



UP BEAT

FROM DARRELL'S DESK *The Lenten Season*

At this time, you should be aware that we are in the middle of Lent. So, what is Lent? What does it mean and why does it change the times it is celebrated? And why does the name "Lent" causes people to shudder at the name?

First, Lenten means "spring" because the season happens in the spring. So far, so good. Second, Lenten is the 40 days right before Easter, but since Easter is based on the lunar calendar instead of our regular calendar, Easter and therefor Lent, have different dates every year. Since Easter occurs after the 1st full moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of spring), Easter can occur in a 36-day range. And Lent is the season 40 days before Easter. The 40 days reflect the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted. Officially, Lent lasts 46 days, but since you aren't supposed to work on the Sabbath, Sundays aren't counted in the 40.

Jesus fasted in the wilderness so fasting is connected to Lent, although fasting for most people doesn't connect. Instead of giving something up for Lent, like food 1x or 2x a week, I suggest that you pick something up for Lent. I am personally reading the book *Life is Worth Living* by Fulton J Sheen. The thing about fasting or giving something like chocolate for Lent is when you get a twinge for food, instead you think about God; the love God has for us or the sacrifice Jesus made for all humanity.

When I was a kid, Lent was not celebrated by the Methodists like the Catholics or Lutherans did. I don't know about the Presbyterians. Methodists had communion every three months and it was based on "remembrance"; remembering that Jesus died for us. Now, the mystical aspects of God is recognized by the United Methodists and the Presbyterians, and Lent is also recognized. It enriches our faith.

This year for Lent we are serving a light supper at 6:00 and then a video will be shown. It is called *Creed* by Adam Hamilton, explaining the Disciples' Creed. It is very good.

Palm Sunday in the United Parish will be held on April 9th, and Easter will be held on April 16th, with a Sunrise Service and a breakfast served before. Details to follow. I encourage you to attend these worship opportunities.

Palm Sunday - April 9th

Easter Sunday - April 16th 8:00 Worship

8:30 Breakfast

10:00 Worship Service

FROM DARRELL'S DESK *Stuck Ram*

I noticed last week six pick-ups a little bit west of Dunseith, and they were north of the highway in a snow-covered low-ground. Apparently they took turns trying to drive across it, and they apparently took turns getting stuck in it. It reminded me of Sexy Remy. He had three things of notice; a rich father and a new Dodge Ram pick-up truck and an uncontrollable desire to try new thing.

It was 1976 and I was farming south of Estherville, Iowa, and since it was 1976, there were patriotic feelings going on; feelings that Americans could accomplish anything. There was also a major drought going on by Estherville and I had no hope of a bumper (or a normal) crop that year. It was very hot that summer and these were trying times. Gerry was pregnant and was due in August, and there was no air conditioning and she was miserable. Otherwise, there was little hope that the year would turn out. My hogs were worth only 19 cents/pound and cattle were not better. Hope dwindled for all who lived by Estherville. Then Rex declared he would drive his new Ram truck across Cheever Slough.

It was on a Sunday in August and I drove the three miles west to see if he accomplished it. Cheever Slough was good for was for duck hunting and muskrat trapping. Now due to the drought, there just was cracked dirt and vulnerable muskrat houses the entire three miles across. Prime area to drive across, if you could avoid the muskrat houses.

Rex's new pick-up had a big 440 cc hemi engine and was a 4-wheel drive brute, with big tires. It was cherry red. Such trucks are more-or-less common now days, but back then they were a rarity. Rex figured that if he couldn't drive across it, nobody could.

Sexy Remy took off. When I got there, all there was a speck about 500 yards into the slough. He didn't make it. He spun down into the slough's mud, splattering mud everywhere. It wasn't cherry red anymore. There were already two tractors there trying to pull him out. The first tractor with a long cable got stuck trying to pull him out. The same with the 2nd tractor. I went home for my log chains and a third tractor. We stretched out cables and chains and went to work. I do believe that beer was involved before and after Rex's adventure. Completely covered with smelly slough dirt, we finally got the tractors and Rex's truck pulled out after three hours of work. The chains and our clothes covered with mud. Rex's truck? Nothing that a good car wash wouldn't fix.

Afterward Rex left, we started laughing about it. We laughed for the next two weeks. Fears can be trumped by a good sustained laugh. A good laugh brings hope. Then on August 13th, our baby was born and later that night, it rained. A hard rain, a drenching rain. The crop, such that it was, was saved. The rain filled in Rex's tracks and the slough was filled up again and there was no sign that Rex was ever there.

That is the way our sins are forgiven. If approached with a sorry heart, they're forgiven and no signs are left that they happened. But with God, they're



PRESBYTERIAN *Brief Statement of Faith*

(part 2; part one was in last week's newsletter)

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rule our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silences, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TEMPTATION

Within my earthly temple there's a crowd:
There's one of us that's humble, one that's proud;
There's one that's broken-hearted for his sins
There's one who unrepentant sits and grins;
There's one who loves his neighbor as himself,
And one who cares for naught but fame and pelf.
From much corroding care I should be free,
If once I could determine which is me. (Oscar Wilde)



April

- 1 – Logan Pewe
- 2 – Ken Bangs
- 8 – Joan Wettlaufer
- 13 - Dennis Gravseth
- 18 -Kynzie Allard
- 23 – Rod Bahn
- 26 – Paul Milbrath



Anniversaries

- 12 – Peggy & Troy Marsden
- 15 - Charles & Norma
Amsbaugh

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like it, please call the office.



Thank you to Barb Persson, Chairperson from First Lutheran, and everyone else who participated did an excellent job in presenting the program for World Day of Prayer.

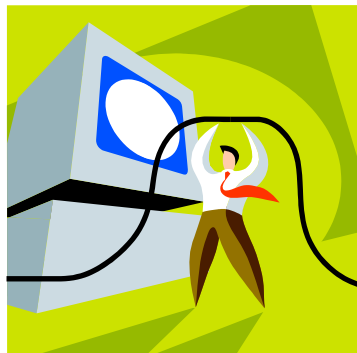
New Address:
Cherrille McLean
3300 S Stonebridge Drive #134
McKinney, TX 75070

United Parish Roof Fund

- Jean Lund - Art & Carol Lund
- Jerry & Arlene LaCroix
- Shari Turner
- Elwood Fauske - Ralph & Luella
Bjornseth





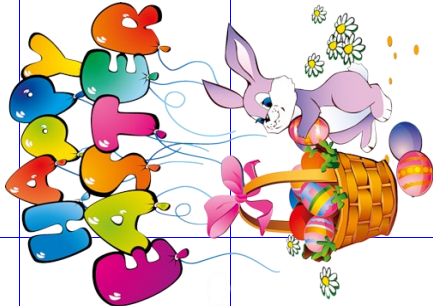
WESLEY’S COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen. (*John Wesley*)



Thank you
to John and Ethan who have been helping with the power point.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9:00 Fellowship 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship					
2 5:00 Family Fun Night & Potluck	3 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	4	5 2:00 PW 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Worship 7:00 Parish	6 10:00 Bible Study	7 8
9 	10 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	11	12 2:00 UMW	13 10:00 Bible Study	14  15
16 8:00 Worship 8:30 Breakfast 10:00 Worship Service	17 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship Happy Hearts 	18	19	20 10:00 Bible Study	21 22
23	24 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	25	26	27 10:00 Bible Study	 28
30					

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We are on the web
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**Newsletter News:
Send unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com**

**Deadline for May Newsletter
is April 24th
Pastor Boe's Cell phone 320-305-1953
Gerry Boe's cell phone 320-305-1340**

