

## Lent

Lent is the period of 40 days (Sundays are not counted) which comes before Easter on the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season where Christians focus on prayer, fasting, and simple living in order to grow closer to God. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is a time of repentance and reflection.

### Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday refers to the day before Lent begins. In earlier times, Lent was a time of fasting and repentance. The name actually comes from the ritual of *shriving* where persons confess their sins and receive absolution. People did not want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, so they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads. This is how the tradition of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner began.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday, is the first day of Lent. It usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and turn to God. We commit to change our lives during the forty days so that we might become more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, the sign of the cross is made on a person's forehead with ashes. In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust or ashes. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" to remind them of their sin. We do this today as a reminder to seek forgiveness. The cross reminds us of the coming resurrection of Jesus and the forgiveness of God.

## 2012 Lenten Calendar

<b>February 22</b>	<b>6:15pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service – (following Wednesday Niter)
<b>February 27</b>	<b>12noon</b> Lenten Worship Service followed by Lunch
<b>March 5</b>	<b>12noon</b> Lenten Worship Service followed by Lunch
<b>March 12</b>	<b>12noon</b> Lenten Worship Service followed by Lunch
<b>March 19</b>	<b>12noon</b> Lenten Worship Service followed by Lunch
<b>March 26</b>	<b>12noon</b> Lenten Worship Service followed by Lunch



## Holy Week

<b>April 1</b>	<b>9am &amp; 11am</b> Traditional Palm Sunday Worship, Procession of the Palms <b>6:00pm</b> Easter Cantata, <i>Lift High the Cross</i> arr. by Larson presented by the Chancel Choir. A reception to follow.
<b>April 2</b>	<b>12 noon</b> Lenten Worship Service followed by Lunch
<b>April 5</b>	<b>6:00pm</b> Maundy Thursday, Service of Tenebrae with Stripping of the Altar
<b>April 6</b>	<b>11:30am</b> Reenactment of Journey to Golgatha with Youth to Carry Cross <b>12 noon – 3:00pm</b> Good Friday Communion
<b>April 7</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Easter Egg Hunt, plastic eggs and wrapped candy are needed
<b>April 8</b>	<b>9am &amp; 11am</b> Traditional Easter Sunday Worship with Adorning of the Altar The Chancel choir will sing at 9:00am and 11:00am and the children will sing at 11:00am. Living Cross in front of the Church (Please bring flowers to place upon the cross) <b>10am</b> Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (No Sunday School)