

the BEACON

The LORD is my light and my salvation. —Psalm 27

Lighthouse Lutheran Church, Freedom, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Dennis R. Whalen, Pastor

Volume 1, Number 1

The dictionary defines *beacon* as a lighthouse or other signal for guidance; a source of light or inspiration. This sounds like a description of our fervent desires for Lighthouse Lutheran Church. It is hoped that by the grace of our Lord, this publication will contribute to the advancement those desires by informing us of the ongoing activities of our congregation and offering supports for the daily Christian walk of each of us.

Lighthouse Lutheran Church will hold three Lenten services —
Palm Sunday at 9:00 am followed by a fellowship coffee hour
Maundy Thursday at 7:30 pm
Good Friday (Tenebrae) at 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday's service will be held at 9:00 am. There will be no Sunday School on either Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.

Our liturgy each week will be printed from the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The hymns will be from the Methodist pew hymnals.

All donations should be made out to "Lighthouse Lutheran Church." Our bank account is with First National Bank.

All positions of the congregation's leadership team have been filled:

Cindy Morris has agreed to fill temporarily the office of Deaconess where she will en-

gage in the care for the sick, poor, and needy. Her focus will be not only on our congregation, but also on the surrounding community, bringing to the attention of our congregation anyone who is in need of the love of Christ and the light of His Church.

Norman Amsler has agreed to fill temporarily the office of Elder, in which position he will assist as a theological guardian. Norman and Pastor Whalen will make up the Board of Elders and watch over the theology as taught by our congregation.

Tom Kuny has agreed to fill temporarily the office of trustee where he will watch over the property and work with the Unionville trustees when something needs to be fixed.

Carol Nicoletti has agreed to fill temporarily the position of Lay Representative. Of course, with a congregation our size, you may feel free to discuss your thoughts and concerns for Lighthouse Lutheran Church

with any member of our Church Council, but Carol is on the Council specifically to represent the thoughts, concerns, and prayers of the congregation.

Deanne Eppihimer has agreed to fill temporarily the office of Treasurer. Dee will keep the accounting books and ledger as well as participate in budgeting. Dee has worked in the banking industry for a long time and most recently has assisted with the tax collection in Beaver, Pennsylvania.

Paster Whalen and these five comprise the Church Council. Deanne Eppihimer will be a non-voting member.

Jack Dewar and his good friends **Alex Frantz, Jim Hoffman,** and **Norman Amsler** have volunteered to count the weekly offerings. This group has been counting offerings for many, many years. Jack has an excellent reputation and track record with the banks he has dealt with.

Mel and Lois Roush will be preparing the newsletter. In future issues of *The Beacon*, families of the congregation will be featured. It is felt that this will be a good way to get to know the members of our new congregation. Mel and Lois will also be serving as the Church Historians.

Pastor Whalen has been accepted within the LCMC and his ordination is scheduled for May 22 at 4:00 pm at Lighthouse Lutheran Church, officiated by Pastor William Beck. A meal in our fellowship hall will follow the ordination.

Our lease agreement with the Unionville United Methodist Church includes rent of

\$650 per month. The rent for April is \$200. This includes Sunday worship, youth group meetings, Bible studies, and official church business meetings. A fee of \$60 will be charged to members of the congregation using the fellowship hall for non-church meetings. The Unionville trustees have been very gracious toward us and have prayed for our success in spreading God's Word to the community of Freedom. Should any of you desire to send a Thank You card, the address for the Unionville United Methodist Church is:

Mr. Jack Boyde, Trustee
Unionville United Methodist Church
1297 Route 68
Rochester, PA 15074

Elsewhere in this issue is a poem by Mrs. Dolores Fruth. She is a member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rochester. Her address is:

4 Bagger Drive
Zelienople, PA 16063

You may wish to keep the palm leaf which you receive at church on Palm Sunday. One way to create a remembrance of Christ's suffering, death, and Resurrection is to fold the leaf into a cross, which can then be displayed in a number of ways—for example, as a wall hanging, lying flat on a table, or tucked into the side of a picture or mirror frame. It will serve as a visual reminder of Christ's sacrifice for our sins. Directions for folding your palm leaf into a cross are in this issue of *The Beacon*.



A Message from Pastor Whalen

Welcome to Lighthouse Lutheran Church and the inaugural newsletter. I feel so blessed that all of you desire to worship our Lord together and fellowship with all of the members of this congregation.

I have been asked the question, "Dennis, why did you choose the name Lighthouse Lutheran Church?" Honestly, I have always loved looking at lighthouses, and each summer my family and I travel to the Outer Banks, North Carolina for vacation where we are able to view five different lighthouses, of which the Cape Hatteras lighthouse is the most well-known. Most people feel that the lighthouse is only a symbol of warning. However, it is also a symbol of guidance. In the dark of night, long before the days of global positioning systems (GPS), sailors would keep watch as they navigated along the rocky coastlines. On a clear night, the beacon of light from a 130-foot tall lighthouse can be seen over 20 miles out to sea. Even Christians in ancient times saw the lighthouse as a symbol of hope in a tumultuous world.

As the days and weeks passed, I soon found myself thinking more and more about the significance of the lighthouse symbolism. I thought about the foundation and the height of the lighthouse. I thought about the Fresnel lens that takes the light and beams it across the waters and into the darkness. I thought about the ships sailing in the darkness and the calming effect the light has on the captain and sailors once they see that great light in the sky. I would like to share some of my thoughts with you.

A lighthouse must be built upon a strong, solid foundation. The Holy Scriptures often refer to the LORD as a rock. In David's song of Thanksgiving, he writes, "The LORD is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God; my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and my horn of salvation" (2 Samuel 22:2, 3). Again, David writes in Psalm 19, "Let the words from my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing and acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). In the New Testament, Peter testifies that Christ is the Son of the living God and Jesus responds, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven . . . and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Lastly, Peter writes that Jesus Christ is the "stone the builders rejected" and "has become a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense" to those who do not believe (1 Peter 2:7, 8). Christ is our solid foundation and rock. Our faith grounds us in Christ so that we are anchored to our Perfecter of faith and ready to build a mighty structure.



A lighthouse is now ready to stand tall on this rock. The prophet Isaiah wrote that God strengthens His people to stand tall against opposition. “Do not fear. I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). One may wonder how God strengthens us. Paul answers this question in his letter to the Romans—“to Him who is able to strengthen you according to My gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ” (Romans 16:25). God strengthens His people with His Word. With Christ as our foundation and God strengthening us with His Word, we are not worried about toppling over from the wind and the waves that threaten us in our daily lives.

The light of the lighthouse comes forth from God’s grace and mercy. The Old Testament contains numerous references to the glory of God’s light. David wrote of God’s countenance, or His face, shining on us (Psalm 4:6) and again that God “lights my lamp” and “God enlightens the darkness” (Psalm 18:28) and again “the LORD is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1). David understood God’s light coming into this world to guide His people away from darkness. In the New Testament, Matthew writes that Jesus fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy that “the people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light and those who were sitting in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has dawned” (Matthew 4:16). Jesus is quoted in Luke that “no one, after lighting a candle covers it . . . instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light” (Luke 8:16). Upon our solid foundation and sitting at the highest point of our strengthened faith is the light of the gospel message. Through wind and rain and the storms in the darkness we shine forth that light into the world.

If a 130-foot tall lighthouse can be seen over 20 miles out to sea, how far can the light of Jesus Christ be seen when we are perched upon the rock of salvation, supported by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and projecting the light of the gospel message by the power of the Holy Spirit? This light can reach to the ends of the earth. We are all called to spread this light—to preach the gospel to all creation. May the Lord use Lighthouse Lutheran Church and all her members to spread His light, starting in Freedom. May the light continue to guide wayward ships tossing about in the darkness of the waters throughout Beaver County, Pennsylvania, the United States of America, and to the farthest ends of the world.



The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread.

—I CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

These words, so full of the message of redemption, have comforted us as we have accepted the wafer and wine, and the body and blood of Christ, in the celebration of Holy Communion. And, as St. Paul pointed out to the church at Corinth in the passage quoted above, the celebration gains another dimension of significance as we are reminded that the many members of Christ’s Church are one body. One body! What an incentive for us to love and serve one another!

In the hope that we might be even more fully reminded of this oneness in the Body of Christ, Pastor Whalen wishes to commend to us the use of a single loaf of leavened bread in the celebration of Holy Communion.

At Holy Communion on Palm Sunday we will use a single loaf of bread. We will continue this usage on Maundy Thursday and thereafter. Let it be our prayer that this way of celebrating the Lord’s Supper will bless all who partake of it.

May the Risen Christ be a reality in our lives as we are reminded of His sacrifice for us and as we commit our lives to Him anew.

Ephrem the Syrian was a Christian theologian and a prolific writer of hymns. He is venerated by Christians throughout the world as a saint. Ephrem wrote a wide variety of hymns, poems, and sermons in verse, as well as prose biblical commentaries, all exclusively in the Syriac language. Ephrem was born about 306 in the city of Nisibis, which is today's Turkish town of Nusaybin, near the border with Syria. He died in 373.

Ephrem grew up in that community under the leadership of Jacob of Nisibis, who is recorded as a signatory at the first Council of Nicea in 325. After he was appointed by Jacob as a teacher, Ephrem began to compose hymns and write biblical commentaries as part of his educational office. In his hymns, he sometimes refers to himself as a herdsman, to his bishop as the shepherd, and his community as a fold.

Over four hundred hymns composed by Ephrem still exist. The church historian Sozomen credits Ephrem with having written over three million lines. The most important of his works are his lyric, teaching hymns. Particularly influential were his *Hymns Against Heresies*, which use metaphoric language to describe Christ as fully human and divine. He was often referred to as "The Harp of the Faith."

His Nativity Hymn 2, an excerpt from which is offered on the facing page, is a twenty-two stanza song of praise which begins with Christ's birth in Bethlehem and carries us through His Passion and Resurrection.

Let us praise Him, Who prevailed and quickened us by His stripes!
Praise we Him, Who took away the curse by His thorns!
Praise we Him Who put death to death by His dying!
Praise we Him, Who held His peace and justified us!
Praise we Him, Who rebuked death that had overcome us!
Blessed He, Whose helpful graces cleansed out the left side!

Praise we Him Who watched and put to sleep him that led us captive.
Praise we Him Who went to sleep, and chased our deep sleep away.
Glory be to God Who cured weak manhood!
Glory be to Him Who was baptized, and drowned our iniquity in the deep,
and choked him that choked us!
Let us glorify with all our mouths the Lord of all creatures!

Blessed be He Whom our mouth cannot adequately praise,
because His Gift is too great for skill of orators to tell;
neither can the faculties adequately praise His goodness.
For praise Him as we may, it is too little.
And since it is useless to be silent and to constrain ourselves,
may our feebleness excuse such praise as we can sing.

How gracious He, Who demands not more than our strength can give!
How would Thy servant be condemned in capital and interest,
did he not give such as he could, and refuse that which He owed!
Ocean of glory Who needest not to have Thy glory sung,
take, in Thy goodness, this drop of praise; since by Thy Gift
Thou hast supplied my tongue a sense for glorifying Thee.

B

Passion and Easter Symbols

—Dolores Fruth

THE CUP AND CROSS

Jesus went into the garden of prayer to drink His cup of woe,
And prayed that it might pass away, if God would have it so.

SWORDS AND STAVES

Not for a thief they came that night with sharpened stave and sword;
But with their torches carried high, they sought our precious Lord.

JUDAS PURSE

Our Lord, betrayed for thirty coins, was in a place of prayer;
As Judas led the multitude and kissed the Master there.

THE COCK

When Peter came to see the trial and thrice his Lord denied;
But as the cock did crow that morn, he bent his head and cried.

THE CROWN OF THORNS

The soldiers wove a crown of thorns, and put it on His head.
He bled and died that we might wear a crown of life instead.

THE PURPLE ROBE

They clothed Him in a purple robe, then spat upon Him, too.
They mocked Him as He went the way to die for me and you.

THE NAILS

They nailed Him to the cross that day and watched Him suffer there.
He died to be our Savior then, and all our sins to bear.

I N R I

Then Pilate wrote *I N R I* upon the cross to say
That Jesus was the King of Jews, and He's our King today.

THE SEAMLESS ROBE AND DICE

The soldiers took His seamless robe and gambled for it there.
As Jesus watched them from the cross, for them He said a prayer.

THE EMPTY CROSS

The empty cross means victory over death and sin;
For Christ was nailed upon the tree to die and live again.

THE ANGEL

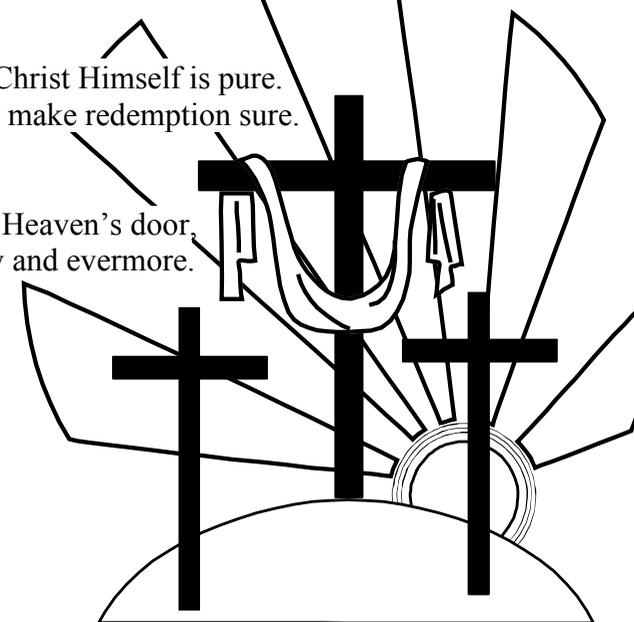
The angel rolled the stone away, as soldiers froze with fear,
And told the women on that morn, "He is risen, and not here."

THE LILY

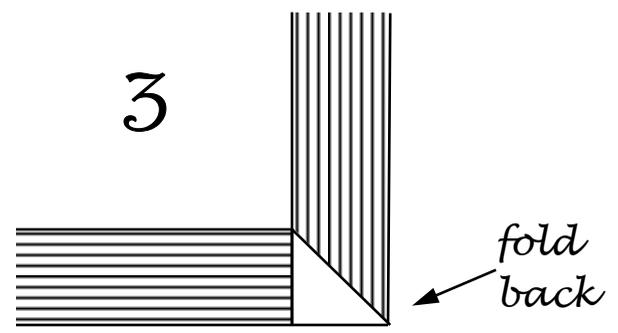
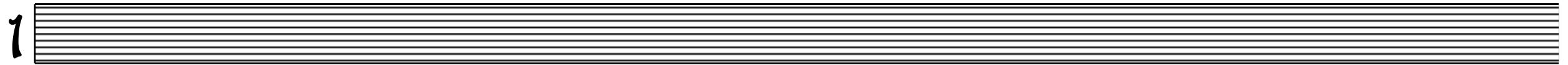
The lily white means purity, as Christ Himself is pure.
He gave His life in innocence to make redemption sure.

THE CROWN

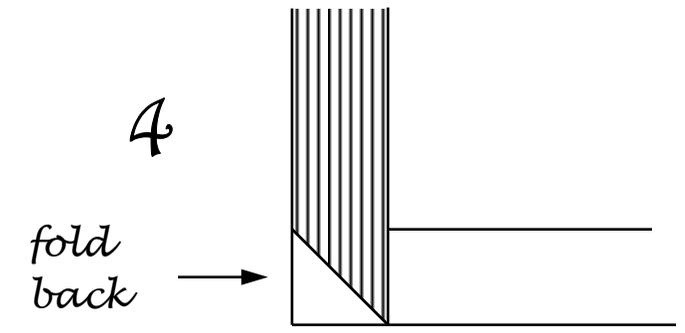
Alleluia—Christ is risen. Open Heaven's door,
For He is King of Glory for now and evermore.



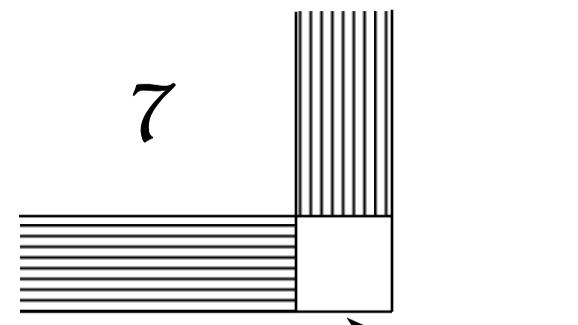
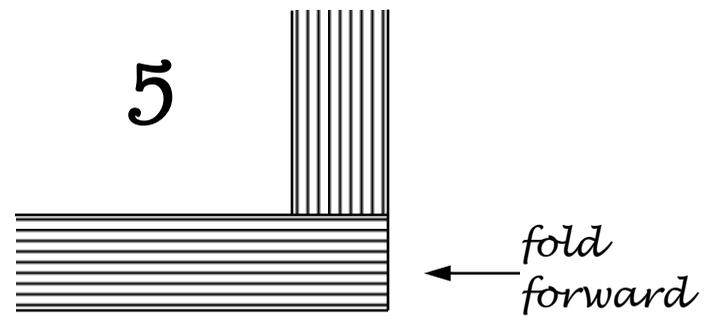
Folding a Palm Leaf into a Cross



fold forward ↗



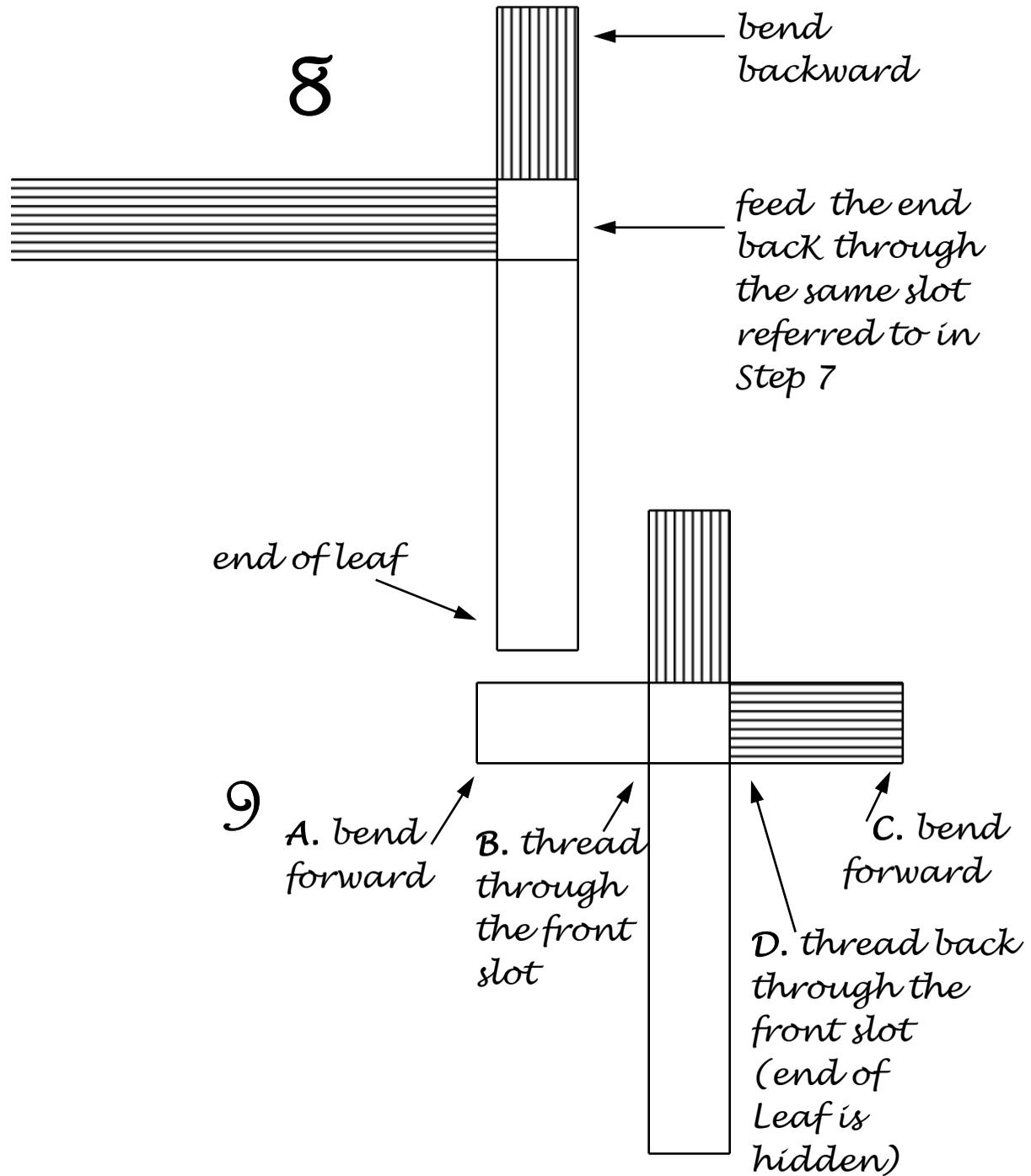
One side of the leaf is shown shaded; the other side, plain. It might prove helpful to experiment with a long strip cut from the edge of a newspaper before attempting to fold the actual leaf. A further help would be to draw a pencil or pen mark along the length of one side of the paper strip to correspond with the shading in the drawings.



Special Instructions for Step 7:

The leaf is folded backward and then "threaded" upward completely through a slot which has been formed. If the end of the leaf hits a "pocket," you have chosen the wrong slot.

CONTINUED →



B

Although the word *Lent* means *spring*, the season associated with new life in the natural world, Christians view it as a time to concentrate on spiritual renewal. It is interesting to reflect that our present Lenten observance has developed over a span of several centuries to the present forty-day period, plus the six Sundays of the season.

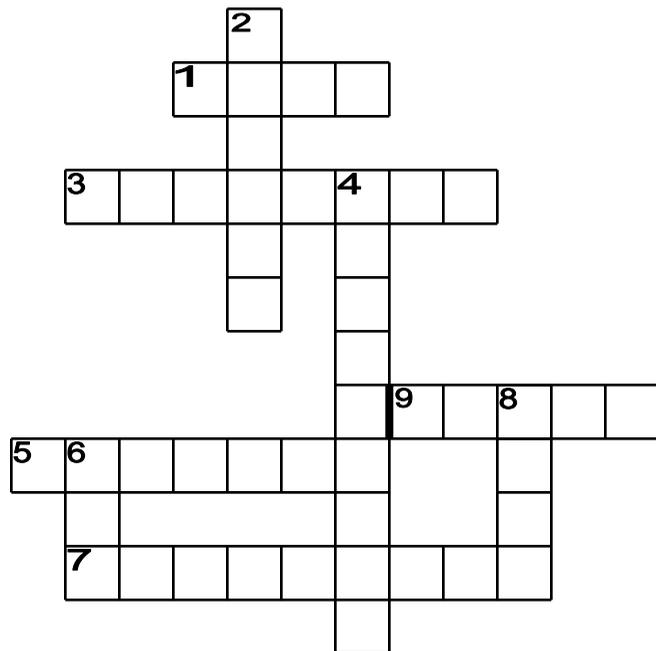
Early Christians observed a forty-hour period in remembrance of Jesus' forty-hour entombment. Later, Lent was expanded to six days, and then to thirty-six days. Beginning in the 700s, the Lenten observance began four days earlier, for a total of forty days and six Sundays.

Christians strive during this solemn time of self-examination to be especially mindful of the example of selfless love and sacrifice that Christ gave to us.

Lighthouse Lutheran Church's Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services will be celebrated with the confidence that in drawing near to Christ in prayer, song, and hearing the Gospel, we will be made more fully aware that He is always close to us in all the circumstances of our lives.

For Mother's Day

Complete the following crossword puzzle, using names of mothers of people in the Bible. If you need assistance, reading the Bible passages indicated in the box should help.



ACROSS

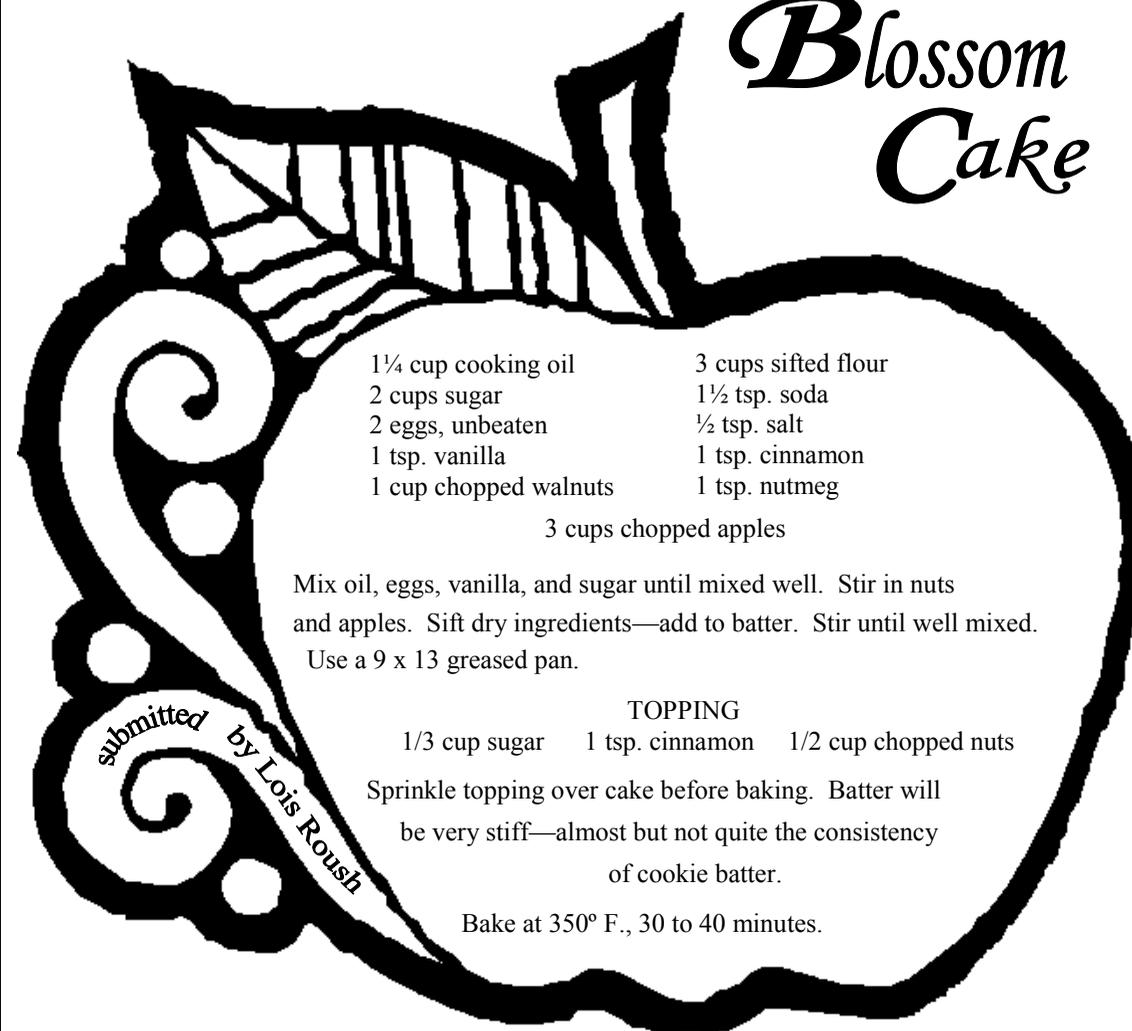
1. The mother of Jesus
3. The mother of Moses
5. The mother of Jacob and Esau
7. The mother of John the Baptist
9. The mother of Isaac

DOWN

2. The mother of Joseph
(of the coat of many colors)
4. The mother of King Solomon
6. The mother of Cain and Abel
8. The great-grandmother of David

Genesis 4:1-2
 Genesis 17:19
 Genesis 25:21-26
 Genesis 30:22-24
 Exodus 6:20
 Ruth 4:13-17
 1 Kings 1:11
 Luke 1:57
 Luke 2:5-7

Apple Blossom Cake



1/4 cup cooking oil	3 cups sifted flour
2 cups sugar	1 1/2 tsp. soda
2 eggs, unbeaten	1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup chopped walnuts	1 tsp. nutmeg

3 cups chopped apples

Mix oil, eggs, vanilla, and sugar until mixed well. Stir in nuts and apples. Sift dry ingredients—add to batter. Stir until well mixed.

Use a 9 x 13 greased pan.

TOPPING

1/3 cup sugar 1 tsp. cinnamon 1/2 cup chopped nuts

Sprinkle topping over cake before baking. Batter will be very stiff—almost but not quite the consistency of cookie batter.

Bake at 350° F., 30 to 40 minutes.

submitted by Lois Roush