

Voice of St Luke

February 2021



The 40 Days of Lent

This Wednesday, the 17th, is Ash Wednesday. The day which begins our 40 days of Lent.

Why 40 days? The season of Lent is a construct of the ancient church going back to the 2 century. It is not commanded in Scripture however the practice is deeply spiritual and can be good food for our faith.

During these days of the China Virus pandemic the word quarantine has become part of our every day speech. If you're infected by the China Virus you're asked to self quarantine for 10 or 14 days. This is actually a misnomer.

The original "quarantine" was established in Italy in the 14th century. It was for 30 days and was therefore called **trentino**, because it lasted for a thirty-day isolation period. This period of isolation was later extended to 40 days and renamed **quarantino**, a term

derived from the Italian word quaranta, which means "forty". This is where we get **quarantine**.

The reasons for extending to 40 days is unclear but some think that it relates to our Christian observance of Lent. In which the 40-day period of spiritual purification is a reflection of Jesus' 40 day temptation in the wilderness.

ASH WEDNESDAY
First Day of Lent



The word "lent" has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for "spring," Lenz. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin's death.

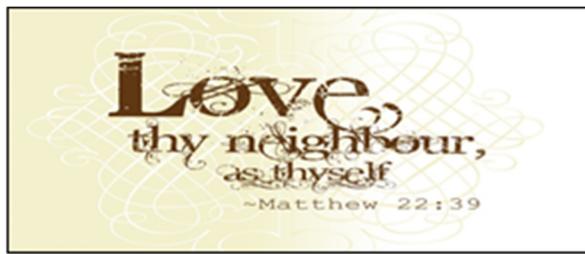
During the 40 days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: traditionally this can include; repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a time in which God's people prepare with joy for the paschal feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people's zeal in

faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we enjoy the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

Calendar: Ash Wednesday may fall as early as February 6 or as late as March 10. The dates for Lent depend on the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter.

Customs: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when ashes are placed on the forehead to symbolize repentance. The color for this service is black or purple. The color for the rest of Lent is purple. The hymns and services of Lent do not include the joyful word, "Alleluia."

It is a common tradition during LENT to abstain or to give up something for Lent. This is a personal decision and can be Consider fasting during daylight hours. Fasting or some other Lenten observance is up to you. Those observances do not forgive our sins, but they may help us center our thoughts on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which does forgive our sins.



Love Thy Neighbor

During this season please keep in mind our "Love Thy Neighbor" fund. We have put aside funds with which we can give

help in the form of a one time grant, up to \$300.

The target of these grants are those who would not otherwise qualify for government assistance but just need a little help.

For an example, a retired couple's car needs tires. They're on a fixed income and paying their taxes, making their bills but there's no room in the budget to pay for car repair. This couple could apply for a grant and receive up to \$300 paid directly to tire shop.

In order to receive a grant, the applicant must fill out a grant application. The grants are limited to those who live in Pulaski County and the surrounding area.

If you are aware of a family or individual in need of help, please tell Pastor Tom. If you would like to contribute to the fund just mark your envelope "Love Thy Neighbor".

Lenten

Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Feb 17th Service at 7PM

Mid-week Services beginning Feb 24th 6:30PM

All mid-week Services and Sundays will be live streamed on our FACEBOOK page, "St. Luke Lutheran Winamac"

Our Holy Week schedule will be posted as Easter approaches.

Easter this year is April 4th

In these days of the China Virus schedules can change please check our Facebook or web page as the dates grow closer.

