

March 2017

The Staff

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



A community of Christians, called Together by the Holy Spirit, where all people Can come to know God's grace and grow in Faith, give and receive The love of Jesus Christ And of one another, and Serve one another and The community in which We live."

I may have told some of you this, but Ash Wednesday is the reason I decided to become a pastor. I started seminary with a "Well, if you say so, God, but I'm not convinced" attitude toward this pastor thing. I kept that attitude during my internship year as well, constantly praying and asking God if God was sure about me doing this.

Then came Ash Wednesday of that year. I had never done imposition of ashes before and of course my main preoccupation was how I was going to do it without getting sooty ashes all over the congregants and myself. But then, as the people I had come to know and care for began to come forward, and I marked their foreheads and said the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return," something changed inside me. I was one human being affirming the humanity of another, and it was a sacred moment. We are dust! Each of us! Dust that God not only loves but loved enough to become dust too—to take human flesh in the person of Jesus. When that sacred moment hit me I knew I had to be a pastor and tell people about this God.

Every now and then we all need those moments that remind us of who we are and why we're doing what we

do. Sometimes the moment hits you out of the blue and you have a sacred moment you didn't expect. But I think it's a good idea to consciously set aside time and space for the sacred to break in.

Lent, which begins March 1 with Ash Wednesday, is a particularly good time to do just that. Last year during our "Drive By Ashes," our parking lot became a sacred place when cars of people I didn't know drove up and received ashes and prayer, not on their knees at an altar rail but with their foot on the brake and their engines running. Please let your friends and neighbors know that they can do the same this year, from 4:00 to 5:30 (good

time to stop on their way home from work). We'll have a traditional worship that evening at 7:30.

Tuesdays in Lent we'll gather for soup at 6:30 then have a brief *Lectio Divina*, a service of centering prayer. We'll focus on healing scriptures and let them speak to us. Think of it as yoga for the soul! Invite a friend to come with you, and/or to attend Sunday worship with you, so that the message of Easter, when it does come on April 16, won't be all bunnies and butterflies—it'll be the denouement of a story that begins with Jesus' life among us dusty creatures, his death that was just as real as any death, and culminates in the amazing discovery that his resurrection is just as real.

Invite your friends to stay for creeds study after worship as well. Those of you who are attending know that this study isn't about unquestioningly accepting those words we say, but examining them and making them alive. Hopefully we'll even write our own creed to be used for a worship service—how cool would it be to have a “Shepherd of the Glen Creed” that uses the words of this congregation to profess our vibrant faith! Once we finish our study of the creeds used by all Christians, we'll begin to study Lutheranism beginning with the causes and effects of the Reformation. Stay tuned for more on that! Lent is a gift of time set aside to make a space for the sacred. Lenten hymns are haunting and lovely, and the readings we'll hear speak intimately to our *dusty* humanity.

Blessing to you all as we journey through Lent 2017 together.

Pastor Susan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who donated items for the Souper Bowl of Caring, we collected canned goods and paper products which were given to the St. Michael's food bank. They were extremely grateful for the car load of items that will help restock their pantry.



Ash Wednesday is March 1. We will have “Drive by Ashes” in the parking lot from 4-5:30PM. Please let your neighbors know that whatever their religious affiliation or lack thereof, they are invited to come by for imposition of ashes and prayer. We will have a worship service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion that evening at 7:30 PM.

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Soup suppers and Lectio Divina Tuesdays in Lent. Come at 6:30 to share soup then stay for a quiet 30-35 minutes of Lectio Divina at 7:30. If you can't make the 6:30 supper, you can still join us for the service.

Adult Education So far in our Creeds study, we've looked at the three "ecumenical" creeds—what all Christians accept as defining of our doctrines. We are currently focusing on the Apostles Creed. After we finish our study of the creeds, we will begin a study of Lutheranism by watching an excellent video on the Reformation from the ELCA, then over the course of the next couple weeks discussing what we learned about the religious, political and sociological origins of the Reformation and how that changed the worldview. We'll also talk about the healing that has happened over the last 500 years between Christians. If having adult education works for more people at some other time during the week, please let the pastor know.

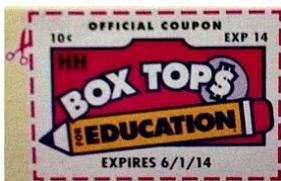
Daylight Savings Time: Don't forget—Spring ahead March 12!!! Don't show up an hour late for church!

Coffee Fellowship will be held on March 5th. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Lenten Soup Supper signup sheet is posted on the Helping Hands bulletin board. If you would like to prepare either the bread or soup for a particular Tuesday, please sign under that date. If you know which type of soup you are making, please include that also.

Thank you.

Our Lenten project this year will be "New Life Kits" for recently released ex-offenders from the prison system. These people are released with nothing and need items to set up housekeeping. Knowing that we care and are supporting them is crucial to helping them stay on the better path they intend. The list of items is posted on the Helping Hands bulletin board. For your convenience, there are also smaller versions of the list for you to take home under the larger poster.



Box Tops for Education: This will be an ongoing service project to help our schools. On many products there are coupons, like the one shown. All you have to do is cut them out, bring them to church and place them in the container on the table in the narthex. Something so little can make a big difference! Thank you!

Easter Lilies order envelopes may be found on the table in the narthex. The price is \$12.50 per plant. The deadline for ordering is March 26. The Lilies will be used to beautiful the sanctuary for Easter. Thank you.

Reminder: There will be no Church Council Meeting in March. Enjoy the break.

*It's important to remember that no matter what we do,
there's always the possibility
that we can be an important teacher for someone. by Anne Wilson Schaeff
(SOTG is blessed to have many of these "teachers". Thank you to you all!)*

Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
February 14, 2017

The meeting was called together with a devotional done by Patsy Pickrel about St. Valentine.
Thank you Patsy.

Minutes from the January 10, 2017 meeting were read and approved.

Financial Reports:

The Financial Secretary's report was distributed.

From the week ending January 31, 2017.

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Pledged Envelope Offerings: | \$5,576.92 |
| Actual Envelope Offerings: | \$6,167.00 (110.6%) |
| Loose Offerings: | \$52.00 (year to date) |
| Fund Raisers: | \$0.00 |
| Building Fund: | \$0.00 (year to date) |
| Gifts and Memorials: | \$0.00 |
| Miscellaneous Donations: | \$0.00 |

Very good start financially for the new year!

The Treasurer's report as of February 14, 2017 was distributed.

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| As of February 14, 2017 Envelope Income: | \$8,623.00 |
| As of February 14, 2017 Total Income: | \$9,289.00 |
| As of February 14, 2017 Total Expenses: | \$7,878.05 |

Organist - The amount shown for February 2017 includes an extra \$20.00, which is the amount that the Organist was underpaid in July 2016.

Financial reports were accepted as given.

Board of Christian Education:

There was a fellowship on January 22 for the Baptism of Zoey Brillhart.

A Coffee Fellowship was held on February 5.

Sunday school continues to be offered each Sunday.

Board of Trustees Report:

The Trustees met with National Church Group to get a quote for an umbrella, property, and liability and workers compensation insurance. To complete the quote will take about one month. It was suggested when that quote is received, go back to Church Mutual and see if they will match or better the offer.

Board of Deacons Report: met on February 7, 2017 with Pastor Susan.

Completed service projects:

- Route 1 Day Center Meal was provided and served.
- Souper Bowl of Caring, February 5 - collect canned goods and paper products such as toilet paper for St. Michaels food bank.

New service projects

- Collecting Box Tops for the schools will be an ongoing project. Collection container is on the table in the narthex.
- Lenten Service Project will be New Life Start-Up Kits for ex-offenders. A list of items will be posted to fill laundry baskets purchased with funds from a Thrivent Action Team. This service project will run from March 5 until Easter, April 16.

Creed Studies continue until February 26, when it is hoped to have a Shepherd of the Glen version of the Creed which will be used during Lent instead of the Nicene Creed.

Review the hymns for April.

Deacons would like to identify musically talented members and see if they would be willing to lend their talents to our Sunday worship.

For March Bible Study, Pastor Susan is looking to do a study on Luther since it is the 500 anniversary for the Lutheran reformation. She needs to formulate how many sessions and time needed, and which day of the week would be best for people to attend. If anyone is interested, they may contact Pastor Susan.

March 1 – Ash Wednesday – Drive Thru ashes distribution from 3 to 5:00. Church service will be held at 7:30 pm.

Change of day for the Lenten Soup Supper and mid week services from Wednesday to Tuesday evenings. March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4. The soup supper will begin at 6:30 pm and the service, Lectio Divina will begin at 7:30 pm. Will be held at Shepherd of the Glen Church.

April 13 - Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 pm

April 14 – Good Friday service at 7:30 pm

April 16 – Easter – one service at 9:30 am

Worked on the Synod's End of The Year Report. Has been completed and mailed to the Synod.

Continue to update the email list.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Susan continues to meet with members and make Pastoral Care visits; prepare for services including one Baptism; prepare Creeds Study and meet with Boards. Pastor Susan attended the Baltimore West Conference and Ecumenical Leaders meetings. Pastor Susan also did a radio interview (WYPR) and was on TV. She conducts worship services for St. Dysmas on Wednesday Evenings. Pastor Susan continues to hold Friday morning "office hours" at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 97. Imam Mahmood of the Maryam Islamic Center has invited Shepherd of the Glen to come and visit with them.

New Business:

Old Business:

Call Committee: gave an update to council on the interview of a prospective Pastor.

The next Council meeting will be held on April 18 at 7:00 pm.