

# Lent 2020 • Take The LEAD



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*Everything God made is waiting with excitement for God to show his children's glory completely.*

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*Romans 8:19 NCV*

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Nearly 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul declared that the world was waiting for the anointed leadership of the body Christ to be fulfilled. The world was desperate for leadership then and is still desperate for leadership today. As Paul indicates, the world needs our glory to not be merely re-vealed. It must be fulfilled. It needs to be thorough and complete.

Are you aware of the “by-stander” effect? According to this phenomenon, when there is a crisis and just one solitary witness, that person is more likely to act. On the contrary, in the event of a crisis where there are multiple witnesses, we are less likely to act. In conclusion, when community leadership is most needed, we are less likely to act. In the year 2020, this must all change. Springfield will join with several other churches to take the lead during an election and census year. Join us for the journey.

America is wealthier than ever before but not healthier. We are more affluent but angrier. We have more access to information yet we are more ignorant and anxious. In an article entitled How Twitter Fuels Anxiety, Laura Turner shared that the general public is ambushed by “competing voices that yell at you as soon as you log on”. With billions of competing voices and ideas, the world screams for new leadership in public policy, business, schools, healthcare, churches and especially in homes.

God “regretted” that Saul was made king over Israel. In the articles of impeachment against Saul, God outlined the preferred criteria for qualified leadership:

- 1) Leaders who **HEAR** from God (1 Samuel 15:11)
- 2) Leaders who are **HUMBLE** (1 Samuel 15:12)
- 3) Leaders who are **HONEST** (1 Samuel 15:13)

The qualities that Saul did not have in chapter 15, God found in David in chapter 16. Welcome to the next chapter. This year's theme is *The Church Taking The Lead*. The world needs leaders who routinely hear from God, walk in humility and operate in honesty. I am excited to see your glory fulfilled in Christ!

Convicted By Christ,

*Eric W. Lee*

Eric W. Lee, Sr., D.Min.  
Senior Pastor

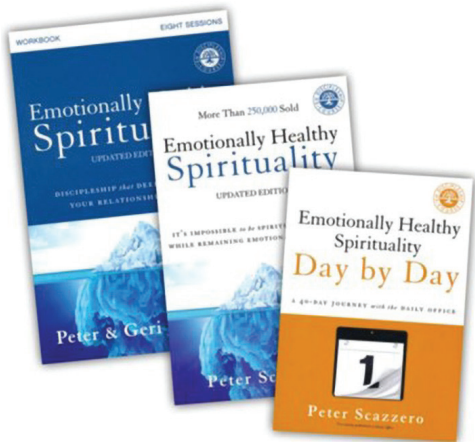


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## What Is Lent?

Lent has its origins in the 4th century AD in the Catholic Church. Lent is a season on the Christian calendar that spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Resurrection Sunday. It is distinguished as a time of prayer and preparation prior to the Resurrection. Lent connotes that there can be no complete appreciation or celebration of Resurrection without acknowledging the process of discipline, sacrifice and faith that Christ exhibited during crucifixion. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but most aptly with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness facing temptations that sought to persuade him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of Lent as a time for introspection, self-examination, self-denial and repentance. Many Christian churches engage in prayer, fasting and penance, contemplating the need for God's grace. Lent is a journey of preparation that allows believers to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Resurrection and to recommit to living a victorious life. It's the perfect opportunity for G.R.O.W.T.H.

## What We Are Reading During Lent



### Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: It's impossible to be spiritually mature, while remaining emotionally immature

The Lent 2020 Theme is Taking The Lead! Pastor Lee has asked that we also "Take The Lead" in our own relationship with GOD. So starting March 4, we will continue to Develop Dynamic Disciples as we Take The Lead with our "Emotional Health". Emotionally Healthy Discipleship consists of 2 parts: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality and Emotionally Healthy Relationships.

Join us as we Take The Lead and focus on "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality!" We will learn how to "Take The Lead" while slowing down to facilitate more time with Christ. We will "Take The Lead" by learning to love like Jesus.

This book study - Emotionally Healthy Discipleship - has helped thousands of people move from a shallow Christianity to a deep authentic relationship with GOD, themselves and others. Our ability to make mature disciples affects everything: worship, fellowship, leadership development, community service, evangelism and stewardship.

Come and join us as we "Take The Lead" in our personal relationship with GOD! G.R.O.W.T.H. University will hold Emotionally Healthy Study Groups Starting each Wednesday night, March 4 – May 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Visit [Realm](#) to sign up.

Books are also available in the G.R.O.W.T.H. Bookstore. The course consists of 3 Books: *Daily Devotional*, *EHS Book* and *EHS Workbook for small groups*. The cost is \$27 for all 3 books.



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## G.R.O.W.T.H. University & Other Ministry Programs

(Please visit [Realm](#) for more information or to sign up.)

### G.R.O.W.T.H. University Emotionally Healthy Study Groups

March 4 – May 6, 2020 - Each Wednesday night at 7:00 pm

March 4 | 2:00 pm | **New Voting Machine Instructional Training & Voters Registration**

March 7 | 9:00 am | **Single Parenting Small Group Interest Meeting**

March 7 | 10:30 am | **Taking The Lead “Self-Care”**

March 8 | 9:30 am & 1:30 pm | **New Voting Machine Instructional Training & Voters Registration**

March 14 | 9:00 am | **SBC Empowerment Ministry - Wills & Estate Planning**

March 18 | 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm | **New Voting Machine Instructional Training & Voters Registration**

March 28 | 9:00 am | **Grief Share – Loss of a Spouse**

April 25 | 8am – 12 noon | **2020 Woods Stroke Awareness 5K Walk/Run & Health and Wellness Fair**

## Fasting During Lent

No sweets! No candy, cookies, cake, etc.

### Stage 1: Wednesday, February 26 – Friday, March 6

Eliminate ALL pork, sweets (cookies, candies, desserts), fried foods, fast foods, breads and ALL dairy (milk, cheese, ice cream). Beverages only from 7 PM - 7 AM or whichever 12-hour period you designate. Drink 64+ ounces of water daily unless otherwise advised by your physician. Other drinks include herbal teas, protein smoothies and reduced sugar beverages AFTER athletic workouts (Gatorade G2, Vitamin Water Zero, Powerade Zero).

### Stage 2: Saturday, March 7 – Monday, March 16

In addition to Stage 1, limit all meals to what is commonly known as the “Daniel Fast”. Vegetables, fruits, nuts and liquids are allowed.

### Stage 3: Tuesday March 17 – Thursday, March 26

In addition to Stages 1 & 2, consume only 1 hot meal per day. Raw vegetables, fruits, nuts are allowed.

### Stage 4: Friday, March 27 – Sunday, April 5

For those that are physically mentally and spiritually directed this stage is liquid only. Vitamins and supplements are allowed.

## Holy Week & Resurrection Sunday Schedule

### Good Friday Service

Friday, April 10, 2020 - TBD

### Sunday, April 12, 2020 – Resurrection Sunday

7:00 am (Sonrise), 7:30 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

