



The Watchman



March
2019

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



This year, we begin the month of March with our annual Ash Wednesday service. Just as spring is beginning in Mississippi, the birds are singing outside my window, and the flowers are blooming, we are reminded of just the opposite with the words of Genesis 3:19 and Ecclesiastes 3:20, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.”

The custom of placing ashes (a particular form of



dust) on the forehead on Ash Wednesday was established many centuries before the Reformation. The wearing of ashes as a symbol of mourning is mentioned quite often in the Bible, used by believers to symbolize humility, contrition, and repentance. Job proclaimed “Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:6) And the prophet Daniel, seeking God’s mercy and forgiveness for the people of Israel, wrote, “So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.” (Dan. 9:3)

The letter to the Hebrews also reminds us that ashes are a symbol of the sacrifice of our Savior, Whose death truly brings us peace with God, and makes us able to serve Him: “The ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” (Heb. 9:14)

As the custom developed, these crosses of ash were worn in public as an open acknowledgement of sin and repentance. This served as a public testimony that Christians still struggle with sin. The name “Christian” does not imply perfection, but that the person has been forgiven on account of Christ. Some Christians may choose to remove the ash before they leave church. First, they do not want their piety to become a proud, public display – Jesus warns in Matthew 6 of practicing righteousness in order to be seen by others. Second, by washing away the ash, they remind themselves that they have indeed

been forgiven and have received God’s grace in Baptism, in the Absolution, and in the Lord’s Supper.

Lutherans believe that the ashes are a matter of Christian freedom; God neither commands nor forbids such a practice. Each Christian may decide for himself whether or not he will receive the ashes and how long he will wear them. If the ashes remind you of God’s grace, then receive the ash. If the ash helps you proclaim Christ to your neighbor, then wear the ash all day. If you are tempted to boast in your piety or find washing it away a helpful reminder of God’s grace, then feel free to wash away the ashes before leaving the church.

Regardless of your personal piety, I hope that Ash Wednesday reminds you of your sin, which causes you to die and to return to dust. Also, I hope that it reminds you of Christ’s great sacrifice and the many gifts He won for you. May these ashes be to us a reminder of our mortality, a symbol of our repentance, a token of Christ’s death, a sign of God’s forgiveness, and a mark of our desire to live holy and righteous lives, to the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior.

February Anniversary & Birthdays

Karen Dunston, Marilyn Trehern &
Kathy Griffin



Elders & Lay Readers

- 3 Dave Hamilton & Jody Heusman (Donna K.)
- 6 Louis Bontly & Shawn Robbins (Shawn R.)
- 10 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Ruby D.)
- 17 Jody Heusman & Dave Hamilton (Shawn R.)
- 24 T. J. Schmelter & Jody Heusman (Carl E.)

*Happy
Anniversary*

- 17 Jody & Tara Heusman



- 1 Frank Fezell
- 2 Emilia Kooienga
- 2 Margaret Harrell
- 5 Carol Jacobson
- 9 Peyton Robbins
- 9 Jody Heusman
- 10 Brady Maggard
- 12 Joshua Hamilton
- 16 Thyne Brown
- 17 Carl Erichsen
- 24 Joyce Pack
- 26 Ruby Dale
- 30 Susan Rademacher



Bible Treasure Hunt: Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

Zechariah 11:1 What should be opened?

Brondum Krebs Update

News from Vietnam!

I left Zambia early in February to meet Rhett, a friend from my college days in Hattiesburg. Rhett is not affiliated with the Peace Corps but teaches English in China. It was a fun reunion that began in Hanoi, in what was North Vietnam, and ended in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), in the South. We arrived just in time for the biggest shindig of the year, The Vietnamese New Year's. This year is the Year of the Pig and we celebrated with a large meal with a local Vietnamese family. Food was everywhere! We celebrated with pho (a rice noodle with meat and seasonings) and Bahn mi, a baguette type bread with pork, pate, cilantro, carrots, cucumber and sometimes egg. Vietnamese cuisine is well known for its balance of the five Asian elements; spicy, sour, bitter, salty and sweet and nowhere throughout the country was I disappointed! My favorite was probably the fresh produce. Unlike Zambia, Vietnam is green! Salads abound!! We traveled by motorbike (Rhett had never ridden before so there was a learning curve!), bicycle and train. The country has a literacy level of 94% and their rate of unemployment is one of the lowest of all developing countries in the world. Their culture is a blend of Chinese, French, Japanese with some American cultural holdovers. Vietnam is one of about 5 communist countries remaining the world (China, Cuba, Laos and North Korea) but the people are very friendly and welcoming and we never felt threatened. They love the tourist dollar! Perhaps it is the love of money, but Vietnam is not a very religious country. The prevailing religion, Buddhism, is represented by 7.9% of the population; Catholics, 6.6%; Protestants, 0.9%; Muslim, 0.1%; no religious affiliation, 81.8%. The travel "home" to Zambia via Thailand, was tedious and time consuming and was another life experience. As I approached "in-country Lusaka", I realized I have 15 more months in Zambia and I started to really miss my real home but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to visit an old friend and see another amazing country. Life is good; blessings abound!



March Scripture Readings

	Mar. 3	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Deut. 34:1-12	Psalm 99	Heb. 3:1-6	Luke 9:28-36
ASH WEDNESDAY	Mar. 6	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-19	Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19)	2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
LENT	Mar. 10	First S. in Lent	Deut. 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-13	Rom. 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
	Mar. 17	Second S. in Lent	Jer. 26:8-15	Psalm 4	Phil. 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
	Mar. 24	Third S. in Lent	Ezek. 33:7-20	Psalm 85	1 Cor. 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
	Mar. 31	Fourth S. in Lent	Is. 12:1-6	Psalm 32	2 Cor. 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Mary Martha News

Will meet on Monday, March 4 at 5:30 pm.
All ladies are welcome to attend.

February Mites

RECONNECT to the Body of Christ
2017-2019 Mission Grant 19 — \$50,000

Free rice meals for the families.

The congregations of Texas District Circuit 28 have a great desire to work together as one group in training mission workers to share the Word and unite these congregations and communities. The Rio Grande Valley of Texas shares the border with Mexico and has a large Hispanic population, many of whom are among the

poorest of poor, at risk and unchurched. They have developed a long-range plan to assist the struggling congregations in reaching out to the communities to bring the Word into the homes of hurting families. The first step in the plan has been realized with the arrival of a Director of Christian Education (DCE) that will be serving the circuit – not just an individual church. With this in place, the next stages can begin by training leaders within the congregations in a mission and ministry model utilized by a local, thriving congregation, building campus relationships with the 50,000 students attending local colleges, and conducting community mercy projects. These funds will assist in the project startup costs, training materials, transportation costs, scholarships, and other incurred expenses of the training program.





Minutes 2/17/2019

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order and Pastor Waffel opened with prayer. The reading of the January minutes was waived.

Pastor's Report: See attached report

President's Report: Shawn Robbins: Lenten soup suppers:

3/13 Elders, 3/20 Council, 3/27 LWML, 4/3 Congregation, 4/10 Congregation

Vice President's Report: Kevin Rademacher: Sign up for flowers and ushers and greeters. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call Janet in the office. We will continue with the new practice of having one greeter and one usher for Sunday service. Kevin is also working on the Security and Safety Plan.

Elders Report: Louis Bontly: We will only have 5 elders serving this year. Dave Hamilton has offered to assist with communion if needed. The Elders are conducting a study, "Pastors and Elders", and participated in a retreat last Saturday. The focus of the study is the relationship with Christ for Elders and Pastors.

Trustees: Jerold Shepherd: We will clear the Fellowship Hall Sunday March 31 after service to prepare for stripping and rewaxing the floors.

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen:

Contributions for January \$8049.25

February so far: \$5,910

YTD: \$13,959.25

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson: Checking account balance: \$4265.62 most bills are paid. Audit committee will audit the books soon. Lin discussed a budget amendment for a slight increase in Pastor's pay and additional vacation days.

Evangelism: Mike Southern: Mike has been active in sharing LCMS posts on Facebook. Christ Lutheran has 150+ Facebook followers. Sermons are also posted on YouTube and can be viewed through Facebook or the church website.

Mary Martha: Pancake Supper and Bingo night Friday, February 22. \$7 for supper/\$5 for children and bingo is \$1 per card. It was a lot of fun last time, so plan to join us! The church history is back from the printers and will be \$5 per copy. May 4 MM is hosting the Spring Zone Rally.

Education: Donna Krebs: Adult Bible study continues, Cathy Groff teaches Sunday school for children present.

Social Ministry: The Social Ministry Team made 6 home visits and 1 hospital visit this month. Valentine cards and gift bags were given to homebound members.

Youth: Dave Griffin: Signup sheet for the Mardi Gras Cookout will be posted. Parade and cookout are Saturday, March 2.

Stewardship: Be mindful of expenses and continue to give your time and talents.

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully,

Susan Rademacher

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council February 2019

Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: none since last meeting
- Elders' retreat on Saturday, February 16 using the CPH material "Pastors and Elders".
- Ash Wednesday is March 6, with service at 7pm. I will also offer a brief Imposition of Ashes service during the day if anyone is unable to come in the evening.



- Lent midweek services are March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 with soup supper at 6pm and service at 7pm.
- Planning a Seder meal and service for Maundy Thursday, April 18, 6:00pm
- In Sunday morning adult Bible class we are continuing our study on Isaiah.
- Confirmation class continues, meeting on Sunday afternoons two or three times per month; we finished the 10 Commandments and are now beginning the Creed.
- Midweek service or Bible study? Raise the idea at the congregational meeting about a monthly get-together and Bible study, possibly starting in May on a monthly basis.

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- I continue to share the “witness and outreach sentences” each week based on the previous Sunday’s Gospel reading, as well as recording and posting sermons on Facebook and YouTube.
- Men’s breakfast, February 9 and March 9.
- Pancake dinner and Bingo night, Friday February 22 as LWML fundraiser.
- Mardi Gras cookout is coming up Saturday, March 2. Like the past two years, I have secured a Thrivent Action Team grant for \$250 to purchase supplies. Volunteers needed to cook, serve, and set up/clean up.

Circuit, District, and Synod

- The February circuit meeting was February 12 at St. Matthew’s in Gulfport. The next will be March 12 at Church of the Pines in Waveland.

Vacation/Travel

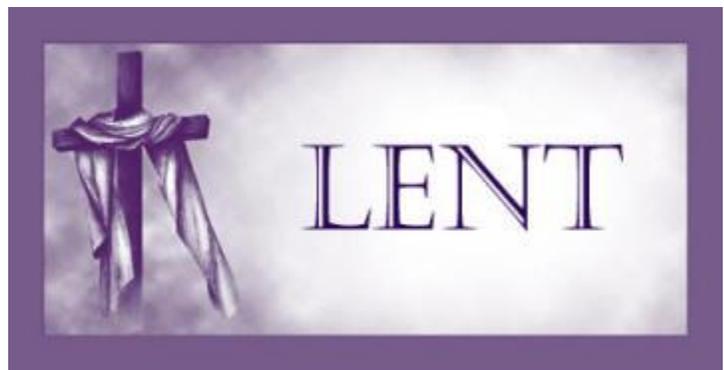
- Total to date for 2019: 2 days used out of 14 / 0 Sundays out of 2
- Planned travel for March: PALS meeting in/near Chattanooga, March 11-12.

Other Activities, General Information

- I attended the annual Pascagoula Gideon Society lunch on February 5.
- We are planning another Lutheran Night at the Biloxi Shuckers. \$11/person, proposed dates:
 - o Friday, May 10, 6:35pm; Friday, May 17, 6:35pm; Friday, June 7, 6:35pm
- Based on feedback at the last meeting, I have a second draft of a policy to be presented at the voters’ meeting in February in line with the LCMS/ADF pamphlet on “Protecting Your Ministry from Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Lawsuits”.
- Open Doors Homeless Coalition board meeting, Thursday, February 21.

Shut-ins, Visitation, and Pastoral Care concerns

- Betty Andrews
- Donna Krebs
- Lonnie Ladnier and Lisa Hoskinson
- Polly and Sonia Ross
- Milton and Margaret Southern
- Marion and Thyne Brown
- John Schollian
- Peyton Robbins



A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. “For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.



2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	Mary/Martha Meeting 5:30					Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	Pastor @ PALS	Pastor @ PALS	Soup Supper/Elders 6:00 Lenten Midweek Service 7:00			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	Elders 6:00 Council 7:00		Soup Supper/Council 6:00 Lenten Midweek Service 7:00	Pastor at Open Door Board Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00			Soup Supper/Mary Martha 6:00 Lenten Midweek Service 7:00			
31						
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Clear out fellowship hall for buffing of floors						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt: Doors 

