

Lent is upon us, my friends. Our forty days of prayer, sacrifice, and reflection have begun. The ash smudges upon our brows may have been rubbed away, but we still bear the sign of the cross throughout the Lenten season.

The tradition of giving up something for Lent is to remind us of Christ's sacrifice for us. It is done in recognition of what Christ went through in order to bring us salvation. This is why we sacrifice something that we love, something that we feel we couldn't live without, and something that's difficult to give up. We give up something that has taken a place in our hearts that should be for the Lord. We do this not as a Christian form of a New Year's resolution, but because it is how we honor Christ.

Lent, however, shouldn't just be a subtraction from our lives. We shouldn't just stop at no chocolate or less coffee. No, let us add to our lives as well. Let's replace what we give up with a spiritual practice that will help us grow closer to our Lord.

Let us take on a spiritual practice that helps us better reflect upon God and prepare ourselves for the Easter season. This Lent is a chance to set aside time every day for prayer. It is a chance to begin Bible journaling. Most of all, it is a chance to sit and reflect on God's grace and involvement in our lives. Let this Lenten journey be a time of recommitment and a re-centering of our lives.

I also want to invite you to join us in our Lenten series based on the Sermon on the Mount. We'll be discussing and looking at Jesus's teachings for us and how we can live into them. I look forward to hearing your insights and thoughts this Lenten season as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. God Bless, Pastor Ed

**Enrollment for the 2023-24 Little Ones' Preschool** year is open to all LUMC church families and current preschool families NOW.

Families in the community and surrounding areas may register beginning March 13. Your child must be 3 years old before August 1, 2023 for our Preschool classes and age 4 before August 1, for our Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Registration forms will be available in the church office or from Carlene Weber.

**TOPS Club** is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Room 206, use north east door. Looking for new members to join us!

### **Cardio Drumming**

Classes are Saturdays at 9:00 AM in Trodie Hall. FREE Bring a 55 to 75 cm ball, a 25+ gallon bucket and drum sticks. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

## Coming Up!

**Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, February 25, 7:00 PM**

**Lenten Study beginning Sunday, February 26, during Sunday School.**

**Pastor Ed will lead a study on the Sermon on the Mount  
from Matthew 5-7.**

**Fellowship Meeting – Thursday, March 2, 7:00 PM**

**Women's Executive Meeting – Saturday, March 4, 10:00 AM**

**Not Quite a Lock-In Pajama Party Movie Night  
and Parents Date Night**

**Saturday, March 4, 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 12**

**Blood Drive – Tuesday, March 14, 2:30 – 6:30 PM**

**Palmer's Community Complex**

**Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM**

**Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, March 22, 10:00 AM**

### **Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule**

**February 26 Danny & Cheri**

**March 5 Jean L.**

**March 12 Pastor Ed & Rita**

**Please plan to bring about 4 dozen cookies. Thank You**

### **Food Pantry Needs:**

pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, rice, pasta or potato sides, macaroni & cheese,  
Hamburger Helper, soup, shelf stable milk

*Thank you for supporting our Food Pantry*

### *Thank You*

To: ALL the children at Little Ones' Preschool

Thank you so much for the cards and great craft work that you send me. Always remember  
GOD Loves you and I do too. Happy Valentine's Day

Mrs. Varmel Sykes

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and cards as I recuperate from my fractured pelvis.

I so appreciate everyone's kind words during this time.

Christ's love to all. Martha Tyler