

In harsh economic times, we find we are all getting “back to the basics.” “What are the things that are truly important in my budget, in my schedule, in my life? “Are they worth the cost?” we ask ourselves.

Lent is always a time for getting back to basics. Traditionally, Christians across the globe take on a spiritual discipline like fasting, or almsgiving. I would like to encourage you in whatever you are doing that helps you get “back to the basics” of the faith.

One option would be to attend Wednesday midweek worship at 7pm throughout Lent. We will be looking at the Ten Commandments. There is not much that is more “back to basics” than revisiting those gracious laws from God!

If you are unable, I invite you to review them in Exodus or Deuteronomy. Another option is to pick up (and read) one of the Lenten devotional booklets by the front doors.

And I leave you with the exhortation that we hear on Ash Wednesday, from the Lutheran Book of Worship:

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father,

who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

May God grant us strength to persevere as we get “back to the basics.”

Peace be with you,

Pastor Chris