

Ash Wednesday February 26th marks the beginning of Lent. Every time a new season of the church year begins, it creates teachable moments. The beginning of a church season can be a time to bring in new symbols, rituals, and themes that can be repeated throughout the season. This newness builds anticipation for what is coming next, provides connections between the church and home, and keeps a focus throughout the particular season. Markers can be identified along the way, with practices that are used during worship, outreach, learning, and fellowship. All aspects of congregational life can mark the season.

Lent provides us a unique opportunity to journey and reflect together. Markers along the way can be associated with specific activities. Prayers and rituals can be practiced at the same time by people in different places. Keeping a Lenten calendar is one practice that can be done at church and in the home. When we enter and begin Lent, we can ask together:

Why is Lent important? Why are we changing colors? Why are we discussing_____? The blank is where you can put in the themes you are experiencing together in congregational and home life. Our 6 week journey will bring us to Holy Week and Easter on April 12th. This time together can include options for a variety of experiences in a variety of settings. Options and variety are two key strategies as we live into the church seasons.

Diane McGeoch, Deacon Coordinator, Learning Peace: A Camp for Kids, Nampa, Idaho Board Member, ELCA Christian Education Network Copyright 2020, Christian Education Network