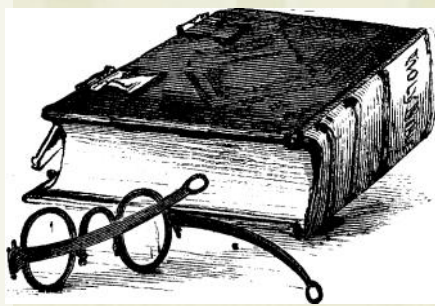


Some Words on Living Word

L I V I N G W O R D L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

P A S T O R A L P O N D E R I N G



What is Lent? Most of us who have been in the Lutheran Church for a while have some idea concerning what Lent is all about... but for

many Christians, Lent can be a mystery. For some, Lent is just a period of time when you 'give something up', which means it is a good time for going on a diet; for others (and this was true for me when I was a child) Lent is a time when their Catholic friends have ashes put on their foreheads and then they eat

fish every Friday until after Easter. But here's the real story...

The season of Lent is a specifically Christian development, originating in the fourth century. Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and concluding on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). Originally, Lent was the time of preparation (a time of concentrated study and prayer) for those who were to be baptized at the Easter Vigil – the celebration of the Resurrection

of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But, because these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to participate in this time of preparation. This was also the time when those who had been separated from the Church (by excommunication or self-exclusion) would prepare to rejoin the community.

Why does Lent last for 40 days? The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness

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A N O P P O R T U N I T Y T O M I N I S T E R T H R O U G H W M H S H O S P I C E S E R V I C E

Western Maryland Health System's Hospice Service Team is looking for volunteers. Opportunities include Patient and Family Support, Hospice Nursing Home Visitation, Bereavement, Organizational Support and "Hospice Helpers".

Patient and Family Support

Volunteers visit patients in their homes to provide companionship to patients and give family members a break from the burdens of twenty-four hour-a-day caregiving. They may also run errands or assist with other household tasks.

Some hospice patients re-

side in local nursing homes or assisted living facilities and volunteers are asked to visit to provide companionship to the patient and support to their families.

Bereavement volunteers assist hospice to maintain contact with hospice families for a period of time

MINISTRIES IN PROGRESS**Interfaith Food Pantry**

The need continues to be greater everyday. Please do not forget the food pantry when giving.

Basketball Game Sales for the League of Crippled Children

Becky Rank continues to need assistance with baked goods and working the Sunday school basketball league games. Potato candy and nobakes are very popular items if you are looking for

ideas. Becky will even pick up whatever you make. The schedule for the remainder of the season is as follows:

March 5 1:30-6pm

March 12 NO SALES...Becky will be at a Bible conference

March 19th Finals 2pm - ?

March 26 All Star Games - time to be determined

Please call Becky at 301-707-1824 or email at bsrank@atlanticbb.net if interested.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people in your prayers this month...

Arlene and Harry Foreback
Judy and Bob Hutcheson
Kenny and Sadie Koser
Evelyn Pague
Clay and Eleanor Stotler

**WMHS HOSPICE SERVICE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

after the death of their loved one. Contacts are made by mail and phone. Organizational Support volunteers assist with office tasks and special projects.

Hospice Helpers are volunteers who can be called upon to occasionally help with tasks such as small home repairs, legal assistance, cleaning, shopping, gardening, lawn care, haircuts by beauticians or barbers, cooking, baking, knitting, crocheting, sewing, crafts, playing a musical instrument or singing, reading to patients, videotaping or photography, and assisting with special patient celebration events. Teens ages 14 and up, college students, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts or home school organizations may volunteer for hospice as community service.

Volunteers are required to attend an

orientation session titled "Hospice 101". It is a general overview of hospice in our community and the roles of hospice team members. Additional training depends on the volunteer role selected. The training is free but you must provide your own transportation.

For further information about the next hospice volunteer training schedule beginning with orientation on Monday March 21st, at 6:00 p.m. contact Karyl Kuykendall, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 240-964-9600 or by email at, kkuykendall@wmhs.com

Christ

in the strangest places:
Foreshadowed, Fulfilled, Forever



SERIES PART 2.....*Bible Study Helps Get into the Word!*

How to Improve your Personal Bible Study

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Author of the Jesus Walk® Bible Study Series (www.jesuswalk.com)

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Learn to Ask Questions

The real key to Bible study is being inquisitive, learning to ask questions of the text. First, read the passage. Then be a detective; look for clues. What's going on? What stands out to you? What don't you understand? Look for anomalies -- things that you might not expect to find here. Consider, for example, the familiar dialog between Jesus and Nicodemus:

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.'

³In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'

⁴How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!'

⁵Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of the water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'" (John 3:1-8, NIV)

Several questions occur to me as I read this:

- Where does this incident take place?
- What did members of the Pharisee party typically believe? How were they viewed in society?

- What does it mean that Nicodemus is a member of the "Jewish ruling council" or Sanhedrin? What does this tell me about him?
- Why did he come by night?
- Why does Jesus respond as he does to Nicodemus' introductory remarks in verse 2? Isn't Jesus a bit abrupt or rude in verse 3?
- Is Nicodemus' response in verse 4 mocking or is it a sincere question?
- What does "born of water" mean in verse 6? What does "born of the Spirit" mean? What does "born again" mean in verse 3?
- What does the wind analogy in verse 8 teach us about the Holy Spirit?

You get the idea. Your questions of this passage might be different than mine, but that's okay. There are no right or wrong questions. But questions are vital, since they provide direction to where you're going in your Bible study. Give yourself freedom to follow some "rabbit trails," to explore one theme and then another as you get acquainted with a passage.

The questions will vary depending on the passage you're studying, but here are some typical questions:

- **Who** wrote or said this?
- **When** was it written or said?
- **Where** did this happen?
- **To whom** was it written or said?
- **What** circumstance or event prompted this incident or teaching?
- **Why** did the person act as he did? Or say what he said?
- **How** can I apply or emulate or obey what I learn in this passage?

You'll be able to think of more questions. The key is to develop a questioning mind, and you'll learn. You won't find answers to all your questions, of course, but over time many will be answered.

Take Notes on What You Learn

One main difference between reading and studying is writing down what you learn. This isn't just so you'll remember it later. The very act of writing requires you to formulate your thoughts clearly. Writing forces you to recognize fuzzy thinking for what it is and push beyond it. Write down what your learning because it helps you understand it better.

I recommend that you begin a notebook in which to record our observations or research. Forty years ago I began taking notes on 8-1/2" x 11" binder paper. In the left margin I would record the date. In the top right corner I would record the book, chapter and verse of the passage I was studying. This made it easy to file my notes in scripture order. I began with a single 3-ring binder, but now my binders fill a five-foot bookshelf and beyond. I look back at some of my early insights and am reminded of how the Holy Spirit has taught me over the years.

Start small, but take notes in a way that can be expanded easily. Another approach is to get a bound book that you can take notes in -- a kind of journal. (I've tried that, too.) Journaling has great value, but a bound notebook that contains many topics is difficult to organize or index in such a way that you can find your notes on a particular verse in the future. That's why I really like the binder paper approach. You could also take notes on a computer, naming the files in such a way that you can find them again or search an entire folder for a word or phrase. It's probably a good idea to print out your notes when you're finished and file them, however, since computer files have a way of getting lost after a few years.

I am so glad I began the habit of note-taking with my Bible study. Now when I study a passage again, I know what I learned the last time I studied it and what I need to explore next. For Bible teachers, small group leaders, and preachers, such a notebook of previous studies becomes especially valuable.

NEWS CONCERNING OUR CONGREGATION BY SADIE KOSER

Congratulations to Jessica Squires, daughter of Jim and Lori, who was named to the Dean's List at Allegheny College of Maryland for the fall 2010 semester, with a 4.0 in Elementary Education.

Our appreciation to our master carpenter, Earl File, who made the oak bookcase which will store our hymnals. We are truly fortunate to have Earl (and you too, Betty!) with us as he has enhanced our temporary sanctuary with his talents!

Sincere sympathy is extended to Earl and Betty File on the passing of his 95 year old Mother, Addie Hoffman, at the Dawnview Nursing Home in Fort Ashby. Mrs. Hoffman was a former resident of Brooklyn, Maryland and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. Mrs. Hoffman was preceded in death by her husband, Edward, and son, James File, who passed away last year. She is survived by her

daughter-in-law, Gaye File, three grandsons, four great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. The funeral service was held at the Gonce Funeral Service with interment in Cedar Hill Cemetery on February 22nd.

...and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes...Revelation 7:17

Braddock Middle School recently announced the honor roll students for the second nine week period. Christopher Keller, son of Rich and grandson of Pat and Dick, is a member of the 7th grade and made the A/B Honor Roll List. Congratulations, Christopher!!

We miss our dependable acolyte/crucifer, Connor McCabe and it's going to be some time before he's back with us. Con-

nor was jumping on a trampoline when he landed on his ankle, breaking two bones between the ankle and knee of his right leg. Connor is in a cast from his toes, halfway up his thigh. Since he is home-schooled Connor will be able to keep up with his school work and do every assignment! Mend quickly and hurry back, Connor!

The craft group of our church have been very busy lately getting surprises ready for the first anniversary celebration of Living Word Lutheran Church. It doesn't seem possible that we have come so far during this year that has passed by so quickly. Sunday, March 6th is the date of the celebration! Plan to attend this special service, bring your family and friends for the joyous occasion!

Thought for the Month...Churches are not hotels for saints but hospitals for sinners!

SPECIAL SERVICES PLANNED FOR LENT

CHRIST IN THE STRANGEST PLACES - FULFILLED, FORESHADOWED, FOREVER

Overview:

Two tablets of stone, a few vessels of oil, simple markings, a small army, a remote field, a solemn oath—these are some of the strangest people, places and things through which God revealed himself to his people in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is chock-full of passion themes, from the serpent being crushed in Genesis 3:15 to Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song. Yet this series looks at some of the lesser-known Old Testament passion themes and focuses on them by means of single words.

Some of the worship themes include:

"Mine!" • Exodus 20:17 The commandments point out our

desire to acquire

"Nothing" • 2 Kings 4:1-7 Elisha provides for a widow

"Marked" • Isaiah 44:5 God marks his people

"Enlist" • Judges 6:16 Gideon's call

"Invest" • Jeremiah 32:25 Jeremiah buys a field in wartime

"Finish" • 1 Kings 11:3 Solomon can't finish what he started

"Refuge" - God provides sanctuary for the people

"Nobody" - God makes 'somebody' of 'nobody'

"Buried" - Elisha's bones bring new life

PASTORAL PONDERINGS...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

preparing for His ministry by facing and overcoming the temptations that could have led him to abandon his mission and calling. And, since every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent.

Traditionally Lent has been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Today, Lent is still seen as a time of prayer and preparation – not necessarily for reception as members of the Church, but as prepara-

tion for the great celebration of Easter. As Christians, we continue to use this period of time for deeper Biblical study, increased opportunities for worship, personal introspection & self examination, and repentance. It is a time for us to recognize our sinfulness and our need for God's marvelous redemption which we celebrate at Easter; so that we might turn from sin, and turn to Him ... and live!

Pastor Mark

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

I HAVE HEARD THE CRIES OF MY PEOPLE

THE EXODUS FOR LENT

Overview:

Walk through the pages of the Old Testament Book of Exodus to see the parallels between the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt and the journey of Christ to the cross for us.

We cry to our God this Lent, as the Israelites did, in our slavery to sin. Yet, in these devotions, we see time and time again God's power, grace and guiding hand carrying us through the wilderness of this life to the Promised Land of heaven through the saving death of Christ.

CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS

LET GOD'S PEOPLE GO!

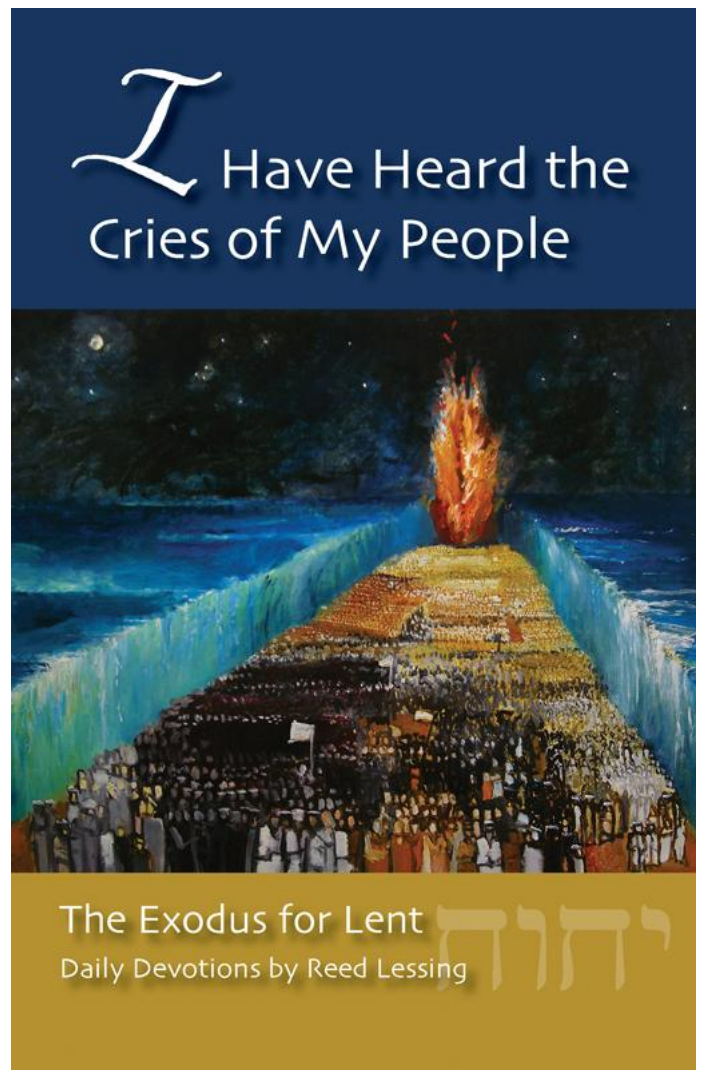
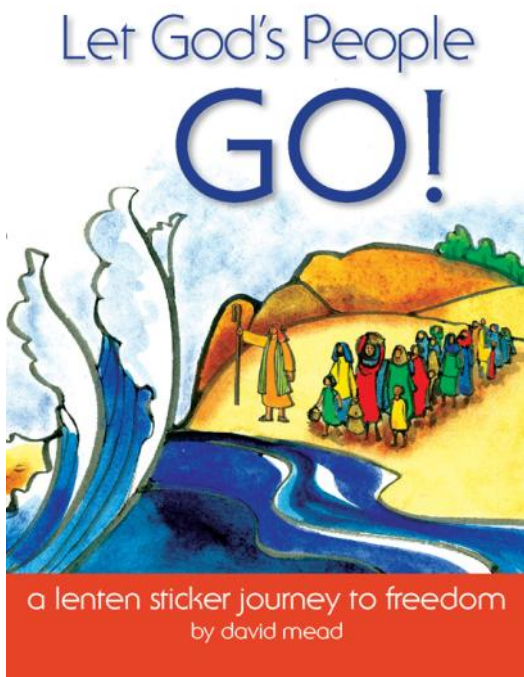
DAILY STICKER DEVOTIONS FOR LENT FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

Overview:

Through God's chosen helper, Moses, God saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them to freedom. On this Lenten sticker journey, children will discover that

through the saving grace of God's Son, Jesus, we are led from slavery to sin and death into freedom and life everlasting. The colorful cut-out centerpiece is used as a "map" that is marked along the way with the stickers in this Lenten "guidebook." Daily prayers and readings are included.

These Devotional Activity Books will be available to use with the children in your lives during Lent.





LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 1825
Cumberland, MD 21502
Meeting at 801 Virginia Avenue

Pastor Mark C. Dill
pastormarkdill@verizon.net
301-777-0000

Taking a Living Christ to a Dying World

March Events

Every Sunday: 9:00 AM—Living Discipleship Study
10:00 AM—Worship (Fellowship following service 1st and 3rd Sundays)

Sunday March 6 - 1st Anniversary celebration of LWLC during worship

Wednesday March 9 - 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service, choir rehearsal to follow

Sunday March 13, 20, 27 - 7:00 PM Lenten Service

Every Wednesday: 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (except Ash Wednesday)

Note: *There may be covered dish dinners prior to the Sunday evening Lenten services, please watch for announcements.*

Coming in April

Holy Week and Easter Services

March Birthdays

- 2 - Kristi Hughes
- 3 - Evelyn Pague
- 7 - Annabeth Hughes
- 16 - Adrian Weems
- 20 - Mike Burkey
- 20 - Vicki Larrick
- 23 - Melva Friedland
- 26 - Nathanael Dill
- 27 - Eleanor Stotler

A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Becky Rank is looking for committee members and volunteers for a yard sale to benefit The League of Crippled Children and (perhaps another mission wish chosen by our congregation)

She is thinking late May or June but this is something that committee would decide.

She has been accumulating **a lot** of items that are being donated by a family in Springfield, West Virginia.

Please call Becky at 301-707-1824 or email at bsrank@atlanticbb.net if interested.

March Anniversaries

- 8 - Chris and Karen McCabe
- 11 - Mike and Ann Burkey