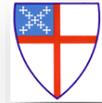




The Newsletter



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

The Mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and with each other in Jesus Christ. We pursue that mission in prayer, worship, and the sacraments, the proclamation of the

Gospel, and in working for justice, peace and love. The Book of Common Prayer, Page 855

Saint Augustine's Church is a parish of the Diocese of Fond du Lac: A community of disciples enthusiastically leading all people to transformation in Jesus.

Volume XLVI

January 27, 2019

From the Rector

We are moving toward the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday -- March 6. Lent is considered a penitential season meaning a time of showing penitence, meaning we reflect on our sinning and ask for forgiveness.

In simple terms, Lent is a big deal – a really big deal. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the death of Jesus and his resurrection. It revolves around the mystery of dying and rising again of Jesus and our involvement is the root of the gospel. The liturgical celebrations of this season is the pivotal point of the church year.

Actually, there are three liturgical seasons in this cycle of observation and celebration: Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Then during Easter season we have Ascension Thursday, 40 days after Easter, and another 10 days later is Pentecost Sunday, the official end of the Easter season.

You may have heard me preach, or casually say, that the terms 'Easter is early this year,' or 'Easter is late this year,' are pet peeves of mine.

My question is when is Easter ever just right, followed by a thought that Easter is every day.

So, who decides when Easter will be held each year? The formula goes back to the mid-100s. In our calendar, Easter Day is the Sunday after the first full moon of spring, falling between March 22 and April 25. So, it has nothing to do with spring fashion or when people need a vacation, but with the lunar calendar.

The tenant of the penitential season lends itself to some differences in worship. The most obvious is that we need to forget the word 'Alleluia,' Its use returns with the Easter vigil. We will also begin our Sunday services with the Decalogue (10 commandments); with the confession of sin being held shortly after the Decalogue, much earlier in the season than usual.

This year we will use Rite I for our worship. Generally we use Rite II. Rite I is a liturgy that uses more traditional language Some people complain about the language in Rite I because it is more formal and does not roll easily off of one's tongue. My response is that this is a good practice for us in Lent because it causes us to slow down and be more reflective in our worship.

During the Lenten season we tend to be more basic—meaning we do not use an altar front, rather the simple wood of the altar shows, and there are no flowers during the season, until the Easter vigil service.

As we move closer to Lent you will hear more about the services and special events that will take place.

We will begin Lent with two services: one at 9 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m. There will be communion and imposition of ashes at both services.

As we prepare for Lent, I invite you to pray and reflect on what the season means, and what it means to you.

Faithfully,
Meredyth+

Lenten Devotional

Last year we tried something new, creating a Lenten devotional with reflections written by members of the parish. This year's we will do our own devotional, but with a twist. There will be a quote or a line drawing on each page. There will also be space for you to write your own reflections, or draw, if you choose. This is a way to make the devotional process more interactive. Mother Meredyth is welcoming contributions of quotes or line drawings that are appropriate for Lent. Please share them with her by Feb. 15.

Shrove Tuesday Sunday

As we have done the past couple of years, we will have a Shrove Tuesday pancake brunch on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The brunch will be on Sunday, March 3. If you are interested in helping to prepare and host the Shrove Tuesday Sunday event, please sign up in the guild hall.



Lenten Class on Forgiveness

Last year, the Lenten class on Forgiveness generated great interest, so we will be focusing on forgiveness again this year.

Class will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Feb. 19. We will skip Feb. 26 and March 26, Mother Meredyth will be on retreat, and at a training, respectively. The class will finish the week before holy week. "The Way of Forgiveness," the book we will use is authored by Marjorie Thompson, the author of the book used last year. Please sign up by Feb. 1 so books can be ordered.

World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 1, 2019, 1:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical prayer service. Prayers are offered all day long around the globe following the sun's path. Prayers begin with the first sunrise and end with the last sunset!

We focus on one country each year and learn about the trials and tribulations of that country. But, more than that, we learn of the beauty and culture of the country and get a feel for it through the music and readings.

Prayers this year will be offered up for the country of Slovenia. They have chosen as their theme for 2019 an invitation from Luke, "Come-Everything is Ready". We will be exploring welcoming God and preparing a table for all.

People from all churches in our community are invited to come together to worship and pray for the people of Slovenia.

Please come and join us. Refreshments will be served following the worship service.
"Come-Everything is Ready"



