

Crossroads

From our Minister—

If you participated in Ash Wednesday service, you heard about the seven signs of ash. They are all symbols that ash has held throughout the history of the world, and particularly throughout the Bible. We are all familiar with these concepts in one way or another in our lives, and in our faith as well.

I invite you to reflect on these symbols as you journey through Lent; perhaps you could walk through each of them each day, or perhaps spend several days sitting with each one, until you are ready to move on to the next.

Here are some words about each one, to guide you on your way, from the book *Seven Symbols of Ash* by Chris Paavola.

Symbol 1: Ash is a symbol of loss. When we lose a loved one, we lay them in the ground and say goodbye. We know their spirit has departed, and the body that remains will turn into dust. In the book of Genesis, after God makes Adam from the dust of the ground, he tells him, “You will return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return. Consider the words of Ezekiel 27:30: ***They will raise their voices and cry bitterly over you; they will sprinkle dust on their heads and roll in ashes.*** Who or what did you lose this year that caused grieving?

Symbol 2: Ash is a symbol of mortality. Just as we remember our loved ones returning to dust, ash reminds us that we will also return to dust. Our mortality is ever present. Consider the words of Isaiah 40:6-8: ***All people are like grass...the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.*** What emotion do you feel as you reflect on your own mortality?

Symbol 3: Ash is a symbol of emptiness. We set our hearts on things to fill the void we feel within. There are things in life that promise to satisfy us; but the satisfaction anything on this side of heaven can bring is temporary. Afterwards, we are still hungry for more; we lack the nourishment we find only in Christ. Consider the words of Lamentation 4:5: ***Those who feasted on delicacies perish in the streets; those who were brought up in purple now embrace ash...*** What empty things have you chased after?

Symbol 4: Ash is a symbol of weakness. No matter how powerful or beautiful an object may be, when it is burned its power is consumed. An object once full of potential is left powerless and weak. Consider the words of 2 Corinthians 12:10: ***For the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*** Where in your life do you feel powerless?

Symbol 5: Ash is a symbol of repentance. Throughout Scripture, when people are made aware of their sin, one of the ways they respond is to cover themselves in ash to demonstrate the humility of their repentance. Consider the words of Job 42:6: ***I am in dust and ashes to show my repentance.*** Think about covering yourself in ash to outwardly show your repentance. What emotion do you feel?

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Volume 34, Issue 3
March 2021

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**



Council members met with the transition team and Reverend Dave Whetter to determine the next steps in our transition process. After hearing of the team's work, we all agreed that at this juncture, we can use and need congregational input to determine our future.

Each of you should have received a personal invitation this week to join us at the February 28th Coffee With Council Zoom meeting. We hope you will attend, as we are asking for comments and thoughts regarding our next steps. This is not a "one and done" meeting, but the beginning of a journey (such as a Lenten journey), that will culminate with a basic blueprint of where we want to be, and what we want ASLC to be known for in our community.

Zoom meeting information has been sent via email, it is the same for all Coffee with Council gatherings, however a reminder will be forwarded to you as well. Calling by phone is also available, if you do not have computer access. We want this to be as easy as possible for you to participate.

We ask that you do your best to participate.



Pastor Sarah and the Music and Worship team are working with area churches to offer the Lenten gatherings virtually on our FaceBook page. The schedule of ministers presiding is listed on the calendar in this newsletter.

We are also watching what the county will do regarding COVID restrictions and hope we can begin in person worship soon. We are tentatively planning an outdoor worship on Easter morning, weather permitting, of course. And we are working to upgrade and continue to provide our virtual worship events.

As a reminder, we have two openings on council. We ask that you prayerfully consider your talents and honestly consider your ability to help us guide others in our work to share the Gospel.

To join into Zoom via
phone, call
1-312-626-6799.
When asked, type in
846 1206 6465
for the meeting ID
and
152928
for the passcode.

For Discussion at Coffee with Council 2/28/2021

Proposed All Saints Mission: REACH IN, REACH OUT, REACH UP

- **Reaching in** to support the growth of individual spirituality and our faith community
- **Reaching out** to put our faith into action through service to the community
- **Reaching up** for God's guidance for our spiritual growth and community service

Overarching idea: An attitude of flexibility, openness, and willingness to change is required for our survival as a congregation.

- How has our church demonstrated flexibility, openness, and a willingness to change in the past?
- How is our church demonstrating flexibility, openness, and a willingness to change in the present?
- How can our church move forward with flexibility, openness, and a willingness to change in the future?

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH BUILDING USAGE AT ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

All groups should follow the guidelines below to best prevent the spread of illness. We ask that if you need assistance with any of these procedures, you contact church administration (council members) to determine adjustments. Council members contact information can be obtained from the church secretary.

Please be aware that we are following current county health guidelines. Some of these procedures may change should those guidelines change. We reserve the right to refuse entrance by groups if these procedures are not followed. Our church body has many older and vulnerable members, We err on the side of caution to keep everyone healthy.

- 1) Prior to any meeting or gathering, wipe down any and all surfaces you may or think you may be touching. We hope to continue having wipes available for use, but as a group, you should bring some just in case our supply is low.
- 2) No shared food or drink will be permitted at this time.
- 3) A mask is required for everyone indoors. Gloves are optional.
- 5) We fully recommend the six-foot social distance protocol. Current community guidelines state no more than 10 people inside our building at any one time, due to the upsurge in COVID cases. Please follow these occupancy guidelines until further notice.
- 6) Please do NOT use the drinking fountain.
- 7) Take attendance of those attending your gathering and leave in the church office. If the office is closed, please leave on the table when you leave. Provide contact information for at least one person in the group, in case we need to reach out to the group.
- 8) Wipe down all surfaces used, including the bathrooms and door handles of the front door, before and after use.

We want to be as welcoming as possible. Please understand that we do not have an on-staff janitor, but rely on the goodness of one person to maintain the cleanliness of our building. Your assistance in cleaning before and after will help us keep you and others safe during this time. Questions can be directed to any council person.

Thank you for your help.

Youth Group News

Our Youth Group has been active over the winter and continue to make plans to continue their ministry within our congregation.

Youth members, Zach and Addie Antes, Katy Dustin, Anna Cope-Morris and Kimberly Girkin, met in February to make valentines for our homebound members. Thanks to Marie Benz, Sara Meyers, and Teresa Dustin for the supplies used, and to Katy and Tyler Melton for the beautiful cards and the message to be included. They were greatly appreciated by the recipients. Current plans include meeting Friday, March 26 at 7pm to make Easter bags. If you would like to contribute supplies and/or decorations for the bags, you are welcome to bring and leave them in the Fellowship Hall for the youth.



Celebrating
fellowship—the
“Youth Way”

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts:

All Saints has been a partner with local Scouting organizations for many years. Scout groups have held meetings in our building, and at least one Girl Scout troop held a lock-in several years ago that the girls still remember fondly. The members of All Saints have generously supported popcorn sales of Boy Scouts and Girl Scout cookie sales.

The Scouting groups have given back to All Saints as well. Traditionally, the Boy Scouts would participate in a service in February and the Girl Scouts contribute to a March service. This year, we are grateful to Boy Scouts Tyler Melton and Zachary Antes for being virtual readers in February and to Girl Scouts Katy Melton, Addison Antes, Anna Cope-Morris, and Kimberly Girkin for volunteering to read in March.

Scouts have also chosen to do major service projects for All Saints. Katy Melton has provided a major renovation of the church nursery to the Youth Group Room as her project for her Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts. Several years ago, a Boy Scout who is not a member, but enjoyed participating in Boy Scout Sunday at All Saints, chose to provide a new outdoor play area for All Saints as his Eagle project.

We celebrate our relationship with our local Scouting organizations and thank our Scouts for helping with our services.

City Lights, Country Life

This issue of my newsletter column begins with our family's migration from the farm to the Big City, so to speak. The column will cover Kansas City as I remember it upon our arrival, in August, 1956.

Yes, everything was up-to-date in Kansas City, as the song from the musical "Oklahoma" tells us, and so it was as seen from the eyes of a star struck ten-year-old. Starlight Theatre, opened in 1952, was alive and well with stars of stage and screen coming from New York and Hollywood to provide outdoor entertainment during the summers. A few of the productions in 1956, were "Peter Pan", "Kismet", "Annie Get Your Gun", and "The King and I" with Yul Brenner as the king.

The Plaza Shopping Center opened in the 1920's as the first shopping venue designed for automobile travel and parking, and had top-of-the-line shopping from Jack Henry's Clothing, to Hartsfeld's. Every Easter, an Easter Parade was held for the ladies to display their finest headwear and dresses.

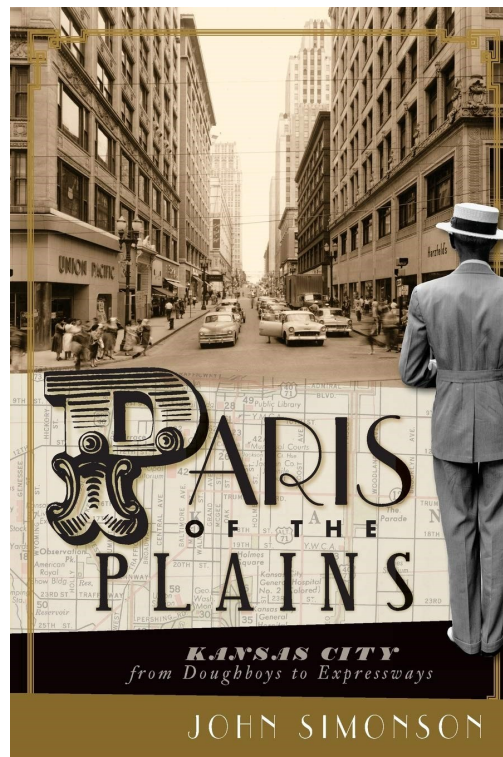
Downtown Kansas City was also full of hustle and bustle. I remember the many theatres along Main Street and Twelfth Street, and the shopping at Emery Bird Thayer, the Jones Store, Peck's, and of course, Petticoat Lane, and the wonderful aroma of food coming from the Forum Cafeteria, with its revolving front door. You had to stand in line for up to 30 minutes, sometimes more, but it was worth the wait.

By Jimmy "Mel" McDonald

Fairyland Park, at 75th and Prospect, drew throngs of folks to check out their large ferris wheel. Out North, we had Winnwood Park, at I-35 and Claycomo, where you could enjoy swimming and fishing in the summer, and ice skating at the largest outdoor rink in the Midwest in the winter.

That's enough memories for one setting. With the weather finally giving us a break, time to move on with our lives.

"This column is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Cramer who inspires us to be all that we can be, as she was all that she could be."



Blue Springs Community Services League Update

The church office is open 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday, to drop off donations.

The Blue Springs Community Service League is continuing to reach out and to help those families in need. Some with assistance for food, others to help them with rent or utilities or in finding a new job. Today, 1 in 5 children do not know where their next meal is coming from. They appreciate whatever we can do to help serve our neighbors.

A short list of needs includes:

- ◆ Peanut Butter
- ◆ Jelly
- ◆ Side Dishes
- ◆ Skillet meals
- ◆ Instant Rice
- ◆ Instant Potatoes
- ◆ Canned meats
- ◆ Jell-O
- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Soup/Large cans
- ◆ Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- ◆ Cereal bars

Should you know of any families who are in need please direct them to the Blue Springs office at 200 SW 10th St in Blue Springs. Phone number is 816-229-0033. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 to 12 and 1pm to 4 pm. Friday 9 to 12.

From the Minister—(continued from page 1)

Symbol 6: Ash is a symbol of shame. Like a child hides in their shame when their parent catches them breaking the rules, people through Scripture covered themselves in ash when they were ashamed of their sin. Consider the words of Isaiah 2:10: ***Crawl into caves in the rocks. Hide in the dust from the terror of the Lord and the glory of God's majesty.*** Even though you feel shame for your sins, how are you given hope through the cross of your baptism and repentance?

Symbol 7: Ash is a symbol of purification. In ancient times, when ash was combined with oils, ash became a cleansing agent: it became soap. Consider the words of Hebrews 9:13-14: ***The ashes of a sacrifice sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctifies them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more will the blood of Christ...cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*** Our body reacts based on how we feel. When we're lonely, we slouch. When we're anxious, our shoulders tighten. How does the peace that comes from God's forgiveness change your posture?



Happy Birthday to:

Janet Cooper	3/3
Michael Benz	3/11
Vashti Bird	3/17
Joyce Cutbirth	3/17
Jane Thompson	3/17
Anna Cope-Morris	3/19
John Pratt	3/24
David Fast	3/25
Savanna Bird	3/29
Carla Girkin	3/30

Happy Anniversary to:

Pam & Tom Meek	3/30
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Readers for March Worship:

Our Girl Scouts are volunteering to be readers for March:

3/7	Katy Melton
3/14	Addison Antes
3/21	Anna Cope-Morris
3/28	Kimberly Girkin

If you would like to participate in our virtual worship services, please contact Pastor Sarah or Sara Meyers to learn how.

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.

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816-229-3633

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

Sunday Services
(currently online at aslcbs.org)

2020-2021 Church Council

President	Pam Meek
Vice President	Ron Easton
Secretary	Sara Meyers
Treasurer	Carla Girkin
Member	Carla Girkin
Member	vacant
Member	vacant

Program Ministries

Witness/Marketing/Advertising	Ron Easton
Learning/Youth	Carla Girkin
Property	Pam Meek
Service/Stewardship	vacant
Community Life	vacant
Worship/Music	Sara Meyers

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

MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i> Lenten Worship: Rev. David Lynch First Christian Church of Blue Springs 7pm Zoom 6:45 pm	4	5	6
7 Girl Scouts (Carla Girkin) 1-3pm	8	9	10 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i> Lenten Worship: Pastor Sarah Lynch First Christian Church of Blue Springs 7pm Zoom 6:45 pm	11 <i>PTA Meeting</i> <i>Council Meeting via Zoom 6:30pm</i>	12	13
14 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)</i>	15	16	17 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i> Lenten Worship: Rev. Virginia Pych First Christian Church of Blue Springs 7pm Zoom 6:45 pm	18 <i>PTA Meeting</i>	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
21	22	23	24 <i>Minister's Office Hours</i> Lenten Worship: Rev. Andrew Florio First Christian Church of Blue Springs 7pm Zoom 6:45 pm	25	26 <i>Youth Group 7pm</i>	27 <i>Project Comfort 9am-12pm</i>
28 <i>Coffee With Council via Zoom 11am</i>						