



# Gather & Serve

Living Christ's Love, we invite all to worship,  
learn, disciple and serve

February 1, 2021

## Pastoral Perspective

### *Why Lent?*

Lent is the 40 days, starting with Ash Wednesday and concluding on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. This is often regarded as THE most important season in the church year, as Christians prepare themselves to experience the story of Good Friday and Easter. Lent has traditionally been marked by disciplines – fasting (or giving things up), prayer, additional acts of service, and additional time in study and reflection. It is considered a time of repentance and confession leading up to God's most significant act of forgiveness and salvation – Jesus' death and resurrection.

To be honest, doesn't this all sound a bit to you like "extra stuff?" You may be asking, "is it really all that necessary beyond what I already do for my faith?" "And, it sounds like a commitment or a set of requirements that I'm being guilted into, and for what?" "We're also in a pandemic – whatever we usually do won't be the same (who isn't sick of virtual "things" already?) and I'm already doing what I can when it comes to church and faith." 2021 has turned out to be just as difficult as 2020.

What if what we need is a reminder we don't have to do anything – at least when it comes to knowing God is present and that we're never that far from God's grace? Perhaps what we need, especially now, is to know of all the things requiring things of us, God is not one of them. In God's eyes, parents are doing the best that they can, kids will be fine if they seem to be "falling behind," older folks who feel isolated and not able to contribute are not forgotten and are still valued.

That is what Lent and its disciplines are all about. It's tuning ourselves into this truth, that we really don't have to do anything to merit God's favor and love. Maybe some small reminder over the next 40 days – a prayer, a small act of service, taking time to read or listen to a devotion – helps us tune into the fact despite what we feel or what others might be telling us, in God's eyes, we're all doing the best we can, and we're all doing just fine.



Pastor Aaron

## About OFLC

### Mission Statement

..Living Christ's Love we invite all to  
worship, learn, disciple & serve

**Office Hours:** Please call to make an Appointment.

**Phone:** 763-477-6300

**Website:** [www.ourfatherschurch.org](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org)

### Staff Contacts:

**Pastor** Cathy Jones: [pastoraaron@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:pastoraaron@ourfatherschurch.org)

**Office Admin:** Melissa Ungaro [Melissa@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:Melissa@ourfatherschurch.org)

**Community Connector:** Kim Haggren [Kim@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:Kim@ourfatherschurch.org)

**Music/Bell Choir Director:** Tammy Jarvi [tjarvi@charter.net](mailto:tjarvi@charter.net)

### Council Members:

New members after Annual meeting on Jan. 31st.

### Executive Team Members:

New members after Annual meeting on Jan. 31st.

## Information

### Prayer Requests:

Do you have a prayer concern? The prayer chain will confidentially lift up prayers on your behalf, a friend or loved one. Know that you are surrounded in your time of need.

**Contact:** Shirley Bolstad,  
[pbolstad@aol.com](mailto:pbolstad@aol.com)

Would a palm cross or prayer shawl comfort you or a family member?

**Contact:** Norie Siers,  
[ncsiers@gmail.com](mailto:ncsiers@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for articles, photos or announcements is the 15th of each month. Send to:

[Melissa@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:Melissa@ourfatherschurch.org)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 1 John 3:1

## WORSHIP TIMES during LENT

**Sunday 9:00 am - In the sanctuary & online**

**Wednesday 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm**

**Online using [Zoom](#) & [YouTube](#)**

## Lenten Worship

### **Ash Wednesday and Mid-week Lent Services**

A small team is working on plans to conduct Ash Wednesday and Mid-week Lent services this year. It was decided in light of the Council setting up regular cleaning of the sanctuary every week, we are going to offer in-person services for Ash Wednesday and mid-week Lent services. Services will also be streamed over YouTube Live and links sent out over text and on the OFLC website.

### **Ash Wednesday – February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

12:00pm.

Limited to 20 persons, by reservation only. Reservations can be made by contacting the Church office or emailing Melissa [melissa@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:melissa@ourfatherschurch.org). This service is meant to be for those who are not able to attend our regular services due to COVID concerns. The service will also be streamed.



7:00pm.

Ash Wednesday service will be offered in the sanctuary and if necessary, in the education room, simultaneously. When you arrive, service coordinators will assign you to according to predetermined plans.

### **Imposition of Ashes and Communion:**

Both will be observed in each service. Attendees will be handed a small worship kit containing ash and a communion cup. Those wishing to attend Ash Wednesday at home may pick up a worship kit at the church office by calling in advance.

### **Mid-Week Lent Services – Wednesdays at 12:00pm & 7:00pm.**

Mid-week Lenten services will be held in person. The noon service will be limited to 20 persons, and attendance arranged by reservation. Sign up by calling the church office or emailing Melissa at [melissa@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:melissa@ourfatherschurch.org). We will be using a short noon-time prayer service.

The 7pm service will use Holden Evening Prayer, but singing will be by cantors instead of the whole congregation due to safety concerns.

Continued to next page:

## Lenten Worship Continued

Our theme in both services is “Why Lent?” exploring what we observe particularly disciplines during Lent, and why those disciplines are really great for us during the whole year.

Feb 24: Why Prayer?

March 3: Why Fasting?

March 10: Why Confession?

March 17: Why Worship?

March 24: Why Service?

Mid-week services will also be streamed live over YouTube Live, with links being sent via text and listed on the OFLC website.



## Sunday School

Sunday School started off the New Year with a few changes! January 10<sup>th</sup> marked the triumphant return of The Children's Message during worship. Students now accompany their families to worship, join Pastor Aaron for a special message, and then are dismissed to Sunday School for class. We are so excited to resume this tradition and introduce Pastor Aaron to the wonderful children at OFLC!

Also starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. This will allow both our teachers and our students to enjoy worship with their families.

Finally, the New Year brought a new curriculum called "Learning to Love Like God". Each week the students learn about God's compassion through a new Bible Story, and how we can use that example to lead more compassionate lives ourselves! We are so excited to take this journey with the kids as we learn to "love like God" at home, at church, at school... anywhere!



## Annual Giving Statements

The annual giving statements will be made available at the annual meeting on January 31. If your statement is not picked up, it will be mailed to you. Please review your statements carefully. If you have any concerns or questions regarding these statements, please email [accounting@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:accounting@ourfatherschurch.org).

## Congressional Meeting



The Annual congregational meeting, was on Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>. Watch your email and Friday Faith Feed (FFF) for minutes and updated information.

## Coffee Hour

Do you miss Coffee and social hour after worship? Miss seeing your fellow parishioners and friends? So many of us do during this time! Don't sit alone, join Pastor Aaron and your fellow parishioners for Coffee Hour Sundays @ 10am after worship.

Find the link on Our Fathers Website under the worship schedule.

[So grab a fresh cup of coffee and click here to join us!!](#)

We hope to see you there.



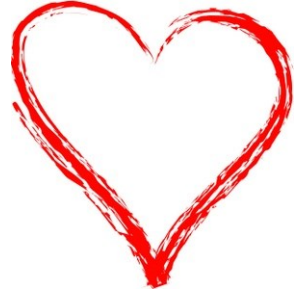


# Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Sponsored by NourishingHOPE Food Drop and Second Harvest Heartland

Boxes of fresh produce and dairy products will be available for  
drive through pick up on a first come, first served basis  
All are welcome

**Tuesday, February 9**  
**3pm -until gone**



## Locations for pick up

### **Corcoran**

St. Thomas Catholic Church parking lot

### **Delano**

Light of Christ Lutheran Church parking lot

### **St. Michael**

Colonial Mall

### **Montrose**

Montrose United Methodist Church parking lot

### **Rockford**

Our Father's Lutheran Church parking lot

### **Buffalo**

Buffalo Covenant Church parking lot

Appropriate distancing and COVID mitigation practices will be employed

Nourishing Hope started the new year strong with our January 12th food distribution. Did you know, with our ecumenical partners, we are distributing about 30,000 pounds of food to our communities each month? The need is great and continues to grow. It is exhilarating and a blessing to be able to be God's hands in this way. We have a wonderful group of volunteers, that we would love for you to join. We work hard, have fun, and it is a minimal time commitment. Come serve your neighbor! Questions? Contact [kim@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:kim@ourfatherschurch.org) or call 763-477-6300

## LOVE INC Bedding Ministry

Bedding donations quietly appear in the Bedding room - these are truly God Sightings! Thank you!

Our current needs:

Twin sheet sets suitable for either gender, gently used and washed

Blankets, gently used and washed

New pillows

## Compassion Meals

Did you know that Our Father's has a freezer full of compassionate service meals to share with those in need? They are for times of trouble or emergency, like illness, surgery, baby's birth or death in the family. If you know of someone who could benefit from these meals, please contact [kim@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:kim@ourfatherschurch.org) or call

A special THANK YOU to all those who helped to prepare these meals!



## Free Senior Meals

Do you know of someone over the age of 60 who could benefit from this FREE meal delivery? Please share!

We are also looking for Delivery Drivers! If interested in helping please contact [kim@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:kim@ourfatherschurch.org) or call 763-477-6300

**Open to anyone 60+**

**Confidential**

**Home Delivery**

**Made from scratch**

### NO-COST MEALS FOR SENIORS

WCCA and Catholic Charities have partnered with Nourishing Hope to provide seniors ten made-from-scratch, frozen meals per delivery, which can be microwaved or oven-cooked to heat.

If you live in **Wright County**  
(320) 963-6500  
ext. 274 or  
ext. 241

If you live in **Hennepin County**  
(763) 477-6300 or email  
[nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com](mailto:nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com)

**WCCA**  
WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

God's Work Our Hands  
NourishingHOPE  
at OFLC



## Next Blood Drive



Our Fathers Lutheran Church  
3903 Gilbert Ave SE,  
**Monday, March 15, 2021**  
12:30 PM - 06:30 PM

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Rockford%20MN>

Follow the link to donate. To volunteer email [kim@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:kim@ourfatherschurch.org) or call 763-477-6300



## Nourishing Hope Pictures



## Amazon Smile

Do you shop online? Do you buy from Amazon? If so, then you can help Our Father's Lutheran Church & Foundation!! It is with AmazonSmile.

### ***What is this, you ask?***

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, and OFLC /Foundation is one of these! This is at NO cost to you. It is the same convenient shopping experience as shopping on Amazon with their same low prices, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OFLC/Foundation.

### ***How does one do this?***

Simple! You can use your same account as Amazon.com. Simply enter Amazonsmile.com and log in with your same log in information. It will ask you to register your charitable organization and you can then choose OFLC/Foundation, then, shop as usual! It will remember your charity selection for the next time.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases. It doesn't seem like a lot, but those purchases from everyone do add up over time! SO, next time you log in to Amazon, to make a purchase, remember to change it to Amazonsmile.com and help Our Father's Lutheran Church/Foundation. In the first quarter of 2019 OFLC received \$37.40 from AmazonSmile.

Looking for more information: <https://smile.amazon.com/>

