



THE SHEAVES



Vol. 46 Issue 3 March 2025

Newsletter of Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church
12633 Cameron Road, Kendrick, ID 83507 208-289-3471



cameronemmanuel.org



Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church

God's Beloved People,

In the rhythm of the church year, Wednesday, March 5, is **Ash Wednesday** (the date varies as it is determined by the lunar calendar) and our forty-day (excluding Sundays) Lenten journey of penitence and preparation for Easter begins. **Lent**, *lente* Anglo-Saxon: "springtime." Penitence and Preparation. What do you need to let go of and release to God? What do you need to be open to receive from God? What does this congregation need to let go of and release to God? What does this congregation need to be open to receive from God?

I read an article in **Inside Higher Ed** that talked about the shifting landscape in higher education in the United States. Colleges and universities (public and private) are facing demographic shifts (the primary pool of college applicants is declining), changing perceptions about the value of a college degree, financial stability challenges. The shift has been referred to as the "enrollment cliff." Adapting and changing, colleges and universities (and seminaries) are exploring, embracing, implementing, new, creative, solutions.

I have been able to join the university community in lectures, guest speakers, choral concerts, jazz performances, etc., livestreamed and archived. I have been able to participate with Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, in online lectures, presentations, classes, worship helps, preaching resources, I can attend chapel with the seminary community on that campus. I am able to join the synod's monthly zoom meetings with other interim clergy in the synod, meet together with synod leaders and our Bishop Manlove, our Synod Assembly in May of this year is on zoom. God is leading us into new ways of being church together. I find that energizing, exciting, hopeful.

The **Mission Statement** of Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church is: *"We are a community of faith celebrating the sacraments and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Mission is to proclaim the Word of God through worship, sacraments, education and fellowship; to reach out with love and compassion and serve the needs of the community and world."* The first part we do well: worship, sacraments, education, fellowship; the second part less so: reaching out to the community.

The Lutheran Church began as a reforming movement in the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther did not set out to establish a new church but to reform the existing church for the sake of the gospel (*semper reformanda*, "always reforming"). Lutherans believe the church is always being re-formed by the Holy Spirit working through the gospel. It would be tragic if congregations, born as an agent of change, were to resist change. We need to be open, not for the sake of change, but for the sake of the gospel and the work that God is calling us to do in the world.

The challenges are daunting but not insurmountable. The Holy Spirit invites us to imagine what reaching out for the sake of neighbor and mission might look like for Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church. It is not about how do we get people in the door, it is about how do we go outside these walls and reach people for the sake of the gospel, going out to Kendrick, Juliaetta, the Seven Ridges. What is God inviting us to be open to, what does God have in mind for us, what does God have planned for us? To use the words of former Presiding Bishop Mark. S. Hanson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, "The church is called to be faithful yet changing."

Life is not static, you know that to be true in your life. This congregation is not static. Ready or not, this congregation is changing. To focus on what we lack as a congregation, we become anxiety-driven. To focus on our gifts as a congregation, we become grace-filled. We are a missionary congregation in a missionary context with options and possibilities and choices before us. Jesus said, "Come, follow me." How unsettling, how exciting. What do we need to let go of? What do we need to be open to receive? Blessed Lent, Blessed Journey. We are on our way, God's way for us.

+Pr. Nick Nicolai , Interim Pastor



Jesus had twelve disciples. ‘Disciple’ can be either a noun (the person) or a verb (what the master does as he teaches and ‘forms’ his students.) Potential disciples in Jesus’ time learned from a master, such as a rabbi, then could eventually be accepted by the master as a disciple, all trained and ready to go. Jesus, however, picked His disciples green and untrained. They were a motley crew: fishermen literally straight off their boats, a hated tax collector (who collected required taxes from people – and as much extra as he could to keep for himself.) One who Jesus called was a Zealot – a person actively working to overthrow the Roman government. We know little about how most of them were chosen, but none of them sought Him out – He picked them.



Scripture talks about a few of them: Thomas who at one point famously wouldn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he could see Jesus' actual wounds. When he saw those wounds, however, he gave a deeply reverent response to Jesus. We have John, who was one of those closest to Jesus and was asked by Jesus to take care of His mother after the crucifixion. There was Judas Iscariot, who stole from the money carried by the disciples, then betrayed Jesus; to this day his name is applied to those who commit an especially awful act of betrayal. James and John (brothers) and Peter were often together with Jesus at special events such as the Transfiguration or in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night Jesus was betrayed. Otherwise we just know that all twelve men walked with Jesus as He disciplined them for three years. They eventually became the founders of Jesus' world-wide Church.

The one we do hear a great deal about is Simon – who Jesus quickly renamed Cephas/Peter. After Jesus went back to heaven Peter was the leader in Jerusalem for those founding the new Church on Earth based on Jesus and His teaching and promises – something that Jesus had told him he would do. He was also the first disciple to say out loud that Jesus was the Son of God – the Messiah. But in between glorious times, his mouth often took off without his head getting engaged, and many of these times are faithfully recorded in the Bible. And every one of them can teach us something!

One night Jesus sent the disciples on ahead across a large lake while He stayed on-shore to pray. In the very early morning He started for the boat, which was struggling in the middle of a storm.....and He was walking on the water. The disciples were petrified – was that a GHOST out there?!?!? - but after Jesus identified Himself Peter asked to walk out and meet Him. Jesus said ‘Come ahead!’ but after a few steps Peter came to and realized what he was doing, at which point he lost his nerve and started to sink. Jesus saved him, of course. How often do we feel overwhelmed in this life: everything is out of control, there's too much to do, we have no idea where to turn? Perhaps we can think of it as taking our eyes off our ‘center:’ Jesus Christ. He will save us – focus us – show us the way if we just stop for a minute and ask for help. We are never alone if we just seek His strength.

One time Jesus took James and John and Peter to a mountaintop where Jesus became a dazzling figure having a conversation with Moses and Elijah, who were also there. Peter was absolutely overwhelmed, and in his desire to please or participate, he offered to build shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah – an ancient sign of hospitality done when people have to be outside in the heat. God the Father responded by declaring that Jesus was His beloved Son – listen to Him! How often do we just blurt out nonsense at a time of pressure – words we'd love to erase? When silence might be golden?!

We've all heard of the memorable words Peter spoke as he denied that he'd ever known Jesus on the night of Jesus' trial. He did this three times. This was recorded in all four gospels, and in all four gospels Jesus had predicted it. Peter was outraged! He said that he would absolutely NEVER do such a thing. Yet he did. And the rooster that Jesus said would crow when Peter finished denying Him crowed right on cue. Peter was devastated. He faced Jesus after the resurrection, and Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him? If he did, Peter was to feed His sheep and His lambs. Lesson learned. Peter fed His sheep and lambs faithfully for the rest of his life.

We have so many ways of denying Jesus. Silence when we should tell someone of Him. Not saying grace in restaurants because people are watching. OMG and omigod and cursing when you most certainly are not talking to Him. We're human and do Peter-ish things, but when we trust in Jesus He will forgive us as He did Peter. Let's learn from his stumbles as we remember his eventual glory!

~Ann Taylor

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 Worship

Communion on March 2, 9, 23, 30

Lay led service on March 16

Daylight Savings Time begins March 9th !!



Lent Weekly Scripture And Prayer Psalms: Sensing God

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Psalm 51 (A Prayer For Wholeness)

Midweek Lent 1, Wednesday, March 12

Psalm 145 (Touch)

Midweek Lent 2, Wednesday, March 19

Psalm 27 (Sight)

Midweek Lent 3, Wednesday, March 26

Psalm 34 (Taste)

Midweek Lent 4, Wednesday, April 2

Psalm 62 (Hear)

Midweek Lent 5, Wednesday, April 9

Psalm 65 (Smell)

Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 13

Psalm 31:9-16 (Trust)

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (Orientation)

Good Friday, April 18

Psalm 22 (Emptiness)

Holy Saturday, April 19

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (Awareness)

Easter Sunday, April 20

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (Salvation And Song)

LENT 2025, from Pastor Nick

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 5 (the date varies as it is determined by the lunar calendar) and our forty-day (excluding Sundays) Lenten journey of penitence and preparation for Easter begins. **Easter Sunday** this year is Sunday, April 20.

We are not having in person mid-week Lenten worship services here at Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church this year 2025.

You are encouraged to follow some sort of scripture and prayer journey during Lent and consider worshiping in new ways.

We do have options, choices, possibilities, here are a few:

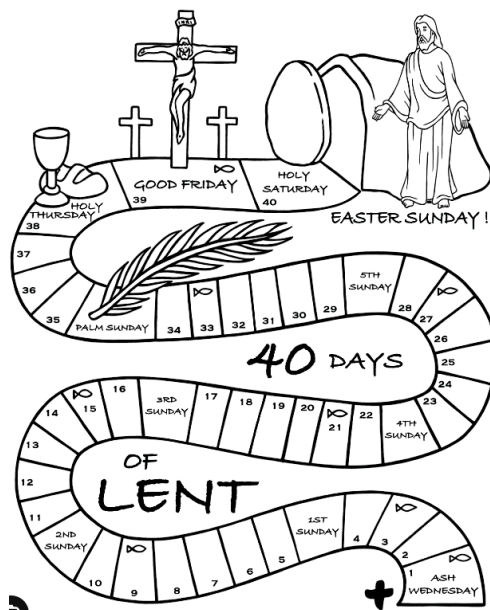
- Commit to follow a devotional or reading of your choice to read and be in prayer each day during Lent or once a week mid-week during Lent.
- I have written a Lent 2025 Weekly Scripture And Prayer piece, "Psalms: Sensing God." These will be available to pick up Sunday mornings by the worship folders at both entrances. They are a half-page (front and back) guide to a weekly scripture reading (a psalm) and prayer during Lent, it may be done individually or with others at home or another location.
- If you are out and about the area on a Wednesday, consider stopping in and joining one of our sister congregations for their midweek worship (Troy Lutheran Church; Genesee Lutheran Parish; Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lewiston; Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Clarkston; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Moscow).
- Join a congregation online for midweek Lenten worship (a congregation in the area, or a congregation in the synod, or a congregation across the United States, or even in another country).
- In lieu of in person midweek Lenten offerings, you are encouraged to consider a Lenten offering gift(s). Consider a Lenten offering gift in support of missions, please note the designation on the check memo line or include a note with a cash gift and place it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Or consider a gift to a ministry of your choice for example: campus ministry, outdoor ministry, world hunger, local food bank, etc., mail it to the organization of your choice directly or give online through their website.
- Subscribe online to "God Pause" a daily devotion (365 days a year) delivered to your email inbox every morning brought to you as a gift by the alumni of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Link: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>
- We are church together. Whether individually or as gathered community, whether gathered in person or online, we journey together as the Church. Blessed Lent. Blessed Journey.

It is almost time to start a season called **Lent** at our church. What's that? It's the forty days before Easter and it's sort of a sad time with a very happy ending.

Why is it sad? When God first created people they were perfect - they loved God and lived the way He did: with love and care for each other. But then people started being mean and hurtful to each other. That's called sin, and it made God sad and angry. The way people could be forgiven was to bring something called a sacrifice to the Temple. That could be an animal or something they grew on their farms. The priest at the temple would accept this gift and let them know that God had forgiven them. This worked sometimes, but people kept right on doing rotten things. So God decided to make His own sacrifice to forgive sin for all people forever by sending His own Son, Jesus, to earth. That's what we celebrate at **Christmas**.

For several years Jesus healed sick people and taught them to love and care for each other, but there was a large, important group of people who hated Him. They didn't believe He was God's Son, and they were very afraid of Him because people were leaving their group to follow Jesus. So that group had Jesus killed. That's the very sad part of our story.

The most important part about Jesus dying was that He was the last and final sacrifice for all sin - now all people can be forgiven forever with no more sacrifices! And do you know what happened next? He was resurrected! What does that mean? He woke up from being dead!! That's what we celebrate at **Easter**. Then He went back to heaven, where He watches over us and protects us and provides for us and forgives us ALWAYS. That is very happy news!



CHEESY MUSIC JOKES

- How do you make a bandstand?** Take away their chairs
- What's the difference between a piano and a fish?**
You can't tuna (tune a) fish
- What musical keys do cows sing in?** Beef Flat
- How do you fix a broken tuba?** With a tuba (tube of) glue
- Why did the pianist keep banging his head against the keys?**
He was playing by ear
- What type of music are balloons afraid of?** Pop music
- What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?**
A flat minor
- What do you get when you drop a piano on an army base?**
A flat Major



Say this fast three times:
Which wristwatches are Swiss wristwatches?

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Godzilla.
Godzilla who?
Just kidding -
Godzilla wouldn't knock.



Can February March?

No, but April May!

When is it impossible to plant spring flowers?

When you haven't botany.

What do clouds wear during spring showers?

Thunderwear

What do you get when you cross a rabbit and a garden hose?

Hare spray.

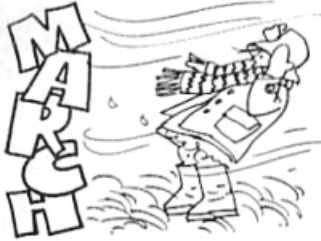
What do you get when you cross a bee and a doorbell?

A humdinger.

Which vegetable should you never invite on a boat trip?

A leek.

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination"



Important

**Congregation Conversation
with Discover & Invite Team, Part 2 :
"Grateful History/Faithful Future"**

Sunday, March 2nd, following worship
Coffee hour in the overflow room
Potluck savory or sweet snacks

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ben Schaefer
- 2 Eiven Showalter
- 7 Janel Shaw
- 8 Brian Bracke
Jennifer Dennler
- 9 Gabbriella Bracke
- 10 Kayla (Pea) Heen
- 14 Connie Nelson
- 15 John Liedkie
- 16 Owen Stanek
- 17 Ralli Roetcisoender
- 21 Russ Brammer
- 22 Doug Lohman
- 23 Mailey Child
- 24 Seth Parks
- 25 Lydia Shaw
- 26 Cambria Blood
Amy Perry
- 28 Brooklyn Blood
- 31 Julia Proctor

ANNIVERSARIES

- 03/04/2006
Justin/Jessica Clemenhagen
- 03/11/2000
Doug/Christine Lohman
- 03/31/2007
Quince/Karen Child

- ⇒ March 2, 10 a.m. liturgy will be **Holden Prayer Service** with imposition of ashes (no service on Ash Wednesday).
- ⇒ Sunday, March 9 reverts to **Daylight Savings Time** and is the first Sunday of Lent. After worship will be **Confirmation Class**, **WELCA** meeting and coffee hour. The agenda for WELCA will include Palm Sunday Brunch, VBS, and honoring 2025 graduates.
- ⇒ Saturday, March 15, **Southwick Community Center** is having their annual brunch.
- ⇒ Sunday, March 23, **Church Council** meets after worship
- ⇒ Monday, March 24, **Worship Committee** meets
- ⇒ The **choir rehearses** on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. More voices are always welcome.
- ⇒ The **ladies gather** to quilt, sew, and visit on Wednesdays, they generally come and go between 9:00 to 3:00 It is an open invitation, one does not need to be a member of the church to come learn how to quilt or sew or tie quilts for those in need.
- ⇒ A reminder that **Thrivent** Financial provides resources and tools to launch fundraising efforts or engage people in service activities. One may also become an associate member to apply for grants. In the past we've received funding for the Food Bank, VBS, Relief projects, our Bazaar fundraiser. For more info ask Joanne Gertje.
- ⇒ **Changing your address?** Email your new address to the church at cameronelca@gmail.com so your newsletter is not returned. THANKS.
- ⇒ Opportunities for service...there's lots of painting to be done at the parsonage and church. Contact Brian Silflow, Don Parks or Gary Brammer if you are willing to lend a hand.



SERVE OTHERS

A LENTEN TRADITION — REACHING OUT — SERVING — CARING

As has been a Cameron tradition, we'll be collection items for **Personal Care Kits** in March and April. If you cannot or would rather not shop, give a donation to Mary Abitz (make checks out to WELCA and designate them for Personal care kits) and someone will be glad to shop for you! Then pray for all those in need and for God's strength and peace in the many disaster-struck areas. Donations may be left in the overflow room anytime.

What we need for each kit:

- One **bath towel**: it needs to be no bigger than 27 x 52, preferably a darker color, and not too heavy. The recipients will not have washers and dryers, so they must wash the towels by hand and hang them outside to dry. The luxurious towels we usually like are a bit too heavy to handle for hand laundering!
- **Bars of soap**: 8-9 ounces of soap in each kit, so either 3 or 4 ounce bars will work. No hotel sizes, please!
- One **tooth brush** in original packaging. If there are more in a package, we can separate them and put them in individual sealed white envelopes.
- One **STURDY comb**. No picks, please!
- One **nail clipper**, with or without a file. We will accept either toenail or fingernail clippers.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton speaks to the church about the need to check in on one another during this time of great anxiety and fear for so many members. "We may not know what tomorrow brings, but we have each other. And we have the promise of a God who meets us in our fear, who walks with us in our struggles, and who calls us to be bearers of hope."



From the family of Donna Lohman...

Thank you all for the cards, memorials, and support for our family after Mom's passing. We are grateful for Amy for the beautiful music and the special song she sang. She knew what mom liked! Thanks to WELCA for the food following the service.

We are grateful to Pastor Nick for his care, concerns and visits with Mom. The service was very meaningful. Thank you all again.

The Saga of the Church Furnaces cont.....



It was thought the problems with our 3 furnaces were solved, but it was not to be. We've been without heat in the church basement for 2 weeks. It is an old furnace and parts are hard to find. Guardian believes they can retro-fit it with a new burner and pump inside the current housing as was done in the parsonage. The approximate cost will be \$1400 plus a day's labor. On February 23rd, the congregation voted to go ahead with the plan, noting that anything else would be more expensive. Repairs may be done before month end.



Check out opportunities at Lutherhaven at <https://www.lutherhaven.com>. Encourage your kids to attend one of them many camps. It is a wonderful experience. Check out the adult retreat April 22-23—**Go Outside & Play!** Designed to provide time and space for adults to enjoy all camp has to offer—campfires, s'mores, time in the word, and fellowship! Anyone interested?? Families may also rent and retreat together at Camp Lutherhaven, Shoshone Mountain Retreat and McPherson Meadows. Lots of opportunities to have an adventure!

