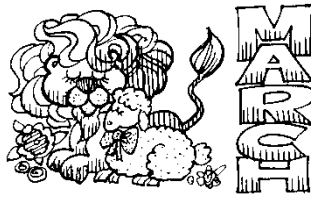


**ANNOUNCING**



**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**

**EVERY MONTH SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 a.m.
Informal Worship	Sunday	10:45 a.m.
Worship Hour	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
Commissions	3rd Thursday	6:00 p.m.
General Board	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Singers	Thursday	4:15 p.m.
Friday Fellowship	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays	1:00 p.m.
Women's Fellowship	3rd Tuesday	1:00 p.m.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

**The Mirror – March 2022**

The Mirror is published once a Month. Information deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.



Empire Church  
of the Brethren

P.O. Box 215

Empire, CA 95319

Phone: 209-522-4302

Pastor John Price: (209) 480-2778

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.



You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. *Psalm 91:1-6*

### **IN CHRIST ALONE**

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**



**Pastor John and Kathy Price** – Breathing and Strength in Recovery

**Butch Peterson** – Healing from COVID Pneumonia

**Skip Powell** – Strength in Recovery

**David and Cheryl Leib** – Energy and Strength in Recovery

**COVID** – Among Us



### **WHAT IS LENT?**

#### **What is Lent?**

Lent is the six-week season that leads up to Easter. The Lenten season is one of the most significant times of the year for many Christians around the world, especially those within the Anglican, Catholic, and Orthodox churches, held at a comparable level of meaning to Advent, the arrival of Christmas.

While Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, Lent is commonly regarded as a period of sober observance. The Lenten season is a preparation for commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start date on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a customary time for fasting or giving something up or abstinence. Just as we thoughtfully prepare for events in our individual lives, such as a wedding, or birthday, participating in Lent invites us to prepare our minds and hearts for glorifying Jesus' life, death, and bodily resurrection.

Ash Wednesday starts Lent with a day of remembering our humanity, the reality of death, and the need for repentance. Churches symbolize this by putting ashes on foreheads, often in the shape of a cross.

#### **What is the Meaning of Lent?**

Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. A humble understanding of knowing that we are all born with the curse of sin and that there is repentance required. The purpose of Lent is to fully

recognize our brokenness as humans and the need for a Savior. The time period of Lent allows for us to reflect and open our hearts to Jesus.

The main observation of Lent, fasting, is done so in order to clear distractions and focus on Christ. The act of giving up something and replacing it with prayer and worship, gives way to a deeper relationship with God.

The 40 Days of Lent (not counting Sundays) honor the period of time similar to multiple stories in the bible: (1) Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days and was tempted by the devil (*Matthew 4:1-2*); (2) The Hebrew people wandered 40 years in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land (*Numbers 14:33*); (3) Jonah's prophecy of judgment gave 40 days to the city of Nineveh in which to repent or be destroyed (*Jonah 3:4*); (4) Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God (*Exodus 24:18*); (5) Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb (*1 Kings 19:8*); (6) God sent 40 days and night of rain in the great flood of Noah (*Genesis 7:4*).

### **What is the History of Lent?**

Christians honor the 40 days and nights following Christ's baptism when He went into the wilderness without water and food and was tempted by Satan. During that time, Christ did what we do today when we fast: wrestle with temptation. This was not the first fast; biblical figures often fasted when petitioning God for something important. "So we fasted and implored our God [ . . . ], and he listened to our entreaty" (*Ezra 8:23*). The Israelites "mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword" (*2 Samuel 1:12*).

### **Who Celebrates Lent?**

You may think that all Christians celebrate and traditionally observe the Lenten season, but that's actually not the case. While some Christians dutifully follow the customs of Lent, others do not participate in traditional Lenten practices such as strict fasting. Christians that honor and abide by the historical Lent tradition include Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Lutherans, and Methodists.

### **Suggestions for Lent This Year**

Whether you attend a church that observes Lenten traditions or not, you can use Lent as a time to reflect, repent and grow. Here are three things you can do this Lenten season:

**Repent of Sin.** Identify a sinful activity that keeps coming up in your life, something that you know you need to work on. If you can't think of one, pray and ask God if there is any sin he wants you to know about. You can probably identify several sins, but choose just one for now so you don't lose focus during Lent. Confess that sin to God and ask for repentance. If you are in a church community with Christians that you trust to hold you accountable, arrange to talk with each other about how you're doing.

**Set a prayer time.** If you don't already, pick a time each day, or a day of the week, to spend time with God in prayer. There are many prayer guides or Christian contemplation techniques, such as *lectio divina*, that you can use to guide this time. If you want a Bible passage to meditate on during this time, consider reading the passion story or something else Lent-related.

**Choose something to fast from.** Fasting is traditionally associated with food, but you can fast from anything that you ordinarily devote lots of time to. Some Christians will fast from video games, junk food, or non-Christian music during Lent. Use the time you would normally spend on those activities in prayer or contemplation. If you have other Christians in your life

that are interested in fasting, consider becoming each others' accountability partners. Remember that the important thing is not to make fasting an obligation, but something that focuses your mind on God. Therefore, have grace with yourself and with others if you stop fasting or only do it part of the Lenten season.

[www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com)

## **POSITIVE INSIGHTS**

*“At that time when David saw that the Lord had answered him in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.” 1 Chronicles 21:28*

Many years ago, in a farmhouse in the Midwest, a seventeen-year-old boy was in a coma, desperately ill. The doctor said, “I see no reason why this boy should die. What he needs is a faith transfusion, a desire to live. In some way he is near death because the faith isn't there to pull him through.” He said, “If a transfusion like that doesn't happen, he will die before morning.”

When the doctor said that, a farmer drew near and started reading to the boy from the Bible. Hour after hour, he drove those healing thoughts into the boy's unconscious mind until near dawn when, suddenly, the boy gave a sigh. His eyes opened, he looked at the man and at all the people in the room – gave them a smile and fell into a deep, untroubled, normal sleep.

The doctor checked his vital signs and said, “The boy will live!” And he did live. Saved by what? By faith and prayer and thought. The problem had its solution right within itself, as all problems do.

**Prayer:** *Our Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are related to our health and well-being. Help us to empty out all diseased attitudes, that the great healthy mindedness that comes from You, our Creator, may result in re-creation of our bodies, our minds, and our souls.*

*Norman Vincent Peale*

## **CAMP PEACEFUL PINES NEWS**

Calling all well-seasoned or new campers!!

We will be open for the 2022 camping season. So . . .

### **Save the Dates**

Women's retreat	June 10 - 12
Jr./Jr. High/Youth Camp	June 26 – July 1
Discovery Camp	July 5 - 11
Family Camp	July 22 - 27
Weekend Camp	August 12 – 14



Plan now to spend part of your summer at Camp Peaceful Pines in the beautiful high Sierras. For more information, go to our website at [CampPeacefulPines.Org](http://CampPeacefulPines.Org)



## KIDS IN CHURCH CAUSE MASS HYSTERIA

By Erma Bombeck



The inside of a house of worship must be the most confusing place ever to a child.

There's water that you can't play in, books without pictures and mysterious doors that no one ever opens. You're never allowed to see what's behind you, and the only thing you have to play with is your tongue and that's punishable by severe pinching.

One of the problems is we never really tell kids what services are all about. All they're told is to be quiet and not talk for an hour. They have no idea what we're doing. When my son was 5 years old, I dragged him to confession one Saturday. Every time I inched toward the closed closet door, my son would start to say something and I would clap my hand over his mouth. Finally, the line started with me. I was next up when he said, "I don't have to go to the bathroom. I went before I left home," and bolted toward the parking lot.

There's the plight of the 4-year-old who was in church on Sunday when the wine and wafers were passed out. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to comprehend the transubstantiation and that he was not allowed to partake in the Communion. Later, the collection plate came by and stopped dead in front of him. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of his clenched fist. He held firm and shouted, "If I can't eat, I won't pay."

*Faith* is just a word to children. They don't know what it means, how to get it, how to keep it or what to do with it. They just pick up bits and pieces of conversation and try to sound like an adult. A Sunday school teacher asked her class if anyone knew where God is. One little girl said, "He's in the bathroom in the back of the church." When the teacher pressed her for her rationale, she said, "My mother is always knocking on the door saying, 'God, are you still in there?'"

Adults become different people in church. A few years ago, our son served his first Mass as an altar boy. He knew he was supposed to ring the bells at a certain time in the Mass, but he wasn't sure when, so he rang them every time he passed them. After the service, the priest leaned over and said to me, "It was like serving Mass with Quasimodo." Ordinarily, I would have roared and sent the story off to Reader's Digest. I sat there like a mask of tragedy.

Church to a child is low-noise-level punishment, like holding your body in a vise and pretending to arrange your hair when they're really pulling it. Church is lips that sing "Love the little children" at the same time eyes are saying, "You will never get another Oreo cookie for as long as you live." Church is where everyone talks about joy and love and happiness, but when someone rings bells at the wrong time we're afraid to laugh. Why?



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHANGE

Starting this month, **Women's Fellowship will be meeting at 1:00pm** on the third Tuesday of the month.

# JANUARY 2022 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 17

## Giving:

Local:	\$9,252.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	87.72
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$9,339.72</b>



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH



### ANNIVERSARIES

24<sup>th</sup> –Don & Susan Wyatt

### BIRTHDAYS

01<sup>st</sup> –Cheryl Leib



06<sup>th</sup> –Christopher Heiny

09<sup>th</sup> –Jeffrey Price

15<sup>th</sup> –Susan Wyatt

20<sup>th</sup> –Sarah (Wyatt) Peterson

26<sup>th</sup> –Ben Baker

*If we have missed wishing you a happy birthday or a happy anniversary, we may not have your dates. Please turn in your name and dates to the church secretary. You are important to us!*

### OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES:

**Website:**[www.empirecob.org](http://www.empirecob.org); **Facebook:**[www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB](http://www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB);

**Twitter:**[https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and

**Instagram:**<https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>





# MARCH 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR
















S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Joshua 1:1-9  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Matthew 11:25-30  Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Philippians 2:1-11  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Ecclesiastes 11:1-6  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Psalm 23:1-6  Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey
6 Jeremiah 18:1-6  Pastor & Teachers Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Ephesians 2:4-10  Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	8 John 16:25-33  Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie	9 James 5:13-18  Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	10 Luke 8:49-56  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 1 Samuel 16:1-13  Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 John 17:17-26  Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk
13 Psalm 139:13-18  Pastor & Teachers Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson	14 Galatians 5:22-25  Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Matthew 14:22-33  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan	16 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell	17 2 Corinthians 2:14-17  Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Family	18 Psalm 119:25-32  John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	19 Matthew 6:1-4  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam.
20 Genesis 1:1-5  Pastor & Teachers Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer	21 1 Peter 2:4-10  Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	22 Proverbs 3:5-8  Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	23 Matthew 28:16-20  J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 2 Samuel 22:31-37  Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	25 1 Corinthians 3:5-11  Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	26 Psalm 139:1-10  Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.
27 1 Corinthians 2:6-10  Pastor & Teachers Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Ephesians 5:1-11  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 Psalm 16:5-11	30 Ephesians 6:10-17	31 Mark 10:17-22		



**PRAYER**  
The world's greatest wireless connection




**MARCH 2022**  
**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	2  8:00 am <b>Government Commodities Distribution</b>	3  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	4 <b>1:00pm Friday Fellowship</b>  <b>To Be Announced</b>	5 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
6	7	8  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	9	10  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	11	12 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
13  Daylight Savings Begins 2:00am (Set clock forward one hour)   <b>Coffee Hour</b>	14	15  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon  1:00pm Women's Fellowship Mtg.	16	17  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	18 <b>1:00pm Friday Fellowship</b>  <b>To Be Announced</b>	19 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
20	21	22  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	23	24  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	25	26 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
27   <b>Coffee Hour</b>	28	29  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	30	31		

**EVERY SUNDAY**

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour