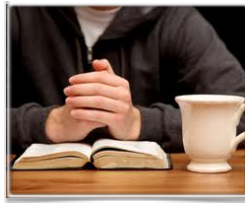


Ash Wednesday

6:30 PM WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 6, 2019

Holy Eucharist
with the
Imposition of Ashes



GROWING IN GRACE
PAGE 1-4



WORSHIP JOYFULLY
PAGE 4-6



SERVE OTHERS
PAGE 7-8

SHADES VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

LENT 2019 OVERVIEW

For the Sake of Love

PASTOR ERIC MURRAY

Thomas Merton, in his
book Seasons of
Celebration writes,

*The purpose of Lent
is...above all a
preparation to
rejoice in God's love.
And this preparation
consists in receiving
the gift of God's*

mercy – a gift, which we receive in so far as we open our hearts to it, casting out what cannot remain in the same room with mercy.



Thinking of Lent as a preparation to rejoice in God's love is quite frankly not how we have traditionally approached Lent. Usually Lent has been furnished with images and acts of self-denial, sacrifice, and contrition.

As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

LENT: Old English spring, Lent', of Germanic origin, related to long (perhaps with reference to the lengthening of the day in spring)

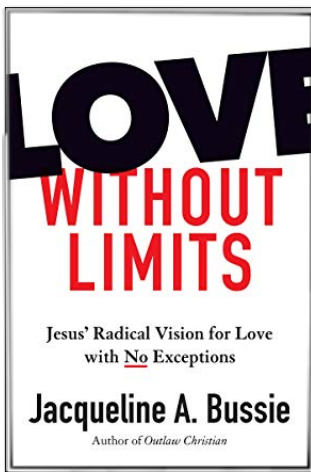
Lent is a time, as we say in our Ash Wednesday liturgy, of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. This focus, what we call the discipline of Lent, is a good thing. But it's not the final purpose or end. To use Thomas Merton's image, the discipline of Lent, those practices or works we do during this most holy season, is how we do a little house cleaning. These disciplines or practices are our spiritual housework. They help us clear space in our lives and open more fully our hearts so that we can realize the mercy and love we have received from God. They are not the point, but the means by which we contend against evil and resist whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

In other words, the purpose of Lent is not the housework itself, but the clean and ordered house which allows us to rejoice in God's gift of love. Lent's housework should help us receive

God's love, grow in God's love, and in return, grow in our love of God and neighbor. Love – not the works, not the house cleaning – love is the end, the truly significant thing.

So, this Lent may you not get all caught up in what you will give up or what you will take on or whether you are practicing Lent rightly or not. Rather, may your Lent be a time of house cleaning, of casting out what cannot remain in the same room with mercy. And may you find room in your life for love; the love, which only God can give; the love, which Jesus reveals as the very heart of God – a heart that risks everything, for the sake of love.

Jesus reveals the very heart of God, a heart that risks everything, for the sake of LOVE.



The Big Read, Lent Edition!

Love Without Limits:

Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions

BY JACQUELINE A. BUSSIE

Imagine every member of our faith community committed to reading the same book together over the course of a season. Reading in community, especially a book on Jesus' vision of love, could be a very fruitful practice for our congregation. Well, that's the premise of *The Big Read, Lent Edition!*, to read Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No

Exceptions, by Jacqueline A. Bussie. Dr. Bussie teaches religion and theology at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she also serves as the Director of the Forum on Faith and Life.

Regarding Love Without Limits amazon.com wrote this:

“Every day, millions of people lament the loss of civility, respect, and hope, and they wonder if it's possible to cultivate a love big enough to overthrow hate and heal our hurts. With courage, authenticity, and relevance, Jacqueline A. Bussie proclaims, "Yes! It's possible!" and urges readers to widen love's wingspan and to love as God loves--without limits or exceptions.

And according to author & theologian Brian D. McLaren.

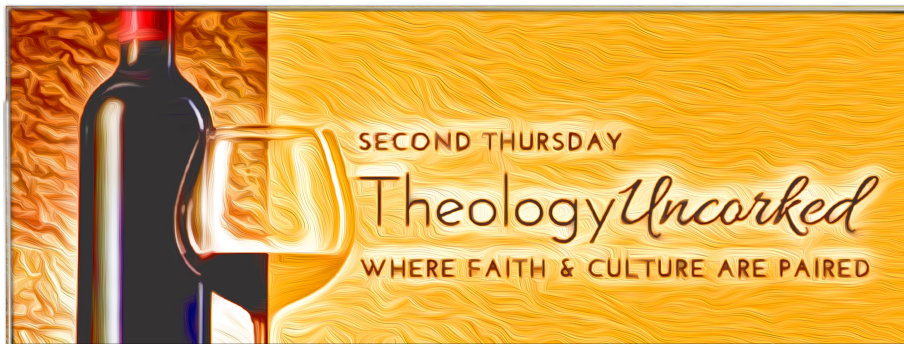
"If you believe, as I do, that love is the heart of Jesus' message and should be the point of the Christian life, then you'll be surprised to see how few books there are that aim specifically to help you become a better practitioner of love. And you'll be thrilled when a book like this comes along--super well-written, really inspiring and practical, deeply engaged with scripture, and joyfully celebrating the primacy of love."

To order your copy and join *The Big Read, Lent Edition!*, go to Augsburg Fortress or Amazon and purchase a hardback or digital version today. Get started reading at your own pace. Then find someone, a friend, pew neighbor, spouse or other family and begin discussing the insights, questions, doubts, and conclusions the book raises for you. (We will also discuss the book at the April return of Theology Pub - see below.)

Here's to *The Big Read, Lent Edition!* and to growing as practitioners of Christ's love.

SVLC is giving away four copies of "Love Without Limits".

The first four people to email [Pastor Eric](mailto:Eric), requesting a copy, will receive one of the gift copies.



THEOLOGY PUB

RETURNS

April 11 @ 7pm

NEW NAME!

Theology Uncorked

All are welcome to join us for *Theology Uncorked*, as we

open the bottle of faith, let it breathe, and pour it into the glass of culture. Great company, conversation, and theological / spiritual discussion, each second Thursday of the month beginning **Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 7-9pm** at the Pizitz Food Hall. With its own parking deck, a variety of food vendors (available until 8pm), and central bar (until 10pm), and indoor & outdoor seating, this could be an exiting and fun venue.

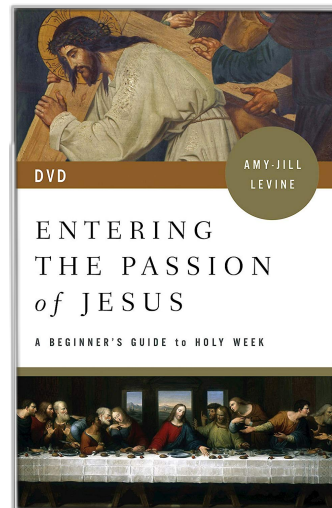
In April we will discuss *The Big Read, Lent Edition!* book, Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions, by Jacqueline A. Bussie.

Adult Sunday School

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

Sundays @ 9:30 am in the Luther Room
with Pastor Eric

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, how Jesus' final days were full of risk, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. This five-session DVD based class offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of the Passion of Jesus.



- Mar. 10 Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
- Mar. 17** **Conversation with Bishop Julian Gordy**
- Mar. 24 The Temple, and Teachings: Risking Challenge
- Mar. 31 The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- Apr. 7 The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- Apr. 14 Gethsemane: Risking Temptation



The Rev. H. Julian Gordy

Bishop of our ELCA-Southeastern Synod

GUEST PREACHER, SUNDAY, MARCH 17 AT 8:15 & 10:30AM.

Having served with distinction, Bishop Julian Gordy is in the last year of his second (6-year) term as our Southeastern Synod Bishop. (Our Synod will elect his successor in June). It is our honor and joy to welcome him back to SVLC on **Sunday, March 17**. Please plan to join us at either the 8:15 or 10:30 AM service where Bishop Gordy will be our guest preacher. And, or, join us between services for conversation with our bishop.

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
is one church in three expressions,
Churchwide + Synod + Congregation.
We are the ELCA. We are the Southeastern Synod. We are SVLC.



Worship in Lent

Sunday mornings at 8:15 & 10:30am

The season of Lent is a time when the church seeks a new pace for itself, a time of refreshment, a time to put aside exhausting ourselves with “busyness”. Lent is meant to be a season which helps the community of faith move forward toward the new life, a time for renewal.

To this end, Lent is marked by stark simplicity in worship, setting aside some elements of the liturgy until the full joy of Easter. Traditionally this includes avoiding the use of the word “Alleluia”, the absence of flowers from the Nave, the restrained use of instruments to accompany worship, and more intentional use of silence for prayer and reflection. Added fabrics of purple, the seasonal color for Lent, and less ornate altar appointments.

For this season’s liturgy, we’re going back to an old Lenten favorite, Setting Four in the ELW hymnal (the old Setting Two in the LBW). This should be very familiar to many members of our worshipping community.

As for....

Wednesdays

Holden Prayer Around the Cross

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3 AND 10 6:30-7:15PM

Holden Prayer Around the Cross is a meaningful devotional prayer service that was originally developed at Holden Village — yes, where *Holden Evening Prayer* was developed. And as much as SVLC loves *Holden Evening Prayer*, its language and tenor are not as well suited for Lent as they are for Advent.

Holden Prayer Around the Cross is a more contemplative service filled with music, scripture, silence, candle lighting, and...well, prayer around the cross, of course.

So, come and join us each Wednesday evening in Lent as we gather to pray around the cross of Christ.

*Holden Prayer Around the Cross
is preceded by a Lenten Soup supper
from 5:30-6:30pm*

Worship in Lent and Holy Week

Tuesdays

Matins (Morning Prayer) every Tuesday
7:00-7:30am

Ash Wednesday

March 6 at 6:30pm

Wednesdays

March 13, 20, 27,
April 3 and 10
Holden Prayer Around
the Cross 6:30-7:15pm
(see article at left)

Sundays

March 10, 17*, 24, and
April 7
Holy Eucharist at
8:15 & 10:30am

* Sunday, March 17,
our ELCA-Southeastern
Synod Bishop, The
Reverend H. Julian Gordy
will be with us as preacher
o’ the day.

HOLY WEEK

Passion / Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 14
ONE SERVICE

The Triduum (or Great Three Days)

Maundy Thurs, Apr. 18
Good Friday, Apr. 19
Easter Vigil, Sat., April 20

All services at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 21
ONE SERVICE

Holy Week

The Easter Triduum

Triduum (pronounced TRID-oo-um) is a Latin term which simply means “three days”. It’s the fancy title given to the principle service of Holy Week; a service which, you guessed it, lasts three days.

How Long!?! How long did you say the worship service would last?

Three days.

You expect me to worship for three whole days!?! Are you crazy!

Yes, our Holy Week worship lasts three whole days. But, don’t worry. Although the Triduum is a single, unified service, it occurs in three separate time periods. Think of it like a river of life-giving water flowing along. The Triduum flows along over three days and we step into the water at three separate points along the way. So no, you won’t be spending the whole three days in the nave of the church. But, ideally you will spend the whole time walking along the river’s edge, contemplating, remembering, and worshipping.

But, three days!?!

Remember how St. Paul once stated that we should “Pray without ceasing?” Well, this three-day worship is along those lines. Even though you are going about your daily life, working, interacting with your family and neighbors, you are still mindful of the three days of Jesus’ passover from death to life, of God’s action—on the cross and in the resurrection—on behalf of the world. These three days are THE most holy of the Christian calendar. It is the center and culmination of the entire liturgical year. It only makes sense that these three days would be spent in a state of worshipfulness.

I’m still not convinced, but give me the details just in case.

The Triduum begins at 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday (April 18) with the sign of Christ’s servant love as seen in the foot washing and the eucharist. We’ll have other stations of activity

and prayer for those who wish to forgo the voluntary foot washing. The worship doesn’t end when we leave the sanctuary an hour later. A matter of fact there’s not even a benediction. The altar is stripped of its paraments as we prepare ourselves to observe Good Friday. We leave in silence until we gather again at 6:30pm on Friday evening (April 19) to contemplate the power and mystery of God’s saving act upon the cross. Again, there is no benediction. Again, we leave in silence and darkness. Our worship continues in our homes and communities as we pray without ceasing. Some will even choose this time to fast. Then we gather again at 6:30pm on Holy Saturday (April 20) for The Great Vigil of Easter.

The GREAT Vigil?

Believe it or not, the Easter Vigil has long been the chief annual feast of the entire Christian year (not, as you might assume, Easter Sunday morning). The Great Vigil is THE service of all worship services. It is a service of darkness, fire & light; of prayer, scripture, & song; of water, death & life. Everything moves toward this service; everything moves from it. In the waters of the Vigil, we remember God’s promises and the new resurrected life we have already received. At its conclusion we break the fast and shout the “Alleluia!” and celebrate the first eucharist of Easter.

But, what if I cannot attend all three worship services?

Obviously we hope to see everyone at every service. But, if not, then please step into the river of these three days whenever and however you can.

This flowing river of life-giving water stands at the center of our life together in Christ. Here we celebrate the triumph of God’s everlasting, servant love and God’s gift of true life over the darkness of our violence and death. It is such a mysterious and awesome gift, it takes three whole days just to begin to comprehend it...and a whole lifetime living into it.

Wait, what? A WHOLE lifetime!?!

Three days doesn’t seem so long now, does it?

Lenten Justice Emphases

TWO OPTIONS TO CONSIDER WHICH MAY HELP YOU GROW IN LOVE FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR:

I. Thistle Farms

A community of survivors who believe love heals

Thistle Farms began in 1997 as a residential program for adult women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, addiction, and the violence of life on the street. Resident survivors had been allowed to fall through the cracks of broken systems and communities. The belief is, it will take a loving community to offer healing.

Residents range in age from 19-60 and most experienced sexual abuse beginning between ages 7-11 and alcohol/drug abuse by 15. Survivors have experienced an average of 10 months in incarceration and spent, on average, one decade in trafficking and prostitution.

Thistle Farms' 'housing first' model interrupts these cycles of poverty, abuse, addiction, and homelessness to provide a holistic path toward healing. Residents experience transformative, sustainable change through two years of rent-free housing, physical and mental health treatment, case-management, education, training, and employment opportunities.

In an effort to offer residents and graduates both economic support and job training, Thistle Farms' social enterprises began in 2001, and have since grown into becoming the largest social enterprise employing women survivors in the country. Thistle Farms currently employs 37 residents and graduates who work across all areas of the social enterprises. Thistle Farms' social enterprises include Home & Body, The Cafe at Thistle Farms, and Thistle Farms Global.

Thistle Farms also supports a National Education & Outreach Initiative consisting of 50 sister and affiliate organizations across the country that are implementing Thistle Farms' model.

<https://thistlefarms.org>



II. ELCA Southeastern Synod Montgomery Pilgrimage

The Legacy Museum, and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019.

Join Bishop H. Julian Gordy, and fellow Lutherans and friends from across the ELCA Southeastern Synod on a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama, **Saturday, April 27, 2019.** Our purpose is to experience The Legacy Museum, and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice followed by a period of reflection and conversation with Bishop Gordy and members of the Equal Justice Initiative.

The agenda for the day is as follows:

- Tour The Legacy Museum in the morning.
- Break for lunch at a nearby eatery of your choice.
- Tour The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in the afternoon.
- Gather at 4:00 p.m. across the street at the Peace and Justice Memorial Center for reflection and conversation.

Are you interested? Here's what you need to do.

To register your participation, please contact the Church Office. We will notify the Synod office and register everyone from SVLC together. But, **you will need to purchase your own tickets directly from the museum.**

Peruse the Montgomery Pilgrimage Location Guide for important information about the Montgomery area, to include places to stay, worship, eat and visit. This guide is especially helpful if you plan to make the pilgrimage a weekend event. (The Montgomery Pilgrimage Location Guide is created and provided courtesy of the Rev. Tiffany Chaney, pastor developer, Gathered by Grace, Montgomery, AL.)

Should you have questions, please contact Pastor Eric or Ms. Carolyn Nottingham Davis, Executive Assistant to the Bishop by email or 404-589-1977.

