

May the early spring

Awaken your soul and

Remind you to

Celebrate the season with the

Hope and joy it brings

March 2025

Newsletter

Walking With Grace Through Lent



As March arrives, we find ourselves moving into the heart of Lent—a season that invites us to slow down, reflect, and journey alongside Jesus toward the cross and the promise of resurrection. Lent is often seen as a somber time, marked by fasting, prayer, and self examination. And while it does call us to honest reflection, Lent is not ultimately about guilt or despair—it’s about grace. It’s about drawing closer to the God who meets us not with condemnation but with compassion.

This season reminds us that we are dust—and yet we are beloved dust. God breathes life into us, even when we feel empty or worn down. Lent invites us to let go of what weighs us down and make room for what gives life. Whether you’ve taken on a Lenten practice, given something up, or are simply trying to catch your breath in a busy world, know this: God’s love is not measured by how well we “do” Lent. God’s grace is already with you, guiding you step by step.

As we journey through these weeks together, may you find moments of quiet grace, unexpected joy, and renewed hope. The cross looms on the horizon, yes—but beyond it shines the empty tomb and the promise that death and despair never have the final word.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,

+Pastor Jason

United in Christ Lutheran Church

Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong, Pastor

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A congregation of the



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Regular Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Weekly Worship: Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.

All We Need

Lent 2025

Ash Wednesday, March 9 - Good Friday, April 18, 2025

What do you need?

What do you need to survive and thrive? We all know that we need oxygen to breathe, food to eat, water, and shelter.

If you go deeper, what else do you need? Sleep, perhaps? Human contact? An abiding sense of purpose? Prayer? Maybe you don't think you need those things at all! How many of your needs are subjective?

What do the people in our congregation need? What are they missing and what do they long for? What about our congregation as a whole? What does it need to survive? How are these needs different from what it needs to thrive?

How about our neighbors, the people beyond our church doors? What do the people in our community need? Would the people in Morrisonville describe different needs than the people who worship here? How do our needs as the people of God differ from the needs of people more broadly? For instance, does everyone need to pray?

We need a multitude of different things. This Lenten season, we're going to talk about it in this worship series, **All We Need**.

Each service, we'll explore what the scripture for the season reveals about our needs, personally and communally. Not every weekly need will be obvious. Many go beyond Abraham Maslow's famous hierarchy. Instead, we will explore topics like the need for sleep, change, and beauty. Each week's scripture will redefine and expand what we think of as needs. Some may be difficult to notice before the Spirit nudges us to consider them. Even basic needs are cast in a new light when we consider them from the perspective of our lives as God's people.

Lent Worship Schedule

- + Ash Wednesday, March 5 - Worship @ 6:00 p.m.
- + Midweek Worship*, Wednesdays March 12-April 9 @ 5:30 p.m.
 - *Dinner Church format with meal & worship together.*
 - There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to help provide food.*
- + Regular Sunday Worship @ 8:30 a.m.

Others Needs - Collecting for Lutheran World Relief Care Kits

As part of our Lenten theme we will also be turning our focus outward to the world around us by collecting items for and assembling personal care kits. Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self care, critical germ fighting supplies and the chance for our neighbors in need to regain dignity amidst fear and uncertainty.

Throughout Lent we will be collecting items that go into making these kits. You may bring items to church anytime between Sunday, March 9 and Palm Sunday, April 13 where we will share a breakfast together after worship provided by a grant from Thrivent. We will also accept monetary donations to purchase items.

Each Personal Care Kit Includes:

- One darker colored lightweight cotton or cotton blend bath towel. (20" x 40" to 27" x 52").
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz. total, in any brand, and in original packaging.
- One adult size toothbrush.
- One sturdy comb.
- One metal nail clipper (w/ or w/out nail file).



Here are some tips from Lutheran World Relief:

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 27" X 52" size listed above is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces including camouflage.
- All items should be new and in good condition.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A Preview of Blessed Holy Week

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday - "All We Need: Jesus Needs Our Help"

Worship @ 8:30 a.m.

*Breakfast Following Worship (Provided by a Thrivent Grant)

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Community Worship

Joint Holy Communion worship with the five ELCA congregations in the DeForest Area @ 6:00 p.m. at the DeForest Cornerstone Community Center (505 N. Main St., DeForest) with Rev. Jen Christenson, Associate to the Bishop - South-Central Synod of WI preaching.

Friday, April 18

Good Friday - "All We Need is Love, Protection & New Life"

Worship @ 1:00 p.m. - Tenebrae Service of Solemn Intercessions

Worship @ 7:35 p.m. - Outdoor (Weather Permitting) Service of Increasing Darkness

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday - "All We Need is to Rejoice"

Worship @ 8:30 a.m.

*Cinnamon Roll Coffee Hour Following Worship

March Calendar

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| March 2 | Sunday Worship (8:30 a.m.) - Transfiguration |
| March 5 | Ash Wednesday Worship (6:00 p.m.) |
| March 9 | Sunday Worship (8:30 a.m.) - 1st Sunday in Lent: "Vulnerability" |
| March 12 | Lent Midweek Dinner Church Worship (5:30 p.m.) |
| March 16 | Sunday Worship (8:30 a.m.) - 2nd Sunday in Lent: "Sleep" |
| March 18 | Church Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.) |
| March 19 | Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m.) @ B.B. Jacks - DeForest
Lent Midweek Dinner Church Worship (5:30 p.m.) |
| March 23 | Sunday Worship (8:30 a.m.) - 3rd Sunday in Lent: "Advocacy" |
| March 26 | Lent Midweek Dinner Church Worship (5:30 p.m.) |
| March 30 | Sunday Worship (8:30 a.m.) - 4th Sunday in Lent: "Change" |

From the Congregation President

The Church Council met on February 18th. As part of routine, but needed annually, business the Council voted to appoint Paul to continue serving as the Treasurer and the head of Building and Grounds and to appoint Julie to continue serving as the Financial Secretary. I'm sure the whole congregation agrees with those who are council members that we are very appreciative of their service in these vital roles.

At the current time, we are doing alright financially, but you will recall that we anticipate that we will spend more than we expect to receive in offerings for the year. Using some of the money we are fortunate to have in reserve was part of the longer range plan when the congregation called Pastor Jason. To date, we have used much less of our reserves than we had expected would be necessary.

Pastor noted that we have received a new member, Noreen Schmidt. Noreen is a cousin of Joe Gilles and has been coming to worship with us. She'll be a great addition to the congregation.

We plan to get an estimate on how much it would cost to have the carpet in the sanctuary cleaned. There are many spots that most likely are wine stains. Since it has been quite awhile since the carpet was cleaned, just trying to remove the stains would probably show. Once we have an idea of the cost, we'll need to decide if we want to proceed with hiring a cleaning company or possibly try cleaning the carpet ourselves.

Lent is fast approaching. We will be having midweek Lenten services with a meal starting the week after Ash Wednesday following a format similar to Dinner Church. Those who wish to provide the meal or parts of the meal may sign up on the form in the fellowship hall to do so. BUT, please do **not** feel you need to be one of those who provide the meal in order to come to the service! We want all to participate in the service, food, and fellowship.

- Bob Harm

New Days & Times for Dinner Church After Easter



As noted earlier in the newsletter our Midweek Wednesday Lent worship services will follow our traditional dinner church model. After Easter we are planning to begin our regular twice monthly **Dinner Church worship services on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 5:30 p.m.**

We are already planning ahead to the summer and need your help with our menu. If you have ideas for what we can serve at dinner church or favorite foods you would like to see in the rotation please let us know on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to ideas, if you have recipes you would be willing to share we would love those suggestions as well.

Look for more information on Dinner Church in the April newsletter or contact Pastor Jason.

Kindness Corner!

Thank you from Geno Lainberger to the entire congregation for your prayers and cards – especially during the holiday season – as she has been recovering. She also wishes to thank Pastor Jason for his phone calls, visits, and for providing communion to her. She is eagerly awaiting when she can return to be with us in person regularly.

Easter Flowers

We will be accepting orders for Easter flowers to help adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning. Orders may be placed in honor or memory of someone. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or you can email the church with order information. The cost will be \$15.00 per plant and we are planning on ordering a mix of tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils this year. Payment can be made by cash or check in the offering plate on Sundays or online via credit card.

Working For Christ in March

Altar Guild: Bev Harris
Head Usher: Bob Harm

03/02/2025

Ushers: Rona and Paul Anderson
Reader: Rona Anderson
Communion: Paul Anderson

03/09/2025

Ushers: Karen and Ron Millard
Reader: Julie Molnar
Communion: Chet Gabris

03/16/2025

Ushers: Julie and Dale Molnar
Reader: Thomas Smith
Communion: Bob Harm

03/23/2025

Ushers: Norm Harris and Mark Harris
Reader: Bob Harm
Communion: Karen Millard

03/30/2025

Ushers: Henry Lipke and Marie R-H
Reader: Rona Anderson
Communion: Marie R-H

March Birthdays

- Bob Harm	March 8
- Kelly Schepp	March 9
- Blake Borman	March 10
- Alaina Millard	March 11
- Rodney Maass	March 27
- Cynthia Shirley	March 28

Prayer Concerns

Please continue actively praying for those listed below on our prayer list:

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

For the **people of United in Christ Lutheran Church**

John Kincaid - brother-in-law of Chet Gabris - at St. Mary's Care Center

Betty Bader - at The Legacy, DeForest

Bill Mitchell - friend of the Anderson's - liver cancer

Clifford Netzer - stem cell procedure

Glenn & Sue Vasberg - friends of the Sullivan's - multiple health concerns

Heather Fjelstad-Bunce - niece of Dennis Stephenson - has Leukemia

Dorothy Hasey - at Columbus Health & Rehab

Joanne Quam - continued rehabilitation at home

Geno Lainberger - at Madison Health & Rehab Center

Wyatt McLaughlin - Ivy McLaughlin's brother - recovering at home from an accident

Kathy Olsen - sister-in-law of Dick & Ann Olsen - lung cancer

Monique Duerst - Chandra Diring's mother - recovering from blood clots & infection.

Church Contacts

We have been working to expand our volunteer positions, including welcoming Chandra Diring as our new "Newsletter Editor" with this very newsletter. Here are some updates:

- **Bulletins, Announcements, & Website** Pastor Jason
Email: jason@unitedinchristlutheranchurch.org
by Tuesdays with any weekly announcements or bulletin updates.
- **Monthly Newsletter** Chandra Diring
Email: chandradiring92@gmail.com
by the 17th of the month for inclusions in the next newsletter.
- **Congregation President** Bob Harm
Email: bobharm.d4est@gmail.com
- **Treasurer + Buildings & Grounds** Paul Anderson
Email: paul@unitedinchristlutheranchurch.org

You can always call the church office anytime for all of the above as well at (608) 846-5902.



United in Christ
Lutheran Church

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