



A Message from Pastor Mathew

LENT: A Time to Slow Down

When spring comes, it's easy to feel good. The sun begins to shine, the flowers start to bloom (eventually), the temperature warms up. When spring comes, it becomes easy for us to just go, go, go! Before we hit the real transition to spring, however, we enter this time of the church year we call Lent. In a time when new life is beginning, it becomes a bit challenging to slow our spirits down as we enter this unseasonable somber time of meditation and reflection.

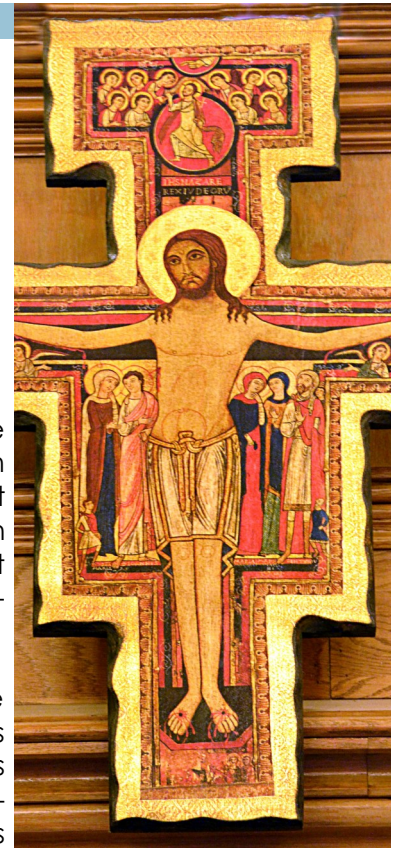
There was a man named Jim who was offered a part-time job at the local post office. His first assignment given to him by his supervisor was sorting the mail. Jim sat down and got to work. Before long, Jim was separating the letters so fast that his motions were almost a blur. Extremely pleased by this, his supervisor approached him at the end of his first day and said, "Jim, I'm very pleased with the job you did today. You're one of the fastest workers we've ever had." "Thank you, sir," Jim said beaming "and tomorrow, I'll try to do even better." "Better?" the supervisor asked with astonishment. "How can you possibly do any better than you did today?" Jim replied, "Tomorrow I'm going to read the addresses."

Lent is a time where we should slow down a bit. Lent offers us a time to consider our walk with Christ. Lent offers us a time to consider our sinfulness, to consider Christ's righteousness and finally to consider God's love that he would exchange our sinfulness for Christ's righteousness. In our busy lives, it's not often we take the opportunity to really reflect on our faith. Still, it's important for us to do.

Jesus tried to take time to get away from the crowds to pray. If he can do it, as popular as he was, we can do it too. We can do more than sit down and sort our prayers, our worries, our joys and our pains, throwing them from here to there just to get through the sorting process quickly. We can sit down and read the addresses, so to speak. We can sit down and reflect on our prayers, reflect on our worries, reflect on our joys, and reflect on our pains.

Being fast is not everything. Speed can be a means but it is not an end. The goal of Lent is not to see how fast we can live, but how well. Take time. Sit and relax. Reflect. Sit with the one who loves you most. There is no time-saving device for Lent. So, let's slow down as best we can and reflect on our faith.

God's Peace to you this month,
Pastor Mathew



*"As the deer
pants for the
water brooks, so
pants my soul
for You, O God"
Psalm 42:1*

OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

To bring people into a covenantal relationship with the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), and to equip them for personal growth and impact.
Ephesians 4:11-26

A Message from Pastor Bill

Why Lent?

Lent gives us the opportunity to recall the consequences of sin and the assurance of being loved by God in Jesus, the Christ. It is a special gift for those who seek a deep walk with God. It gives us the opportunity to tell others (do we need any special opportunity?) about the central facts of our Christian faith - **the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God** to atone for the sins of the world - by inviting them to worship with us.

The message of Lent is what a spring is to a watch, what an engine is to an automobile. If we take the message of the **life, death and resurrection of Jesus** out of our Faith, we are left with an empty shell. The message of Lent is the message of St. Paul (*1 Corinthians 15 - ESV*): "Christ died for our sins...". In Lent we ask God to speak to us at this particular time so we know Jesus, not merely as a concept, but as our Lord and Savior.

Brief History: Around the year 300 A.D. Christianity became "legalized" and Lent became a season of preparation for all Christians, originally lasting only 40 hours. Over centuries, Lent became 30 days, then 36 and, finally, in the reign of Charlemagne, about 800 A.D., Lent lasted the 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Easter. Sundays are not actually days "of" Lent, since they are weekly celebrations of redemption through the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

So, counting on the calendar from Ash Wednesday until Easter (skipping Sundays) we have exactly 40 days, suggested in the Bible by Moses' fast on Mount Sinai (*Exodus 24:18*), by Elijah's fast on his journey to the mount of God (*1 Kings 19:8*) and Jesus's fast in the desert before beginning His earthly ministry (*Luke 4:2*).

The date for Lent is determined by the date for Easter. In 325 A.D., the Council of Nicea determined that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday following the 14th day of the Paschal moon. To start Lent we backup 40 days from Easter.

Lent comes from the old English word for Spring, Lenten. The day before Ash Wednesday (Shrove Tuesday), celebrated in many parts of the world by feasting on the foods disallowed in Lent. This feasting comes from the old custom of using up all the household fats prior to the 40 days of Lent fasting when no fat is used.

Sharing: As we enter the holy season of Lent, we have become accustomed to looking at it as a time in which we need to do something for God, as we journey towards Easter, and ultimately towards heaven. In Lent 2025, perhaps we need to admit that God doesn't need us to do anything, except know that He loves us!

Alive in Christ!

Pastor Bill +

In Our Prayers

David Detwiler
Mary Ann Dunlap
Corey Fischer
David Glenn
Casey Hirsh
Wayne Hizer
George Langford
Karen Matalavage
John Reed
Glenn Ribblett
Suzanne Roberts
Dave Sheridan
Sara Smerkar
Sandy Valenson

Worship Times
Saturday 5 PM
Sunday 9 AM

Faith Education
Sundays

10:15 AM

ConnectFor: Families with Children in Pre-K - Grade 5

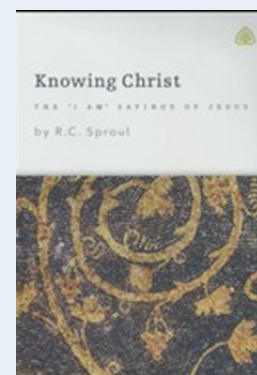
10:30 A

- ✦ Confirmation Grades 6-8
- ✦ High School
- ✦ Adult - Heritage Room

View the video series and discuss **Knowing**

Christ --

the
"I Am"
sayings of Jesus
by R.C. Sproul



See Zion's Website for small group Bible Study.

Finance Committee

Zion's finance committee is in need of 2 willing servants. If you are interested, please contact John Galland at jongalland@sbcglobal.net or 216-280

UNFOLDING VICTORY

NALC LENTEN & EASTER DEVOTIONAL 2025

Devotional available at thenalc.org/Lenten-easter-devotional-2025 or as paper copy at Sanctuary Entrances.

MARCH BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Lukas Buechel	March 3, 2018
Noah Beebout	March 9, 2008
Grace Douglass	March 12, 2023

*If we are missing your child's baptism date, please advise the church office.



**ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**
March 5, 2025 7:00 PM



LENT
PRAYER • FASTING • ALMSGIVING

Lenten Midweek
Prayer Services
Wednesdays,
March 12 – April 9
7:00 p.m.-Heritage Room

Join Pastor Mathew For

SPIRITUAL REALMS

March 12 – Resting in Peace with
Christ

March 19 – The Gloomy Dungeon Prison

March 26 – The Hell of Fire

April 2 – God's Dwelling with Us

April 9 – Purgatory, Limbo and Pop Culture

Wednesdays **IN LENT**
7:30 P.M. in the Library

YOUTH MINISTRY

Suggested Donation

1 serving

Adults \$8.00

Senior/Child \$6.00

All you can Eat

Adult \$11.00

Senior/Child \$10.00

Take Out Available

Invite everyone!



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Come and support this
Youth Fundraiser
March 4 - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

SARRIS EASTER CANDY FUNDRAISER



Please consider ordering your Easter Candy through Zion's Youth Easter Candy Fundraiser. Order forms are available at the side entrance to the Sanctuary or in the Narthex.

Forms and payments due: March 6, 2025

Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church.

Order Pick-Up: April 6, 2025

If you prefer to shop online or have friends/family members that live out of town and would like to support the youth, there is easy online ordering at <https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/> using **Group ID# 10-1370**. Sarris will charge a \$5.00 flat

JOIN US FOR LENTEN MEALS

Wednesdays at 6 PM

March 5 - April 9

If you are willing and able to provide soup, salad, bread/rolls or a dessert for these meals, please sign up by calling Karen Stoddart at 412-580-5814, complete sign up sheet in narthex or via mealtrain address below.

3/5/25	https://mealtrain.com/535omz	3/26/25	https://mealtrain.com/635ood
3/12/25	https://mealtrain.com/73qr5m	4/2/25	https://mealtrain.com/235oom
3/19/25	https://mealtrain.com/33eoo	4/9/25	https://mealtrain.com/zzdl4d

Internet Safety: Social Media and Cyberbullying

FREE Lunch & Learn Seminar

Helping Parents and Teens Navigate the Digital World Safely

SATURDAY

29

MARCH

2025

10AM-12PM



SCAN ME

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4301 BROWNSVILLE RD. PITTSBURGH, PA 15236

Register Online or By Phone
(412) 881-5512

Register by 3/22/25

Council of Elders Goals and Cabin Meetings - Heritage Room

The COE shared their 2025 goals at the annual meeting. They are working hard on the 6-month action items and would like your help and input. You are invited to attend any or all of the cabin meetings below. If you have an interest, idea, or uplifting opinion to share in any of the areas below, we look forward to seeing you.

2/23 11:45am - Financial Communication

3/9 11:45am - High School and Financially-Backed Youth Ministry

3/16 11:45am - Holistic Health Strategy

3/22 6:15pm - Worship Attendance

3/23 11:45am - Supporting and Promoting ConnectFor