

"Grow in Faith, Make Disciples, Serve in Love"

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE—Wednesday, February 25, 7:00pm



Since the Middle Ages, Christians in the so-called Western Church have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day, in many churches, worshippers receive ashes on the forehead as a reminder of their sorrow for their sins. Ash Wednesday is February 25 this year.

House of Prayer will have an **Ash Wednesday service Wednesday, February 25, at 7:00pm**. Everyone is invited to receive ashes and be reminded of their faith.



Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent

always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.



Everyone is invited to attend Lenten services every Wednesday evening up to Easter Sunday. There will be a supper, Bible study and

Lenten service. Look in the March newsletter for event times.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 4
Wednesday, March 11
Wednesday, March 18
Wednesday, March 25
Wednesday, April 1
Maundy Thursday, April 9
Good Friday, April 10

The bible study series will be "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible."



Agnus Dei is a Latin term meaning Lamb of God. It represents the risen Christ who triumphs over death. In John 1:29, John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The lamb carries a white resurrection banner with a cross of red. The banner, representing the body of Christ, is attached to a cruciform staff, representing the cross on which Christ died.

Ash Wednesday history, Lenten history and Symbol information used by permission of The Newsletter Newsletter—February 2009 edition.

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY PRESENTATION

Every boy in scouting learns the Boy Scout Oath: "On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." What more could parents ask of their sons (or daughters) than a pledge such as that? * On Sunday, February 8, Boy Scout Sunday, Ezra Hackler received his God and Family badge from Pastor Marcus Otterstad. Congratulations to Ezra for this accomplishment.



*Information used by permission of The Newsletter Newsletter—February 2009 edition

PRAYER CHAIN

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING: Barbara Alred; Amber; Annie Anderson; Johanna Anderson; Kyle Balusek; Rose Marie Badough; Ralph and Patsy Bowers; Bill Brown; Mr. & Mrs.



George Brown; Anne C. Buchanan; John and Pat Carlson; William Contois; Rebecca Dodd; Jacque Dunn; Lana Evans; Ray Fetterman; Jackie Gabler; Michael Giles; Ed Harlowe; Byron Heist; Susan Herd; Iris Hodges; Richard Jackson; Patty Lawrence; Kristin Linn; Carl Lueders; Sue Lyon; Pastor Mancuso; Donald Maretti; Richard McCoy; Rev. John Mills; Jonathan O'Malley; Betty Neves; Frances Patterson; Helen Peszko; Norm Price; Ruby Reis; Anna Roschke; Susan Shreffler; Margaret Spivey; Einar and Martha Sundstrom; Douglas Szopa; Dick Theis; Deborah Walton; Ruth Williams; and Jim Wright.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of twins Abigaile Grace Silva and Nicholas Gerhardt Silva, who were born on January 13. Congratulations to parents Tom and Patricia Silva and big sister Katie.

Please help us keep our prayer chain current. Contact either Anneke Ensmann (281-488-8158) or Carolyn Myers (281-326-1840) or the church office (281-488-4439) with updates or additions. Thank you!



to

Jim & Karen Mikkelsen—February 1

Robert & Karen LaRey—February 14



Lexie Graham, Lisa Leheny (Feb. 1), Victoria Rohloff (Feb. 3), Terri Bowers, Royce Kallesen, Nancy Hamachek (Feb. 4), Geri Spratlin (Feb. 5), Alex Aslaksen (Feb. 7), Dylan Lewis (Feb. 9), Jordice Renfro (Feb. 10), Johnnie Byers, Rebecca Clark (Feb. 11), Celia Croteau, Sarah Gibelyou (Feb. 12), Nina Zoch (Feb. 13), Mary Kate

Higginbotham (Feb. 18), Esther Galbreath (Feb. 19), Mason McCullough (Feb. 21), Courtney Proske (Feb. 22), Morgan Hegemier (Feb. 23), Erin Chisman, Ronnie Qualls (Feb. 24), Mary Norlin, Bret McCleary, Fran Hippensteel, Brad Ross, Russell Szopa (Feb. 26), Ruth Ford, Andrew Higginbotham (Feb. 27), Nina Fuhrman, David Ryden (Feb. 28)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Saturday, February 21, 10:00am

Parents who would like their children to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to speak to Pastor Marcus about a First Communion class on Saturday, February 21 at 10:00am. Please contact Pastor Marcus at 281/488-4439 or prmarcus@hopelca.org.



Wednesday, February 4, 6:00pm

Wednesday, February 11, 6:00pm

Sunday, February 15, 5:30pm
BOWLING NIGHT

All confirmands are asked to come to the church at 5:30pm to go to Main Event Entertainment. Go to maineventusa.net to find out more about this venue.

Wednesday, February 18, 6:00pm

Wednesday, February 25, 7:00pm
Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday
Through Easter
NO CONFIRMATION



The annual giving statements have been completed by the Financial Secretary. Look for the statements in your mail by the end of February.

If you have not received your statement by then, please notify the church office at 281-488-4439 or office@hopelca.org to reprint the statement and send it to you. Thank you!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers are needed for two Habitat for Humanity workdays this spring:

- March 14, 8:00am to 2:00pm
- May 9, 8:00am to 2:00pm.

We are partners on those days with First Methodist Church in Dickinson. We are to provide lunch for the March workday. For more information and to sign up, see the sheet in the narthex or contact Rachel Zoch at primadonna@sbcglobal.net or 281/479-7606.



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY



In the early Christian church, there were priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All these priests were designated as saints. According to one story, Roman emperor Claudius II imposed a ban on marriages because too many young men were dodging the draft by getting married (only single men had to enter the army). A priest named Valentinus was caught performing secret marriages and sentenced to death. While awaiting execution, young lovers visited him with notes — the first "valentines." The execution occurred in 269 CE on February 14th. A second story states a priest named Valentinus was jailed for helping Christians. During his stay he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and sent her notes signed "from your Valentine." Stories say that he first cured her eyesight (without which she couldn't have read the notes) and thereby converted the jailer to Christianity. Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day. No matter how many cards, flowers or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured that God loves you with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3, NRSV). Information used by permission of The Newsletter Newsletter—February 2009 edition.

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Michael Lyons, Praise Team Director

Howard Holt, Choir Director
tbn46@hotmail.com

Virginia Blasczyk, Organist
ginny2359@yahoo.com

Elida Lopez, Secretary
office@hopelca.org



"Life is Good; 888 Reasons Why" by Amy Hall

Reason Number 270: Tissues with lanolin.



If you would like to submit an article for Newsletter consideration, please submit your article to the Church office by the 15th. **For example, submit March 2009 article by Friday, February ____.** Email article in an MS Word document to office@hopelca.org or mail to office at the address listed at the top of this page.

