

From the **PASTOR'S DESK**

In the sense that Advent is about "anticipation," Lent is about "realization." Grasping the reality of Jesus' suffering and passion and knowing that his compassionate acts of sacrifice were done personally for us, can be life changing for Christians. Lent is not about the future, as is the case in Advent. It is not about the past, either. Lent is about the personal impact Jesus is having on our life and behavior, right here, right now. It is acknowledging that there is a time of judgment for each one of us. This understanding calls us to our own "reality check," illuminating our selfish, materialistic, insensitive character. Over the drone of busyness, we can barely hear the call of God to "return" or to "draw near the throne of grace." This is a season to "get real and honest" in our relationship with God.



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the transition from death to life, and from the darkness and despair of the Day of the Lord (Joel 2) to the light and hope of the Day of Salvation at Easter. We confront our own frailties and imperfections as we examine ourselves in the mirror of God's word. We see the reflection of arrogant hypocrites and hopeless sinners against the light of the Lord, who is justified in passing judgment. Even as we are on the verge of certain destruction, even then, God reaches out to us with both hands, calling us to return and to be reconciled. We meet the Lord in that secret place deep within each of us—our ashen, gray-black hearts—and in this encounter, our spirits become whiter than snow. We forgive and are forgiven, and begin to understand the extent of God's relentless affection for all.

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Lent may begin with ashes, but it does not leave us on the ash heap. We move through a season of examining our spiritual lives, turning away from our sins and turning back towards God – this is repentance. We seek to grow deeper in our spiritual life. We move steadily onward with Jesus toward the celebration of Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Jesus Christ, God resurrects us from the dust and ashes, brings life out of death and makes us new creatures. The end of the Lenten journey is not death, but rather resurrection. With resurrection hope, this season remind us of a love that reconciles us inseparably with God. Ash Wednesday and Lent call us to turn back to the One who offers us all the living hope we will ever need. I encourage you to plan to join us for Sundays in Lent and during Holy Week for a time of deep worship and contemplation.

Blessings and See You in Church!

Pastor Joyce <><



March Worship



3/2 “Listening to Jesus” Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Transfiguration hearing Jesus in the moment is important, but it's what we do afterwards that makes a difference and proves we really listened. Hymns: Shine, Jesus, Shine, I Come With Joy, Sent Forth by God's Blessing.

3/5 “The Day of the Lord” Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Combined Service in Dent

Hymn's: It's Me, It's Me, O Lord!, Just As I Am, Without One Plea, Sweet Hour of Prayer, One Bread, One Body.

3/9 “Giving, Not Giving Up” Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Lent 1 - We all had fun on Shrove Tuesday, but maybe there's more to Lent than fasting, sacrifice and penitence. Hymn's: Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days, Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, Give Thanks, Sent Forth by God's Blessing.

3/16 “Intuitive Christianity” Philippians 3:17-4:1

Lent 2 - Paul has some insight that helps us configure our faith settings for a 21st century church. Hymn's: For the Beauty of the Earth, How Firm a Foundation, O Jesus, I Have Promised.

3/23 “The Real American Idol” Isaiah 55:1-9

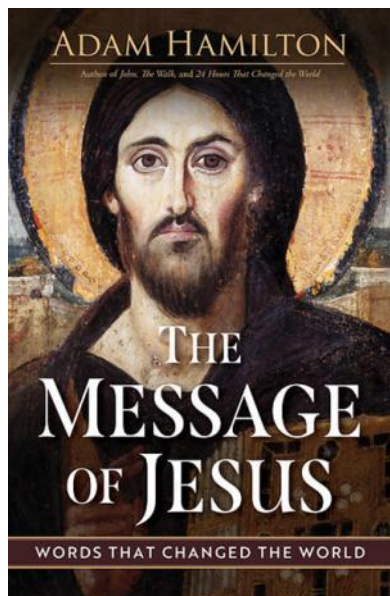
Lent 3 - The job of savior is already filled, and it's not by the faces on the bills in your wallet. Hymn's: To God Be the Glory, There's a Wideness In God's Mercy, Just A Closer Walk With Thee.

3/30 “The Whole Truth” Joshua 5:9-12

Lent 4 - As followers of Jesus, we can tell our stories by living with justice, mercy and faith. Hymn's: All Creatures of Our God and King, For the Fruits of This Creation, This Is a Day of New Beginnings

1 BOOK STILL AVAILABLE – JOIN IN!

A New Bible Study Opportunity beginning in March 2025



We'll experience a fresh encounter with the words of Jesus. More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many of us actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.

In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus' message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

Signup sheets will be made available in mid-February.

Dent – In-person on Tuesdays at 10:30 beginning March 11th

Online via Zoom Workplace – Tuesdays at 6:30 beginning March 11th



Joint Service ~ March 5th 6:30 p.m. at Dent UMC

Worship with imposition of ashes, communion, and this service begins the season of Lent for Christians around the world.



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com



I am a Christian

When I say that "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!



FOR
God so loved
THE
world that He gave
HIS one & ONLY Son,

Crabby Road

Crabby Road



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The Vergas Church Ladies

The Church Ladies met in January and received thank-you notes from the various charities that they sponsored this year. We are working on new ideas to raise money for charity this year.

We will try to work with the community events in Vergas. All ideas and new members are always welcome!



Our next meeting will be Mar 18th, 12:30pm at the church.



Dent Breakfast Club



Meets at Mysteries Café at 9am on the first Wednesday of the month



The needs of God's ministry are constant, please be sure your giving is current, especially over this last month of the year. If you are not able to be in church, please mail in your tithes and offerings to the addresses listed below. Make your offerings in advance of Sundays you will be gone.

Dent mail to: Karen Johnson, 33875 Downey Dr, Dent MN 56528

Vergas mail to : Sheri Schoenberger, 36755 Hungry Lake Ln, Frazee MN

56544 or Tithe online at dentvergasumc.org



AD COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 19th

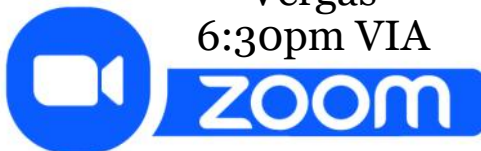


Dent 3pm



Vergas

6:30pm VIA



BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting

Tues, Mar 4th 12:30pm at The Dugout in Dent

Book:

"The Wedding People" by Alisen Espach

Church Missions January / February / March



Vergas 1st Quarter Mission ~ UMCOR

The Mission of the Quarter (January, February, and March) is UMCOR. This is the United Methodist Committee on Relief helping all around the world currently working in the LA area. The Ad Council is looking to help a Methodist church damaged by the fires to start again. More information will come later.

The Missions of the Quarter for 2025.

1st Quarter, UMCOR

2nd Quarter, Relay for Life

3rd Quarter, Churches United Homeless Mission

4th Quarter, Local Food Shelves, Perham, Pelican Rapids, and Detroit Lakes

Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission dollars (\$300) for February has not been determined at this time, waiting for more information. Will update in March.

Please let the Ad Council know of any local needs. Thank you for your continued support of missions.



Dent Mission of the Quarter

The Bridge is a nonprofit agency that provides food to families and individuals during a time of need. They provide good quality food that has been either donated, purchased from North Country Food Bank or locally. Their goal is to meet the basic needs of the clients while improving their nutritional well-being. For them to meet their goals, they need your support. The mobile pantry was created to give more individuals access to the benefits of a community pantry.



<u>VERGAS</u>	<u>DENT</u>
St. John's Lutheran 410 E Scharf Ave 9:30-11:30AM	Methodist Church 301 Main Street 9:30- 11:30AM

<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>
1/15/25	1/16/25
2/12/25	2/13/25
3/12/25	3/13/25
4/9/25	4/10/25
5/14/25	5/15/25
6/11/25	6/12/25
7/9/25	7/10/25
8/13/25	8/14/25
9/10/25	9/11/25
10/15/25	10/16/25
11/12/25	11/13/25
12/10/25	12/11/25

2025 MOBILE PANTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH VOLUNTEERS LISTS

March Ushers
Kelvin / ?

March Liturgist
Michelle S

Mar	Fellowship
2nd	Michelle & Kelvin S
9th	Peggy & Lyndon M
16th	Karen & Richard J
23rd	Peggy Meissner
30th	Lisa W.

Mar	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
2nd	Bev F	Rick & Margy N	Eileen G.
9th	Rick N	Byron & Connie	Connie Z
16th	Carla R	David & Carla R	Margy N
23rd	Bryan G	Bryan & Eileen	Eileen G
30th	Bev F	Faye & Tonja	Faye C

If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



Vergas Birthdays		
March	30th	Cathy Moe
March	31st	Melanie Hoffman

Dent Birthdays		
March	4th	Barb Lovaasen
March	5th	Jan Aanenson
March	6th	Ellie Lodin
March	11th	Donna Steinhofer
March	17th	Daryl Paulson



Daylight Savings Time
March 9th

Spring Forward!

Turn your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night!

A Thought for The Day

Never Forget
nothing is
more powerful than
prayer, nothing
is stronger
than faith, and
nothing is greater
than God.
Amen!



Let us
WORSHIP
Together

“Worship Times”

Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship
9am Worship Service

Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)



Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and dentvergasumc.org

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for April is March 26, 2025.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

Email - Website - In person pick up at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

US Mail - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger

Phone or text: 218-329-7465

email: sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com

March / April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	Barb L. (D) 12:30pm Book Club	4 Jan A. (D) 630pm Joint Service Ash Wednesday	5	Ellie L. (D) 6	7 8
9	10	Donna S. (D) 11	12	13	14	15
16	Daryl P. (D) 17	12:30pm Vergas Church Ladies Bible Study 10:30 Dent 6:30pm on line	18	Ad Council 19 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas via Zoom	20	21 22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Cathy M. (V) 30	Melanie H. (V) 31	12:30pm Book Club Bible Study 10:30 Dent 6:30pm on line	1	2	3	4 5

