

United Parish  
801 Main  
Box 175  
Bottineau, ND 58318  
Facebook  
We are on the web  
www.unitedparishbottineau.com  
Newsletter News:  
Send  
unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com  
Deadline for April Newsletter is  
March 29 - looking for articles  
Church office - 228-2800  
Secretary - 228-8123  
Please let the church know if you have  
a e-mail address

←————→  
The reason your wind shield is bigger  
than your back window is: Where you  
are going is a lot bigger than where you  
have been!

**March 3**  
7:00 Lenten Service at United parish  
Parish Council to follow

**March 7**  
9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship Service

**March 10**  
7:00 Lenten Worship at First Lutheran

**March 14**  
9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship Service

**March 17**  
7:00 Lenten Worship at United Parish

**March 21**  
9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship Service

**March 24**  
7:00 Lenten Worship at First Lutheran

**March 28**  
9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship Service

All groups can meet at their own  
desecration.

A man is talking to God. "God, how long  
is a million years?" God answers, "To me,  
it's about a minute." "God, how much is a  
million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny."  
"God, may I have a penny?" "Wait a  
minute."



**Lent not a time of 'giving up,' but of 'taking' time to be with God**  
By Nancy Sylvester

There is a wisdom in the liturgical cycle. The yearly remembering of the life of Jesus of Nazareth accompanies our own evolving self. It invites us to engage the scriptural story anew with the insights, concerns and deepening awareness of who we are and who we are becoming. It assures us that life-death-new life continues throughout our life and our time.

When I was growing up, Lent was a special time to stop and spend more time with God. It was 40 days bracketed in the middle of the 365 days of our regular life. Many of us might only remember Lent as the time when you "gave up" things — candy, favorite TV shows, movies. You couldn't wait for Sunday. For some reason, Sunday freed you of these sacrifices and you could indulge yourself eating candy all day if you wanted (at least that was my Chicago Catholic memory).

As I think about this year, "giving up" is certainly not needed. We have experienced the loss of so much throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Most things we have not chosen to give up: Rather, they were taken from us. Seeing parents, family, friends, the birth of new grandchildren; special celebrations for birthdays, graduations, anniversaries canceled; high school and college sports truncated; and classroom education replaced by online teaching. Jobs lost; housing evictions; reduced income; getting sick with COVID-19 and dying of COVID-19. And the list can go on.

We have changed. This year has both taken a toll on us and — hopefully — given us new insights into what is important, what can be let go and what is essential. However, as we face more months of potential mask wearing and physical distancing, emotions still seethe in us, as do questions and wonderings about the future.

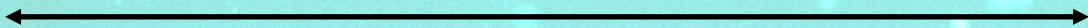
Instead of *giving up* anything else, perhaps what is needed is *taking* more time to spend with God this Lent. There are many ways to do this, but one that might be illuminating is to engage with the story of Jesus' life as expressed in one of the Gospels.



It is not simply to read the daily readings, but rather to choose one Gospel and enter into a dialogue with it, after having experienced a full year of the effects of the pandemic.

The story line is similar to ours. Jesus lived in a tumultuous time. There were divisions within the political and religious groups. People were sick and in need of healing. Certain types of people were considered outcasts. There were entitled groups who flaunted privileges that oppressed others.

Jesus entered his public time in ministry by being tempted. Power, wealth and self-sufficiency were offered to him and he struggled to respond. He experienced rejection and ridicule. He was a frontline worker who tirelessly healed the suffering of those he encountered. He was tortured, accused of a crime he did not commit and he suffered the death penalty of the time — crucifixion. He even cried out in desperation, seeking the God who he felt abandoned him.



## Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power  
of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up  
and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....  
Lent is a time to allow  
a fresh new taste of God!  
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,  
for thoughts come unbidden.  
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future  
knowing our past.  
Give us courage, O God,  
to hear your Word  
and to read our living into it.  
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven  
and give us the faith  
to take up our lives and walk.

## BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
As I entered Heaven's door,  
Not by the beauty of it all,  
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
Who made me sputter and gasp—

The thieves, the liars, the sinners,  
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade  
Who swiped my lunch money! Twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought  
Was rotting away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?  
Would love to hear Your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake.

'And why's everyone so quiet,  
So somber – give me a clue.'  
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in  
shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT.

Remember...Just going to church doesn't  
make you a Christian  
Any more than...Standing in your garage  
makes you a car.

"A cheerful heart is good  
medicine" (Prov. 17:22)

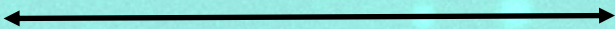


March

11 – Gloria Olson	12 – Eric Sand
18 – Jordan Kippen	23 – Marsha Martin
25 – Nick Milbrath	27 – Dwight Olson
28 – Sara Milbrath	



5- Ken & Nora Bangs



## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Z C W B D M L O K S S Y Y H X

U D R E E R V E A Q P Z Q E G

I H E A V E N S V V S D D H L

Q T F R S D R P V A O U W E O

V C O O O E G E L D Y E S N E

O C R M Q M X V I E C J W E F

P A G U B P A S S O R C K L J

S F I H C T C N N X K S I A I

O Z V Q I I R I S N W W Z D S

A R E O P O F S K K M Y K G Q

L E N L H N O I S N E C S A E

H T E T J K D I X V K B A M R

L S S U M E D O C I N P R Y C

N A S K M Q Q C N G O Y B L O

R E S U R R E C T I O N E I X

A R O S E   A S C E N S I O N   C R O S S   C R U C I F I X I O N

D I S C I P L E S   E A S T E R   F O R G I V E N E S S   H E A V E N   J E S U S

M A G D A L E N E   N I C O D E M U S   R E D E M P T I O N

R E S U R R E C T I O N   R O M A N S   S A L V A T I O N

S I N S   T H O R N S   T O M B