

**March Calendar 2025**

**Events**

**Anniversary & Birthdays**

Saturday	1-Mar		1-Mar	(B) Jordan Williams
Sunday	2-Mar	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School	2-Mar	(B) Janet Schukar
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Monday	3-Mar	(E) 7pm Ladies' Aid Meeting		
Wednesday	5-Mar	(E) 7pm Ash Wednesday	5-Mar	(B) Shelley Dothager
Saturday	8-Mar		8-Mar	(B) Sarah Sasse
Sunday	9-Mar	Daylight Savings Time Begins	9-Mar	(B) Manny Brooks
		(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Monday	10-Mar		10-Mar	(B) Sydney Austin
				(B) David Kruenegel
Wednesday	12-Mar	(E) 7pm Lenten Service		
Thursday	13-Mar		13-Mar	(B) Norma Gable
Sunday	16-Mar	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Tuesday	18-Mar		18-Mar	(B) Benton Hickerson
Wednesday	19-Mar	(E) 7pm Lenten Service		
Sunday	23-Feb	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		
Wednesday	26-Mar	(E) 7pm Lenten Service		
Thursday	27-Mar		27-Mar	(B) Nathan Collier
				(B) Charles Wasmuth Jr.
Friday	28-Mar		28-Mar	(A) Errol & Linda Rhodes 1980
				(B) Patricia Grandt
Sunday	30-Mar	(E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School		
		(E) 10am Worship Service		

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March 2025

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

During the forty days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: 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 may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. (Treasury of Daily Prayer - Ash Wednesday (CPH, page 26))

Concerning repentance the Lutheran Confessions teach:

This is God's thunderbolt. By the Law He strikes down both obvious sinners and false saints. He declares no one to be in the right, but drives them all together to terror and despair. This is the hammer. As Jeremiah says, "Is not My word like . . . a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (23:29). This is not active contrition or manufactured repentance. It is passive contrition, true sorrow of heart, suffering, and the sensation of death.

This is what true repentance means. Here a person needs to hear something like this, "You are all of no account, whether you are obvious sinners or saints (in your own opinions). You have to become different from what you are now. You have to act differently than you are acting, whether you are as great, wise, powerful, and holy as you can be. Here no one is godly."

But to this office of the Law, the New Testament immediately adds the consoling promise of grace through the Gospel. This must be believed. As Christ declares, "Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15) That is, become different, act differently, and believe My promise. John the Baptist (preceding Christ) is called a preacher of repentance, but this is for the forgiveness of sins. That is, John was to accuse all and convict them of being sinners. This is so they can know what they are before God and acknowledge that they are lost. So they can be prepared for the Lord (Mark 1:3) to receive grace and to expect and accept from Him the forgiveness of sins. This is what Christ Himself says, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in (My) name to all nations" (Luke 24:47). (Smalcald Articles III III 2-6 (Reader's Edition, CPH)).

With this in mind, giving up a favorite food or an enjoyable activity for the season of Lent is an old custom, designed to remind us of everything that Jesus gave up for us in His suffering and death for our salvation. The Lutheran Reformers did not reject this custom, but they did warn against the idea that there is a direct spiritual benefit to be had from such a deprivation. They emphasized that we grow spiritually through faith in the Gospel, and not through the denial of bodily comforts.

In keeping with this emphasis, a uniquely Lutheran way of "giving something up for Lent" developed, namely the giving up of time, through going to church for an extra midweek service. Every Wednesday evening during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5, we will likewise have a chance to give up an hour of our time – time that we might otherwise use for

recreation and relaxation, or a family activity – and dedicate that hour instead to the hearing of God’s Word, and to the singing of hymns that will help us reflect on the meaning of Christ’s suffering and death on our behalf.

In our giving up of time in this way, we not only remind ourselves of what Jesus gave up for us – which was a lot more than an hour of recreation and relaxation! – but we also use that time to expose ourselves to the Gospel of Christ. For only the Gospel, and faith in the Gospel, can draw us closer to Christ, and bring greater spiritual maturity to our lives. Any physical deprivation, in and of itself, cannot do that.

This year, the theme for our Lenten midweek services is God’s Gift of Forgiveness, especially as we find this forgiveness in the seven penitential psalms and in the practice of Confession and Absolution. The sermons in this series expound on the nature of sin as seen in the psalms, the devastating effects it has on the soul and the conscience, and what we receive through God’s gift of the forgiveness of sins in our Lord Jesus Christ. Each sermon also includes a portion of the Small Catechism for meditation and connection to the larger life of the Church.

March 5 - Ash Wednesday - Psalm 6 *Save Me Because of Your Unfailing Love*

March 12 - Psalm 32 *Save Me Because of Your Unfailing Love*

March 19 - Psalm 38 *Make Haste to Help Me*

March 26 - Psalm 51 *Against You of For You*

April 2 - Psalm 102 *But You, O Lord, Are Enthroned Forever*

April 9 - Psalm 143 *Teach Me to Do Your Will, For You Are My God*

April 17 - Maundy Thursday - Psalm 116 *Delivered*

April 18 - Good Friday - Psalm 130 *Divine Forgiveness*

April 20 - Easter - Psalm 16 *The Path of Life*

God bless you always.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Landskroener

Here are the readings for the upcoming Divine Services:

March 2 The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Deut. 34:1-12

Heb. 3:1-6

Luke 9:28-36

March 16 Lent 2

Jer. 26:8-15

Phil. 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 5 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-19

2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

March 23 Lent 3

Ezek. 33:7-20

1 Cor. 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 9 Lent 1

Deut. 26:1-11

Rom. 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 30 Lent 4

Is. 12:1-6

2 Cor. 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

***GriefShare this Spring in Salem*** - Salem Lutheran Church will be hosting *GriefShare* this spring, offering support and encouragement for those navigating the loss of a loved one. Sessions begin on **Thursday, March 6th**. If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, we encourage you to sign up and spread the word. You can register by calling **Salem Lutheran Church at 618-548-3190**, visiting [salemlic.org](http://salemlic.org), or going to [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). We're here to walk alongside you in this journey.

**SACRED MUSIC FOR THE SEASON OF LENT...** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," "My Song Is Love Unknown," "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth." Beginning Ash Wednesday, you can listen to sacred music for the season of Lent 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), TuneIn, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**From our friends at St. Peter:** "SIGN UP NOW FOR THE PRO-LIFE MARCH IN SPRINGFIELD on Tuesday, March 25. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the podium in the narthex. You must be 18 years of age or older to ride the bus, unless you have a chaperone. Please sign up as soon as possible, so that we know how many to plan for. Let's pack the bus and make sure our message is heard that we support the sanctity of life, not just against abortion, but also for the protection of the young and elderly."

**Pro-Life March** - Altamont area Lutherans for Life will sponsor a free bus to the Illinois March for Life on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Springfield. The bus will leave the back parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7:30 AM. Bring a sack lunch or food will be available at Trinity Lutheran Church for a small fee. Sign up sheets, are in the narthex at the church or you can call the office here at Immanuel at 618-483-6395 to reserve a spot. The bus will return to the parking lot at Immanuel by 5:30 PM.

**Portions of brick are crumbling away**, water is leaking in between the masonry frames and the windows, and mortar joints are opening in brick walls. The current Dollar for Missions project is \$25,000 for masonry work and repointing at University Lutheran Church in Champaign. These funds will help to correct masonry wear-and-tear on the 70-plus-year-old church and student center. University Lutheran Church has served many thousands of students with the Gospel of Christ over 70+ years. Please help to provide a space for another 70 years of distributing Christ's gifts!

**Full or Part-Time Teacher Opening at CORLHS** - Christ Our Rock has full or part-time staffing needs in Drivers Education, Computer Applications, Physical Education, and Spanish for the 2025-2026 school year. Interested parties should send resumes to Mr. Don Duensing, Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, 9545 Shattuc Road, Centralia, IL 62801, 226-3315, [dduensing@corlhs.org](mailto:dduensing@corlhs.org).

**Contact** Pastor Landskroener 330-204-4180 or email [lawandgospel@hotmail.com](mailto:lawandgospel@hotmail.com) for a Pastoral visit.

**Do you have a cell phone?** Do you text? Do you have a home phone? Some do some don't. How do you want to be contacted by the Church? The Church would like to contact you via text with any info, updates or closings. To receive a text message, you will need to give us your cell number. Normal text fees will apply. Please provide info to Scott with a note or email [storbeck@augzburgchurch.com](mailto:storbeck@augzburgchurch.com) or text 618-367-3355

**Parish Hall reservations** – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities, you will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don't know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

# Bible Word Search:

## PRAYER & FASTING

S B X M G N C F L A F E H P S  
N P Y G C R A F A Z J D A E K  
O O A T I B B B U S N D L N U  
I X I S C M M Z K E T F V E O  
N P I T W E E K Z L E I S M B  
I S O Q A S A V M X I T N O U  
M D H Y O L H E A L I N G G P  
O S K P R N E M W I A M D J R  
D Q R N S Y I V G B P C K S A  
G U R E C N A R E V I L E D Y  
P O A I A O S J A R J X F I E  
E S N T R Q X K Y J O F K K R  
H R I I D U G M I P Z A L A L  
T O I N U J W F J E D N I Z V  
N H Q G R C G K K R P O S R E

PURPOSE	PRAYER	DELIVERANCE
SELF-EXAMINATION	CRISIS	HEALING
REVELATION	DOMINION	FASTING

### Prayer & Fasting:

1-day fast - deliverance, self-examination (Ezra 8:23; Psalm 35:14)

3-day fast - crisis, healing (1 Samuel 30; Esther 4:16)

21-day fast - revelation (Daniel 10:2-3)

40-day fast - dominion (Luke 4)

Prayer - Ephesians 6:18; Psalm 34:17; John 15:7; Philippians 4:6

Fasting - Isaiah 58:6; Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 1:4; Mark 9:29;

Acts 13:2; Joel 1:14