

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

February 2021

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)485-2048

From the Pastor...

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words from Genesis 3 will be before us once again as Ash Wednesday quickly approaches, even though this year we will not be imposing the ashes on the forehead. The first time these words were heard, Adam and Eve would not have realized their full impact. They had not yet laid the body of their son, Abel, to rest within the ground. Upon his death, however, these words of God would have clearly and painfully been remembered.

Just as it has been done, so too when you are buried, your pastor will speak these words to those who gather at your gravesite. The pain of death cannot be avoided and in fact we must let these words have their say. Those who hide themselves from death are attempting to close the mouth of God's Law. But the Law speaks truthfully. All of us are but dust and ashes. And we will all one day return to the ground from whence we came.

"Lent is for you because Jesus and His cross are God's final word to you, the word of forgiveness, life, and salvation."

Yet the Law does not have the final say. Even before God spoke to Adam and Eve about their return to the dust, He promised to provide a Savior. This Savior, Jesus, is God's final word. The reason we, as Christians, hold the season of Lent in such high regard is that it brings us, year after year, into the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He journeyed to the cross for you. Lent is for you because Jesus and His cross are God's final word to you, the word of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Every year many Christians give up something for Lent. Why not, this year, add something for Lent? If you have not made Wednesday evening Lenten services a part of your life in the past, this year add them to your schedule. Or add the watching of these services, for they will be recorded as are all the Sunday services. Consider also adding more time in the Scriptures. Through Lent read a little more of God's Word each day. Do we have to do these things during Lent? No. But why wouldn't we want to have more of Jesus? He is, after all, God's final word to us. He is what Lent, and life, is all about.

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*Savior, when in dust to Thee, low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies, scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe, suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high, hear our penitential cry!*

LSB #419 - "Savior, When in Dust to Thee" vs. 1

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- † Ash Wednesday
- † Church Directory
- † Meditation
- † February Calendar

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Meditation

***"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known."
John 1:18***

*To know God from the Law with His back turned to us is a left-handed knowledge of Him. Therefore, walk around God and behold His true countenance and His real plan. God is seen properly only in Christ. There we learn that all who wish to be saved must confess that they are damnable sinners, and that they must rely on Him who is full of grace and truth. **Martin Luther***

We cannot really know a person until we see that person's face. In these days of the mask, what we may be gaining in one area, we are surely losing in another. The face reveals the true identity of a person, but even more, it shows us either love or anger, joy or sadness, acceptance or rejection. We see the face of God only by looking at the cross of Jesus. There we see God as He wants us to know Him--not as an angry God who rejects us for our sins, but as a God who has love for sinners, who is so full of compassion that He Himself bears the sin of the world and declares all sinners forgiven. God does not hide this merciful face of His from us, but desires that all see Him as the One who is *"full of grace and truth."*

Lent Begins on February 17

Ash Wednesday is February 17 and marks the beginning of this Lenten season. Lenten services will be held each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. (*please note the time change from previous years*).

During the 40 days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent is a time in which God's people prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast (Easter).

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2021 Church Directory

2021 Church Directory - We are currently in the process of updating the church directory and are asking that you review your contact information as displayed on the table on the Education Wing. If everything is accurate, please just initial next to your name. If corrections are needed, please make them and then initial. Thanks for your help with this project!

Worship Notes

Worship services are being held each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. We continue to practice precautionary measures, such as social distancing, no hand shaking, and single line communion.

We are continuing to provide a weekly video service for those who are not yet able to join us in church. This video worship service will be available on the church's website.

We are also offering Holy Communion at a mask required service on the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Bell posts a weekly devotion on Facebook and the church website. If you would like a printed copy of the sermon mailed to your home or if you have any other needs, please contact Pastor Bell at 636-228-4642 (church) or by cell phone at 636-485-2048.

New Officers for 2021

We welcome Leroy Nadler as an Elder and Rick Gibbs as Chairman. We thank them and all who continue to serve God through their service as officers of the church.

And, we give thanks for all who have given of their time and talents to make sure the Gospel continues to be proclaimed at Christ Lutheran.