

APHESIS – Our 2009 Lenten journey

Generally when people hear the word 'LENT' one of two thoughts pop into their minds:

- Oh no, not that dreadfully depressing season when we talk about Jesus dying again?!
- Darn, what do I have to give up this year? Don't say chocolate!

But there's more to Lent. It's a journey we need to take with Jesus. Like his first disciples, we need this time to wrestle and come to grips with his death and resurrection. Without this journey, without Lent, Easter gets boiled down to a one day party characterized by lilies, chocolate eggs and a sea of people dressed in pretty pastels.

This year, our Lenten focus is centered on the Greek word "APHESIS", as found in Luke 4:18-19, which means 'release', 'deliverance', 'remission' and 'liberation'. Together we are going to discover how Jesus' mission and ministry of APHESIS throughout his lifetime propels us towards his cross which was the doorway to ultimate liberation – liberation from sin and death.

Each Friday evening in Lent you are invited to gather at the church to explore accounts of Christ's liberating mission, and then travel with us to a local agency which is involved in justice, liberation and advocacy for the people of our community. Christ's APHESIS is still at work in our world today!

Here are our first three Fridays:

Friday February 27th	Mark 5:21-43 & Maplehurst Correctional Complex
Friday March 6th	Luke 8:26-39 & Narcotics Anonymous
Friday March 13th	Matthew 25:31-46 & Refugee Services

The last three weeks will be posted in the bulletin. Our scripture exploration begins at 6:00pm, but feel free to come early for coffee and tea and refreshments.

Our Sunday morning worship will also be transformed by this theme of social justice and Christ's liberating mission to the world.

We're in the season of Lent. I invite you to share these sacred days with me... as we journey toward Christ's old rugged cross and his empty tomb. My prayer is that the living Spirit of a risen Christ will journey with us through these Lenten days.

Jacqui Foxall