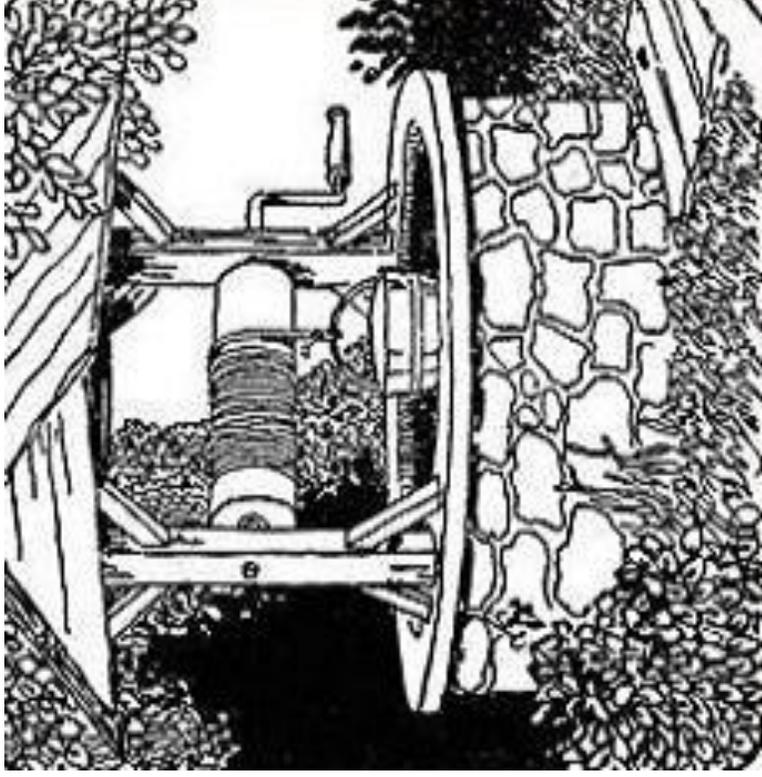


*Devotional Guide for the 40 Days of Lent, 2018*  
Developed for Evergreen Christian Church, Evergreen, Colorado



***HOW DEEP IS MY WELL?***

# HOW DEEP IS MY WELL?

What is this Lent stuff all about? Isn't all that part of the Catholic tradition?

The history of the season of Lent and some of the common practices of the season is as varied as the churches which celebrate the season, it would seem. A quick summary and orientation for the purposes of this study, this year, at Evergreen Christian Church, may help.

As practiced today, Lent (from the Anglo-Saxon word *lenceten*, meaning "spring") begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter Resurrection Celebration. The observance of lent has two primary purposes: 1) to experience a sort of "mini-wilderness" in taking on Jesus' forty days of temptation after his baptism and before starting his public ministry; and 2) to prepare catechumens (new converts under instruction in preparation for baptism, from the Greek root, *katech*, meaning "instruction or oral teaching") for baptism on Easter Sunday. A quick count from Ash Wednesday to Easter will reveal a period of more than forty days – what's up with that? The short answer is that Sundays are exempted from the "mini-wilderness" experience.

For our purposes in 2018, as we stand on a sort of precipice concerning the vitality and mission of Evergreen Christian Church, we are focusing more on the preparation for entry into Christian life by baptism. This Lenten Study guide will take us on a "deep dive" into the well in which we will look at the fundamentals of our beliefs and understandings of this thing we call "Christian Faith". Let us begin this time of reflection, learning, and penance, with three focus questions:

1. *As I embark on my personal "mini-wilderness" discipline, how open can I be to explore my personal relationship with this complicated religion of Christianity?*
2. *Can I be totally honest and open to a path of self-examination, self-discovery, and repentant acknowledgements of my shortcomings?*
3. *As I prepare myself for the remembrance of the purification of baptism and the symbolic "mini-resurrection" from the waters, as I prepare to join in the celebration once more of the miracle of resurrection this Easter, how do I envision my faith and my life to be different from when I began this study?*

# How Deep Is My Well? - Reflections

*Ash Wednesday through First Saturday of Lent (2/14/18 – 2/17/18)*

<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>Feb. 14, 2018</b>  Numbers 19:17-20  Jeremiah 6:13-20</p>	<p>What does Ash Wednesday mean in my life?  How might I deepen that meaning today?</p>	
<p><b>Thursday</b>  <b>Feb. 15, 2018</b>  Luke 4:1-13  I Kings 19:1-13  Exodus 34:27-35</p>	<p>What does the Season of Lent mean in my life?  How might I deepen that meaning in this Lenten Season?</p>	
<p><b>Friday</b>  <b>Feb. 16, 2018</b>  Luke 18:16  Deuteronomy 11:1-5  Deuteronomy 11:18-21</p>	<p>What are my earliest recollections and conceptions of God? Who or what influenced those early understandings for me?</p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b>  <b>Feb. 17, 2018</b>  Matthew 16:13-15  Job 38:1-7  Job 42:1-6</p>	<p>How do I understand God at this time in my life? What do I believe to be God's essence and ultimate purposes?</p>	