



## Community Lutheran Church

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within them."  
John 7:38



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**Pastor Tim Eighmy**



**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Tues.– Fri., 9 am to 1 pm;

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:**  
Sunday, 9 & 11 am  
Last Sunday of every  
month: 10:00 am



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

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM "Living Our Baptisms"

We are now in the season of Lent when we reflect upon the life that we are called to live in because of Christ's salvation through his death and resurrection. And during our Wednesday services for Lent, I am using a worship series that reflects upon our baptismal covenant with God.

When adults, teenagers, and older children are baptized, they are asked to take a baptismal vow before they are baptized. When infants and small children are baptized, the parents and sponsors take vows to raise the child according to this vow. And when teenagers are confirmed, they are asked to reaffirm their baptismal vows for themselves.

These are the vows we make to live in our baptisms:

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper
- To proclaim the gospel of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Faith grows and matures more when we live in community with faithful people (the Church). I like to compare baptism to being adopted into a family. If you are adopted into a family and refuse to take part in any family functions, then what's the point of becoming part of a family? And if you are baptized in the church but refuse to be active with any church, then what's the point of being baptized?

Just as it is important for families and friends to communicate with each other in a variety of ways and get together occasionally for a meal or simply some refreshments, so it is important for the people of God to hear God's Word in various ways and to commune with each other in fellowship and in sacrament. We hear God's Word through faithful preaching, through studying the Bible together, and by sharing faith stories and faith questions with each other. And through our worship and our daily witness, we reconnect with God in Christ Jesus and with one another as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Of course the gospel of Jesus Christ is not just something we hear, but it is what we live out. We share our faith when we encourage others in their lives, help people to meet their needs, and forgive people enough so we may treat them with more dignity. Not only are we helping and serving others, but we are building upon our Christian character with others.

And as we get better at loving people, we can dare to challenge ourselves to get out of our own little “bubbles” and serve people whose lives are very different than our own. That’s what Jesus did; Jesus feasted with Pharisees, healed people who were chronically ill, encouraged sinful prostitutes and tax collectors, and blessed children publicly. And Jesus is the example of how we are challenged to live our lives.

And as Christians, we are called to have a desire for a better, more gracious, world to live in. We are called to work at seeking justice for people whose rights and needs are too often ignored by others and we are called to build peace in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our communities, and in our society. We live in this way because of our hope for God’s grace for all.

Or as I like to say, in baptism God has called us to the best of who we already are. And we need to live in faith that we really are that loving, gracious, and hope-filled as God’s Spirit is leading us to be.

In Christ’s peace,  
Pastor Tim



I was taken back at church today when I saw prejudice firsthand and it made me feel not very good and rather ashamed that I was even being a part of what I saw. God gave his disciples an eleventh Commandment: it said to love one another, and this is very important commandment at least to me and should be the same for everyone else. There for a few minutes I could feel the tension, not love of the person at the door as a black woman was coming up to the door of the church. This woman was from the Desert Shores Community Baptist Church, and she was a friend of ours. She was bringing a donation of children’s clothes for WestCare shelter for women and children that come from households where there is abuse because she had heard of our ministry to this organization and she wanted to be a part of it. She brought three bags of clothing for children as a donation to this very meaningful organization Outreach. I thanked her for being a part of our Outreach ministry and invited her to stay for our church service, but she had to go and pick up people who need rides to church for their service. I could see the relief on the person’s face when she said she couldn’t stay for the service.

After our friend dropped off her donation of clothes, I felt very bad because one of us did not extend God’s eleventh commandment to love one another. I was wondering if this person would treat our new ELCA Bishop the same way because of the color of his skin? I would hope not but people like that their prejudices are deeply rooted, that is too bad for them in the long run. This is not common in our church that I have seen since I have been a member of Community Lutheran Church, and I hope I do not see again anytime soon. We are to welcome everyone to come and gather in God’s house to hear Gods word and we are to spread his joy and love to all people no matter what. Today I asked the LORD to forgive me and the person at the door. I think we should all live all of God’s commandments especially to Love One Another. We all need to practice this one every day.



**Council Members**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Peter Wold      | President       |
| Ken Webb        | Vice-President  |
| Sheri Brown     | Secretary       |
| Joann Hoffmeyer | Treasurer       |
| Ben Brooks      | Member at large |
| Lou Padilla     | Member at large |



**Easter Cantata**

First of all, a big shout out for Shawn Bristle agreeing to direct the Easter Cantata. The dates for the cantata are Palm Sunday, March 29th at 3:00 pm and Good Friday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm.

The choir will be rehearsing following the Lenten services at approximately 6:45 pm. A special rehearsal will be on Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 am. There is still time if you would like to join the choir.



**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**



The next bible study followed by a business meeting will be held on March 10th at 9:30 am. All women are invited to join in.

Even though there weren't as many people who attended the "Anything Chocolate" fundraiser, it was still a success. Thank you to everyone who donated food and raffle basket items. Without your help the event wouldn't have been as successful.



**Women Supporting Women**

Thank you for your faithful generosity. Your donations help those who are struggling and to remind them they are not forgotten. Your continued support of WestCare is deeply appreciated.

**Table for 6**

Would you like to get to know someone you don't really know? Here's where Table of 6 comes in. What is Table of 6? Six people are assigned to a group. You go to lunch or dinner or even cook once month. It usually lasts for 3 months so that 2 people chooses where to go next. You don't have to be a couple to participate, sign up now. There are slips in your bulletin or some placed on the table next to the baptismal font.



# 7 Ways to Walk With Jesus Through the Wilderness of Lent

## 1. Prayer

OK, this one is a freebie. As Christians we should *always* be praying ([1 Thess. 5:17](#)). But Lent is a great time to [redouble your prayer practice](#) — whether that's extemporaneous conversations with God, repetitive recitation like the rosary or Jesus Prayer, [praying through the Psalms](#), or simply sitting in silent contemplation. Throughout the [Old and New Testaments](#), prayer is shown as the [bedrock of relationship with God](#), so no matter what else you are doing to observe the season — even if it's nothing at all — take it to God in prayer. If you *are* fasting or giving up something else, it's customary and recommended to pray to God for help sticking with it.

## 2. Fasting

Fasting is the most ancient and original method of preparation for communion with God. By depriving ourselves of the necessary means of our survival, we demonstrate our dedication to God and reliance on him — while reminding ourselves that we do not live by bread alone ([Matt. 4:4](#)). There are several ways of doing this. (Jesus may have been able to eat literally nothing at all for 40 days, but most people cannot physically do that, so don't try it!) Some Christians ingest nothing except water during the day, and eat only a simple meal (of grains and vegetables) in the evening. Others allow themselves snacks of bread and maybe salt or oil to get through the day. Other Christians are less stringent and instead allow themselves simple meals throughout the day — but abstain entirely from meat, alcohol, and sweets until Easter. Finally, some Catholics permit meat on Sundays (as mini-Easters), but still refrain from alcohol. You can take the approach that works best for you. The important thing is to set a practice and stick to it — don't bail on Day 5 because your buddy invites you to a steak dinner.

## 3. Giving Up Other Habits

If (like me) fasting isn't for you — perhaps for health reasons or a history of food scarcity — you can choose to give up something else during Lent as a substitute (or, if you're really serious, in addition). The important thing is that it's something *valuable* — something that's *hard for you to go without*. (This isn't an excuse for you to get out of your exercise routine.) It's become popular to give up screen habits during Lent — a great way to replace your TV time, for example, with time spent in prayer or Bible study. You might choose to [give up social media](#) or [news apps](#). Other possibilities to forego include sweets, shopping (other than for necessities like groceries) or eating out, or a favorite pastime like golf, bowling, or video games. In short, Lent can provide an opportunity not only to grow spiritually, but (like New Year's Day) also to reevaluate your lifestyle and habits, and cut out some unhealthy practices you've developed. Who knows, maybe in the end you'll even want to stick with it after Easter!

## 4. Almsgiving, Charity, and Volunteering

How about giving up money? For some of us that might be even harder than giving up food — which, again, is exactly the point. Giving extra money to your church, or to organizations that help the poor, or another charity of your choice is, like fasting, an important reminder ([with very strong Biblical basis](#)) that everything we have comes from God. If money's tight, see what you can cut out. If you're giving up streaming TV shows or shopping, donate the money you would have spent on them instead. If money's *really* tight — or if you're giving up other things instead — consider giving your *time*. Spend an evening every week volunteering at the local soup kitchen, food pantry, animal or homeless shelter, or again, any cause that is important to you (or better yet, [to God](#)).

## 5. Bible Study/Meditation

Deprivation is sort of baked into the bread of Lent, for all the reasons I've discussed above. But as I've also said, Lent is also a time to reevaluate your habits, cut out the bad ones, and double down on the good ones. Above all, it's about [growing closer to God](#). And one of the best ways to do that is to meet him in his Word. Scripture is where we [encounter the Holy Spirit](#), learn from him, work with him, and [wrestle with him](#). Along with prayer and communal worship, Scripture engagement is the very foundation of the Christian life. If you don't have a regular Scripture reading practice, there's no better time than now to [start one](#). Again, you can replace the time you *would* have spent doomscrolling with time spent reading and reflecting on Scripture. And if the Bible is already a regular part of your daily routine, this might be a good opportunity to take the next step and go deeper in your studies with a [Study Bible](#), a [Bible study](#) (yes, those are different things), or a [Bible Gateway Plus](#) membership. (Try doing a deep dive on the passages mentioned above about Moses, Elijah, and Jesus in the wilderness!)

## 6. Time in Solitude

There's a reason Moses, Elijah, and Jesus all undertook their 40-day retreats *alone*. There are things you learn about yourself when confronted by yourself that never quite come to the surface in a crowd. In fairness, the opposite of this is true as well, which is why [church community](#) has been a part of the Christian story [since the beginning](#) — but in general we spend more time with each other than with ourselves. That *doesn't* mean time holed up in your apartment eating frozen pizza and binge-watching TV by yourself, or locked away in your bedroom scrolling through TikTok videos. Jesus didn't bring a smartphone to the desert. In fact, he didn't even bring a Torah. Time in solitude means time with *no other sensory inputs*. *Maybe* Scripture — but better yet, this is something you can do *after* reading a Bible passage. Instead, chuck your phone in a drawer and take a stroll through nature, or just sit in a quiet place where there's nothing distracting or calling at you (including undone chores). Maybe listen to some quiet music (without words). And think about God. Where is God in your story? Where should he be, that you haven't let him in? [Where are you in God's story?](#)

## 7. Spiritual Warfare

Like I said, things come up when you spend time alone — including lots of things you might wish *didn't*. But again, that's the point: it's easy to miss the quiet, corrupting influence of [demonic forces](#) when you're going about your busy day. In fact, they're counting on it. There's a good chance this is why Jesus immediately ran off to the desert after being baptized and entering the public eye. He needed to know — and needed *us* to know — and needed *Satan* to know — that he would not be led astray. He was tempted three times: to turn stones to bread ([Mt. 4:3-4](#)), to test God's faithfulness to him ([Mt. 4:5-7](#)), and to worship the devil in exchange for earthly power and fame ([Mt. 4:8-10](#)). Spiritual warfare is complex, often misunderstood, and can be dangerous. But at its most basic, it is simply the process of taking a hard look at where you are being tempted — not by other people, but by the whispers of the Enemy *in your own heart* — to act selfishly, destructively, and contrary to God's good design — and to [put up a shield](#) against him. During Lent, try to root out those temptations, reject them, and tell that devil to go pound sand.

## Origins of Lent in the Church

It's easy to see how the practice of fasting and prayer in emulation of Jesus evolved in the early church — if a bit less clear why it falls directly before Holy Week.

Before Lent became an official season of the church, it was common practice to fast the week before Easter. By the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, this period had been stretched into the 40-day (or so) period we now know.

There is some debate about whether that longer fast was already in practice and simply codified as an official church holiday, or whether it was established top-down based on the scriptural references of 40-day fasts cited above. Either way, Lent became adopted as a universal Christian practice after that.

The word “Lent” itself comes from an Old English word simply meaning “springtime.” In the Greek and Latin of the early church, the season is known instead as *Tessarakosti* (Greek) and *Quadragesima* (Latin), both of which mean “fortieth.”

### Lent

### Lenten Services

February 25th thru March 25  
5:00 pm Soup Supper  
6:00 pm Worship service  
Choir Practice following service



### Holy Week Services

|          |                 |                       |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| March 29 | Palm Sunday     | 9 & 11 am w/communion |
|          | Easter Cantata  | 7 pm                  |
| April 2  | Maundy Thursday | 7 pm w/communion      |

|         |                 |                          |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| April 3 | Easter Cantata  | 7 pm                     |
| April 5 | Sunrise Service | 7 am                     |
|         | Worship Service | 9 & 11 am<br>w/communion |

# March

## 2026

| Sunday  | Monday              | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday                                    |
|---|---------------------|--|---|---|--------|---|
| 1<br>9 & 11 am<br>worship<br>service<br>w/communion                           | 2<br>Office closed  | 3  | 4<br>5 pm Soup<br>Supper<br>6 pm Lenten<br>Service<br>6:45 pm choir               | 5<br>2 pm Bible<br>Study  | 6      | 7   |
| 8<br>9 & 11 am<br>worship<br>service<br>w/communion                           | 9<br>Office closed  | 10<br>9:30 am<br>Women's bible<br>study &<br>business<br>meeting | 11<br>5 pm Soup<br>Supper<br>6 pm Lenten<br>Service<br>6:45 pm choir              | 12<br>9:30<br>Music/Worship<br>Committee<br>meeting<br>2 pm Bible | 13     | 14  |
| 15<br>9 & 11 am<br>worship<br>service<br>w/communion                          | 16<br>Office closed | 17   | 18<br>5 pm Soup<br>Supper<br>6 pm Lenten<br>Service<br>6:45 pm choir              | 19<br>2 pm Bible<br>Study   | 20     | 21  |
| 22<br>9 & 11 am<br>worship<br>service<br>w/communion<br><i>Noisy offering</i> | 23<br>Office closed | 24   | 25<br>5 pm Soup<br>Supper<br>6 pm Lenten<br>Service<br>6:45 pm choir<br>rehearsal | 26<br>2 pm Bible<br>Study   | 27     | 28<br>9:00 am<br>Special choir<br>rehearsal |

# April

## 2026

| Sunday   | Monday              | Tuesday                        | Wednesday                   | Thursday   | Friday                           | Saturday |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------|
|  |                     |                                | 1<br>6 pm Choir<br>practice | 2<br>2 pm bible study<br>7 pm Maundy<br>Thursday | 3<br>Good Friday<br>7 pm Cantata | 4        |
| 5<br>7 am Sunrise<br>Service<br>9 & 11 am Easter<br>service            | 6<br>Office Closed  | 7                              | 8                           | 9<br>2 pm bible study<br>6 pm Council<br>meeting | 10                               | 11       |
| 12<br>9 & 11 am<br>worship service<br>w/communion                      | 13<br>Office Closed | 14<br>9:30 am<br>Women's group | 15                          | 16<br>2 pm bible study                           | 17                               | 18       |
| 19<br>9 & 11 am<br>worship service<br>w/communion                      | 20<br>Office Closed | 21                             | 22                          | 23<br>2 pm bible study                           | 24                               | 25       |
| 26<br>10 am worship<br>service<br>w/communion<br><i>Noisy offering</i> | 27<br>Office Closed | 28                             | 29                          | 30   |                                  |          |

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## March Birthdays

- 6—Brenda Buth
- 6—Kelly Buth
- 10—JoAnn Blaaid
- 10—Milton Vanerstrom
- 10—Julia Vanfossan
- 13—Monty Ostgaard
- 19—Sheri Brown
- 21—Toni Hill Wold
- 22—Marvin Leonhardt
- 22—Chelsey White
- 25—Nicole Nielsen



## March Anniversaries

- 18—Kelly & Brenda Buth (37)
- 18—Kurt & Nicole Nielsen (3)
- 25—Rick & Mary Sletten (9)

## Mark your Calendars!

Women's Bible Study and meeting:  
Tuesday, March 10th at 9:30 am

Pastor Bible Study: 2:00 pm on Thursdays

Council Meeting March 12th @ 6:00 pm

Choir Practice for Easter Cantata  
It will follow the Lenten service at approximately 6:45 pm.

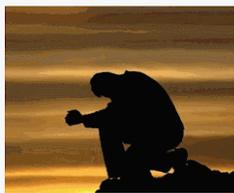
Worship/Music Committee Meeting  
March 12th at 9:30 am

Palm Sunday  
March 29th

Easter Sunday  
April 5th  
7 am Sunrise service  
9 & 11 am Worship services w/communion

Lenten Services  
5 pm Soup supper  
6 pm March 4, 11, 18, 25  
Choir practice following service

## Prayer Corner



Let us remember the ones God called home out of our midst, and keep their families and friends in our prayers.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



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

*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.*



*If you know someone who would like to be included in the ongoing monthly prayer list, be it for prayer or thanksgiving, please let the office know!*



**Community Lutheran Church**

*2275 Ricca Rd  
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86442*



March



Lent

**Community Lutheran Church, Bullhead City, AZ**