



### Lent: A Season of Growth and Transformation

As a native Californian, growing up in a middle-class suburb of San Francisco, I was deprived. So were many of my generation who were natives of the Golden State. We first discovered our poverty in 1962, when the Bay Area was hit with a very rare snowstorm, acquainting us firsthand with "Winter". This, and reruns of the movie "White Christmas" left some of us with the impression that we Californians were somehow "gypped" out of what must be the most wonderful season of the year. It must be great to have snow every Winter!

Those of you who are lifelong Minnesotans are probably smiling at such naïve thinking. Nevertheless, I maintain that the deprivation of Californians is real- real, because we cannot understand the immense psychological power of the seasonal shift from Winter to Spring. Five years in Iowa changed that for Bev and me. We also learned that March is when mental and even spiritual yearnings hit a peak. It is no accident, but rather a fruit of the liturgical genius of the early church that Lent, the season of penitence and preparation preceding Holy Week and Easter, falls at this time of year. It's natural. It is a time of turning. On Ash Wednesday, we repent, turning away from our human schemes (we are dust, and to dust we shall return), and forsaking the sin in us. We start Lent (which comes from an Old English word meaning "lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days which marks the season.) As Lent progresses, daylight increases, and we turn toward the Light. It's natural, but powerfully spiritual- especially in regions where the grip of Winter is intense.

In observance of Lent, many Christians choose to fast, giving up something loved, as a means of saying "no" to our sinful, selfish nature and "yes" to our Cross. The ancient church recognized this discipline as an aid in the call to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23-24) and mortify sin's addictive power over us (Romans 6:1-14).

But Lent is more than a choice; it is a transformative journey. We hear about and reflect upon Jesus' own journey to the Cross, and follow in His steps. We learn His way. Our walk leads us to Palm Sunday. We enter the Passion (suffering) of our Lord- Last Supper, Crucifixion and the Tomb. These are the events that transform us forever. As dead earth is being renewed, *we* are being renewed, once again marked as the Lord's own.

Only a day or two before His crucifixion, Jesus told His followers, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:24)." Once again, it's natural- but so profoundly spiritual. The death of the one Seed, Jesus, means life for many more. And His rising means that all who are "planted" with Him will also rise with Him. And so, at Easter we bring out the Alleluias that were "buried" on Ash Wednesday, and we proclaim "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!" knowing that we too will someday be raised. The light grows, the earth warms, and the dramatic change of seasons reinforces that the entire universe has turned. Christ has reversed death. Life wins, and His kingdom grows- spiritually and numerically, until that Day when there will be a new heavens and earth, and we live and reign forever with Him (Revelation 20:4c). What a glorious day that will be! Sounds like- dare I say it? "Endless Summer"! (OK, I know...this isn't California, and we're not the Beach Boys...)

Straddling Lent as it does, March is indeed a month of change. This March, we mark new beginnings. CtK starts a new season with a new pastor. Bev and I have a new state, new church home, new congregation, new friends, and a new beginning. This March is packed with psychological and spiritual significance. Yet Bev and I know that in this season of changes, the Lord is with us, and you, the good people of Christ the King Lutheran Church, are with us as well. I am so grateful to begin this new pastoral call with you. Your generosity, kindness and love are amazing. Now, we are fellow travelers, co-laborers in the Lord's vineyard- friends, brothers and sisters in the faith- *in* season, *out of* season, and *whatever* the season.

Blessings and love in Christ,  
Pastor Eric Ishimaru

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pastor Eric begins his ministry at CtK on Wednesday, March 1





## WOW

For the WOW meeting, Saturday, March 11, 9:30 a.m., the Charity Fellowship group will be serving and for Sunday morning Fellowship during the month of March the Joy Fellowship group will host.

**Attention, Ladies!** Pastor Eric will be joining us for our March WOW meeting and will lead us in a Bible Study. PLEASE share our joy in welcoming him! Coming to our 9:30 am meeting will present a wonderful opportunity to visit with him on a one-to-one basis. WOW Fellowship can also be a meaningful way of adding a new dimension to your Lenten journey. Remember, **it's March 11 at 9:30 am** for treats and fellowship with our new pastor. Bring your Bibles!

Just a reminder: **The Soap Box in the narthex** is an on-going ministry and people are in need of these personal items as much as ever. The personal items we take for granted (soap, toothpaste, wash cloths, etc., on a daily basis) are like gold to those who do not have them. The Minnesota Action Council representative sincerely thanks you for your caring and generosity.



## DESIGNATED FUNDS

### YTD & Carried Forward Designated Funds (as of January 2023):

Year-To-Date General  
Fund Budget Totals as of  
1/31/23

GF Offering: \$16,682.82

GF Budget: \$20,803.50

Short: (\$4,120.68)

GF Offering: \$16,682.82

GF Expense: \$18,505.36

GF Short: (\$1,822.54)

Building:	1,381.01
Adult Education:	38.27
Sunday School:	144.56
Scholarship:	294.88
Youth Group:	1,062.74
Memorial:	6,121.68
Mission tithes:	4,311.40
Mission Offering:	285.00
Quilters:	1,320.30
Property:	530.78
Property Sub Account	
Building Impr.	1,320.00
Pastor's Fund	5,000.00
Audio/Visual:	4,307.44
Evangelism:	13.23
Evangelism Sub Acct	
Pastor's Moving	5,155.00
Light house Worship	11,667.86
Worship Fund:	<u>626.49</u>
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED</b>	<b>43,580.64</b>

5th Grade 1st Communion classes begin Wednesday, March 1st, and will run through Wednesday, March 29th, 5:30-6:15pm. 5th Graders will receive 1st Communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 6th. Please email Kristy [sec.kjenzen.ctl@gmail.com](mailto:sec.kjenzen.ctl@gmail.com) to register your child for 1st Communion classes if you haven't already done so.

## Biblical Roots of Common Phrases

### Biblical Phrase: "The Music of the Spheres"

**Meaning:** This phrase refers to the intertwined relationships between the harmonies and the unity that connect the structures of music with those of the physical astronomical world.

**Biblical Origins:** Written over two thousand years before Christ, we find in the Book of Job: "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said . . . Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth . . . when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for Joy?" Job 38:1-7 (emphasis added.)

Later, Aristotle attributed "this symphony of the heavens . . . this music of the spheres to Pythagoras . . . but Pythagoras alone, of all mortals, is said to have heard this harmony . . . [this] supremely lovely music of the wheeling stars." (John Milton) Pythagoras had, in effect, discovered music theory and within it, musical spacing, octaves and vibrations. From this discovery he proposed that a similar harmony and order existed in the planetary cycles and orbits; creating an astronomical theory that he called "The Music of the Spheres". As Plato recorded in The Republic, "As the eyes, said I, seem formed for studying astronomy, so do the ears seem formed for harmonious motions: and these seem to be twin sciences to one another." Today, when we sing Pastor Maltbie Babcock's hymn "This Is My Father's World", the author uses "music of the spheres" referencing both the Book of Job, Aristotle, Plato and Pythagoras's astronomical theory:

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears*

*All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.*

*This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought.*

(Lutheran Study Bible, Plato: The Republic: Word and Phrase Origins, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

THERE ARE MANY COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN AT OUR CHURCH. ALL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS COULD USE MORE PEOPLE. THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME & TALENTS. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. NO INVITATION NEEDED, JUST SHOW UP.

PROPERTY:  
MARCH 7, 6:30PM

WORSHIP:  
MARCH 1, 5:00 PM

SAT., MARCH 11  
MEN'S BIBLE: 8 AM  
WOW: 9:30 AM

EVANGELISM  
MARCH 28 6:30PM

EDUCATION:  
MARCH 28, 6:30PM

QUILTERS:  
TUESDAYS 10:00AM-3PM

CHOIR:  
WEDNESDAYS AFTER MID-WEEK SERVICE DURING LENT

USHERS:  
NEEDED MONTHLY .  
CONTACT GARRY HUCKFELDT, CHURCH OFFICE OR SIGN-UP GENIUS

READERS:  
READ DURING SERVICES ON A ROTATION  
CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS WILL SING IN CHURCH SUNDAY,**

**MARCH 12TH and again on Palm Sunday, April 2, at both services.**

**ALTAR GUILD:** Thank you to those of you who have signed up to donate flowers to beautify our worship space this year -- it is very much appreciated. If you would like to sign up for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, this would be wonderful -- this way we will always have flowers for Communion Sundays, and they should last all month. If there is more than one Sunday in the month with Communion, we'll use those same flowers; however, you are more than welcome to also donate -- multiple bouquets certainly won't be turned away!!! I can order the flowers for you if you let me know what you'd like to spend and what you'd like -- I'll take care of the rest. I know that 2 altar bouquets can get expensive so if 2 families want to go together, that is totally fine. The new sign-up sheet is on the closet door by the restroom in the Gathering Area. If it's for a special occasion, please note that on the sign-up sheet and we'll get it in the bulletin. If you have any questions, contact Peggy Olson, 507-461-1124 or e-mail [grandmacurves@yahoo.com](mailto:grandmacurves@yahoo.com). Thank you!



**CHOIR:** Choir will practice Wednesdays after the mid-week Lenten church service. Newcomers are more than welcome to come join us!!!!

### **GREETERS FOR MARCH**

March 5: Ken & Peggy Olson

March 12: Maynard & Elaine Breck

March 19: Jerry & Karen Meister

March 26: Naomi & Greg Easton

### **MARCH USHERS**

#### **NEEDED:**

Carol Carter midweek Lenten services.

**We need ushers for March and April.**

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE**

**We will continue with one church service at 9:00 a.m. until PALM SUNDAY.** Beginning Palm Sunday, April 2nd, we will return to having 2 Sunday morning worship services — Traditional at 8:30 am and Contemporary at 10:45 am with Sunday School from 9:45 until 10:30 and Fellowship between services. We will need ushers for the 2 services so please be sure to sign up to help. We are looking forward to having two worship services again and hope we'll have a good turnout for the Fellowship time between services.

### **LENT IS HERE!!!**

This year's Lenten theme is "Behold the Man!" and deals with themes related to the humanity of Christ—for example: praying, suffering, having a mother, etc. We are planning on having Midweek Lenten Services every Wednesday, March 1—March 29, at 6:30 pm. Pastor Eric will be here March 1st to begin leading our worship services and we hope you will join us for these services. The King's Choir will practice immediately following the Wednesday evening worship service.

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### ***BIBLE STUDIES WITH PASTOR ERIC!***

We will start up the men's Saturday morning / breakfast & Bible study on Saturday, March 11th. The men will be at 8:00 am followed by WOW at 9:30 am. These Bible Studies / meetings will be held the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Pastor Eric would like to bring back the Thursday morning women's Bible study beginning Thursday, March 8th at 9:30 a.m.

He's looking forward to getting to know everybody and hopes you will come join him.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SHOUT-OUT!!!**

Each month we are going to give a "shout out" to the Sunday School kids who get their memory work done. This month's shout-out goes to Eli Jenzen for memorizing the Ten Commandments and to Drew Johnson who memorized the Lord's Prayer!!!! KUDOS TO YOU BOTH!!!

