

A SEASON OF

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

MARCH 2020

Ministry Team

All members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

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Church Board 2020-2021

Brent Anderson

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Doug Gerbrandt

Kathy Gibson

Laura Lodberg

Iain McKay

Garry Mihaichuk-Chair

Bob Montgomery—Vice-Chair

Shirley Moule

Nick Perchthaler—Secretary

Transition Team

Jaqui Anderson **Andrew Little** Terrylee Mckay

Keith Rude

Call Committee

Jens Kaack

Alex McKay

Garry Mihaichuk

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Interim Pastor's Report from Pastor Julianne

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be-

you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean.

2 Count yourself lucky-

God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from him.

3 When I kept it all inside,

my bones turned to powder, my words became daylong groans.

4 The pressure never let up;

all the juices of my life dried up.

5 Then I let it all out;

I said, "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to God."

Suddenly the pressure was gone—

my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared. Ps 32:1-5 The Message

This psalm was the text for our February 26, Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of our Lenten journey. The 40 days of Lent are useful for focussing on a new spiritual discipline, often including the practice of daily devotions (*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*, a free devotional is now available in the Place of Welcome). Historically, set apart as a time of fasting, during Lent people began to remove a particular food from their diet (chocolate, alcohol, sweets in general). Others choose to give up something that stops them living fully into the person God has made them to be. Others add positive, caring actions such as smiling, doing something for another everyday, or intentionally giving to those in need daily.

In response to a comment made at the recent AGM, the Board has agreed with my intention to offer a Lenten sermon series called *Fresh Start: Forgiveness is not fair.* Moving into the future God has for LCOS with open and peaceful hearts is now timely. A special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on calling a new pastor has been announced for March 8, 2020 after the 11:00 am worship service.

During this Lenten season, the opportunity before the congregation, as individuals and as a community, is to reflect on and embrace healing, forgiveness, and God's promises so that when the new pastor begins, there is a fresh start relationally, releasing past upsets and fears, opening spiritually to the leading of the Holy Spirit in a renewed way.

The subtitle of the series *Forgiveness is not fair*, speaks to the abundant grace God gives us, the upside down, inside out, surprising, unexpected ways God renews, restores, and reconciles us to each other and to God's self.

During this past year and a half, there have been times when it seemed to be difficult to see God at work in every situation, but we relied on God's presence and trusted in God's love. As we read this Ash Wednesday psalm, God gave us another encouragement in a small but amazing way. The sermon series title *Fresh Start* had been chosen weeks ago by the Transition Team, and there is was in verse 1; Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—you get a **fresh start**, your slate's wiped clean.

Thanks be to God!

Board Report by Bob Montgomery

Hearts on the Wall...

I'm thankful our Chair, Garry Mihaichuk, is due back in Calgary soon and will be no doubt be refreshed and renewed by his extended break away from the duties he has been overseeing on our behalf. In the interim, I offer a few comments for your consideration with the knowledge he will take his rightful spot for the April Vine.

It's hard to believe that Easter is right around the corner! It seems like Christmas wasn't that long ago. I'm happy to report excellent attendance and engagement at the Annual General Meeting on Jan. 26th. For me, Easter is always special. Not only does it help us reflect on the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour – Jesus Christ, but it holds the promise of Spring arriving soon! I can't wait...

As the Lenten season begins, I would encourage each of us to continue reflecting on what we are thankful for and... why LCOS is such a special place. Pastor Julianne encouraged us to take time to write what we are thankful for on a heart (posted on the bulletin board next to the west door). These have been great to read and they tell a story if you take time to read them...

A major theme included in the hearts on the wall is folks value the community we enjoy at LCOS and believe it an important part of this place. Our Bible reminds us as we learn to trust and obey God, His plan for the Church is to be willing to be open and transparent with each other. Many of you may be skeptical about this... 'surely we can't allow ourselves to be open? Someone might take advantage of us or use our personal information against us in some way'. I understand. Larger society certainly may operate that way but scripture reminds us that we, as Christ followers, are to be 'in this world, but not of it'. Meaning, to act differently, led by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus had some interesting ideas about 'acting differently'. His plan was for us to trust each other (in His name), to listen to each other, laugh and cry together and forgive each other when we make mistakes or offend someone in some way. You may remember a short note in the AGM report that included me asking for your forgiveness if my activity (or lack thereof) had somehow offended anyone in particular. It may be hard to believe (not for my wife) but I make lots of mistakes, regularly! I need forgiveness, regularly! Jesus wanted us to understand that we all make mistakes and need His forgiveness. If we trust Him and His design for the Church, we would see that others have similar challenges to our own and that we are not alone with the things that worry us and weigh us down. If we have the strength to be honest with each other, we will grow closer as a group and cultivate a depth in relationship that few enjoy.

For many, 'wearing your heart on your sleeve' is not easy nor desirable. This Easter, consider trusting God to help you be more transparent...you may be surprised where it will take you...

Blessings from your Vice-Chair

Bob Montgomery Vice-Chair, LCOS Board of Directors

Update from the Board

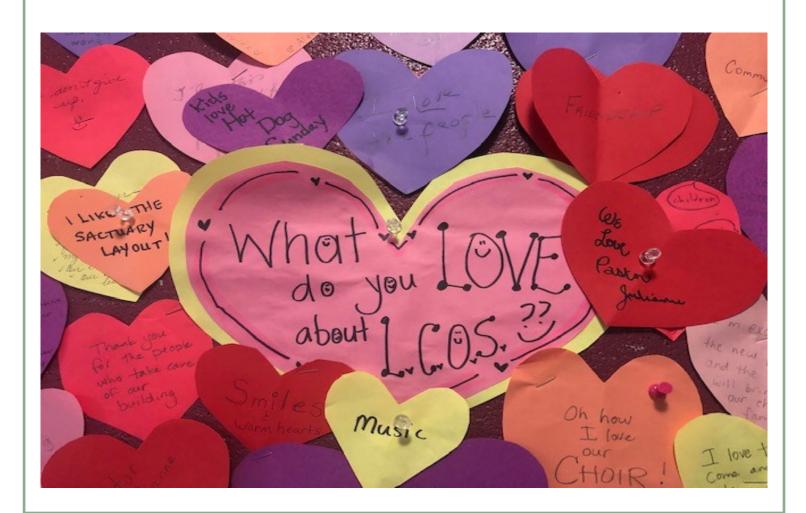
Congregational Call Meeting:

For the last 18 months the Call Committee of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour has been diligently and prayerfully working to determine and provide a recommendation for Senior Pastor to the congregation. It is with great pleasure and eager anticipation that God has provided the Committee with a spectacular Senior Pastor candidate. The Call Committee has informed Bishop Larry of the candidate choice and have had eager agreement from the Candidate to allow their name to stand for approval by the congregation.

The candidate and their spouse will join us at the Church for a potluck luncheon on Saturday March 7th beginning at 11:30 am. The Board would like to encourage everyone to attend and "meet and greet" both of these wonderful servants.

On March 8, after the 11:00 am service, a special congregational meeting will be held for the sole purpose of reviewing the candidate and to vote to accept the Call Committee recommendation to call the candidate as Senior Pastor of LCOS. All voting members are encouraged to attend and participate in the formal balloted vote. If you are not sure of your status as a voting member please contact the office prior to the meeting as only voting members will be allowed to vote. The results of the vote will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Board of LCOS

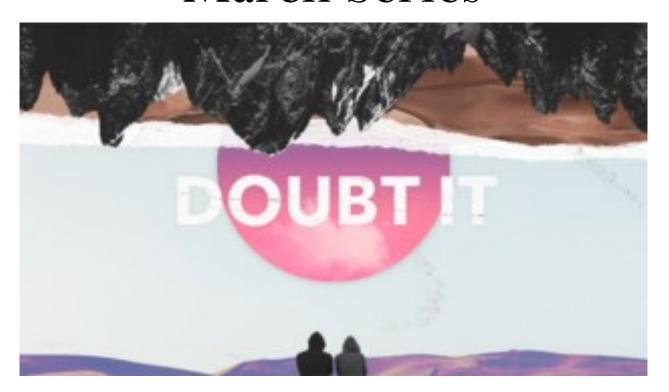




Youth (grades 4+) are invited to join us on Saturday, March 7 at 6:00 pm at Southcentre Mall, as the search begins for our leaders. You will be asked to find and take photos of these leaders, as they are dressed in costume and hiding throughout the mall. Drop off will be at Southcentre.



March Series



Doubt It

We were all designed to ask questions. As toddlers, we constantly asked, "Why?" But as we get older, asking too many questions is often discouraged — especially when those questions are about our faith. But in this 4-week series, we'll talk about how having questions (and even doubts) about God might not be as scary or as shameful as we thought, because you're not alone in your questions, God doesn't shame us for our questions, our questions don't always get answered, and Godly people can help us with our questions.

Vacation Bible School Leader

- "We cannot miss VBS this year!"
- "VBS is the greatest outreach we have at LCOS."
- "Remember we had 70 children from the community and 10 from LCOS"
- "What about the new pastor?"



Many of us know the amount of preparation and advance work necessary before the actual week of VBS. The Board agreed that this work needs to begin asap and approved a contract position to organize, plan, prepare and oversee the week of fun and excitement!

Please note that the VBS week will be moved one week earlier to accommodate the LCOS youth participation in the national Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth gathering, this year to be held in Calgary at SAIT, Aug 20-23, 2020. See http://claygathering.ca/ for a great introductory video.

VBS will take place from Monday Aug 10 to Friday Aug 14, 2020.

Applications in the form of a letter and resume are being accepted until March 15 at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca or pastorjulianneLCOS@gmail.com.

Responsibilities for this contracted position include:

Become familiar with the curriculum "ROCKY RAILWAY: Jesus' power pulls us through!" and begin advertising by the end of March.

Contact past participants to invite them to VBS 2020

Plan big picture staffing and group needs in April

Liaise with other congregations doing the same program to share resources (ongoing)

Begin connecting volunteers with positions matching experience and skills (April/May)

Plan and organize materials and decorations, including snack and craft supply lists (June)

Train and support volunteers (including police checks) (July)

Oversee day to day during VBS as needed.

The successful applicant will:

Be a regular participant in the worshipping and serving life of the LCOS congregation

Have experience volunteering with VBS, with a preference for those familiar with the LCOS VBS programs

Be familiar and comfortable with youth and senior volunteers at LCOS, with a preference for recent past volunteer in LCOS youth programs

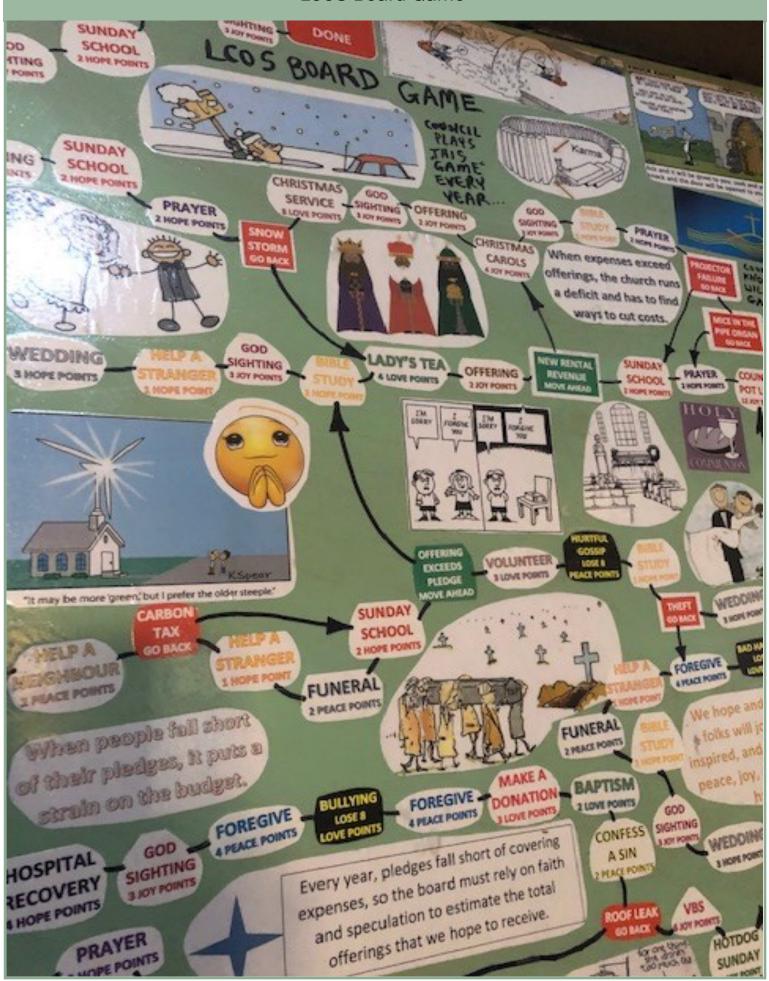
Be organized and reliable

Be able and willing to share leadership as needed resulting from the new pastor's arrival

Be a warm encourager of children and youth

Be comfortable in sharing the love of God in Jesus

LCOS Board Game



Pile of New Pillows



Bring your brand new pillow to LCOS by Easter Sunday, April 12th.

What is the Brenda Strafford Centre? A safe place in Calgary for abused women & children.

For sanitary reasons, every family at the Brenda Strafford Centre receives new pillows when they arrive. When they leave they take those pillows with them.

Contact the Church Office for more details.

Brenda Strafford Centre

The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is a second-stage shelter for women and their children who have fled domestic violence. The Centre offers a safe and secure environment. During their sixmonth stay at the Centre, both women and children are provided with programs and services in a supportive yet independent environment.

Programs and Services include:
Adult, Child & Youth Counselling Programs
Women's Support Group
Progressive Housing
Food Program
Child Care Programs
Multi-cultural Family Support
Follow-Up and Outreach Programs, I Am Courage

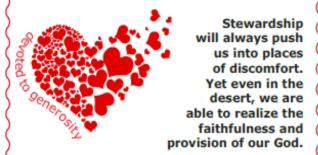


In past years we have made and filled Lenten bags. Rather than filling Lenten bags we have been asked to send the following items to be distributed to families at no cost.

Combs & Hair Brushes
Shampoo & Cream Rinse
Hairspray
Tooth Brushes & Toothpaste
Hand & Body Lotion
Deodorant
Wash Cloths & Hand Towels
Baby Wipes
Dish Soap
Mr. Clean, etc.

We ask that donations to this very worthwhile cause be dropped off at the church by Easter Sunday, April 12th.

Submitted by Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary



Our anxiety over tomorrow leads us into the pursuit and worship of false gods and idols that will never satisfy our needs, but only push us deeper into fear and restlessness. God wants us to trust him and he has given us every reason to do so. He wants this, not only for our good but for the sake of his world and his name. When we trust in the Lord, everyone benefits, maybe not with material possessions or security or good health, but through the presence of God being made manifest with us. This is our hope, our joy, and our mission in stewardship.

In other words, if our treasures in this life are things – money, health, fame, power, comfort – our anxiety will never stop because all of those things can disappear in a moment. But if our treasure is God and his kingdom, anxiety has no place in our lives for there is nothing that can separate us from his love, his presence, his power, and his will being done here on earth just as it is in heaven.



Methods for Giving to LCOS

Envelopes and Loose Giving:

Giving via assigned offering envelopes and loose money can be put into the collection plate at Sunday services.

PAR Program Giving:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) gives the option to give monthly directly from a bank or credit union account.

Interac e-transfer:

Donations are made to email address: donate@oursaviourchurch.ca.

Credit Card & Text Message:

Credit card and text message giving are planned to be put in place in 2020.

Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or blumhagencg@gmail.com or church mailbox # 91) with any questions.

February 2020



Translation tidbit:

Sometimes it's "simple" things that prove to be difficult...

For example, it took us a while to come up with a suitable way to render the generic, indefinite pronoun 'one' in English, which is often used to render the Greek demonstrative pronoun ἐκεῖνος [ekeinos] 'pertaining to an entity mentioned or understood and viewed as relatively remote in the discourse setting'. Simple, right?

Well, we often had na tinoni 'the person, human,' even when it referred to God. This was less than satisfying in verses like Jn. 6:29: "Jesus told them, 'This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent." In Doku we had: Me bosa tughu oli vanira a Jisas me naa, "Na tha te ngaoa a God ta kamu ghalia i ghamu, ta kamu talutunia poa **na tinoni** te nea athe mai a God." In English: Jesus spoke back to them and he said, "What God wants you to do you.all, [is that] you just believe

Unger Update

Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been? I've been to London and I saw the Que...

Wait. Wrong rhyme. Let's try that again:

Daddy-o, daddy-o, where were your travels? I went to the Solomons and I saw Prince Charles.

My recent trip to Solomon Islands was **different from any other trip** I've made over the past five years... It was a bit shorter, a lot busier, and sometimes surreal.

It began with an overnight in Brisbane. While I used to be able to make the flight to Solomon Islands straight through with an hour and a half lay-over in Brisbane, Air Canada changed their flight schedule by an hour, so now I have a 23 hour layover... Instead of moping about it, I got in touch with a friend from seminary days who lives in Sydney. He flew up and we spent those 23 hours together before going our separate ways. It was great to have a day with an old friend that I rarely see—all because of a different flight schedule!

Speaking of old friends [well, not old, but friends from a long time ago. ;-)]... Back in 1999(!) when Cathy and I began our linguistics training at CanlL. Bruce & Raewyn Wiebe were among our teachers (he phonology, and she helping with lexicography and grammar). They were hoping to go help with translation in Vanuatu ('next door' to Solomon Islands), but for various reasons they weren't able to and began teaching at CanlL, preparing others to do translation work. Now Bruce does linguistics consulting, assisting translators around the world. They never lost their heart for translation work in the Pacific, though, and when they found they were going to New Zealand for a family reunion in December, they asked if they could stop in the Solomons on their way to see what translation looks like 'on the ground', and to have their kids help in the work with some hands- (and minds!) on experience. Seeing it as a way to 'give back,' I agreed, and they came to spend two weeks with me in the Solomons. It was good for me to see their different perspective on things—things that I have come to see as commonplace are brand new to others! It was a reminder, too, to take some things slower in order to give my best.

Like translation work... I spent time working with Doku translators while I was there—at least *that* was the same. :-) As is often the case, the temptation is to rush and get through as many verses as possible—time is short, after all! The three of us—two translators and myself—started working through John's gospel, which had been drafted by a third translator. It was a different, but very useful, dynamic. There was a sense in which it was all

Unger Update continued

the human who God sent come."

We wanted to leave room for the 'God' part of the God-man Jesus; he wasn't just human (which tinoni indicates). Working with the two translators together, we came up with this: Me bosa tughu oli vanira a Jisas me naa, "Na tha te ngaoa a God ta kamu ghalia i ghamu, ta kamu talutunia poa **aia** te nea athe mai a God." In English: Jesus spoke back to them and he said, "What God wants you to do you.all, [is that] you just believe him [3sggeneric] who God sent come."

It's the smallest of changes, but the implications are huge! new to them, but with two Doku minds considering the issues we came upon, the solutions were creative but also moderated. It may have been 'slower,' but I feel we made some really good changes to an important book!

Speaking of "important": my time in the Solomons overlapped with a visit from Prince Charles. Not that he came over for tea, or anything, but he paid an official visit to the country. Many wanted to be in his presence—to catch a glimpse, or even better, to shake his hand. That got me thinking that we have **a king who is different from any other**. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about Jesus's appearance, nothing to attract us to him (Is. 53:2)—no one was lining up to shake *his* hand. His kingdom, we're told, is not of this world (Jn. 18:36). But there were those who recognised him for who he was, as early as his birth: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him" (Mt. 2:2). Even though Christmas is long past, his kingdom is eternal.

Serving him with gratitude,

Paul and Cathy



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Wycliffe Bible Translators USA, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200, USA website: www.wycliffe.org

Palm Crosses

We will be making Palm Crosses on Saturday morning, **April 4th** in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin at 9:30, but arrivals are welcome throughout the morning and hope to be finished before noon. If you have never made Palm Crosses, or just want to review the instructions before that Saturday, you will find instruction sheets in Marg Hall's or Karen Smith's mailboxes. If you don't like making crosses but want to come for coffee and snacks only, that is fine too! EVERYONE is welcome! Hope to see you there!



Games Group

The **Tuesday Games Group** is in need of several card tables. If you are able to help this group contact Ruth at 403-271-1485 or Eleanor at 403-236-1800.

Lenten Study

This year's Lenten Study, "The Lutheran Course", will be held on the following Thursdays. Each is a stand-alone session so attendees can come once or to all the sessions, from 7:00—8:30 pm.

Feb 27 How to tell the Difference Between Law and Gospel

Mar 5 Five Things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation

Mar 12 How to Receive Holy Communion

Mar 19 The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did

Mar 26 How to Read the Bible

Apr 2 How to Share Your Faith with Someone

Easter Services



Mark your calendars for the following Worship Services:

Apr 9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Apr 10 Good Friday 7:00 pm

Apr 12 Easter Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 am

Update

Since the announcement of the Call Meeting March 8, several people have asked where **Pastor Julianne** is going when she is done at LCOS. Her former position in the Bishop's office was filled and she will not be returning there. As we have experienced, congregational calls take time and there is nothing on the near horizon for Pastor Julianne. Bishop Larry and Pastor Julianne continue to be in discussion about the possibilities of a next position, which may be anywhere in the country.

God has plans for Pastor Julianne and we continue to pray for understanding and clarity.

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

March 2020 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God -

"giving something up for Lent"



I've often struggled with the notion of "giving something up for Lent." Now don't get me wrong; I am all for spiritual practices and discipline. I'm just not sure that the act of giving up chocolate or movies or texting for Lent can draw us closer to God in and of itself.

Laurence Hull Stookey puts it well when he writes: "Lenten disciplines are not temporary deletions or additions, but spiritual exercises that permanently alter us....The fuller Lenten discipline is a self-examination that seeks greater conformity to the mind of Christ, and more effective ministry on behalf of the world" (Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church, Abingdon Press, 1996, p. 82).

The concept of a period of penitence and preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection through spiritual exercises such as fasting originated as a way of preparing new converts for their baptism, which would occur at the Easter Vigil. As Christianity gained a foothold in the culture and infant baptism became the norm, this time of preparation was extended to include those who had already been baptized.

Within our faith communities' "giving something up for Lent" is frequently heard. "Giving something up" as a reminder of what Christ gave up for us in his incarnation, his life on earth, and his death. But while we may have the right intentions, I wonder if our practices truly alter how we view the world around us; our relationship with Christ; or our relationship with one another.

This Lenten season I encourage you to think deeply about your Lenten observance. Instead of asking what you can give up for Lent, consider what stands in the way of a closer walk with God. Do you need to turn the Netflix off in order to spend more time in prayer and Scripture reading? Then by all means limit your viewing and replace it with devotional time. In other words, whatever we choose ought to bring us closer to Christ himself.

But there is more. Christ gave himself up for others, and through our baptism into Christ we are called to do the same. During Lent, consider what practices will help bring about Christ's kingdom here on earth. Are there people with whom you need to be reconciled? Is there a way to promote justice in your community? What action might you take to care for creation? Are there opportunities to serve the poor, the widow, and the orphan? Asking these kinds of questions will lead us to practices that result in the deep transformation intended by Lenten observances.

This year, rather than simply "giving something up for Lent," I challenge you to give more of yourself to Christ by finding one or two ways in which your life can more fully emulate his. Perhaps these will become habits that don't end with Easter but continue to sustain you throughout the year.

In Christ Jesus - Shalom, +Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

March 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Family Lenten Craft 11:00 Worship Service | 2 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside Group | 3 1:00 Games Group | 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon | 7:00 Drop-In Session (Five Things You Should Know about the Lutherar Reformation) | 6 | 7 6:00 Breakfast at The Seed 8:30 50+ Exercis 11:30 Potluck Luncheon 6:00 A Spies Mal |
| 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Congregational Meeting & Vote | 9 1:00 Memory Plus | 10 | 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11:00 am Praise Team | 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study 7:00 Drop-In Session (How to Receive Holy Communion) | 13 | 14 8:30 50+ Exercise |
| 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service | 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside Group | 1:00 Games Group 7:00 Board Meeting | 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Experiencing God 10:30 Southwood Care Centre 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11:00 am Praise | 7:00 Drop-In Session (The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did) | 20 | 8:30 50+ Exercise |
| 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service | 23 1:00 Memory Plus | 7:00 Today's Pilgrims | 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting NO Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11:00 am Praise Team 8:30 Al-anon Book Club | 26 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study 7:00 Drop-In Session (How to Read the Bible) 7:15 Flock Care | 27 | 28 8:30 50+ Exercise |
| 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service | 30 1:00 Memory Plus April Vine Submission Deadline | 31 | April 9 at 7:00 pm April 10 at 7:00 pm April 12 at 9:00 am & | Go | undy Thursda od Friday Serv ster Sunday Se | vice |