

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are on our journey through Lent. Lent is not just a time for “giving things up”. It is not the season after “Fat Tuesday”. We give things up to prepare ourselves to more fully understand the sacrifice made on Good Friday and then to more fully appreciate the meaning of the Empty Tomb on Resurrection Sunday. It is a time for introspection. A time to evaluate our faith. A time to look at our spiritual life and make some decisions. A time to decide what we are committed to and what we are willing to do to show our appreciation and love to God and for God.

One of the things I recommend to people is that they add a spiritual discipline to their practice during Lent. If you do not pray regularly, set a time each day and pray. If you do not regularly read the Bible, schedule time to do so. If you are not a regular worship attendee, commit to being in worship every Sunday. If you do not actively participate in a ministry, identify on which Ministry Team you are being called to serve. If you cannot tell the story of your spiritual journey, sit and write down the key times when you can identify God working in your life. Or/also you can look for opportunities every day to show God’s love to someone. Lent is a time of preparation. We as a congregation need to finish building the foundations on which we will build a future. We need to prepare to implement God’s vision in the coming years. The time of preparation is rapidly changing into a time of action. Jesus took time to prepare for the culmination of his life on earth. He also set himself resolutely on the path that would lead to the accomplishment of his mission. He not only prepared, he acted. He made the hard decisions. He took on the hard and painful actions that he needed to do to accomplish his mission. In so doing he changed eternity and offered hope and concrete salvation to all of us for all of the rest of time.

The question for us is what will we DO after our time of preparation. Will we act? Are we willing to make the hard decisions? Are we willing to endure some pain? Are we willing to carry our crosses of change? Are we willing to place ourselves in God’s hands and do what God calls us to do? Will we mean what we say in our own Garden of Gethsemane, “not my will but thine”? Are we willing to die in order to be resurrected? Or will we avoid the cross and

therefore never enter the Kingdom; never make a difference for Christ?
Prepare well this Lent. Ask yourself what you are committed to. Ask yourself
what price you are willing to pay to see
God's will come to be here in Wyandotte. Ask yourself if being a "Good and
faithful servant" is worth the price to you.
Good Friday is coming. You will be called on to pay the price to successfully
complete your mission here on earth, as Jesus was called on to pay the price to
complete his. You can pay it or you can run from Jerusalem and hide.
No investment, no return. Great investment, great return. What is important to
you? What are you willing to die for?
Remember "from dust we have come, to dust we will return". For what will you
be remembered? Will your legacy be
one that shows God's love at work in your life? Will it be one that shows how
much you loved your neighbor?
The journey to Jerusalem has begun. There will be a time of triumph. There will
be a time of pain. Be assured most of
all, that beyond the pain, there is a time of resurrection, a time when the stone is
rolled back and light will emerge. Don't
be afraid. Do what God calls you to do and trust in God.
Have a blessed journey through Lent. Let me know how the journey is going. Let
me know if I can help. Never forget
that even on the darkest road, Jesus walks with you.

Yours in Service to Christ,
Pastor John
Rev. John W. Landis