

## Return to the Cross

*“Fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith”  
(Heb 12:2)*

Dear Family,

As we move through the final weeks of Epiphany, we have witnessed Jesus revealed to the world as the Son of God—through the visit of the Magi, His baptism, and His first miracles. But as February progresses, the church year shifts its gaze. We prepare to enter the solemn season of Lent, turning our attention toward Jerusalem, the cross, and the incredible cost of our redemption.

Now, Ash Wednesday, this year, is February 18<sup>th</sup>, and it's time once again to prepare our hearts for a “return” to the basics of our faith—repentance, confession, and the receiving of God's gifts in Word and Sacrament.

As you renew your focus this Lenten season, I encourage you to faithfully use the devotional booklets that we have purchased this year entitled, “For Us” as well as gathering for corporate worship—weekends, of course, but adding that Wednesday service to your Lenten Journey. Remember, friends, Lent is not about earning merit with God; rather it's about recognizing our desperate need for a Savior and seeing Him in the holy wounds of Jesus.

In our Lutheran tradition, our faith is active, and it's in this season that we are also reminded of the ultimate stewardship of our lives—a life given in service to our Living Lord, of course, but also to our neighbor. Therefore, as we look toward this Lenten season of 2026, I encourage you to consider how you might serve your fellow members and the community, perhaps by taking on a new role in our congregation or supporting our local ministry efforts.

All in all, family, let's, as a faithful congregation, continue to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,” as we walk together through this holy season.

In Christ,  
Pastor Seehafer