

**Pandemic Lent: A Fusion of Hues**  
**by Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen**  
**hosted virtually by Peace Lutheran Church**  
**Wednesdays during Lent**  
**February 17 - March 24, 2021**

**Resurrection - February 17**

We are fundamentally Easter people. We would not be gathering at all as “Christians” were we not to believe that Jesus is risen from the dead.

While not seen often as a go-to during Lent, if it is true that we are defined by resurrection, then all of life, including that of a season often associated with bleakness, is exactly the time to be reminded of the Good News of the empty tomb.

And it is to that that this session will turn.

**Death/Loss/Doubt - February 24**

This Ash Wednesday, we enter into a Lenten season where the notion of death is not nearly as abstract as it might have been. The effects of the pandemic—economic pain, emotional isolation, exhaustion as roles have been compounded (parent/teacher/worker, for example)—let alone the actual death of loved ones from the disease have all brought the tenuous of life into the forefront of our reality.

But we don't need, in fact, Covid to know death: be it a death where someone is buried, be it the loss of a hope, an addiction, a relationship, a sense of self, we all have been touched by death.

And when we do, we may also feel doubt: where is God? where is healing? where is hope?

This session will spend some time talking about death, its various manifestations, and feelings we experience when surrounded by its presence.

**Lament/Trust - March 3**

Christians in general, and Lutherans specifically, don't have much of a rubric for understanding, let alone feeling comfortable with, lament. We prefer dismissing feelings of grief because an event must have been part of God's plan, we fear that expressing sadness expresses doubts in the providence of God, we see lament as a disbelief in the efficacy of Easter.

This session will linger in lament, and its surprising corollaries, trust and hope.

**Holy Spirit as Breath and Trickster - March 10**

The Holy Spirit tends to get short shrift in Lutheran circles! She's mysterious, nebulous even, in more ways than one might realize!

But we do believe that she is the bearer of, the breather of, life.

There is good reason, then, in Lent to spend some time with the Spirit.

To that end, this session will dive into the Holy Spirit, the one who stirs life in the midst of death, who inspires newness, and does so sometimes, even with mischief that might make us uncomfortable, as new life so often does.

### **Process Theology - March 17**

There are many ways of thinking theologically.

One approach, one system, is that of Process Theology.

Process theology teaches that God is active in every moment, even the most (especially the most?) despairing that we experience in life. Regardless, God invites us into the next moment, calls us by way of lures that God hopes will catch our attention and imagination, redeems moments past, and ties all our moments together.

In this session, we will learn about this vision of who God is, of who we are as followers of God, of creation's interplay, and of the dynamic interaction between us all.

### **Holy Saturday as the cradle of complementary/competing truths - March 24**

I've often said that Holy Saturday is the most honest day of the Church: we have one foot in the truth of Good Friday, and another in the truth of Easter. If we tip too much into one or the other, we embody an extreme of faith that does not adequately, accurately represent the entirety of faith.

Holy Saturday honors both the experience of death, and the hope of life.

In this session we will anticipate Holy Saturday, and look for identity, integrity, and calling within it.