

**Mission: We are called to be Christ's Light...in all things we are committed to seeking & following God's will and not our own. Believe It! Live It! Come to it!**

# Lent

Lutherans don't talk a whole lot about covenants (Presbyterians seem to use covenantal language more often); but covenants are biblically significant. Our Old Testament readings for most of the Sundays in Lent this year highlight covenants God makes with various groups ranging from all creation, to the Israelites, to Abraham and Sarah.

The first Sunday in Lent highlights the Noachic covenant: the promise God makes to Noah, his descendants, and all creation that never again shall there be a flood to wipe out the earth.

The second Sunday in Lent emphasizes the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah. God promises Abraham: **"You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations."** (Gen. 17:4b) And God promises Sarah will be blessed and: **"she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."** (Gen. 17:16b)

The third Sunday in Lent we hear of God's gift of the Ten Commandments; God's life-giving law which instructs the people of Israel with how to live in covenant with God.

And the fifth Sunday in Lent we hear about God's promise of **"a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."** (Jer. 31:31b) Here God promises: **"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."** (Jer. 31:33b)

You may have noticed in the above paragraph I skipped the fourth Sunday in Lent! The Old Testament reading for this day comes from the book of Numbers. It is the story of poisonous snakes that bite and kill many Israelites.

Moses intercedes for the Israelites with a prayer to God and God instructs Moses to make a bronze serpent and affix it to a pole. **"So Moses made a serpent of bronze,**

**and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live."** While there isn't a specific covenant given, there is a promise. God's covenants include promises (which God never breaks!)

The term "cutting a covenant" comes from the practice of cutting an animal in half and then each party of the covenant walking between the cut pieces. The idea here is that the covenant is so serious that if either member breaks their end of the covenant, they should be cut in half like the animal they are walking between. In Genesis, God represented by **"a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces."** (Gen. 15:17b) when God made the covenant with Abram (his name will change to Abraham later).

While God never breaks a promise, we regularly (daily) break our promises to God. So, God sends us a Son who never disobeys God's will. Jesus, lifted high on the cross, becomes our salvation much like the bronze serpent on the pole saved the poisoned Israelites. **"For our sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."** (2 Cor. 5:21)

While Lutherans don't use covenantal language often, we do speak of God's promises. In this Lenten season we can give thanks for God's promise of salvation as it comes to us through Jesus the Christ. As we journey through Lent may we look to the cross of Christ; remembering: **"O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee."** (*Lift High the Cross* #660 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship).

God's continued blessings this Lent,  
Pr. Erich

## Lenten Series "Open my Life, Lord"

The theme for this Lent is **"Open my Life, Lord."** The subtheme for the second week is "Open my Hands, Lord" and the fourth week is "Open my Heart, Lord."

**For week 2**, you are encouraged to trace your hand on a piece of paper and personalize it. Feel free to color it, add words, and detail it in ways that reflect how God works through the work you do with your hands. Don't forget to put your name on it somewhere and if you want you can add this verse from Deuteronomy: **"Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."** (Deut. 15:11)



**For week 4**, consider making a heart: draw it on a piece of paper, cut out a heart shape, make something out of cloth, clay, wood, or some other medium. Personalize it anyway you'd like. Don't forget to put your name on it somewhere and if you want you can add this verse from Deuteronomy: **"If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor."** (Deut. 15:7)



Please send or drop off your hand and/or heart at BLC so we can include it in our worship display.

## Lenten Midweek Series Open My Life, Lord

- † Each Wednesday we post a recorded **Lenten Worship Service** on Facebook at **6:00pm**. These messages include our Confirmation youth each week and our accompanist and singer. Please go to Facebook to watch.
- † Each day we send an email with a **Lenten Audio Devotion** recorded by Pastor Erich. Meditations on the Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus as Recorded in Mark, from "Reliving the Passion" by Walter Wangerin Jr.
- † We are currently **LIVE streaming Sunday Services** at 9:00 am through our Facebook page. You can see the most recent service as well as weekday videos using this link (no account needed to view videos): <https://www.facebook.com/BarneveldLutheranChurch/>

**Sunday March 14th 2:00AM**



↓ +1h

**Spring Forward**

**Daylight Savings Begins**

WORSHIP  
VOLUNTEER  
opportunities



Would you like to assist with our LIVE Streaming worship on Sunday morning?

We are looking for people who would like to **serve as Scripture Readers** on Sunday

mornings. You would come to worship and do the scripture reading at the appropriate time just like a normal worship service. We ask you to wear a mask during the entire service, except while you are reading scripture.

Also if anyone would like to come **SING** with Dawn or Julie or on your own we would welcome that.

**To volunteer** call the church office 924-8621, or text Marcia at 574-8182 or email [barneveldlutheran505@gmail.com](mailto:barneveldlutheran505@gmail.com)



As per church tradition, we will be decorating the BLC sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Due to limited use, we won't be decorating as much this year, but still want to have the festive look for our live streamed worship with you, as we celebrate our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

We will be ordering Easter lily plants from Olson's flower shop in Mt. Horeb; thereby supporting a local small business. The church price for lilies is **\$15.00 each**

Please place your order so we have it at the church by **Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>**. This gives the flower shop time to place her order with the supplier.

**Cash or checks, payable to Barneveld Lutheran Church, are due with order**

Name (from): \_\_\_\_\_

*Print name as you would like listed in video slide*

In memory of (if person (s) is deceased)

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of (event or living person)

\_\_\_\_\_



Do you have any favorite hymns or songs you would like to hear during our worship services on Sunday mornings? Let us know by calling (924-8621) or emailing the church office at

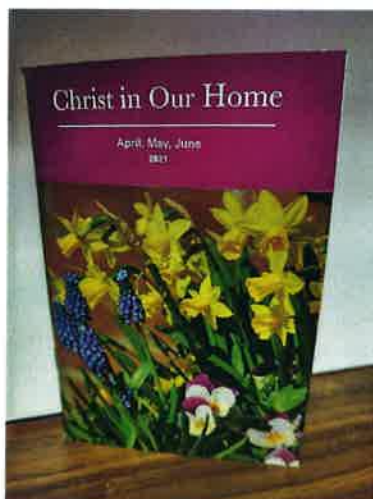
barneveldlutheran505@gmail.com

or Pastor Erich at erichh24@hotmail.com or stop in and let us know.

Would you like a copy of the  
**“CHRIST IN OUR HOME “**  
 devotional book?

We have regular print and LARGE print ones. Call or email the church office and let Marcia know you would like one sent to your home or you can stop in at BLC and pick one up.

Marcia is always in on Wednesdays as the food pantry is open and also most Tuesdays and some on Thursdays. Pastor Erich is also at BLC many hours each week, but Monday is his day off.



**Ridgeway-Barneveld  
 Knights of Columbus**



**Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Made from scratch!**  
**Fundraiser**

**Sunday, March 7**

**11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Drive-through only at back parking lot of:  
 St. Bridget's Church, 801 Main St., Ridgeway**

**\$10 includes spaghetti, coleslaw and bread**

**Annual Knights of Columbus charity raffle tickets will  
 be available at \$5 each.**

**Please have correct change if possible for meals and  
 raffle tickets!**



**Charity - Unity - Fraternity- Patriotism**