

First United Methodist Church of Saline

Rev. Tom Zimmerman

February 18, 2021

“O Lord, you examine me and know. You know when I sit down and when I get up even from far away you understand my motives...examine me and probe my thoughts.” Psalm 139: 1, 23

Dear Friends:

On Wednesday, we began the journey of Lent. Lent can be seen as a time of preparation. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, like a wedding or a shower, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and body resurrection.

Like David, it's hard for us to wrap our minds around how much interest God takes in our lives. So often we fall into the trap of thinking that God has bigger things to worry about. We may feel with things like a pandemic or war, God wouldn't have time for our problems, we don't want to bother him. To be sure, those things are important to God, but in our passage, we clearly see that he also cares enough to note even the smallest details of our days.

Knowing everything he knows about us—our quirky personalities, our struggles, our sin, our shame—God still loves us enough to die for us. There is no greater feeling in the world than to know you are completely known and still completely loved.

What an awesome Heavenly Father we have! He knows how many hairs are on our heads right now (or not there as the case may be), the unconfessed sins in our hearts, and loves us all the same. So this season, let's get ready and give our best for him who has done so much for us!

See you in church or on Livestream!

Blessings,

Pastor Tom

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES + PRAYER LIST

Birthdays ~ Earl Culliton, Nick Patteri, Grace Popa, 2/21; Paula Saunders, Carolanne Stockton, Joseph Wilczynski, 2/22; Ken Jennings, Ann Babcock, Nancy Mason, 2/23; Kris Dejanovich, Larry Filson, Grace Gillingham, Christian Gillingham, 2/24; Stephanie Bates, Adrian Graden, Garrison Miller, Carl Snow, 2/25; Bruce Moss, Alanna Farrell, 2/27.

Prayer Concerns—Kent & Joyce Aurand, Joe Luben, Pat Allen, Nicole Oaks, Angie Prieskorn, Jeanne Hess, Sue & Ron Sauer, Ella & Matt Stubelt, Monica Birdsong and family, college students, those who are ill and all impacted negatively by the pandemic, our country and our leaders, for those having side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine, those with anxiety & depression & wisdom for how to help them, a relative undergoing surgery, children in school.

Sympathies—Rachel & Naomi Woods and family on the passing of their sister, Sarah Palmer. Steve & Gary Bredernitz and families on the passing of Dorothy Bredernitz.

Praises—Birth of Jim & Annella Aurand's 16th great-grandchild, Virgil James. Tammy & Dick Schoenfeldt on the birth of their first grandchild, Olivia Grace, daughter of Scott & Heather Schoenfeldt.

Continue to Pray for—Jim Ducca, Julie O'Keefe, Gayle Rogers, Bill Doren, Steven Baker, Mike Walker, Sally Hanifi, Jack Ceo, LeeAnn Redies, Rob Fowler, Kent Aurand, Abby Cudney, Doris Sekerka, Macy family, Blaine Zimmerman, Kim Durham.

Military—Erik Maddock, J.T. St. Dennis.

Pray for the homebound and those in special living facilities—Betty Charles, Naomi Woods, Betty Sellers, Florence Belt, Norma Jean West, Lysle Smith, Nancy Jedele, Vera Bennett, Doris Schmerberg, Virginia Sherman.

February Memory Verse: *“Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—in peace because they trust in you.”* Isaiah 26:3

Announcements

Grief Group —*NEW* You may now join the group via Zoom during its regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm if you would rather not join in person. Please contact Jeanette Brenner at 734-474-1357.

SASS Easter Food Baskets—Saline Area Social Service needs our help in providing Easter food baskets. In lieu of collecting food, we will collect gift cards in \$25 increments to Walmart, Busch's and Meijer, or monetary donations in any amount. Drop off gift cards/donations during office hours (buzz office when you arrive), or at in-person Sunday worship. Donations may also be made via the online giving feature on our web site, www.fumc-saline.org. All are due by Friday, March 26. Contact LuAnn Chiscinske at 313-683-3790 with questions. Thank you!

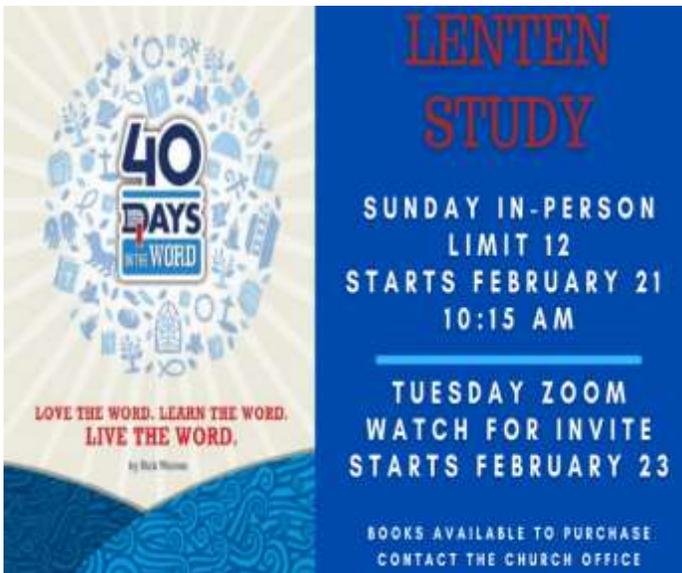
UMW Lent Donation Drive—With so many people isolated and in need due to COVID, United Methodist Women is collecting **NEW** men's and women's socks and toiletries (i.e. lotion, toothpaste etc.) throughout Lent. All donations will be distributed to EVH and the homeless. Contact the church office to drop off items during office hours, or drop at the Opportunity Wall at in-person worship. We thank you for your support.

Focus & Flexibility with Friends—Join fellow snow and COVID bound friends for gentle stretching and strengthening with **Focus and Flexibility with Friends** virtual wellness sessions via Zoom. All ages and fitness levels are welcome and exercises can be adapted to fit. All you need is comfortable clothes, a sturdy backed chair (like the Christler Hall chairs) or a mat, and some eagerness to get off the couch out of COVID's and winter's clutches. There will be two opportunities a week available, Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm and Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm and run about 45 minutes to 1 hour. If you have any concerns or medical issues please check with your medical provider before starting. Sessions will start February 21 and run through Lent and will come through church Zoom invite. Any questions or concerns you can contact Carolyn Minnette minnettez@frontier.com or 734-604-1896.

Lay Servant Ministries Spring Classes—Lay Servant Spring Classes will be held online via Zoom on various dates in March and April, with registration deadlines starting February 25. Contact the church office at 734-429-4730 for more information.



Lenten Events



LENTEN STUDY

SUNDAY IN-PERSON
LIMIT 12
STARTS FEBRUARY 21
10:15 AM

TUESDAY ZOOM
WATCH FOR INVITE
STARTS FEBRUARY 23

BOOKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

40 DAYS WITH THE WORD

LOVE THE WORD. LEARN THE WORD.
LIVE THE WORD.

By Bill Whelan



Lent FEBRUARY 17 - APRIL 1
Good Friday APRIL 2 & 3
Easter APRIL 4

As a gift to you, we have crosses prepared for you to place in your yard throughout the season of Lent. Stoles are provided to place on your cross at the appropriate time. We will have 75 crosses available for pick up while supplies last!



AN EMAIL SIGN-UP WILL BE SENT TO YOU DEADLINE IS MARCH 7

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1ST 7:00 PM

LIVE STREAM SEDER MEAL



Lenten Live Stream Series

Thursdays 7:00 pm throughout Lent February 25th

Out of The Box Ways to Observe Lent



Palm Sunday

We have exciting things planned to celebrate Palm Sunday including a Cinnamon Roll Sale, Visiting Donkeys, Seder Box Pickup & More!



GOOD FRIDAY DRIVE IN TENEBRAE SERVICE