Our Savior Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

| Inside this issue: | | Our Savior Lutheran Church | Our Savior Lutheran Staff: | | |
|--------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Pastor's Notes | 1 | 1105 W. Fern Ave. | Ministers All People of OSLC | | |
| Ground Zero Cross | 2 | | PastorSteve HerzbergOffice ManagerVicki Drews | | |
| Announcements | 3 | McAllen, TX 78501 | Office Admin Vicki Drews Music Director Kenneth Rivens | | |
| Puzzle | 4 | Worship with us every Sunday. | Pianist John McLeod | | |
| Church Calendar | 5 | Worship on Sundays at 9:30am and | Youth Director Dawn Everson Bell Director Connie Laumann | | |
| Birthday Calendar | 6 | 11am. We also invite everyone to wor- | Council Members: | | |
| Stewardship | 7 | ship with us online. You can watch Sun- day's service on our Facebook page (Our | PresidentPaula CheeverVice PresidentAngelo Ranaudo | | |
| TO OUL | | Savior McAllen—ELCA), and on our YouTube page. (You can find us by searching for 'Our Savior Lutheran Church McAllen'). Please stay tuned for further updates . | TreasurerRudy LosoyaSecretaryNoelia TrevinoFellowshipPaula CheeverEvangelismAngelo RanuaudoLearning & YouthVan SlusserPropertyDavid BourboisStewardshipZane JunckerWorship & MusicCathy Graham | | |



Cathy Graham **Carmen Bourbois**

Social Concerns

Pastor's Newsletter Article

As we head into our Lenten season this month of March, I like to lift up this reflection from Pastor Dan Erlander on the importance of Lent's meaning: "We are now on the Lenten journey—the pilgrimage which begins on Ash Wednesday when we solemnly confess our sins and receive the ashes—the symbol of our brokenness and mortality. From this event, we walk toward Holy Week and Easter where we will remember, celebrate and participate in Christ's death and resurrection..... Lent exists for the sake of Easter. During Lent we do battle with everything in our lives to which we must die. We also practice, in a very intentional way, the new life which is the gift of Easter. Thus we do the Lenten disciplines—prayer, fasting, meditating, reading almsgiving, Scripture study, simplifying, advocacy for the poor and hungry, peacemaking, doing deeds of love and mercy." This preparation will lead us into Holy Week during the middle of April. May you take this journey anew and receive the rejuvenation that comes with this special season. Pastor Steve

The Ground Zero Cross



The shape was oddly identifiable in the blasted wreckage of the World Trade Center, standing upright amid beams bent like fork tines and jagged, pagan-seeming tridents. A grief-exhausted excavator named *Frank Silecchia* found it on Sept. 13, 2001, two days after the terrorist attacks. A few days later, he spoke to a Franciscan priest named *Father Brian Jordan*, who was blessing remains at Ground Zero. "Father, you want to see God's House?" he asked. "Look over there." Father Brian peered through the fields of shredded metal. "What am I looking for?" he asked. Silecchia replied, "Just keep looking, Father, and see what you see." "Oh my God," Father Brian said. "I see it."

As Father Brian stared, other rescue workers gathered around him. There was a long moment of silence as he beheld what he considered

to be a sign. Against seeming insuperable odds, a 17-foot-long crossbeam, weighing at least two tons, was thrust at a vertical angle in the hellish wasteland. Like a <u>cross.</u>

Ever since the two jets had slammed into the twin towers on Sept. 11, leaving 2,753 dead, Father Brian had been asked by countless New Yorkers, "Why did God do this?" He would reply tartly, in his Brooklyn-born accent: "It had nuttin' to do with God. This was the actions of men who abused their free will." Now here was God explaining Himself. It was a revelation, proof that "God had not abandoned Ground Zero," even as the awful excavations continued.

Silecchia said worriedly, "Father, they might put this in some dump heap." "Frankie, no," Father Brian said. "No, they will not." Shortly after its discovery, Father Brian persuaded city officials to allow a crew of volunteer union laborers to lift it out of the wreckage by crane and mount it on a concrete pedestal. They placed it in a quiet part of the site, on Church Street, where on Oct. 3, 2001, Father Brian blessed it with the prayer of St. Bonaventure. "May it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee . . ." When he finished, the crane operators sounded their horns, a choral blast.

Each week, Father Brian held services there. He became the chaplain of the hard hats. Whenever crews working to find the dead needed a blessing or a prayer or absolution, Father Brian would offer it. Sometimes victims' families came to pray. The congregations grew from 25 or 35 to 200 and 300. Men cut replicas of the cross out of ruined steel and carried them in their pockets. Father Brian says: "We had Jews, Muslims, Buddhists. People who believed or didn't believe. It was a matter of human solidarity. Whether you believed was irrelevant. We needed some type of fellowship down there, other than working."

Taken from the Washington Post and seen on YouTube interview of Frank Silecchia

.....Submitted by Wanda Nebiolo

Entering the Passion of Jesus

Starting on Thursday, March 3rd, at 10am, Pastor Jim Wilken will lead us through this six-week study on Jesus' last days in Jerusalem. It will include a DVD hosted by biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine, followed by discussion. This is an excellent way to go deeper into the events of Holy Week. Session Titles are below:

- 1. Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
- 2. The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
- 3. Teachings: Risking Challenge
- 4. The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- 5. The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- 6. Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

Midweek Lenten Meal & Worship

On the Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday up until Holy Week, we will have a 4:30pm simple meal fellowship and a 5:30pm worship service. The theme for our Lenten discipline is <u>Turning Toward God's Abundance.</u> Each week will draw on a new divine attribute faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Speakers will include Pastor Jim Wilken, Pat Acklie-Roth, and Angelo Ranaudo. Volunteers are needed to sign –up to host one or more of the simple meals. Come and draw closer to God and God's people.

SCRIP INFORMATION Scrip orders will be placed on 3/20/22 for delivery on 3/27/22. You can stop by the office during the week to place your orders or contact Vicki Drews if you have any questions.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 2022

Income for January was \$24,699.03 and was more than planned for by -\$26.02. Expenses for January were \$32,453.78 and were less than the planned expenses by -\$2363. January income of \$24,699.03 less January expenses of \$32,453.78 means we took in less money than we spent by -\$7,754.75. This is due to the downpayment we make on the insurance coverage we have. Thank you all for mailing in or dropping off your donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



| March 2022 | | | | | | | | |
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | |
| <u>S M T</u> 1 6 7 8 13 14 15 1 | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | 1 12:30 PM Ladies Cards 6:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Dinner & Movie Night Movie Starts at 7, dinner 5:30 Rudy's Barbeque | 2 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Services 6:00 PM Ash WednesdayService 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice Ash Wednesday | 3 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study 5:00 PM Praise & Worship Meeting 6:30 PM Learning & Youth Meeting | 4 | 5 9:00 AM RGV Band Rehersal | | |
| 9:30 AM Tradional Sevice 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Contemporary Service | 7 6:30 PM Bells Practice | 8 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting | 9 4:30 PM Lenten Meal 5:30 PM Lenten Service 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study | 11:00 AM Host RGV Deanery Meeting with Bishop | 12 9:00 AM RGV Band Rehersal | | |
| 1 3 9:30 AM Tradional Sevice 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Contemporary Service | 14 6:30 PM Bells Practice | 15 12:30 PM Ladies Cards | 16 4:30 PM Lenten Meal 5:30 PM Lenten Service 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 17 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study | 18 | 19 9:00 AM RGV Band Rehersal 9:00 AM Council Retreat | | |
| 2 0 9:30 AM Tradional Sevice 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Contemporary Service | 21 6:30 PM Bells Practice | 22 6:30 PM Confirmation Class | 23 4:30 PM Lenten Meal 5:30 PM Lenten Service 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 24 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study | 25 | 26 8:15 AM Spanish Service 9:00 AM RGV Band Rehersal 9:00 AM Food Pantry | | |
| 2 7 9:30 AM Tradional Sevice 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Contemporary Service | 28 6:30 PM Bells Practice | 29 6:30 PM Confirmation Class | 30 4:30 PM Lenten Meal 5:30 PM Lenten Service 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Praise Team Practice | 31 10:00 AM Lenten Bible Study | <u>S M T</u> 3 4 5 10 11 12 1 17 18 19 2 | $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | |

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|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Birthdays | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | |
| Feb S M T 1 6 7 8 13 14 15 | 2022 W T F S 2 3 4 5 9 10 11 12 16 17 18 19 23 24 25 26 |] Jim Birkelo | 2 Arlys Husfeldt Jan Carlson | 3 | 4 Bob Fodness Judy Rieff | 5 Margaret Bretzloff | | |
| 6 | 7 Howard Madson Martyce Miller Susan Wadgymar | 8 | 9 | 10 Nikki Salinas Rebecca Long Ron Schmidt | 11 | 12 Alexander Merkau | | |
| 13 Detta Twalt | 14 | 15 David Kedrowski | 16 | 17 Jenny Penk | 18 | 19 | | |
| 20 Margaret Hammel | 21 Freida Weitzel | 22 Alson Husfeldt | 23 Maygan Hovland | 24 Hailey Garcia Justin Garcia | 25 Pamela Lukens | 26 | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | <u>S M T</u> <u>3 4 5</u> <u>10 11 12</u> <u>17 18 19</u> | $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | |
| MARCH ANNIVERSARIES | | | | | | | | |
| | Ron & Caro Warren & J Richard & J Pablo & Mo Ron & Mary | ean Leith Ian Carlson | I | 3/1 3/7 3/21 3/22 3/25 | | | | |

Ash Wednesday Stewardship

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." -Evangelical Lutheran Worship , P. 254

With these ancient words from Genesis 3:19 and the swipe of a dirty thumb across our foreheads, Ash Wednesday propels us into Lent with the proper context to understand our lives as stewards of the riches God entrusts to us.

The essential teaching of Ash Wednesday—that we are just mortals, after all crushes our ego, dispels our pretentions, and drives us deep into God's mysteries. Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What's *really* important? Pray over these questions and profound insights emerge.

We are dust. Yes, but we are God's dust. Our body consists of trillions of atoms, each a speck of "dust" created by God, billions of years ago. God put us together from the stuff of the universe.

* Therefore, we are quite literally "earthy" beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. Part of creation, we work to preserve and sustain God's creation for future generations.

* Therefore, we revere and care for our bodies through healthy living.

We are breath. We are not only dust. Genesis 2:7 describes ua as "dust" into which God has "breathed the Holy breath of life." Our lives are the breath of God in our dust.

* Therefore, every breath we take is holy, a prayer that whispers God's praise.

* Therefore, we look to God to align our lives with God's holy reality that arcs towards peace, love, joy, justice, and truth.

Our time is brief. The "dust" that is us will return to the earth. We have a finite number of minutes.

* Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. There is not a single moment one to waste. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.

* Therefore, we so not cling to our possessions, knowing that we will leave it all behind.

* Therefore, we nourish our lives with lasting treasures—relationships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity, and harmony.

This Lent spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will transform you into the person you were created to be. Reflect each day on Ash Wednesday. "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Rob Blezard

Rob Blezard::Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of +the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, and works as content editor for <u>www.stewardshipoflife.org</u>. He blogs at <u>www.thestewardshipguy.com</u>

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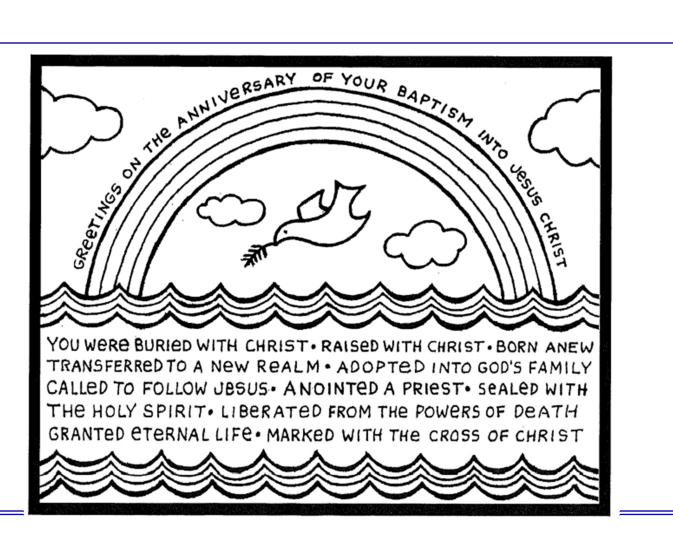
DATED MATERIAL

<u>This newsletter was taken to the Post</u> Office on February 25, 2022

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רסהה וא לבקר

דוחביב סהב בניסעלבקי



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