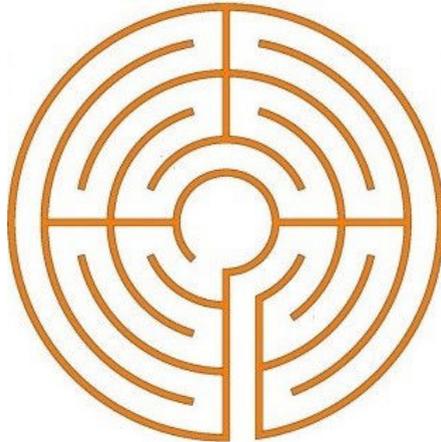


Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lenten Devotional Introduction

This Lent, we invite you to join us on a journey of spiritual examination and growth using a Lenten devotional developed specifically for Calvary. Over the next six weeks, this devotional will use scripture in the setting of a metaphorical journey on the path of Calvary's own prayer labyrinth to ask questions that are pertinent in the historical contexts of Lent and the struggles and triumphs of the early church, as well as the contemporary world in which we live.



Prayer labyrinths have been used for many centuries to facilitate prayerful meditation and can be looked at in three phases:

- The Journey In: as you open your mind to spend time with God.
- The Center: where you can pause for prayer or meditation.
- The Journey Out: as you prepare to return to your daily world.

Also, in the middle of each week, we will observe “aWareness Wednesday.” This will be a reminder to take a break from examining ourselves and spend a few minutes identifying and

considering warning signs to look out for that may indicate that someone around us is dealing with a mental health issue and what we can do to assist in those types of situations.

This devotional will be following the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) 2018 Lenten lectionary in terms of themes (Paths of Discipleship) and Gospel texts, which are the readings that you will hear in church each Sunday. We will also be exploring the Book of Acts as a guideline for our discipleship in exploring the hardships that the early disciples faced and how they overcame them. Finally, we will be using prayer labyrinths as a tool for visualizing the overall path of discipleship throughout the journey.

Below are the ELCA Lectionary readings and themes, as well as the focus of the devotional journey for the six weeks of Lent 2018:

February 18: 1st Sunday in Lent – Gospel reading: Mark 1:9-15

Path of Discipleship: Into the Wilderness

Devotional journey: The 1st Quadrant of Calvary's labyrinth

February 25: 2nd Sunday in Lent – Gospel reading: Mark 8:31-38

Path of Discipleship: Beyond Oneself

Devotional journey: The 2nd & 3rd Quadrants of Calvary's labyrinth

March 4: 3rd Sunday in Lent – Gospel reading: John 2:13-22

Path of Discipleship: Through the Maze

Devotional journey: The 4th Quadrant of Calvary's labyrinth

March 11: 4th Sunday in Lent – Gospel reading: John 3:14-21

Path of Discipleship: Within the Light

Devotional journey: The center of Calvary's labyrinth

March 18: 5th Sunday in Lent – Gospel reading: John 12:20-33

Path of Discipleship: In the Footsteps

Devotional journey: The journey back out of Calvary's labyrinth

March 25: Palm Sunday – Gospel reading: Mark 14:1-15:47

Path of Discipleship: Beneath the Cross

Devotional journey: Other reflections on prayer labyrinths

We will be emailing the devotional materials out at the beginning of each week, so we hope that you will join on this journey. Paper copies of the devotional will also be available in the narthex.

May God bless your path through Lent.