



Volume 2020 Issue 2

Living Word Lutheran Church
Worship address: 2570 Northern Avenue
Mailing address 3880 Stockton Hill Rd. 103-300
Kingman, Arizona

February Devotion-

Ash Wednesday Reflections

February 26 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) that ends with Easter Sunday.

Across the land, Christians from various denominations will commemorate the day by fasting, praying or participating in ceremonies in which ashes are crossed on their foreheads. Many will abstain from a particular food, beverage or activity until Easter, in recognition of Jesus' great sacrifice.

These rituals symbolize our connection to God and our acknowledgment that despite being created in His image, we are mere mortals who sin and mess up more often than we get it right.

What I enjoy most about this season is the opportunity it gives us to publicly embrace our shortcomings, or at least recognize the fact that we often don't measure up, faith wise.

In our "survival of the fittest," "may the best man (or woman) win" society, it's not easy to admit that you're not perfect.



Most of us know that perfection is impossible in human form, but let the tabloids, news magazine shows and celebrity profiles tell it, perfection can be bought in a bottle or Botox needle, discovered in a therapist's chair or molded on a personal trainer's gym floor mat. It can be acquired at an elite university or in some of the boardrooms of the most powerful companies across the globe.

The truth is, if we were perfect we might not feel a need for God. And surely we wouldn't give a second thought to Lent. Then, where would we find ourselves?

*Adapted from an article by
Stacy Hawkins Adams 2/2/06*

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Special points of interest:

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February Scriptures

2/2/20 Hebrews 2:14-18, Psalm 84,
Matthew 5: 1-12

2/9/20 1Corinthians 2: 1-12, Psalm
112: 1-9, Matthew 5: 13-20

2/16/20 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9, Psalm
119: 1-8, Matthew 5: 21-37

2/23/20 2 Peter 1:16-21, Psalm 99,
Matthew 17:1-9

Prayer Requests

For continuing comfort and healing

Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna
Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons,
Sue Bernard, Cathy Bain, Char and Dale
Matheny, Barbara McCord, Floyd Morris,
Holly Vautier, Carol Wostal, Lula Stroud

**If you know of someone who should
be included in the monthly ongoing prayer
list, or you yourself would like to be includ-
ed, please contact Pastor Michael (509-710-
3283).**



Wednesday, February 26, 2020

7 PM

Imposition of Ashes
Devotional Meditation
Communion

Join us as we enter the Lenten Season

ASH
WEDNESDAY



*Remember that
you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.*
Ecclesiastes 3:20

From Pastor Michael

Dear Living Word Sisters and Brothers,

I'm writing this note as I enjoy the lush beauty water "vistas" of Florida where I have been speaking with students, faculty, and health professions orgs., both Christian and academic for Well Child International.

(See attached pic)

I thoroughly enjoy the "other half" of my work, but I enjoy it as "professional work". Whereas, I always look forward to coming home to Living Word as your pastor, which is my "work of the heart". As we near our congregational meeting and continue with our 2020 work together, let me once again simply thank you for the privilege of being your pastor and brother.



Pastor Michael

W.O.W. (Women of the Word)

The Women of the Word (W.O.W.) group met for a social lunch on Saturday, January 25th at a local restaurant. There were 12 members present.

Although most conversation was casual and focused on past holiday activities and/or what everyone was bringing to the first Living Word PotLuck of 2020 scheduled for the next day, Eileen shared information on a new program at the Kingman Regional Medical Center. It was agreed to post the information on the community bulletin board adjacent to the Fellowship area at church.

The group will begin work on their refurbishing plans for the sanctuary and landscaping in the near future.

The February meeting will be at the church on **Saturday, February 15th**, and we will see the movie *The Drop Box*. It is a "documentary (which) tells the incredible story about the forgotten, the disabled and the man who gives everything to protect *them*." Please plan to join us and bring a friend. Stay tuned for more information!



All women who attend church at Living Word are members of W.O.W. (Women of the Word) and are encouraged to join in activities to serve and support our church. Please contact Donna Pederson (928-753-3762) or Karen Shaffer (775-513-8367) for more information! Join your Sisters in Christ!



SUPPLIES NEEDED!

The next time paper towels are on sale, could you pick up an extra roll or two and bring to church? Also, we can always use large size extra heavy duty paper plates for our wonderful pot-lucks! This will help re-stock our kitchen supplies!

NOTE: We DO NOT NEED NAPKINS!

We DO NOT NEED TOILET PAPER!

We have been blessed with an abundance of these items!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Pastor Michael-isms!

"Repentance is not being sorry. Repentance is changing the way you think." (12/8/19)

"You can't hide from God. Don't run **FROM** Him; run **TO** Him!" (12/15/19)

"When Jesus says 'Truly, truly' He is telling us to 'Listen UP!'" (10/28/18)

Here is a "flash back" to some of the things Pastor Michael has emphasized during his messages. Enjoy!

"Our goal should be :

**TO DO WHATEVER I NEED TO DO
TO DO WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO DO
WHEREVER HE WANTS ME TO DO IT!"**

(1/26/20)



Living Word Council Minutes-Meeting Summary 12/10/19

Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler, President Ken Bourlier, Vice-President Bob Pressler, Treasurer Arlene Allison, Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman & Secretary Sharon Peterson. Meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from last meeting approved

Pastor's Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum Attendance is on the rise again and it feels good. We are seeing several new couples/families are attending. There will be no Christmas Day service, Christmas Eve service is still being planned. It will be a more traditional service. The Saturday morning support group is doing well. Beverly Valentine is working on getting a professional (active) woman's group. Just a reminder budget needs to include an option to do step one of John Cross future project.

Pastor Assistant: Eileen Pressler Thanksgiving Worship 12/24, with potluck followed was well attended. WOW evening pre-Thanksgiving worship was successful, 32 in attendance. Advent Sunday worship as well as mid-week devotions are underway. Christmas Eve candlelight worship with communion is being planned. Pastor is planning to be out of town 1/19/2020 and

2/16/2020. Currently working on contact for pulpit supply. Pastor Steve has confirmed for 1/19/2020. Share Faith license is up for renewal, decided not to renew.

President's Report: Ken Bourlier Would like to have a church wish list letter sent out. Council approved motion to have a Christmas gift to the church letter be sent to all members.

Financial Report: Arlene Allison Reviewed this month's financial report. Council approved.

Mission Coordinator: Rosie Freeman 11 food baskets were prepared for Thanksgiving. 9 were paid for by our church, 1 anonymously and 1 by Paula & Randy Thode. Requested that we give a gift to ROOT. Council approved donation of \$235, to support their Christmas event. Christmas Dinner food baskets will be a Lasagna dinner to be delivered on 12/22.

Old Business: Still need to get the New Cross from Phoenix. Ken is working on getting this done. Budget planning meeting needs to be done before our next meeting. Reviewed and approved suggested changes to the constitution.

New Business:

Support group meeting on Thursday evening. We would be just hosting, with the group just using our facility. Council is in support. Would like to look into getting regular assigned offering envelopes for the new year.

Next meeting January 9, 2020 at 1:30 pm

Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon Peterson, Secretary

February Celebrations



Feb. 7 Greg Jensen

Feb. 18 Nick Nichols




Feb. 14 Wayne and Mardelle Bohling

Feb. 26 Michael and Eneida Birnbaum

February, 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 10 AM Support Group
2 Celebration Sunday	3	4 10 AM YOGA	5 8AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	6 1:30 PM Council Meeting	7	8 10 AM Support Group
9	10	11 10 AM YOGA	12 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	13	14	15 10 AM Support Group WOW Meeting, Time TBD, Movie: "The Drop Box"
16	17	18 10 AM YOGA	19 8AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship	20	21	22 10 AM Support Group
23	24	25 10 AM YOGA	26 8 AM Men's Bible Study ASH Wednesday Worship 7 PM 	27	28	29 10 AM Support Group

Living Word Lutheran Church



Worship-2570 Northern Ave.
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Kingman, Arizona 86409
Phone: 928-753-5952

We're on the web!

www.livingwordkingman.com

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a welcoming, scripturally based community intentionally serving Christ through missions.

Mission Statement

Living and growing in faith together as a spirit filled church with the

Word of God as our foundation and reaching out through missions showing the

Love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to

Create a hunger in others to embrace the Word of God, salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Ash Wednesday is the best way to begin the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent, a six-week period (excluding Sundays) dedicated to prayer, fasting, and reflection in preparation for the great celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery in the Easter Triduum. Lent has been described as a time to re-focus and to re-enter a place of truth. It is here where we find our true identity.

Ash Wednesday is the best way to begin a season which calls us into self-examination as well as self-denial, into deeper contemplation about the mystery and grace of God's mercy, and towards more radical giving towards those most in need of comfort, sustenance, and hope.

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."
Genesis 3:19

The line from Genesis reminds us our lives on this earth won't last forever. We are a finite people who hold hope in something infinite and beyond ourselves. Bearing a mark throughout the day that is visible to others puts an explanation point on the Genesis passage. We become walking witnesses of that place of truth. Heaping ashes upon the head, rending the garment, and donning sackcloth were all outward signs of penitence in biblical times. Such a display was one of abject humility and repentance.

We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The ancient practice of Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are mortal. It causes us to pause and look at our lives—remember what we are made of, remember where we are going— and encourages us to fully immerse ourselves in the Lenten season.

