

Living Faith @ HOME

Dear Faith-Shapers,

What a strange month of February this year – two important events on the same day....

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

We celebrate with cute heart cards and heart shaped candies. Living close to those we love or having a close relationship with family makes for a better holiday than those who do not have this option. We need to remember those at this time as well.

LENT BEGINS

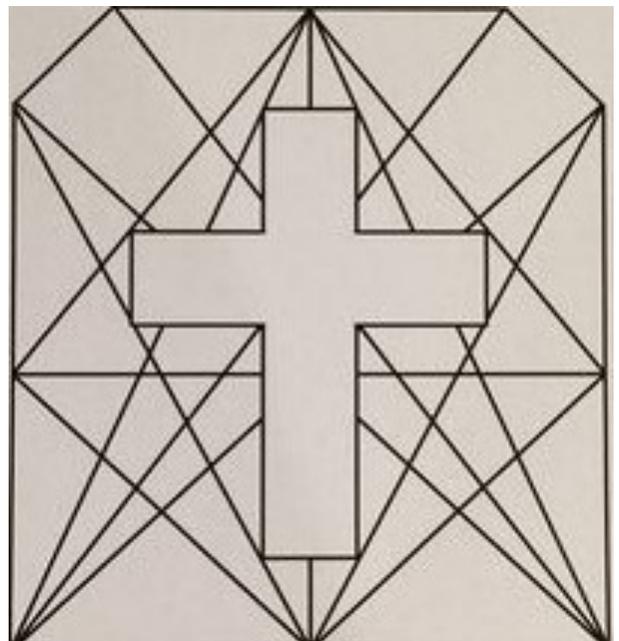
Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as the journey to the baptismal water of Easter begins. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. We are invited to make each day a new beginning washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

Student Pastor Sue Cira



Family Prayer Activity

On a plain sheet of paper, an adult can draw a box that almost fills the paper. (See the sample below) Using a ruler, draw lines to divide the box into odd shaped triangles and shapes. Next, from another sheet of paper cut out a cross and glue it on the first sheet of paper — close to the middle. Every time you pray during Lent you get to color in a shape or section of the “window”. On Easter, the cross can be left white or colored. Hang your picture in a window of your house or on the refrigerator.



The Lenten Journey

Week 1: Creation

God created the earth out of chaotic water and shines light onto primeval darkness, so the resurrection of Christ pulls us from death through baptism into fruitful life with all the good earth and enlightens our life in Christ.

Week 2: Flood

God re-creates the world by sending forth days of rain to destroy all that is evil. In the resurrection of Christ, God is making all things new, and in our baptism, we are cleansed and brought to new life.

Week 3: Deliverance at the Red Sea

God vanquishes evil and liberates the oppressed. By the resurrection, God liberates us from slavery to sin and brings us through the waters of baptism to safety.

Week 4: Salvation freely offered to all

Resurrection is like a free feast, baptism like water for the thirsty, God like rain on the earth.

Week 5: Deliverance from the fiery furnace

For each of us there will be a time when we are engulfed by fire. Because of the resurrection of Christ, we can be confident that the Son of God will be with us, no matter what or where the furnace.

Behold, now is the acceptable time;

now is the day of salvation.

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

That the light of your face may shine on us.

May your justice shine like the sun;

And may the poor be lifted up.

Prayers are not just for times inside the church building ... we need to pray at least daily ...

The time you pray does not matter—

God is listening and hears you.

The way you pray does not matter—

God is listening and understands.

The people you pray with and for do not even need to know ... just pray.

I will pray for . . .

Someone Bigger Than Me:

Someone who lives near me:

Someone who lives far away:

Someone Smaller Than Me:

Someone I've never met:

Myself!!

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