

Dying to Our Flesh - Growing in Our Spirit

Starter Prayer: Dear God, in Jesus' name forgive me. I humble myself and fast because I want you to renew – renew my heart, renew my family, renew your church, renew our town, renew our world. Open my eyes to those who do not know you so I can show them your love. Amen.

Daily Focus as You Pray and Fast

Day 1. **Why Fast?** To humble yourself. Have you been living your own way, by your own strength? How is that working for you? Tired? Stressed? Pay check to pay check? READ Matthew 11:28-30. PRAY for God to lighten your burden.

Day 2. **How?** Replace what you are fasting from (food, sweets, pop, TV, cigarettes, etc.) with God. God is your strength, he is what you need. Spend time reading the Bible. Listen to Christian Music. Have quiet, alone time with God. READ Matthew 6:16-18. PRAY for the people in your life who are struggling.

Day 3. **Who?** Fasting is for everyone. READ Luke 2:36-38. PRAY for the people in our community who have given up on life. Ask God to give them a desire and purpose for living.

Day 4. **Our Mission?** The purpose of our fast is to release our community from oppression. READ Isaiah 58. PRAY against the strongholds oppressing the people of our community: poverty, alcohol, drugs, self-sufficiency, sexual immorality, spiritual apathy, violence, etc.

Day 5. **Mourning?** Do you cry for your city? READ Nehemiah 1:1-4. PRAY and cry out to God regarding lost jobs, sickness, homelessness, and lost souls.

Day 6. **Confession?** To confess means to agree with God when you have failed him. God has already forgiven you in Christ! READ Daniel 9:1-19. PRAY and confess your sins to God. Ask him to forgive you and the sins of our community in Jesus' name.

Day 7. **Return to the Lord.** Have you fallen away from your relationship with God? Maybe you've never had a relationship with God. Today is the day to let God heal you and restore you. Then let God work through you to help others. READ Joel 2:12-14. PRAY for spiritual renewal in you and in our community.

Life Questions

The season of Lent is intended to be a time of reflection: **Who am I? What does God say about me? How then should I live? In the process of reflection we often encounter questions we are not certain we can answer on our own. God has something to say in regard to those questions. We will consider some of those questions between now and that most holy of weeks when we reflect on, consider, and, yes, even celebrate God's wondrous acts of love for us.**

February 14, Ash Wednesday, 7pm,

"Which Way Shall I Choose?" – Matthew 7:13-14

February 18, 1st Sunday in Lent,

"Why Am I Lonely?" – Luke 19:1-10

February 25, 2nd Sunday in Lent,

Consultation Weekend, Consultant to preach

March 4, 3rd Sunday in Lent & Communion Sunday,

"Why Am I Afraid?" – Mark 4:35-41

March 11, 4th Sunday in Lent,

"Why Am I Here?" – Ephesians 1:3-14

March 18, 5th Sunday in Lent,

"What Happens When I Die?" – Luke 16:19-31

March 25, Palm Sunday,

"Why Do I Feel So Guilty?" – Romans 3:10-26

March 29, Maundy Thursday, 7pm,

Worship @ Farwell UMC

March 30, Good Friday, 1pm,

Worship @ Clare Christ Fellowship

March 30, Good Friday, 7pm,

"What Does Jesus' Cross Mean to Me?" – Galatians 3:1-14

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Clare United Methodist Church on 3/8/2018.

See details inside our February Newsletter.