



Covenant News

March 2026



In the Bleak: Our Lenten Journey

This year, our Lenten theme is simple and honest: In the Bleak.

We're not pretending the world is fine. We're not rushing past the hard parts. We're naming where we actually are — in a bleak political and social time, in uncertain days for the church, in a season when many of us

are carrying more than we thought we could hold.

On Ash Wednesday, we planted seeds. Not metaphorical seeds — actual paper seeds that we pressed into the soil at the foot of the cross. Each of us wrote down something we want God to grow in us this Lent: patience, joy, the ability to rest, the capacity to forgive. We planted what we hope for and what is in our hearts, and we're trusting God to tend it.

Here's what gardeners know that we're learning: seeds planted in February go into cold, hard ground. The earth is still frozen three feet down. Nothing breaks the surface for weeks. But beneath the soil, invisible work is happening. Roots push down into darkness. Hard shells split open. Life prepares to rise.

That's Lent.

We're in the bleak — the cold, the dark, the waiting. But God is already at work beneath the surface, tending what we've planted, cultivating what we long to become.

Each week through Lent, we'll return to this theme. We'll remember that the ground is still hard, that snow might still fall, that spring feels far away. But we'll also remember what's true: the seed is already in the ground. God is already

tending it. The green blade will rise.

On Easter morning, we'll see what's been growing all along.

Between now and then, we wait. We water what's been planted with prayer, with honesty, with justice, with showing up for each other. We trust the slow, invisible work. We prepare the ground.

As the old hymn says: Let my heart be good soil. That's our prayer this Lent. Not that we'd have it all figured out. Not that the bleak would magically disappear. But that our hearts would be good soil — ready for God to plant, tend, and raise to new life.

Come, walk with us through the bleak. Easter is coming.

Pastor Andrea



Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour Sunday March 8th.



It's already time to start thinking about ordering Easter lilies in memory or appreciation of your loved ones through our altar guild for our worship on Easter Sunday. The lilies will be \$10 each, and the ordering deadline is Friday April 4th.

We ask that you submit your payment when ordering, and see Joan Garvin or Jen in the office.

Shared Pot Cooking Class

On February 13th, members of Church of the Covenant and Church of the Master gathered to learn about cooking and food in the bible, as well as create a wonderful lunch. There was a lot of hands-on activity as we chopped, mixed, and rolled while making lentil soup, unleavened flatbread, and figs with honey. It was a great time of fellowship, learning, and fun– and we hope to do it again soon!!



Happy Birthday

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3/2 Alexandra King

3/2 Claudia Senderak

3/2 Marie Prendergast

3/4 Scott Spychola

3/5 Maren Dickey

3/11 Harry Werner

3/16 Deena Gaglione-Hernandez

3/19 Christopher Gaglione

3/24 Avery Lockmiller

3/24 Daralynn Constant

3/30 Toni Ridgell

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday March 4, 2026, 6:00 pm at Master
Wednesday March 11, 2026 6:00 pm at Covenant
Wednesday March 18, 2026 6:00 pm at Covenant
Wednesday March 25, 2026 6:00 pm at Covenant

Palm Sunday:

Sunday March 29, 9:00 a.m. at Covenant

Maundy Thursday: April 2nd

7:00 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Covenant

Good Friday: April 3rd

7:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Master

Easter: Sunday, April 5th
Festival Eucharist 9:00 a.m.

Lenten Soup Suppers 2026– 6:00 pm

As you are already aware, we are joining with Church of the Master for the 5 midweek soup suppers during Lent. Church of the Master will host the first 2 soup suppers on Wed. February 25th and Wed. March 4th. Covenant will be responsible for the following 2 soup suppers on Wed. March 11, 18, and 25.

The host church will provide soups, crackers, butter, water, coffee and teabags; and the necessary paper goods.

The guest church will be responsible for providing: fresh bread (3-4 loaves a week); desserts: i.e. batches of about 2-3 dozen each week.

Because Covenant is the guest church the first 2 weeks, sign-up sheets will be provided at the rear of the sanctuary for individuals to indicate what they may be willing to donate for each of the 2 weeks. The needed item will be listed individually. You may sign up for one or more if you are so inclined. Just sign your name next to the listed item you will provide.

Thank you! –Arlene Lasher

Our next FREE community meal will be Thursday, March 26th, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. We are doing dine in only in the Parish Hall.



Spring Plant Sale

Covenant Lutheran Women's annual plant sale will still be taking place this spring. Arlene Lasher is planning to have our annual plant sale, and should have order forms for sale during Lent and or after Easter.

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The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
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