

February/March Newsletter



“We are made of stardust, our whole body consists of material that has been here before the beginning of time.” -- Giorgio A. Tsoukalos

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, with one of my favorite services of the church year. We gather together for the primary reason of remembering that we are mortal -- that we are going to die. The church for over a thousand years has marked the beginning of Lent this way...with ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of the cross joined with God's words to Adam and Eve - "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return"

It may sound like an odd service to be a favorite....but if you are one who feels the weight of the world on your shoulders...if you deal with anxiety wondering how you can keep all the balls in the air that you've been juggling...it is a word of grace to be reminded that you are not God. You are dust. Your life is fleeting, your time is limited and not only can you NOT do it all, you were never expected to. Breathe. You are dust, and to dust you shall return. It's okay to drop the balls and put the backpack down. It's okay when the dust just drifts in the sunlight and collects on the mantle. That's what it's supposed to do.

There is grace in being dust...in not being God.

But there is also beauty in being dust....in being stardust. The dust of the creation, the dust of cosmic explosions, the dust that is God breathed. The beauty of being dust is that my atoms and yours are interchangeable with the atoms of everything in all creation. We are interconnected with all life, generation to generation. Scientists will tell us that the finite atoms of the universe are simply reorganized infinitely into the wonder and miracle of life. We are magic...God's magic, capable of love and tenderness, redemption and resurrection. We are the cosmos, so loved by God that God's own Word became flesh and bone alongside of us.

There is grace in being dust....blown by the breath of God.

As we enter this the season of Lent...may we remember we are dust. Take the heavy backpack of guilt and worry and fear off and lay it down...we do not have to carry it. Because the God who breathes the dust to life will carry it and carry us....even when we bear our crosses and are laid in our tombs. And will breathe us back to life again and again and again. And will give us eternal life.

We begin Lent with ashes...and we make our way to the cross....but always, always...we find ourselves at Easter once again. Because if we have been united with Jesus in a death like his...we shall CERTAINLY be united with him in a resurrection like his. Whew. Thanks be to God.

Blessed Lent, dear friends.
Pastor Janine



Leadership Retreat

Saturday, February 11 at Scotia House

10:00am - 2:00pm

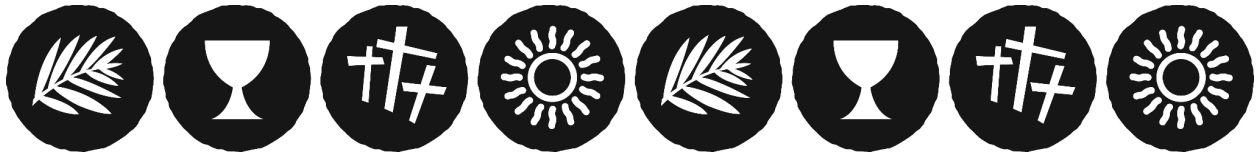
Members of our church council and committees will be gathering to reflect on our work together and look to the year ahead.



Ash Wednesday Service February 22 @ 7pm

“Prayer around the Cross”

We enter into Lent by remembering that we are frail and our lives are short, but God has us and holds us and will not let us go.



Lenten Soup Suppers & Worship

Wednesdays in March at ALC

“Faith, Hope and Love Abide”

Soup at 5:45

Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30

Sign up in the narthex to bring soup and help set up and clean up



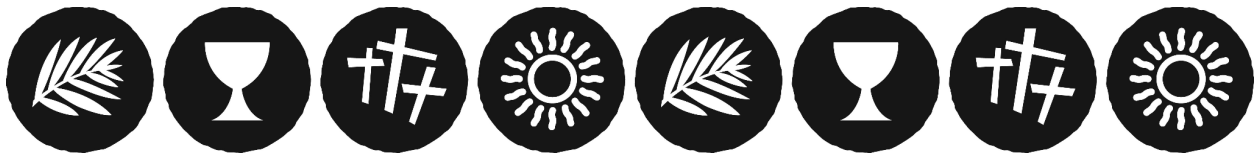
Save the Dates:

February 9

May 11

August 10

November 9



Looking ahead to Holy Week

April 2 - Palm / Passion Sunday

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Service - 7pm

April 7 - Good Friday Service - 7pm

April 9 - Easter Sunday



Birthdays



Birthdays

Gail Johnson	02-05	Julie Brown	03-07
Mary Bug Smith	02-10	Annie Frederick	03-09
Jared Hughes	02-11	Mary Lou Kroening	03-13
Dennis Alliger	02-11	Ron Heinrich	03-20
Ladimer Mischenko	02-12	Trish Akre	03-22
Carol Bourassa	02-13	Steve Bailey	03-23
Val Ubat	02-14	Bob Kowal	03-23
Roger Brandt	02-15	Brennan Jones	03-23
Nancy Thome	02-17	Terry Zakar	03-26
Sue Mauro	02-18	Phyllis Morey	03-28
Kendall Hinchliff	02-24	Valerie Samson	03-28
Elise Hinchliff	02-24		
Dorothy Funden	02-26		

Ushers & Greeters



FEBRUARY 2023



5 Randy Richter
12 Annie Frederick
19 Valerie Samson
26 Eloise Opp

MARCH 2023

5 Roger & Terry Brandt
12 Dick Bockemuehl & Sandy Ellersick
19 Valerie Samson
26 Carleen Bliesner-Bowen

Calendar

2023 . FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7pm Choir	2	3	4
5 10 am Worship	6 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	7 10 am Quilting	8 7pm Choir	9 Second Harvest 10am to Noon	10	11 Leadership Retreat Scotia House 10am - 2pm
12 10 am Worship	13 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	14 Valentines Day 10 am Anna Circle	15 7pm Choir	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship	20 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	21 10 am Quilting	22 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Choir following	23	24	25 
26 10 am Worship	27 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	28 10 am Quilting				

2023 . MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Lenten Service 6:30pm 7pm Choir	2	3	4
5 10 am Worship	6 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon Lenten Service 6:30pm	7 10 am Quilting	8 Lenten Service 6:30pm 7pm Choir	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship	13 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	14 10 am Anna Circle 7pm Council Meeting	15 Lenten Service 6:30pm 7pm Choir	16	17 	18
19 10 am Worship	20 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	21 10 am Quilting	22 Lenten Service 6:30pm 7pm Choir	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship	27 10am Bible Study Noon Al-anon	28 10 am Quilting	29 Lenten Service 6:30pm 7pm Choir	30	31	

American Lutheran Church



Pastors Janine and Matt Goodrich

332801 Highway 2 - PO Box 653

Newport, WA 99156

(509) 447-4338

alc.pastors@gmail.com

americanlutheranchurch.net

Church Council Members

President: Annie Frederick

Vice-President: Katie Kersting

Secretary: Pam Thompson

Treasurer: Kristi Bell

Education:

Shannon Radke

Monica Jones

Terry Zakar

Evangelism:

Val Samson

Sandy Loskill

Carleen Bliesner-Bowen

Missions & Social Concerns:

Mary Bug Smith

Jeff Bell

Bob Kowal

Property & Maintenance:

Toby Johnson

Jason Jones

Dennis Alliger

Stewardship:

Sophie Hinchcliff

Ken Brown

David Grice

Worship & Music:

Nancy Sauer

Hedy Mitchell

Millie Brumbaugh

*Marked with the cross of Christ forever,
we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.*