



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

MARCH/APRIL 2022 - RIVERSIDE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWSLETTER

At Riverside, we are beginning our annual Lenten journey to the cross of Christ and the empty tomb. Just as Israel in the Old Testament wandered in the wilderness for forty years and our Lord Jesus Christ endured the temptations of Satan for forty days in the wilderness, so now we, the new Israel, are in the midst of our “forty days.”

What Are the Key Days During Lent?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we’ve done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.

Good Friday is the day Christians remember Jesus’ death. The “Good” reflects how Jesus’ death was a sacrifice on our behalf, so we can receive God’s forgiveness for our wrongs, or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

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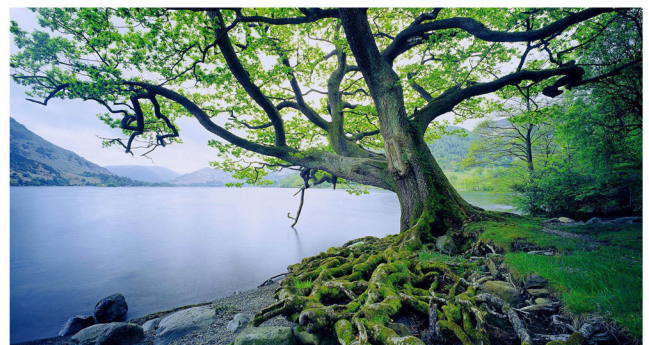
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Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or bring us to a more acceptable status before our God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to save us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all of our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give everlasting salvation for all believers.

Gods richest blessings to you all during this Lenten season.

God's Peace! Pastor Ray

LOOKING AHEAD

March 13th
Daylight Saving Time
Starts

April 15th
Good Friday Service
at 7pm

April 17th
Easter Worship Service

Join us for our 2022 Vacation Bible School

June 29th, 30th & July 1st from 9am-noon (each day)

All Children Pre-K (4 years old) through 5th grade

in the fall of 2022 are invited to join us.

Register online at <https://riversidealc.com/vacation-bible-school>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those battling sicknesses

Those mourning the passing of loved ones

Continuing prayers for healing and protection

He is like a tree
planted by water.

Jeremiah 17:8