

Of course, we are hoping and praying that we might start up in-person worship again in March, but the church council decided that it is probably wiser for us not to have in-person worship in February as Lent begins. On Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17), we will have a drive-through for the Imposition of Ashes from 10 am to 11:30 am in our parking lot. You will not need to leave your car because I will impose the ashes on your foreheads while you are in your cars. And we will have our Ash Wednesday service at 6 pm on Zoom with Holy Communion. Our Wednesday Lenten services will be at 6 pm on Zoom beginning on February 24.

Lenten disciplines are supposed to "shake things up." They sometimes are uncomfortable to help us to see our lives better. And I expect that this year's services during this pandemic will do just that. And the Holy Spirit works through our discomforts too.

So I pray you will have a blessed Lenten season and that you will be able to worship with us during this spiritual time of year.

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart; with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing." (Joel 2:12-13; NRSV)





“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand; that He may lift you up in due time.”

(1 Peter 5:6)

Lent...A time for Reflection...

The 40 days of Lent offer us time for reflection...searching our souls... Reflection means facing our sins...all that is wrong in our life and in our world. That is a heavy load...it really makes us realize how much we need our Lord and Savior as part of our life. Lent is Prayer...Fasting...Works of Love (Giving). Or some refer to the three pillars of Lent as Prayer...Fasting...Almsgiving.

This is most certainly a time for prayer. We should be praying anyway, so why is it especially called out during Lent? Well, the truth is, many Christians don’t pray regularly or at least not often enough...maybe in church. Maybe if we really need something from God. Or maybe when we speed by a hidden police car?? Prayer is easy then!

Are we just too busy? Really?! Do we get so caught up in living our life that sometimes God becomes an afterthought? Again I say...really?! What if we were an afterthought for GOD? (Think about that for a minute.)

God isn’t meant to be a security blanket only to be called on when we’re afraid or need something. Prayer is one of the most important things we do in our lives...if not the most important thing.

Fasting is about denying ourselves something...living with less...identifying with the less fortunate. “Walking a mile in their shoes” and empathizing with their situation.

In Isaiah 58, the Lord talks about fasting. “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?” “Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter...”

This brings us to the third pillar of Lent...Works of Love...charitable giving...showing love for our friends and neighbors. But we need to be certain we are giving for the right reasons. As it says in Matthew, “...sound no trumpet before you...let your alms be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” In 2 Corinthians, the apostle Paul tells the Corinthians to give with a generous heart, and not to give grudgingly.

As we reflect during these 40 days: Show concern for others...be kind and generous...“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Consider Prayer...Fasting...Giving.

Wishing you God’s blessings during this Lenten Season!

Linda Miller



JANUARY STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Love Your Neighbor

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

What a shame that February – the one month of the year with keen focus on love – is also the shortest. We sure could use a lot more love in our world, especially for our neighbor.

The last 12 months have been particularly hard, as race riots, a divisive election and civil unrest have all unfolded against the traumatic backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently in very short supply, more love for neighbor would go a long way in helping us to solve our problems.

Love for neighbor is integral to not only good discipleship, but also good stewardship. The greater the "love for neighbor" factor in our lives, the better stewards we will be of every blessing God provides – creation, time, relationships, money, possessions, health, to name just a few. By cultivating love for neighbor we will also enjoy a happier life and promote a healthier and more civil society.

The opposite is also true. Cultivating enmity for neighbor leaves us sour, selfish and cynical, while also making our nation angry and selfish.

This year make February "Love Your Neighbor" month in your personal devotions and your congregational life. Give the concept breathing room in your life. Keep it in your thoughts, sow it in our heart, talk about it to your family and friends.

Pray for God to teach you what it means to love our neighbor. Pray for God to give you the strength and will to live it. And watch as love heals and invigorates your life ... and our world.

-Rob Blezard



Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for all the persons whose names have been offered up by members and friends of the congregation.

We especially would like to lift up all those affected by COVID 19, and those who lost loved ones.

We pray for healing, comfort, guidance, strength, recovery, safe travel, and unrevealed needs, as well as for those with thankful hearts and for those who grieve.

February Happenings



February Birthdays



3	Evelyn Karr	14	Albert Lemke
4	Ed Melendez	14	Rickie Melendez
5	Virginia Sorby	17	Shirley Cutler
9	Max Salem	21	Joyce Rye
12	Ed Newbold		

February Anniversaries



7	Tom & Jean Thompson, 40	17	Larry & DiAnne Kaul, 31
14	John & Karen Miller, 11	22	Charles & Virginia Sorby, 63



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 am Worship Service on Zoom	8 Office Closed	9	10	11 6 pm Council Meet- ing on Zoom	12	13
14 10:30 am Worship Service on Zoom -Installation of Council Mem- bers	15 Office Closed	16	17 LENT Begins Ash Wednes- day 10-11:30 am Drive- through for ashes; 6pm: Zoom- Worship Ser- vice	18	19	20
21 10:30 am Worship Service on Zoom	22 Office Closed	23 9:30 am Worship Committee Meeting at church	24 6pm: Zoom Worship Service	25	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship Service on Zoom						

Upcoming Events:

Another First for Community Lutheran Church

Are you wondering...what now? How about this...a “drive-by imposition of ashes” for Ash Wednesday? Yup!

Pastor Tim will be outside the church waiting for us **between 10 and 11:30 on Wednesday, Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday**. Drive up to the church, stay in your car (**wear a mask**) and Pastor will mark your forehead with ashes to remind us to “Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return.”

Are you wondering if we will have Lenten Services this year?

Yes, we will. Beginning with the Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 17. They will continue each Wednesday until Holy Week:

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Wednesday, March 3

Wednesday, March 10

Wednesday, March 17

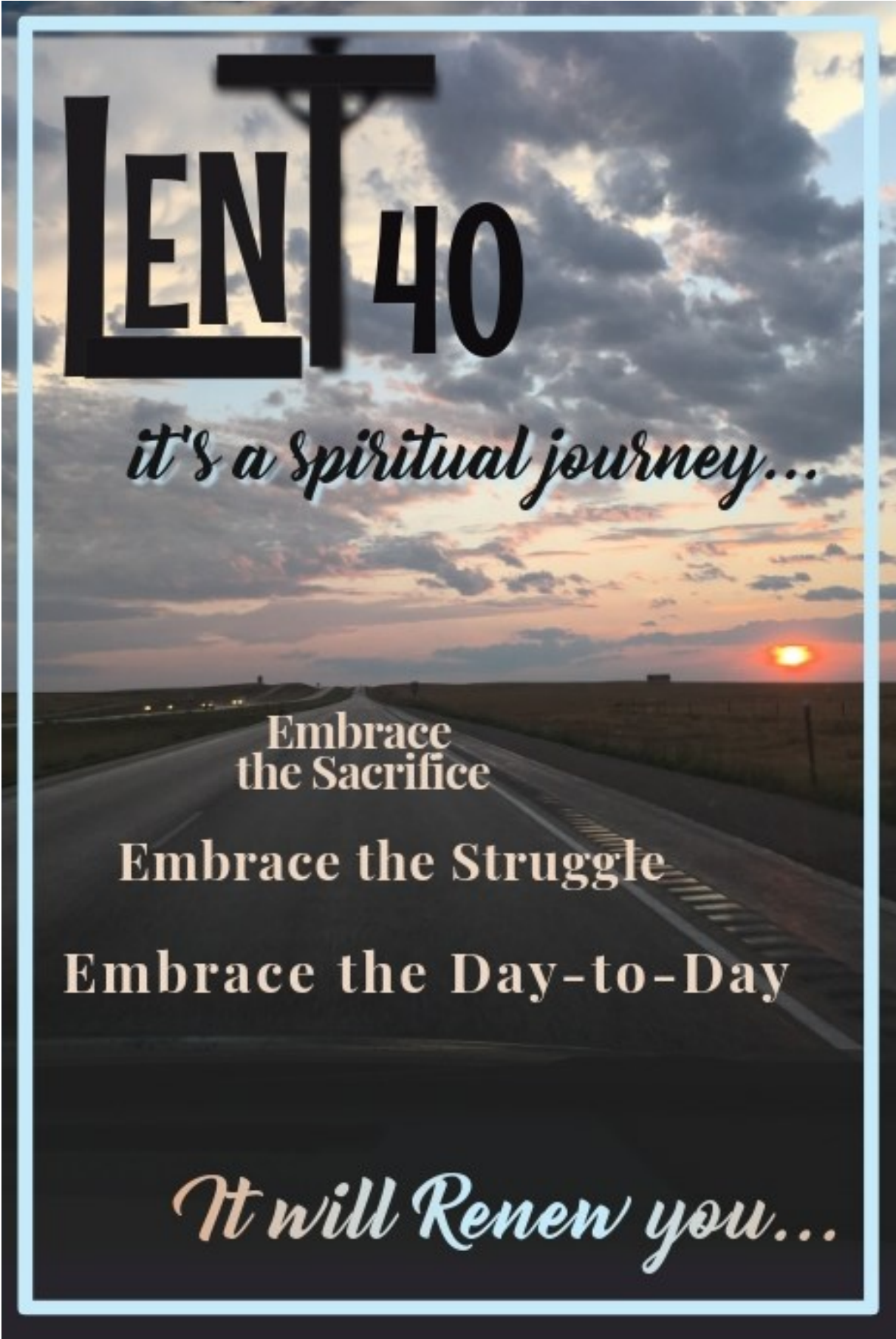
Wednesday, March 24

Palm Sunday is Sunday, March 28; Maunday Thursday, is Thursday, April 1, Good Friday is Friday, April 2, followed by Easter on Sunday, April 4.

Services will be held on Zoom during February...then decisions will be made as we go forward whether we will be able to begin our in-person services before Easter.



- Feb 11: 6 pm Council Meeting on Zoom
- Feb 14: Installation of Council Members during Worship Service
- Feb 17: ASH WEDNESDAY; Beginning of Lent
10 am—11:30 am: Drive through for ashes.
6 pm: Worship Service on Zoom
- Feb 23: 9:30 am Worship Committee Meeting at church
- Feb 24: 6 pm Worship Service on Zoom



LENT 40

it's a spiritual journey...

**Embrace
the Sacrifice**

Embrace the Struggle

Embrace the Day-to-Day

It will Renew you...