



Forty Days: A Lenten Journey



“Yet forty days, and Ninevah shall be overthrown!” proclaimed the prophet Jonah. We will hear those words from *Jonah Chapter 3* during our Wednesday Midweek Service on February 4th. On Transfiguration Sunday (February 15th), our Old Testament Reading from *Exodus 24* will tell us that Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai. Then, on the First Sunday of Lent (February 22nd), we hear that after Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days and nights before the devil came to tempt him.

The number forty appears repeatedly throughout the Bible. In the days of Noah, rains fell upon the earth for forty days and nights (*Genesis 7 and 8*). In the days of David, Goliath taunted the army of Israel for forty days in *1 Samuel 17*. Forty days is important, and so is forty years. The people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years (*Numbers 14, 32*) and ate manna that entire time (*Exodus 16*). In the Book of Judges, the land had rest for forty years in the days of Othniel (*Judges 3:11*), Deborah (*Judges 5:31*), and Gideon (*Judges 8:28*). In all, there are some 50 verses in the Old Testament alone that reference “forty”, and another 16 verses in the New Testament.

If you looked up all of those Bible Verses, you would probably notice a common theme: the number forty indicates a time of trial, temptation, transition, or peace.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the Season of Lent is also forty days long. It begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18th) and ends on the day before Easter. If you pull out a calendar and count the number of days, you’ll probably say, “But that’s 46 days, not forty!” That’s true. However, Sundays do not count in the forty days of Lent. Sundays are “in Lent,” not “of Lent.”

Lent is a penitential season - a time when we reflect upon our sins and repent of the sins we commit against God and our neighbor. We rejoice that Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself for the sins of the world - for us and our salvation - to grant us forgiveness and everlasting life.

Our Lenten Midweek Series follows the theme, “**For Us.**” “**For us**” is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand why God would send His Son to die for us.

Jesus comes for us to save us. As God works in our lives to show us our sins, we repent as we turn away from our sins and turn back to Him. During these forty days of Lent, spend time in prayer. Repent of your sins. Seek reconciliation with whom you are in conflict. And join us for church and Bible Study.

We gather together each Sunday at 10:00am and Wednesday evening during Lent at 7:00pm. The Lord brings us together in Worship to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament.

May the Lord use these forty days of Lent as a time of reflection on God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ. May He continue to work repentance within us, that we would receive the blessings that God has given for us through His Son.

Pastor Jonathan Schultz

MARCH LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE

Please have your calendar items and articles into the church office by:

Monday, February 16th!!



WEE DISCIPLES

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



February will be another busy month for the students and staff at Wee Disciples, beginning with the children learning about groundhogs and doing fun activities on *Groundhog Day*. Then, on Valentine's Day the children will have the opportunity to exchange Valentine cards and have fun activities and stories about Valentines. Isn't it wonderful; however, that at Wee Disciples the children learn about a greater love than the once-a-year Valentine? Every day, all year long, our little ones learn about God's love for them from the Bible stories they hear, the songs they sing, the crafts and activities they do, and their daily involvement with our staff who lovingly care for, teach, and nurture the children entrusted to our care!

Mardi Gras celebrations occur between Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. A recent custom here at Wee Disciples is learning to make *King Cake* from Miss Amy.

February 18th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. Throughout Lent the children will hear the greatest love story ever—how God loved the world (us) so much that he gave his Son (that baby whose birth we just celebrated at Christmas) to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life. During Lent the children will learn many songs and Bible verses about how much Jesus loves us, and what he did for us, and they will be sharing those verses and songs at our Easter Family Chapel in April!

The next *Burgers for Benefits* night at Fuddruckers will be on February 17th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.. The Board of Early Childhood Education meets at 6:30pm on Thursday, February 5th.



Did you know that Trinity has scholarships available for families of Trinity who have, or would like to have, their children attending Wee Disciples Preschool and Day Care? The application is available on our website (www.trinity-mt.org) or in the church office. **NOTE ~ The congregation is encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund just as we do the roof repair or any other special fund. There are special envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to place your donations in.**

LWML News

All ladies of the congregation, including our new members and confirmed young women, are invited and encouraged to attend all LWML happenings here at Trinity.

Please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz for more information.



Come help tie a quilt! Our LWML group from Trinity will be donating a baby quilt at our District Convention in April. Myrna has graciously completed the quilt top and has put it together, now we need to tie the quilt. That's where YOU come in! Ladies are welcome to join us on **Saturday, February 7th at 9:30 am** for some fellowship while tying the quilt. Please see Sylvia or Myrna for more details.

We are gearing up for our **LWML Montana District Convention**, which is **April 24th – 26th** in Lewistown. There will be servant events, Bible studies, lots of fellowship with our Sisters in Christ, good food, bingo, a banquet, a craft bazaar that raises money for mites - and we are so excited to invite all of our ladies to this event. Registration forms will be in the Winter issue of *The Missive* (https://mtdistrictlwml.org/montana_missive). Get excited and get more information from Sylvia and Amy!

Wednesday Ladies Bible study ~ **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00am** in the Stahlecker Room. All the ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Men's Bible Study meets on **Thursday mornings at 8:30 am** for an hour of fellowship and study of God's Word. All the men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Lenten Soup Suppers ~ We will be having Lenten soup suppers each Wednesday of Lent. As always there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign up for items to bring each week.



We are also looking for groups of people to handle the set-up and clean-up each week. If your group or you and a few others would like to volunteer for this, please sign up on the soup supper sign-up sheets.

Read through the Gospels or New Testament in Lent ~ What better way to prepare for Easter than to read the complete story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection? So, dust off your Bible as we read God's Word through these 40 days of Lent!

Read through the Gospels or New Testament in Lent		
Day	Gospels only	New Testament
February 18	Matthew 1-3	Matthew 1-7
19	Matthew 4-6	Matthew 8-12
20	Matthew 7-9	Matthew 13-18
21	Matthew 10-12	Matthew 19-24
February 22	Take a Break	
23	Matthew 13-14	Matthew 25-end
24	Matthew 15-16	Mark 1-5
25	Matthew 17-18	Mark 6-11
26	Matthew 19-20	Mark 12-end
27	Matthew 21-22	Luke 1-4
28	Matthew 23-24	Luke 5-8



Easter Breakfast Volunteers Needed ~ Each year we celebrate Easter Sunday with a congregational potluck-style breakfast between the Sunrise Service and the Divine Service. It is time to start making plans for this year's breakfast. If you would be willing to help plan and execute the Easter Sunday Breakfast, please contact Cheryl in the church office (406-452-2121).

Together let's make this a great celebration!

Easter Lilies ~ The Altar Committee will once again be placing an order for lilies to grace our altar for Easter. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these lilies, please make a separate check payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church*, designate on the check "**For Easter Lilies**" and drop it into the offering plate. **If you would like your donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please attach a note with the details to your check or call the church office 452-2121 with that information.**



Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Divine Service ~ Wednesday, February 18th

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship ~ 7:00pm

1st Lenten Mid-week ~ Wednesday, February 25th

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship ~ 7:00pm

2nd Lenten Mid-week ~ Wednesday, March 4th

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship ~ 7:00pm

3rd Lenten Mid-week ~ Wednesday, March 11th

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship ~ 7:00pm

4th Lenten Mid-week ~ Wednesday, March 18th

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship ~ 7:00pm

5th Lenten Mid-week ~ Wednesday, March 25th

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship ~ 7:00pm



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Sunday, March 29th ~ 10:00am

Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2nd ~ 7:00pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 3rd ~ 7:00pm

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 4th ~ 7:00pm

Easter Sunday ~ The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunrise Service ~ 7:00am

Easter Breakfast ~ 7:45 am

Sunday school ~ 8:30 am

Easter Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

Fellowship Time Help Needed!! We are looking for individuals or couples who would be willing to help set up the coffee and cookies for Sunday mornings. This would be one or two Saturdays a month (the more people who volunteer the less often you would be asked to help). If you are interested, please talk to Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121).

We are also looking for individuals, couples, families or groups who would be willing to help with the tear down and clean-up follow Fellowship time each Sunday. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121).

A/V Help ~ Our video ministry goes out each week on our Facebook page and reaches countless people. **The audio/video crew is looking for a few good people to help with this very important ministry. No experience is needed; we will teach you what you will need to know.** If you would be interested in helping, contact Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121) for more information.

Snow Removal Sign-up ~ Help is needed for the winter to remove snow from the sidewalks before church on Sunday mornings. If you would be willing to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.



COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2025 ~ 2026

For the period December 22nd through January 18th



December 24 th & 25 th (<i>Christmas Eve & Day</i>)	\$3,244
December 28 th (<i>includes year-end</i>)	\$2,162
January 4 th	\$5,757
January 11 th	\$3,621
January 18 th	\$11,735
Vanco	\$1,250

Actual giving for report period: \$27,569

Roof Repair Fund –through 01/18/2026 \$51,374

If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 781-7605 ~ *Logan Stene, Bookkeeper*

Vanco's Give+ Online

Vanco's Give+ Mobile

The next generation of giving

Please visit our website **www.trinity-mt.org**, go to the "*Fellowship*" tab and sign up for online giving. You can also download the Vanco mobile app to your smart phone for even more convenience.



Offering Counters are needed to assist the Treasurer and Bookkeeper in counting and recording the offerings following each Sunday service. No experience is needed. Please call the church office (452-2121) or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you are willing to assist with this necessary mission.



Our shut-ins

Mildred Birkholz (The Lodge), **Ellen Carpenter** (Eagle's Manor), **Anita Erickson** (at home). **Ed Hickel** (at home), **Arleen Nelson** (Rosetta Assisted Living), **Lauretta Stanfield** (at home); **Barbara Zafft** (The Lodge)

Bob Blomstrom (Helena), **Darlene Murray** (at son's home in Kansas)

Our members who continue to battle health issues and their caregivers

Roy & Carolyn Arves, Chuck & Judy Lively, Jerry & Colleen Mans, Henry & Alice Schuman

We pray for those serving in the military and our First Responders

Sam Birkett, Cascade County Detective; **Matt Clark**, Great Falls Emergency Services

Scott Backus, MANG; **Scott Broberg**, USAF; **Ricardo Dominguez**, USAF; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Landon Grosenick**, MANG (Pam Grosenick's grandson); **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF Reserves; **Mychal Taylor**, MANG

We pray for our Montana District missionaries...

Rev. Dr. David & Jennifer Preus ~ Eurasia (Romania)

John & Jenn Wolf ~ Kenya

Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul ~ Cayman Islands

Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett ~ Ethiopia

Giving Online: You can partner with the LCMS by making an online gift restricted in use to the support of these missionaries at lcms.org

Giving by Check: You can also make a donation to their ministries by check. *Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated in the memo line with the missionaries last name*, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, **QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to mission.giving@lcms.org.

2026-2027 Church Officers

Church Council President	James Neumann
Vice President/Head Elder	Martin Bauer
Recording Secretary	Cheryl Bauer
Treasurer	vacant
Board of Elders	Martin Bauer, Scott Broberg, Len Koelbel Shawn Shaw, Bill Sybrant, Ron VanVoast
Board of Trustees	Morgan Emmett, Don Lee
Missions & Evangelism	Roy Arves, OD Jones, Len Koelbel
Stewardship	OD Jones
Board of Youth	Sam Birkett, Alyssa Birkett
Board of Early Childhood Education	Myrna Philipp
Board of Education	vacant
LWML President	Sylvia Adams

Membership Changes in 2025

Births

Gwendolyn Michelle Taylor (daughter of Mychal & Ericka Taylor)	05/12/2025
Daniel Christian Neumann (son of Christian & Stephanie Neumann)	06/19/2025
Ada Caroline Harr (daughter of William & Grace Harr)	12/04/2025
Holly Marie Young (daughter of Mathea [Mattie] Young)	12/12/2025

Baptisms ~ Children

Bohdi Lee Bishop	05/25/2025
Gwendolyn Michelle Taylor	07/06/2025
Daniel Christian Neumann	12/07/2025
Holly Marie Young	12/28/2025

Baptisms ~ Adult

Jacob Vance Russell	06/22/2025
Jessica Margaret Brookie	10/05/2025

Confirmations ~ Adult

Jessica Margaret Brookie	10/05/2025
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Confirmations ~ Youth

Harper Rae Lautenschlager	05/11/2025
Caitee Jean Miesmer	05/11/2025
Tracy Lou Miesmer	05/11/2025
Alex Martin Shabaan	05/11/2025
Meredith Rose Tabbert	05/11/2025
Leif Archer Tanksley	05/11/2025

Deaths

Charles John Lorenz	July 30, 1930 ~ 04/19/2025
Purl (George) Pence	March 21, 1933 ~ 07/15/2025
Violet Lillian (Haase) Nell	February 15, 1931 ~ 09/10/2025
Juanita Irene (Kinzel) Winter	March 24, 1933 ~ 10/28/2025
Jon Schroeder	February 20, 1967 ~ 11/26/2025

Peaceful Release

Brian Flynn ~ Hazel Ingrid Flynn	03/05/2025
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Transfers In

Cory & Lori Sivumaki ~ Aaliyah & Colt	02/21/2025
Scott & Deanna Backus ~ Brianna, Brooke & Brice	06/24/2025
Ethan Egan	11/07/2025
Matthew Kade	11/17/2025
Todd Chandler ~ Rose & Franklin	12/15/2025

Transfers Out

Sandra Hanford	to Peace Lutheran, Great Falls, MT	03/05/2025
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Serving this Month

Altar Guild ~ Denise Wegner / Sandy Baranko / Candace Tanksley

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Roy Arves / Elders

February 1, 2026 ~ Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video/Music	Denise Rutledge
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Judy Boyce

February 4, 2026 ~ Mid-Week Service

Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
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February 8, 2026 ~ Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Scott Broberg / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	Gloria Creek
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Alice Schuman

February 11, 2026 ~ Mid-Week Service

Duty Elder	Ron VanVoast
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February 15, 2026 ~ The Transfiguration of Our Lord (white)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Ron VanVoast
Audio/Video/Music	Denise Rutledge
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Elsie Lorenz



February 18, 2026 ~ Ash Wednesday Mid-Week Service

Duty Elders	Scott Broberg / TBD
Audio/Video/Music	Cheryl Bauer

February 22, 2026 ~ First Sunday in Lent (purple)

Duty Elders	Shawn Shaw / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video/Music	Isaac Schultz
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Sandra Baranko

February 25, 2026 ~ First Lenten Mid-Week Service

Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
Audio/Video/Music	Cheryl Bauer



Birthdays and Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries

February 2 nd	Mattie Norris Lois Phillips		February 17 th	Louise Kuki
February 3 rd	Emily Justice		February 18 th	Alexandria Young
February 4 th	Gary Neumann		February 19 th	Travis Copp Laney Wied
February 5 th	Deanna Backus Gary Headington Randy Klatt		February 20 th	Lauretta Stanfield (80+)
February 7 th	Lacee Brown Mary Somerfel LaVelle VanVoast Brayden Ginnaty Ron Lee		February 21 st	Carson Bauer Hunter Sharrah Nolan Joyce Rayn Ginnaty Austin Webb
February 8 th	Evelyn Dominguez		February 22 nd	
February 9 th	Laura Filson, Linda Wade		February 23 rd	
February 10 th	Hudson Kotz, Jasen Remus		February 24 th	
February 11 th	Riley Kotz, Jacob Mansch		February 26 th	Judy Lively (80+) Melissa Soldano Todd Chandler Tracy Miesmer Dakota Sharrah
February 12 th	Caleb Bicsak		February 27 th	
February 13 th			February 28 th	
February 14 th				

February 1 st	Justin Lee		February 22 nd	Kathie Gessaman Louise Keith
February 4 th	Mick Jones		February 25 th	Tim Chapman Maryanne Kingland
February 7 th	Kenzie Legg		February 26 th	Deanna Backus Anita Chapman Samuel Chapman
February 8 th	Martin Bauer		February 27 th	Ed Hickel Hudson Kotz Henry Schuman
February 14 th	Molly Church Hailey Houle Hannah Houle Hayden Houle Sarah Lautenschlager			
February 20 th	Denise Rutledge			



February 2 nd	Marty Eberly Sandy Schroeder
February 17 th	Lauralyn Fairbanks
February 29 th	Bob Blomstrom