



buzz

“Blessed Hunger, Holy Feast” – Entering Lent:

Our theme for Lent and Easter this year highlights the recurrence of human emptiness in contrast to the fulfillment God longs to provide for us. Confession is usually a key element in the season of Lent, as part of owning our sinfulness and preparing ourselves for the victory given to us in Christ’s resurrection.

This year in Lent, confession will feature prominently, even as the high point in our services. By “confession” we mean both the confession of faith IN God and also confession TO God of the brokenness in our various relationships. In these Lenten services, we look forward to special forms of confession that will vary Sunday to Sunday. Worship planners have asked several individuals and groups to bring their own particular confessional responses, according to their own artistic gifts. Examples of these expressive responses include

music, visual art, poetry, and physical movement. Because of these special expressions, preachers in Lent will shorten their messages to homilies.

As usual, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6, which we will observe with a family-friendly service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will mark each other with ashes as signs not only of our mortality but also of forgiveness and new life. Another way for you to draw closer to God during Lent is to use a packet of Lenten Guided Prayer, called “Prayers of Grit and Grace.” These weekly prayer sheets, available for you to pick up at church on March 3, will offer reflection questions and prayer activities. Families are encouraged to use these prayer guides in conjunction with the resources that Family Life Ministry Team is providing to children.

A summary of themes and key participants appears in the table below. Details about Holy Week activities will come later.

Date	Theme	Preacher	Texts	Artistic Confessional Response
Mar. 10	Lent 1: God’s hand delivers us	Cindy Voth	Duet. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13	Ruthie Saunders
Mar. 17	Lent 2: God gathers us together in safe shelter	Neil Amstutz	Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil. 3:17 - 4:1; Luke 13:31-35	Karsten Hess
Mar. 24	Lent 3: God pours out life-giving drink / BCHS concert choir	(no sermon)	Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9	Jama Brookmyer-Graber
Mar. 31	Lent 4: God reaches out with open arms	Neil Amstutz	Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	WMC choir, led by Josh Tyson
Apr. 7	Lent 5: God makes a way through mighty waters	Katie Misz	Isa. 43:16-21; Ps. 126; Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8	Laurina Graber-Ditzler, Christa Graber Kauffman
Apr. 14	Palm Sunday: God’s steadfast love endures forever	Cindy Voth	Luke 19:28-40; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11	JE Misz
Apr. 21	Easter Sunday: Christ is risen, indeed! (celebrated with the Lord’s Supper)	Neil Amstutz	Isa. 65:17-25; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12	WMC choir



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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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Reminder to Return Your Giving Plan Response Cards

How is God calling you to financially support the ministries at Waterford? Your answer to that question will help our ministry teams develop plans to fund the various ministries at Waterford for the upcoming church year which begins May 1. If you have not already done so, please return your Firstfruits Giving Plan Response Cards by putting them in the church mail box or placing them in the offering by this next Sunday, March 10.

You are encouraged to check out the option to give to Waterford electronically. The link to the Waterford electronic giving site is now available and may be found on the Waterford home page.

—Facilities and Finance Ministry Team

At the end of February, year to date giving toward the Waterford budget stands at \$670,228. We are short of the YTD expense budget of \$681,405. Over the next 9 weeks, an average of \$17,089 per week will help fund the full expense budget for Waterford for the church fiscal year which ends April 30, 2019. Thank you for your generous giving.

Welcoming Spaces 3.0: Experiencing God at work

We have experienced God at work in our lives in our having a second child that we thought wasn't possible! At Waterford, we are particularly thankful for the Koinonia Sunday school class, the pastors, the general feel of family/community, and meaningful worship.

—Aaron and Anne Lehman

Giving Opportunity

As you complete your tax returns, consider joining the several households who have given or named their intention to give to the Welcoming Spaces 3.0 project from their tax refund.

Join The Lent/Easter Choir

All interested singers are invited to be a part of our Lent/Easter choir. This choir, under the direction of Josh Tyson, comes with the support of the Worship Ministry Team. The choir will sing during our services on March 31 and April 21. There will be approximately five 60-minute rehearsals on Wednesdays in March and April. More information about rehearsals will be coming soon. Interested participants should contact Josh Tyson (email joshua.m.tyson@gmail.com or call (574) 312-9152) by March 11.

Waterford Mennonite Church Cumulative Total Giving

