



**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
**March 2019**

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



*For he will  
command his  
angels concerning  
you to guard you  
in all your ways.*

PSALM 91:11 , ESV



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

I feel like the gods of snow and ice and wind punished me for writing about the blues and blahs of February last month! They all took turns reminding us that there are powerful forces over which we have no control. It was my fault! I accept the blame! It was definitely a month to remember...or forget...I'm not sure which. I even wound up cancelling Sunday worship which I thought I would never do. Like Father McKenzie of *Eleanor Rigby fame*, *I spent a week writing a sermon that no one will hear. And then comes March, which often doesn't treat us much better!*

Optimistically though (and hoping not to further anger the gods of winter), even as February winds down and after digging out from the Sunday blizzard, there are hints of spring. The days are already noticeable longer and will feel longer still when the time changes on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Even on cold days, when the sun comes out, it rises higher in the sky and feels warmer; melting does start to happen! And...according to the calendar, spring will begin on March 20<sup>th</sup>! I don't expect to see bare ground anytime soon (maybe by Mothers' Day?) but still, there are hints of spring.

In church, another hint of spring is the season of Lent which this year begins on March 6<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday. As a liturgical season, Lent does or should have a different feel to it. It's a season during which we are more intentionally called to be honest about who we are as mortal, sinful human beings. We do so not in order to throw up our hands in despair, but to more fully recognize our need for God's grace and forgiveness and also to recognize that we can come closer to being who God would have us be.

In a church that places such great emphasis on grace and forgiveness, for Lutherans Lent can be a challenge. My sense is that we don't take the disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving as seriously as do some other faith traditions. I would suggest though, that it's a good idea to take on such discipline, not for God's sake, but for your sake. Even a modest discipline can serve as a daily reminder of the meaning of Lent, a reminder of God's presence and grace in your life and how you can respond to that presence. In a culture where many of us are overly attached to our electronic devices, some form a technology fast might be a good idea.



**Lent begins**

Again, Lent begins on March 6<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday services. On the following Wednesdays we will continue our tradition of soup suppers followed by Evening Prayer including a Lenten drama. As part of your discipline, make these additional times of prayer part of your week.

Hopefully the gods of snow and ice and wind will treat us more kindly!

Pastor Geier

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...When we follow Christ  
into Lent  
we turn onto a path  
into wilderness  
where we may encounter  
hard rocky places  
tempters  
and thirst  
but that will lead us out  
into the gold  
of the Easter dawn.

from "Journey" by Susan Palo Cherwien

**Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ ... into tomorrow. For you never walk with Christ long but what the dawn breaks, the sun shines and hope breaks through.**  
—C. Neil Straight



## DAILY LECTIONARY



*The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.*

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”  
—Martin Luther

### March 2019

1 Psalm 99                                      Deuteronomy 9:6-14                                      Acts 10:1-8  
2 Psalm 99                                      Deuteronomy 9:15-24                                      Luke 10:21-24

### 3 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35    Psalm 99                                      2 Cor. 3:12 — 4:2                                      Luke 9:28-36

4 Psalm 35:11-28                                      Exodus 35:1-29                                      Acts 10:9-23a  
5 Psalm 35:11-28                                      Ezekiel 1:1 — 2:1                                      Acts 10:23b-33

### 6 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17    Psalm 51:1-17                                      2 Cor. 5:20b — 6:10                                      Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

7 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16                                      Exodus 5:10-23                                      Acts 7:30-34  
8 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16                                      Exodus 6:1-13                                      Acts 7:35-42  
9 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16                                      Ecclesiastes 3:1-8                                      John 12:27-36

### 10 First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11    Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16                                      Romans 10:8b-13                                      Luke 4:1-13

11 Psalm 17                                      1 Chronicles 21:1-17                                      1 John 2:1-6  
12 Psalm 17                                      Zechariah 3:1-10                                      2 Peter 2:4-21  
13 Psalm 17                                      Job 1:1-22                                      Luke 21:34 — 22:6  
14 Psalm 27                                      Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18                                      Philippians 3:2-12

15 Psalm 27

Genesis 14:17-24

Philippians 3:17-20

16 Psalm 27

Psalm 118:26-29

Matthew 23:37-39

**17 Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18    Psalm 27    Philippians 3:17 — 4:1    Luke 13:31-35

18 Psalm 105:1-15,42

Exodus 33:1-6

Romans 4:1-12

19 Psalm 105:1-15,42

Numbers 14:10b-24

1 Cor. 10:1-13

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16    Psalm 89:1-29    Romans 4:13-18    Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

20 Psalm 105:1-15,42

2 Chronicles 20:1-22

Luke 13:22-31

21 Psalm 63:1-8

Daniel 3:19-30

Revelation 2:8-11

22 Psalm 63:1-8

Daniel 12:1-4

Revelation 3:1-6

23 Psalm 63:1-8

Isaiah 5:1-7

Luke 6:43-45

**24 Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9    Psalm 63:1-8    1 Cor. 10:1-13    Luke 13:1-9

25 Psalm 39

Jeremiah 11:1-17

Romans 2:1-11

**Readings for the Annunciation of Our Lord**

Isaiah 7:10-14    Psalm 45    Hebrews 10:4-10    Luke 1:26-38

26 Psalm 39

Ezekiel 17:1-10

Romans 2:12-16

27 Psalm 39

Numbers 13:17-27

Luke 13:18-21

28 Psalm 32

Joshua 4:1-13

2 Cor. 4:16 — 5:5

29 Psalm 32

Joshua 4:14-24

2 Cor. 5:6-15

30 Psalm 32

Exodus 32:7-14

Luke 15:1-10

**31 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12    Psalm 32    2 Cor. 5:16-21    Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**“We are all so sunk in sin, and so wedded to the world, that we would never turn to God and seek salvation, unless he first called us by his grace.”**

—J.C. Ryle

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## Just as I Am

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fightings and fears within, without  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve  
Because Thy promise I believe  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
ELW #592



### **Just As I Am: a Hymn History**

*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,  
and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

John 6:37

She was an embittered woman, Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England. Her health was broken, and her disability had hardened her. "If God loved me," she muttered, "He would not have treated me this way."

Hoping to help her, a Swiss minister, Dr. Cesar Malan, visited the Elliotts on May 9, 1822. Over dinner, Charlotte lost her temper and railed against God and family in a violent outburst. Her embarrassed family left the room, and Dr. Malan was left alone with her.



"You are tired of yourself, aren't you? he asked. "You are holding to your hate because you have nothing else in the world to cling to. Consequently, you have become sour, bitter, and resentful."

"What is your cure?" asked Charlotte.

"The faith you are trying to despise."

As they talked, Charlotte softened. "If I wanted to become a Christian and to share the peace and joy you possess," she finally asked, "what would I do?"

"You would give yourself to God just as you are now, with your fightings and fears, hates and loves, pride and shame."

"I would come to God just as I am? Is that right?"

Charlotte did come just as she was, and her heart was changed that day. As time passed she found and claimed John 6:37 as a special verse for her: "...he who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

Years later, her brother, Rev. Henry Elliott, was raising funds for a school for the children of poor clergymen. Charlotte wrote a poem, and it was printed and sold across England. The leaflet said: *Sold for the Benefit of St. Margaret's Hall, Brighton: Him That Cometh to Me I will in No Wise Cast Out.* Underneath was Charlotte's poem – which has since become the most famous invitational hymn in history.

Charlotte lived to be 82 and wrote 150 hymns, though she never enjoyed good health. As her loved ones sifted through her papers after her death, they found over a thousand letters she had kept in which people expressed their gratitude for the way this hymn had touched their lives.



From *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories* by Robert J. Morgan



**The March/April Noisy Offering will go to NGLS Hunger Drive.**

**Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**



## A NOTE FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY

### **Wesley Methodist Church Asks Bethany's Help for Project "Keep Kids Warm"**

In 2018 winter clothing donations were collected door to door throughout Ishpeming and Negaunee. Generous funding allowed our staff to purchase additional items that are often in short supply from these neighborhood collections. During the October free shopping day, hundreds of families were able to obtain much needed winter clothing items for kids ages infant to 18. Each year the program has been able to continue through the winter months, allowing families that face difficult financial situations find the outerwear their kids need to stay warm.

How can you help? The fall collection results in thousands of winter clothing items being gathered. As in the past, experience has shown that certain things like snow pants and boots come up short. Your financial donation is critical toward filling those gaps. The received funds are used to purchase winter clothing items in advance during upcoming Spring sales at area retail stores. The dollars will be used 100% to this end, allowing our team to be well prepared for the October 2019 distribution. It cannot be emphasized enough—your financial support is critical toward guaranteeing that we will always be able to help the kids in our community. Every piece counts; any amount large or small is very important.

On behalf of Wesley Methodist Church, please give careful consideration toward sending a financial donation as you can be a vital part of Project Keep Kids Warm. You can mail any donations to:

Wesley United Methodist Church  
Project: Keep Kids Warm  
PO BOX 342  
Ishpeming, MI 49849





**Lenten Soup Suppers:  
5:30 each Wednesday of Lent**

The Boards of Bethany will provide the soups each Wednesday of Lent.\*

March 13 - Finance and Property  
March 20 - Social Ministry  
March 27 - Worship & Music  
April 3 - Stewardship and Personnel  
April 10 - Christian Ed

\*No Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday

**Ashes**



On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In Old Testament days, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. The speaking of Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes:

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



**March 6**

**6:30 pm**

**Traditional Service  
(Confession,  
Imposition of Ashes,  
and  
Holy Communion)**



**Wednesday Lenten Services will Highlight the Drama Series  
“Amen: Pray Like Jesus”**

This series of plays demonstrates that prayer is critical in the ministry of Jesus. He prays every chance he gets, alone or with others. What might it mean to pray like Jesus? The five plays will explore several ideas based in scripture, with some humor as well as serious moments.

**1. THAT ALL MAY BE ONE**

In this first drama a mother intentionally challenges her children to consider what it means for them to be “one”.

**2. FATHER FORGIVE THEM**

This drama takes a serious turn, as we listen in on a priest and a death row prisoner, who might have something to teach others about forgiveness.

**3. PRAY FOR OUR ENEMIES**

In this play we get to listen in on a psychiatrist and a patient as they explore what it might mean when our “enemies” are our loved ones!

**4. PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN**

This play takes a comical look at what some people might do to pray “for” the children. What happens in the TV Show “Shark Tank” when someone suggests an “app” that will do just that?

**5. SWEAT BLOOD LIKE JESUS**

Sometimes do we think we simply have to pray “harder”, even to the point of sweating blood as Jesus did as he prayed in Gethsemane? Do we sometimes forget that Jesus prayed “Your will be done”?

**Could you make soup?** \_\_\_\_\_

If you would be able to help the Boards of Bethany for the soup suppers by making a pot of soup, it would be greatly appreciated. Some members have responsibilities for several boards and others find it difficult to make the soup. If you could help, please contact one of the board chairpersons and volunteer. Thank you so much. A list of the board chairpersons is listed on the back cover of the Outlook.



## **ASHES TO ASHES AND DUST TO DUST: WHY LUTHERANS RECEIVE ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

Many non-Lutherans wonder why their Lutheran friends or family members wear ashes on their forehead at the beginning of Lent. Are they showing off? Are they trying to stand out? Is it some weird secret church ritual? What does it mean? Should I get them too?

There are three reasons why Lutherans go to church to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. First, the ashes remind people of their sinfulness. Second, the ashes remind people of their mortality. Third, the ashes remind people that they have been redeemed. Let's unpack this a bit.

Since ancient times, God's people have used ashes as a sign of humble repentance (e.g. Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Daniel 9:3; Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13). This tradition was carried on by the early church and remains an important tradition today. When one willingly goes up to a pastor and receives ashes on his/her forehead, they are admitting that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation. They are admitting that they have sinned not only against their neighbors, but against God Himself. The ashes show demonstrate that without God, all people are spiritually dead. The ashes remind the wearer of their need to repent and confess in order to be turned back to God. The ashes demonstrate our pleading that the Lord would purify us. The ashes serve as a tangible and visible sign of our failure to love God as much as He loves us.

The receiving of ashes on Ash Wednesday also remind people of their mortality, which is the direct result of God's condemnation of our sin. God said to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ashes serve as a solemn reminder that the price of sin is death. Man cannot escape death. Often, people today feel as if they are invincible. It's easy to feel like we're at the top of the world, capable of doing anything that we desire. We keep ourselves busy doing "good" things, but fail to recognize that in reality we are dead men walking. People don't like to think about death. Our culture has seemingly sterilized death. We make every attempt to avoid death. Death is uncomfortable. And, that's why ashes are so important. They are the physical reminder that God created man from the dust of the earth and one day all men will return to the dust of the earth. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust. The ashes force us to remember that we are merely mortal and that God alone is sovereign and reigns for all eternity.

Ashes also tell us the good news of the Gospel! You see, ashes aren't just smeared randomly or haphazardly across people's foreheads. The ashes are given in the shape of the cross. In receiving the ashes, we remember that our Lord Jesus took on the fullness of our humanity. He who was sinless became our sin. Jesus the Christ was crucified on a cross. He was crucified for you. He descended into hell where he endured the fullness of the wrath of God on your behalf. Then Jesus conquered death through His resurrection. He was resurrected for you. In doing so, He has taken the ashes of our past and created in us new life, allowing us to live forever in the holy presence of God! He has redeemed His children, making us clean and new. Through the cross of Christ, the power of death has been destroyed. Through the cross there is life. The cross-shaped ashes on our foreheads proclaim the good news that sin and death have been conquered through the cross of Christ.

In many Lutheran Ash Wednesday services, the Lord's Supper immediately follows the receiving of ashes. We, who were once dead in our sins, we who deserve to die, come to the Lord's Table literally wearing the cross of Christ. Here, at the Lord's table, those who have humbled themselves before the Lord, who have admitted their sin, who know they deserve death, are instead given the new life that is only found through the body and blood of our loving Lord Jesus. Here, at the Lord's table, those marked with the cross of Christ are raised up, strengthened through God's mercy, love, and grace, and sent forth into the world to proclaim the good news!

This year, Ash Wednesday is on March 6<sup>th</sup>. You are encouraged to find a local Lutheran church so that you, too, can join in this special occasion in which we humbly come before the Lord, repent of our sinful ways and receive the free gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. Interestingly, the ashes Lutherans receive are traditionally made out of the palm branches used previously on Palm Sunday, a day when people rejoiced and praised Jesus only days before they turned on him and yelled "Crucify Him!" (Matthew 27:22; Mark 15:13; Luke 23:21; John 19:6) This serves as a powerful reminder that people are sinful, death is real, but Resurrection Day (Easter) is coming! Come, all are welcome. All are in need of salvation. Let the Lord use the ashes of your past to create in you a clean heart and new life in Him.

From @lutheranlenses, February 23, 2019



Fellowship Hall Floor original 1962 Will patch asbestos floor and put down carpet squares which are replaceable if ruined.

Sanctuary original 1970 Carpet

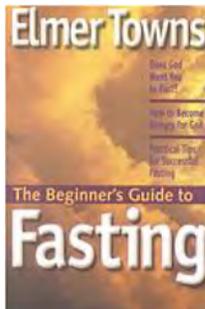
Church Pews and Choir Chairs 1970 reupholster both



## Library Notes for March 2019

By Keenan Tunnell

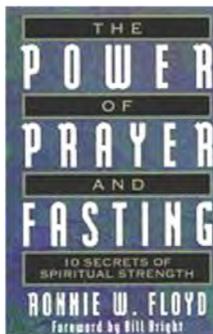
Towns, Elmer. **Beginner's Guide to Fasting.** (248.4 TOW.2.)



Since Old Testament times, God's people have engaged in the spiritual tradition of fasting: going without food for a predetermined length of time to accomplish an important purpose or goal. Fasting can be done for any number of reasons: to get to know God better, to wait on God for an answer to prayer, to listen to God, to worship Him. In these pages, you'll discover why you should fast, how to prepare for your first fast, what kind of fasts to follow, how to get started, and what to expect after you are finished. Learn how you can master this powerful spiritual discipline.

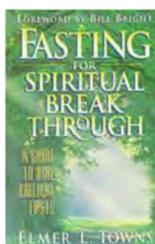
Floyd, Ronnie W. **The Power of Prayer and Fasting.** (248.4 FLO)

The hand-in-hand spiritual discipline of prayer and fasting is not a gimmick or a spiritual fad, although its neglect in recent decades makes it a rediscovery for many Christians. Instead, as Dr. Floyd points out, prayer and fasting is a Scripture-ordained act of obedience—a means of humbling ourselves before God, drawing closer to Him, and making room for Him to speak and act in our lives. The book offers firsthand stories, explanations of how fasting works in the life of a Christian, and practical, step-by-step guidance for those who may seek to observe a fast of varying lengths, from one to forty days.



Towns, Elmer. **Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough.** (248.4 TOW.1, 251 p.)

This is a thought-provoking book on one of the least understood—but most powerful—disciplines of Christianity. Most believers know about fasting, but few of us really understand the wonderful benefits that come when we fast with purpose and direction. Written in Dr. Towns' dynamic, descriptive style, this book gives the “why” of fasting, rather than just the “how.” He avoids a glut of techniques and schedules, and instead provides a probing look at Isaiah 58, often called the fasting passage. Learn how fasting can strengthen your faith and draw you closer to God.



## Meditation on Fasting

*This is a meditation from a daily series of readings and meditations which I use regularly. I don't have easy access to the internet here, so I don't know yet what the meditation will be for this Ash Wednesday, but I thought this one from a summer reading was appropriate. One interesting thing which is noted is that in this quotation from Matthew, Jesus specifically says, "when you fast", not "if you fast." Sounds like a pretty strong hint that we might give fasting a second look!*

*On Fasting; from **Word Among Us**, 6/20/18*

*When you fast . . . (Matthew 6:17)*

The Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "There is no love sincerer than the love of food." This quote, while originally penned in humor, contains a kernel of truth. We love food! Not only does it satisfy our physical hunger, but it can bring us comfort and happiness as well. So, for many of us, the idea of intentionally going without it—fasting—can make us feel uncomfortable.

Remember, though, that the culture Jesus addressed was more accustomed to fasting than ours. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting were the three most important spiritual disciplines to a faithful Jew. Fasting, in particular, was seen as a powerful expression of turning to God in repentance. It wasn't necessarily repentance from a particular sin; rather, fasting was seen as an effective way of turning to God.

It might help to think of a radio. In order to clear the static and find the station you're looking for, you have to turn the knob until the radio is in tune with the station's frequency. In a similar way, fasting was seen as a valuable method of finding the Lord and hearing his voice.

Fasting is just as valuable today as it was in Jesus' time. It gives us more time to turn to the Lord in prayer. The physical hunger we feel can help put us in touch with our spiritual hunger for Jesus. It confirms Jesus' teaching that we don't live on bread alone "but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Even better, tuning in to the Lord through fasting puts us more clearly in touch with his love, his desires, and his peace. These spiritual rewards far outweigh any temporary feelings of discomfort from hunger.

It's important also to see that Jesus didn't say if you fast, but rather, when you fast. If you'd like to begin but aren't sure how, keep it simple at first. Give up just one meal, and spend that time focusing on the Lord in prayer or reading the Scriptures. Just try this once a week, and let it build from there. You'll be amazed at how quickly your spiritual frequency becomes more tuned in with the Lord's!



## Living Lutheran February 2019

### Cover Story:

- Led by the Spirit; Congregations are energized by what God is doing in their midst (Robert C. Blezard)

### Features:

- What is grace? Grace and God's welcome (Meghan Johnston Aelabouni)
- We're on the move; Where is God calling the ELCA? (Angela Khabeb)
- Our Lutheran musical heritage: How do we select songs for all seasons? (Julie Grindle)
- Youth tackle hunger; Food and funds are raised during the Souper Bowl of Caring (Rachel K. Hindery)
- Financial discipleship ; Initiative strengthens financial wellness (John Potter)
- "I know I am welcome" (Anne Basye)

### Reflection:

- Called (Kimberly Knowle-Zeller)

### Faith and Family:

- An affirmation of faith (Adrainne Gray)

### Deeper Understandings:

- Theological education in the ELCA (Raymond Pickett)



### From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

- What is God up to?



## **In All His Glory**

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! “He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Matthew 17:2, ESV).

Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (verse 5). Jesus’ disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.



## **Transfiguration**

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God’s love with our brothers and sisters, God’s other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

—Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

## **Rend Your Heart**

*For Ash Wednesday*

To receive this blessing,  
all you have to do  
is let your heart break.  
Let it crack open.  
Let it fall apart.  
so you can see  
its secret chambers,  
the hidden spaces  
where you have hesitated  
to go.

Your entire life  
is here, inscribed whole  
upon your heart's walls:  
every path taken  
or left behind,  
every face you turned toward  
or turned away,  
every word spoken in love  
or in rage,  
every line of your life  
you would prefer to leave  
in shadow,  
every story that shimmers  
with treasures known  
and those you have yet to find.

I could take you days  
to wander these rooms.  
Forty, at least.

*Even now, says the Lord, return to me  
with all your heart, with fasting,  
With weeping, and with mourning;  
Rend your hearts and not your  
clothing.*

— Joel 2:12-13



And so let this be  
a season for wandering,  
for trusting the breaking,  
for tracing the rupture  
that will return you

to the One who waits,  
who watches,  
who works within  
the rending  
to make your heart  
whole.

— Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*

### **Bob and Cindy Warner's Address**

Bob and Cindy Warner are staying in Rochester where Cindy's treatment continues to be monitored by the Mayo Clinic. Cindy continues to improve but doctors are still not ready to let her go home. Prayers are appreciated.

Their address while they stay in Minnesota is...

Bob and Cindy Warner  
515 First Avenue S  
Rochester MN 55902

### **Marilyn Pontti**

After the loss of her husband John, Marilyn Pontti continues to reside at Mill Creek. She intends to stay there for a couple of months. Her phone number at Mill Creek is 906-360-7470.

On July 19 Marilyn and her family and friends will celebrate John's life with a Memorial Service at Bethany.



### **Chalice & Cross**

The chalice with a cross rising from it symbolizes Christ's obedient suffering, even unto death. The cross is called a "passion cross," with pointed ends that represent suffering. We remember that in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus begged his Father that the "cup" of suffering be taken from him. But ultimately, he prayed, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39, NIV)



# Kids!

How about some snow riddles?



Q: What do snowmen eat for lunch ? A: Icebergers !

Q: What time is it when little white flakes fall past the classroom window? A: Snow and Tell.

Q: If the sun shines while it's snowing, what should you look for? A: Snowbows.

Q: How do you keep the snow from giving you cold feet? A: Don't go around BRR-footed!

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money? A: In a snow bank.



Q: What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A: A meltdown!

Q: What is a snowman's favorite game? A: Ice Spy with my little eye...



Bethany kids helped fight hunger by collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring.



### **Bethany Sesquicentennial Update March**

*Bethany Lutheran Church marked her first full century of mission and ministry on October 2, 1970-its centennial year.*

The events for our 150th anniversary celebration will start on October 6, 2019 and continue to October 4, 2020. We are planning a Swedish celebration as part of the early activities and will have events at intervals throughout the year ahead.

Our next regular meeting is Saturday, March 16 11:00AM at Bethany. You are welcome to stop by and offer suggestions as we move through the planning.

Committee: Deb Cain, Peg and Barb Clark, Tony and Rae Elliot, Karen Kasper, Dave Leverton and Ann Sundblad.

### **An early start to spring cleaning**

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.



Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.

### **Synod Assembly Choir**



You are invited to join the Synod Assembly Choir. Rehearsals are May 4 at 10:00 am at Bethany, Ishpeming, and May 11 at 10:00 am at Bethany, Escanaba. Dave Dagenais will be directing. The choir will be singing on Thursday, May 16 at the Synod's 6:00 - 8:00 pm worship service.

## ELCA podcast “Three Sides” launched



There are two sides to every story, the saying goes. But what about when an unexpected third side is revealed, giving the story even more dimensionality? The ELCA’s new monthly podcast, “Three Sides,” offers a fresh way to tell the unique, compelling and sometimes surprising stories of this church.

“Three Sides” presents diverse voices from across all expressions of the ELCA. The podcast is hosted by Shanna Crawford, director for accounting with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund; Phil LaDeur, program assistant for hunger education with ELCA World Hunger; and Andrew Steele, director of ELCA Global Church Sponsorship.

Episode topics so far have included women who lead, church in community, and how congregations can best serve children and families.

### **Good news: something we can use more of today**

Even the hosts have found themselves learning about ELCA initiatives and experiences through the stories “Three Sides” explores. “I had no idea that the church was at work in so many different places and in so many ways,” LaDeur said.

Crawford agreed: “I’ve been able to take a deep dive into all things Lutheran and hear the stories of some amazing people.” She enjoys “being part of lifting up these stories and issues and adding a bit of commentary along the way.”

Steele hopes “Three Sides” “becomes a platform for good news — something I think we all could use a bit more of. Positive stories are happening throughout our congregations, synods and churchwide ministries.”

When “Three Sides” made the iTunes top 100 in the Religion & Spirituality podcast category in its first week of launching, the hosts were especially encouraged. “It’s amazing how much God is doing through us, and I see the podcast as being a great tool to get these stories out to the rest of the church and the world,” Steele said.

“Three Sides” is available at [living.lutheran.org/podcast](http://living.lutheran.org/podcast) and via iTunes, Spotify and Stitcher. Have an idea for a podcast topic? Send them to [threesides@elca.org](mailto:threesides@elca.org).

From *Seeds for the Parish*, Winter 2019

## Council Highlights— 2018



- Received thanks for Bethany's donation for Patriot Packs
- Discussed preschool
- 150th anniversary committee has met and will meet again in March
- The church notification system was implemented when church was canceled on February 24. If you haven't given your email address yet so you can be notified of important information, please do so by turning in your email to Carrie in the church office.
- John Pontti's memorial service will be July 19.
- Michael Holman was appointed as licensed lay minister at Emanuel (Skandia) and Bethany (Negaunee) With this appointment, Pastor Geier is relieved of his interim duties.
- Ben Bruhnke's graduation party will be at Bethany on June 9.
- Jill Carter is the new chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry.
- Soup Assignment for the Lenten Soup Suppers will be posted in the Outlook.



**YTD Income: \$14,502.15**

**YTD Expenses: \$20,343.02**

**January 2019**



### **VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED**

Coffee Hour Fellowship volunteers are needed for March and April. If your group is one of our regulars, please sign up on the Kiosk sheet. If you would *like to help and there's an empty spot, sign in it and we can find others to help.*



This has been a growing group each Sunday and it only works if most help out in some small or big way. Thank you to the many regular volunteers. We can do this because of you.

## Ashley Chartre Receives Scholarship Honors

On January 2019, Ashley Chartre, a sixth grade band student at Negaunee Middle School, had the opportunity to audition for a scholarship for Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Ashley plays the trumpet. She auditioned and soon after received a letter saying she received the scholarship.

Ashley will be going to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in August 2019. Tuition for the camp is very expensive, and her scholarship does not cover the entire cost of tuition. To help defray the cost of her tuition, Coffee Fellowship time on March 17<sup>th</sup> will be in honor of Ashley.



**Daylight Savings Time begins  
March 10.**

**Remember to turn your clocks ahead.**

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
A: Frosted Flakes.

Q: What do you call an old snowman?  
A: Water!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?  
A: Frostbite.

Q: What do Snowmen call their offspring?  
A: Chill-dren.

Q: How does a Snowman get to work?  
A: By icicle.

**MORE SNOW  
RIDDLES**



**Bethany's Website  
[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)**

To view the latest edition of the Outlook in color, please visit Bethany's website.



## Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

**Valente:**

**Jacobetti:** Carol Waters

**Teal Lake Senior Living Community:** Betty Geier, Jean Johns, Annette Larson,  
Adeline Johnson

**Mill Creek:** Marilyn Pontti

- The family and friends of John Pontti who mourn his loss
- Amanda Bivins
- John Lusardi
- Ann Wise
- Loreth Johnson
- Bob Kaukola
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Kathy Geier
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slow
- Ruby Kaukola
- Dan & Sharon Argall
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Ted Swanson
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



**Answer to puzzle *Remember to Pray*:**

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers...

Contact **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625  
[linkarzig@gmail.com](mailto:linkarzig@gmail.com)

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor  
Home Phone: 485-4218  
E-mail: [pastor@bethanyishpeming.org](mailto:pastor@bethanyishpeming.org)

Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau  
Asst. Exec. Director, Robert Clark  
Christian Education, Amanda Bivins  
Finance, Jim Kinnunen  
Personnel, Jim Bjorne  
Property, Robert Bruhnke  
Social Ministry, Jill Carter  
Stewardship, Tom Perry  
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northern Great Lakes Synod



## March Worship Assistants

### March 3

Assisting Minister - Tom Perry  
Acolytes - Ashley Chartre & Jacob Bivins  
Altar - Sue Holmgren  
Coffee Hosts - Rae Elliot & Marie Chilman  
Nursery - Ian Bivins  
Bread - Kay Chartre  
Youth usher - Leo Dockery

### March 10

Assisting Minister - Abbi Bruhnke  
Acolytes - Faith Cain & Reid Frustaglio  
Altar - Kaye Frederickson  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown  
Bread - Rae Elliot  
Youth Usher - Brady Johnson

### March 17

Assisting Minister - Robert Clark  
Acolytes - Leo Dockery & Jacob Bivins  
Altar - Shirley Tyni  
Coffee Hosts - Joy Circle  
Nursery - Abbi Bruhnke  
Bread - Marian Medlyn  
Youth Usher - Ian Bivins

### March 24

Assisting Minister - Robert Nadeau  
Acolytes - Ian Bivins & Ashley Chartre  
Altar -  
Coffee Hosts - Volunteers  
Nursery - Mackenzie Ryan  
Bread - Terra Frustaglio  
Youth Usher - Jacob Bivins

### March 31

Assisting Minister - Sally Grant  
Acolytes - Jarin Johnson & Brady Johnson  
Altar -  
Coffee Hosts - Volunteers  
Nursery -  
Bread - Judy Kitchen  
Youth Usher— Reid Frustaglio

### March 6 Ash Wednesday

Assisting Minister - Blake Forbes  
Acolytes - Ian Bivins & Luke Holmgren

### March Ushers:

Bob Nadeau  
John Carlson  
Tom Brown  
Maurice Hansen  
Tom Sodergren  
Greg Stahlmann  
Don Hurrell  
Jim Penhale



### April Ushers:

Bruce Bussone  
Tom Perry  
Jim Kinnunen  
Craig Kitchen  
Jerry Plaisier  
Knut Strom  
Doug Carter

*Thank You!*

## *Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Carol Carlson
- 2 Carol Heavyside
- 3 Heidi Sweet
- 4 Marvin Swanson
- 4 Calvin Bertucci
- 5 Addy Lemire
- 7 Alexandra Kitchen
- 7 Evelyn Valente
- 8 Terra Frustaglio
- 8 Roberta Luokkala
- 9 Gwen Bruhnke
- 10 Rick Dault
- 11 Brett Sandstrom
- 12 Robert Clark
- 12 Trisha Gugin
- 14 William Carne
- 15 Jamie Healey
- 15 Beverly Matherne
- 16 Joshua Argall
- 16 Derek Meyer
- 17 Beth Bertucci
- 18 Peggy Clark
- 19 Sue Ryan
- 21 Gregory Stahlmann
- 22 Nicholas Chartre
- 24 Patricia Nault
- 25 Robert Kaukola
- 25 Joseph Lemire
- 27 Gavin Argall
- 28 Kimberly Marks
- 28 Doris Pellonpaa
- 28 Donna Stahlmann



- 29 Chad Anderson
- 29 Catherine Barton
- 29 Marie Chilman
- 29 Kenneth Lawson
- 30 Sharla Riutta
- 31 Benjamin Bruhnke
- 31 Lois Goethe

## *Happy Anniverary!*

David & Amanda Bivins  
3/2/02            17 years

Richard & Jamie Rhoades  
3/21/03           16 years



### **A belated Happy Anniversary to**

George & Barb Holmgren  
2/12/65            54 years