



Redeemer Revelations

A publication of Redeemer Lutheran Church 1658 Roane State Hwy Harriman, TN 37748



Lent 101

I believe it has been several years since I last wrote an article that specifically addresses the meaning of Lent, so this year seems to be a good time for a “refresher course.” The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, a word meaning “spring” or “springtime,” and the German *Lenz*, meaning “the time when the days lengthen.” During the spring of the year, of course, daylight increases, trees begin to bud, and flowers begin to bloom. During springtime, God’s creation undergoes a time of renewal.

Similarly, Lent is a time of renewal for you and me. In a very real sense, Lent is a springtime for the soul. It is a time of self-examination and repentance—a time when we face both who we are and what we have been in contrast to the perfect obedience required of us under God’s Law. And yet it is also a time when we rediscover what we have become through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—forgiven sinners who have been restored to a right relationship with God. Through the Lenten disciplines of repentance, prayer, self-denial, and works of love, we are renewed in our faith and life and are better prepared to celebrate Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and the devil when Easter Sunday arrives.

This special season begins, of course, with the observance of Ash Wednesday, a day which got its name from the ancient practice of daubing the foreheads of those who worship that day with ashes. Ordinarily, the ashes are made by burning palm branches used in the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration. While ashes are a sign of repentance, more importantly, they symbolize our mortality. For this reason, the ashes are applied to the forehead with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). But the fact that the ashes are daubed on the forehead in the sign of a cross is a vivid reminder that, through the cross of Christ, all who die in faith will rise to life everlasting.

Many Christians also choose to fast during the forty days of Lent. Fasting during this season does not involve completely abstaining from food and drink, but eating and drinking less—or choosing to abstain from eating a certain food throughout the forty days—or taking in no food or drink during a specific time frame each day. Such fasting is meant to serve as a reminder that everything is a gift from God and that Jesus gave up everything, even His own life, for the salvation of sinners.

The forty days of this special season correspond to the forty days and nights Jesus spent in the wilderness when He was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus spent this time in fasting and prayer, preparing for His public ministry which would ultimately take Him to

Jerusalem and the cross. The six Sundays which occur during the season of Lent are not considered part of the forty days, and therefore they are ordinarily called Sundays “in Lent” rather than Sundays “of Lent.” The fortieth and final day of Lent is Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday.

This special season of preparation, repentance, and renewal leads us finally to the highest and holiest festival in the Christian Church, the celebration of Jesus’ victory over death and the grave through His bodily resurrection from the dead on that first Easter morning. With Christians throughout the world, we gather that day to proclaim and rejoice in the glorious truth that “Christ is risen!” ... the glorious truth that, because Jesus lives, so will you and I live—forever! **I am**

Yours in Christ,

Pastor

March Service Schedule

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Cleaning	Ellis	Ellis	Open	Headrick	Savard
Communion	Board of Elders		Board of Elders		Board of Elders
Altar Flowers	Lent	Lent	Lent	Lent	Lent
Sanctuary Lamp	David/Judy Bardill	Moore	James	Turner	Cordell Family

Rummage Sale News

THANK YOU to everyone who donated and/or bought in support of our National Youth Group Gathering Rummage Sale! It was one of our best! In anticipation of next year's Rummage Sale, if you find things in your home that you are ready to part with, please feel free to bring them to the church. We will use our usual back corner room to begin gathering. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moore, Carole James, or Judi Owens.

SOME THOUGHTS ON BIBLICAL GIVING

(from the LCMS Department of Stewardship)

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Timothy 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.



*Please Pray for
Those Hospitalized
and All Members*

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

- † **Brit Jackson**, cousin of Kathy Moore, who continues to recover from serious injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.
- † **Maria Pfefferle**, cousin of Kathy Moore, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- † **Madeline Faith Plemons**, grandniece of Paul and Virginia Schubert, who was born with VACTERL syndrome.
- † **Clair “Razz” Rasmussen**, former member of Redeemer, who is experiencing declining health.
- † **Allan Rees**, friend of Kristy Kistner, who is experiencing heart problems.
- † **Charlie Williams**, stepfather of Michelle (Heidle) Campbell, who has Parkinson’s disease.

And please pray for our shut-ins:

- † **Roger Beu** (Home).
- † **Bob and Bev Scofield** (Home).

And please pray for the following members of our Armed Forces:

- † **David Fell** (son of Mary Day).
- † **Jackson Fields** (friend of Janice Bardill).
- † **Derek Hayward** (brother of Alison Savard).
- † **Jordan Sayre** (friend of Sarah Morey).
- † **Justin Vennard** (nephew of Pastor and Jennifer)
- † **William Wilson**.
- † **Niclas Woltman** (grandson of Barbara Woltman).

If you know of someone who may be removed from this prayer list, please leave a note in the “Newsletter Editor” mailbox.



News from Trinity HOPE

This is one of a series of articles which we make available each month to keep our supporters informed about our activities. Trinity HOPE, a not-for-profit charitable organization, raises funds and administers feeding programs that provide a noon meal for the hungry children who attend our schools in Haiti where the Good News of Jesus is shared daily.

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• Web Page: www.TrinityHope.org • Facebook: trinityhopehaiti

Central Plateau Schools

Written by Lars Helland - Eternal Shepherd, Seneca, SC

Pastor Walta of Haiti Visits Eternal Shepherd



Interested in being part of this mission? Next trip is January 21st-24th. Contact Lars

Pastor Phil McLain was serving as a vacancy pastor at Mt Pisgah LCMS Hendersonville, NC in 2017 and was very impressed with the mission outreach their church was doing in Haiti. Pastor Phil contacted me, Lars Helland, Chairman of Eternal Shepherd's Mission Committee. We accepted an invitation to have Pastor Walta come from Haiti and speak to our Mission Committee and discuss how we might get involved. In January 2018 Pastor Phil was going to Laotchikit Haiti to teach

Homiletics to the seminarians. Taking that opportunity, I accepted the invitation to go along.

None of us had any idea what we would encounter – other than a rapidly growing church and school with almost 400 young students. When we arrived at Laotchikit, the first thing I noticed and photographed was the open fire pit with three large cauldrons cooking what looked like Brunswick Stew. I learned that this was a meal provided for the students each day. It was “designed” by Vanderbilt nutritionist to be the most nutritious single serving a child could get. For many, it was the only meal the child would have that day. I learned about Trinity HOPE.



Pastor Mura, Pastor Walta introduced brother Samuel – a seminarian to our team. Samuel invited us to his home to view the church he built. Pastor Walta drove us there and we were joined by three others from Samuel's church. We sat in the front of the church, six of us and listened to Samuel share his dream. He wanted to start as school, and the men sitting with us would be the staff. He had 29 students wanting to sign up. This would of course be a Lutheran School and the church would serve as the classroom. It was at that moment I realized why I was on this trip to Haiti. In a leap of faith I stated “we will make that happen!” Pastor Walta would take care all the necessary paperwork to establish the school “Pas Bonbon.” The school would need more than the



salaries for the staff – it would need Trinity HOPE, school supplies, Bibles in French just for starters. After seeing the open fires in Laotchikit, I got the funds ready to build a kitchen with a duplicate at Laotchikit. Pas Bonbon would also need water, and restrooms so we at Eternal Shepherd funded the

construction of the kitchen, the restrooms, digging the well, adding a generator/pump. The school in Pas Bonbon opened in September with more than the expected 29 students. At Christmas last year, 2018, they had 110 students. Opening session for the 2019-2020 school year just a few months ago over 250 students were on the roster. My wife Lois and I attended a Trinity HOPE celebration dinner in Nashville in August and learned more about how extensive feeding the children of Haiti really is.

Backing up in time a little, I received a video from Pastor Walta in July 2018, telling me about an area with several thousand people, mostly Creole speaking. They were in such a remote area, it was not accessible by motorcycle or even horseback. The rocks and boulders were everywhere and the climb was very steep. I asked Pastor Walta the name of the church – “Rocky Road?” About twenty minutes later I got a reply from Pastor Walta – “we like that name, we are now calling it “Rocky Road.” Inadvertently I had named a church. In addition, they planned to start a school and would need help with feeding the children. We at Eternal Shepherd stepped up and took on the challenge of a second school. In September 2019, 125 children came to the school. Between the two schools, Pas Bonbon and Rocky Road, we at Eternal Shepherd Seneca SC are covering the cost of feeding an average of 375 children each day.

I can think of no other place on earth that is bringing more men, women, and children to Christ than what is happening in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Thank You Trinity HOPE for all you are doing. You are blessed to be a blessing!

March 2020

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Sunday School, 9:15 am Divine Service, 10:30 am Fellowship following Worship Junior Confirmation, 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Lenten Midweek Service, 11:00 am</p>			<p><i>Perpetua and Felicitus, Martyrs</i> Set Clocks Forward One Hour</p>
<p>8 <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> Sunday School, 9:15 am Divine Service, 10:30 am Fellowship following Worship Junior Confirmation, 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>10 Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>11 Lenten Midweek Service, 11:00 am Board of Elders meeting, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>12 Circuit Meeting at Christ of the Cumberlands, Harrogate, 9:00 am</p>	<p>13 Prayer Breakfast at Harriman Care, 7:30 am</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Sunday School, 9:15 am Divine Service, 10:30 am Fellowship following Worship Junior Confirmation, 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>17 <i>Patrick, Missionary to Ireland</i> Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 6:00 pm</p>	<p>18 Lenten Midweek Service, 11:00 am</p>	<p>19 <i>St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 "Listening Hearts" Support Group, 10:00 am</p>
<p>22 Sunday School, 9:15 am Divine Service, 10:30 am Fellowship following Worship Junior Confirmation, 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>24 NO Tuesday Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>25 <i>The Annunciation of Our Lord</i> Lenten Midweek Service, 11:00 am</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Newsletter DEADLINE Sunday School, 9:15 am Divine Service, 10:30 am Fellowship following Worship Junior Confirmation, 12:00 noon</p>	<p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>31 <i>Joseph, Patriarch</i> Tuesday Evening Bible Study, 6:00 pm</p>				

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on March 1, 15, and 29 (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays).



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