



MISSION PROJECT

The Schaller-Early-Nemaha Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry, which our church supports, is collecting Hy Vee (Storm Lake only) grocery and gas receipts. You will find a bucket at the Presbyterian Church. This runs until the end of April. Our Food Pantry will earn a percentage of the receipts and will be reimbursed with a check from Des Moines. This money may help cover costs to maintain our Food Pantry. Please drop all your HyVee receipts in one of the buckets. □

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

Mid-February Encouragement

February can feel long and cold... but God's love is warm and steady.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases" (Lamentations 3:22, ESV).

If you need prayer or a friendly conversation, send us a message — we're here for you.

Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

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