

Mustard Seed

March 2026



Rick's Ramblings...

Why 40 days for Lent? I have been asked this question over my many years and I even thought about it as a kid. You know the hymn "Throughout these Forty Days", well I had a young person ask me back in '22, it doesn't add up. We have 46 days on the calendar, Sundays are not counted because they are considered "mini-Easters"—celebratory feast days rather than days of penance. That is why my parents always allowed us to have candy on Sunday even though it was during Lent and we gave up candy (maybe it was a Catholic thing).

The number 40 is highly symbolic in the Bible. Beyond Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, it also echoes the 40 years the Israelites spent wandering the desert and the 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai. As a kid, going 40 days without candy seemed like an eternity. That must be why I got very sick after coming home from church and eating all the chocolate in my Easter basket.

In Lent we have three pillars that define what our focus should be: fasting, praying, almsgiving (or as I shared last week giftgiving). **Fasting:** This often involves giving up a particular luxury (like chocolate, social media, or caffeine) or following specific rules, such as abstaining from meat on Fridays. **Prayer:** Dedicating more time to spiritual reflection, reading scripture, or attending services like the Stations of the Cross. **Giftgiving:** Focusing on charity and helping those in need, whether through donating money or volunteering time. The focus should be on our God given gifts that we can share.

However we approach Lent, it should be with a true focus on our relationship with Christ as we move towards Holy Week and the Cross. Baptism and the Cross are what our faith is built on and the Word. If we give our time and effort to this season, we will surely prepare ourselves for the Risen Lord on Easter morning.

Blessings!

Rick

March Happenings

March 4	Soup Supper 5PM Lenten service 6PM
March 8	Daylight Saving Time Starts
March 10	Quilting 9-11AM
March 11	Soup Supper 5PM Lenten Service 6PM
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Mutual Ministry 5PM Council Meeting 6PM
March 18	Quilting 1-3PM Soup Supper 5PM Lenten Service 6PM
March 20	First Day of Spring
March 25	Soup Supper 5PM Lenten Service 6PM

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 6	Izzy Kightlinger	Birthday
March 19	Charleen Dahlgren	Birthday
March 21	Dick Asmus	Birthday
March 22	Butch & Eileen Hastings	Anniversary
March 27	Dale & Colleen Kightlinger	Anniversary

New Council Members

First we would like to highlight and thank our retiring council members, Judy Waytashek and Patti Wiersgalla, for their service and commitment to the church and this community! The church runs much more smoothly when we have people like you working with us. We are welcoming Roberta Kightlinger and Judy Vogtlin to fill the vacant positions. We look forward to working with you both, and can't wait to see all of the good that will come!

Sunday Helpers

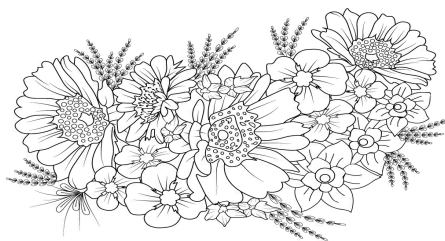
March 1) Hosts: Judy V. & Gerald Lector: Judy W. Communion Asst.: Judy V. & Gerald Counters: Judy V. & Judy W.	March 8) Hosts: Dixie & Bruce Lector: Dixie Communion Asst.: Dixie & Bruce Counters: Bruce & Patti W.
March 15) Hosts: Mark & Michelle Lector: Mark Communion Asst.: Mark & Michelle Counters: Judy V. & Velma	March 22) Hosts: Mark & Michelle Lector: Tom Communion Asst.: Dakota & Haylee Counters: Dakota & Judy W.
March 29) Hosts: Patti W. & Bella Lector: Haylee Communion Asst.: Dakota & Haylee Counters: Dakota & Patti W.	

Harvest of the Earth

Bethany Lutheran is helping with the Harvest of the Earth feast on April 8th. If you have any interest or availability to help with preparing or serving food please either reach out to the church or keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Easter Garden

For our Easter service we are having an Easter Garden! We are looking for flowering plant donations for the garden. Drop off will be April 4, and plants will go home on April 5 after service. If you have a plant you would like to contribute, reach out to the church or see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



Lenten Services

Bethany is hosting Lenten services every Wednesday evening until March 25. A Soup Supper will be served at 5PM, with service following at 6PM. If you would like to donate a soup or bread please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain to wealthy parents, his father was a Christian deacon. At age 16 Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland to be a slave. He was a shepherd and spent much of his time alone. During this time of fear and solitude he turned to his faith for guidance.

Years after his capture he escaped Ireland, only to return years later to minister Christians and convert other Irish to the religion. Saint Patrick's most well known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity with the clover.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on Patrick's death date, March 17. Oftentimes families would celebrate with feasts. Until the 1970s Irish law mandated the closure of pubs during the holiday, as it is a religious holiday. But in 1995 the Irish saw an opportunity to use the holiday to drive tourism up and showcase the culture to the world.

In the United States St. Patrick's Day wasn't celebrated widely until about the 1600's. The drinking and partying holiday didn't become a portrayal of the holiday until 1845, during the Great Potato Famine, when Irish immigrants moved to the US. While celebrating this holiday the Irish were often depicted as drunken apes or monkeys in cartoons in the newspapers.

Nowadays St. Patrick's Day is celebrated all over the world by wearing green, drinking, and feasting on corned beef, Irish soda bread, and champ (a mashed potato dish with green onions, milk, and butter).



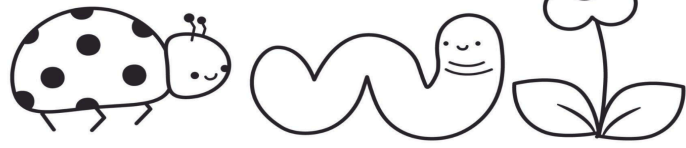
May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
come through your door

SPRING

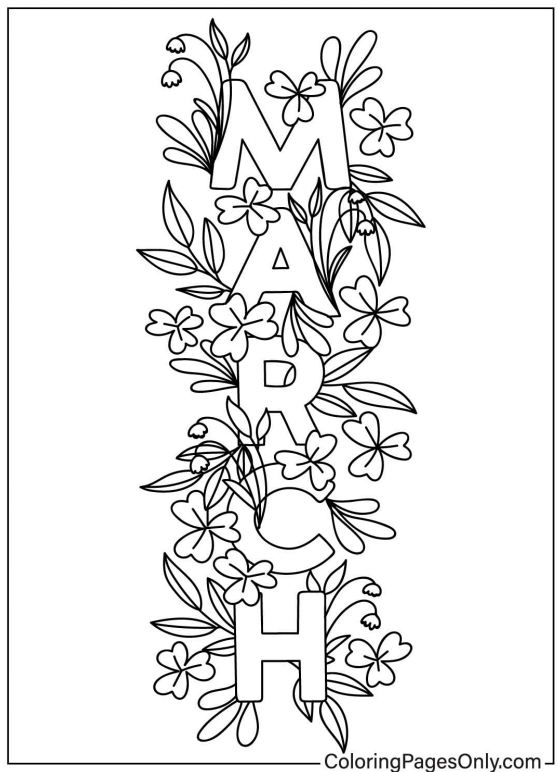
WORD SEARCH

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- BLOSSOM
- BUGS
- FLOWERS
- RAIN
- MUD
- EGGS
- NEST
- CHICK
- WORMS
- GRASS

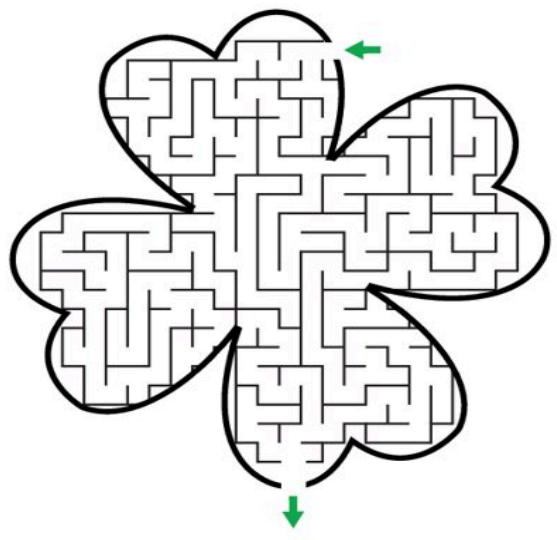


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Clover Maze



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