

Dear Friends:

We've always done it "that way" is not something the church can claim. We have maybe done it "that way" in our lifetime, maybe even going back to our grandparent's lifetime, but things change, whether it be hymns, worship styles, interpreting the Bible or creating new theology.

This also holds true for Lent. The forty days of Lent was originally used as an intensive learning and training time for those who were to become Christians by being baptized on Easter Sunday, which for a while was the only time the early church baptized new believers.

When the Roman Catholic Church was formed, Lent eventually became a time of penitence and because people started eating more cow meat than fish, a way to prop up the fishing industry in Italy. Many Protestant churches did away with such traditions (like not eating meat) because it had little to do with our salvation.

However, now that Christianity is reforming again and salvation is not seen at the penultimate issue, we are focusing more on discipleship, loving our neighbor, and justice. Lent can be a time to focus on our day-to-day walk. This can include fasting: certain foods, social media, entertainment, prayers, silence, and learning or reading something spiritual.

Our Lenten Series with the Spirit of the Wilderness church is about building hope. Maybe discovering or trying a new discipline or finding a new tool in which to love more fully and walk the path of peace and justice.

Whatever you choose to do or not do, God still loves you and you are always welcome here. Listen for that still small voice that comes and invites us to journey with God. Is there an invitation this season?

Peace
Pastor Enno