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Lenten Season Will Open On Wednesday

By LOUIS CASSEL
United Press International

For millions of Christians, next Wednesday marks the start of the spring training season.

From then until Easter (April 17), they will apply to their spiritual lives the same basic principle that athletes follow in getting into condition.

The principle is that unused muscles grow flabby, and can be toned up only through exercise.

About Lent—which is the official name of the spiritual spring training season—a Christian is supposed to give his will power a workout. He practices acts of self-discipline and self-denial, not as ends in themselves, but in order to toughen up some of the moral fibers that have gone soft from easy living.

Decree Formalizes Custom

Lent is one of the oldest seasons of the church calendar. Its present duration—the 40 weekdays and 6 Sundays preceding Easter—was fixed by Pope Felix II in 487 A.D. But his decree merely formalized a custom which had been widespread in the early Christian church since the second century.

Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Eastern Orthodox Christians always have placed great emphasis on Lent. In recent years, Lenten observance has been growing rapidly among Presbyterians, Methodists and other Protestants.

Each person decides for himself how he will keep Lent.

The Catholic Church prescribes certain minimum rules of fasting (adults must forego meat at two of their three meals on weekdays), but leaves the individual free to choose what further sacrifices he will make. Millions of Catholics voluntarily give up drinking, smoking, movies or other worldly pleasures.

Protestant Fasting Differs

Many Protestants also fast during Lent. But fasting in Protestant usage is not necessarily related to food. It simply means making yourself do without something which you particularly enjoy—perhaps something as worthwhile as listening to symphonic records, or as harmless as reading detective stories.

Both Protestants and Catholics believe that Lent should be a time for adding as well as subtracting. The "positive" aspects of Lenten observance include more frequent attendance at worship services, extra periods of private devotions, reading religious books, participating in discussion groups, and undertaking special acts of voluntary service, such as visiting hospitals.

These things, however, also have a sacrificial aspect, since they involve giving up time which might, in other seasons, be spent in rest or recreation.

Aircraft Accident Board Is Appointed

RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI)—The U.S. Navy has appointed an air-accident board to investigate the air collision which killed 61 persons here Thursday—35 of them Americans.

Rear Adm. John Quinn, chief of the U.S. military mission to Brazil, convened the board Friday. He said two members of the designated U.S. Navy band have been flown here from Buenos Aires to help identify the bandmen who perished in the double crash.

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ZION Evangelical and Reformed (United Church of Christ)

Third and Jackson, pastor
William C. Feller, pastor

Church school, 9 a.m. Robert Kershner, assistant superintendent, will be in charge. There is a class and a welcome for every member of your family. Come and join us in the study of God's Word.

Divine worship, 10 a.m. Sermon by the pastor: "Spiritual Growth." The youth choir will sing, "Love Lifted Me" by Smith. Visitors are always welcome in this service. If you are without a church home in this community, we invite you to worship with us.

About 48 teams will participate in the pre-Lenten visitation Sunday afternoon and evening, among the members and friends of the church.

Youth fellowship, 5 p.m. Devotions will be given by Marcella Whetstone. The program will be in charge of Mrs. William Feller. Supper will be sponsored by Mrs. Harold Hoffman and Mrs. Dorris Heath.

Youth choir rehearsal Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

The first mid-week Lenten service will be held Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Sermon by the pastor: "The Anointing at Bethany."

The Women's Guild will meet after the Lenten service.

Heidelberg class meeting Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

World day of prayer service, sponsored by the Decatur Council of Church Women, in the First Presbyterian church, Friday, 1:30 p.m. Children's world day of prayer services, 3:15 p.m., Friday—in the First Baptist church and the First Missionary church.

Senior choir rehearsal Friday at 7 p.m.

Catechetical classes Saturday morning: seniors at 9, juniors at 10 a.m.

Come and worship with us.

CHURCH OF GOD 62 Cleveland Street Huston Beyer, Jr., pastor

8:30 a.m., "The Christian Brotherhood Hour," over WKJG. A program dedicated to presenting the message of Christian Brotherhood to all the world.

9:30 a.m., morning worship. Our pastor speaks to us on a very important subject, "Wells Not Cisterns." Be with us this morning in our services.

10:40 a.m., Sunday school. Mrs. Emery Hawkins and her fine staff of workers, urge you to be present.

6 p.m., youth fellowship. Miss Cassie Strickler in charge of devotions. Rev. Beyer will speak to us in regards to "The Bible and Divorce."

7:30 p.m., evening service. Bring a friend and be our guest.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., prayer service. "Why the Church of God?" Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Missionary Society will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Plan Surgery For General MacArthur

NEW YORK (UPI)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur is being prepared for surgery to correct a urological condition which hospitalized him four weeks ago.

His physician, Dr. George W. Slaughter, said Friday no date had been set for the surgery.

The five-star general's condition was reported satisfactory. He had suffered an enlargement of the prostate which gave rise to a urological infection.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH V. Rev. Simeon Schmitt, Pastor

Sunday Masses

5:00 a.m.
7:15 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
9:45 a.m. (High mass)
11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses

School days: 6 a.m., 8:15 a.m.
and 11 a.m.
Non-school days: 6 a.m., 7 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Mercer Avenue at Five Points
Harold J. Bond, Minister

9:15 a.m., Sunday school classes for all ages. Two year olds are important to the Christian education program. As to the person, growth still centers in large muscles, development slows a little, has better emotional and muscular control. Self-assertion, some self-discipline, intense, short-lived anger; curiosity; parallel play; conflict about things. Tries to imitate and please parents. Two year olds need patience, love, time and interest rather than things: routines and "helping"; security. Important relationships at this age include relatives, family friends, and neighbors. Possibly baby sitters. Limited community contacts. Church care groups. Spiritual and religious impressions made at this age carry over into the rest of life.

10:30 a.m., morning worship. The pastor will open the Lenten theme, "Friendship with Christ," which on February 28 will include.

"Andrew—Who made the Great Discovery," "John the Baptist—Who Shared a Dream," will be the March 6 theme. March 13, "Peter—Believed as the Average Man."

March 20, "John—Who understood More Completely," March 27,

"Nicodemus—Who Wanted to Be Born Again," April 3, "Zacchaeus—Who Dined and Discovered Life."

3 p.m., the pastor's communicant class will meet.

4:15 p.m., junior youth fellowship will meet.

5:30 p.m., junior and senior high youth fellowship.

Flowers for Feb. 21 were presented by Mrs. Wm. P. Schrock, Sr. Flowers for Feb. 28 are presented by Mrs. Joseph Thompson.

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent. For many centuries the Christian church has, in varying ways, observed the season of Lent. The word "Lent" comes from the old English word "Lenten" which means spring. It is a season of penitence and is a period of forty days (from Ash Wednesday to the eve of Easter) not counting Sundays. Easter is observed among us on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox.

The Lenten theme is based upon the example and teaching of Jesus and is continuous with the life and history of the church. The spirit of Lent is not to be confined to these forty days even as the spirit of Christmas and Easter should not be limited to the one day. The mission of Lent is that of "Spiritual Discipline, Exercise and Preparation."

Friday, March 4, the world day of prayer will be observed in the Presbyterian church with the program to begin at 1:30 p.m. Additional services will be conducted for children at the First Baptist church at 3:30 and the Missionary church at 3:30 p.m.

"Christian Witness" will be the title of the sermon, based on John 25:42. This is Sharing Christ Sunday at Zion. The sharing Christ Callers will be consecrated in the services. It is our desire to share the Lenten Gospel of Jesus' suffering and death with friends who have no church home.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in both services this Sunday.

On Monday, the Board of Christian Education will meet at 7:30 p.m.

The Sunday school teachers will have a meeting at 7:30 p.m. or Tuesday.

Wednesday, the school devotional will begin at 8:20 a.m. In the evening, to begin the Lenten season, services will be held at 6:45 p.m.

The Neeble club will meet Thursday at 10 a.m. for an all-day session.

The Saturday school meets at 9:15 a.m. for grades 5-8.

MISSIONARY

Tenth and Dayton Streets
Gerald I. Gerig, pastor

9 a.m., Sunday school hour.

10 a.m., morning worship hour. Guest speaker will be Rev. Ernest Bella. Choir is under the direction of Darrell Gerig and the organist is Barbara Harden.

6:30 p.m., pre-service prayer. Children's gospel hour. Teen-age MYF.

7 p.m., evening gospel hour. Rev. Bella speaking.

8 p.m., choir rehearsal.

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., prayer and praise. The pastor will be back and we will continue the studies on the Holy Spirit.

Saturday, 7 p.m., men's prayer meeting.

Your family is always welcome at our church.

TRINITY Evangelical United Brethren Ninth and Madison Streets J. O. Feuer, minister

The church school activities will begin at 9 a.m. Max Gilpin will be in charge.

The pastor's class will meet in the church kitchen at 9 o'clock.

Morning worship service will begin at 10 a.m. The pastor's message will be "A Son's First Chance." The youth and junior choir under the direction of Walter Henkel will sing "Lift A Lamp" by Benson. Miss Kay Wynn will preside at the organ.

The junior-hi "Y-Hour" will meet Sunday, 6 p.m.

The senior-hi "Y-Hour" will meet Sunday, 6 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Norval Rich, MD., who will speak on the subject "Respect Your Date." Youth leading in the devotional period will be Kay Wynn, Steve Butcher and Barry Ellis.

The Sunday evening worship will be held at 7 p.m. The Rev. F. L. Engle, pastor of the South Wayne Evangelical United Brethren church in Fort Wayne, will bring the message. Laymen who will share in this service will be Elaine Cochran and Virgil Andrews. The service will be a family worship service.

Boy Scout Troop No. 65 will meet Monday, 6:30 p.m.

The sixth grade catechetical class will meet Wednesday, 4 p.m. Seventh grade catechetical class, 6 p.m. Boys and girls fellowship will meet Wednesday, 7 p.m. Mid-week worship for youth and adults at 7 p.m. Youth and junior choir rehearsal, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Chancel choir rehearsal, 8 p.m.

The ladies aid will meet Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held Friday, 1:30 p.m. in the Presbyterian church. The high school and grade school services will be held in the Baptist and Missionary churches at 3:15 p.m.