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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

FEBRUARY 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

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

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). For new prayer requests, **Contact Donna Pederson via email: donnaandjim@hotmail.com or phone 753-5762** with prayer requests. She will get the word out!

Combined Mission and Youth Report



The youth gathered in January to create Valentine bookmarks with hearts, ribbons, a sticker & scripture to donate to a senior nursing center in Kingman. Lots of fun games were played, the upcoming Valentine Party where the youth will serve in many capacities was discussed and a great time was had by all. They will also be donating books to the senior center. ***DONATIONS of books of all kinds are kindly accepted to give our senior friends some new reading materials too! Please bring to the church by 2/11.***

The SOUP-ER BOWL Food Drive sponsored by the church youth continues until Sunday, February 4th. Donations of canned or non-perishable food are appreciated and will benefit the Kingman Food Bank. Thank You!



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.

SIGN UP TO BE A WORSHIP HELPER!

SIGN UP SHEETS ARE POSTED IN
THE FELLOWSHIP AREA. SPECIAL
NEED FOR GREETERS!



FEBRUARY EVENTS AT LWLC—JOIN IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

2/4 Pastor Michael off; Message by Eneida Birnbaum and Eileen Pressler

LAST SUNDAY FOR YOUTH SOUP-ER BOWL FOOD DRIVE!

2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28 Men's Bible Study and Fellowship 8 AM


2/8 Council meeting 2 PM

2/11 Special Valentine Party 3-5 PM

2/14 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 7 PM

2/17 W.O.W Meeting 11:30 AM, at the church

2/21, 2/28 Mid-week Lenten Devotions Noon and 6 PM



Wednesday,
February 14
7 PM

Imposition of Ashes
Communion

Join us as we
enter
the Lenten Season

W.O.W Meeting
2/17/18 11:30 AM
At the church

Karen Shaffer will be
leading us in a craft project.
No lunch is planned but feel
free to bring something for
a snack if you wish!
See you there!



Sunday, February 11th
from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Join us for a very special Valentine Party for the church family and guests. There will be games, surprise entertainment*, and a meal lovingly prepared and served by the youth.

Eneida will share some of the delightful valentine celebration traditions from Mexico!

Bring your BFF and enjoy a sweet time. Please RSVP by phone to Eneida or Donna or sign up at church on 2/4. We need to make sure we have enough food!

A love offering will be received to cover costs and to benefit the church general fund.

**Contact us to be a part of the entertainment - juice harp, jokester, yodeling or ?*



BIRTHDAYS

Greg Jensen

Feb. 7

Anniversaries

2/14 Wayne and Mardell Bohling

2/26 Michael and Eneida Birnbaum



W.O.W Women of the Word:

Members of W.O.W. met at Calico's for the monthly meeting on January 20th, 2018

- Details of the W.O.W. Cornbeef & Cabbage Dinner & Bingo on March 16th, which will be a fund raiser for the church general account, and the fellowship Valentine Party on February 11th, organized by Eneida Birnbaum and the Youth group, were discussed.

- The group agreed to have the second month meeting of each quarter (February, May, August & November) be a craft workshop to

make items for sale at the church yard sale in the fall. The craft workshops will be at the church on the third Saturday of the applicable month, no lunch will be served and the leaders of the workshop will provide information on the craft prior to the workshop. Rosie Freeman, Alice Jensen, Karen Shaffer have currently volunteered to lead a workshop.

- Karen Shaffer will serve as co-leader of the W.O.W. group with Donna Pederson.

- Eneida Birnbaum will lead a women's Bible Study which will be after the Sunday worship service beginning at 11:30 a.m. in late February. Additional information will be provided.

Update on Brooke Moser (Pastor Stan and Julie Simonik's daughter)

1/23/18 Brooke went in today for her 8th chemo treatment. Only 4 more after this one. We hope to hear an encouraging news about her latest blood work. She is able to keep her weight up - now 110 Lbs, which is her pre-ulcerative colitis weight. That's a good news. She is managing the chemo side effects, the first two days are usually the most challenging, but she remains in good spirits. She is a fighter! Thank you so much for your continuous prayers!

Greetings to all!

Stan & Julie

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH (SUMMARY JANUARY 11, 2018)

Present: Pastor Michael Birnbaum, President Greg Jensen, Vice-President Ken Boulter, Worship Coordinator Eileen Pressler, Mission Coordinator Donna Pederson, and Treasurer Arlene Allison. Secretary Sharon Peterson .

Pastor Michael opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Annual Reports were presented. Annual reports approved by Council.

A review was done of the Pastoral Assistant Job Description. Motion to accept the changes by Ken and 2nd by Donna. Council approved these changes and it will be presented at the congregational meeting to be voted on.

Greg would like to use a large calendar (that will be kept in the church office). This could be used for planning special events. Greg also suggested looking into getting small liturgical calendars for this year that could be given out to each family and visitors.

Eileen went over the proposed changes to the constitution.

Old Business: Greg had asked for a copy of rental agreement for the building. Thermostat has been fixed. Repair cost was \$79.00. Eileen did a preview of the Church Track software (we are still in a trial period).

Motion to approve Dec 2017 treasurer report by Donna & 2nd by Ken. Council approved.

Council started to review the budget for 2018. Adjourned for the day, and to be continued on Saturday.

Saturday January 13, 2018 10:00 am

President Greg Jensen, Vice-President Ken Boulter, Worship Coordinator Eileen Pressler, Mission Coordinator Donna Pederson, Treasurer Arlene Allison, Secretary Sharon Peterson & Pastor Michael Birnbaum.

Recap of what was reviewed Thursday: using fixed amount for quarterly missions. Having different fund raising over the course of the year: Corn Beef/Cabbage Bingo night (spring) Bake sales (quarterly) Yard sale (fall). These would raise money for the general church fund.

Pastor will be sending some letters to other churches asking for support.

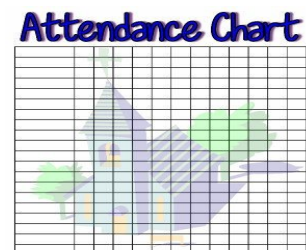
Arlene had a list of the license's we pay. Review was done on what is used and what could be eliminated.

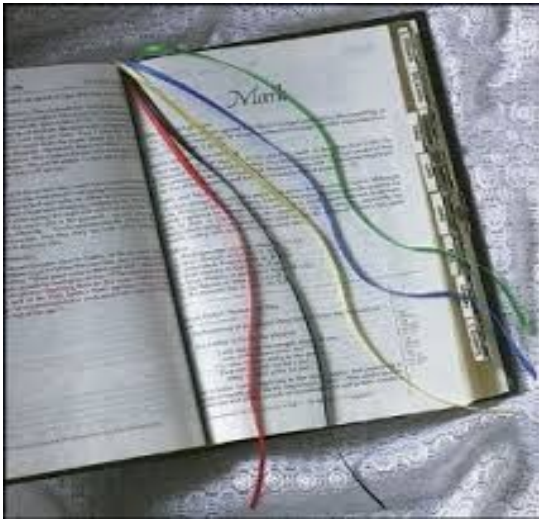
Further review of the Budget was done. Total is \$63,595.00. This will be presented at the congregational meeting to be voted on.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson



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





2/4 Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 147:1-11
Mark 1:29-39

2/11 Readings

1 Cor. 13:1-13
Psalm 50: 1-6
Mark 9: 2-9

2/18 Readings

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
Mark 1:9-15

2/25 Readings

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Mark 8:31-38

During the month of February we will be entering the season of Lent, in preparation for Easter. We will have an evening worship service at 7 PM on February 14 for Ash Wednesday. This service will include imposition of Ashes and Communion. February 21 we will begin our mid-week Lenten Devotions. Devotions will be held each Wednesday both at noon and 6 PM. This was a great success during Advent and gives us a perfect opportunity to invite a friend and/or neighbor. Devotions will be preceded by a light meal (bring a dish to share!) and will be a little more traditional for the Lenten season.



Here it is! Our first monthly column that will appear as often as someone comes up with a question they would like me to address—maybe we should call it “stump the Pastor”?.....

Question submitted: Which is correct in the Creed, to say “holy catholic church” or “holy Christian church”?

Answer: Both. The term Holy Catholic Church was used until the Reformation, when we (Protestants) switched to Holy Christian Church. The Lutheran reformers felt the term “catholic” might lead to confusion even though they and others fully understood the difference between “catholic” which means simply “universal, diverse, diversified, wide, comprehensive, etc” (quoted from Webster’s) whereas “Catholic” with a capital “C” refers to the Roman Catholic Church. Luther’s Small Catechism uses “Christian”, not “catholic”. In 1978 the Lutheran Commission on Worship switched back to “holy catholic church” (green hymnal). Some Lutheran churches current hymnals (LCMS, WELS, etc) still use “Christian”. Since both terms are historically correct, we at Living Word will use both—one in the Apostle’s Creed (Christian), the other in the Nicene Creed (catholic)

Have a question? Send it to me by email Michael@ISLonline.org

Pastor Michael

Tidbits!



When Pastor's wife Eneida went shopping at Annie's Art Attic for children's clothing to help the Living Stones Ministry in Mexico, she was delighted to find not only a couple of boxes of good, used clothing but also Annie showed her a stack of new athletic team shirts that were available. Eneida joyfully told about a young man, recovering from drug use, who was starting a soccer team in the barrio (neighborhood) of the Living Stones Ministry. Now the members would have nice, new shirts to bond and showcase the team. The shirts were packed up and Eneida will deliver them to Mexico. Although church

vouchers were offered for the clothing, since the items were being donated to the mission, Annie's gave them freely, no charge. Thank you Annie's for supporting our missions! God's hand at work through the call of Pastor Michael and his family, the friendship of Living Word and Annie's, and a young man in Mexico turning his life around. Amen.

COMING SOON!

Happy St. Patty's Day
Celebration

Saturday, March 16th
Cornbeef and Cabbage

Dinner - Yum!

Bingo to follow

Sponsored by W.O.W.

SAVE THE DATE!



We welcomed new Members on 1/7/18!

New members received were Karen Shaffer, Floyd Morris, MaryAnn Mallory, Donna Ferguson, Char and Dale Matheny (not present in picture)



“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

— **Mother Teresa**