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**The Newsletter Deadline  
is the 20th of the month.**

**Please email to:**  
ewpressler@  
suddenlink.net  
or share with her on  
Sunday Morning

### MARCH DEVOTION

#### What are Ash Wednesday and Lent all about?

When I was in college, someone handed me a nail on a leather string during a worship service. Students on my campus were wearing the nail around their necks in the weeks before Easter to remind themselves of their sin. The nail was to remind me not only that my sin needs a savior, but also that my sin too caused Jesus to be nailed to the cross. This was my introduction to the idea of Lent, and it was powerful preparation for an Easter celebration.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 46 days before Easter. Just as Advent leads up to Christmas, Lent is a season of preparation for Easter.

#### Why observe Lent?

From the earliest history of Lenten tradition, new Christian converts often prepared to be baptized on Easter Sunday through Lent. Over time, Lent became a season of reflection and renewal for all Christians. Ash Wednesday and Lent are themselves by definition incomplete: they are only the beginning of a greater story. We remember our brokenness, and turn to Christ who restores us. In the end, Lent amounts to nothing without the celebration at Easter!

#### Why is it a Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The early church decided that just as Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2) to prepare for his ministry, so we might prepare for Easter for forty days. We count back forty days from Easter but exclude Sundays, which remain days of celebration. That lands us on the Wednesday seven weeks prior to Easter.

#### Why is it Ash?

In the Bible, ash and dust mean frailty or death (Genesis 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lamentations 3:16), and repentance (Jonah 3:6). Some have also seen ash as a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images figure into ash as an expressive symbol in Lent. In Christ's work on the cross we see God judge evil. In penitence, we remember Christ's passion saved us from our sins. Throughout Lent, we see that we are purified and renewed by His sacrifice.

#### Preparing to be washed

Lent's connection to baptism is important. Baptism reminds us that our sins are washed away by the blood of Christ. Baptism reminds us we have been dead in our sins but have risen again with Christ. We are baptized into God's own name and family as his children!. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we need a Savior. Once we were smeared with sin and dead as ash; now we are raised to new life as co-heirs with Christ Jesus.

Through Lent we remember that we are sinners who need a Savior. Easter and the following weeks celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. With Pentecost and the following weeks we learn that we are Spirit-filled followers of Christ, called as a church to live life in grateful service to the Lord, who is the center of all things.

*Adapted from an internet article by Steven Koster 2/5/16*

## Prayer List

*For continuing comfort and healing-*Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons, Sue Bernard, Cathy Bain, Judy David

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

## Combined Mission and Youth Report



One of the local missions supported by Living Word is Cornerstone. Cornerstone Mission is a faith-based, non-profit, homeless family resource center dedicated to helping people reclaim hope. They provide shelter for homeless men at Cornerstone Mission and homeless women and children at Diana's Faith House. The mission is to provide the basic necessities of life including emergency shelter, food, clothing and most importantly the light of Christ. We received an emergency request for additional support in February. See page 6 for details!

Sunday School - The girls served as greeters on "Kindness Day", Sunday, February 18th. The Sunday School class had designed and decorated hearts to celebrate the love of our Lord and distributed them as they greeted.

We have Sunday School for children K-5th grade from 9:00-9:45 a.m. before the worship service on Sunday morning. We sing songs, do arts & crafts, pray together, share a snack and a Bible story. **We encourage all of the church family to invite and bring children to be a part of our Sunday School.**



## Vision/Mission of Living Word Lutheran Church

### 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.

**MARCH EVENTS AT LWLC—JOIN IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP**

3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 Pastor's "Basics of Christian Faith" class 9–9:45 AM

3/6-8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

3/6 **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP** 7 PM Imposition of Ashes and Communion. Join us as we enter the Lenten Season

3/12 Council meeting 3 PM

3/13, 3/20, 3/27 Lenten Mid-week Devotions, noon and 6 PM

3/16- WOW meeting-Details to be announced

**A PRAYER TEAM IS AVAILABLE** If you desire individual prayer, please join members of the Prayer Team in the Prayer Room who are available each Sunday after worship.

**March Scriptures**

*Note: Scriptures are subject to change.*

3/3/19 Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, Luke 9:28-43a

3/10/19 Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Luke 4:1-13

3/17/19 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Luke 13: 31-35

3/24/19 Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, Luke 13:1-9

# Burying the Alleluia

The association of *alleluia* with Easter led to the custom of intentionally omitting it from the liturgy during the season of Lent, a kind of verbal fast which has the effect, not of depressing the mood of the liturgy, but of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns. Join us on March 3, 2019, Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before Lent, as we *bury the Alleluia* for the Lenten Season.



Wednesday, March 6, 2019

7 PM

Imposition of Ashes,  
Devotional Meditation and  
Communion

Join us as we enter  
the Lenten Season

## LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

(SUMMARY JANUARY 10, 2019)

President Bob Allison, Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Vice-President Ken Boulrier Treasurer Arlene Allison, Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman & Secretary Sharon Peterson Excused: Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler. Visiting: Joel & Mona Anderson Bob opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from 2 December meetings approved. Pastor has removed his loan request from the church.

**President's Report:** Bob Allison Special thanks to Pastor Denny Colvig for covering the Sunday Service in Pastor Michael's absence and refusing any compensation. Would like to consider giving him a thank you gift. The men's Bible study group will be grilling hot dogs for R.O.O.T. on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Vice President/Financial Report:** Arlene Allison December financial report approved. Correction to the proposed budget for 2019 from \$ 71,023.00 to \$71,138. approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Michael Birnbaum Yearly report is included in the reports for the congregational meeting.

**Mission Coordinator:** Rosie Freeman There is nothing new to report at this time.

**Old business:**

Candidates for open council positions:

Vice President – 2 year term : Ken Bourlier

Mission Coordinator – 2 year term: Rosie Freeman

There is also 1 year replacement for President. Council has asked Joel Anderson and he has agreed.

Next Council meeting Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm

Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson, Secretary

**A Journey toward Easter**

In March we will be entering the season of Lent, in preparation for Easter. We will have an evening worship service at 7 PM on March 6 for Ash Wednesday. This service will include imposition of Ashes and Communion. March 13 we will begin our mid-week Lenten Devotions. Devotions will be held each Wednesday both at noon and 6 PM. This gives us a perfect opportunity to invite a friend and/or neighbor.

Devotions will be preceded by a light meal so bring a dish to share!

FULL FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE REPORTS FOR EACH MONTH AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN OFFICE.- STOP IN AND TAKE A LOOK!



Lent is not only a time of repentance but, by definition, repentance means reevaluation of "where do I go from "here"? Sometimes, if our path has been a sinful or hurtful one, it means turning from that sin and "starting anew". But it can also be a season of reflection and consideration of what God has in mind for us NEXT--in a positive way. This may be our opportunity as a congregation to do just that. Lets make these next weeks a time of not only personal reflection and renewal but a time of "where is God leading our church NOW?": The church council has formed a committee of mostly non-council members to consider just that. Please keep our church leadership in your prayers.

*Pastor Michael*



Kate Masterson 3/3

Arlene Allison 3/10

MaryAnn Mallory 3/30

Hal and Pam Nomann 3/1



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

Members met on February 16th at the church for devotions and a potluck style lunch. After lunch, discussion centered on planning a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and the possibility of sponsoring a Sanctity of Life Walk on the weekend of Mother's Day, May 15th, at Locomotive Park in downtown Kingman. Stay tuned for details as to the date and time of the corn beef, cabbage, potatoes & carrot traditional St. Patty's Dinner - details are still being worked out! Fellowship continued as the women joyfully anticipated spring and decorated Springtime/Easter wreaths. Our next meeting is March 16. Mark it on your calendar, stay tuned for details and plan to join your sisters in Christ!







### Winter Storm Warning

Kingman and much of Mohave county above 3000 feet can expect storm totals of 1-2 feet ...

### How to prepare now

Stay indoors during the storm.  
Prolonged exposure to cold can cause hypothermia.

This was the weather report on Wednesday, February 20.  
One of our local Mission Partners, Cornerstone Mission, sent the following urgent request:  
Dear Friends of Cornerstone Mission:

With the largest snowstorm for Kingman in years ready to come in on Wednesday night, the Mission will be hosting many additional homeless persons normally on the streets. They will be sleeping on cots and in sleeping bags on the floor of our multi-purpose room. The homeless will also be able to stay inside the Mission during the day through Friday or until the snow stops..... Would you consider paying for a homeless family or a homeless person and their dog to stay in a hotel? We utilize Motel 6 and they give us a special rate of \$38 a night.

In response, Living Word sponsored 2 rooms at Motel 6. The snow came....

Checking with Cornerstone the next day, we learned their staff, along with local police and other volunteers made rounds of local washes, streets, and other places where homeless take shelter and brought them to the Mission. We learned that in addition to those able to shelter at Cornerstone, there were over 40 people housed at Motel 6.

**God's Work....Our Hands!!**



### Come For a Time of Prayer:

A prayer team is available in the back office area after worship service to pray for anyone who would like to have individual prayers. It may be for health concerns, personal issues, prayers of thanks and praise, or prayers for comfort, whatever the need is for the individual. All prayer matters are treated with confidentiality. We look forward to praying for others during this time and invite you to come for prayer time after the Sunday worship service.

Living Word Prayer Team