

The Eagle

MARCH 2026

Pastor's *(Large)* Corner

There are days in which I would just love to read something else, that someone else wrote, as they say it much better than I ever could. This is the case with the following text from Pope Leo XIV. He's inviting all people into a Holy Lent. What I like about this is that he's building off of things I have already spoken about. Things like: "listening" and "working together". Lent has always been intended to be a time of a spiritual journey. Leo talks about renewing our faith, in spite of trying times. He reaches back into the Old Testament, highlighting the relationship of Moses with the Creator God.

Leo also highlights one of our spiritual practices, which is fasting. But Leo gets creative here, including a type of fasting not directly tied to food consumption. And wraps up his presentation with some thoughts from Nehemiah and the importance of communal relationships. I did not include the entire text that Leo wrote, but I believe I maintained the integrity of his thoughts.



Excerpts

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it, and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry” (*Exodus* 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

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[...in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.” *Benedict XVI*].

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I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor.

Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting is a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards to humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Leo XIV

May your Lenten Journey be one of faith and renewed discovery. See you in Church!

Dave

Sunday School Corner

Spring is just around the corner and with that brings our Easter program! We will begin rehearsals on March 22nd during regular Sunday School time. The Easter Program will be held on April 12th at 8:45AM. Thank you to Shirley Lisowe for writing and directing our Christmas and Easter Programs each year, they are a very special part of our Sunday School program!

We continue to hold Children's Worship on the first Sunday of each month. Sterling Brown was our February student reader. Mackenzie Brown and Abigail Kuhn were our student ushers. This has been a great way to get the students involved in worship, thank you for helping the students



prepare each month. Our next Children's Worship will be held on March 1st.

Our collection for the Matt Kolbe Foundation continues to grow and has reached over \$120.00 so far. We will continue collecting money for this great organization in our community until the end of Sunday School in May.

Also, a reminder that if you still want to enroll your children in Sunday School, you can do so at any time. We have classes for 4-year-olds to 7th grade. Please reach out to me at melissa.moehn@yahoo.com if you would like more information or would like to have your children enrolled in Sunday School.

Thank you for your support and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Melissa Kuhn



FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Please join us on Sunday, March 15 for a potluck in the Fellowship Hall immediately after our worship service. Breakfast, brunch, lunch, or really any kind of dish will be enjoyed, at this mid-morning gathering. We can even eat cake at 10:00am, don't you think?

Coffee and milk will be provided. We'll also be serving an Easter breakfast on April 5 from 7:30-8:30. The menu will include scrambled eggs, sausage and a variety of pastries. Then stay and celebrate the Easter message at 8:45.

Prayer List



*Alex ~ Cassie ~ Colleen ~ Da' Monique ~ David ~ Diana ~
Dino ~ Elizabeth ~ Gail ~ Jim ~ Joan ~ Julie ~ Katy ~ Pat ~
Rachel ~ Raelynn ~ Rod ~ Sandi ~ Sandra ~ Sherry ~ Stevie
~ Tony*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



2 Peter Hofmeister
3 Don Goeldi
4 Wayne Kress
6 Donna Kuba
7 Kelly Kress
8 Kaitlynn Wagner

10 Gloria Peik
13 Mike Redig
13 Jaren Pingel
15 Landon Pierquet
16 Dean Beyer
19 Torrey Gasch
20 Troy Duchow
21 Eric Plate
21 Aiden Tanner
21 Edith Knoespel
22 Karen Cmejla
23 Sue Riesterer
28 Roger Kloehn



Scrip Available

Just a reminder that our scrip program is an easy way for you to raise additional funds for the church just by doing your regular shopping and gas and entertainment purchases. We have scrip on hand for many local stores including Walmart, Piggly Wiggly, and Tractor Supply; gas stations-- Kwik Trip, BP, and Mobil; and restaurants--McDonalds and Dairy Queen. Scrip is available for stores, restaurants, hotels and so much more nationwide.

To help with sales, Ruth has volunteered to sell scrip when Kelly is not available. So stop in the church office after services and see what scrip we have on hand. We are always looking for new customers and do have the ability to complete orders online if that works better for you. Please check out www.glscrip.com to see updated national script that is available.

Thank you!

Kelly Brown

Easter is right around the corner!



After taking a break for several years, we're bringing back an old favorite. We'll be serving Easter breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on April 5 from 7:30-8:30 am, followed by our Easter worship service. The menu will include scrambled eggs and breakfast sausage, coffeecakes, and beverages. If you'd like to help us out, we'd

appreciate donations of any of the food items listed. A sign up sheet will be in the back of church. Please plan on joining us for this time of food and fellowship.

One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

Envelopes will be available on the narthex table and in bulletins on Sunday, March 15 in support of OGHS.



March 1: Charlie, Riley

March 8: Mark

March 15: Ann

March 22: Karen

March 29: Stephanie



March 1: Council, Sunday School

March 8: Karen, Mark

March 15: Brian, Stephanie

March 22: Ralph, Andy

March 29: Don, Mike

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



The JW Music Scholarship was started by Don Waldvogel in honor of Jeris Waldvogel over 15 years ago. Jeris was a talented musician sharing her love for music throughout the US and across the world. She played many instruments including the bassoon, piano, pipe

organ, handbells, and had amazing vocal talent. She provided piano accompaniment for many high school solo and ensemble participants as well as community musical performances in the Fox Cities and surrounding communities.

She started Ebenezer Brass Handbell Choir in 1991 and took her group on four hand bell music concert tours – one to Canada and three to Europe prior to her death in 2003 from Breast Cancer. This scholarship is a way to continue the tradition of encouraging the love for music and the arts. The applicants for this music scholarship must embody the qualities that Jeris showed - a love for music and theatre, dedication to community, family, and service to others.

To find out more details on the scholarship and to submit an application, use the following link to access the website:

[CLICK HERE FOR SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE](#)

Applications are due March 15th. If you have any questions about the scholarship, please feel free to contact Amy Puls at **jwmusicscholarship@gmail.com**

February Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday February 15, 2026
Council Meeting

Attendance:

Shirley Lisowe, Nick Kuhn, Brian Adamietz, Lexi Pagel, Aubrey Plate, Andy Hofmeister, Glen Pingel, Pastor Dave

7:30 AM Nick Kuhn called the meeting to order

Pastor Dave led us in prayer

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Brian Adamietz seconded the motion and the agenda was approved.

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to approve January's minutes. Aubrey Plate seconded the motion and January's minutes were approved.

Brian Adamietz gave the Treasurer's Report for January 2026

Income: \$12,145.13

Expenses: (\$20,021.65)

Checking Account Balance: \$120,697.94

Money Market Account Balance: \$106,850.15 \$139.63 gained in interest

Total Equity: \$227,548.09

Minus Special Giving Acct: \$79,376.96 \$148,171.82

Cambridge Accounts: \$73,509.96
Parsonage Income: \$1495.00

January givings were deposited on 1/29/26 for the amount of \$9936.48. On 1/21/26 there was a transfer of \$1000 into the endowment fund, at the direction of the person who gave it. On 1/14/26, \$1350 was paid to Scott's Towing for snow removal. Also on that day the property tax for the parsonage and the garbage bill was paid for the amount of \$3430.10 (\$2960.10 tax + \$470.00). On 1/5/26 the late December giving were deposited for the amount of \$420.00.

Glen Pingel made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Aubrey Plate seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Glen Pingel made a motion to pay the bills. Andy Hofmeister seconded the motion, and it was approved for the bills to be paid.

Committee Reports

Christian Ed

- Easter Program Upcoming

Property

- Discussion on shed and lead pipes
- Discussion on refrigerator repair and parsonage rent

Brian Adamietz made a motion to repair the parsonage fridge for an amount not to exceed \$700. Shirley Lisowe seconded the motion, and it was approved with one member voting to not approve.

Evangelism

- Good results reported with t-shirt and sweatshirt sales

Search Committee is updating their profile

There was discussion on some ideas that have come out of the cottage meetings

Service Ministries was discussed but tabled for the time being.

Glen Pingel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lexi Pagel seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 AM.

March Calendar of Events

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Family Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. w/ Communion • Children's Worship Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	2	3	4 Lenten Service @SJUCC Supper at 5:00 pm Service at 6:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Lenten Service @SJUCC Supper at 5:00 pm Service at 6:30 pm	12 Men's Breakfast Group Meeting at 7 Angels 8:30 a.m.	13	14
15 No Sunday School Council Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. • Food & Fellowship after Service No Bible Study	16	17	18 Lenten Service @SJUCC Supper at 5:00 pm Service at 6:30 pm	19 Women's Guild Meeting at 7 Angels 9:00 a.m.	20 Eagle Articles Due	21
22 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. • Easter Program Rehearsal Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	23	24	25 Lenten Service @SJUCC Supper at 5:00 pm Service at 6:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. • Easter Program Rehearsal Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	30	31				

CONTACT US

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Council VP: Shirley Lisowe (920) 418-1675

Council Secretary: Andy Hofmeister (920) 464-0257

Council Treasurer: Brian Adamietz (920) 645-8699

Glen Pingel (920) 419-0433

Aubrey Plate

Lexi Pagel



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