

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Wait for the Lord; be strong
and take heart and wait for
the Lord." Psalm 27:15

A favorite Taize song is, "Wait
for the Lord". This verse is what
inspires the repetition as we
sing it praising God. It is an
amazing verse to focus on as
we are in recovery from the
trying times of the pandemic.

WEEKLY DEVOTION

March 9 [Arrested Spiritual
Development](#)



WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday 4:00 pm
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Sunday 10:30 am

GROUP STUDIES

Pastor's Bible Study
Tuesdays 10 am
Conference Call
339.209.5700

Men's Bible Study
Thursdays 8:00 am
Education A/B and/or
Conference Call
339.209.5700

Women's Book Study
Fridays 9:00 am
Fellowship Hall

SCRIPTURE FOR WEEKEND SERVICE

Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11
Psalm 31:9-16
Gospel: 11:1-11

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

March 24, 2021

AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST THROUGH THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Our Lenten Journey of Renewal focused on the language of apology by using keen insights from the writings of Rev. Gary Chapman. Apologizing can be expressed through regret, by accepting responsibility, by making restitution in a loving manner and repenting/changing one's mind and behavior to no longer negatively impact others. These are solid reminders on how to apologize with others. In today's final Lenten Service, we focus on the last language of apology, by requesting forgiveness through a simple question; "Will you please forgive me?"

This is a beautifully profound question, a moment of truth and love breaking forth. In our discernment upon forgiveness, we can use St. Paul's reminder of our role as ministers of reconciliation from 2nd Corinthians 5:14-21:

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

As we have been forgiven and reconciled in Christ, we are ambassadors of reconciliation. Thank you for traveling with us in our journey of Lenten renewal and I look forward to the power and passion of Holy Week.

Love,

Pastor Lowell

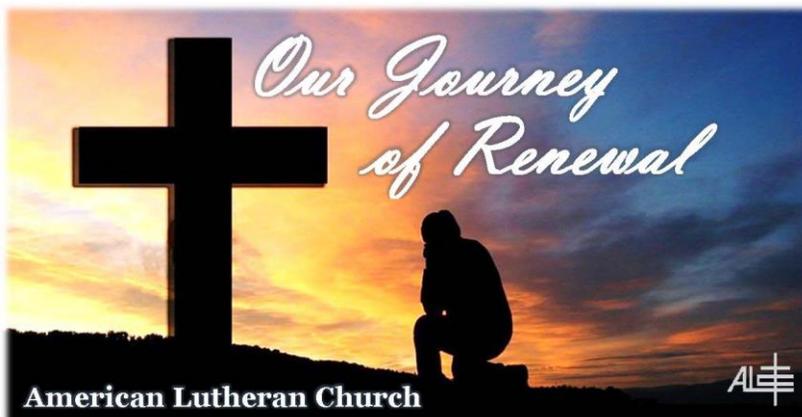
Pastor Lowell



THE PERFECT REDEMPTION

As a child I was taught that Lent was a time of sacrifice. It was a time to remember that the Son of God made the ultimate sacrifice -- giving His life to redeem us -- and that we should sacrifice during the solemn time leading up to Easter Sunday in remembrance. And so, every Ash Wednesday for most of my life I would decide what I would give up or sacrifice. As a child it might have been chocolate or candy or arguing with my parents. When I was older it might have been giving up soda or Starbucks or still chocolate!

I have now come to understand that Lent is not just about sacrifice. It is more about redemption. By His death on the cross and His resurrection, we are redeemed. Redemption is the promise of God to deliver us from the power and presence of sin. So, this Lenten season I decided not to focus on sacrificing "some thing" but to use these 40 days to reflect on what this gift of redemption means in my life and to consider how to use this gift to advance God's kingdom on earth.



Only Jesus, as the perfect Savior, was able to redeem us. One of the inspirational verses in the Bible for me is Hebrews 12:2-5:

"So, I fix my eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith, seeking to follow him."

So today and every day, let us give thanks to Jesus Christ for his perfect redemption, asking Him for strength to follow in His footsteps and sharing this hopeful message of God's promise to all.



Prayerfully,
Sharon Grambow

HELPING HANDS!

I am working on restarting Helping Hands and looking for volunteers to provide assistance for our members who are looking for small household chores and rides to medical appointments. If you are interested, please let me know.

Lori Kellar
Wellness Ministry
L.kellar@alcsuncity.org