

Seeking God's Ways Together

Lent 2022 Assembly Mennonite Church

For many of us the season of Lent in the church year is relatively new. While secular and people of faith alike know about Easter lilies and Easter eggs, many of us are less acquainted with the traditions and the possibilities of Lent. Most simply, it is the season of preparation for Holy Week and the feast of Easter. Lent and Easter are the most ancient of the church's seasons and celebrations.

Lent is not for the faint of heart. It is long: forty days + 6 Sundays. At the end of Advent comes a birth. At the end of Lent comes a death.

Often people think of Lent as a time to *give up something*: a bad habit, an edible indulgence, a grudge or a lingering hurt. But this year may hold fresh possibilities for which we have long waited. This year we urge you to *take on something*: **face-to-face worship in our Assembly meetingplace**. Make a commitment to come join with your siblings in Christ as we *Seek God's Ways. Together*.

Lent is always about a *turning* from self-preoccupation and toward love of God and neighbor. This year each Sunday focuses on a movement *away from one thing and toward something else*. Each of our preachers will speak about this movement essential for life and growth. The prayer of confession each week will be written in the haiku form. The visuals and children's time will offer simple objects that symbolize the *from and to* movement. Worship will include familiar rituals such as communion, anointing, and footwashing/handwashing, inviting us to embody together the movement of turning toward God's Ways.

As we return to indoor worship together, as we begin to "stretch our church muscles", we will have our children worship together with us for about the first 45 minutes of the service before dismissing them for Sunday school. Adults will continue worship followed by a time of fellowship (without coffee, sorry) lasting until the end of children's Sunday school. There will be no second hour for adults.

Some recent research suggests that at least some people intentionally deepened their personal spiritual practices during the pandemic. Thanks be to God! What will we discover as we rejoin our embodied community and reclaim its corporate spiritual practices? Perhaps together we will discover a new hymn from *Voices Together* that will become a heart song among us. Perhaps sharing in communion together again will surprise and awaken something in us. Perhaps sermons from preachers inside and outside the Assembly will summon us to fresh ways of being and acting.

In this season of Lent 2022 let us receive the gift of this time to deepen our communal practices ***Seeking God's Way Together***.

See next page

*Read the Assemblyline for fuller descriptions of each of the events below
as well as the Sunday morning worship schedule*

Kick-off for Carnival and Lent Feb 26; 3:30 to 5 PM at the Mtghouse for **families**

Ash Wednesday Retreat March 2; 7 to 8:30 PM at the Mtghouse for **adults**

Family Lenten retreat March 19 - more info to follow

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Date	Texts	Theme	Worship Leader	Preacher
3/6	Deut 1-11 • Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 • Romans 10:8b-13 • Luke 4:1-13	<i>From security to generosity</i> Anna's ordination	Jonathon Schramm	Mariah Martin -
3/13	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 • Psalm 27 • Philippians 3:17-4:1 • Luke 13:31-35	<i>From fear to compassion</i>	Scott Coulter	Leah Thomas
3/20	Isaiah 43:16-21 • Psalm 126 • Philippians 3:4b-14 • John 12:1-8	<i>From scarcity to abundance</i>	Leon Bauman	Marlene Kroeker - Everence
3/27	Joshua 5:9-12 • Psalm 32 • 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 • Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	<i>From exceptionalism to inclusion</i>	Sean Smuts	Jeanne Davies - ADNet
4/3	Isaiah 55:1-9 • Psalm 63:1-8 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 • Luke 13:1-9	<i>From earning to receiving</i>	Sean Smuts	Scott Coulter
4/10	Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 • Luke 19:28-40 • Philippians 2:5-11	<i>From power over to power with</i>	Mary Lehman Yoder	Alison Brookins
4/17	Isaiah 65:17-25 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • John 20:1-18 • I Corinthians 15:19-26	<i>From certainty to openness</i>	Leon Bauman	Anna Yoder Schlabach

Holy Week and Easter details will follow as Lent proceeds.