

Lent is the church season of preparation for the great festival of Easter. It is a season of forty days (not including the Sundays), based on the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, and the 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness between their exodus from slavery in Egypt and their return to the promised land of Israel.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which is March 9 this year. We will once again be having an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM, which will include the imposition of ashes (marking your forehead with ashes), and we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper around the communion table.

Beginning with the week of March 13, I will be leading a Lenten study entitled *Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem*. We will be studying some of the great Lenten themes including:

- Temptation
- Atonement--Why the Cross?
- Theodicy--Why do good people suffer?
- The Breadth of God's grace
- The place of wealth
- The significance of Palm Sunday

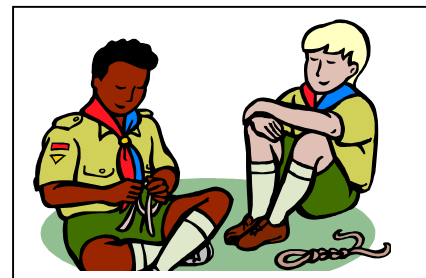
**Course description:** Lent is not exactly "biblical," of course. But the day it awaits--Easter--recalls events central to the story of Jesus in the Gospels. Over the centuries, Christians have found it helpful to prepare for the keeping of this biblical feast of the Christian year with a season that offers a shared discipline to ready our hearts and minds to celebrate our Savior's resurrection. Lent has long been essentially penitential, that is, a time set aside for making sacrifices, for "giving things up for Lent," for rigorous self-examination, for honest confession. In recent years, however, many Christians have focused their Lenten preparation more on study and prayer. Nevertheless, such study and prayer occurs even as Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem, where he will meet betrayal and death. So the very act of study in Lent is *Lenten*; it cannot escape the shadow of the cross and invites us to engage the ancient Lenten themes of sacrifice, self-examination, and confession.

The class will be offered at two different times. You may choose to attend Sunday mornings in the Gibson Room at 9:15 (during the Sunday School hour), starting March 13, or Tuesday evenings beginning March 15 at 7:00 PM in the Gibson Room. Consider making this class one of your Lenten disciplines this year. Please let the church office or me know by March 8 if you would like to attend so that you can receive the materials. We can email the lessons to you, or, if you prefer, we can print the lessons ahead of time for you. Please give us your email address if you would like the materials emailed to you.

*Raymond A. Meester*

## UPDATE:

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about the history of Boy Scouts at Heritage Church. Our history with the Boy Scouts goes farther back than I originally thought! Both Harvey and Tom Traudt were involved in Scouting in the 40's here at Heritage, and both of them received their Eagle rewards. Also, the Coopers had a Scout cabin that was located in what is now Holmes Park.





## March Birthday Greetings

- 02 Jim Geistlinger
- 09 Melinda Brage
- 12 Karen Paulson
- 12 Zachary Werner
- 13 Isaias Ventura
- 13 Scott Gaines
- 14 Adriana Miller
- 16 Karen Minks
- 18 Karen Stork
- 20 Elly Propp
- 22 Les Brown
- 22 Ron Miller
- 25 Lorna Lawson
- 27 Maya Jack
- 27 Sydney Miller
- 29 Jeff Pierce
- 29 Patty Kouba

## LOOKING FOR IDEAS



The Mission Committee is looking for ideas for mission projects during 2011 and we need your help! Do you know of a good project in which we could participate? We are looking for projects/organizations that need a small group of volunteers to assist with a one-time project or a short-time project--projects where we can give of our time, not just money! If you have ideas, please contact the Mission Committee: Karen Griffin Sieber, Barb Shaeffer, Pat Zink, Richard Wright, Jeff Pierce, Jane Bitney, or Leanne Miller.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN



... will be "hiding" their "Alleluia's" on **Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>**, during the worship service. The children hide their butterflies in a trunk on the Sunday before ash Wednesday. We hope all the children will be able to participate.

## CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY



We urge you to celebrate your birthday by becoming a member, or renewing your membership, to the **Heritage Birthday Club**.

Membership is posted on the church Bulletin Board. It is suggested that \$1.00 be contributed for each year of your birthday.. All funds donated to this club are transferred to Heritage's Endowment Fund.

## March Anniversaries



- 11 Duane and Kay Schweitzer
- 16 Norris and Eunice Sintek

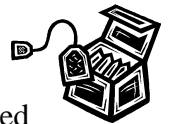
Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.

## Fellowship Coffee and Cookies

Join in for fellowship and conversation on the first Sunday of the month. There is a sign-up sheet if you wish to provide cookies.



## EQUAL EXCHANGE



Equal Exchange this year have expanded and are also offering a varied line of *organic* small farmer teas. A new shipment of fairly traded products just arrived! They are available for purchase in the "Coffee Corner"



A big thank you to all who supported the **Souper Bowl of Caring 2011**. The DUC's raised \$254.80. The monies collected go to the Matt Talbot Soup Kitchen.

The DUC's also on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, went to Matt Talbot and volunteered their services. Holding the pots for collections are DUC's – Nash, Lariah, and Adrianna.

## DAFFODIL DAYS



Thank you!! Daffodils will brighten our church on March 13 thanks to the church members who supported the American Cancer Society annual daffodil sales. As we look at those daffodils, may we remember all who have battled cancer and thank those who supported the fight with their donation. \$240.00 was received this year. (\$160.00 last year)

## The Heritage Book Club



At our next meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be picking books for the next six months. We also plan to do a review of "I Am a Man"

Due to weather conditions we were unable to meet in February. Contact Audre Nielson or the church office for more information about the book club.



## Per Capita Assessment 2011 Update

Heritage pays a per capita assessment each year for every active member to cover certain costs of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Thus far \$2,471.30 has been received. Please consider writing a check and place it in the blue "Per Capita" envelope in the pews – and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Our goal for 2011 is \$4,000.

## THE GIVING TABLE

**March 6th....** During the communion service, members will be encouraged to bring personal care or baby items forward "to give



as they receive". The items will then be given to the Maternal Child Health Program at the county health department. This program serves families who have histories of



trauma, intimate partner violence, mental health issues, economic risk factors and other risk factors. The major needs include diapers of all sizes, or gently used infant, toddler, or young children clothing.



KFOR Radio and local television stations will be contacted by 8:00 AM on Sunday mornings if worship will be canceled due to inclement weather. On bad weather days, the church office will be closed if the schools in Lincoln are closed



Please contact the church office if your group cancels a meeting so we can adjust the thermostats. They are on timers to follow the calendar.



## BE IN PRAYER FOR

Pat Zink, John Dzerk, Vizma (Barb Shaeffer's daughter-in-law), Cassy (a friend of Cynthia Smetter's daughter), Nicole Zink, Nancy (Leanne Miller's friend), Dave (Leanne's father). Sherry's brother who is at Creighton Hospital in Omaha (Sherry is a teacher at Waverly) Please update prayer requests with Marilyn Smith or the church office weekly.



## A group tour of Bess Streeter Aldrich's Home in Elmwood

This tour is being planned for Sunday afternoon, March 13. Please meet in the church parking lot at 1:15 PM if you would like to carpool with us. We will leave at 1:30 PM and return to the church around 4:30 PM. To help us plan transportation, please sign up at church or call the church office by March 10. Friends are welcome, too!

**Cost for the tour will be: Adults \$5.00**



**THANK YOU** for all the prayers, cards, and concern for Carson during his recent surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Ray, Ramona, and the Miller's for the visits and goodies. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Jeff and Cindy Pierce

**THANK YOU** – The family of Helen D. Moser want to THANK Ray and Ramona, all the members and friends who prayed, sent cards and memorials. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness at this very sad time; so very much. Thank you, Bless you, Lovingly – Marilynn McDonald & Family

**THANK YOU** – Many thanks for all the cards, prayers, and kind thoughts. Marilyn Smith

**THANK YOU** – Pastor Ray and the Heritage Prayer Line: Thank you for all your thoughts & prayers. I truly appreciate them.... Recovery is going well....

Robyn Throckmorton

**Deadline to submit articles for next newsletter: March 15:** Articles received after this time may not be included in the Newsletter.

## February (2/13/11) Session Highlight

- Approved adding Leanne Miller to the Mission Committee, and appointing Mike and Denise Lagueux as Co-chairs of HEARTeam.
- Approved dismantling the Worship & Music Committee because most of the duties assigned to the committee are now being done under the new Team concept.
- Approved Malley Keelan's request to do a musical concert at Heritage Church on Mother's Day evening, Sunday, May 8, 2011. All the money will be donated to Voices of Hope (formerly the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.)
- Approved Mary Pat McBride's use of the Heritage Church on Sunday evening, April 3, 2011, for a piano recital.
- Approved Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.
- Approved Robert and Phyllis Foreman's request to join the church on reaffirmation of faith, and Freddie and Jeanne Bonnett, Jr.'s request to join the church on profession of faith.



### **SYNOD OF LAKES AND PRAIRIES**

Synod School 2011 ... "All My Relatives"

The annual education event of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies will run July 24-29, 2011 at the Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa - (More information to follow.)

***Changes are often made in our calendar after it is printed in the church newsletter. For the most up-to-date information, please check the calendar found on our website: [www.HeritagePres.org](http://www.HeritagePres.org).***