

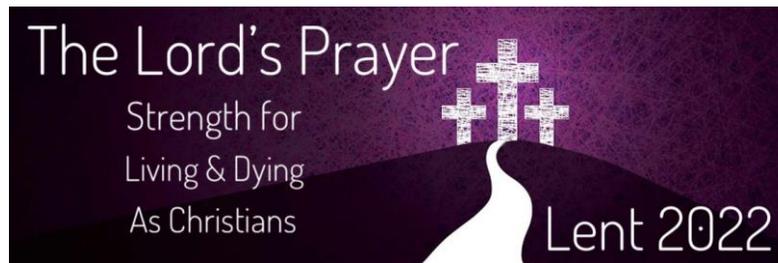


7060 Ponderosa Drive
Parker, CO 80138

Mission News From SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, please
contact Pastor Wendy Poch at **303-841-3553** or
office@spiritofhopelcmc.org.

Visit us on the web at
www.spiritofhopelcmc.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP TONIGHT @ 7:00 PM

Tonight, Lent begins at Spirit of Hope. We will encounter our Lord through a solemn worship service in which you will be able to receive ashes in the shape of the cross on your forehead as we are reminded that we were dust and to dust we shall return. We will also receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus as we are reminded that because of Him, we now have the gift of eternal life. If you are unable to come to worship but wish to receive ashes and Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Wendy.

THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE

This Sunday, Pastor Wendy will be kicking off our Lenten Series titled:
THE LORD'S PRAYER:

STRENGTH FOR LIVING AND DYING AS CHRISTIANS

Our text will be John 14:1-14 and 15:16-30. We will be focusing on the introduction to the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father who art in heaven". It's a praise band Sunday! Worship begins at 9:30 am. Sunday School begins at 11:00 am. Our children will be learning more about God as our Father with Pat Schmidt and Pastor Wendy. Our adults will be starting a new class on the Lord's Prayer as a source of strength in times of suffering (see the article further below) which will be led by Ken Carpenter.

ASHES TO ASHES and DUST TO DUST WHY DO LUTHERANS RECEIVE ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY?



I wrote and first published this blog post on February 23, 2019. But I thought it was worth sharing it again, especially because we are coming into Lent 2022 with the news of war and death in Ukraine, leaving the entire world on edge and uncertain of what will happen next. As we are reminded of our mortality, we also pray that all who look upon Jesus Christ will be saved.

Here's the original post:

Many non-Lutherans wonder why their Lutheran friends or family members wear ashes on their forehead at the beginning of Lent. Are they showing off? Are they trying to stand out? Is it some weird secret church ritual? What does it mean? Should I get them too?

There are three reasons why Lutherans go to church to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. First, the ashes remind people of their sinfulness. Second, the ashes remind people of their mortality. Third, the ashes remind people that they have been redeemed. Let's unpack this a bit.

Since ancient times, God's people have used ashes as a sign of humble repentance (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Daniel 9:3; Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13). This tradition was carried on by the early church and remains an important tradition today. When one willingly goes up to a pastor and receives ashes on his/her forehead, they are admitting that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation. They are admitting that they have sinned not only against their neighbors, but against God Himself. The ashes demonstrate that without God, all people are spiritually dead. The ashes remind the wearer of their need to repent and confess in order to be turned back to God. The ashes demonstrate our pleading that the Lord would purify us. The ashes serve as a tangible and visible sign of our failure to love God as much as He loves us.

The receiving of ashes on Ash Wednesday also remind people of their mortality, which is the direct result of God's condemnation of our sin. God said to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ashes serve as a solemn reminder that the price of sin is death. Man cannot escape death. Often, people today feel as if they are invincible. It's easy to feel like we're at the top of the world, capable of doing anything that we desire. We keep ourselves busy doing "good" things, but fail to recognize that in reality we are dead men walking. People don't like to think about death. Our culture has seemingly sterilized death. We make every attempt to avoid death. Death is uncomfortable. And, that's why ashes are so important. They are the physical reminder that God created man from the dust of the earth and one day all men will return to the

dust of the earth. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust. The ashes force us to remember that we are merely mortal and that God alone is sovereign and reigns for all eternity.

Ashes also tell us the good news of the Gospel! You see, ashes aren't just smeared randomly or haphazardly across people's foreheads. The ashes are given in the shape of the cross. In receiving the ashes, we remember that our Lord Jesus took on the fullness of our humanity. He who was sinless became our sin. Jesus the Christ was crucified on a cross. He was crucified for you. Then Jesus conquered death itself through His resurrection. He was resurrected for you. In doing so, He has taken the ashes of our past and created in us new life, allowing us to live forever in the holy presence of God! He has redeemed His children, making us clean and new. Through the cross of Christ, the power of death has been destroyed. Through the cross there is life. The cross-shaped ashes on our foreheads proclaim the good news that sin and death have been conquered through the cross of Christ.

In many Lutheran Ash Wednesday services, the Lord's Supper immediately follows the receiving of ashes. We, who were once dead in our sins, we who deserve to die, come to the Lord's Table literally wearing the cross of Christ. Here, at the Lord's table, those who have humbled themselves before the Lord, who have admitted their sin, who know they deserve death, are instead given the new life that is only found through the body and blood of our loving Lord Jesus. Here, at the Lord's table, those marked with the cross of Christ are raised up, strengthened through God's mercy, love, and grace, and sent forth into the world to proclaim the good news!

This year, you are encouraged to worship on Ash Wednesday and join in this special occasion in which we humbly come before the Lord, repent of our sinful ways and receive the free gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. Interestingly, the ashes Lutherans receive are traditionally made out of the palm branches used previously on Palm Sunday, a day when people rejoiced and praised Jesus only days before they turned on him and yelled "Crucify Him!" (Matthew 27:22; Mark 15:13; Luke 23:21; John 19:6) This serves as a powerful reminder that people are sinful, death is real, but Resurrection Day (Easter) is coming! Come, all are welcome. All are in need of salvation. Let the Lord use the ashes of your past to create in you a clean heart and new life in Him.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Wendy

P.S. This article was first published in my blog which can be found at www.lutheranlenses.com

"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store".
— N.T. Wright

EASTER CHOIR

Come join us in preparing for our Resurrection Celebration (Easter Sunday, April 17th) by joining our Easter Choir. You do NOT need to be able to ready music. You do NOT have to be a great singer. You DO need to desire to help lead us in worshipping our Lord on Resurrection Day! Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, March 9th immediately following worship (you don't even have to come out for an extra evening!) and will last until approximately 8:30 pm. All our welcome!



MARTIN LUTHER'S "A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY"

A Great resource to assist you in your prayers throughout Lent is Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray". Luther wrote this small booklet in response to a question from his barber, who was struggling with knowing how to pray. In this booklet, Luther uses the Lord's Prayer as a foundation for developing our own prayers. He uses a technique called "braided prayers" or "prayer weaving". Luther then shows us how to do the same thing with the Ten Commandments and the Apostle's Creed. A copy of the booklet was attached to the email that accompanied this newsletter. You can also copy and paste this link into your browser:

<https://wmpl.org/filed/resources/public/Literature/ASimpleWaytoPray.pdf>

NEW MEMBER CLASS:

TUESDAY, MARCH 8th @ 9:00 – 11:30 am

Would you like to become a member of Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church? Would you just like more information about who we are and what we believe? You're invited to our upcoming New Member Class on Tuesday, March 8th at 9:00 am. Breakfast will be provided. We will discuss our congregation's history, core beliefs and values, and get to know one another better too. Please RSVP to Pastor Wendy by Sunday, March 6th if you would like to attend.



LENT 2022 PREACHING SCHEDULE

While your daily Bible readings for the Narrative Lectionary will remain the same, Pastor Wendy has decided to rearrange the order of our texts as we move through Lent. The reasoning for this is to allow for a smooth presentation of our Lenten preaching series: The Lord's Prayer: Strength for Christian Living and Dying (which begins on Sunday, March 6th). **Please note that these texts continue to flow from Sundays to Wednesdays.** Therefore, our Lenten preaching schedule will include the following:

3/2/2022	John 10:1-18	Jesus is the Good Shepherd
3/6/2022	John 14:1-14, John 5:16-30	Our Father in Heaven
3/9/2022	John 12:1-11	Hallowed be Thy name
3/13/2022	John 11:1-44	Thy Kingdom Come
3/16/2022	John 13:1-17	Thy Will be Done.
3/20/2022	John 13:18-30	Give Us This Day...
3/23/2022	John 13:31-38	Forgive Us...
3/27/2022	Jesus 14:15-31	Lead Us Not into Temptation
3/30/2022	John 15:1-25	Deliver Us from Evil
4/3/2022	John 15:26 - 16:15	For Thine is the Kingdom...
4/6/2022	John 17	Amen.
4/10/2022	John 12:12-27	Triumphal Entry
4/14/2022	SEDER SUPPER	Passover (Christian Haggadah)
4/15/2022	TENEBRAE	Passion Readings (Esp. John 18- 19)
4/17/2022	John 20:1-18	Empty tomb; Jesus calls Mary by name

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIAN LIVING AND DYING

This coming Lent we will be discussing Christian Living and Dying using the Lord's Prayer as our focal point. Pastor Wendy is also working on developing seminars/classes that will be held throughout the year on topics related to Christian decision making at the end of life. ***If you have questions, or certain topics that you would like to see be addressed, simply write down your questions or thoughts anonymously and place them in the basket on the table in the Narthex.***



LENT 2022 at SPIRIT OF HOPE

This year our Lenten Theme will be “Living and Dying as Christians”. We will be utilizing the Lord’s Prayer as presented in the Small Catechism as well as texts from the Gospel of John. Of

special note, this new series will flow from each Sunday and Wednesday worship service. You are encouraged to break away from your busy schedule and join us for Wednesday evening suppers and worship in order to engage more fully in the entire series. Here is the worship schedule:

- Wednesday, March 2nd:** **Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:00 pm**
Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18)
- Sunday, March 6th:** **Worship @ 9:30 am**
“Our Father” (John 14:1-14; 5:16-30)
- Wednesday, March 9th:** **Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm, Worship @ 7:00**
“Hallowed Be Thy Name” (John 12:1-11)
- Sunday, March 13th:** **Worship @ 9:30 am**
“Thy Kingdom Come” (John 11:1-44)
- Wednesday, March 16th:** **Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm, Worship @ 7:00**
“Thy Will Be Done” (John 13:1-17)
- Sunday, March 20th:** **Worship @ 9:30 am**
“Give Us This Day Our Daily...” (John 11:1-44)
- Wednesday, March 23rd:** **Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm, Worship @ 7:00**
“Forgive Us...” (John 13:31-38)
- Sunday, March 27th:** **Worship @ 9:30 am**
“Lead Us Not into Temptation” (Jn 14:15-31)
- Wednesday, March 30th:** **Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm, Worship @ 7:00**
“Deliver Us from Evil” (John 15:1-25)
- Sunday, April 3rd:** **Worship @ 9:30 am**
“Thine is the Kingdom...” (John 15:26-16:15)
- Wednesday, April 6th:** **Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm, Worship @ 7:00**
“Amen” (John 16:16-33)
- Sunday, April 10th:** **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 9:30 am**
- Thursday, April 14th:** **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
CHRISTIAN SEDER SUPPER 5:30 pm
- Friday, April 15th:** **GOOD FRIDAY**
Traditional Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 17th:** **RESURRECTION CELEBRATION 9:30 am**

COMING UP THIS WEEK AT SPIRIT OF HOPE

Wednesday, March 2nd

4:30 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Thursday, March 3rd

5:30 pm – Zumba Gold

Friday, March 4th

9:00 – 11:00 am Coffee with the Pastor at Fika on Mainstreet

6:00 pm – Family Game Night

Sunday, March 6th

9:30 am - Worship; 11:00 am Sunday School

Tuesday, March 7th

9:00 am – New Member Class

12:00 pm Digging Deeper Bible Study

2:00 – 4:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training

Wednesday, March 8th

6:00 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship with the Imposition of Ashes

8:00 am Easter Choir Rehearsal

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS @ 11:00 AM

REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER (AND EVERYONE ELSE!)

"You have cancer," can be the most devastating words one can ever hear. Tragically, cancer continues to assault and afflict vast numbers of families. But for many the experience of cancer becomes a time of finding God's presence in a deeper and more beautiful way.

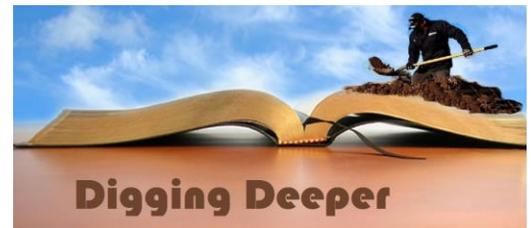
This video series of meditations on The Lord's Prayer was created by Ken Curtis when Ken was diagnosed with advanced cancer with little prospect for survival. He pursued a combination of traditional and alternative medicine, undergirded by a strong spiritual dimension and prayer support team. While made particularly for people facing the crisis of cancer, the reflections are relevant for any health crisis (and also for grief and other spiritual crisis) as well as for those who may find themselves loving and/or caring for someone who is suffering.

This study is also appropriate for anyone who simply wants to spend time going deeper into this special prayer that was given to us by our Lord Jesus himself. Join Ken on this journey into the world of The Lord's Prayer *from original locations in Israel* that were important in the life of Jesus. ***The Lord's Prayer is not just a way of praying. It's a way of "seeing."*** When the prayer is grasped and uttered from the heart, it can -- and will -- change us. We realize how we are not alone, no matter how difficult or seemingly hopeless our situation. Even in our pain, there can come a joy and a feeling of rightness about our world.

This video series comes to us from our Rightnow Media digital library (which means you can also access the videos at home). Our own Ken Carpenter will lead this study and will include notes of his own and writings from Martin Luther at various points throughout the course.

**DIGGING DEEPER WITH PASTOR WENDY
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
TUESDAYS 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

Join Pastor Wendy as we dig deeper into the Gospel of John. You are welcome to bring a lunch! No homework and no prep.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



- 3/2 Cindy Garrett
- 3/3 Karen Jordahl
- 3/8 Margie Flora
- 3/9 Susan Spancers
- 3/17 Ramie Larson
- 3/17 Ben Reinicke
- 3/18 Sherry Helmeke Clark
- 3/20 Lavonne Zwegardt
- 3/24 DeDe Elliott
- 3/25 James West
- 3/25 Rachel West
- 3/30 Cathy Morano



- 3/6 David & Sheri Giles
- 3/7 Douglas & Carolyn Kleven
- 3/31 John & Kandy Parsons



Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request for the prayer team, please contact Pastor Wendy @ 303-841-3553 or wendy.poch@spiritofhopelcmc.org
Jesus said; "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."



A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

By Pastor Wendy

Lord God, we pray for the people in Ukraine as they suffer the brutal attack waged by the Russian government. We pray for all people, Lord, including those who live under Russia's regime of tyranny and all who are suffering or will suffer due to the current war that is being waged. We pray for all the nations of the world, Lord, that you would open their eyes to the light of your Son, so that they would lead with your wisdom and so that your peace would reign. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.



PRAYER GUIDE FOR UKRAINE

The following prayer guide was sent by the mission group SEND International via Pioneers-USA Prayer Notes. Please use it as a guide to pray for the situation in Ukraine.



1. Ask God to redeem this situation by drawing many people to Himself. May Ukrainians and Russians discover that Jesus is the only true source of peace, safety, comfort, truth and freedom.
2. Pray that Ukrainians ultimately would hope not in governments, elections or diplomacy, but in Jesus Christ.
3. Ask God to deliver those in Ukraine and Russia from evil. May He have mercy and heal Ukraine. May He give Ukraine peace and the chance to develop as a nation that values truth, justice and freedom, all rooted in the goodness of God.
4. Pray for a culture in which political disagreements don't lead to hatred or violence.

5. The conflict between Ukraine and Russia can spill over into personal conflict within families, especially when family members live on opposite sides of the border and are influenced by different sides of the “information war.” Pray for unity and a love for one another that supersedes the problems between the countries.
6. Ask God to bless soldiers’ wives and children with peace and safety while their husbands and fathers are gone.
7. Pray for the various world leaders involved in diplomacy over Ukraine.
8. Pray that the evangelical church will remain united, even as it faces difficult questions, such as how involved believers ought to be in politics or in armed conflict.
9. In the past few years, the Ukrainian evangelical church has become much more passionate about sending its own cross-cultural workers to reach the lost. Pray that this conflict will not dissuade Ukrainians from taking the gospel message to Russia and to other lands.
10. Pray for Christians in the military. This is a challenging time; ask God to guide them as their faith is being tested in new ways.
11. Fears stemming from the conflict come up frequently in conversation. Pray that missionaries and other believers will have many opportunities to explain to their neighbors and friends the reason for the hope within them, even in this time of trial.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

For the situation in Ukraine.

For a loved one who is dealing with severe anxiety and depression.

For Brad, who is recovering from a car accident that caused numerous and significant injuries.

For Stephanie who is recovering from radiation treatments.

For Rebecca who is undergoing radiation.

For Sara as she goes through intensive chemotherapy.

For Janie as she recovers from radiation and prepares for surgery.

For those who are first responders to all emergencies: fire fighters, EMTs and law enforcement.

For all of our local, state, and federal leaders that they would hear God's voice and lead with His wisdom.

For our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who suffer persecution to be comforted and strengthened and for the Lord God to defeat the evil of terrorism done to them. We also pray for missionaries around the world.

For Spirit of Hope mission partners: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, SECORCares, Mean Street Ministry, Alternatives Pregnancy Center, Apache Youth Ministries, LCMC Disaster Relief, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Tartu Academy of Theology, Marion Medical Mission.

For Spirit of Hope mission allies: Compassion International, SONetwork, Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan's Purse, the Institute of Lutheran Theology, Stephen Ministry.

All of our military fighting for our freedoms.

QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE

February Income (to date) = \$15,121

General Fund Offerings = \$13,190

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$1,120

Dedicated Offerings = \$1,440

Other Income = \$151

February Expenses = \$17,247

Checking Accounts Balance = \$29,118

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$12,160

Money Market Account Balance = \$118,246

2022 LENTEN OFFERINGS

This year Spirit of Hope will be giving away 100% of our Wednesday evening Lenten offerings to help victims of the Marshall Fire in Boulder County. We are thankful for this opportunity to help locally now as this news story has begun to fade from national headlines. Thank you for supporting those in need as many will be struggling for years to come.