



BETHELITE

MARCH 2, 2022: VOL. 70, NO. 5

THIS ISSUE:

CARING FOR CREATION

*A Madison Treasure:
The Lakeshore Nature Preserve
March 8 at 7:30pm via Zoom*

LENT SERMON SERIES

Breaking Bread: Dining Like Jesus

THE STORY OF HOT CROSS BUNS

Those Delicious Hot Cross Buns!

ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY

*Gathering The Community For
Food, Fellowship, Worship*

FAMILY LENT ACTIVITIES

*Six Ideas To Build
Your Family Spiritual Health*



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Color Bethelite provided in part by
Bethel Endowment Foundation*

FREEDOM TO CELEBRATE LENT

In his blog article, Dr. Timothy Tennent, the President of Asbury Theological Seminary, makes a fascinating connection between the Coronavirus and the season of Lent. The word 'Corona' has its origin in Latin and it means "crown". So, the virus is called Corona because when viewed under a microscope it actually looks like a thorny crown.

When you read the Gospel accounts of the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, the Roman soldiers mockingly placed a thorny crown on Jesus because of the accusation that he claimed to be the King of the Jews! The thorny 'corona' on Jesus' head was symbolic of his self-denial and sacrifice. It offers a dramatic picture of Jesus the true King who embraces our brokenness. While our world today is twisted-up with the thorny crown virus, we also turn our attention to the one who takes our diseases and sufferings upon himself. Lent is the season of the church year when we focus in a way that enables us to walk with him in his journey to death and to new life.



*"after twisting some thorns into a crown,
they put it on his head"
-Matthew 27:29*

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The term “Lent” originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which means “spring.” This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.

Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the



Bethel suspends its mask requirement for all gatherings, meetings, and events.

Resurrection. Thus Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

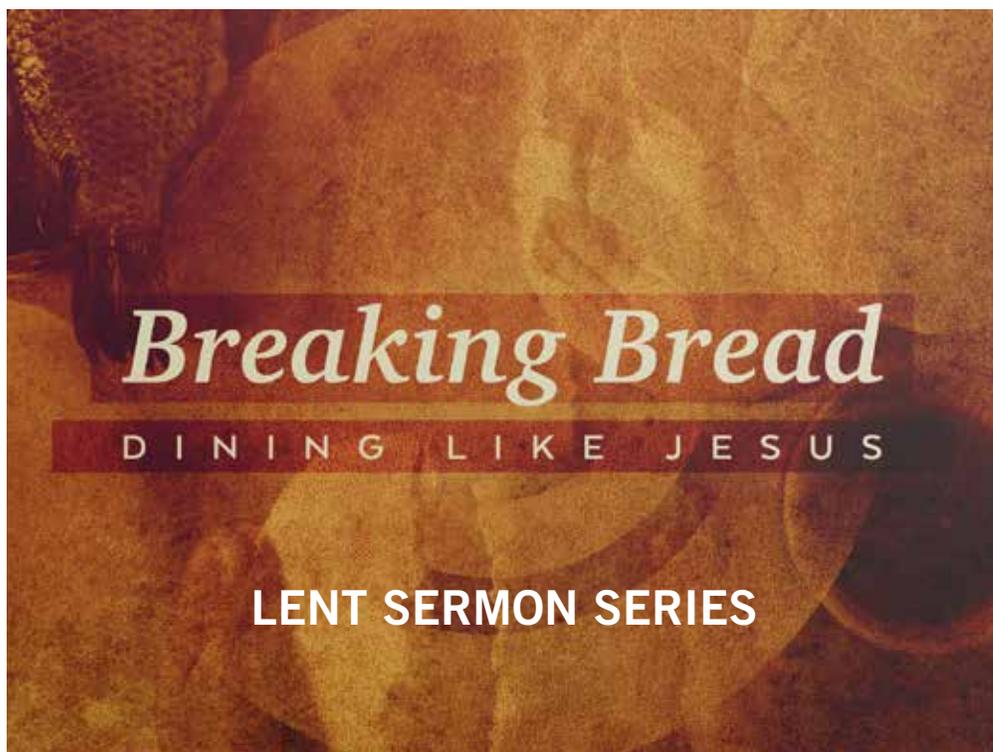
The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of love, practices that help draw us closer to Christ. In many ways, we could say that Covid gave us a two year long season of Lent. Since we have been living with the pandemic for that long, we have been regularly fasting (doing without) so many of the things that give us joy. This includes going to worship to see the smiling faces of our Bethel community, and enjoying the Lord’s Supper or singing praises without masks. It includes spending time with loved ones or being a part of one of any community events. It would have been nice if

Covid gave us a two year long season of Lent.

the coronavirus lent had only lasted 40 days. But it didn’t.

What can we learn from Jesus and his period of Lent? The Bible tells us that Jesus did not go into the desert on his own initiative. It says that “the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert.” None of us entered the pandemic willingly. It was thrust upon us. Does that mean that God brought this on us? Of course, not! But God has been with in this two year Lent as he was with Jesus. In his 40 day trial, Jesus was exposed and alone.

In these two years, we have been exposed to illness, fear, conflict, and loneliness. Just as God brought Jesus out of the wilderness, God is bringing us out of the wilderness. March 1 is the date the county has lifted the mask mandate. Take advantage of the opportunity. Come out of the wilderness. Join together at church. 🌈



THE STORY OF HOT CROSS BUNS

Those delicious hot cross buns! Doughy, raisin-studded treats! Though traditionally eaten during Holy Weeks and especially on Good Friday, many simply cannot resist them all Lent. Marked with an icing or dough cross on top, they've been a holiday staple of some communities for centuries. Versions of the hot cross bun even appeared in ancient Greece. Given the baked good's long history, stories on their origins have had ample time to develop and grow around them. Some say that the hot cross bun originates from St. Albans, in England, where, in 1361, Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, a 14th century monk at St Albans Abbey, developed a similar recipe called an 'Alban Bun' and distributed the bun to the local poor on Good Friday. In 1592, during the reign of Elizabeth I of England, the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree forbidding the sale of hot cross buns and other spiced breads, except at burials, on Good Friday, or at Christmas.

The first definite record of hot cross buns comes from a London street cry: "Good Friday comes this month, the old woman runs. With one or two a penny hot cross buns", in 1733.



MARCH 6—APRIL 3

In Jesus' day, meals were about more than just the bread, olives, grapes, figs, and occasional fish. They were a way to make a statement and to send a message. For most meals, the point being made centered on what did it mean to be a child of God, or more to the point — a Jew. Meals established identity both socially and religiously. In Jesus' world, Jews used meals to reinforce the belief that they were separate from all others and special in God's eyes.



This was the point of both the content of the meal and the manner in which it was served. The meal drove home the message that there are people who are insiders and people who are outsiders to God's care and love. In many ways, the meal was the center of Jewish identity. It is not surprising then, that the table became the place where Jesus delivered some of God's most direct, and for many Jews, stomach-

turning revelations. Through the dozen or more meals that Jesus shares with others in Luke, Jesus shares the revelation that God welcomes the very people that Jewish teachers had cast out. These include those who have been stigmatized by mainstream religion. Jesus brings God's divine hospitality in the form of meals that are marked by joy, generosity, forgiveness, inclusivity, the rejection of status, and most importantly — the experience of Jesus' presence. Jesus reveals

a God who is the divine host who nourishes and welcomes all the people.

This five-week series, from the Gospel of Luke, Pastor Mike will examine stories of Jesus having a meal. Along the way, we will seek to learn more about the person of Jesus, his mission, and what his dining habits mean for our everyday faith. 🍌

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



11:30am - Worship

Noon - Soup/Sandwich

12:30pm - Bible Study

5:30pm - Soup/Sandwich

6:00pm - Worship

6:30pm - Bible Study

Now that Dane County has decided to lift the county-wide mask mandate effective March 1, Bethel is able to restart a favorite tradition. Each week during Lent, from March 9—April 6, Bethel offers Wednesday worship services, a soup and sandwich meal, and Bible Study. Wednesday midday worship will be a Service of the Word with song, readings, and prayer, starting at 11:30am. This will be followed by a soup and salad lunch (*suggested donation \$10 or \$25 for a family*). Then, for all who wish a Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke.

Evenings during Lent start in Borgwardt Hall at 5:30pm for a soup and sandwich meal (*suggested donation \$10 or \$25 for a family*), followed by the popular Marty Haugen Evening Prayer in the sanctuary, and concluding with Bible study on the Gospel of Luke.



ASH WED

Gathering The Community For Food, Fellowship, Worship

Bethel resumes its Ash Wed Fish Fry on March 2, at 5:30pm. Suggested donation for the meal is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Why fish, you say? Here's a little history. If you're from the Midwest, the Northeast, or parts of the Southeast, you are probably already quite familiar with fish fries. During the season of Lent — the 40-day period leading up to Easter — the Catholic Church calls for members to abstain from eating meat on Fridays. The Church defines meat as the “flesh of warm-blooded animals”. Since fish are cold-blooded animals, they became the natural alternative during this season.

Prohibition, interestingly enough, helped to further solidify the practice of Friday fish fries: From 1920 to 1923, bars and taverns could no longer sell alcohol, so instead they began selling fried fish to stay afloat. And with the rise of supper clubs by the mid-1900s, Friday fish fries became a year-round tradition for Midwesterners. In fact, McDonald's Filet-O-Fish sandwich was added to its menu when a Cincinnati franchise in a predominantly Catholic neighborhood struggled to sell hamburgers on Fridays during Lent.

While Bethel's traditional fish fry takes place on Ash Wed and not Friday, it does introduce



When European immigrants came to America in the 1800s, they brought with them the Catholic practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays. Many German and Polish immigrants settled in the Midwest and took advantage of the numerous lakes the region has to offer.

and encourage a season of fasting, that is refraining from the consumption of certain foods as a form of self-denial, to be more deeply mindful of Jesus' self-denial on the cross. 🌈

ED FISH FRY



Oh! The Things We See!

During the season of Lent, which begins March 2, Bethel embarks on a new Bible study on the Gospel of Luke. Like the popular study from last year, this study takes a layered approach to understanding the Bible. After opening with prayer and a fun ice-breaker, each session looks at a passage from four different perspectives as though looking through different lens. The four lens are literary, historical, Lutheran, and devotional. As the scripture is read from these four vantage points, people in the small group contribute their own point of view as a group



Jeff Rupnow models the ocular devise from the Luke study

and as individuals. All these perspectives together help bring greater detail and meaning from the Bible.

This study will be available to use in small group or personal study time. If you already have a small group that you belong to, please consider using this Luke study. If you do not yet have a small group, we will help you find one. They will meet in person and online.

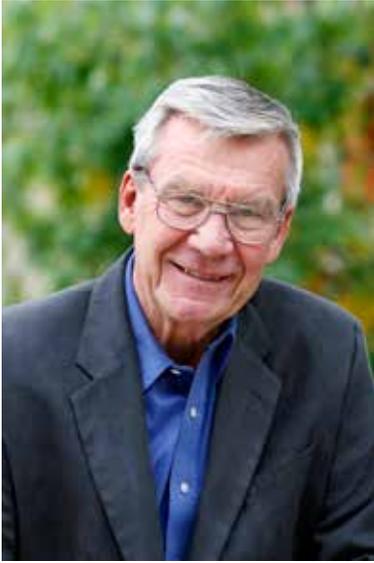
To get a copy of the Lent study on Luke, call the church at 608.257.3577 or email

Jeff Bittner at recep@bethel-madison.org 🌈

WHAT JESUS ATE

Consider new eating habits during Lent. Including more foods that are based on the traditional cuisines of Israel, Greece, Italy, and other countries that border the *Mediterranean Sea* is a good way to focus and grow in Christ. Build meals around vegetables, beans and whole grains. Eat fish at least twice a week. Use olive oil. Serve fresh fruit for dessert. For more insight, look into a book like this: 🌈





WISCONSIN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME

Arlen Christenson
Inducted

Two environmentalists with ties to the Law School are being inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. They are Arlen Christenson, an attorney and former state official instrumental in the development of an office to enforce anti-pollution laws, and Kathleen Falk, a former county executive who once held the position Christenson helped create.

More Info:

<https://wchf.org/arlen-christenson/>



FAMILY LENT ACTIVITIES

During the 40 days of Lent, consider the following projects to build your family's spiritual health.

1. Create a Lenten cross out of twigs, sticks, or branches gathered near your home. Trim to length and tie with string. Decorate as little or as much as desired.

2. Engage in a Shared Sacrifice.

While it is common for individuals to give up something for Lent, you can make a significant sacrifice as a family by giving up something as a family unit. This should be something that the family does together. A couple of examples might be giving up pizza night or movie night during the Lenten season.

3. Have a Family Daily Devotion

Your family can hold a daily devotion during Lent. You can spend a set period of time each day/evening as a family to read the Bible or set a goal of learning a Bible verse each day.

4. Do Art Lenten Activities for Families. If your family is creative, you may find a daily/

nightly art project rewarding. The projects should be Lent oriented. This family activity is especially good for younger children. You can choose a Bible verse and then allow each family member to create some form of art to illustrate the message of the Bible verse.

5. Create a Family Prayer Jar

Depending on the size of your family, divide the 40 days by the number of people in your family. Each family member will be responsible for writing a prayer request on a slip of paper that will be added to a prayer jar. You can decorate the prayer jar as a family Lenten art project. Each night of Lent, you will remove one slip and the family will join together in prayer.

6. Choose a Charity

Choose a charity for the year. This project requires each family member to choose a charity they will then research to determine how your family can help until next year's Lent. 🌈





Lakeshore Nature Preserve
UW-Madison Campus

CARING FOR CREATION

A Madison Treasure: The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Mar 8 at 7:30pm via Zoom

The beauty of the UW-Madison campus is renowned worldwide. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve represents one of its jewels. Popular Picnic Point and the famed Lakeshore Path extending from the Memorial Union to Picnic Point are treasured by the university and the Madison community alike. Dr. Gisela Kutzback will discuss this success story of environmental conservation and community commitment.



Dr. Gisela Kutzback

This area constitutes one-third of the campus lands. How does the university make use of it and how is it managed and protected for future generations? How do cultural and historical values explain this nature preserve in an urban setting? Find out some answers to these questions and bring your own to this webinar with Gisela.

Growing up in crowded, walled-in Berlin, Germany, Gisela learned first-hand

about the delicate balance between the need for preserving natural areas and the need for public access. Gisela and her family

have long treasured and used the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. She's walked to campus along Lakeshore Path since her graduate student days and while teaching in the College of Engineering and directing its Technical Communication program. She has noted changes in Preserve use, access, and landscaping. Gisela has served the Preserve by volunteering for the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for 15 years, three years as president. She earned her BS in meteorology from the Free University of Berlin, and an MS in meteorology and Ph.D. in the history of science from the University of Wisconsin. 🌈

Why is experiencing nature important? Why do visitors flock to the Preserve? How do they seek to connect with nature in this place?



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Easter Giving 2022

ONLINE FORM:

www.bethel-madison.org/eastergiving

Please write **separate checks** for the Easter Garden & Hephatha Strong Baby Sanctuary. The **Deadline is Monday, April 4**, to return this form & money to Bethel for donations to be included in the Bethel Weekly.

Poinsettia Garden

CIRCLE ONE: In Memory In Honor

NAME

NAME CONT

BY

X \$20 =

OF PLANTS TOTAL DUE

Flowers may be picked up after worship on April 17 or after.

Hephatha Strong Baby Sanctuary Donation

CIRCLE ONE: In Memory In Honor

NAME

NAME CONT

BY

AMOUNT

CASH/CHECK #

ENVELOPE #

PHONE

Return entire form to: Bethel Lutheran Church
Attn: Christmas Giving
312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703

BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

JANUARY YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings	179,169	140,300	38,869
Miscellaneous revenue	8,592	15,603	(7,011)
Non-operating revenue	12	(75)	87
Total Revenue	187,773	155,828	31,945
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	90,448	113,520	(23,072)
Ministry & Resource Teams	6,175	29,925	(23,750)
Benevolence	5,244	5,708	(464)
Administration	5,382	6,432	(1,050)
Other			-
Total Ministry Investments	107,249	155,585	(48,336)
Total Net Income (Loss)	80,524	243	80,281

A complete copy of the financial statements are posted to Realm;
you can access these through your Bethel Realm profile.



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BethelLutheranTV

Worship Times: Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 10:30am - Contemporary
Saturday at 5pm - Acoustic Casual

