

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.



I encourage you to plan to join us for Sundays online or in person for Lent and during Holy Week for a time of worship. I am preaching a sermon series around the question: "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" with resources coming from our current Bible Study (of the same name) by Adam Hamilton and we'll be singing some of the great hymns around the image and meaning of the Cross.

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.

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

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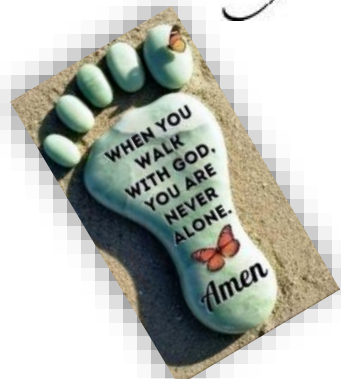
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spiritual life. We move steadily onward with Jesus toward the celebration of Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Jesus Christ, God resurrects us from the dust and ashes, brings life out of death and makes us new creatures. The end of the Lenten 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

Blessings and See You in Church!
Pastor Joyce <><



April 2nd 7pm
Joint Service at Dent



Easter Sunday
April 5th



WORSHIP with US

March Schedule

3/1 Why Did Jesus Have to Die? Communion
“Lift High the Cross: The Crucifixion as God’s Word and Recapitulation”

Hymns: In the Cross of Christ I Glory”; The Summons; Lift High the Cross

3/8 Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

“O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done: Penalty Substitution and Sacrificial Offering”

Hymns: The Old Rugged Cross, I Need Thee Every Hour, O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done

3/15 Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

“Agnus Dei: Atonement as New Passover, New Covenant, and Redemption”

Hymns: This Is a Day of New Beginnings, Lamb of God, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

3/22 Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

“Were You There: The Moral Influence and Moral Example Theories of Atonement” Hymns:

Just a Closer walk with Thee, Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

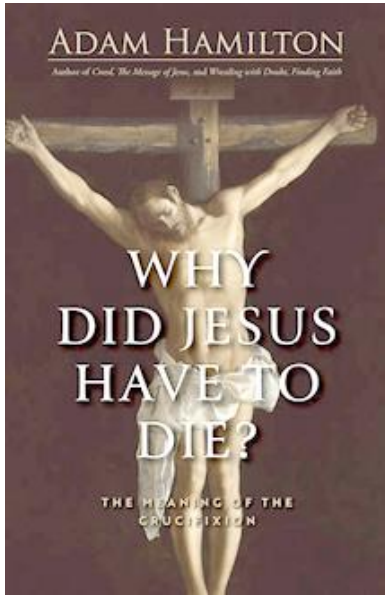
3/29 Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

Palm Sunday

“What Wondrous Love Is This: Moral Influence Theory, Part II”

Hymns: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here, I Love You, Lord”, What Wondrous Love Is This?





A NEW 6 WEEK BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY THRU THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026

When words fall short, the cross still speaks.

Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way. What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live?

Dent - In Person Tuesdays at 10am
Online via Zoom - Wednesdays at 6:30pm



SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS FROM

central market

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market in Perham & Detroit Lakes (be sure the cashier stamps them with the red **“we care”** stamp). These are turned in for rebates and the money has been used for mission work as well as helping to pay for things around the church. Place your receipts and codes in the labeled box – that's all you have to do. We have earned many



GOD
MOMENTS

We have a meaningful worship opportunity each week, sharing our God Moments. These are not necessarily our stories about how we became a Christian – some of us have been one all our lives, and they aren't just big event stories – most of us will never experience talking to a burning bush. These are stories of how we have seen or experienced God during the past week



The Vergas Church Ladies

Church ladies ended the year with a Christmas gathering at Joyce's apartment.

There will be no meeting in March to avoid winter driving and the group will resume in April with plans for raising money for charities,



AD COUNCIL MEETING

Wed. Mar 18th



Dent 3pm

Vergas
6:30pm via



Dent Breakfast Club



Meets at The Doug Out
9am on the first
Wednesday of the month



BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting

Tues, April 7th 12:30pm
at Mae's Café in Frazee

Book:

"The Little Old Lady Who Broke
All The Rules"
by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg



Keep Reading

It's one of the most
marvelous adventures
anyone can have.

- Lloyd Alexander




ZUMBA

**Evening Classes -
Monday's & Wednesday's
5:15 to 6:15pm**

Vergas Church, Lower Level -
See Bev Flatland for more information

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

March Ushers
Kelvin S / Rob M

Mar. Liturgist
Pastor Joyce

Mar	Fellowship
01	Karen & Richard J
08	Darlene & Austin H
15	Peggy Meissner
22	Lisa Wrabek
29	Ivy & Rob M.

Mar	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
01	Margy N	Byron & Connie Z	Connie Z
08	Rick N	Rick & Margy	Margy N
15	Carla R	David & Carla	Bev F
22	Bryan G	Byan & Eileen	Eileen G
29	Tonya J	Faye & Tonya	Faye C
		Communion Setup ~	Margy Nelson

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



Remember, the hard parts of life are just chapters in your story. Not the whole book. There are still beautiful things to come.



Vergas Birthdays	
March 11th	Bev Flateland
March 31st	Melanie Hoffman

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



St Patrick's Day Blessing
 Wishing you a Rainbow
 for twilight after showers
 Miles & Miles of
 Irish smiles for Golden
 Happy Hours.
 Shamrocks at your doorway
 for Luck & Laughter too,
 And a host of Loyal
 Friends always there for you.

Church Missions January / February / March

Vergas Mission of the Quarter - UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is coordinated by the conference and provides relief around the world. In 2024, UMCOR responded to 89 natural disasters and awarded over 32.96 million dollars in disaster relief grants.



Vergas Local Outreach

The local mission for March will be donated to Tony & Krissi Kurth, to help support the family during their journey of fostering and adopting 4 young children.

Remember that the budget allows \$200 a month for the quarterly mission and \$300 a month for local missions. Mission dollars added by the congregation goes toward the quarterly mission. Please let the Ad Council know of any local needs. Thank you for your continued support of missions.



Dent Mission of the Quarter ~

2026 MOBILE PANTRY SCHEDULE



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

VERGAS	DENT
St. John's Lutheran 410 E Scharf Ave 9:30-11AM	Methodist Church 301 Main Street 9-10:30AM
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
1/14/26	1/15/26
2/11/26	2/12/26
3/11/26	3/12/26
4/15/26	4/16/26
5/13/26	5/14/26
6/10/26	6/11/26
7/15/26	7/16/26
8/12/26	8/13/26
9/9/26	9/10/26
10/14/26	10/15/26
11/11/26	11/12/26
12/9/26	12/10/26

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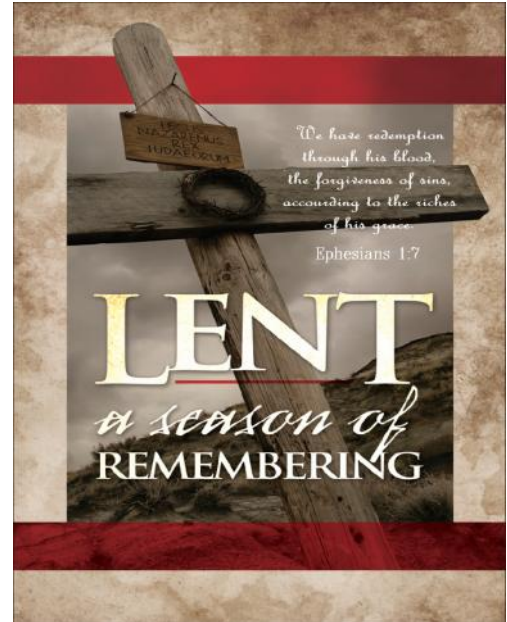
The Mobile Pantry will not go out in bad weather. Cancellations will be announced via Lakes 99.5 and our Facebook Page.



Thank you for your continued support



A Thought for The Day



“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, 2026.**

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 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Communion 1</i>	2	3 10am Bible Study Dent in Person	4 Barb L. (D) 9am Dent Breakfast Club The Doug Out 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	5 Jan.A. (D)	6 Ellie L (D)	7 9am- 3pm Vender Market Vergas EC
Daylight Savings time	9	10	11 Donna S. (D) Bev F. (V) 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	12	13	14
15	16 St Patricks Day	17	18 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas Via Zoom	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30 Melanie H. (V)	31 10am Bible Study Dent in Person	1 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom 6:30pm Online Bible Study	2 7pm Maundy Thursday Joint Service 6pm Soup Supper	3 Good Friday	4
5 <i>Have a blessed Easter</i>	6 10am Bible Study Dent 12:30pm Book Club	7 9am Dent Breakfast Club 6:30pm Online Bible Study	8 9am Dent Breakfast Club	9	10	11 Maple Syrup Fest

Ad Council Minutes Vergas United Methodist Church February 18, 2026, On Zoom

Present: Jane Wasvick, Faye Courneya, Sheri Schoenberger, Joyce Slostad, Tonya Johnson, Doreen Schwarzrock, Renee Sonnenberg and David Reiten

Joyce shared a message from the bishop sent for Ash Wednesday.

Sheri talked about attendance. Attendance has been stable.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved as sent out without changes.

Treasurer Report

1. Faye shared the financial report which was sent out for review.
2. The new monitor has been set up for Sheri to use monitoring the live stream.
3. Faye reported that she transferred \$35,000 to the conference investment. She also sent mission dollars to Katie's family.

Renee moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Sheri and passed.

Trustee's Report

1. David reported that there is nothing to report on from the Trustees.
2. Jane was unable to find out if there is a notification on the thermostat to alert freezing temperatures, but she will continue to investigate this and report back.
3. David asked if the current insurance policy covers the Zomba class. Faye will check but should be the same as any group using the church.

Pastor's Report

1. Pastor Joyce reported that Ash Wednesday service was cancelled so this meeting was held on Zoom at 6:30.
2. Maundy Thursday will be at Dent on April 2 at 7:00 pm with soup supper at 6:00. Easter is April 6th.
3. Joyce will do a Bible Study for Lent starting Feb. 24th, Tuesday at 10 am in Dent and February 25th online at 6:30 for anyone interested. People can attend either one. The study will be "Why did Jesus have to die?"
4. Joyce will be on a renewal time during the month of June; this is directed by the District Superintendent. This will involve being absent for 4 Sundays from June 1-July 3. She is working on filling the pulpit. Joyce will have more information at the next meeting as she hasn't received all the information yet.
5. Joyce was able to talk with a friend of Sandy's that knew that her wish was for a graveside service which we would provide in the spring.

Missions

1. The first quarter is UMCOR, the second quarter will be Relay for Life, the third quarter will be Lend a Hand UP, and 4th quarter will be the local food banks.
2. The local mission for March will be the family who we pray for who adopted children and are having a hard time. It was agreed that the \$300 would be sent to this family. Joyce will talk to Renola to get the information.

Pastor Joyce adjourned the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on March 18th on Zoom.