

# THE DEACON

2016 Issue 2

March/April 2016

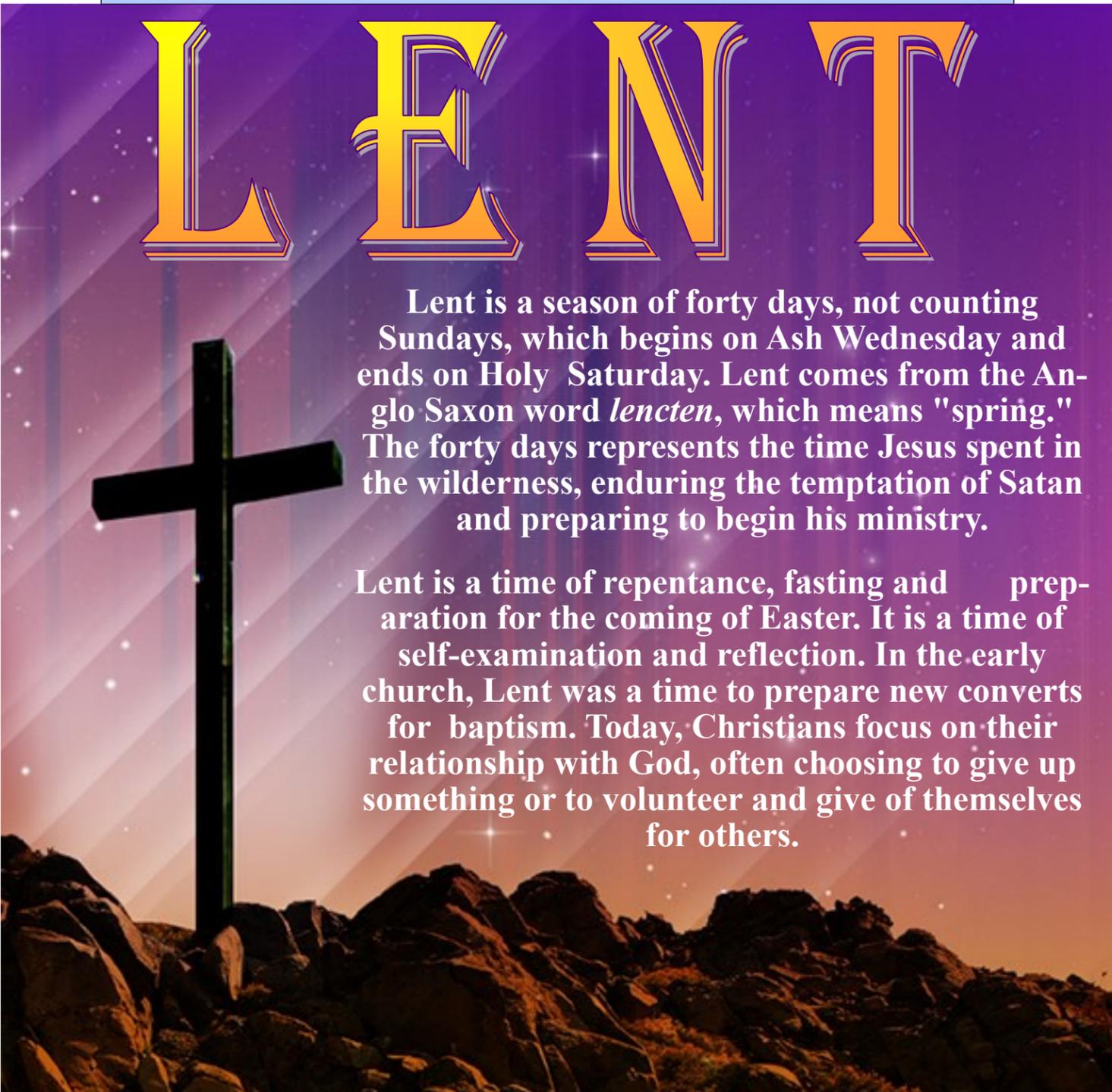
**Serving a diverse community unified in Christ.  
The Newsletter from The Sanctuary**

**“A TIME FOR PREPARATION”**

## LENT

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencen*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.



## HEART TO HEART

By Rev. Vicente Martinez



This year's Lenten theme is: ***"The Power of Prayer: Deliverance, Hope, and Sacrifice."*** During this special season of reflection, consecration, and transformation, God is calling us to live out our purpose (last month's theme) by embracing in our lives the power of prayer. Prayer is the key to our victory! Prayer is the means by which we connect to the power of God, and prayer is what enables us to experience the glory of God. When we pray, when we come before the presence of the living God, things happen! Nothing stays the same when we are touched by the Spirit of God. Deliverance occurs for "the truth will set us free", Hope is rekindled for "anything is possible for God", and being a "living sacrifice" truly becomes a way of life that is "pleasing and acceptable" to God. With the power of prayer, we are perfectly equipped to face any challenge, and fight any battle in the name of the Lord! We have victory over all things!

Jesus' encounter with a desperate father whose son was extremely ill exemplifies how the power of prayer changes and transforms lives. The above-stated Scripture speaks about a boy "possessed by a spirit" needing deliverance and how his father came to Jesus and the disciples for help. Needless to say, Jesus prayed for the child and the child experienced immediate liberation and healing! But what transpired throughout this stirring encounter taught the disciples, and most importantly, teaches us crucial lessons concerning the power of prayer and our roles as "Prayer Warriors" with a purpose in God.

Firstly, we must never forget that prayer and our ability to tap into the power of God is not only for ourselves but for all those around us...family, friends, co-workers, and even strangers. There are so many people in the same situation as that father who came to Jesus. There are so many people suffering from all kinds of diseases, so many facing taunting personal problems, and so many drowning in a sea of hopelessness. These people are searching for solutions and we are the ones God has called to bring forth the good news of the gospel, and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit! It is the church who in the name of Jesus can rebuke the enemy and free the captives from sin. It is in Jesus' name that we break the chains that hold down our brothers and sisters and free them to experience victory in the Lord. This is called DELIVERANCE! Glory be to the living God!

Soldiers go to great length to train and prepare for war. They do so at great sacrifice understanding that their lives, as well as the other soldiers' lives, depend on them being ready and fit. We are no different! We must be ready to face a formidable enemy who is looking to devour and destroy. That calls for us to pray more, praise more, and proclaim more! God calls us to go beyond our ritualistic routine to truly seek dialogue and relationship with Jesus, our Savior. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Miracles still happen, liberation still occurs, and transformation still takes place. And all we need to do is PRAY!

## Church Blurbs n Buzz!!

### EASTER FLOWERS

This year we will again have our Easter Lily cross set up on the chancel, and we are offering you the chance to purchase the flowers in memory of loved ones. We will also have tulips in several colors for sale. The order forms will be in the weekly bulletin as we get closer to Easter. What a beautiful way to honor our loved ones, while making the church look special for Easter.

### LENTEN POT LUCK DINNER

On **March 17<sup>th</sup>** we will be having our **Pot Luck Dinner** in Fellowship Hall at 6:30p.m. So bring a dish to share with others and join us. We will be watching the movie "The Passion" after dinner. Those who have seen this film recommend it highly. The film is 90 minutes long and is appropriate for younger children. We hope to see you there!

### THE SANCTUARY CONTINUES TO GROW

We rejoice in the Lord for the decision made by 10 of our adherents **to become members** of our church. We praise the Lord for them and the ministries they will carry out in our midst. As part of the membership process, **we will hold a very important class on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, immediately after our worship. If you are interested in joining your other brothers and sisters in becoming a member, see the pastor, and join us on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## At A Glance

### March

#### 5th

Communion Sunday (Food on the 1st, Noisy Cans, Missions)

#### 10th

Neighborhood Bible Study 7:30pm, Mikita Residence

#### 15th

Consistory Meeting, 7:30pm

#### 17th

Lenten Dinner/Movie "The Passion", 6:30pm

#### 24th

Neighborhood Bible Study 7:30pm, Arent Residence

### April

#### 1st

Anniversary Banquet, 5:00pm

#### 2nd

Communion Sunday (Food on the 1st, Noisy Cans, Missions)

#### 7th

Neighborhood Bible Study 7:30pm, Baker Residence

#### 9th

Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

#### 13th

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30pm

#### 14th

Good Friday Service, 7:30pm

#### 15th

Easter Vigil, 12pm-12am

#### 16th

Easter B'fast, 8:30am Easter Worship, 10am Easter Egg Hunt, 12pm

#### Editorial Staff

Waldemar Arent  
Rev. Vicente Martinez

## Church Blurbs n Buzz!!

### THE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET IS HAPPENING!

On Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00pm, The Sanctuary will celebrate its Anniversary Banquet after having to postpone this activity due to the Pastor's father illness. Now it's time to celebrate, and everyone is invited to be part of this glorious event! (See the flyer.) Make plans to attend our banquet and enjoy an evening filled with great food, wonderful music, and a blessed time of fellowship. We are honoring Pastor Vicente for his 35 years of ministry and for his dedication and commitment to our church. Buy your tickets soon! See elder Marilyn Arent for more information.

### EASTER VIGIL

Our Easter Vigil will begin on Easter Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00p.m. We need to have someone in The Sanctuary each half hour until midnight. If you have participated in this vigil in the past, you know the feeling of being in the church, in prayer, and the peace and joy that is waiting for you. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex during Lent and each time slot needs to be filled. The church will be open for the entire length of time so come when you can.

### EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Come and join us for breakfast on Easter morning! There will be lots of delicious food and great fellowship for you and your family to enjoy before the Easter Sunday service. We will be serving from 8:30a.m. - 9:30a.m.

### THE SANCTUARY PEARLS

We are excited about all that God is doing in our midst! Don't miss the fellowship and support that comes from spending time with your sisters. Come join us and invite others to do the same.

#### Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study, The Book of Genesis

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for a light breakfast, bible study starts 10am.

#### Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

The PTM class and the Youth Group will be going to see Beauty and The Beast. More information is forthcoming.

#### Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study, The Book of Genesis continued.

Immediately following our bible study, we will need some volunteers to help set-up for our Easter Breakfast on Sunday.

#### Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Mother's Day Tea Party, immediately following worship. All are welcome. If you are mom, step-mom, a church-mom, a pet mom, please join us. In keeping with the Tea Party theme, we will be having a hat contest this year.

**PRIZES will be given for MOST ORIGINAL / MOST OUTRAGEOUS / MOST BEAUTIFUL hat.**

## "The Power of Prayer: Deliverence, Hope, & Sacrifice"

### 2017 Lenten Season Calendar of Events

Friday, March 10 - 7:30pm	Neighborhood Bible Study: Mikita Residence
Friday, March 17 - 6:30pm	Lenten Potluck Dinner and Movie night
Friday, March 24 - 7:30pm	Neighborhood Bible Study: Baker Residence
Friday, April 7 - 7:30pm	Neighborhood Bible Study: Marilyn Arent's Home
Sunday, April 9 - 10:00am	Palm Sunday / Confirmation Sunday

### HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 13 - 7:30pm	Holy Thursday Communion Worship
Friday, April 14 - 7:30pm	Good Friday Worship
Saturday, April 15 - 12pm - 12am	Easter Prayer Vigil

### Sunday, April 16 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

8:30am	Easter Breakfast
10:00am	Resurrection Worship

## Church Blurbs n Buzz!!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

This year, our Sunday school classes have been through a renovation, and we are so excited for our kids!

First, our classes now have names: GLO class - God's Little Ones, ages 2-4; SKiP class - Sanctuary Kids in Praise, ages 5-8 and PTM class - PreTeen Ministry, ages 9-12.

Secondly, this year we decided to implement more activities and outings for all the classes. The other ministries have their parties and activities, but the Sunday school classes did not have any. Our children are so wonderful and special, and they should have the opportunity to fellowship with their class outside of Sunday school. In December we had our very first Breakfast with Santa. Next year, Pastor Vicente has asked to open this event to the community. In February we celebrated love and friendship, and sister Jessica and brother Angel hosted a party for the kids in their home. Brother Angel's company provided a DJ, and the photo booth, and we had a wonderful time of fellowship.

Third, our first outing with the kids will be to the movies. On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, PTM and Salvation of Youth are going to see Beauty and Beast, and the SKiP class will be going to see a movie for their age group in April. We will provide all the parents with more details within the next few days. All those wish to join us, please see Sister Yoanni, or Sister Elizabeth Martinez. The Children's Fair is coming up in early June, and in July, we are having a "Beach Party" at sister Megan and brother Paul's home, to end our Sunday school season.

Lastly, the classes will continue to sing not only during our special events, but at our regular worship services, and we are bringing back the liturgical dance program. Keep our children in prayer, and continue to pray for our Sunday school program.

The Sanctuary of North Brunswick  
17 Laurel Place  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



**97 Years**

*"Walking in the Spirit, Abiding in His Presence."*

*The Reformed Church of North Brunswick  
The Sanctuary*

*Cordially invites you to celebrate our  
97th Year Anniversary*

*This year we will be honoring  
Pastor Vicente Martinez  
and recognizing his 35 years in ministry.*

*A celebratory dinner banquet will be held in his honor on  
Saturday, April 1st at 5:00 p.m.  
17 Laurel Place, North Brunswick, NJ  
(Entrance to the hall is on Willow Ave.)*

Tickets:  
Adults - \$30.00 Per Person  
Youth - \$15.00 (ages 13-17)  
Children - \$10.00 (ages 7-12)

RSVP to Marilyn Arent by 3/25/17  
Phone: (732) 900-9545 Email: arentmarilyn@gmail.com