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### February Helpers

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## GOOD THINGS FROM ZION

March 2020

### Encounter Christ...Grow in faith...Love as Christ loved...Tell the Story

#### *Church for the sake of the world*

When she was first elected the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton put forth four main emphases for her term as the ELCA's leader.

They are :

We are Church

We are Lutheran

We are Church together

We are Church for the sake of the world

The Nebraska Synod has offered some Lent resources on each theme over the past four years. We've loosely followed them and used bits and pieces of the resources.

This year the emphases is "We are Church for the sake of the world."

The ELCA and the Nebraska Synod do a lot of work for the sake of the world. And we've done quite a bit ourselves. We've collected diapers and money and health care items and school supplies and clothes and toys and all sorts of things. We've served at Matt Talbot and the Center for People in Need.

When you look at the ELCA website, it's a bit overwhelming with all the different ministries. The focus is often on being church for the sake of those in need: poor people, refugees, disaster victims, and so on.

But that isn't all that being church for the sake of the world is. It's also about our day to day lives and the presence of Christians in the world.

What does that world need from us? How does the world need us to act and speak? What sort of healing would we be capable of?

During our Lent midweek services, that is what we will delve into. We'll lift up some of the formal ministries of the church. But what I most want to focus on is our ministry and what it means for us, as individuals and as members of two tiny Lutheran churches, to be church for the sake of the world.

In Christ's peace,

*Pastor Kris*

#### ***Thank you for the diapers!***

Between Bethlehem and Zion we filled the trunk and most of the back seat of my car. That's Church for the sake of the world!

Lent Notes

In my book, the best discipline for Lent is some type of reading, prayer or activity that is out of the ordinary for you.

Here’s a link to Luther Seminary’s Lent devotional as an option:

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

And...from Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, here’s a list of 40 things to do in Lent. Don’t put a huge pressure on yourself to do all of them, but they can be pretty powerful. Pick out some to try.

- ☐ Day 1: Pray for your enemies
- ☐ Day 2: Scripture – Isaiah 58:1-12 – if you live with other people, have a meal together – read this together and use it to form your table prayer
- ☐ Day 3: Don’t turn on the car radio
- ☐ Day 4: Give \$20 to a non-profit of your choosing
- ☐ Day 5: Take 5 minutes of silence at noon
- ☐ Day 6: Look out the window until you find something of beauty you had not noticed before
- ☐ Day 7: Give 5 items of clothing to Goodwill
- ☐ Day 8: No bitching day
- ☐ Day 9: Do someone else’s chore
- ☐ Day 10: Visit someone in a nursing home
- ☐ Day 11: Call an old friend
- ☐ Day 12: Pray the Paper (pray for people and situations in today’s news) – if you live with other people, share a meal and do this together
- ☐ Day 13: Read Psalm 139
- ☐ Day 14: Pay a few sincere compliments
- ☐ Day 15: Don’t use any disposable products
- ☐ Day 16: Educate yourself about human trafficking [www.praxus.org](http://www.praxus.org)
- ☐ Day 17: Forgive someone
- ☐ Day 18: Take a day off from the internet (at least from non-work stuff)
- ☐ Day 19: Take a walk outside and look for new life
- ☐ Day 20: Check out morning and evening prayer at <http://dailyoffice.wordpress.com> – or borrow an extra ELW and use Luther’s morning and evening prayer from the small catechism in the back
- ☐ Day 21: Ask for help
- ☐ Day 22: Tell someone what you are grateful for
- ☐ Day 23: Introduce yourself to a neighbor, or talk to one you haven’t talked to in awhile
- ☐ Day 24: Read Psalm 121 (together at the evening meal if you don’t live alone)

(Cont. next page)

March Calendar	
March 1	9:00 am—Worship with Holy Communion First Communion for Jackson Wright and Brooke Luetkenhaus 11:30—Faith and Current Events—Truth: How do we know?
March 4	6:00 pm—Lent Midweek, Zion
March 8	8:00 am—Church council 9:00 am—Worship
March 11	6:00 pm—Lent Midweek, Bethlehem
March 15	9:00 am—Worship 9:45—Sunday school 11:30—Adult Education—Immigration
March 18	6:00 pm—Lent Midweek, Zion
March 22	9:00 am—Worship 11:30—Faith and Current Events—Topic TBA
March 25	6:00—Lent Midweek—Bethlehem
March 29	9:00 am—Worship

- ☐ Day 25: Bake or cook something special
- ☐ Day 26: Take one day during Lent, or even one day a week to not drive anywhere.
- ☐ Day 27: Light a virtual candle [http://rejesus.co.uk/spirituality/post\\_prayer/](http://rejesus.co.uk/spirituality/post_prayer/)
- ☐ Day 28: Light an actual candle and read Luke 15:11-32. (If you live with other people, make a point of having supper together and reading this together)
- ☐ Day 29: Write a thank you note to your favorite teacher or someone else who has had a positive influence on your life
- ☐ Day 30: Check out Teammates and see if God might be calling you to that. Or even more dramatic, is God calling you to be a foster parent? ([www.teammates.org](http://www.teammates.org) and [Lutheran Family Services http://www.lfsneb.org/children/fostercare/index.asp](http://www.lfsneb.org/children/fostercare/index.asp) )
- ☐ Day 31: If you don’t already recycle, find out what it would take to do so.
- ☐ Day 32: Donate art supplies to your local elementary school
- ☐ Day 33: Read John 8:1-11 together at your evening meal (or by yourself if you live alone)
- ☐ Day 34: Worship at a friend’s mosque, synagogue or church and look for the beauty
- ☐ Day 35: Confess a secret
- ☐ Day 36: No sugar day – where else is there sweetness in your life?
- ☐ Day 37: Give \$20 to a local non-profit
- ☐ Day 38: Educate yourself about a saint [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)
- ☐ Day 39: Pray for peace
- ☐ Day 40: Pray a prayer of thanksgiving, then decide which of these exercises you’ll keep for good