

Pastor's letter: Our Lenten journey

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to resist the sin that separates us from the love of God and neighbor. The disciplines of Lent — repentance, fasting, prayer, reading of scripture and works of love — help us turn to and live in the harmony that God desires for all creation.

Our sermon series, “Lent — A Call to True Life,” will look at the circles in our life that help us best experience joy in communion with God, with our neighbor and with ourselves. As a guide for this journey we are using a Venn diagram that I developed called the FAITH COMPASS.

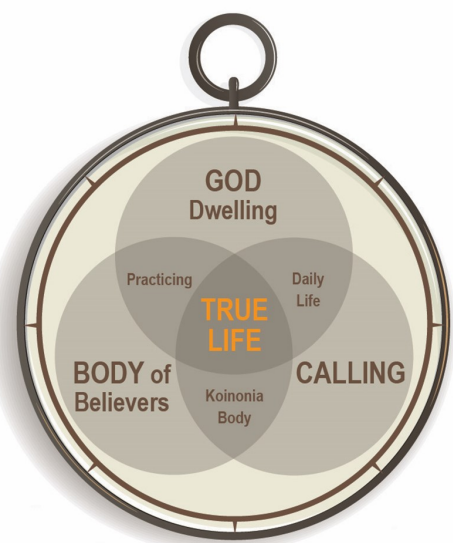
I think of True Life as being in the presence of God's love and forgiveness so that we can be God's love and forgiveness in life. The circles hold the ways we are called to be in relationship with God and each other.

A simple illustration of this concept would be a band. There is a conductor that the individual band members follow. They do this as they are called to practice and master their identity and abilities as a trombone player (my instrument of youth). All band members also follow the



conductor when they come together and practice as a group or as a body of band members. Ultimately the band under the direction of the conductor plays music for the benefit of others. This benefit or ministry shared inevitably nourishes those who are a part of it as well.

Join us in worship as we follow Jesus to the Cross.
— Pastor David



2017 Sunday Lenten worship

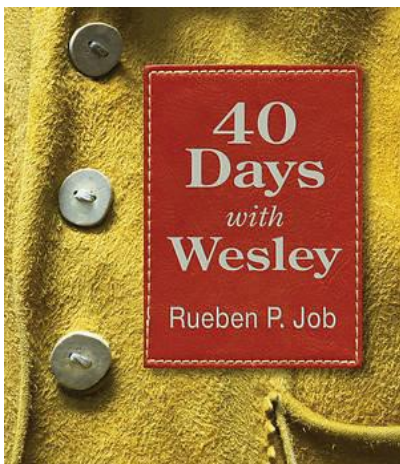
March 5: A Call to True Life - Love
March 12: A Call to True Life - Whose Am I?
March 19: A Call to True Life - Daily Bread
March 26: A Call to True Life - Room for God
April 2: A Call to True Life - Life Together

Other special services

April 9: Palm Sunday
April 13: Maundy Thursday, 7pm
April 14: Good Friday, 7pm
April 16: Easter Sunday

Lent 2017: 40 days of growing closer to God

There are three wonderful opportunities for adults at White Bear Lake UMC to spend some extra time with God during Lent 2017:



40 Days with Wesley: A Devotional Journey

Even those new to John Wesley or a daily prayer guide will find this book an easy read for reassurance and inspiration during the Lent and Easter season. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of reflection with a prayer, scripture, a short reading, quotes from John Wesley, and a blessing to take with you through the day ... PLUS a Sunday morning opportunity to meet in small group for a short time of discussion and devotion.

Sundays 10:40-11:10am (between worship services) on March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2 and 9 in room 200.

Facilitators: Lori McBride & Friends



The Long Road from Galilee to Golgotha

Take a walk with Jesus as he makes his final journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and the Cross as reported in the Gospel of Luke.

Mondays 7-8:30 pm on March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 and 10 in room 200. Facilitated by Pastor John McBride.

Materials needed: A Bible!

Sign-up sheets for each class are posted in the Narthex.

We'll have a supply of books in the office for purchase, \$15 each.



The Cup of Our Life

Anyone thirsting for a more intimate and disciplined life of prayer will find a rich wellspring in *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp. She shares how the ordinary cups that we use each day can become sacred vessels that connect us with life and draw us ever closer to God. There are six weekly themes that include a short inviting essay, a wisdom saying, a scripture verse, a brief meditation and questions for journaling. Do your devotional at home and join with others once a week during Lent to share your thoughts and prayers.

Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am on March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6 and 13 in the Library.

Facilitators: Marcia Faust and Tammey Busch.

Coming April 1! All-Church Mission Day

A day of fun and fulfillment

Serve others by donating or working on a project — or both! Sign up in the narthex to participate in projects at the church and off-site on **Saturday, April 1**. Online sign-up at wblumc.org/events. For more information, contact Marcia Lantto, 651-426-4507.

Several popular projects will return, plus a few new ones. Some require your support through donations. Donation bins will be on the north wall of Fellowship Hall in March.

Lunch will be provided on Saturday, April 1, from 11am-1pm.

THIS YEAR’S LIST AT CHURCH:

Painting church rooms, 9am-2pm, 6-10 participants, youth to adults; the senior pastor’s office and a few other rooms are in need of painting. Several people are needed to make this happen! Contact: Pat Kytola

Sandwiches for homeless shelters, 12:30-2pm, 6-8 participants, teens through adults; you can help feed the homeless with this project. 100 sandwiches will be made that will be given to people to get them through the day when not at the shelter. They will be distributed by Twin Cities Partner Shelters. Contact: Carolyn Sayles.

Girl confidence kits for Haiti,* 12:30-2pm, all ages (adults accompany children); in Haiti, girls who have reached puberty frequently cannot leave their homes because they cannot afford the supplies they need. This activity will take place at church and will involve putting together kits of reusable items so these young Haitian girls can go to school and out in their community. Contact: Lori McBride



2016 mission day included pillowcase dresses for Sierra Leone girls.

Newborn kits for Sierra Leone,* 10am-12pm, 8-10 participants, all ages (adults accompany children); kits assembled in this activity will include healthcare items used by midwives in Sierra Leone. These are needed to help with birthing and caring for moms with newborns. Contact: Pastor Brooke Heerwald Steiner

Kitchen packs for Bridging,* 10am-12pm, 8-10 participants, all ages; Bridging serves more than 4,000 households each year by providing quality furniture and household items to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. More than 80 kitchen packs are distributed to households each week. Volunteers will assemble packs from items donated by our congregation. Contact: Anna Lantto
* donations needed! See lists at right.

THIS YEAR’S LIST OFF-SITE:

Feed My Starving Children, 11:30am-1:30pm, 25 participants, 8 years to adults; volunteers will pack food bags which provide nutritious meals to starving kids worldwide. This activity is at the Eagan location. Contact: Beth Smith

ARC Value Village, 10am-12pm, 15 participants, 8 years to adult; volunteers will unpack and sort donations

such as clothing, accessories, household items, books, toys, jewelry, etc. and help get them ready for the sales floor. Projects may also include hanging and tagging clothing, price labeling and stocking the sales floor. Contact: Joan Hartman

White Bear Food Shelf, 10am-12pm, 8-10 participants, children to adults; work at the food shelf will primarily be counting, sorting and packaging items. Young children should be accompanied by an adult. Contact: June McCarthy

God’s Closet, 9am-2pm, 10 participants, 16 years to adult; did you know we have a collection area in one of our closets and take loads of clothing regularly to God’s closet? Find out all about what happens there and help with unpacking bags of clothing which have been donated. The store is open that day to customers so participants will see how the store is operated. Contact: Carol Effertz

Emma Norton, Friday March 30, 9:30am-4pm, and Saturday April 1, 9:30am-1pm or finish; 5 participants Friday and 3-5 on Saturday; this activity has been chosen by the Faith In Action group, but they welcome others’ help. We need people to paint and decorate rooms before residents move in. Others may participate by buying supplies and décor. Contact: Lisa James

DONATIONS FOR NEWBORN KITS

18 bath Towels, 60 cloth diapers, 60 diaper pins, 30 ivory soap bars, 30 two-gallon zip lock bags

DONATIONS FOR GIRL CONFIDENCE KITS

Young ladies’ underwear (sizes 10-16), small hotel soaps, quality wash cloths, one-gallon zip lock bags

DONATIONS FOR KITCHEN PACKS (Goal of 30 each)

Can opener, mixing spoon, spatula, dish towel, dish cloth. Bonus items: ladle, hot pad, whisk, dish scrubber, pizza slicer, peeler

LifeSource spotlight: CCT

Mission: Provide our congregation opportunities to give and receive support as we help one another ease our burdens and share the joys of our life journeys.

The Congregational Care Team focuses its efforts into providing meals and transportation to congregation members in their times of need.

We welcome your help with this mission in two specific ways:

- Help us *identify* those who may benefit from or desire our aid.
- Volunteer to make and deliver meals or provide transportation to appointments, worship and other church activities. You tell us what works for your schedule!

Service Coordinators

Lisa James, lead
Sheila Bennett and Carolyn Sayles, meals
Linda Anderson and Marlene Conrin, rides
Kelly Knutson, ministry information and referrals



We need you!

1. Come with us!

Parents or adults who’ve never been before, here’s your chance! Talk to Amy McGrew or Nan Rausch about registering before our second ASP team meeting **Sunday, March 5**, 10:30am, in room 107.

2. Sponsor an ASP student!

NEW this year, we’ll ask adults in our church to sponsor a student who is going on ASP. By committing to pray for a student and donating \$50, \$100 or more, we’ll match one



sponsor to each student to create an ongoing mentorship. Look for blue sponsorship sheets this March! Get them from the ushers or at the Welcome Desk.

3. Silent Auction for ASP will be **May 14 and 21**, but we’re collecting donations now! Talk to Amy or email her at amy.mcgreg@wblumc.org to find out what we’re looking for and how to donate or to help in other ways.

The 2016 ASP group!

More youth/kids news

April 23: Bees Mission starts; Youth Ministry Transition Task Force congregational event

April 26: Last Wednesday night programming

May 3: Kids/youth picnic

May 21: Confirmation Sunday

May 21 & 28: No Sunday School

June 4: Summer Sunday School starts.

July 13-16: Amy will be taking students who have completed grades 7-9 to at Gustavus Adolphus College. **Registration form and \$40 deposit due March 31.**



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm
Friday: 9am-12pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 9am-12pm

Regular Worship

(Sept. 18-May 21,2017)

9:30am Blended Worship Service
10:30am - Fellowship with coffee & tea;
Individual prayer, Prayer Room
11:15am Contemporary Service

STAFF

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Patricia Kytola, Director of Operations —
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Lauri Hopple, Administrative Assistant—
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2016-17 WBLUMC Ministry Leaders

Mark Hebaus, *Board Chair*
Curt Jenkins, *Trustees*
Scott Vipond, *Finance*
Glenn Oliphant, *Bread Team*
Ginger Davis, *Staff Parish*
Mary Ellen Calderwood, *Worship*
Lori McBride, *Adult Faith*
Janis Hebaus & Jeremy Steiner, *Hospitality*
Barb Hinz & Roberta Schmidt, *BeFrienders*
Lisa James, *Congregational Care*
Cheryl Larsen, *United Methodist Women*
Karen Flynn, *Library*
Denise & Larry Kerr, *Community Garden*
Julie Jacot and Dave Hegdahl, *Prayer Team*