



ALMA LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

February 2021

How is it February already??! If you have the answer to that, please let me know. All jokes aside, was it not just Christmas? Were we not just celebrating the birth of the Christ Child in the manger together? Even with all of that feeling true, the Lenten season still is on the horizon! In just a few short weeks we will soon be celebrating Ash Wednesday. It was just over a year ago during this season that we put our services and activities on hold due to COVID-19. This Ash Wednesday will be different. It still is and will be a day in which we recognize the finiteness and mortality of our lives in solemn prayer and in the act of repentance. We do this by receiving the mark of the cross on our foreheads in ash. This ancient symbol of repentance marks our 40 days of journeying through lent while we long for the baptismal waters of Easter.

How will this holy day be different? Firstly, it seems like we have been reminded every day of our own mortality due to COVID. We see the number of US deaths continue to grow, now at 400,000. So many have lost loved ones. So many haven't been able to see their loved ones due to the concern that any exposure could lead to the worst-case scenario. Do we really need an Ash Wednesday this year? Well, yes. It is in this act of repentance that we hear God's saving word and promise. That God's work of Salvation will soon be completed in Christ Jesus, the exact same one whom we celebrated just a couple of weeks ago. Secondly, to continue to gather in a safe way during worship we have prepared individual cups of ashes for you. Much like when we commune, we do it together as one large body we too will mark ourselves with the sign of the cross. I think this will be a powerful image for us. We all will be actively proclaiming this message together in unity with one another. We both literally and figuratively will be getting our hands dirty. May this Lenten season be one that draws you closer to God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Quinlan

ACTIVITIES

Chat & Sew – Meets the 1st Tuesday at 8:30am. Contact Sharon Hollst or Lana Krumpus for more information.

Book Club – Location and date varies. Contact Viki Miller for more information.

Children's Sunday School - 9:30am every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of the month. Ages 3 years old through 8th grade. Meets in the basement of the church. Contact Moriah Wellman for more information.

Important Upcoming Dates -

Ashes will be available for pick up from the church on 3/13 following worship until 3/17 if you are unable to attend Ash Wednesday Service.

Ash Wednesday Service: February 17th at 7:30pm.

Council Meeting: February 18th at 7pm.

Midweek Lenten Service - Holden Evening Prayer

February 24th at 6:30pm

March 3rd at 6:30pm

March 10th at 6:30pm

March 17th at 6:30pm

March 24th at 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday Service: April 1st at 7:30pm.

Good Friday Service: April 2nd at 7:30pm.

Changes to Worship

As you can see, we have begun to move back inside for our regular Sunday Services. Some changes have been made to service for your and our communities safety. The first is that masks will be required. If you do not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided upon entrance to the church. Secondly, we will be sitting every other pew when in our sanctuary, or spaced out at a minimum 6ft when in other places of our facility. Lastly, there will be minimal singing during service. This is to continue with a service that is meaningful and familiar, while recognizing that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic. As always, if you are experiencing a fever or any flu like symptoms we are asking that you stay home and join us for worship via our facebook live.



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BUDGET

As of 2/6/21

Income: \$5,739.00

Expenses: \$9,450.48

Balance: -\$3,711.48

World Hunger YTD: \$18.29

INFORMATION

Pastor's Email

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Facebook - Search for "Alma Lutheran Church" and "Alma Lutheran Educational Ministries"

MISSION STATEMENT

Disciples by grace, Growing in faith, Living our hope, Sharing God's love.