

The Journey Together

Dear Family,

As the calendar turns to March, we have already entered the sacred, forty-day season of Lent—a time marked by reflection, repentance, and preparation. Lent is often described as a “spring cleaning for the soul,” a moment to pause our busy schedules and turn our hearts back toward the center of our faith: Jesus!

This year, let’s continue to approach Lent not as a season of doom and gloom, but as a journey of intentionality and hope. It is a time to “rent our hearts” rather than just our garments, inviting God into the dusty corners of our lives to bring renewal.

Just as we heard last week, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, facing temptation and deepening His reliance on His Father. We, too, are enabled to walk through our own wildernesses—places of uncertainty, questions, and waiting. Yet, we do not walk alone. We walk as a community, anchored in Christ, strengthening our spiritual muscles together.

Therefore, let’s continue this journey together as we embrace the three traditional pillars of Lent: **Prayer:** Making space for deeper communion with God. **Fasting:** Not just dealing with food, but (for example) refraining from distractions (or perhaps “fasting from harsh words”) to focus on kindness. **Almsgiving:** Acts of charity and service to our neighbors and/or a special offering to support the ministry here at St. Stephen (Open Wide Your Hearts/G.E.M. *Giving Extra Monthly*).

As we journey toward the cross, family, let’s remember that the darkness does not have the final word. Resurrection is coming! May this Lenten season strengthen our courage, deepen our compassion, and unite us as one body.

In Christ,
Pastor Seehafer