

## LENTEN WORSHIP AND MEALS

**Why do we mark the Season of Lent?** *Every year the earth invites us into a journey... from winter death and decay, toward spring renewal and rebirth. Our life of faith follows a similar cycle. As we trust in God and follow Jesus, we move through seasons of darkness and doubt, grief and despair, finding new seasons of re-creation with new hope, new life and deep faith springing forth. LENT is a time we make intentional space to acknowledge this cyclical journey of faith and allow for renewal. After all, we know how this Story ends... Holy Friday sadness culminates in God's Promise of Easter Resurrection!*

### **Midweek Focus: "Forgiveness, Jesus Style"**

*(Tuesdays, 11:00-11:45 AM, Wednesdays, 7:00-7:30 PM – March 5/6 through April 9/10)*

**Forgiveness...** our world (even we Christians) often misunderstand the power and the practice of forgiveness. We're tempted to invoke forgiveness to judge rather than to bless. We're tempted to see forgiveness as scorekeeping, instead of as a gift. And we're tempted to use forgiveness to paint a picture of God that is harmful, rather than use it to heal God's one, broken and divided human family. Each week we'll reflect on what Jesus said about forgiveness, and renew our practices for the benefit of ourselves and God's world. If you haven't thought deeply about forgiveness for a while, you're in for some serious surprises! And best of all, it's what our world so desperately needs.

### **Sunday Focus: "Five Keys to Unlock a Vibrant Faith and a Vibrant Church"**

*(Sunday Mornings, March 10 through April 7)*

**Let's unlock the doors to a more Vibrant Faith and a more Vibrant Church!** Using the principles of the Fuller Youth Institute's "Growing Young" Initiative, we'll explore what Vital Churches are discovering about Vibrant Lives of Faith in the 21st Century. There are key shifts taking place: from a primary focus on *believing* to a primary focus on *belonging*; from looking only through a lens of thought and doctrine, to using another lens that looks at faith through caring relationships; from a strategy of dividing up into age groups and separating the generations, to a practice of including all ages in every ministry endeavor and event. Each week we'll explore one Key to help unlock the future vitality of our, and every, Vibrant Faith community. Themes include: *You Belong Here; Right Here, Right Now; Tell Me More; From ME to WE; All Access Pass.*

### **Lenten Meals: It's time to sign up and plan to attend!**

Plan to enjoy a delicious meal, visit with fellow First Lutheran worshipers, meet and get to know some of the new comers to our FLC family. Meals will be served 5:30 - 6:45 pm each Wednesday in the Community Center prior to the Lenten Services. A donation of \$ 5.00 for individuals or \$ 20.00 for a family of four is suggested to cover expenses. Reservations are needed by 1:00 pm Monday the week of each meal. Meal dates are March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, and 10. Reservations can be made by contacting Barbara, [barbara@firstlutheran.com](mailto:barbara@firstlutheran.com) or calling the church office, 336-292-9125. Menus for some dates are still in the creative state. See the list below for what is planned so far. As soon as all menus are confirmed we will let you know. Vegetarian and kid friendly options will be available.

### **ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

March 13: Taco Bar prepared by the Boy Scouts

March 20: Baked spaghetti and salad

March 27—April 10: (TBA)