

Hello,

Thank you for considering writing for the 2022 Lenten Devotional. The devotional includes a verse, written reflection, and a prayer for each of the 40 days of Lent. The devotional goes to over 1,000 friends of The Lutheran Center. The average reader is not a student. Our donors and supporters love this spiritual resource!

To write a devotion:

- **Sign up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4eaeab28a1fe3-2022>
- **Write** the daily devotion you signed up for:
 - Reflect on the verse(s) and write **≤150 words** on the content of the verse(s) and the devotional theme: *Visions of Wholeness: A Lenten Journey through Isaiah* [NOTE: We are using the NRSV version of the Bible for this devotional.]
 - Include a 1-2 sentence prayer
 - Refer to the writing guide for stylistic expectations and the sample devotionals for a frame of reference for what the daily devotion looks like
- **Submit** the reflection & prayer to Vicar Emma by **1/19/2022** emma@thelutherancenter.org

More on the Theme.....

The theme for the 2022 Lutheran Center devotional is Visions of Wholeness: A Lenten Journey through Isaiah. The book of Isaiah contains writings stretching over the time the Israelites are pre-exile, in exile, and post-exile. Pre-exile they come to terms with God's judgment for their lack of faithfulness. In exile the people wonder how to live in a foreign land when their ways of life and faith are disrupted. Post-exile those who have been in exile in Babylon and those who were left behind navigate how to rebuild their lives and society. Through all these transitions God speaks. God speaks words of judgment and forgiveness, and casts visions of wholeness for all people and creation. Even as the people encounter dislocation and grief, the presence and promises of God journey with them.

During the season of Lent we focus on Jesus' life, ministry, and death. While nowhere in the book of Isaiah is Jesus exactly mentioned, the New Testament writers and theologians throughout history have read Jesus into these texts. In his own life, Jesus even names himself as the fulfillment of some of the promises of Isaiah. **As writers of the devotions you are invited to spend time considering these verses in their original historical context (context provided for the verses in the sign up form), as well as reflect on them in light of the ministry of Jesus and your own life experiences.**

In this devotional we join with our ancestors in faith in hearing the call of God through the words of Isaiah. In these verses and devotions shared by students and friends of The Lutheran Center you too, are called to listen, reflect, repent, and receive the promises of God's grace. You are invited join in God's vision of wholeness for all humanity and creation.

More on the Writing Process....

In our effort to make the Lenten devotional relatable for all readers, please be attentive to using inclusive language. A key way to do this is by using gender-neutral pronouns and both feminine and masculine metaphors when referring to God and human beings. You can also check by going through your devotion and asking if it would be meaningful to all types of people regardless of age, gender identity, race, ability, socioeconomic status, or marital status.

- Make sure to include your name, major, & year graduating.

If you have questions about signing up, writing, or submitting your daily devotion, please reach out to me (emma@thelutherancenter.org). Thank you.

Peace be with you,

Vicar Emma

Sample Devotional 1 - from 2019

March 14

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. - Luke 24:39

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after Easter, they had to touch his resurrected body to believe he was actually there. We often use our sense of touch to verify what we perceive through our other senses. A year ago, I spent the Spring semester in Spain and went to Germany to meet up with a group of Lutheran Center friends in March. After months of being on my own, I ran across the German street into a huge hug, releasing all my tension and loneliness as I was wrapped in the arms and love of my friends. Although we don't see the literal risen Jesus or encounter long-awaited friends every day, we do verify God's presence through these moments of true, tangible love.

God, thank you for revealing your glory through the physical touch and presence of your creation. Help us to touch each other's lives with love every day. Amen.

Anna Helzer, Spanish Education, 2020

Sample Devotional 2.... From 2020

Friday, March 13th

“The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.”
- Exodus 15: 2-3

This call to praise God is important to remember and easy to forget as routines run days together and anxieties mount. As I work through my final semester at the university, there will be days where I remember to call on the Lord, just as there will be days when I struggle or forget to. I know I will feel lost and helpless because I have been here many times.

I know I do not need the Lord’s help in church, nearly as much as I need it in the world. Prayer needs to happen outside of the sanctuary just as much as it does inside. Ceaseless prayer means asking God for help quietly, but shamelessly, throughout the day, and thanking the Lord for our given strength. God will always be there for us.

Lord, thank you for getting us to today, and please see us through to tomorrow. Amen.

Devin McLean, Masters in Architecture, 2020