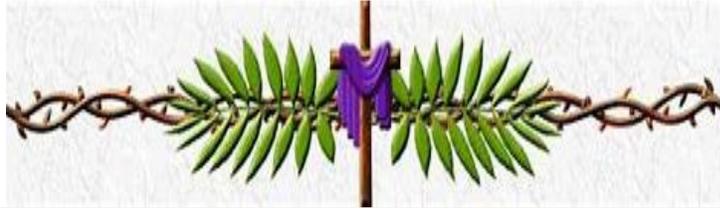


# NATIVITY NEWS – MARCH 2026



## Pastor's Conversation March 2026

Earlier in February, I asked if anyone in the congregation would share with the rest of us what they were planning to do for their Lenten observance. No one shared anything. This does not necessarily reflect that people aren't planning to practice a Lenten observance – maybe they just didn't want to share in front of everyone else.

Nonetheless, this occurrence got me thinking, “maybe we don't really know what Lent is or why it is important to observe Lent.” Lent is the fourth season of the six (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany-Lent-Easter-Pentecost) which we observe on the liturgical church calendar.

The pattern goes thus: preparation (Advent/Lent), celebration (Christmas/Easter), growth/reflection (Epiphany/Pentecost). This is very intentional in the structure of our spiritual and theological year. The celebrations cannot be properly appreciated or observed if there is no intentional preparation, and one cannot do the exertion of preparation without time to reflect and grow.

Thus, we need to take seriously the preparation that the season of Lent offers us. We cannot experience Holy Week, and especially Easter, in their fullness if we skip and slack during Lent. Traditionally, Lenten practices have revolved around the “three pillars of Lent,” almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. Our time of practicing these things during Lent (roughly forty days long) reflects and echoes Jesus' suffering and temptation in the desert for forty days before starting his ministry.

If you're still a little lost in this – the place to start is by coming to Holden Evening prayer at Ascension on Wednesday evenings.

Shalom  
+Pastor Taylor



Nativity is joining Ascension in Jackson on Wednesday Evenings for Lenten suppers at 6:15 PM and services at 7:00 PM.

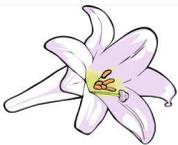


## **Pick a Chick for CVP for Easter!**

As Easter approaches, let's remember the women and children at the Center for Violence Protection (CVP). Please pick a chick and donate the item attached to it to the women and children of CVP. As many of you know, CVP is a shelter for abused mothers and children and these supplies are so very valuable in the day-to-day operations of the shelter.

Please deposit your items in the Narthex by Palm Sunday, March 29th.

When you care for your chick, remember God's love and grace lives in us and through us. Thank you for sharing His grace and love.  
The Nativity Social Ministry Committee



## **Order Your Easter Lilies by March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Order forms will be in the pews and on the table in the narthex by March 8<sup>th</sup>. Just place your order form in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one with the lily payment in the offering plate.



The **Men's Bake Sale on March 22<sup>nd</sup>** will have a new twist this year!! Please watch the announcements in the bulletins and for email's with details.



### **March & April**

#### **Birthdays**

Cassandra Braband	3/01
Joe Hunt	3/01
Renate Hunt	3/10
Dave Braband	3/10
Dave Braband	3/10
Derek Stevens	3/27
Barb Balsley	4/02
Carol Gallagher	4/04

#### **Anniversaries**

Keith & Pat Anderson	3/10
Tommy & Lynn Templeton	3/25
Joe & Renate Hunt	4/06
Dan & Jan Behringer	4/22

If you wish to participate, please see the sign up sheet on the table in the narthex and provide your birthday and/or anniversary **month & day only** by your name so we can **wish you a Happy Day!**

**Happy Birthday & Anniversary to All !!**



### **Nativity Prayer List**

*Please pray for: Ned, Loland family, Grant, Arnie, Linda, Joe, Chuck, Tracy, Gary, Lee, Hannah, Jessica, Andy, Debbie, Katie, Billie, Chris, Shaw family, Seibold family, Rogers family, Nelson family, Anthony, & Andrew.*



### **Holy Week Services**

March	29	Palm Sunday	10:30 AM Service
April	2	Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM Service
April	3	Good Friday	7:00 PM Service
April	5	Easter Sunday	10:30 AM Service

## MARCH 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 1            9:30 AM Youth Sunday School  
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion
- March 4            Noon Communion & Bible Study  
6:15 PM Lenten Supper & Service  
                         at Ascension in Jackson
- March 8            9:30 AM Youth Sunday School  
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion  
                         Daylight Saving time begins
- March 10           10:00 AM Ladies Coffee & Devotional
- March 11           NO Noon Communion & Bible Study this week  
6:15 PM Lenten Supper & Service  
                         at Ascension in Jackson
- March 15           9:30 AM Youth Sunday School  
10:30 AM Service
- March 18           Noon Communion & Bible Study  
6:15 PM Lenten Supper & Service  
                         at Ascension in Jackson
- March 22           9:30 AM Youth Sunday School  
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion  
Church Council Meeting following the service  
                         Men's Fundraiser
- March 24           10:00 AM Ladies Coffee & Devotional
- March 25           Noon Communion & Bible Study  
6:15 PM Lenten Supper & Service  
                         at Ascension in Jackson
- March 29           9:30 AM Youth Sunday School  
10:30 AM Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion

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**May 2nd            8:00 AM - Annual Rummage & Bake Sale**  
**Bring sale items the week of April 26<sup>th</sup>**

## NLC March, 2026 Volunteer List for Services

### March 1

Kitchen – Ruth Burgess  
Greeters – Jim & Pat Moulds  
Ushers – Ellie Halverson/Dave Braband  
Lector – Bart Bettiga  
Comm. Asst. – Sandy Bettiga  
Nursery – Miranda Loper  
Counters – Bart & Sandy Bettiga  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

### March 8

Kitchen – Ellie Halverson  
Greeters – Barbara Barnes  
Ushers – Joe & Renate Hunt  
Lector – John Halverson  
Comm. Asst. – John Halverson  
Nursery – Pamela Kirby  
Counters – K. Peters/B. Barnes  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

### March 15

Kitchen – Kathy Peters  
Greeters – Michele Hampe  
Ushers – Tony Caldwell/Rick Kirby  
Lector – Taylor Langele  
Comm. Asst. – Keith Anderson  
Nursery – Lynn Templeton  
Counters – Cindy Braatz/Sue Caldwell  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz

### March 22

Kitchen – Ruth Burgess  
Greeters – Renate Hunt  
Ushers – Kathy Peters/Dave Braband  
Lector – Beau Bettiga  
Comm. Asst. – Geoff Hampe  
Nursery – Kerri Hampe  
Counters – K. Anderson/L. Templeton  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz  
Asst. Minister – Bart Bettiga

### March 29 – Palm Sunday

Kitchen – Kathy Peters  
Greeters – Joe Hunt  
Ushers – Stephen & Cindy Braatz  
Lector – Rick Kirby  
Comm. Asst. – Rick Kirby  
Psalmist – Ellie Halverson  
Nursery – Miranda Loper  
Counters – Bart & Sandy Bettiga  
Altar Care – Cindy Braatz  
Asst. Minister – Larry Smith

*If you cannot serve on the dates shown, please try to swap with someone and let the office know of the change. Thank You.*