



St. Philip Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our Hands.

Issue 2: Lent 2016



St. Philip News



LENT

What is Lent?

The season of Lent derives from the ancient Church's period of preparation for those who were to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. That preparation included instruction, fasting, repentance, prayers and special acts of devotion. Today, the Church uses this same period and some of those same practices to prepare for the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ.



The word "Lent" comes from the old English word "lencten" (meaning lengthen), and is a reference to the lengthening of days that occurs during this time of the year. For that reason, Lent is associated with Spring. As the earth sees a rebirth and renewal of the plants and flowers during this season, so Lent is a time for Christians to consider our rebirth in Baptism and engage in spiritual renewal as preparation for Easter.

Lent is 40 days long, counting from Ash Wednesday (and minus the six Sundays, which are little celebrations of the resurrection). Those 40 days identify with Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness as he prepared for his ministry; with Moses' 40 days of fasting and prayer on Mt. Sinai as he waited to receive the Law from God; and with Elijah's 40 days of fasting and prayer on his way to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Why do we smear ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.

Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground, "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.



-Adapted from "Why and how do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?" (ELCA)

LENT DEVOTIONS

At the beginning of each season of Lent, we are invited with the whole Church to enter a time of renewal in our life in Christ. We mark this holy season with certain **disciplines** – repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Let us begin our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection, engaging in one particular Lenten discipline each week.

Week of February 14 – Repentance

LUKE 15:1-10

The Greek word for repentance, has the notion of turning around, changing direction, turning to the Lord. How has asking God for forgiveness and making a substantial change made a difference in your life? What area in your life do you such desire a change right now?



Week of February 21 – Prayer

LUKE 11:1-4

Do you pray daily? What do you typically prayer for? Do you primarily ask for things? What role does listening play in your prayer life? How might you expand your understanding of prayer? Rather than saying “I’ll pray for you,” try to actually stop and pray with them in that moment.

Week of February 28 – Fasting

MATTHEW 6:16-18

Would you consider trying to fast – to go a day without major meals? Why would God ask us to fast? It is a practice that is designed to strengthen the spiritual life by weakening one’s attractions to pleasures of the senses. Thus fasting is always coupled with prayer and spiritual preparation. Might we even fast or abstain from something other than food? What might you abstain from that could help you focus even more deeply on your relationship with God?



Week of March 6 – Sacrificial Giving

MARK 12:41-44

Do you consider almsgiving to be part of or above and beyond the sacrifice of tithing? In what ways do you typically engage in sacrificial giving? How does it feel like a sacrifice? If it doesn’t, might you try to extend more generosity? How is almsgiving more than just writing a check?



Week of March 13 – Works of love

MATTHEW 25:31-40

What makes it difficult to love others? Is it easier to do works of love for people you know well or those you don’t know well? What’s the difference between doing something nice for someone and doing a ‘work of love’? What work of love might you do this week?



The disciplines of Lent are not peculiar to the season; rather just intensified for a time. May this season of Lent help you to intentionally practice these disciplines so that they might be used to strengthen your faith at various other times the year.

Sources: The Rev. Kyle Severson, The Rev. Thomas Weitzel, Thomas J. Euteneuer, and Prof. Phillip Pfatteicher



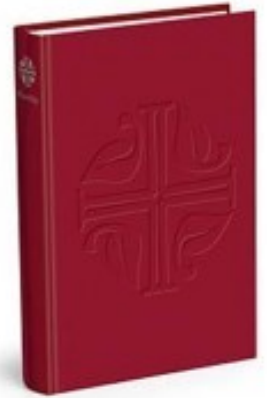
Spiritual Life

ELW WORSHIP BOOK

Introducing... *Evangelical Lutheran Worship!*

Worship is at the heart of our life as the people of God. God's wonderful gifts of Word and Sacrament are signs that we daily live in God's amazing grace. At various points in our life together, we are encouraged to build a new treasury of prayer and song to help the church renew its worship life. This year we reach one of those moments in our congregation's history: we will transition to use *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as our primary worship resource on Easter Sunday, March 26, 2016.

First published in 2006, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) was designed to replace the familiar green *Lutheran Book of Worship*, which came out in 1978, and the blue *With One Voice*, which was published in 2001. Most ELCA congregations now use *ELW* or the "cranberry hymnal" as it is sometimes called. These new resources reflect the riches of our past, the gifts of the present, and the hope that we have for the future of God's church. They have already been nurturing a life of prayer and worship in our denomination for 10 years.



The ELW retains much of what was in the LBW and WOV, including all of our favorite hymns from our Hymn Madness competition. But while it doesn't take much away, it offers abundant options for enlivening our worship. We've already been using some of the new liturgical settings and hymns in our worship, many of which you have appreciated deeply.

During the month of February, we will be taking designated donations to help us with the purchase of these new hymns. We encourage every worshipping participant to purchase one or two hymnals for the congregation at \$25 a piece, an Easter gift to the church, and certainly one could do so in memory or honor of someone beloved as in the past, for which we would put a dedication in the front of the hymnal.

On Palm/Passion Sunday, March 20th, we will have a special ceremony where we give thanks for the many years that the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice* nurtured our faith and then carry them out of our sanctuary. During the next week, members of the Worship and Music Team will look through each of the hymnals and find which ones were given by current members and invite you to take them home on Easter Sunday. On that festive day, we will dedicate our new hymnals as we look forward to many years of giving God praise using the ELW!

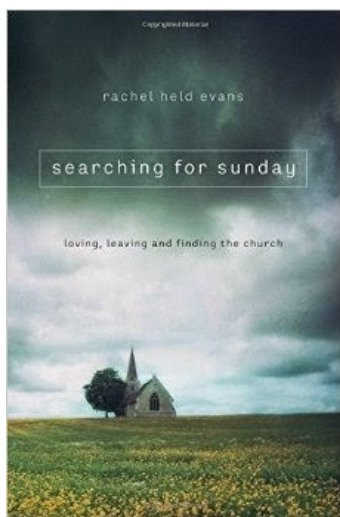
As you prepare to support our congregation's worship life through the gift of new worship resources, we invite you to respond with a grateful heart.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Recipient of a \$200,000 Grant from Dorothy C. and Richard A. Parks Foundation

The Foundation board was impressed by the mighty hands-on work we do to serve the community and have chosen to support our mission by responding to our grant request. First and foremost, this grant is to be used to inspire our own giving and generosity. Second, it can be used for capital expenses or expenses that could not normally be accomplished through the ordinary budget process. This incredibly generous gift does not mean we can become passive and dependent upon this money but rather it will require even more of us - even more vision, even more faithfulness, even more generosity. But thanks be to God for this opportunity!

BOOK REVIEW



Rachel Held Evans. *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2015.

Searching for Sunday is raw, honest, and vulnerable, yet daringly hopeful, fearlessly tackling tough subjects of faith. The framework for *Searching for Sunday* is the church's seven sacraments. [Lutherans teach there are two sacraments but we hold the other five practices as important rites of the church]. Rachel suggests that people are “looking for Jesus – the same Jesus who can be found in the strange places he's always been found: in bread, in wine, in baptism, in the Word, in suffering, in community, and among the least of these.”

Rachel's evocative language will help breathe new life into your understanding of the sacraments, regardless of how familiar you are (or aren't) with them. According to her, “When my faith had become little more than an abstraction, a set of propositions to be affirmed or denied, the tangible, tactile nature of the

sacraments invited me to touch, smell, taste, hear and see God in the stuff of everyday life again. They got God out of my head and into my hands. They reminded me that Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people.”

Searching for Sunday is really a love letter to the church. It acknowledges the church's imperfections and yet at the same time, affirms that it matters. After all, as Rachel says, “I can't be a Christian on my own. I need a community.”

Searching for Sunday is a book for anyone searching for community; For those longing to understand why the church matters; And for those who have been hurt by the church and yet somehow, can't let go of their desire to be part of it. It's a reminder that at its best, “church is a moment in time when the kingdom of God draws near, when a meal, a story, a song, an apology, and even a failure is made holy by the presence of Jesus among us and within us”; That it's a “family of sinners, saved by grace, committed to tearing down the walls, throwing open the doors and shouting, 'Welcome! There's bread and wine. Come eat with us and talk.'” May we, like Rachel, have the courage to accept that invitation, to seek out the church and acknowledge not just its faults, but its value. In the process, may we find and encounter God's grace in the church, in and amongst its people.

- Review adapted from Jen Bradbury

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Philip Annual Auction: Sunday February 21, 6 pm.

Come to one of our main annual fundraiser and enjoy the delights of bidding on parties and treats in your local area. A fun evening with great options to bid on. Lots of fun parties have been donated by members of the congregation and gift certificates from many local companies. So bring your calendar and your checkbook and bid on your social events for the next year!





Worship

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

February 10	7 pm	Ash Wednesday with communion
February 17, 24	6:30 pm	Soup supper 7:15 pm Lenten Service
March 2, 9, 16	6:30 pm	Soup supper 7:15 pm Lenten Service
March 20	9 am	Palm Sunday
March 24	7 pm	Maundy Thursday
March 25	7 pm	Good Friday
March 27	9 am	Easter Sunday (Breakfast from 7:30 am)

Join us for worship **every Sunday at 9 am**. All are welcome.

WORSHIP SERVERS THIS SEASON

Date	Communion Assistants	Sacristan	Reader	Ushers	Greeter	Coffee
Feb 7	Steve/Mike	Maxine	Schick/Mike	Jack/Rita	Nancy	Rita/Jack
Feb 10—7 pm	Pam/Mike	Maxine	Megan	Bob/	Pam	
Feb 14	Ellen/Mike	Maxine	Nancy	Bill/	Rita	Sharon
Feb 21	Steve/Mike	Maxine	Clyde	Bill/	Jack	
Feb 28	LuAnn/Mike	Maxine	Gemma	Steve P/	LuAnn	Carol D
Mar 6	Steve/Pam	Elaine	Ellen B	Bob/	Pam	
Mar 13	LuAnn/	Elaine	Carol D	Jack/	LuAnn	
Mar 20	LuAnn/	Elaine	Bonnie	Bill/	LuAnn	Carol D
Mar 24—7 pm	Pam/	Elaine	Elaine	Bob/	Pam	
Mar 25—7 pm		Elaine	Terri/Clyde	Todd/	Steve P	
Mar 27		Elaine	Megan	Todd/	Sharon	

ADULT FORUM

FEBRUARY 14 – Food | Eating, with Jesus | Sara Miles

Sara believes that French fries can be as holy as organic kale when they are offered and shared in acts of love and fellowship. This point can get lost in our conversations about the “right” kind of food.

FEBRUARY 21 – Meeting Sunday

FEBRUARY 28 – Sacraments | A Tapestry of Traditions | Phyllis Tickle

For many of us, the sacraments have become just another part of our church routine, like hymns and prayer. But Phyllis asks us to revisit the ancient meaning of these experiences and consider what we are really up to as we take part in these practices.

MARCH 6 – Money | The Joy of Sharing | Shane Claiborne

Shane’s message can easily be construed as political, but he asks us to look beyond -isms and -ologies to see financial generosity as a kingdom call, rather than a social position.

MARCH 13 – Service | The Needs Right in Front of You | Enuma Okoro

Enuma is a seasoned traveler, having lived and worked in countries on four continents. But she encourages us to see the needs around us. This local context can give us a new understanding of what service really looks like.

MARCH 20 – Meeting Sunday

MARCH 27 – Easter

APRIL 3 – Community | An Unexpected Family | Doug Pagitt

Doug pushes us to think of community as more than just a nice idea. He invites us to remake our communities by bringing our gifts, our talents, and our ideas with us wherever we go.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: Wednesdays 7 pm

Resumes after Easter on March 30

Women’s Bible Study: Wednesdays 9 am

Men’s Bible Study: Thursdays 10 am

Dig deeper into the readings for the upcoming Sunday so that you hear them with much more understanding in worship!

SEASONAL EVENTS



Join us for Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 7:30 am.

Kids are invited to our Egg Hunt after worship!

St. Philip Lutheran Church

1609 Pfingsten Road

Glenview IL 60026



Church Leadership and Staff

Email: info@stphilipglenview.org

Phone: (847) 998-1946

Web: www.stphilipglenview.org

Pastor Kyle Severson

Pastor

pastorkyle@stphilipglenview.org

Gemma Batty

Parish Administrator/Education

gemma@stphilipglenview.org

Iryna Laudadio

Music Director

iryna@stphilipglenview.org

Barb Kit-Mitalo

Bookkeeper

Mary Roth

Financial Secretary/Fellowship

Terri Schlangen *Mutual Ministry*

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Steve Parks *Council President /
Fellowship / Mutual Ministry*

LuAnn Jones *Vice President /
Property*

Melanie Chavin *Secretary /
Worship and Music*

Jack Taylor *Treasurer / Finance /
Communication*

Mike Bratkovich *Education*

Pam Blackstone *Outreach*

Ellen Sypura *Stewardship*

Season	Due Date	Mailing
Advent/ Christmas/	Nov 9, 2015	Nov 16, 2015
Lent	Jan 25, 2016	Feb 1, 2016
Holy Week/ Easter	Mar 10, 2016	Mar 15, 2016
Pentecost I	May 8, 2016	May 13, 2016
Pentecost II	Aug 10, 2016	Aug 15, 2016
Advent/ Christmas	Nov 10, 2016	Nov 15, 2016
Epiphany	Dec 28, 2016	Jan 2, 2017