



Zion
Lutheran
Church

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March Sower 2023

GOD'S GIFT OF FORGIVENESS INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

By Rev. James DeLoach

Note: I am indebted to the late Dr. Rev. Kenneth Korby for exposing me to the nature and benefits of Individual Confession and Absolution (ICA). This series of articles and the midweek sermons on the Penitential Psalms draws heavily upon the writings of the Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn.

Luther's Large Catechism teaches us the purpose of the church:

"Therefore everything in the Christian church is so ordered that we may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and through signs appointed to comfort and revive our consciences as long as we live." -Large Catechism, The Creed, Art. III, Tappert

In other words, our purpose as a Christian congregation is to forgive sins through Word and "signs," that is, the Sacraments. This Lent we are revisiting one of wonderful ways that God delivers forgiveness to us sinners, namely, individual confession and absolution.

When we hear the words "confession and absolution," for most of us that brings to mind the beginning of the Divine Service, where we confess our sins together before God, and God through the mouth of the pastor forgives our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ. This is certainly confession and absolution. We call that the *general* confession. But when the Catechism speaks about confession & absolution, it is not talking about general or public confession and absolution. It is talking about *individual* confession and absolution.

This surprised me when I first learned of it. Think again, though, to the words of the Catechism:

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you been hurt by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Notice how very concrete this list is above. Look how our Lutheran Service Book instructs us to confess (pp. 292-293). When God deals with sin, he is not looking at stuff out there somewhere. He looks at your heart. He looks at who you are as a sinner and how that sinful nature (we call original sin) shows itself in your life.

Remember our purpose, though. It isn't about listing off all our sins like a laundry list. If that were the case we'd be here until the end of time! No, the purpose is to forgive sins and to comfort troubled consciences. In other words, the emphasis is on the *absolution*, or forgiveness. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession says it well:

"For we also keep confession, especially because of absolution, which is the Word of God that the power of the keys proclaims to individuals by divine authority. It would therefore be wicked to remove private absolution from the church." (Apology XII, p. 99 Triglotta)

Strong words, but they point out the priority confessional Lutheranism gives to this means of removing sin from an individual repentant sinner and exchanging it for the full-blown Gospel delivered directly into his ears. So why go to individual confession and absolution? Because God wants to forgive your sins. It is his promise to you for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM as we consider God's Gift of Forgiveness in Individual Confession & Absolution. We will be praying the Penitential Psalms and learning from the Catechism. Anyone who wants to receive Individual Confession and Absolution, please contact Pastor Gaunt or Pastor DeLoach to set a time.

Peace be with you.

Pastor DeLoach
2023 March Sower

THE SEVEN PENITENTIAL PSALMS

Please join us in the journey to the cross as we reflect on the Penitential Psalms in light of Christ's Passion. These Psalms, perhaps more than any others, speak to our human condition as sinners who solely rely on God's mercy in the face of trials. We will also learn about God's gift of forgiveness in the form of Confession and Absolution. This will include looking at and confessing the Catechism, as well as examining the forms of confession and absolution, namely, public, individual (before the pastor), and between fellow Christians.

Lent 1 Midweek 1 Mar 2023	<i>What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written?</i>	Psalm 32
Lent 2 Midweek 8 Mar 2023	<i>What do you believe according to these words?</i>	Psalm 38
Lent 3 Midweek 15 Mar 2023	<i>What is Confession?</i>	Psalm 51
Lent 4 Midweek 22 Mar 2023	<i>What sins should we confess?</i>	Psalm 102
Lent 5 Midweek 29 Mar 2023	<i>Which are these?</i>	Psalm 143

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

DATE	Service Time
Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday	9:00am
Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
Friday, April 7 Tenebrae Service	7:00pm
Saturday, April 8 Easter Vigil Service	7:00pm
Sunday, April 9 Easter Sunrise Service Easter Festival Service	7:00am 9:00am

LENTEN MEALS

Starting Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, meals will be served at 5:30 pm before the 7 pm service. The following are the organizations serving the meals:

March 1 st	Middle School
March 8 th	Evangelism/Stewardship/Youth
March 15 th	Trustees
March 22 nd	Board of Education
March 29 th	*Open

LENT BIBLE READING CARDS

Reading the New Testament in Lent is a worthwhile and doable discipline. Simply read about 6-8 chapters a day, six days a week, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending before Holy Thursday. A schedule of readings can be found on the purple sheet in the church entryway. You can also pick up a yellow Bible ready check-off card to keep track of your Bible reading progress for the whole year.

EASTER LILIES

Be watching for information about ordering Easter lilies for the sanctuary!

MARY MARTHA

Mary Martha will meet on Monday, March 13th in the Fellowship Hall.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, March 16th at 7:00pm.

MISSIONS

Our first quarter (January-March) missions will support Lutherans for Life. If you are lead to donate to the missions please use the special marked envelopes located in the narthex. Please make sure that the missions are clearly marked and placed in the offering plate or, give via ChurchTrac & designate missions.

SCRIP CARDS

Scrip cards are still available. Visit the office during normal hours to purchase your gift cards.

MARCH RADIO BROADCAST

Date	Radio
3-5	Marian Allwardt, in thanks for Carol on her birthday
3-12	Wes & Mary Fiddelke birthdays
3-19	Waunita DeLaet
3-26	Dave & Kay Banner

Please help Zion spread the Gospel! Consider sponsoring (or going in with another family) one of our radio broadcasts. The cost is \$162.

AMAZON.COM PURCHASES

Did you know you can support Zion when you shop at Amazon? Simply go to smile.amazon.com and designate Zion as your charity. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of your eligible orders to Zion. Call the office if you have questions.

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Date	Flowers
3-5	
3-12	
3-19	Waunita DeLaet
3-26	Dave & Kay Banner

Please consider signing up for altar flowers to beautify the sanctuary during the worship services. There are several spots available and we are able to enjoy them during the service times.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Boyd & Michelle Millsap	3/8
Michael & Kimberly Wilkens	3/20

Where our Triune God strengthens us
through His mercy in faith toward Him and
in fervent love toward one another.

OUR MEMBERS RESIDING IN CARE FACILITIES

Cambridge Court -4107 Central Ave	Pat Flodine
Mt. Carmel - 412 West 18th	Vaughn Albrecht
Northridge - 5410 17 th Ave.	Norrine Rockwell
Prairie View - 1705 Prairie View Place	Vi Fox
Mother Hull-125 East 23 rd	Lyle Colsden
	Evelyn Heiden
St. John's 3410 Central Ave	Hazel Stickney
Christian Homes - Holdrege, NE	Phyllis Willuweit
Brookstone Meadows - Elkhorn, NE	Norman Abels

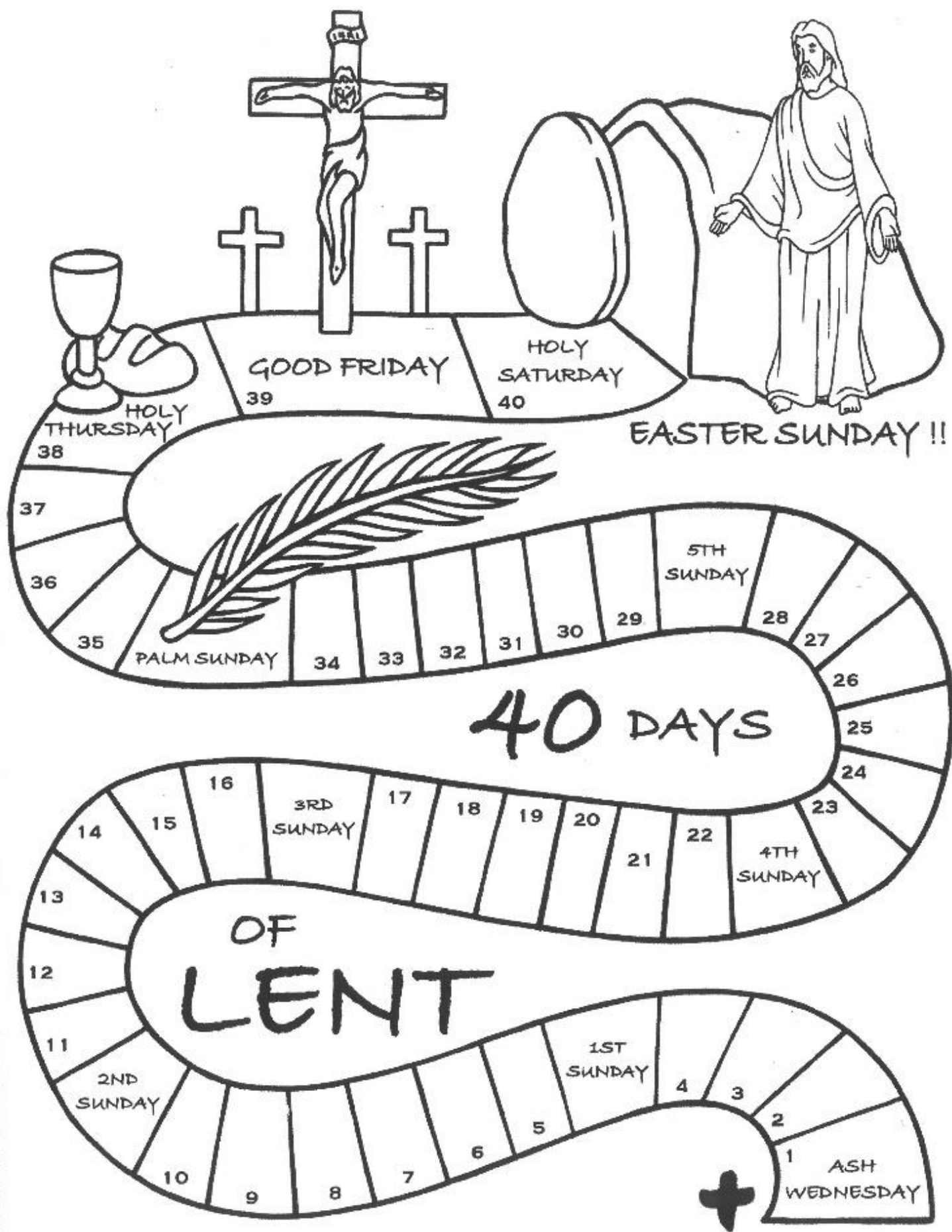
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Halvorsen	3/1
Lindsay Wilkens	3/1
Noah Randolph	3/1
Levi Splittgerber	3/2
Amy Hodgson	3/2
Matthew Hodgson	3/2
Lee Wells	3/4
Patrick Brost	3/5
Emily Hartman	3/7
Kimberly Wilkens	3/7
Donna Bosard	3/8
Mary Fiddelke	3/8
Norman Abels	3/9
Graydn Fisher	3/11
Jeremiah Hoffman	3/11
Wesley Fiddelke	3/11
Connie DeLaet	3/12
Harrison Strong	3/12
Carolyn Westman	3/13
Kyler Nuttelman	3/13
Cooper Ahrens	3/14
Caleb Nabity	3/16
Gretchen Trampe	3/19
Carol DeLoach	3/20
Dale Johnson	3/20
Lauren Starkey	3/20
Boyd Millsap	3/22
Harper Florang	3/22
Cinda Ward	3/23
Reese Florang	3/24
Jessica Zehendner	3/26
Kay Banner	3/26
Tiffany Hartman	3/26
Sheryl Fox	3/28
Carol Florang	3/31

School News

- ✦ **NLSW:** We will be observing National Lutheran Schools Week March 7th-11th. We have a lot planned to make it a fun week! Look for the flier that was sent home and your emails as well!
- ✦ **Book Fair:** The book fair is coming! It will be from March 7th-11th. Our students look forward to this great event during Lutheran Schools Week. Every year the proceeds help Zion add dozens of new titles to our school and classroom libraries. We also have special treat! You can order books online all year round! Here is the link:
<https://i55bookfairs.com/school/zion-ne/>
- ✦ **Plant Sales:** The plant fundraiser has started! Orders are due no later than March 31st. Extra order forms are available at the office.
- ✦ **No School:** There will be no school on Wednesday-Friday, March 23-24. The office will be closed the 25th.
- ✦ **Scrip Cards:** Scrip cards are available. Visit the office during normal hours to purchase your gift cards.





2023

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
			8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Worship 8:00 Adult Choir			6:30a-1p Zion Pancake Feed
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 1p-5p DeLaet Fellowship Hall 5:00 Divine Service		1:30 Sleeping Mats	8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Worship 8:00 Adult Choir		Grandparents Day	
National Lutheran Schools Week						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00 Divine Service	7:00 Mary Martha	1:30 Sleeping Mats 7:00 Board of Elders 7:00 Board of Trustees 7:00 Board of Ed	8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Worship 8:00 Adult Choir	7:00pm Men's Bible Study		Hoffman Gym
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00 Divine Service	12:00 Senior Potluck	1:30 Sleeping Mats 7:00 Church Council	8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Worship 8:00 Adult Choir			
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00 Divine Service		1:30 Sleeping Mats	8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Worship			

Zion Service Calendar

Time of Service	Acolyte	Elder	Usher	Engineer	Announcer	Alter Guild
Wednesday, March 1 Lenten Service 7:00pm	Jarren Blattner	Keith Nuttelman	Keith Nuttelman	Reilly Fisher		Shirley Helmbrecht
Sunday, March 5 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Brynne Fisher	Dan Oertwig	Fred Flessner	Eric Rosenthal	Lonna Gronewoller	Mary Fiddelke Lyn Hoffman
Wednesday, March 8 Lenten Service 7:00pm	Grace Burger	Dan Oertwig	Fred Flessner	Eric Rosenthal		Shirley Helmbrecht
Sunday, March 12 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Noah Randolph	Bruce Brooks	Steve Junge	Jamie Nikodym	Carol Kreutzer	Mary Fiddelke Lyn Hoffman
Wednesday, March 15 Lenten Service 7:00pm	Bailey Helmbrecht	Bruce Brooks	Steve Junge	Jamie Nikodym		Shirley Helmbrecht
Sunday, March 19 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Jace Blattner	Eric Rosenthal	Andy Wollberg	Jared Nuttelman	Brooke Fisher	Mary Fiddelke Lyn Hoffman
Wednesday, March 22 Lenten Service 7:00pm	Emma Rosenthal	Eric Rosenthal	Andy Wollberg	Jared Nuttelman		Shirley Helmbrecht
Sunday, March 26 9:00 am Divine Service	Amelia Halvorsen	Ken Hockemeier	Mike Wilkens	Reilly Fisher	Lonna Gronewoller	Mary Fiddelke Lyn Hoffman
Wednesday, March 29 Lenten Service 7:00pm	Asher Splittgerber	Ken Hockemeier	Mike Wilkens	Reilly Fisher		Shirley Helmbrecht