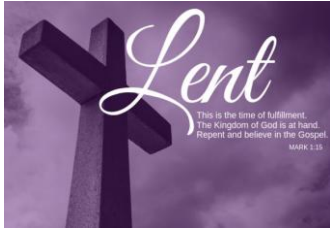


The Herald

March 2023



SEASON OF LENT In-Person & Facebook LIVE Worship Schedule

.....
Saturday Service
5:00 PM

Sunday Services
8:30 & 10:30 AM

Communion is
shared at all services.

.....

Music Rehearsal
Choir rehearses on
Sunday mornings @
9:40 am. Choir sings at
the 10:30 service
monthly/seasonally.
New singers are always
welcome!

PASTOR'S PAGE

The first Sunday in March is the Second Sunday in Lent ...

This week we will be in John's Gospel as we listen in on a conversation between Jesus and a religious Leader named Nicodemus. He comes to Jesus under the cover of darkness to gain a better understanding of what Jesus is all about. Maybe he is just like us; as his head rested on his pillow that night and shadows stretched out on his bedroom wall, profound and troubling questions began to emerge from the nooks and crannies of his mind. Questions about Jesus and his kingdom.

So, with shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, with questions that he can only ask under the cover of darkness. Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light, Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

Lent 3 ... Meeting an "Other" at the Well ...

Jesus' encounter with The Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well is a familiar story. However, as with all Bible stories that we *think* we know, we might do well to take a fresh look!

Lent 4 ... God's Eyes do not see like Our Eyes ...

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and culminating with Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. This shows us how Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

On the last Sunday in March we will celebrate the Fifth Sunday in Lent ...

This week our focus will be on The Hope of New Life offered by Jesus as we again turn to John's gospel and witness Jesus weeping with those who wept over the loss of Lazarus. This hope-filled story of raising Lazarus from the dead gives us encouraging words that will sustain us through the approaching despair of Christ's passion and brings us to the fulfillment of hope on Easter. This inspires us to tell others of The Hope Jesus offers, the hope that overcomes despair for God's people. This is a preview of the hope of the resurrection that will sustain us through these final days of Lent

The Hope of new life is also evident in the Old Testament story of "dry bones" as told to us by the prophet Ezekiel. Even as the children of Israel declare their hope is lost, the prophet's experience in the valley of dry bones inspires him to preach renewed hope to the people.

Psalm 130 leads us to sing in response of hope in God and God's word. Through the writing of the Apostle Paul, the church in Rome was assured of the power of the Spirit of God that gives hope of new life. We enter the last leg of our Lenten journey with the reminder to place our hope in God and God's word.

Blessings on the Journey, *Pastor Andy*


CHURCH CALENDAR

March 2023

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In the gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.



The Church Building is open for in person gatherings at Full Occupancy in attendance while practicing physical distancing and all covid precautions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Lenten Lunch & Learn</i> 11:30—Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	2 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 GCFE*	3 AA Meeting Evening Prayer	4 5:00 Worship
5 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	6 AA Meeting	7	8 <i>Lenten Lunch & Learn</i> 11:30—Holy Nativity 6:30 pm—Church Council Meeting	9 11:00 Bible Study 12:30-3:00 Walk-in COVID-19 clinic—Apostles Lutheran Church 7:00 Nature Club	10 AA Meeting Evening Prayer	11 5:00 Worship
12 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship <u>Daylight Savings</u>	13 AA Meeting	14	15 <i>Lenten Lunch & Learn</i> 11:30—Mantua United Methodist Church	16 11:00 Bible Study 7:30 GCFE*	17  AA Meeting Evening Prayer	18 5:00 Worship
19 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship 1:00 Orchid Society	20 AA Meeting	21	22 <i>Lenten Lunch & Learn</i> 11:30—St. Paul's United Methodist Church	23 11:00 Bible Study	24 AA Meeting Evening Prayer	25 5:00 Worship
26 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School & Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	27 AA Meeting	28	29 <i>Lenten Lunch & Learn</i> 11:30—Memorial Presbyterian	30 11:00 Bible Study	31 AA Meeting Evening Prayer	

*Gloucester County Flute Ensemble

Church Email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Church Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/HNLCWenonah/>

Pastor Andy Gordon Cell Phone: 609-206-7839 Church Office: 856-468-5760

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

March 2023

PRAYER LIST

The family of Bill Bartleson as they mourn his death, Nicholas Baud, Cameron Bruder, Bert Denham, Scott Fey, Kathleen and Max (daughter and infant grandson of Doug Gifford), Mark Gismondi, Pat Gismondi, Chuck Gordon, Randi Gordon, Don Halterman, The family of Jennifer Jeffers as they mourn her death, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Joseph Kelleher as they mourn his passing, Cliff Kollmeier, Joseph Lewandowski, The family of George Lofmark as they mourn his death, Joseph Lonia, Jessie MacGregor, Joseph and Janet Ostrowski, Harry Rees, Eileen Simpson, Dot Stagg, Julia Stanz, Nathan Storhoff.

(If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com.)

As of March 7, 2022, masks are optional in NJ.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering received year-to-date--\$25374.00 Year-to-date amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$21996.00.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who contributed to the Red Cross Blood Drive! The results are as follows: Goal 26 units; Presented 28 units; Deferred 7 units; Power Red 7 units; Total units—28.

LENTEN LUNCH & LEARN SESSIONS

The first session was held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church @ 11:30 am. Other dates and locations are as follows: March 8th—Holy Nativity; March 15th—Mantua United Methodist Church; March 22nd—St. Paul's United Methodist Church in West Deptford; and March 29th—Memorial Presbyterian in Wenonah. Since we are hosting the session on March 8th, we are in need of donations of crockpot soups (or rolls/crackers). There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are able to help.

FREE WALK-IN COVID-19 CLINIC

Thursday, March 9; 12:30-3:00 at Apostles Lutheran Church (4401 NJ-43 Turnersville, NJ 08012)

FOOD PANTRY

At this time, the food pantry is in need of boxed cereal, pancake mix, syrup, grape jelly and loaves of bread. Other items needed include: canned goods, non-perishable items, toiletries, laundry soap, etc.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wenonah is collecting items for hygiene kits to be sent to Ukrainian refugees through Church World Service. We will be collecting needed items and giving them to Memorial Church. Items needed include: hand towels (16" x 28"), washcloths, wide tooth combs, nail clippers, bars of soap, toothbrushes, and Band Aids.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Rachel Cooper, Randi Gordon, John Kleinstuber, Sandy Lonia, Leo Montana, Cathy Stanz, John Stanz

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Milton & Donna Cuevas

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING CHURCH/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- Holy Thursday Combined Choir Event (April 6)
- Good Friday Service (April 7)
- Children's Vigil for Easter and Resurrection Egg Craft/Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday, April 8, 11:00 am)
- Potluck Supper (April 29)
- Wenonah Clean Communities Day (May 13)



**Holy Nativity
Lutheran Church**
3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090

Please Deliver This Copy of THE HERALD To:

**In-Person and Facebook Live
WORSHIP TIMES:**
SATURDAY — 5:00 PM
SUNDAY — 8:30 & 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE:
PHONE: 856-468-5760
hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com