



The First Word

THE PASTOR'S PEN (Disciples of Christ)



February 26th, 2018

Lent

The word Lent is a Latin word which marks the solemn religious observance in the Christian Liturgical calendar beginning with Ash Wednesday, lasting for six weeks, and ending before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, and good works, and for some self-denial. Its institutional purpose is heightened in the commemoration of Holy Week, marking the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events of Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, and climaxing on Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. This culminates in the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For some Christians this is a time of fasting or a time of giving up something important in their life as a sacrifice. Some add a spiritual discipline to draw themselves nearer to God.

Lent is traditionally a period of forty (40) days in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert before He began His public ministry. Violet is the color of the season of Lent, for some churches black is the color of Good Friday.

Some Christian interprets the Lenten season, not as a renunciation, but as a time on contributing to causes such as environmental stewardship and/or improvement of their health.

In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Sundays in Len are not counted in the 40 days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter."

May this season be a time when we all draw closer to our Lord and Savior.

Pastor John

