

ELDER'S CORNER



Don't Hide Your Light

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

Ash Wednesday is approaching. On that day we receive the sign of the cross upon our foreheads, perhaps for the last time from Pastor Eckert 😊, and it reminds us that we are all sinners in need of repentance. It also reminds us of the wages of our sins which is death, especially as we hear these words, "from dust you came; to dust you shall return." On Ash Wednesday, maybe more so than any other day, we are confronted with the truth that because of our sins, one day we all will die.

One of the most profound stories about Ash Wednesday, that I will always hold dear in my heart, is about a woman suffering from a terminal disease who truly understood the gravity of our Ash Wednesday tradition. I'll call her Edna. During the Ash Wednesday service, Edna and her family were coming down the aisle towards the pastor. As her family members came forward one at a time, the expression on their faces was marked by an obvious sorrow. They told the story of a family who felt the specter of death looming over their home and their

beloved matriarch. Each one of them wore a pallor of sorrow.

But then Edna brought up the rear of her family. She stepped forward with a noticeable eagerness. She dearly wanted to receive the ashes! Then the pastor spoke the words which were so evidently true: "Edna, remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Her face beamed with a radiance that was almost Christ-like.

Edna witnessed the true meaning of this traditional ceremony. For we mark these ashes in the form of a cross. And in that cross, there is reason to hope. Edna knew in a very personal way that her remaining days on earth were finite. But she also knew that there is more; there is life beyond this realm, and the ashen cross on her forehead marked that understanding. The cold ashes spoke of the promise of life anew. There were *fresh embers* waiting to explode into new life; a life without end.

With Jesus coming to take my mother by her hand to her eternal home last month (John 14:2), I have been thinking a lot about death. Quite naturally when I consider death, I also consider Heaven. In fact the closer we get to Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter, the more I consider the resurrection and life everlasting. For many these can be, and indeed are, hard things to ponder. But for us who are called by God, for us who are being saved, pondering these things only leads to comfort. Honestly, what a comfort it is to know that when our loved ones, who knew Jesus, leave this earthly life, they do so knowing grace and mercy, prepared to meet their Savior. It's a wonderful and comforting thought...to be in the very presence of the Lord Jesus Christ forever! Welcome home, Mom!

Jesus, while here on earth, also anticipated His return home. John 13:1 says, "It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." (NIV) Notice that while Jesus fully anticipated Heaven, He also faithfully served His Father here on earth, even to His death upon the cross. From there He ascended into

Heaven where He still serves us, seated at the right hand of God upon His throne.

Likewise, we who anticipate and even long for that day when we will be called home to reign with Him forever, must realize that until that day we have a responsibility to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving all the people that come in and out of our lives.

Christ's death upon the cross and His resurrection from the dead gives all those who believe...*hope*. Hope not just for this life, but of the life to come. The hope that we now have leads us to use the time we have for the sake of spreading the Gospel message to our neighbors here at home and around the world. We are commanded to **not hide our light** under a bushel basket but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see the Truth of God's Word that offers salvation and Heaven to everyone. Our desire is what Jesus said, "that no one should perish but have eternal life."

I pray that this coming Lent you will ponder your sins and God's great gift of forgiveness upon the cross. I pray that you will see the empty tomb as a reality for you. I pray that through hope of Christ's death and resurrection you live a life of love and service both now and forever! ✠

Faithfully submitted by your elder, Dennis Payne



- Feb 01 Gary Lange
- Feb 07 Christopher Summers
- Feb 09 William Moffatt
- Feb 11 Kathryn Pierce
- Feb 13 Piper Chaney, Marjorie Hord
- Feb 22 Valeria Keinert
- Feb 24 Jedidiah Allred
- Feb 28 Michael Foley, Keith Struve



- Feb 14 Don & Marilyn Benson



- Feb 01 10:00 – 11:30 am Small-Group Bible Study
- Feb 02 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg.
- Feb 05 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 05 10:00 am Comm. Svc.
- Feb 12 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 12 10:00 am Worship Svc.
- Feb 15 9:00 am Mar. Ministry Schedule Due**
- Feb 19 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 19 10:00 am Praise/Comm. Svc.
- Feb 19 5:00 pm Valentine Dinner-Dance
- Feb 20 9:00 am Mar. Newsletter Deadline**
- Feb 22 10:00 – 11:30 am Small-Group Bible Study
- Feb 22 6:00 pm Soup Supper**
- Feb 22 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Svc./Comm.**
- Feb 26 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 26 10:00 am Worship Svc.
- Feb 26 11:00 am Council Mtg.
- Feb 26 2:00 pm Fun & Fellowship
- Feb 27 6:00 – 8:00 pm Men's Group-Game Night

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



February

- Feb 05 – Communion Svc.**
10:00 AM – Lori Williamson - Set-Up
– Deborah Maddison - Take-Down
Flowers: Paul and Debra Mattson for blessings received
- Feb 12 – Worship Svc.**
10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin
Flowers: Corey & Deborah Maddison – Happy Valentine's Day
- Feb 19 – Praise/Communion Svc.**
10:00 AM – Marjorie Hord – Set-Up
– Kelly Olney - Take-Down
Flowers: Molly Williams in memory of David Munger
- Feb 22 – Ash Wednesday Svc./Comm.**
7:00 PM – Becky Zielke
- Feb 26 – Worship Svc.**
10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway
Flowers: Lent - None



MOWING IN FEBRUARY

Feb 11 – Bill Williamson & Arlin Weiting

Feb 25 - Reese Riddiough & Nathan Schofield

▶▶▶ SEE 3 DATE CHANGES BELOW ◀◀◀

Valentine's Dinner Dance -- February 19 --

5:00 PM—Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, dancing, and fun! Our Youth Group will host the dinner-dance, serving pasta and meatballs with salad, garlic bread, and dessert. There will be music and dancing for people of all ages at personally decorated tables. Sign up to attend, adopt a table, bring desserts, or help in a variety of other ways. There will be a sign-up sheet in the courtyard after services, or you can contact Deborah Maddison or Kelly Olney. ✿



Come on out on Sunday, FEBRUARY 26, at 2:00 PM, and bring some friends. You can count on Minute-to-Win-It, Pictionary, and Bingo to be among the games we will tackle. Fred and Kathy Lee will provide tasty and tongue-tantalizing treats. So, join us for great food, a plethora of prizes, and awesome fellowship! ✿

MEN'S GROUP – GAME NIGHT!!

The **LCOS Men's Group** will join Orcutt Presbyterian Men's Group this month. This will replace our regularly scheduled February meeting. LCOS will provide dinner and our host will provide beverages.

Where: Kevin Keinert (host)
4351 Beverly Dr., Orcutt (Deerfield)

When: Monday, February 27, at 6:00 PM

RSVP: Noel Rowe – 805-623-5161
(need to know amount of food to prepare)

USHERS ARE RETURNING!

We are happy to announce

that we are bringing back the ministry of ushering in February. Many of you loved doing that in the past. If you would like to serve in that capacity, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and you will be scheduled. We will need one usher at each service. Thank you for your ministry. ✿



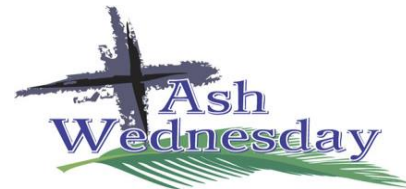
UPDATE from the CALL COMMITTEE

Greetings in Christ to our fellow members of LCOS!

In the Call Process, we are currently in a waiting period. The nominations for the potential new Pastor were submitted to our District President. Seven nominations were sent. The nominations are being evaluated by the District to see if the Pastors qualify to be on our call list. Then the District will add names of Pastors to our call list that they think will be a good fit for us. This is what we are waiting for... the list of candidates from the District.

As we wait, please remember the search for our new Pastor is Holy Spirit guided and we are seeking His will. This is why the 31 Day Devotion is paramount to this process. It reminds us how to rely on the Holy Spirit and not ourselves.

Any questions or comments, please reach out to one of the Call Committee members: Terry Murdock, Mike Foley, Mark Hathaway, Art Atrops, Becky Zielke, Brent Clavin, Lisa DiModica. ✿



February 22 – 7:00 p.m.

Worship Svc./Comm.

Soup Supper – 6:00 PM

Lent Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Mar 1 Mar 8

Mar 15 Mar 22 Mar 29

Maundy Thursday - April 6 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 7 - 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN SIGNALS



Why should we observe Lent?

This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent. ✨

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM CARE NET DRIVE



We are collecting needed items for the pregnant women and mothers who are supported by **Care Net Pregnancy and Resource Center of Santa Maria**. Our youth, directed by Deborah Maddison, are helping with this project while learning how important each life is, even in the womb.

Care Net has an ultrasound machine that shows the woman that she really does have a baby inside of her. Care Net immediately gives the mother a blanket for her baby and provides baby clothes after the baby is born along with diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, and lotion. Care Net has parenting classes for mothers and fathers. All of their services are FREE. They truly care about mothers and fathers and their babies.

You can help at this time by making a monetary donation or giving needed items such as: diapers size 4,5,6, baby wipes, baby shampoo or lotion, knitted caps, and gender-neutral flannel blankets.

We are collecting money and needed items through February 19. Your gifts may be placed in designated baskets located in the narthex. Your gifts will be in addition to those we will purchase with the \$250 from Thrivent.

Thank You! Ruth Oliver



The annual Yard Sale netted \$550, which were distributed to six organizations. Please see the recipients' thank-you notes posted on the LWML bulletin board in Stahnke Hall.

At District level (LWML-CNH), the first six Mission Grants have been funded. Mites are now being collected for **Grant #7. Walking with Women Leaders - \$18,050** LINC Bay Area, Hayward, California—LINC is implementing a new program, focusing on Women Leaders and is partnering with LCMS CNH District Bay area churches and LWML. This grant emphasizes the role women play in sharing the gospel of Christ. It is requesting funds for identifying, developing, training, coaching, and providing scholarship for 10 Bay area Women. **At National level**, there is a poster on the bulletin board of mission grants paid and still to be funded.

LWML celebrates its 80th year in 2023. To commemorate this anniversary, what could LCOS's LWML complete in the amount of 80? Some ideas: Quilts? Backpacks? School or Hygiene Kits? Socks for Homeless? A backpack opportunity sponsored by Orphan Train in February?

The National LWML Convention is scheduled for June 2023 in Milwaukee, WI. Registration and details are in the newest "Quarterly." Early registration has begun!

Contact: Anita Lange – (805) 937-6459

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

FEBRUARY 2023
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
5 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Mark Hathaway Art Atrops	Jim LaBelle	Marjorie Hord	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Lori Williamson – Set-Up Deborah Maddison – Take-Down Flowers: Paul & Debra Mattson for blessings received
12 Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Tom Heuchert	Diana Brown	Debbie Heuchert	Terry Murdock	Altar: Stephanie Clavin Flowers: Corey & Deborah Maddison – Happy Valentine’s Day!
19 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Riley Olney	Todd Martin Art Atrops	Paul Mattson	Gary Lange	Karl DiModica	Altar: Marjorie Hord – Set-Up Kelly Olney – Take-Down Flowers: Molly Williams in memory of David Munger
22 Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm	Elder	Mark Hathaway	Jim LaBelle	Terry Murdock	Diana Brown	Altar: Becky Zielke Flowers: Lent
26 Sunday	10:00 am	Ali Mayes	Dennis Payne	Mike Foley	Lucas Mayes	Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Connie Hathaway Flowers: Lent
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	READERS *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	USHERS *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ELDERS *Dennis Payne 934-1101	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Donna Finlay (805) 937-3690

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR NECESSARY CHANGES WITH PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT;
INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116**

FEBRUARY 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Small Grp. Bible Study	2 7 PM – Elders’ Mtg.	3	4
5 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	6	7 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	8 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Small Grp. Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	13	14 4:00 PM – P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	15 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Small Grp. Bible Study March Ministry Schedule Deadline	16	17 2:00 PM – Memorial Svc. (Moffatt) – SH in Use	18
19 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 5:00 Valentine Dinner- Dance	20 Presidents’ Day - Church Office Closed 9:00 AM – March Newsletter Deadline	21 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	22 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Small Grp. Bible Study 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday Svc.	23	24	25 5:00 PM – SH in use (Clavin)
26 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc 11:00 AM – Council Mtg. 2:00 PM – Adult Fellowship	27 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Men’s Group	28 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH				