

Crossroads



Volume 33, Issue 2

February 2020

Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season—

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday.

Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

Have you ever noticed how once a year, usually in February or March, there are a lot of people walking around with an ash cross on their foreheads? You probably knew it had something to do with Lent, but you weren't sure why the ash cross was significant.

Or maybe, you grew up in a Catholic or Protestant church that held Ash Wednesday services each year, and so you're already familiar with the service, but aren't too sure about the history of Ash Wednesday and Lent, and what they have to do with the Christian faith.

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a special Ash Wednesday service.



During worship service, the pastor will usually share a sermon that is penitential and reflective in nature. The mood is solemn - many services will have long periods of silence and worshipers will often leave the service in silence.

Usually, there is a responsive passage of Scripture, usually centered around confession, read aloud about the leader and congregation. Attendees will experience communal confession, as well as moments where they are prompted to silently confess sins and pray.

After all of this, the congregation will be invited to receive the ashes on their foreheads. Usually, as the priest or pastor will dip his finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "From dust you came and from dust you will return."

In many congregations, the ashes are prepared by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, churches bless and hand out palm branches to attendees, a reference to the Gospels' account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when onlookers lay palm branches on his path.

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash."

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

Our Vision

A Welcoming Place and People Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We seek to fulfill this vision by:

- ◇ **Celebrating God's Love**
- ◇ **Growing in God's Love**
- ◇ **Reaching out with God's Love**
- ◇ **Serving with God's Love**

What is the Most We Can Do?

By Nancy Cramer

We just recently observed the birthdate of Dr. Martin Luther King, one of our country's most respected leaders in the civil rights movement. It called to my memory the experiences I have had throughout some eighty years or more with "people of color," a commonly used term now.

Though I was born in the north, in Ohio, all my childhood formative years were spent in a small town in Denton, Texas, with a sizeable portion of African-Americans. My experiences were typical of that time period, and my parents, both from the north, Iowa and Ohio, were not racist, at least not openly that I am aware of. However, our life style required the employment of such a person one day a week so my mother could attend her bridge parties and do her shopping without the three of us daughters tagging along.

I don't remember the person or her name. I just recall driving her home to a dilapidated dwelling in "the other part of town." She would have her day's pay, which probably was small, and a tote bag with leftover food and sometimes clothing items we girls had outgrown. My school, as were all others, was segregated, so I never knew any children of another race. My college years were likewise, all white with the exception of some Chinese students in the School of Journalism in which I was enrolled.

Then I married, had children and lived in both Louisiana and South Carolina, where having a maid once a week was essential-both for my nerves and for easier shopping and doing errands. One such person stands out in particular, Alberta, an older woman who was wise and kind.

On picking her up in the morning, this ritual was established: My toddler, Nan, would sit in Alberta's ample lap and demand some "Gum, Bert, gum." Alberta would laugh and open her equally ample purse and allow

Nan to fish around until she found a stick of gum. I have a photograph of Alberta and her purse. One could not have asked for a better substitute for a caretaker of my four children who somehow managed also to clean the house and do other jobs for me during the day.

One day I came home and Alberta was quite distressed. "Mr. Jeff (my 5 year old son) has changed shirts five times, each time I iron one, he wants to wear it." I calmed her down, reprimanded Jeff and all was well-at least, better. Then came the time when we were to move to Michigan because my husband's job was re-located there. Alberta brought a carefully wrapped box with four cups and saucers and matching sugar and creamer, all the gaudy Japanese style of the time. "This is for the children to remember me by," she tearfully said. I am certain that was the most treasured item in her small house.

My interactions in Kansas City where I move in 1962, have been entirely different. My children were older, needed no care taker and could perform, with enough persuasion, some of the household tasks. The nearby school where I taught was still not integrated, so my children had no friends of other races, except for a Japanese family in the neighborhood.

(continued on page 4)

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SOUP—ER BOWL February and BCSL

Always a good time for a warm bowl of soup. Bring in a can or two of your favorite Soups to share with those who are less fortunate than you. Place in the Grocery Cart in foyer. As Always, BCSL thanks you for all you do to help others.

Below is a Word Search for Soups – can you find them all?

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Bean | Chili | Mushroom |
| Beef | Clam Chowder | Potato |
| Beer | Corn Chowder | Pea |
| Cabbage | Egg Drop | Oxtail |
| Cauliflower | Fish | Oyster Stew |
| Celery | French Onion | Squash |
| Cheese | Giblet | Taco |
| Chicken Dumpling | Gumbo | Tomato |
| Chicken Noodle | Minestrone | Tortilla |
| | | Vegetable |

G	C	O	R	N	C	H	O	W	D	E	R	N	H	F	T	C
V	G	I	B	L	E	T	O	M	A	T	O	N	L	M	H	R
R	L	H	Y	B	A	P	O	K	M	I	Y	R	D	I	C	E
E	I	J	R	T	G	E	R	P	N	W	S	B	C	N	A	D
W	A	Z	O	U	B	G	E	O	L	N	T	K	N	E	K	W
O	T	P	M	O	O	R	H	S	U	M	E	M	P	S	R	O
L	X	B	L	C	V	C	Q	Y	V	N	R	H	W	T	S	H
F	O	E	S	H	N	T	G	P	D	W	S	Q	N	R	Q	C
I	C	E	L	E	R	Y	U	U	P	C	T	A	Z	O	U	M
L	D	R	R	E	F	V	M	O	P	B	E	E	F	N	A	A
U	W	F	Y	S	U	P	R	U	I	B	W	E	F	E	S	L
A	L	T	W	E	L	D	O	O	N	N	E	K	C	I	H	C
C	H	I	L	I	G	C	E	G	A	B	B	A	C	G	S	A
I	F	H	N	G	A	B	R	T	O	L	E	W	N	O	R	H
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	A	L	L	I	T	R	O	T

Sign Up for Text Messaging!

Get notified via text, when we have sudden church closings due to weather, news events, special announcements, and general reminders.

How to sign up:

On your phone, text the keyword **EZASLCBS** to **484848**. In a few seconds you'll get a confirmation text and when you reply to that, you're in.

A HEADS UP or Is It a SHOE DOWN?

All Saints will be collecting all shoes, slippers, and boots for “Soles 4 Souls” during the month of March. Any condition. Shoes that are usable will be repaired and moved on to an area in the US or other nations for people who have no shoes. Shoes that are not repairable will be ground into road repair material. You may bring shoes from March 1st to March 31st. We will be transporting shoes on either Friday or Saturday mornings to Lake Lotawana Storage area. We will be needing a few folks who can lift bags of 20 pair of shoes to give us a hand this year. if you are willing to help, see Sharon LeVasseur.



Are you on FaceBook?

If you are, and you haven't "liked" ASLC's page yet, please do! Up to the minute information regarding church events. Easy to do, and easy to keep in communication with what's happening at ASLC. It's also a great way to invite your friends to join in our events and happenings throughout the year. Just search 'All Saints Lutheran Church' in your FB search box, and click the "like" button to begin receiving updates.



More Church
News....

Inclement Weather Procedures—

When the weather is bad check your phone and the TV to see if we're having services or activities. If you haven't signed up for text notifications, you still can. Text the keyword EZASLCBS to 484848 and wait for a confirmation message. ASLC is set up with all the local TV stations for notifications if we are closed, or delayed. We will also put the information on our FaceBook page and website, aslcbs.org.

Treasurer Position Available—

Doug Neeb is stepping down as treasurer for ASLC. If you feel you have the calling to help the church in this capacity, please contact any council member and tell them of your interest. Doug is willing to work with you in the transition of duties, and the details of the responsibilities can be reviewed with you. Thank you for your consideration.

What is the Most We Can Do?

(continued from page 2)

It was when I became active in the teacher associations that I met people of other backgrounds. Some were fine teachers and outstanding leaders. My life since the time I moved to this area, has been sprinkled with people of color, generally to my betterment. I still find older persons of color who call me "Miss Nancy" or say "yes, ma'm," and I remind them that I am Nancy and not a "ma'm" either. They nod their head and continue, out of habit, I suppose.

I sometimes try to imagine myself in their place, their backgrounds, their reception from people of my background, and I cannot. Or perhaps it would be too unpleasant or uncomfortable to imagine. So I put away the biases I heard in my childhood, the unkind even cruel words and names, and strive to make amends, as if that were possible.

Dr. King, you not only made your people proud, but you set an example for the rest of us. You even lost your life in your crusade for equality. You did the most, now what is the least we can do to carry on your beliefs? Or, perhaps a better question would be, "What is the most we can do?"

City Lights, Country Life

By Jimmy Mel McDonald

Sometime after crops were harvested in the fall of 1950, a determination was made that farming was not the financial success it was hoped to be. So my father, decided to return to his former craft as an arc welder in Kansas City during the winter and slow periods during the summer. He learned this craft working on the streetcar lines in KC during the 1930's depression years, and honed his craft building airplanes in the bomber plant during World War Two. During this time he became friends with a fellow welder who introduced him to his sister, who became my mother and the rest is history.

And so, during the winter of 1950-51 my father began his weekly travels. My mother and I would take him to the Greyhound bus stop on Hwy 50 about 6 miles from our home on Sunday night and he would return on Friday night. He found room and board about a mile from his work in the East Bottoms just off Truman Road. More about this in another article.

This left my mother to tend the dairy cows, steer, and few pigs we still had. I was much too small to be any help especially with the pigs as I mentioned in a previous article. However, I was made head chicken feeder by default. We had about two dozen Rock Island Reds and about the same amount of white chickens. To make it fun, I devised a game. I would throw out a piece of corn from the cob and whichever color chicken caught it would get a point until the cob was de-corned. No instant replay so I was judge and jury of all the determinations. The chickens seemed receptive to my frivolity or maybe they were just glad to be fed.

Unfortunately, a sad event occurred during the winter of 1950-51. One day when my mother was out in the barnyard she fell and had a miscarriage. Whether she was even aware of her pregnancy I do not know. My only recollection was that I spent a few days at my cousins while my aunt, her sister, came over to care for my mother. My cousin, Roy, remembers the child was so small that the remains barely filled a small shoe box. I do not mention this to elicit sympathy or compassion but the reality was and still is that life on a farm did and still does require all the hands you can come up with. You might say it takes a village to run a farm. It was quite common for families to consist of five or more children and also to be multi-generational.

In my next article, my mother also returns to her early vocation as a teacher and the one-room school adventure begins.

"I would throw out a piece of corn from the cob and whichever color chicken caught it would get a point until the cob was de-corned. "



News from the Council—

As we end the Christmas and Epiphany seasons, and gear up for Ash Wednesday and Lent, council members are grateful for all your individual work to keep our congregation moving forward.

The Transition Team is finalizing its interviews with congregational members and will be focusing these next few weeks on preparing a report to present to you.

The Sunday school and Youth are completing a community service project, collecting food for Souper Bowl Sunday (February 2). They will also lead worship that Sunday, and are excited to share what they have learned from other churches and denominations. Plans are in the works to visit a mosque and synagogue over the next few months and invite anyone in the congregation to join them for the visits. More details will be provided as dates are determined, but if you are interested, please let Lisa Melton or Pam Meek know. They will keep you in the loop specifically.

Music and Worship is experimenting with different formats for weekly bulletins. They are exploring cost, as well as how best to be visitor-friendly. In addition, they are

beginning planning with area churches to schedule our annual Lenten worship.

Council members have also hosted visitors from

Kansas City Community Gardens to garner more information to share with you regarding the possibility of using our generous land space for that purpose and opening our arms to the Blue Springs Community. As that information is finalized, it will be communicated to you, as well.

We are also looking into having a Family Game Night towards the end of the month. If you are interested in helping to organize that, please contact Pam Meek.

Let's "leap" into the year with a joyous heart and open attitude towards new and different ideas.



**Parish
Council News**

**Church
business
continues
throughout
the year—**

DO's and DON'T's (from the Property Committee for activities at the church to help maintain our property):

- ◆ Do consider the safety of yourself and others around the church as the #1 priority. Fire Codes are in place for your safety.
- ◆ Do lock the door if you are alone or with a small group in the church.
- ◆ Do clean up after yourself (let Phil Gross know what was spilled and where).
- ◆ Don't put ANY liquid in a wastebasket. Leftover liquids need to go down the kitchen sink or into the grass outside. Empty water bottles can be recycled.
- ◆ Don't put anything in the outside trash dumpster that isn't in a trash bag.
- ◆ Don't leave food out. This attracts bugs and ants.
- ◆ Do close the blinds when the church is unoccupied.
- ◆ Do put clean items that can be recycled into the recycle bin in the kitchen.
- ◆ Do set back the thermostats and lock the doors when you leave.

Thank you for your help!

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School	3	4 Creative Friends 1pm	5 Bell Choir Practice 6pm	6 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i>	7	8 8am Men's Breakfast Bob Evans
9 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School	10	11 Creative Friends 1pm Girl Scouts Troop #1214 6:30-8:00 pm	12 Bell Choir Practice 6pm	13 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> Council Meeting 6:30pm	14	15
16 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School	17 President's Day—Office Closed	18 Creative Friends 1pm	19 Bell Choir Practice 6pm	20 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Project Comfort 9:00am-Noon
23 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School <i>Coffee With Council</i>	24	25 Creative Friends 1pm Girl Scouts Troop #1214 6:30-8:00 pm	26 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7pm	27 Bulletin Deadline	28	29

All Saints Lutheran Church
421 SW 19th Street
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
816-229-3633

<https://aslcb.org>
allsaintslc64015@gmail.com

Sunday Services
9:15a.m.

Sunday School
(age 3 and up)
10:30am

2019-2020 Church Council

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Jim McDonald
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Doug Neeb
Member	Nancy Cramer
Member	Joyce Cutblth
Member	Ron Easton

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/Advertising

Ron Easton

Learning/Youth Jim McDonald

Property Pam Meek

Service/Stewardship

Nancy Cramer

Community Life Joyce Cutbirth

Worship/Music Sara Meyers

Newsletter Deadline is the
20th of each month. Sub-
missions can be emailed
to the church office or
Pam Meek, at
pameek@kc.rr.com.

Worship Assistants—

Please note the Sunday you are expected to serve. If you cannot provide your time, please **find a substitute** and notify the church secretary as soon as possible. Thank you!

Greeter	2/2	Zach Antes, Tyler Melton
	2/9	Donna Taylor
	2/16	Sharon LeVasseur
	2/23	Joyce Hoover
Reader	2/2	All Youth
	2/9	Betsy Reese
	2/16	Ron Easton
	2/23	Anne Lee
Ushers	2/2	Kloe Chambers, Addison Antes
	2/9	Jerry Green
	2/16	Sheryl Seevers
	2/23	Brian Hoover
Communion Assistant	2/2	Tracy Nelson
	2/9	Sue Ellen Olson
	2/16	Ron Easton
	2/23	Anne Lee
Acolyte	2/2	Katie Dustin
	2/9	Tyler Melton
	2/16	Zach Antes
	2/23	Noelle Benz

**We regret that the list of birthdays and
anniversaries were inadvertently omitted this
month. We will celebrate our February special
days next month.**