



The Messenger

Trinity Lutheran Church

From the Desk of the Pastor

With the start of Lent being Ash Wednesday February 26th I thought it might be important to revisit why we do a few things for Lent. One of the most well-known parts of Lent is that it is a season of fasting. But what does it mean to fast during Lent? What does that really look like? How should we fast? Is the fast individual or corporate for the Church? These perhaps are questions you may not have thought of before, but on the other hand perhaps you have.

As we start Lent we put ashes on our foreheads and hear the words remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. These words remind us, each and every one of us, that we will die. In the Old Testament when people were enter-

ing into a time of fasting and repentance they would put on sackcloth and ashes. These ashes that will be placed on our foreheads show us that although we as individuals will now fast during Lent that we, as the corporate Church, enter into the season of fasting and repentance together.

During the season of Lent the corporate body of Christ fasts during the Divine Service. This is the reason why we don't sing or say our alleluias, the hymns of praise, and why we veil the sign of victory, the cross, within the sanctuaries. Fasting isn't just

about giving up soda, sweets, desserts, or what have you, but is truly about much more than that. What fasting is about in the corporate reality of the Church is to focus and hone our attention on the words and works of Jesus relating to His Passion and death. It also means that during this season during our fasting that we as the Church and as individual Christians would "sit" in those Ash Wednesday ashes during Lent and mourn the cost of our sins.

So, what does that look like? Do we mope around? Do we make a show of what we are doing? No! by no means should we do that. Instead as the Gospel text for Ash Wednesday tells us we should not show our individual fasts in public. There should be no one that knows that you are fasting during Lent. For the corporate reality it is harder to do this during the Divine Service. But we still in that reality don't mope around, we



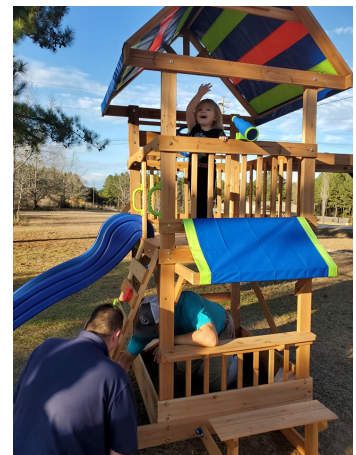
Thank you to everyone who helped Kem and Sharon Banks with honoring the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department with 2 thank you meals.

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Thank you to everyone who helped buy and build the playground for the Bobby/ Webb family.





still sing praises to our Crucified God and King. The focus of those praises is more directed and focused to what the forgiveness won for you and me cost the Lord of life. You and I still receive the body and blood as it keeps us in mind of the cost of the forgiveness of sins that you and I have received and continue to receive.

In closing I would encourage you to personally fast from something this Lenten season. I also encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to

come to every service that is offered here to mark the Lenten journey to the Cross of Jesus Christ on the day that changed the history of the world forever, Good Friday.

**Council Meeting
December 17, 2019**

Attendance: Nick Salisbury, Carolyn Bielefeld Dennis and Lynn Florreich, Kelly Miller Linda Abel and Ashleigh Margadonna.

Kelly called the meeting to order

and Lynn offered the opening devotion and prayer. Carolyn will offer the opening devotion at the January meeting.

Carolyn made a motion that the minutes from the November meeting be approved. Linda seconded the motion which passed . Board reports followed: Pastor: Pastor submitted a written report. Attachment 1. Elders: George submitted a written report. Attachment 2. Church Properties: Nick gave an oral report. Comcast has done their digging and will return in the near future to complete their installation More roof leaks have been found, and they will be addressed.

Sunday School: Linda submitted a written report. Attachment 3. Evangelism: K ' gave an oral report. Lynn made a motion that the \$85.90 invoice for the candy canes be paid from the general fund . Linda seconded the motion which passed.

Stewardship: Kelly submitted a written report and updated financial graphs. Attachments 4 & 5. Young Adult Ministry: Ashleigh reported that this ministry will begin in January and that she hopes to get those who don 't come regularly to come and be a part.

Human Care: Carolyn gave an oral report. Ad Hoc Committees:

Altar Care: The banners will be changed on Sunday. Classical School: No report. Fellowship: No report

Strategic Assessment: Pastor posed the question "What's Next?" to be considered in 2020. It will probably start with himself and the elders.

Financial Secretary: Dennis submitted a written report. Attachment 6. He reported that 34 pledges have been received for a total of \$78,394.00 . Carolyn made a motion to remand the report to the audit committee. Linda seconded the motion which passed.

Treasurer: George submitted written reports. Attachments 7 &"8. Linda made a motion} seconded by Nick that the reports be remanded to the audit committee. The motion passed. Karen will be informed that she is in charge of the audit committee.

Unfinished business:
1. Kelly and Pastor will work on a policy for borrowing church property.

New Business:
1. The Jews for Jesus Seder Dinner will be April 2.

Announcements:
1. The next regular council meeting will be January 15 at 6:00 p.m ..
2. Carolyn will offer the opening devotion and prayer in January. Carolyn made a motion to adjourn. Nick seconded the motion which passed. The meeting closed with the Kelly offering a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Florreich
Recording Secretary

