



The Lenten Discipline

Most years around this time, someone (usually with admirable honesty) asks me: “Pastor... why do we have church on Wednesday during Lent? Isn’t Sunday plenty?” Admittedly that conversation has not happened this year. Perhaps you are glad to have it on the schedule again.

First of all, I appreciate the question. Second of all, I admire your efficiency. Sometimes life feels so busy and in the midst of all the snow this winter, we just want to relax in our houses, but yes, we venture out...

So why midweek worship?

1. Because Lent Isn’t Meant to Be Comfortable

Lent is a season that slows us down. And if there’s one thing we’re not naturally good at—especially in Pennsylvania—it’s slowing down. We power through snow, road construction, and potholes the size of coal mines. We can certainly power through a worship service.

Midweek worship interrupts the week on purpose. It gently (or not-so-gently) says: “Pause. Repent. Reflect. Remember who you are—and whose you are.”

It’s not about adding one more obligation. It’s about carving out space to breathe spiritually.

2. Because the Cross Deserves More Than a Drive-By

On Sundays, we celebrate the resurrection every week. Sunday is always a little Easter. If you count the 40 days, Sundays are not included. Lent gives us time to sit at the foot of the cross.

Midweek services let us take the scenic route to Good Friday instead of racing there like we are trying to make it to an event and back before the next snow storm hits.

We hear the passion story in smaller pieces. We pray more intentionally. We sing those hymns that sound like they were written by someone who truly understood both suffering and hope.

It’s slower. Quieter. More reflective.

And frankly, we need that.

3. Because Community Matters

There’s something powerful about gathering in the middle of an ordinary week. It reminds us that church isn’t just a Sunday event. It’s a life we share.

Midweek Lent says: “We walk toward the cross together.”

In churches where we know how to meet people where they are and help each other walk through the events of life together, we know how to show up.

4. Because We Need the Reminder

Lent tells the truth: We are dust. We are sinners. We cannot save ourselves.

But it also tells the bigger truth: Christ has come for us. Christ walks with us. Christ goes to the cross willingly.

Midweek worship keeps that message in front of us when the week gets long, the news gets loud, and patience runs thin.

It steadies us.

So yes, we gather on Wednesdays. Not because we enjoy filling up calendars. Not because Lutherans get bonus points for attendance. And not because I enjoy writing extra sermons (though I do enjoy seeing you).

We gather because the cross matters.

We gather because grace is worth slowing down for.

We gather because in a world that runs nonstop, it is holy to stop.

And besides, if we can brave Schuylkill County weather in February, we can certainly brave a worship service on Wednesday in Lent.

I look forward to walking this season with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Michelle