



QuotesIdeas.com

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH THE VOICE OF ZION

March 2025

SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURE READINGS

- March 2 Pastor Jan
"What's With Simon's Faith?"
Acts 8:1-25
- March 5 Ash Wednesday
"From Dust to Dust"
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- March 9 Pastor Nate
"A Journey To and In The Wilderness"
Mark 1:9-15
- March 16 Pastor Nate
"A Journey Towards God's Limitless
Love"
Mark 9:2-9
- March 23 Pastor Nate
"A Journey Towards Transformation"
John 2:13-22
- March 30 Pastor Nate
"A Journey of Renewal"
John 3:14-21



BIBLE READINGS

- March 2 Leviticus 24-27, Psalm 81, 112, 64,
Hebrews 9-13, Numbers 1-7
- March 9 Numbers 8-25, Colossians 1-4,
Psalm 28, 113, Luke 1
- March 16 Numbers 26-36, Luke 2-6,
Psalm 35-36, Deuteronomy 1-5
- March 23 Deuteronomy 6-26, Luke 7-11,
Psalm 5, 115, 6
- March 30 Deuteronomy 27-34, Luke 12-16,
Psalm 13, 143, 14, Joshua 1-13



Please have your articles for the Voice into the office by **March 19** for the **April Voice!**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING Sunday, March 9,
@11:00 A.M.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A beautiful, yet somewhat terrible, journey towards Lent

The Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4:1-2 (NLT) - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

The word Lent comes from the Latin word Quadragesima (obviously!), which means forty. (I've never taken Latin, so don't ask me how lent comes out of that work, please, and thanks! .) Lent is based on the story of Jesus in the wilderness found in Matthew 4:1-11. It recounts how Jesus went into the wilderness to fast and pray, and at the end of that time, he was tempted by Satan in 4 different ways. It is interesting to note, however, that the practice of Lent isn't Biblical. Meaning there is no direct command to observe such a season. However, the principles of Lent are extremely Biblical. They are deeply rooted in scripture.

Lent started in the early Christian church as a time of devotion to the Lord. Church tradition tells us that most of the apostles were martyred for their faith. So, other early Christ followers assumed that the same fate would likely befall them. Once they realized that most Christ followers actually wouldn't be martyred for their faith, the early church fathers became concerned that people wouldn't take their faith as seriously. Let's be honest: if you believe that when you decide to follow Jesus, it will ultimately lead to your death, you have to be completely convinced that it is 100%. Having that deep level of conviction would allow you to be completely devoted to living out the core principles.

Lent didn't officially start until after the first council of Nicaea, in 325 AD; however, the practice of lent started much earlier. It is an intentional time of repentance, reflection, and self-denial. It is a time of preparation where you practice the things formerly mentioned along with some form of fasting so that when you get to Easter Sunday, you know that you are totally and completely focused on Christ, and you get to enjoy the feast of celebration and remembrance together.

While the end of Lent is beautiful, the journey towards Easter is somewhat terrible. It is filled with discomfort, pain, and self-sacrifice. While what we put ourselves through pales in comparison to what Jesus went through, we spend a lot of time thinking about the torture of the cross. All of these things are certainly unpleasant. But they make the ending of Lent that much sweeter with our renewed focus on Christ and what he accomplished for us in his death, burial, and resurrection!

This Lent season, I encourage you to practice times of repentance, reflection, and self-denial so that you may be more focused on Christ and what he has done and will continue to do in your life!

Nate

Lent: A Time to Recharge, Renew & Draw Closer to God

All come from the dust, and to dust all return. Ecclesiastes 3:20 (NIV)

A husband and wife drove through their old town, past their old house that Jennifer loved and nurtured for almost a decade. They inched along, trying to catch up to all the memories.

Then they passed the local grocery store, where she had shopped every day for years. She loved the man who worked there stocking shelves. Brian always greeted her with a heartfelt *"Hello there!"* as if he hadn't seen her in months. He'd had a car accident in high school, spent a long time in a coma and was fortunate to be alive. And though he'd made a miraculous recovery, he never fully regained all his abilities.

One day Jennifer had an awful day at work. She was exhausted and starving as she made her way through the aisles. When she reached for a jar of spaghetti sauce, she lost her grip, and it shattered on the shiny linoleum floor. Looking at the mess, she broke down and cried.

Brian ran over. *"It's okay. Accidents happen."*

She noticed his forehead had a smudge of something as he went to get a mop.

"Rough day," she sighed.

"Ash Wednesday," he said.

She had totally forgotten.

Brian went on. *"Beginning of Lent. Forty days to get ready. Jesus saved me, you know. He saves me every day."* As he mopped up the broken jar, Jennifer took his words to heart.

"Forty days to get ready." What things might we do to help prepare our hearts? Practicing times of repentance, reflection, self-denial are all good places to start.

Hmm. Have you even given up something for Lent to draw closer to God? Now, I'm not going to tell you what I'm going to try to give up because I don't want to sound like I'm bragging, but here are some suggestions that we might give up: complaining, procrastination, worrying, social media, sweets, gossiping, phone use. And that's only the beginning of ideas. Ask God what might He like for you to give up. He knows what things take up so much of your time.

I read this week of a person who declared that she was going to give up worrying. Her friend told her that would be like Fred Astaire giving up his tap shoes. ;)

The practice of giving something up for Lent originated in the biblical story of Jesus going into the wilderness for 40 days and resisting temptation. This was a period of time that was essential for Jesus before He could begin his ministry. And these 40 days of Lent are necessary for us so we may become more focused on Christ and what He has done on the Cross. It's a time to recharge, renew, and draw closer to Christ.

In His Grip,

Pastor Jan

In your presence, in your presence.
There is peace and power and love.
For the longing, for the sorrow,
You are all we need...enough!

So we lift our hearts to you Lord
We lift up our hands on high.
We shout to the Holy Spirit,
Lift our voices to the sky.

We believe you hear our voices
Through our praise and through our pain.
You answer us, you answer us...
And you answer once again.

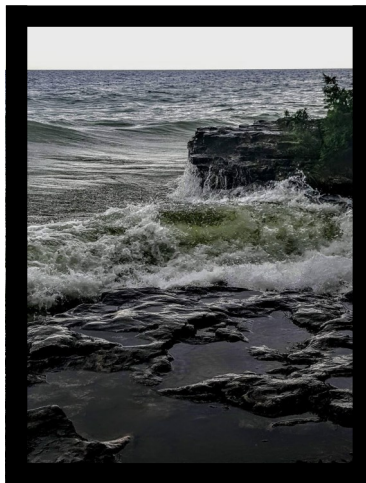
Align our prayers to honor you
Grant us hearts to praise your name.
Help us bend our knees and bow our heads
And offer up our shame.

There is no greater mocker than
Our own selfish pride.
It's the cross we built, the nails we used
Why Jesus was crucified.

Please mold our hearts, Lord. Form
Our words, Lord. Guide our feet and
Bend our knees. You're the answer, the provider
The giver of all we need.

In your presence, in your presence.
There is peace and power and love.
For the longing, for the sorrow,
You are all we need...enough

Kate Langjahr 1-25-25





Ash Wednesday; A time to reflect and share our thanks, for this is the time that we remember the greatest sacrifice.

MARCH 5, ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @6::30 PM

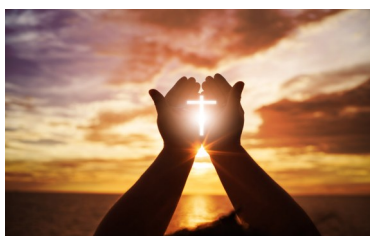


“Spring: a lovely reminder of how **beautiful** change can truly be.”

March 20—first day of spring!



PRAYER TIME FOR ALL WOMEN—TUESDAY, MARCH 4 & 18, 1: 00 PM Sandy Neumann will open her home on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We will be gathering to pray for whatever God has put on our hearts and minds. Pray for strength in these troubling times and anything that God may lead us pray for!



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 A.M.

IN THE PRAYER ROOM! (north end of hallway on the left)

GREEN EVENT

On Saturday, March 8@9:00 AM

WOZ (Women of Zion) will be having a **GREEN DAY** that is to say, we will be going green by making 2 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY projects, playing a green game and ?????

All ages are welcomed and **"THE GREEN EVENT"** is open to all. Coffee and snacks will be served. If you are able, please bring a snack to share. Invite friends.

RSVP by March 2. Please call the church office to RSVP!

Men of Zion Corn Hole Event:

MOZ—Men of Zion invites you to join them for a time of fellowship, laughter and some friendly games of Corn Hole Bag throwing. No experience or skills needed. Teams will be determined at random.....

Everyone and anyone is invited and welcomed.

Where: Zion Church gym.

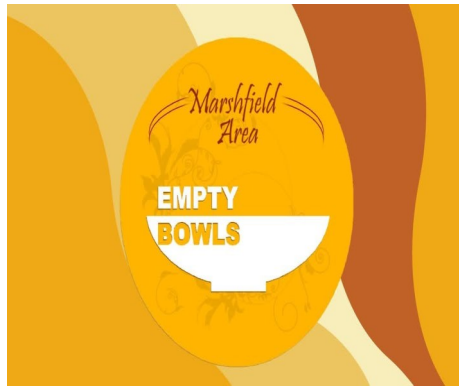
Who: Males of 9th grade age and older

When: March 8th following coffee and dessert at 9:00 AM

CELEBRATING March BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES

- 7. Levi Swenson
- 9. Bonnie Gripentrog
- 18. Paul & Kate Langjahr
- 25. Deb Walsh
- 30. Nick Mitchell
- 30. Charlie Cravillion
- 31. Dave & Vicki Foemmel





SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 11:00 AM—2:00 PM @MARSHFIELD EAGLE’S CLUB, 1104 S Oak Ave, Marshfield. Fundraiser Event for the Soup or Socks, Food pantry & Clothes Closet. Options are:
Bowl of Soup—\$12.00—Dine-In Only—One 12 oz cup of soup, & Flight of Soup—\$17.00—Dine-in Only—One 12 oz cup of soup & Three 4 oz cups of soup. Each ticket will allow you to choose a ceramic bowl to take home! 715-387-1796



If you would like a copy of the minutes from the Leadership Team meeting, they are available on the Information Center in the Narthex.

Please help yourself!

CAMPING ACTIVITY MAT



HOW MANY BUTTERFLIES CAN YOU FIND?

I spy

SPOT 5 DIFFERENCES