

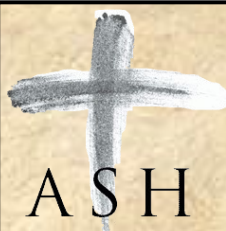
St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter



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ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE-IN WORSHIP February 17 at 6:30 pm

Join us in your car for a Drive-In Ash Wednesday communion service on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 pm. The service will be held in the Garden Lot. Mark your calendars now as we begin our Lenten journey together. More details and bulletin coming soon.



Your church is here for you. Please do not hesitate to call the church office, 704-786-0166 and leave a message if you have needs. This could include picking up medicine, groceries, etc. Your church family is here for you!



John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Several things have become quite obvious over the last ten months of social distancing. One is worship is possible without beautiful buildings, processions, acolytes, crucifers, ushers, greeters, choirs, and detailed bulletins. While these things certainly add to the joy of worship, at least according to Martin Luther, the essential moments of public worship are reading and hearing God's holy word (including the presence and proclamation of Christ in the sacraments), and responding through prayer and praise.

This leads me to the second thing we have discovered - we can worship and be about the work of the church without being physically together - at least for a time -

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and we have done that through on-line worship services, phone calls checking in with the homebound, and supporting ministries like CCM, Opportunity House, Salvation Army, Our Father's House, the Blessing Box ministry we stocked this past month...and the list goes on.

But what has become most obvious during this time apart is how inter-connected our lives are as a country, and even more so as a church. And it's that last part I want to focus on, for the longer we are physically separated from one another, and the more we allow political, economic, and social issues to tear us apart, the more likely we are to forget that we are part of something greater than ourselves (the vine), begin to see the gospel as an individual possession rather than a gift to be shared, and dry up.

In the waters of holy baptism we are claimed as precious children of God, joined together as sisters and brothers to the one vine (Christ) and called to bear much fruit. And as Christ's body the church we are able to accomplish (bear) far more fruit together than any one of us can accomplish alone.

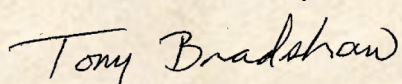
The same is true in our relationship with the churches that make up our denomination – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Sometimes we can get so caught up in our ministry together as a congregation, and listen to all of the voices claiming that denominations are dying, that we forget we are one of over 9,100 congregations in the United States, and one of nearly 200 Lutheran congregations in North Carolina that share a living, daring confidence in God's grace - a grace that frees us to participate in God's work in the world – and that together we can accomplish so much more than is capable alone.

It is my hope and prayer that we are able to gather together again soon and know the joy of Christian fellowship, but until then we will continue to provide opportunities to worship and study the scriptures on-line, celebrate Holy Communion in drive-in worship services, and identify community needs we can safely support through our time, talents, and resources.

We will also in the months to come, be more intentional in seeking to renew and strengthen our relationship with the ELCA, and in particular, the NC Synod, by considering what a synod is, recalling our rich history as part of the NC Synod and the larger church, lifting up the ministries and resources we share as part of the synod and larger church, and reviewing how benevolence dollars are spent.

As part of this process, it will also be important to share both our joys and concerns of being connected with the ELCA and NC Synod, celebrating what needs to be celebrated and grieving what needs to be grieved, so that we may move forward together, abiding in the love, grace, and mercy of the one vine, for the sake of the gospel.

In Christ, Pastor Tony





***To the Glory of God and
In Loving Memory***

Jane Brown

By Ralph and Sandy Barnhardt
By Al Brown (Cemetery Fund)
By GG, Gene, Denise, Anne and John Brown
By Susan Brown
By Rose Edwards
By Keith and Margaret Fink
By Scott and Lisa Frye
By Will and Ann Gillon
By Sue Hartsell
By Neta, Sonny and Kay Helms
By Jim and Tricia Iglehart
By Pat Jackson
By Kay Nixon
By Sally and Wollford Prillaman and
Beth Prillaman
By Jimmy and Patty Propst
By Russell and Margaret Russell
By June Stinson
By Todd and Gretchen Walker
By Wayne and Libby Williams

Ray Faggart

By Mark and Vera Barnes
By Ralph and Sandy Barnhardt
By Joseph Beasley
By Al Brown (Cemetery Fund)
By Ervin and Theresa Carroll
By Nancy Faggart (Property Capital Fund)
By Robert and Karen Ford
By Tom and Carole Grady
By Robin and Barbara Hayes
By Neta, Sonny, Kay and Katie Helms
By Brenda Horton
By Jim and Tricia Iglehart

***To the Glory of God and
In Loving Memory***

Ray Faggart *continued*

By Pat Jackson
By Jeremy and Golda Jay
By Jane Liles
By RL and Debra McLester
By Robert and Dale Nixon
By Jimmy and Patty Propst
By Tom and Anne Ridenhour (My Father's House)
By Gene and Donnye Rooks
By Wayne and Libby Williams

Richard Benz

By Ralph and Sandy Barnhardt
By Nancy Faggart (Property Capital Fund)
By Tom and Carole Grady
By Tom and Ann Ridenhour (My Father's House)
By James Todd
By Todd and Gretchen Walker



***To the Glory of God and
In Loving Honor***

William S. Fisher, Sr.

By Anna Barbara Fisher



- ◆ **Brad Baker**
- ◆ **Alex Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Ralph & Sandy Barnhardt**
- ◆ **Cliff and Lee Caffrey**
- ◆ **Don Eng**
- ◆ **Carole Grady**
- ◆ **Bill Hardister**
- ◆ **Phyllis Harward**
- ◆ **Joan and Pat Mahoney**
- ◆ **Jimmy Marlow**
- ◆ **Judy McAnulty**
- ◆ **Barbara Merrell**
- ◆ **Alex Patterson**
- ◆ **Clary Phillips**
- ◆ **Phil Sloop**
- ◆ **David Smith**
- ◆ **Doris Smith**
- ◆ **Neta Helms, aunt of Elizabeth Hurley**
- ◆ **Richard (Rocky) Bloss, friend of Martha and Jimmy Summers**
- ◆ **Virginia Sutton, mother of Keith Sutton**
- ◆ **The Family of Jane Brown**
- ◆ **The Family of Richard Benz**
- ◆ **The Family of Ray Faggart**
- ◆ **Gaye Gordon, the Pieschel's son-in-law's mother**
- ◆ **All Health care Professionals and Essential workers**
- ◆ **Our homebound members, all in need of prayer**



1-Feb	Greg	FRANCUS
1-Feb	Holley	KELLEY
1-Feb	Gretchen	WALKER
2-Feb	Mclver	MULLINS
2-Feb	Jamie	SWAYNEY
3-Feb	Hollis	WEISEL
4-Feb	Adam	BROWN
4-Feb	Kim	MILLER II
4-Feb	Randy	PETERMAN
5-Feb	Ryan	WILLIAMS
6-Feb	Dan	MATTHEWS
6-Feb	Anderson	SHUMATE
7-Feb	Mark	WILLIAMS
8-Feb	Doris	SMITH
9-Feb	Jimmy	MARLOW Sr
10-Feb	John	KING
10-Feb	John	KING
11-Feb	Natalie	SHELDON
12-Feb	Jean	BEASLEY
13-Feb	Wade	BESTLER
13-Feb	Jeff	CARPENTER
15-Feb	Lori	PITTARD
16-Feb	Stephanie	MATTHEWS
16-Feb	Clary	PHILLIPS
17-Feb	Jason	MATTHEWS
17-Feb	Elias	RUTEMILLER
18-Feb	Mark	HARTMAN
18-Feb	Jodi	RAMIREZ
22-Feb	Nina	FOLINO
22-Feb	Alexandra	GREEN
22-Feb	Kelly	PROPST
23-Feb	Caroline	BESTLER
23-Feb	Jeff	CREW
23-Feb	Connie	REZZA
25-Feb	Margaret	GARRISON
25-Feb	Golda	JAY
25-Feb	Martha	MATTHEWS
27-Feb	Cynthia	PETREA
27-Feb	Mary	PROPST
28-Feb	Joseph	BEASLEY
28-Feb	Robert	BEASLEY
28-Feb	Joel	CRAINSHAW
28-Feb	Martha	SUMMERS

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 TRANSFIGURATION



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT



On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT



The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Night Shelter	Night Shelter	Night Shelter	Night Shelter	Night Shelter	Night Shelter	Night Shelter
7 Epiphany 5 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 3:00 pm Youth Service Project 5:00 Youth	8	9 6:00 pm Congregation Council	10 9:30 pm College Online	11 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2 nd 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 rd – 5 th	12	13
14 Transfiguration 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Drive-In 9:30 pm College Online	18 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2 nd 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 rd – 5 th	19	20
21 Lent 1 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 5:00 pm Youth	22	23	24 9:30 pm College Online	25 6:30 pm Bible Heroes Pre-2 nd 7:00 pm Bible Heroes 3 rd – 5 th	26	27
28 Lent 2 9:30 am Online Worship 10:00 am Sunday School – Zoom 11:00 Pre-Confirmation 2:00 Confirmation Cluster 5:00 pm Youth	29	30	1	2	3	4