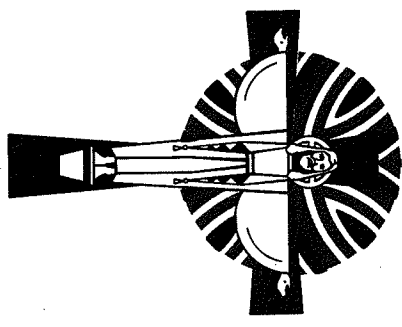


# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



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February 9, 2017

Dear Saints in Christ—

With Lent quickly approaching, I want to tell you about all the opportunities to join us at Messiah this season:

## **ShroveFest, Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 4-8 pm**

Don't miss Messiah's annual Fat Tuesday celebration for the community, complete with home-made dinners, a German band, new this year: ShroveKids crafts, games and activities (from 5:30-7:30 pm). I hope you'll come to enjoy the party that evening. Do tell your friends, and bring them too.

## **Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 9:10 am and 7 pm**

I can't encourage you enough to attend one of these services, especially if you haven't been to one for a while. Nowhere will you get as strong a reminder of the enormous need in you, and in us all, that our Lord Jesus gave up everything to address. It's a reminder to carry with us all through our days.

## **Lenten Devotionals**

2017 is the year of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Bishop Eaton of the ELCA encourages Lutheran congregations to engage in a study of Luther's Small Catechism during this year of the 500th Anniversary. **FREE INDEED** invites all of us to reflect on the basics of the Christian faith, from the Ten Commandments to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. These devotion booklets will be available beginning Sunday, Feb. 26, outside the Church Office. One copy per family, please. A \$2 donation would be greatly appreciated.

## **Lenten Giving Project: 40 Days/400 Bibles**

Messiah is undertaking a special challenge this Lent by working towards purchasing 400 Bibles to be used by mission churches around the world. These Bibles, written in the language of the indigenous people, will assist the preaching, teaching and study of God's promises by new Christians who hunger for God's Word. A Bible can be sponsored for \$12. A special display will provide the information needed to join in this effort to "feed hungry souls." 40 Days/400 Bibles begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent.

## **Wednesday Evening Meal & Prayer Service**

Each Wednesday from March 8 - April 5, we invite you to join us at church for our revamped **Fellowship Meal from 5:30-6:30 pm**, and then at our **Wednesday Lenten service at 7 pm**. The theme this year will be "Following Jesus: What Does 'This Mean?'"

I pray that the Holy Spirit will work in all of us at Messiah in the weeks and months to come, increasing our faith, expanding our minds, and helping us to grow as people who honor and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithfully yours,

Pr. Burce

*Drawing in to Christ . . .*

*Building up in Christ . . .*

*Sending out for Christ . . .*

*to the Glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.*