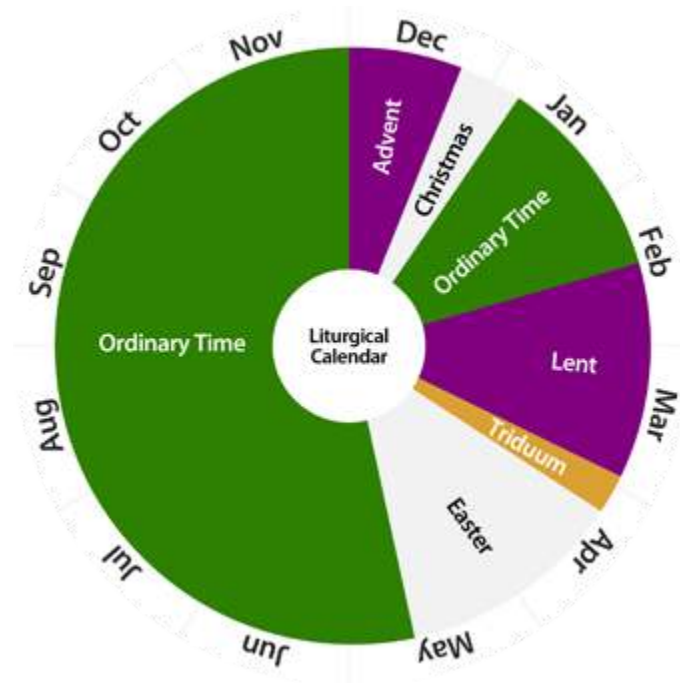


March 23, 2025
CONFIRMATION LESSON

Lent and the Exodus



This is the church's worship calendar! I bet it looks different from most other calendars you've seen. Why might the church have its own calendar?

If you could create any holiday to celebrate in church, what would it be? Would it be about a Bible story, or about a moment from history, or focus on a theme? How we would celebrate it (what songs would be sung, what would decorations look like, what would the holiday's colors be)?

Lent, the season we're currently in, happens during the 40 days leading up to Easter. We count for 40 days to remember the 40 days Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness after he was baptized.

Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and simplification of life. We re-focus ourselves on God in order to appreciate Easter.

Some people give up something (a luxury or a bad habit that harms relationships). Some people add something (more prayer or generosity to charity).

Jesus's temptation in the wilderness for 40 days is meant to remind us of the 40 years that the Hebrews wandered in the desert after they were freed from slavery in Egypt.

Read about the birth and youth of Moses in Exodus 2:1-25 in your Bible.

- What is surprising about Moses's childhood?
- Why do you think Moses killed the Egyptian?
- Why did the Midianites welcome Moses?

Read about the mission given to Moses by God in Exodus 3:1-15.

- How do you think Moses felt during this scene?
- What is Moses's mission?
- Who does God instruct Moses to tell people has sent him?

Skim through chapters 7-12 of Exodus. Or better yet, read them thoroughly! These are the plagues that Egypt suffered while Pharaoh refused to release the Hebrews from slavery.

- How do you think the Egyptians felt about Pharaoh while this was happening?
- Why wouldn't Pharaoh just release the people he had enslaved?

Read about the journey to freedom in Exodus 14:5-25.

- How do you think the Hebrews felt during their escape?
- What role does God play in the action of this story?

I highly recommend watching the movie *The Prince of Egypt* (Dreamworks, 1998) together. You can borrow a copy from Pastor or check it out from Onondaga County Public Libraries.

The story of the Exodus was important to enslaved people during our nation's past. There is a spiritual (hymn) called Go Down, Moses. Watch a recording of it on YouTube, here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3OjHhLCDs>

Slavery in America was not as long ago as it might seem. We even have video of interviews with former slaves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUz3CvEtfvU>

Talk about why enslaved people would have connected with the story of the Exodus.