



The Beacon

February 2026

A Season to Read, Pray, and take Action with the Church

Lent is coming up in just a couple of weeks, and St. Jude's will look and sound a little different on those six Sundays leading to Easter Day (April 5). A season of preparing for Easter is an ancient tradition that is linked to the fact that historically, Easter was the primary time for adults to be baptized. Lent was an intensive time of catechesis (formation) in the early centuries of Christianity, especially since becoming a follower of Jesus could get a person arrested or killed. Children were not baptized until the Middle Ages, because they were too young to be put at such risk. What was the crime? By accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, daring to proclaim his teachings as foremost, a Christian was rejecting the claims of the empire and Caesar.

You'd think that 2,000 years of the Church, and 250 years of the USA (a group of Anglicans, Baptists and Quakers wrote our country's Constitution), would mean that Christians are safe to proclaim their fealty to Jesus. But as we've seen, to our horror, in recent weeks, claims of empire have again run up against the expectations of God, announced by the Hebrew prophets and reiterated by Jesus. "Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God!" cried Micah. "Blessed are the merciful, the humble, the peacemakers, the pure in heart," preached Jesus in his "Sermon on the Mount." Those bearing witness to the Bible's commands and acting on their baptismal promises are being labelled as criminals and treated with unrestrained violence. Pepper spray and bullets have replaced lions and gladiators. Christians followed Jesus anyway, and so must we.

We will not all agree about the right policies to deter illegal immigration. But I hope that no one has any further doubts about the immorality of ICE tactics. Attacking protestors with deadly force, blaming their victims and lying about what they did, invading citizens' homes and hauling people away in their underwear, into the snow – it's all on video and we cannot avert our eyes this time. Agents of this profound disrespect of God's children are active in our own backyard – like Flint and Detroit, not only Minneapolis, LA and Chicago.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. ELIZABETH STREET
FENTON, MI 48430

(810) 629-5681
STJUDEFENTON.COM

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
9 AM - NOON

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
9 AM - 4 PM

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SEXTONS

"A Season..." continued

As you read about the opportunities for prayer, study, fellowship, etc. this Lent, keep in mind that following Jesus has never been easy. Our Sunday morning class will feature presenters (on video) from Israel and Palestine, where the violence has been unending. But we are called to be disciples anyway, to the best of our abilities.

What can you do this Lent, so that Easter will not be a hollow "Alleluia" accompanying an overwhelmed conscience? How will we respond, in thought, word and deed, to Jesus' life, death and resurrection? Join your siblings in Christ this Lent, as we walk again through the wilderness.

Up for the challenge,

Susan+

Ash Wednesday



Plan to attend the solemn Ash Wednesday liturgy at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, with music, Holy Communion, and Imposition of Ashes. Or stop by our parking lot in the morning (7:30 - 10 am) for "Ashes to Go," if you can't make it in the evening. This reminder of our mortality sets the stage for Lent's penitence... and also for the good news of Easter.

Opportunities for Observing Lent at St. Jude's

Sundays at 9:30 am:

"Following the Way of Jesus"

Come to church early for our next video series. It's produced by the Lutheran Church (ELCA) in the Holy Land. Palestinian Christians tell the story of Jesus' life from their unique perspective in Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Judean wilderness, along the Jordan River, and Jerusalem itself. It's like taking a mini-pilgrimage. Seeing these locations can help us understand both the Bible and the news, with compassion for the people who are trying to follow Christ in the places he lived.

Thursdays at 6 pm:

Simple Suppers

We're the hosts this year, as folks from First Presbyterian Church will cross Elizabeth Street and come for soup, salad and bread; and our series watching episodes from Season 5 of "The Chosen." Don't worry if you haven't watched before – we will provide an overview of the characters, and consider the Bible passages being dramatized. This season is all about Holy Week. We know what's going to happen to Jesus – how will it be scripted and presented on the screen, for a wide range of viewers? Sign up in Vandenberg Hall to help provide soup, salad or bread (two of each per night, from both churches). A few people are needed to help set up and clean up, too. We'll begin and finish with prayer and be out by 8 pm.

February Birthdays

1st Julie Wood
2nd Chet Susalla
4th Marica Freeman
Judi Harris
13th Bob Hutchins
18th Lorraine Moller
22nd Diane Hill
25th Martha Applebee

February Anniversaries

14th Dustin & Meghan Rayner (8th)
29th Tim Norred & Megan Rosa (6th)

Opportunities for Observing Lent at Home



Forward Movement
inspire disciples. empower evangelists.

Forward Day by Day

Available year-round from our church in those little booklets, these daily reflections draw on the Daily Office Lectionary readings (referenced at the top of each page; also found in the back of every BCP. We are in Year 2.) If you haven't tried FDbD before, you might want to this Lent. Also available online or download their app for Apple or Android devices. [Morning and Evening Prayer](#) are also available from the website (choose "Pray the Office" for the full versions, or "Daily Devotions" to take a 5-minute break for God). This website is very handy if you want to include more prayer in your day!



Lent Madness

Based on the "March Madness" basketball tournament, this is a fun way to learn about the saints and interact online with your fellow participants, as you guess which one will be the most popular in head-to-head contests and an overall champion. It's kinda hard to explain, so take a look at the website!

Meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development

Every Lent, ERD "publishes" daily reflections from a variety of writers – or, this year, by just one, an Episcopal nun who is popular on tiktok! [Available online here](#) or sign up for daily emails from that same page. We will also print some copies for those who don't do digital, and you can pick one up at church.



d365, digital content for youth and young adults

This is an app produced by a student ministry organization called Passport, Inc, and sponsored by several mainline denominations including ours. d365 provides daily inspiration, based on a weeklong theme. Learn more [here](#).



UTO Book Club

Members of the United Thank Offering organization are offering a 5-session book club on [The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer (also the author of the best-selling Braiding Sweetgrass). Discussions will be on Tuesdays at noon, over Zoom, [register here](#).



Reflections

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", January 28th edition

Sent with Care

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

2 Timothy 4:13



I recently learned that the name "CARE" package came from the acronym for "Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe," a group that sent boxes of food to help Europeans displaced during World War II. While the care packages I send my kids at college are mostly filled with homemade treats and candy, they usually include a few practical items—a favorite shirt forgotten at home or extra school supplies.

While the name "care package" may be modern, the practice of sending helpful items is far older. It's even tucked away at the end of 2 Timothy. Writing while imprisoned in Rome, Paul concluded his letter to his trusted disciple with some personal requests. He asked that Timothy come and bring Mark to help him

(4:11). Then he requested some personal items: his cloak and his "scrolls, especially the parchments" (v. 13). Perhaps the cloak was needed because winter was coming, and maybe the scrolls contained copies of the Old Testament. Whatever the reason, Paul longed for companionship and practical items to refresh and encourage him.

Tangible reminders of care, whether the recipient lives near or far, can have a significant impact on someone in need of a little encouragement. The gift of a meal for a neighbor, a thoughtful card written to a loved one or acquaintance, or a package full of goodies sent to a faraway friend can extend God's love in practical ways.

By Lisa M. Samra

Reflect & Pray

When did you receive a reminder of God's love? How did that kindness encourage you?

Heavenly Father, please open my eyes to see who I might show Your love to.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 2/4

5 pm: Worship Committee

Saturday, 2/7

9 am - Noon: Basic Needs Pantry

Wednesday, 2/11

1 pm: Outreach Meeting

Friday, 2/13

7 pm: Euchre Night hosted by Social Committee

Saturday, 2/14

9:30 am - 2:30 pm: Vestry Retreat

Tuesday, 2/17

1 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, 2/18

Ash Wednesday

7:30 - 10 am: Ashes-to-Go
7 pm: Service

Thursday, 2/19

6 pm: Book Club @ Church
Sandwich: A Novel by
Catherina Newman

Thursday, 2/26

6 pm: Lent Simple Supper
w/First Presbyterian

Every Sunday

9:30 am: Adult Formation
10:30 am: Holy Eucharist

Every Wednesday

6 pm: Choir Rehearsal



Euchre Night

Social Committee is hosting a Euchre Party on Friday, February 13 at 7 pm. We will set up the tables, you bring snacks and drinks to share. Sign up in Vandenberg hall.

Building & Grounds

Last month as part of our annual report, we updated everyone on projects that we hope to complete on our building and grounds in 2026:

1. Critter control
2. Painting Vandenberg Hall and the hallway
3. Exterior painting
4. Repairing and repainting front doors

We are inviting new members to join the team. Contact any of our team to join us. We also can always use funding for the above projects. If you want to contribute just write a check to St. Jude's and mark in the memo area the project. Your support would be much appreciated.

Ron Trimmer
Building & Grounds chair

7th Annual Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar

It's a new year and here is our first announcement for the Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar 2026. Yes, dates are set this year for **Friday October 9th and Saturday October 10th** (yes, that's a little earlier than in the past) at St. Jude's Episcopal Church.

We have begun the process of inviting Crafters to be a part of this Fall Event. We are always trying to find talented crafters with unique handmade items. If you know someone that might be interested let them know to contact the St. Jude's Office 810-629-5681. This year we will have crafters for both days in Vandenberg Hall and Library and overflow in church proper. We will also accept vendors that want to participate only on Saturday in the Church proper.

This year we are doing something new. We will have a St. Jude's booth but, instead of having gift jars, we will be featuring donated craft items from individuals. Liz is chairing the booth and looking for individuals that may want to craft something to donate to the booth.

We again will have a great food concession chaired by Kathy Hopper, and another 50/50 drawing chaired by Ron Trimmer. We need more volunteers to help with this event.

Always looking for donations to help fund the advertising etc. The profits will be given to Building and Grounds to help with the many on going projects.

Mark your calendars!

Your committee:

Heather Ludwig, chairperson

Liz Salius, Lynn Hopper, Sue Premo and Ron Trimmer

WORSHIP LEADERS for February 2026

Lay Eucharistic Minister(s)	2 nd Chalice	Reader	Intercessor	Ushers	Altar Guild	Vestry Person of the Day	Live - Streamer	Coffee Hour Host(s)
February 1								
Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Paul Dolza	Mary Louise S.	Ellen Tripp	Nancy Day	Dave & Deb James	Sarah D., Lisa Cronk	Sue Premo	Paul Dolza	The Andersons
February 8								
Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Mary Louise S.	Paul Dolza	Katie Young	Dee Grossmann	Dave & Denise Rayner	Mary Louise S., Diane Hill	???	Dave Rayner	The Hills
February 15								
Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Paul Dolza	Amy Freeman	Nancy Day	Pedro Melchor	Charlie J., Jessica M.	Dee G., Lisa Cronk	???	Lynn Hopper	The Sailus Family
February 22								
Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz								
Amy Freeman	Dee Grossmann	Rev. Bill McDonald	Dolores Ruby	Kelly & Lisa Cronk	Terri H., Francine J.	???	Dave James	??
March 1								
Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Dee Grossmann	Clay Putnam	Dave James	Deb James	Lynne R., Nancy Day	Sarah D., Lisa Cronk	???	Lynn Hopper	??

Monday Office Volunteer(s):

2nd - Francine Johnston
 9th - Heather Ludwig
 16th - Dave Little
 23rd - Francine Johnston

Thurs. Office Volunteer(s):

5th - Judy Marinco
 12th - Nancy Day
 19th - Lynne Ronthi
 26 - Kathy Kortge



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VESTRY

2027

Doug Hill

Dave James

2028

Charles Johnston

Sue Premo

Megan Rosa-Norred

2029

Mark Jagos

Diane Putnam

Denise Rayner

Dolores Ruby

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Mark Jagos, Charles Johnston

Alternates: Katie Young, Amy Freeman