

## Community Presbyterian Church

PO Box 8; Lawton, IA 51030

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
www.community-presbyterian.org



## Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church

231 Pine Street; Bronson, IA 51007

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.

Volume 3, March 2022

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### The Journey of Lent

I was in kindergarten or first grade the first time I noticed the ashen cross on classmate's forehead. About 1/3 of my elementary class was Roman Catholic, another 1/3 was a mixture of other Christian faiths and the final 1/3 little heathens like me. The Lutheran kids attended their own school. Each year there was this ritual that unfolded that I really didn't understand. Curious, I gestured toward his forehead and asked, "What is that for?" Jimmy said something along the lines of, "Um . . . I dunno."



Pastor Ken Meissner

The season of Lent is often shrouded in confusion and misunderstanding. Like my friend, many people have obediently observed the season for years without really knowing why it is important. "Oh, it's a Catholic thing." This lack of understanding has led others to regard Lent with skepticism: it can seem like a hollow and bygone ritual that lacks true meaning. There are also faith traditions that have simply forgotten this part of the Christian journey altogether.

For most followers of Christ, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which gets its name from the practice of placing palm ashes upon the foreheads of believers as a sign of our repentance and a recognition of our own mortality. (*Did you know a good portion of the dust around your home is your own dead, skin cells? A new perspective as you get out your can of Lemon Pledge and your dust cloth!*) On Ash Wednesday, we talk about sin and death. These are two subjects we often avoid. In our day and age, people attempt to ignore even the appearance of death: we cover up and attempt to reverse the effects of aging; we allow others care for our elderly family members, and we often rush through our personal grief, thinking it is unhealthy and we should just get over it. Despite all the

attempts to ignore it, the fact remains: we are all going to die.

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (*Gen. 3:19b, NRSV*). These are the words most commonly heard as ashes are placed on our foreheads. They certainly aren't the most uplifting words with the Scriptures, but we do need to hear them. We need to remember that we are dust: it was only by God's grace that we were given the gift of life. (I often imagine God on his knees creating this little human out of the mud by the riverbank and then breathing life into this beautiful creation). We also need to remember that original sin has a cost and that death will inevitably turn us into dust once more.

Why take time to focus on something that seems so depressing? We need perspective, we need renewal, and we need to cling to Christ alone. Recognizing our mortality helps us remember just how deeply we need a Savior. Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent can open us up to the ways we have been living for temporary, earthly things within our life. With our eyes and heart opened, we can repent of our sins and re-focus upon the eternal life that God promises.

While a serious and reflective time, Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are not meant to be disheartening. These days point us toward the fresh hope in Christ. Even as the ashes placed on our foreheads symbolize our repentance and mortality, the cross that little smudge forms points us toward our salvation in Jesus Christ.

As Followers of Christ, we are a Resurrection people, an Easter People! Yet, death comes before resurrection, and too often we tend to rush on toward the empty tomb without first taking those steps with Jesus to the cross. The time of Lent help us to slow down a bit and contemplate life, as we deny ourselves of our earthly desires, in order to be a more obedient witness to God plan for our life.

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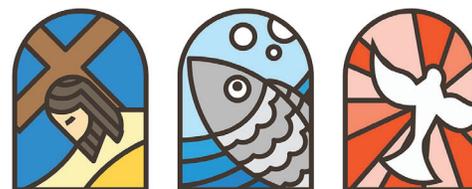
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### March

- 2** Ash Wednesday  
Community Presbyterian Church  
Potluck at 6pm, Service at 6:45
- 9** Kingdom Kids meets after school
- 9, 16, 23, & 30**  
6pm dinner & 6:45  
Bible Study Group:  
God's Promise, I Am With You
- 13** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17** St Patrick's Day
- 20** First Day of Spring
- 23** Kingdom Kids meets after school

### April

- 6** Kingdom Kids meets after school
- 6** Elliott Creek Session Meeting 6pm
- 6 & 13**  
Lunch at 6pm and  
Bible Study at 6:45
- 10** Palm Sunday -  
Community Presbyterian Church  
Easter Program
- 14** Maundy Thursday
- 15** Good Friday Service  
Elliott Creek - 7pm
- 17** Easter Sunday



Like us on Facebook

**Community Presbyterian Church at Lawton, IA**

You can watch the service Live on Facebook every Sunday!

Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness to prepare for His ministry in the world, we can take a reflective journey, while refocusing on God's mission for us. These 40 days are like a spring cleaning: We clear out the clutter of our spiritual lives in order to listen to God. Having recognized and repented of our sin on Ash Wednesday, the time of Lent gives us the opportunity to reshape the patterns of life so that we can live more faithfully.

Observance of Lent can vary greatly from person to person. It may involve fasting from food in order to reflect on God's provision or abstaining from social media in order to make more time for prayer and Scripture. Observing Lent may mean volunteering at a local food pantry or taking time to pray with a deeper intent. Whether you choose to fast, adopt a new spiritual habit, or something else altogether, our Lenten practices should specifically address areas that will help nurture and grow our faith.

As God guides us to personal practices, its key to remember that we embark on this journey together as the family of God. We confess and receive forgiveness together. We lift one another up and guide each other toward faithfulness. Together, as Christ's Church on earth, we walk with Jesus into death so that as Christ's Church on earth we can find true meaning through His resurrection. Lent invites you and me to recognize the ways that we, as individuals and as His Church, have lived for ourselves rather than for God; for this world rather than for God's Kingdom. By remembering the cost of our sin, we recognize our desperate need for God's grace through Jesus Christ. By simplifying our lives, we emphasize that our priority is following Jesus.

Even though my friend struggled to articulate why he had ashes on his forehead all those years ago, I still remember that he was willing to be marked by his faith. Lent reminds us to live as people marked by the grace and love of Christ. By choosing to live differently than the world around us, we declare that our hope rests firmly in the One who has rescued and redeemed us.

**May God, who created you and me from dust, use this unique season of Lent to transform us more and more into ambassadors of Christ's love and grace for our world.**

**Blessings and Love,**  
**Reverend Ken Meissner**



## Recent Prayer Concerns

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • Ploen Family-House Fire | • Sharon Hedemark    |
| • PJ Kitchens             | • Norm Sorensen      |
| • Dave Butcher            | • Larry Lewis family |
| • Donna Young             | • Brett Cropley      |
| • Jean Vondrak            | • Vera Horsley       |
| • Sheryl Lewis            | • Susan Logsdon      |
|                           | • Judy Fredinburg    |

### Pray for those in rehab or at home

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| • Carol Hinds - at Prairie Hills of Des Moines | • Jerry Stilwell        |
| • Anna Packard - at Kingsley Nursing and Rehab | • Larry and Lou Hansen  |
| • Delores Handke - at Sunrise Retirement       | • Nora and Arie Reekers |
| • Dorothy Fiala - at Sunrise Retirement        | • Audrey Jensen         |
| • Ruth Rathe                                   | • Henry and Esther Cole |
| • Carol Hinds                                  | • Darwin Brink          |
| • Velura Stilwell                              | • Raejan Furne          |
|  | • Marilyn Fowler        |
|  | • Marlene Hanson        |

## Kingdom Kids met on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Their Valentine's Theme was learning to love like Jesus.



**WELCOME**  
 little one

**Congratulations to David Buemi and Alyssa Hammer (Buemi).**  
 Devon McKinley Buemi was welcomed into the world on January 18, 2022 at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany Grandparents are John and Debi Hammer.

**On February 13<sup>th</sup> the Elliott Creek Session held a special meeting.** Session members present were Rita Gerking, Gene Kollbaum, Dave Amick, Jean Plummer, Mark Thompson and Linda Reese. Clerk of Session and Rev. Ken Meissner, moderator It was decided to donate the Christmas offering to the Community Basket and the Backpack Program.

## HELP DIRECTORY

### Moderator of Session:

Pastor Ken Meissner

**Phone:** 712-299-1772

**Address:** 907 Lincoln Street  
Jefferson, SD 57038

**Email:** Meissnerk1952@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Funeral lunch:

Toni Cooper - 712-944-5465

### Piano music:

Donna Bennett - 712-870-8720

### To join church or schedule church use call:

Nancy Todd - 712-253-2747

**Sunday School:** Jodi Lieber

**Janitor:** Cindy Jorgensen

### Bulletin:

Bev Logsdon

bevlogsdon727@gmail.com

Bev will need new information by

Thursday of each week.

**Concerns:** Session Members, Becky Holbrook, Joyce Roeschke, Sue Stilwell, Kris Koch and Amy Lahrs

## ELLIOTT CREEK CHURCH

### Clerk of Session:

Linda Reese - 712-948-3694

### Church Rental:

Mary Thompson 712-948-3339

**Sunday School:** Starts at 9:45am  
Courtney Lahrs

**Concerns:** Session Members, Gene Kollbaum, Mark Thompson, Kendal Thompson, Rita Gerking, Pete Pearson, Dave Amick and Jean Plummer

## Community Presbyterian Session Meeting

Community Presbyterian Session Meeting was held on February 8.

Joyce Roeschke, Sue Stilwell, Amy Lahrs, Reverend Ken Meissner,

Treasurer Susan Logsdon and Clerk Nancy Todd were in attendance. Becky Holbrook and Kris Koch were excused.

The session discussed Lenten plans. The trustees are looking at quotes to update the restrooms and community room.

## LITURGISTS AND WORSHIP LEADERS WANTED

Please take time to sign up for the opportunity to read scriptures for the day, offer a children's message or share in special music. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall!