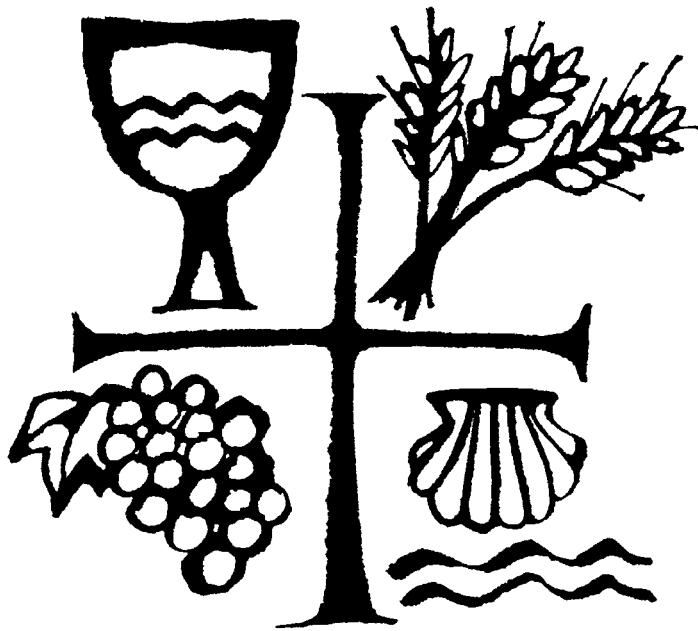


# LENT 2010

Through Death And Resurrection  
to New Life in Jesus Christ



E P H E S I A N S 2 : 1 0

IT IS GOD HIMSELF  
WHO MADE US  
WHAT WE ARE  
AND GIVEN US  
NEW LIVES FROM  
J·E·S·U·S C·H·R·I·S·T

# LENT

The word "Lent" is derived from an ancient Anglo-Saxon word meaning spring. It signifies the season of the year when the days begin to lengthen. Historically, the season developed within the worshipping community of the early Church. Originally, Lent was observed as a two week period of commemoration which focused the Church's attention on the crucial events leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Later, [Lent](#) was extended to include the [40 weekdays \(excluding Sundays\) prior to Easter](#). This time is reminiscent of the symbolic [40 days](#) Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted. Theologically, Lent is a time in which we are prepared for the triumphant Victory and joy of Easter. But to follow the road to Easter leads us



squarely to the foot of the cross. There are no detours. The cross reminds us that the incomprehensible victory of Christ at Easter was not accomplished within the context of ritualistic niceties, but through the agonizing despair and forsakenness of an innocent Jew dying on our cross who happened to be none other than God in the flesh. Lent bears witness to the truth that the love of God does not lull the people of God into the shallowness of sentimental glibness nor yearnings for sensationalistic displays. Rather the love of God revealed through the Passion leads the Church to the transforming, benevolent, self-giving love made visible in the shadows of the cross. Lent is not so much a time of morbid pessimism, but a season of sheer amazement that God would fathom the scandal of the cross on our behalf.



In many ways the season of Lent reminds us that the history of the Christian Church is a panoramic tapestry portraying the lives of people of every age who have been carried into a pilgrimage of discipleship by the incomprehensible magnitude of God's redeeming love and grace. Lent is also an occasion which invites us to intensify our participation in the disciplines of worship, prayer, study, reflection, meditation, and service -- all of which are channels where-by God's spirit and grace create in us a greater sense of compassion, a deeper faith, greater levels of understanding, and the varied fruits of spiritual renewal.



Through the faithful efforts of our Educational Ministry and Worship and Music Committees, we will use the [40 Days in Lent 2010](#) as an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal focusing on Christ's call to make disciples and to nurture people in the faith. We will also use [Lent 2010](#) as a time to link our commitment to [Passing On the Faith](#) with the five year [Book Of Faith](#) emphasis across the ELCA. The goal of the Book of Faith Emphasis is to help Lutherans grown in their faith by becoming better grounded in the Scriptures and fluent in the language of the Christian Faith. The

circumstances facing the Church in a post modern culture that is fast becoming both thoroughly secular and multi religious, confront the Church with a unique mix of dilemmas, challenges and opportunities. Martin E. Marty and other noted church historians and theologians have observed at least three troubling cultural dynamics confronting the Church in recent decades. One trend is the cultural tendency to drive a wedge between the individual and the corporate community. When such a split is made, the result is to focus almost exclusively on the "individual Christian" as if the corporate Christian community, The Church, were irrelevant. The second troubling trend is fueled by the growing chasm between the "individual" and the "communal" and manifests itself in the growing split between belief and belonging. Many people in our culture claim to believe in God and say that they are individually religious and / or Christian, yet at the same time they are indifference toward the Church and in some cases regard it with scorn. The third troubling trend is the seductive appeal of pluralism and relativism which often reduce issues of truth to mere matters of personal taste and preference. In such a culture, the notion that there is any such reality as a transcendent and revealed truth that stands above, below, beyond and in the midst of the human, physical and material world and a God on whom we are dependent and to whom we are accountable are suspect, if not completely rejected. The yield of a rabidly secular culture is to see all notions of truth as mere human constructs and to reduce truth to "whatever we as enlightened humans define truth to be in any given moment." In such a vapid and nihilistic world, individuals are free or doomed to create their own religion, belief system and meaning by picking and choosing from a religious and or philosophical smorgasbord served up in the world's religious and secular cafeteria. **Lent 2010** provides Philadelphia with a number of opportunities to develop ministries which ground people in the Book of Faith and connect the congregation with families to nurture and Pass On The Faith. These connections can help challenge the above trends, affirm the complementary relationship between the individual and the corporate Christian community, and serve as a tangible witness to the biblical truth that, we have been given and called to New Life in Jesus Christ and despite its failures and frailties, The Church is the "body of Christ" in today's world. (1 Cor. 12:27, Ephesians 4:12).

This year **Lent 2010** will include A series of Family Night Fellowship Meals, Bible Study & Learning for All Ages and Worship each Sunday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Pastor Weant and a member of the Worship & Music Committee will team up to lead the learning event. We will conclude with the Service of Night Prayer (Compline). Our primary resource will be the Book of Faith **40 Day Lenten Journey** entitled: Marks of A Christian - A study of Romans Chapter 12.



#### OUR SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

6:00 P.M.– Covered Dish Family Night Fellowship Meal.

7:00 P.M.– Bible Study, Learning for all ages & Worship (Compline)

Ash Wednesday (Lent begins), **Feb. 17, 7:00 P.M.** Worship, Invitation to the Lenten Discipline, Confession, Forgiveness, Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion. Sermon: "Out of Death, Dust & Ashes to New Life in Christ"

Food for Body & Soul. Each Wednesday during **Lent 2010: (Wed., Feb. 24 - Wed., March 31), (12:00 Noon - 1:15 PM)**. Will include an abbreviated Service of Prayer, Scripture and the Sacrament of Holy Communion followed by a mini Bible study and a light meal of soup and sandwich. Come and bring a friend!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent, Feb. 21 - Theme: "Book of Faith: Marks of A Christian" Leaders: Amy Lewis, Nancy Pasour & Pastor Weant.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Feb. 28 - Theme: "Book of Faith Marks of A Christian" Leaders: Diane Morgan, Pat West & Pastor Weant..

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 7 - Theme: "Book of Faith: Marks of A Christian" Leaders: Linda Weant, Janice Jarrett & Pastor Weant

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 14 - Theme: "Book of Faith: Marks of A Christian" Leaders: Janice Jarrett, Nancy Pasour & Pastor Weant.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 21 - Theme: "Book of Faith: Marks of A Christian" Leaders: Amy Lewis, Linda Weant & Pastor Weant.

**PALM SUNDAY** - Sunday of The Passion (**Sun., March 28**) **11:00 AM** - Palm Sunday Liturgy, Reading of the Passion & Procession with Palms.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Palm Sunday), March 28 - Theme: "Book of Faith: Marks of A Christian" Leaders: Pat Wes, Diane Morgan & Pastor Weant.



Palm Sunday & Easter Extravaganza - March 28, 4-6 PM - Special First Communion Nurturing Event, Learning Activity & Easter Egg Hunt in preparation for First Communion, Holy Week & Easter.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1, 7:00 P.M.** -- Remembering The Passover, The Upper Room,

Christ's Example of Servanthood, Symbolic Foot Washing, His command to: "Do This...", the institution of the Lord's Supper and the Stripping of the Altar.

**GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 7:00 P.M.** -- The reading of The Passion from John's Gospel, The Good Friday Liturgy on the Crucifixion which will conclude with the traditional Tenebrae Liturgy.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE (Easter Vigil), April 4, 7:00 A.M.** (Daylight Savings Time) - Discovery of the empty tomb, Adoration of the Altar, and the Service of the Word.

**CONGREGATIONAL EASTER BREAKFAST, 7:45 A.M.** - Easter Celebration, breaking of the Lenten Fast & breakfast prepared by Philadelphia's Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM).

#### FESTIVAL EASTER SERVICE

(Celebrating the Resurrection, Christ's Victory over Sin, Evil and Death) **11:00 A.M.** -- Worship, The Sacrament of Holy Communion, Gospel Procession, and Special Music.

