

# Holmes United Methodist Lenten Update!

February, 2024  
2102—2nd Ave. N  
Reynolds, ND 58275



## Lent Begins on February 14

Lent isn't easy. For example, bad weather or roads. At a January meeting the parish council made plans for Lent. These plans include having Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday in our three churches. And we are welcomed to Hatton St. John on the other Wednesdays of Lent. The overall schedule is below.

The theme of Lent will be the "Best Practices of the Faith" and you can see the specific topics for each service in the schedule. The services at St. John will include a 6:00 pm soup and sandwich fellowship to which we are all invited. Chaplain Mark will lead one of the St. John services (likely March 6), with Pastor Bruce Vold leading the others. Mark will also lead the services in our parish churches.

Lent is an opportunity for us to grow in our relationship with the Lord. This growth will take a little effort on our part – like attending services when possible and thinking about these themes for another. See the pastor's column in this update for more.

Below is the schedule for Lent. The themes are listed (and remember that St. John services are preceded by a 6:00 pm soup supper!).

**February 14 is Ash Wednesday Worship** with imposition of ashes at 7:00 pm in Beaver Creek. "Humility."

**February 21 at 7:00 pm in St. John.** "Kindness"

**February 28 at 7:00 pm in St. John.** "Gratefulness"

**March 6 is at 7:00 pm in St. John.** "Generosity"

**March 13 is at 7:00 p in St. John.** "Patience"

**March 20 is at 7:00 pm in St. John.** "Contentment"

**March 28 at 7:00 pm in Trinity is Holy Thursday** Communion.

**March 29 at 7:00 pm is Good Friday** at Holmes. "Sacrifice."

**March 31 is Easter Services** in all three churches. "Resurrection."



**FOR PASTORAL CARE:**  
*contact a Holmes leader or  
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### **February 11 Worship at 9:30 am Brunch.**

On Sunday, February 11 Holmes will meet in the lower level for a brunch and prayer time instead of a traditional service. It will not be streamed, so come if you can. Bring food if you like, but there will be plenty if you can't.

## *Glorify and Enjoy God*

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* I Corinthians 10:31



Living as a Christian has to do with our relationship to God. According to Martin Luther’s catechism (a collection of teachings) the “chief end” of humans is “to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” The Corinthians verse above also speaks of doing everything to the glory of God.

But how do we go about doing that? Throughout church history people have tried to create ways to get closer to God and to honor the faith.

One of those ways is Lent.

You won’t find Lent in the Bible, though the 40 days of Lent is meant to mirror the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness in Matthew 4. This practice came into being sometime after the Council of Nicaea in 325. In Nicaea, the date of Easter was established and mandated as a celebration. Afterward some created the 40 days of Lent to prepare for the celebration of the resurrection.

Lent often focused on fasting, something we don’t practice very much anymore. That was, of course, what Jesus did for 40 days in the desert. You’ve heard of giving up meat on Fridays and other such practices.

The idea of Lent became an emphasis on repentance and sacrifice. In some places people would do extreme things to show their devotion. Long pilgrimages with physical hardship. Sometimes it seemed the ideal was to show how hard a person had been on themselves to the point of bleeding.

That’s what happens to our human practices – they can become an end in themselves. They ebb and flow in strange ways. We end up doing things just because we think we should or because we’ve always done them.

How about if we approached Lent as an opportunity to grow closer to God?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can see some plans we have as a parish. We’ll be working with Hatton St. John with a theme of “Best Practices of the Faith.” As you approach the services ask God to meet you, to speak through the leader. Find ways to follow-up those services and the themes. In your day-to-day life look for opportunities to give God glory.

So, what about Luther’s words – to glorify God and to enjoy him? The question should not be, “Are we doing what we are supposed to do?” Instead, are we truly glorifying God in what we do? Are we learning how to find joy in him?

Not everything in the Christian life is fun. But everything ought to point us closer to the Lord and in coming closer we will find that joy. Let’s not just go through the motions but make our gatherings times we look for the Lord’s leadership.

See you in Church!  
*Chaplain Mark*



Sunday, March 10 is the time change. Remember to change your clocks!