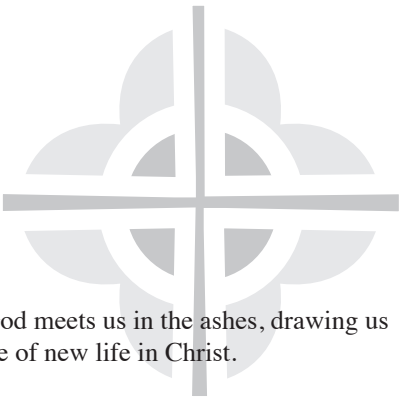


the *Voices* of english lutheran



Meeting Us in the Ashes by Pastor Becky Goche

The 40-day Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday, the day on which worshippers' foreheads are marked with a cross of the dark ashes of palms. These palms are often from the previous year's Palm Sunday mixed with a bit of olive oil to help make them stick. Ashes have long been a sign of repentance and mourning in both the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Some of my earliest memories of Ash Wednesday are from my childhood, growing up in the Roman Catholic Church. I was intrigued by the ashes that were smudged upon my forehead. I remember seeing the priest's ash-filled thumb, feeling him make the sign of the cross upon my brow, and hearing the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Today I still appreciate the ritual of having the ash (the dust, the earth) pressed back into my skin. In this simple act, you and I are reminded of our individual and collective sin and our fragile, earth-bound nature. Marked with ashes we begin our journey of Lent – a time to practice the ways of Jesus by loving our neighbor, to remember the poor, and to tend the earth from which we have come

and to which we will return. God meets us in the ashes, drawing us towards Easter and the promise of new life in Christ.

I do hope that you will join us on March 6 for one of the Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 pm or 7:00 pm. Until then, I would like to leave you with a poem by Jan Richardson.

"Will You Meet Us?"

<p>Will you meet us in the ashes, will you meet us in the ache and show your face within our sorrow and offer us your word of grace:</p> <p>That you are life within the dying,</p>	<p>that you abide within the dust, that you are what survives the burn- ing, that you arise to make us new.</p> <p>And in our aching, you are breathing; and in our weeping,</p>	<p>you are here within the hands that bear your blessing, enfolding us within your love.</p> <p>— Jan Richardson, <i>Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons.</i></p>
---	--	--

General Fund Report - January 2019

RECEIPTS	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Actual	Budget	2018 Actual	Actual	Budget	2018 Actual
Envelope Offerings	39,085	0	27,344	0	0	0
Simply Giving Plan	24,120	0	25,408	0	0	0
Other General	543	0	1,115	0	0	0
General Fund Total	63,748	0	53,867	0	0	0
Benevolence	155		50	0		0
TOTAL	63,903	0	53,917	0	0	0
Communion Fund	532			0		
Memorials	1,145			0		
Hungry Jar	481			0		
DISBURSEMENTS						
Benevolence	500	0	6,004	0	0	0
Stability Triangle	63,219	0	51,187	0	0	0
Five Big Rocks	802	0	3,495	0	0	0
TOTAL	64,521	0	60,686	0	0	0
Gain (Loss)	(618)		(6,769)	0		0
Communion Fund	3,500			0		
Hungry Jar	728			0		
MORTGAGE REDUCTION						
Principle						
Interest	666					

* budget numbers not approved at time of printing.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH						
<p><i>We're always adding things to our calendar! For a full event schedule, including community groups that use our church, visit www.englishlutheran.org and click on the calendar button.</i></p>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 6:30p Youth Group	Come 4 Supper/Hillview West Conference Pastors 6:30a Men's Faith Forum 8:45a Quilters 4:30p AS Training	12:00 & 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship 3:30p Property Comm. Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers Bible Std. 1:30p Library Committee 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	5:30p Church Ladies Bingo Bash	9:00a Sanctuary Move 5:00p Worship	
10 Burritos	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour	8:45a Quilters 10:00a Caring Ministers 4:00p Internship Comm. 5:30p Fellowship Council 6:00p Evangelism Council 6:00p Worship Council	10:00a Ministry Council 12:00p Worship 5:30p Youth Steering Committee 6:15p Worship Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	Vision Board Retreat		5:00p Worship
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 6:30p Youth Group	6:30a Men's Faith Forum 8:45a Quilters 6:00p Marketing Team 6:30p Spiritual Direction	11:00a Worship 12:00p Community Conversations 6:15p Worship Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	Apr Mini-Voice Deadline 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 5:30p Interfaith Partners 6:30p Apostle Paul Class			5:00p Worship
Crafters Retreat						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 9:45a NMI Convos	12:00p Senior Fun & Fellowship	8:45a Quilters 1:30p Mary Circle 6:30p Vision Board	12:00p Worship 6:15p Worship Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 6:30p Apostle Paul Class		5:00p Worship 6:00p Dueling Pianos
31						
8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 12:00p First Comm Class						