

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

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Time for Lent

By David E. Manuel

When I was a child, I would hear my Roman Catholic friends ask one another what they were giving up for Lent. Raised a Baptist evangelical, I found this a strange idea. What could possibly be the point (and the scriptural justification) for giving up something that was not already biblically prohibited—especially the kinds of things so often selected, like chocolate or television?

It was once the practice of many groups within the Church to encourage people—regardless of the time of year—to deny themselves luxuries or to engage in intentionally uncomfortable practices. The infamous Cardinal Wolsey, for example, Lord High Chancellor in the court of Henry VIII, was not the only person who secretly wore a shirt woven of coarse animal hair in order to mortify the flesh. It was thought that putting aside the comforts of the world—or putting on discomfort—would surely sharpen one’s spiritual focus. By the end of the early modern period, such practices were largely abandoned by most Christians, both Catholic and Reformed. But at least one such practice remained: giving up something for Lent. Is that the essence of Lent?

Many evangelical groups pay little attention to the church calendar, with the exception of Easter and Christmas. Doing so seems not unreasonable, for no celebrations of Christian holy days—not even Easter and Christmas—are dictated by the New Testament. Only Sunday it seems, the first day of the week, the day of Resurrection, is widely understood to be referred to in the Bible as a day of commemoration (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2). But does being extra-biblical (that is, outside of the Bible) make something un-biblical (that is, contrary to the Bible)? The early church didn’t seem to think so, and annual remembrances soon developed. Easter seems to have been first, by about A.D. 160 in the West (Chadwick 84) and probably as early in the East. The origins of Lent are more obscure.

The Greek Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή (“great forty”) and Latin Quadragesima (“fortieth”), denote the forty-day period before Easter (exclusive of Sundays), a meaning also apparent in the Romance languages: la Quaresima (Italian); la Cuaresma (Spanish); and le Carême (French). The English word “Lent” derives from the Old English lencten or læncten (from an old Germanic base meaning “long”), denoting simply the season of spring when days lengthen. Gradually, it seems, as the English word “summer” began to denote the warm half of the year and “winter” the cold half, lencten could, without confusion, refer exclusively to the lenctentid (“spring-tide”) period of Lent. In Modern German, Lent is die Fastenzeit, the time of fasting, which is also indicated by the other Greek term for Lent, Μεγάλη Νηστεία (“great fast”). These, then, are the three essential features of Lent: its duration, its season, and its purpose.

Nothing about the purpose, however, is peculiar only to Lent. Fasting was a central part of Jewish life: as annually required national observance, for example on the Day of Atonement; as communal expression of sorrow in response to specific calamities; as “collective and regular discipline of piety, as was the Pharisaic practice of fasting on Mondays and Thursdays”; or as independent response by an individual (Nolland 390; Lightfoot 184-5; Luke 18:12). Christ endorsed or at least acknowledged the practice (Matt. 6:16) and stated that, while inappropriate in his presence, fasting would be expected in his absence (Matt. 9:14-15). First-century Christians continued the Jewish practice apparently without hesitation, both as a community (Acts 13: 2-3) and as individuals, devoting particularly Wednesdays and Fridays to their fasts (Chadwick 259). The motives for biblical fasting varied (to demonstrate the sincerity of one’s prayer, to express

sorrow, to repent, to seek guidance, or to prepare for some ministry, etc.), and it was often accompanied by wearing sackcloth and ashes (Neh. 9:1) and by avoiding pleasures (Dan. 6:18).

Typically, historians believe that fasting in preparation for Easter was observed in different ways in different parts of the Christian world and gradually became longer and more widely practiced: Before the Council of Nicea, in 325, Lent had been extended to forty days in the Western Church (Schaff 401; Latourette 205); then in 337 Athanasius brought the more rigorous forty-day observance to the Eastern Church (Chadwick 259). But new theories suggest that Lent began in various fasting practices that were unrelated to preparations for Easter. It is possible that only after the Council of Nicea, as the church sought greater unity, was the forty-day springtime fast purposely made a devotional precursor to Easter (Russo 19-20, 23, 25). The fast, of course, was not intended to be for forty days but, rather, over the course of a forty-day period.

These are the theories about the beginnings of Lent, but they matter less than what we do today in our walk with Christ.

If I choose to ignore Lent, what opportunity will I have missed? We are a material and temporal people, naturally preoccupied with the world, so God gives us mountaintop experiences to commune, undistracted, with Him (Ex. 19:20; I Kings 19:11). We are a transitory and forgetful people, naturally absorbed in our own concerns, so God gives us memorial stones (Josh. 4:21-22) and memorial meals (Ex. 12:14; Luke 22:19) to contemplate His wondrous deliverances. Can Lent be that kind of memorial mountaintop? As Christmas brings me again to the mystery of the Nativity, Good Friday to the passion of the Cross, and Easter to the power of the Resurrection (extra-biblical as those days may be), can Lent bring me back to my unfathomable need for the Savior?

If, however, I observe only the form, denying myself some petty thing, merely following some old convention, but yet holding on to comfortable excesses and extravagances—as was true of many, even in the Lenten days of Augustine and Chrysostom (Schaff 401) and is still true today—where will my Lent have taken me? To trivialities and distractions? To compromise and confusion? To avoidance or, worse, the willing abrogation of my spiritual discipline?

If, then, I do more, rejecting food, diversions, pleasures, but neglecting the meat of the Word, does Lent become only a resented time of deprivation, not preparation to sit, as Mary did, to listen at the feet of Jesus, and, as Mary did, to understand how “one thing is needful”: choosing “that good part which shall not be taken away” (Luke 10:41-2)?

If, on Ash Wednesday, I have a black mark between my brows but fail to contemplate purposefully the ancient words of that day, “Remember, O man, that dust thou art and unto dust thou must return; repent that thou mayest inherit eternal life” (Schaff 401), if I fail so to meditate, how can mortification of the flesh bring edification of the soul?

Could I, by God’s grace, accomplish the purpose of Lent as deeply, as profoundly, without the time for Lent? Surely, by God’s grace. But would I?

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Our Lent Focus

By Sotar Lloyd

During this Lenten season, let us thank and praise God for His righteous Son, who perfectly kept all God’s decrees for us and paid the full price for our disobedience. Let us take the time to worship Him with our hearts filled with Christ Spirit of obedience.

Find the Biblical Names In The Word Search Puzzle

Z A H T C F A X D E B B I L F A H I T H O P H E L
 Q U B K F B O I Y D M Q M O N S J X C U Z D L Z A
 H G D I I A O R Q R C Z K V B Y V J A W S Y T N H
 Z W X C W R T M S W U H B G U P C F I A R W D I E
 T B N S Z N Q E C F I W M Z Z I H U A D K I Q B D
 J F K A K A A N L J N M E A O E X U P T F V B A F
 O V L L U B W Q J I B R R W B W E L H D Z P Z T T
 T R X H C A N H J M Z K X M D R Q P A D Q N G H K
 H V O R Q S I B O R T A K Z J K A V S E K Q U S R
 A S T W R H L S N O U N B U B D J H H O F K K H D
 M O L Z M M P U A O X D E E J Y V V A Z F F X E C
 K J Z Q U A E O H Z Q I D B T E K N T M L H M B D
 D W X C M V Z L H W Q E F C U H H M J W A F O A J
 T T X H M G H G C V K Z G J R C A O U U B U L A Q
 J V S K U K Z O H H J K B O E X H G S X A S L W W
 L H B F J K O M Y I I E E A H S A A N H N S U R P
 G E H P A D J E X Z I Z D D B A U B D J A N P R Z
 K Z M S C I W R J Z Y B E K W N N S S N C P C L I
 I E N U O S P H U G Z N F D T A F A A A E Q H V T
 R K A D B H W Z E V H C R A E U R X N I L Z I A R
 Z I H S W M D E B O R A H P R K S Y P I S O Z D T
 Z A A Q R A S A M U E L W E A P U Y L C A M M A Q
 L H Z G X E N O B F H J N H H T J K B O Z S T C R
 G D H E K L J M A Q V K E I D E E N M A L A C H I
 E W B B P L N M A R Y M A G D A L E N E A X X C D

1. Hezekiah
2. Samuel
3. Barnabas
4. Laban
5. Ishmael
6. Caiaphas
7. Deborah
8. Elizabeth
9. Jonah
10. Ananias
11. Mary Magdalene
12. Jesus
13. Terah
14. Gomer
15. Nebuchadnezzar
16. Malachi
17. Ahithophel
18. Abraham
19. Melchizedek
20. Jehoshaphat
21. Jacob
22. Absalom
23. Bathsheba
24. Ahaz
25. Jotham

Answers are on Page 7

Putting Life into Perspective

By Following the Advice of King Solomon On Obtaining God's Wisdom

Proverbs 3:13-18, 21-26 (The Passion Translation)

Blessings pour over the ones who find wisdom, for they have obtained living-understanding.

As wisdom increases, a great treasure is imparted, greater than many bars of refined gold.

It is a more valuable commodity than gold and gemstones, for there is nothing you desire that could compare to her.

Wisdom extends to you long life in

one hand and wealth and promotion in the other.

Out of her mouth flows righteousness, and her words release both law and mercy.

The ways of wisdom are sweet, always drawing you into the place of wholeness.

Seeking for her brings the discovery of untold blessings, for she is the healing tree of life to those who taste her fruits.

My child, never drift off course from these two goals for your life: to walk in wisdom and to discover your purpose.

Don't ever forget how they

empower you.

For they strengthen you inside and out and inspire you to do what's right; you will be energized and refreshed by the healing they bring.

They give you living hope to guide you, and not one of life's tests will cause you to stumble.

You will sleep like a baby, safe and sound—your rest will be sweet and secure.

You will not be subject to terror, for it will not terrify you.

Nor will the disrespectful be able to push you aside, because God is your confidence in times of crisis, keeping your heart at rest in every situation.

Seniors Luncheon

Another marvelous seniors luncheon celebration was held on Tuesday February 1st. Despite the snow storm that blanket the Northeast region our seniors venture out to gather together to celebrate with each other this special moment over a delicious meal prepared by Chef Ralph. The atmosphere was delightful as laughter and chitchat echoed in the dining area.

Pastor Charles Lucchesi delivered a message on Jesus' words on heaven. There was also a Q and A session on heaven which many of the seniors fully participated. This added agenda gave Pastor Lucchesi the opportunity to hear the seniors concern and desire to understand the Scripture on the teachings about heaven.

The luncheon ended with an appetizing desert and well wishes to all as they venture back home safely.

We invite all our seniors to the next luncheon to be held on **Tuesday April 5th @ 12:00 noon**. Please let us know you are coming by calling the Church office at 516-223-4070.



WORDS OF WISDOM

By Sotar Lloyd

Time is classified as a valuable commodity but yet is given to everyone freely. Time belongs to no one, but everyone in all walks of life exist within time and uses time daily. No one can take hold of time or preserve time, but has the great privilege to spend it at their own expense. However, once time is used and gone, no one can ever recall it. It is gone for good. For this reason, use time mindfully to reap it greatest value because it is a precious commodity that can only be use once. The Apostle Paul said this about *time* "Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully *and* worthily *and* accurately, not as the unwise *and* witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), Making the very most of ...time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Update on the ministry of Camp Orchard Hill

By Peggy Corcoran

One of the ministries supported by Calvary Church is Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating 50 years of ministry this year. In a report recently received from Jim Payne, Executive Director of Camp Orchard Hill, Jim shared some amazing facts from last year:

- Hosted a record 3,738 campers in our combined summer camp programs.
- Expanded our Respite Care program to serve children with special needs and their families with Respite Saturdays, summer respite and the education pod.
- Ran our education pod program throughout the 2020-2021 school year to meet the needs of children and families affected by virtual schooling and closures.
- Began our new Guest Group Lodge project during the pandemic and will finish the project debt free.
- Provided more than \$78,000 in financial aid to campers and their families who needed help.
- Shared the love and hope found in Jesus with each and every guest!

In addition to offering fun activities while helping meet a child's physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual needs through the love of Jesus Christ, the camp held its 13th Annual "Christmas at Camp" for area homeless men from December 13-27 in partnership with 24 area churches, organizations, businesses, and families to meet the men's needs. Praise God that 8 men were able to move directly from the camp into housing – homeless no more!

Please pray for the ministry of Camp Orchard Hill, including Jim and his leadership of the camp. Please also remember to pray for all the campers throughout the year, that their lives will be touched by the love of Christ.

Praying the Scripture A Call To Express Adoration and Respect to God Almighty

(1 Chronicles 29:10-13 New International Version)

Praise be to You, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is Yours.
Yours, LORD, is the Kingdom;
You are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from You;
You are the ruler of all things.
In Your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
Now, [my] God, [I] give You thanks,
and praise Your glorious Name.



HELLO SPRING

A season that truly remind us how beautiful the earth is. How awesome is it when we can witness the beauty of God's creation by extending daylight every spring. This year on Sunday March 13 we set our clock, moving it forward by one hour. What a gift we can all enjoy.

Happy Spring...



BUT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN (1 Timothy 6:6)

By Pastor Charles Lucchesi

As Paul penned this letter, he was no doubt aware that some sought to use their faith and piety as an opportunity for increasing their prosperity. Some had become greedy for gain, and Paul indicates it is not gain that we should seek, but rather godliness.

Such an idea flies in the face of the culture in which we live. We live in a society, which promotes the accumulation of; more prosperity, more possessions, greater power, greater position, but Paul tells us that as Christians, our gain is not financial but spiritual, and the way to is by being more like Jesus Christ. Christians are to seek to be more like Christ in every way and to be content in this world. The truly godly person is not interested in becoming rich. He possesses inner resources which furnish riches far beyond that which earth can offer.

Such contentment can only come when our eyes are focused where they should be. How do you know whether your focus is right? Ask yourself some questions. Pen and paper might help you organize your responses.

1. What do I spend my time doing?
2. What do I spend my time thinking about?
3. Where do I spend my money?
4. What is my heart set upon?

Jesus said in Mathew 6:21 **"Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also."** This verse reminds us that the things we most treasure in life are the things to we devote our time, attention and our very selves.

Be honest! Don't try to justify or defend, just consider what you spend the majority of your time thinking about and doing. Looking at your conclusions, do you find that the majority of your resources including your time, are spent on the things of this world? If so, ask yourself; am I truly happy? Be honest, or do I feel as though I want more? The things this world has to offer may bring pleasure for a season, but certainly not for eternity. Our Lord advises his followers to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Your heavenly father knows your needs and will meet them. Set your priorities straight away on becoming more like Jesus and it really won't matter if you have a lot or nothing at all.

Our first priority as a Christian is to make our life's aim to know and become more like Jesus Christ. The more like him you are, the more this world will fade in your estimation and the more filled with joy you will become. What we need is not an absence of problems or a larger bank balance; what we need is more of Jesus Christ. As the hymn says, **"Thou O Christ, are all I want; more than all, in thee I find"**. And the more of Jesus you have, the greater your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

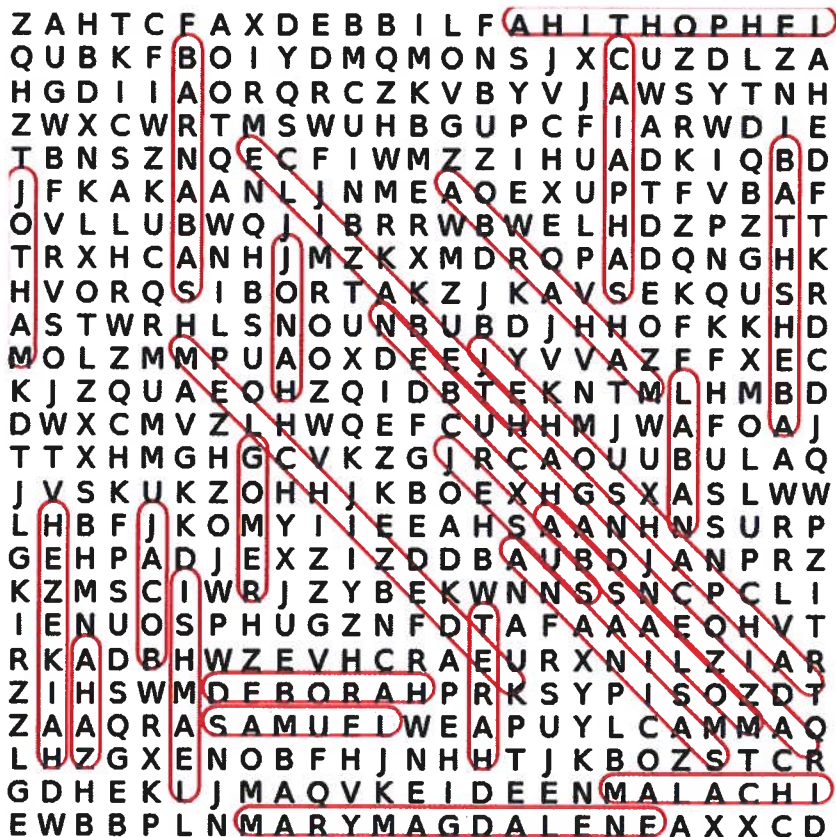
My prayer for each of you, is that you will become more like Jesus, in so doing we will find true contentment in the Lord! What you gain by seeking Him may not be riches. Your afflictions may not be removed. But you will find the strength and the peace that will reflect Christ in you, the hope of glory. We are restless, until we find our rest in God. It is true that without Him we are of all creatures most to be pitied, but with him we can face the future with satisfaction and contentment knowing that we have been given all sufficiency in Christ.

The Lord's Richest Blessings.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

On Sunday March 13th, immediately after the worship service we will be having a very important meeting. The new Constitution has been established following Biblical precepts taken from God's Word. Please make every effort to attend.

Pastor Charles Lucchesi will be stepping down from the office of pastor effective Sunday September 4th. Pastor Lucchesi stated "It has been my great honor and privilege to be called your pastor for almost 17 years. I am grateful to our Lord and Savior, who has given to me the opportunity to co-labor with you in building His Kingdom."



Special Days in March

- Lent Begins (Ash Wednesday) Wednesday 2nd
- World Day of Prayer- Friday 4th
- Holy Communion- Sunday 6th
- First Sunday in Lent- Sunday 6th
- Girls Scout Sunday- Sunday 6th
- Second Sunday in Lent- Sunday 13th
- Daylight Saving Begins- Sunday 13th
- St. Patrick's Day- Thursday 17th
- Third Sunday in Lent- Sunday 20th
- Spring Begins- Sunday 20th
- Fourth Sunday in Lent- Sunday 27th

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

- 4th Susan Deedy Mahoney
- 7th Natalie Heneghan
- 8th Gisele Sandoval
- 14th Danny Forbes Breen
- 15th Christina Mandato
- 16th Patti Senita
- 17th David Fazzino
- 18th Emilyn Porter
- 18th Lucas Nehring
- 18th Laura Nicolich
- 19th Evelyn Sangster-Barnes
- 21st Lois Smith
- 22nd Melinda Jones
- 22nd Karen Senita
- 23rd Elijah Toussaint
- 23rd Brant Waldvogel
- 24th Bill Chalavout
- 24th Michael Nicolich Jr.
- 25th Larry Kulla
- 29th Tom Corcoran

- 30th Carmine Dapice
 - 30th Bonnie Rose
- ### APRIL
- 3rd Abbie Wong
 - 5th Samantha Seymour
 - 7th Debbie (Verity) Porter
 - 13th Howard Brockway
 - 14th Leah Nicolich
 - 15th Barbara Johnson (Helen's sister)
 - 16th Barbara Grant
 - 17th Ree Kelting
 - 20th Rose Nembhard
 - 21st Mary Jo Dapice
 - 21st Joe Fazzino
 - 22nd Maryann Brockway
 - 22nd Sotar Lloyd
 - 24th Carter Miller
 - 24th Rosemary Rotolo
 - 27th Karen (Verity) Linhart

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

- 17th Joe & Thalia Waldvogel
- 27th Cecil & Debbie Porter
- 30th Paul & Rose Nembhard

APRIL

- 9th Eugene & Sotar Lloyd
- 12th Greg & Sue (Deedy) Mahoney
- 26th Charles & Evelyn Barnes

Praying the Scripture Drawing To The Heart of Christ

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:7-11, NIV).



Calvary Chronicle

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CHURCH UPDATES

The Sunday worship service is at 11:00 a.m. The message will be recorded and posted on the church's website - www.cpcbaldwin.com (click on YouTube), and also on "YouTube" at www.youtube.com (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin).

Adult Sunday School Class - Sundays @ 9:45 a.m. Studying the Book of Esther.

Children's Church - The children are dismissed just before the sermon and meet in the fellowship room. However, on the first Sunday of each month (when Holy Communion is schedule) Children's Church will not be in session.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - is held at the church at 7:00 p.m. Studying the Book of Ephesians, and also have a time of prayer.

Ladies Bible Study - 1st and 3rd Thursday every month @ 7:30 p.m. at Patti Senita's home. Studying the Book of Acts.

Event in the month of March

Church Board Meeting - Thursday March 10th @ 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seniors' Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday April 5th @ 12:00 noon**

Baptismal Service - The Great Commission - Calvary Church is in the process of scheduling a Baptismal Service in April. If you would like to be baptized please speak to Pastor Charles Lucchesi or Elder Tom Corcoran. "Jesus came to them and said, "... Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

PUBLICATIONS

Church Directory 2022 is available. Copies are located on the literature table at the back of the sanctuary

The 2nd quarter of Our Daily Bread, March and April issues of Daily Walk, Today's Christian Living, Keys for Kids (daily devotionals), and Unlocked (daily readings for teens) are available at the Church.

The most current information is sent out weekly via email on Fridays. If you have not been receiving any emails from the church, please inform us, we will gladly add you to the list.

Forgive Myself Each Day

"I'll act, speak and think of myself in ways that are not mean, spiteful or rude. I'll give my body the best of care and feeding. I'll program my mind with the most wholesome thoughts. I'll take time to nourish my soul with good spiritual food.

I'll not put myself down or arrogantly boast, but I'll speak well of myself. I'm going to call forth the best in myself, not the worse. If I catch myself dwelling on painful thoughts about my past, I'll find a way to distract myself and get my mind on others, more positive thoughts.

Forgive myself is something I will do day by day. I will go forth to face the present and the future committed to treat myself as God treats me - **WITH LOVE.**" - English Lutheran Church

Ellsworth, Wisconsin