



## A Word from Pastor Schielke

It seems so quickly that we move from the joy and celebration of Christmas and Epiphany to the penitential season of Lent, but it is upon us. Ash Wednesday begins the season and takes place this year on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ashes as a sign of repentance have a long history with God's people. In Job 42:3-6, Job says to God: "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." The prophet Jeremiah calls for repentance by saying: "O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes;" (Jer 6:26). The prophet Daniel recounted pleading to God: "Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). In New Testament times, there is

evidence that ashes were still used as a sign of repentance in the 200s and 300s AD.

The actual practice of celebrating Ash Wednesday comes a bit later in history, slowly coming into practice late in the 8<sup>th</sup> century up into the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Then in 1091, Pope Urban II declared that Ash Wednesday would be celebrated in Rome, and it quickly became common practice all throughout the Western Christian church. It seems that during the Reformation in both England and Germany, ashes continued to be given on Ash Wednesday, but the practice began to fall out of use among Lutherans fairly quickly after that, for reasons that remain a mystery. The imposition of ashes doesn't appear to be widespread among protestant denominations in the U.S. until the 1970s.

Receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday is one of those ceremonies that is neither commanded nor forbidden in the Bible, what we would call an adiaphoron. However, it is a practice that is meaningful for many of us, as it reminds us what we are before God according to our human nature. We were made from the dust of the earth, and because of sin we will die, and our bodies will return to dust. Yet, we come before God repenting of our sin and receiving the ashes of repentance with full assurance and faith that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God will take our decayed bodies and raise them up new and glorious to dwell with God for eternity. Thanks be to God!



Ash Wednesday

**Ash Wednesday** - February 17 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. During the Lenten season, we focus on our sins and repent of them as we look towards Jesus' trial, punishment, and death for our sins as the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us.

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
**1 Corinthians 15:57**

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**The Augsburg Confession** - Below are the third and fourth articles of the Augsburg Confession. These are what we believe and confess as a Lutheran congregation.

### Article III - Of the Son of God

- <sup>1</sup> Also they teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, did assume the human nature in
- <sup>2</sup> the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, so that there are two natures, the divine and the human, inseparably enjoined in one Person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and
- <sup>3</sup> buried, that He might reconcile the Father unto us, and be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.
- <sup>4</sup> He also descended into hell, and truly rose again the third day; afterward He ascended into heaven that He might sit on the right hand of the Father, and forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify
- <sup>5</sup> them that believe in Him, by sending the Holy Ghost into their hearts, to rule, comfort, and quicken them, and to defend them against the devil and the power of sin.
- <sup>6</sup> The same Christ shall openly come again to judge the quick and the dead, etc., according to the Apostles' Creed.

### Article IV - Of Justification

- <sup>1</sup> Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for
- <sup>2</sup> Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins.
- <sup>3</sup> This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4 [3:21-26; 4:5].

## VIC Happenings

**Youth Super Bowl Snack Sale** - Our Youth Group will be having a snack sale on Sunday, February 7. If you wish to donate or purchase items, please come to this sale.

**Transfiguration Sunday** - The last Sunday of Epiphany is Transfiguration Sunday. It is when our Lord Jesus Christ goes to the mountain to meet with Elijah and Moses, and His glory is seen by Peter, James, and John. This service occurs just before Lent.

**Ash Wednesday / Lent** - Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is Wednesday, February 17.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church  
February 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	3	4	5	6 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
7 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Super Bowl Snack Sale	8	9 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	15	16 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	17 Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	18	19	20 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
21 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	22	23 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.	24 Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Lenten Service 7 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Divine Service 10 a.m. Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon						

Answers to January's Bible Questions:

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| <p>1. 450 Feet, Gen. 6:15<br/>                 2. Moses' Wife, Ex. 2:21<br/>                 3. The Third Day, Gen. 1:11-13<br/>                 4. Jared, Gen. 5:20<br/>                 5. Shem, Gen. 10:21<br/>                 6. Hebrew Midwives, Ex 1:15<br/>                 7. Adam. He was first in the human race.<br/>                 8. Ishmaelites or Midian traders,<br/>                 Gen. 37:27-28<br/>                 9. Joseph's Egyptian Name, Gen. 41:45<br/>                 10. Moab and Ben-ammi, Gen. 19:37-38</p> | <p>11. Moses' Father-in-law, also named<br/>                 Jethro, Ex. 2:18<br/>                 12. Delegate, Ex. 18:19-23<br/>                 13. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, &amp;<br/>                 Ephraim<br/>                 14. See February's Answers.<br/>                 15. Shem, Ham, and Japeth, Gen. 5:32<br/>                 16. 175 year, Gen. 25:7<br/>                 17. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,<br/>                 Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph,<br/>                 Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad,</p> | <p>Asher, and Dinah.<br/>                 18. Judah, Gen. 44:33<br/>                 19. Water to Blood, Frogs, Gnats,<br/>                 Flies, Egyptian Livestock Die,<br/>                 Boils, Hail, Locust, Darkness, &amp;<br/>                 Death of Firstborn.<br/>                 20. Bezalel and Oholiab, Ex. 31:1-11<br/>                 21. Nimrod, Gen. 10:9</p> |
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1. What stopped Balam's donkey from moving forward?
2. How many men did Moses send to explore Canaan?
3. Name Aaron's sons.
4. What was the age of retirement for a Levite?
5. Who replaced Aaron as chief priest?
6. Who were struck down for giving unauthorized fire before the Lord?
7. Why did Moses need to make a bronze serpent?
8. How often were the Sabbath Years and the Year of Jubilee?
9. Where did Og, king of Bashan, attack the Israelites?
10. Name the Feasts of the Lord.
11. Who was the king of the Amorites and where did he live?
12. Whose daughters wanted their father's inheritance?
13. What happened to Korah and the people with him? Why did this happen to them?
15. What happened to Miriam when she spoke against Moses?
15. Of the spies sent to Canaan, how many lived and how many died? Why did they die?
16. After the birth of a child, how long is a woman unclean for a male child? For a female child?
17. Name three things a person needed to do to be a Nazirite?
18. God told Moses that his people would take possession of this land and drive out its inhabitants.

**For 2021, I would like to challenge every member of this congregation to read through the Bible in one year. The Bible readings for February and part of March are listed below, and above are questions over the readings to see how well you are reading. List the chapter and verse with your answers.**

February 1: Leviticus 1-4	February 15: Numbers 8-10	March 1: Deuteronomy 5-7
February 2: Leviticus 5-7	February 16: Numbers 11-13	March 2: Deuteronomy 8-10
February 3: Leviticus 8-10	February 17: Numbers 14-15	March 3: Deuteronomy 11-13
February 4: Leviticus 11-13	February 18: Numbers 16-17	March 4: Deuteronomy 14-16
February 5: Leviticus 14-15	February 19: Numbers 18-20	March 5: Deuteronomy 17-20
February 6: Leviticus 16-18	February 20: Numbers 21-22	March 6: Deuteronomy 21-23
February 7: Leviticus 19-21	February 21: Numbers 23-25	March 7: Deuteronomy 24-27
February 8: Leviticus 22-23	February 22: Numbers 26-27	March 8: Deuteronomy 28-29
February 9: Leviticus 24-25	February 23: Numbers 28-30	March 9: Deuteronomy 30-31
February 10: Leviticus 26-27	February 24: Numbers 31-32	March 10: Deuteronomy 32-34
February 11: Numbers 1-2	February 25: Numbers 33-34	March 11: Joshua 1-4
February 12: Numbers 3-4	February 26: Numbers 35-36	March 12: Joshua 5-8
February 13: Numbers 5-6	February 27: Deuteronomy 1-2	March 13: Joshua 9-11
February 14: Numbers 7	February 28: Deuteronomy 3-4	March 14: Joshua 12-15

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