"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return . . . Repent and believe the Gospel."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. The entire Lenten Season is so rich in meaning as the journey prepares us for Easter. Until we understand the depth of our brokenness and death (both physical and spiritual) because of sin, we can't fully understand the wholeness and life we have in Christ because of His Good Friday death and Easter resurrection.

Ash Wednesday brings us back to the beginning of when sin came into the world as recorded in Genesis chapter three. When sin came, it brought with it the curse of death. God announced to Adam (and Eve), that they would no longer live forever, but now would die and "Return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:19) That would have been the last word on the subject of our life (and eternal death), but thankfully, The WORD (Jesus) would come and die for us so that we might be resurrected to eternal life! In order for that to happen, we must honestly face our sin, our frailty, our death, and our dust. We need to "Repent and believe the Gospel."

Jesus' first words in ministry (Gospel of Mark 1:15) were "Repent and believe the Gospel!" This means to be convicted of the seriousness of sin and to be turned from it and to be convinced of the salvation of the Good News of the Gospel and be turned to it. Both of those convictions and turnings are works of the Holy Spirit. May God be mightily at work in our soul!

Dust and ashes had long become a symbol in the ancient world—and continue to be today—of "repentance." The Bible is filled with examples from the beginning books (Genesis, Job, etc.) of kings, prophets, and the peoples using sackcloth, dust, and ashes to demonstrate their sorrow and repentance. Job declared, "I repent in dust and ashes." Daniel prayed to God "with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." The people in Nehemiah's day did the same as they called upon God for His forgiveness and blessing.

A number of our members at Ruthfred have requested ashes for many years. I am in favor of this and the church council is as well, so this year we are going to be offering the "imposition of ashes" on Ash Wednesday at each of our three services. You may choose (or not) to receive the ashes. They will be offered as one comes into the sanctuary, near the back by the chapel, during the prelude before the beginning of the service. The ashes will be applied on the forehead in the form of the cross. Today, as our society drifts farther away from Christ, the Church, and the Cross; this is a good visible symbol to others that we are a "people marked by the sign of the cross."

Even as we face our sin, our frailty, our death, and our dust this Ash Wednesday; we also know that salvation, wholeness, resurrection, and life have come to us in Christ. Therefore, even at the gravesite we do proclaim, "Dust to dust; from the dust you were taken, to the dust you shall return; but one day from the dust you shall rise again!"

Let us make this Lenten Journey together as the people of God, marked by the cross of Christ,

Pastor Carlson

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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February 2019 Issue

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is **Saturday, March 16, 2019.**

The publication date is **Wednesday**, March 27, 2019.

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Member Profile

By Mettelise Ziegler





Rebecca Brown joined our congregation recently. After relocating ten times since her marriage to Steve in 1986, she has come full circle to her Lutheran roots.

Rebecca comes from Mt. Lebanon. Her husband Steve is a Baldwin native. Steve's career in human resource management has taken them all over the country. Their latest move was from Norfolk, Virginia. Before that, they lived in Houston, Texas three times; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Columbus & Cincinnati, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; and San Clemente, California.

Coming back to Pittsburgh is something of a family reunion for the Browns. They reside in Upper St. Clair where Rebecca enjoys decorating and gardening. She is looking forward to spring flowers. Their grown son, Erich, and his wife, Choua, will be living in the Pittsburgh area when Choua's rental

lease expires in Minneapolis. Their daughter, Karah, lives on the North Shore.

Rebecca's journey of faith began at Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church where her mother is still a member. At the time she married Steve, however, she was far from the conscientious disciple she is today. When her son, Erich, was a little boy attending Vacation Bible School in Cincinnati, he ran home to announce he had received Christ.

Although Rebecca thought the event was "beautiful," she did not begin her own walk with Jesus until she was watching the preacher Charles Stanley on television alone one night while the rest of the family was asleep. Stanley said something about getting out a pencil and paper and writing down something important. Rebecca did. The result was that she realized her need for the Savior, wanting Him to rule her life.

Rebecca felt God led her to Ruthfred when she received an invitation through the mail. As a member, she wants to become involved, especially with children. Rebecca is currently attending the morning Journey Through The Word study and attends the 8:30 worship service and adult Sunday School. She is concerned about people, feeling the need to spend a good deal of time in prayer for them.

Rebecca wakes up daily, "giving the day to the Lord." She desires to be available for whatever He has in store for her to do. She knows that God can and will do amazing things. Rebecca draws inspiration from her favorite verse. Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)



Official Acts

January 21-February 27, 2019

Baptisms

*David Rosen Hinkelman – February 10, 2019

*Lynden Gitzen – February 24, 2019

Funerals

*Arnette Tober – January 24, 2019

*Jean Potts - February 12, 2019

*Esther Headrick – February 24, 2019

*George Powell – February 24, 2019

*Virginia Bartsch – February 25, 2019

*Robert Dymond – February 26, 2019

Council Highlights

February 11, 2019

- Pastor Carlson spoke about the annual conference and emphasized the need to know before the March council meeting who plans to attend.
- Imposition of ashes will be offered at the beginning of each Ash Wednesday service.
- Peggy Cox has graciously offered to be in charge of Soup & Sandwich Suppers from 6 to 7 PM each Wednesday in Lent. Teams of servers will be needed for each week.
- The Family Easter Festival will be held on Palm Sunday afternoon again this year, with Barb Harrold once again in charge.
- Chuck Morrison, treasurer, reported that donations in January were significantly less than in January 2018, probably the result of the inclement weather that prevented many from attending services.
- Gary Fischer moved to transfer \$5,000 from the Current Fund to the Benevolence Fund. Frank seconded; the motion passed.
- Gary Ausefski reported that he and Lou Angelo have been videoconferencing with Tim Beltz, church consultant, and have completed the first phase of information gathering. In the process, it has become clear that Ruthfred's policies and procedures need to be revamped. In light of Pastor Osier's acceptance of the position of Dean of AFLBS, concentration will be placed initially on the responsibilities of the assistant pastor so that they will be better defined when an assistant pastor is called.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie D. Gill, Secretary

^{*}Indicates Members

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

Th, Holy Jesus

Lyrics: Johann Heermann Music: Johann Cruger

As this edition of the Herald goes to press, we will be approaching the beginning of another Lenten season. Lent, the 40-day period of repentance and contemplation of our Savior's passion, is a tradition that dates back to the early years of the Christian church. Speaking of tradition, I enjoyed the articles in the latest Lutheran Ambassador magazine, especially the one by Joan Culler titled "Give Them Tradition." She describes how the raising of their children involved going to Sunday services as simply a fixture of life. Sometimes the weather was bad and sometimes they just didn't feel like going, but go they did. She then goes on to say: "Sunday services also walked us together through the seasons of the church and the life of Christ. There were joyous times and sad times, times to reflect and times to anticipate. Each season had its particular music and rituals. . . Lent was the time when flowers on the altar disappeared and songs became somber."

"Ah, Holy Jesus" has to rank as one of the most somber, meditative, and mournful hymns we sing during Lent. The poignant lyrics were written in 1630 by Johann Heermann, a Lutheran professor and pastor. The skillful English translation of the original German text that we have in our hymnal is by Robert Bridges. The excellently matched melody was composed ten years later by another Johann, Johann Cruger. Other composers have paid the ultimate compliment to the melody by incorporating it into some of their works, most notably a third Johann with the surname of Bach.

The hymn consists of a believer's extended conversation with his Savior. "Jesus—You who lived such a pure, blameless life—You who taught God's truths and healed so many—whom could You have possibly offended that You are being treated so cruelly? What have You done that You are being judged by rulers, derided by foes, and rejected by friends? What brought this upon You? Oh—it was me?—my sin? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee!"

Heermann's lyrics comprise one more attempt to plumb the mystery that lies at the core of Christianity. In his book, "What's So Great About Christianity?," Dinesh D'Souza makes this observation: "Mexican author Carlos Fuentes writes that when Christian missionaries first presented their doctrines to the Aztecs, the Aztecs were totally uncomprehending. Fuentes writes, 'In a universe accustomed to seeing men sacrificed to the gods, nothing amazed the Indians more than the sight of a god who had sacrificed himself to men.' Yet what other religions hold to be absurd and scandalous, Christianity holds to be true."

At the conclusion of each verse, Cruger's melody ends with a dramatic octave jump that emphasizes the accompanying words. In fact, if we extract and list together those verse-ending words, we see a concise summary of the entire hymn, not to mention the Gospel message itself!

O most afflicted. I crucified thee. God intercedeth. For my salvation. Not my deserving.

Announcements

Incoming Vicar

We are excited to know that Brian & Allie will be our next vicar!

They will be arriving at the end of May and will start on June 1st.

Please be in prayer for them and send them a note of welcome and encouragement as they finish out these final three months of seminary classes. Their address is:

3140 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Unit C Plymouth, MN 55441

Haining Family

The Haining Family Trio is coming to Ruthfred on April 28th, the Sunday after Easter, for an evening concert and time of fellowship. The entire Haining Family was here a couple years ago, and now three of the (adult) children are traveling the nation on their own as a trio. Their music features gospel/bluegrass. More details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars now!

Assistant Pastor Position

Last month we received Pastor Osier's resignation as our Assistant Pastor, as he has accepted the dean position at our Bible School (AFLBS) in Minnesota. I have so appreciated his good ministry in our midst these past years and especially our personal friendship and ministry partnership. He and Courtney, Jacobi, and Kaia will certainly be missed, but we know that they are going to a good place of ministry. It is remarkable to observe how Ruthfred now has former pastors/vicars in the AFLC in Minnesota, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. I am excited about how God has utilized our congregation to impact many states. I am also excited about what God has in store for us as we continue to move forward. I see God's hand at work in a number of areas. Presently, our council president and vice president have continued to converse with our church consultant and will continue to do so, as we look at revising the assistant pastor position in the coming months. We are not under pressure to fill this position immediately and we want to be very purposeful about it. In June, we will begin putting together a "call committee" for the purpose of calling another assistant pastor. Our council president, Gary Ausefski, will oversee the formation of this committee. Suggestions can be brought forth to Gary. We desire to form a committee that is representational of our congregation as a whole.

Please continue to be prayerful throughout this process.

Pastor Carlson

A Word from the McMinns

In August of 2016 the McMinn family began our "seminary adventure" at the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary (AFLTS) in Minnesota. At that time, we invited our friends and family members, including you at Ruthfred, to join us on this adventure by sending gifts to Ruthfred's Seminary Scholarship Fund. This fund has helped to cover approximately \$38,000 in tuition costs.

Since then, our church family at Ruthfred has blessed us by covering well over \$12,000 of my tuition! God has also used our beloved Ruthfred family to help cover many other seminary costs for us. Erin, Noah, Elliot, Caleb, Lillian, Joshua, and I are grateful to report to you that as of today, with the last \$2,000 contribution Ruthfred made towards my tuition, ALL of our seminary tuition and housing expenses have been completely covered! Praise God!

Our family will leave the AFLTS campus in May to move up to Roseau, MN, where I'll serve a one-year internship with Pastor Todd Erickson at the Rose and Spruce Free Lutheran congregations in Roseau. It's encouraging that even with several months to go before we move off campus, and a year of internship before graduation in May of 2020, none of our seminary housing or tuition expenses remain to be covered. Thank you for everything you've done to bless us!

Thank you, dear Ruthfred family! We love you, are grateful to God for all of you, and for how He has used you to bless us on our "seminary adventure!" We're praying for you all, especially with the news of Pastor Osier coming to lead the Bible School in July. The Osiers will be an incredible blessing to the Bible School, and will certainly be missed at Ruthfred.

In Christ,

Bryce & Erin McMinn and family

(Note from Pastor Carlson: Even though the McMinns will no longer be in need of funds from our Seminary Scholarship Fund, the fund does remain open for donations as there will be other future students who will benefit from it. Another fund that we have is the Bible School (AFLBS) Scholarship Fund, which Ruthfred students may apply to for scholarships to go to the Bible School. This fund is currently in NEED of donations as we have students in Bible School right now and more on the way!)

Member Obituaries

DYMOND, ROBERT C.

Of Bethel Park, born on April 3, 1933, went to his heavenly home on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at age 85. Beloved husband of 63 years to Eleanor; loving father of Carol Killinger (Mark), Linda Picard (Ken), Judy Stewart (Gary), Robert (the late Joanna), and Deborah Ecker (Henry); also 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Robert was a very kind, caring, and compassionate man who had a heart for the Lord, for his family, and for helping others. His funeral service was held at Ruthfred Lutheran Church on February 26, 2019.

HEADRICK, ESTHER H.

Of Mt. Lebanon, Esther was born on September 19, 1919, and passed away at age 99 on Thursday, February 21, 2019. Wife of the late Alvin D. Headrick; mother of David (the late Janice D.) Headrick; grandmother of Lauren Headrick; sister of the late Ruth Williams, Henry Huebner, and Robert Gimper. Also survived by nieces and nephews. A brief funeral service was held at the John F. Slater Funeral Home in Brentwood on February 24, 2019. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

POWELL, GEORGE D.

Of Cabot, PA, formerly of Bethel Park, passed away on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at age 92. Beloved husband of the late Mabel (Keeler) Powell; loving father of Kim A. Belfield (Ben); brother of Jacqueline Feller (Raymond), and Joyce Gehrmann (Charlie); also grandfather of Chris, Chad, and Brad. George was a Corporal in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He enjoyed trains and photography. A funeral service was held on February 24 at the David J. Henney Funeral Home, Library, PA.

BARTSCH, VIRGINIA

Virginia Bartsch, 98, born on October 21, 1920, went home to be with her Lord on Sunday, February 17, 2019. Beloved wife of the late Albert Bartsch and sister of the late Raymond McKelvey, she is survived by daughters Rhonda Ballou (Don) of Delmar, New York and Cynthia Kniebes (Randy) of Brighton, Michigan; Virginia is survived by grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Virginia loved being a homemaker, and all of her family and friends enjoyed the results of her cooking, especially her pastries. Her creativity came through in many ways: sewing, including formal gowns for her daughters, many types of ceramics, dried flowers, and prints. In addition, she served as a volunteer at Ruthfred Lutheran Church, most notably as a planner and leader of numerous women's Bible studies. At her former church, Zion-Brentwood, she taught Sunday School for many years. She also volunteered at St. Clair Hospital, both in the coffee shop and in visiting patients. Virginia's funeral service was held at Slater's Funeral Home in Brentwood on Monday, February 25, 2019.

POTTS, JEAN V. (HALLEY)

Jean Potts, 90, went to her heavenly home peacefully on Saturday, February 9, 2019. Her funeral service was held on February 12, 2019 at Ruthfred Lutheran Church, followed by interment in Forest Lawn Gardens. Formerly of Kirwin Heights and South Fayette, Jean was the beloved wife of the late Raymond H. Potts; loving mother of Melnie (Chester) Kruger, Rodyne (Jim) Willison, Karen (Joe) Lysaght, and Raymond T. (Cindy) Potts; Jean is also survived by grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Jean will be remembered as an amazing cook and cake baker. Jean also enjoyed fishing and hunting with her husband and, most of all, spending time with her family.

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Member Obituaries, Continued

TOBER, ARNETTE

Arnette Tober, 91, went to her heavenly home on Thursday, January 17, 2019. Her funeral service was held on January 24, 2019 at Ruthfred Lutheran Church. She was well-known for her love for children, and for her ministry at Ruthfred through Compassion International child sponsorships.

COOK, ROBERT W.

Robert W. Cook, 95, went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. A memorial service was held on January 12, 2019 at Ruthfred Lutheran Church. Son of the late Clarence F. and Aline (Swisher) Cook; beloved husband for 66 years of Jean (Higgins) Cook; loving father of Robert W., Jr. (Louise Ann) of Bethel Park and Beverley (Robert) Barron of Mt. Lebanon; cherished grandfather of Jessica Cook, Carolyn Cook, Amy Barron Lucas, and Kimberly Barron Read. Bob was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and was a graduate of Withrow High School. Prior to World War II, he attended Ohio Wesleyan University for two years. During the War he served as a quartermaster in the Navy aboard the USS Goodrich (DD831) destroyer. Following the War he completed his education and began his career in the Cincinnati sales office of Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation. In 1960 he was transferred to U.S. Steel headquarters in Pittsburgh.

LOIS A. FUNK

Lois A. Funk of Bethel Park passed away on Saturday, December 8, 2018, at age 87. Lois was the beloved wife of the late Donald Funk; loving mother of Susan Ratto (Richard), Joyce McClune (Joe), Gary Funk (Susan); also grandmother of Brian, Alicia, and Joshua. A funeral service was held on December 15, 2018 at Ruthfred Lutheran Church.

JANET L. BARGER (ZOOK)

Janet L. Barger, age 88, of Bethel Park passed away on November 21, 2018. Wife of the late Carl F. Barger; beloved mother of Barbara "Bunny" Barger and Betzi E. Barger; also several nieces and nephews. Janet was an active member of Ruthfred Lutheran Church, where she was a chairman of the Altar Guild for over 30 years. She loved her family and enjoyed traveling, playing bridge, and golf. Her funeral service was held on November 26, 2018 in Ruthfred Lutheran Church.

MARGARET "MAGGIE" ANN HATTEN (PUGH)

Margaret Ann Hatten (Pugh) "Maggie" of South Park, born July 12, 1943, and passed away on November 21, 2018 at age 75. Beloved wife of Rodney Hatten, loving mother of Roger (Patty), Robert (Linda), Roger Scott (Olive), Joan Sherbak (Michael), and Steven (Ellen); sister of Sarah "Salli" White; Maggie also leaves behind many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Maggie was a proud member of Ruthfred Lutheran church where a memorial service was held on December 8, 2018.

ROBERT A. PETERSON

Robert A. Peterson of Mt. Lebanon, born June 3, 1934, passed away on November 4, 2018 at age 84. Beloved husband for 61 years of Carmen E. (DeVerse) Peterson; loving father of Gregory Scott Peterson (Karen) and Robert Arthur Peterson II (Michele); son of the late Arthur & Elsie Peterson; brother of Evelyn Shellgren and Nancy Ball; grandfather of Amanda, Marissa, Nicholas, and Christopher. Bob was a Captain with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and graduated from U.S. Army Intelligence School. Bob was also a trustee and usher at Ruthfred Lutheran Church and volunteered at St. Clair Hospital for years. A memorial service was held on November 8, 2018 in Ruthfred Lutheran Church.

MARCH 2019									
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
					1 HAPPY 90th HAPPY BIRTHDAY BITTH JOAN TEICHARI Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	2 ay			
3 Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00	JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders Meeting 7:00	5	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 Communion Breakfast 9:15 JTTW 2:00 Communion Lenten Service 5:45 Children's Choir 6:00-7:00 Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:15 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30 Bell Choir * Senior Choir 7:30 Communion Lenten Service	New Member Class 7:00 Career & College Group 7:00	8 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	9 Mary 9:30 TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE BEDTIME			
10 GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council 7:30	12	13 9:15 JTTW 12:00 Esther 2:00 Lenten Service 5:45 Children's Choir 6:00-7:00 Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:15 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30 Bell Choir * Senior Choir 7:30 Lenten Service	Ruth 6:30 New Member Class 7:00 Career & College Group 7:00	15 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's Keepers of the Faith 6:30	16 HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE			
Apply Sale Begins HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY PAT RADKE Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Evening of Prayer & Praise 6:00	18 JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Craft & Sew 9:30	19 Happy 90th Birlinday BIRTHDAY PAUL WILSON Men's Night 7:00	9:15 JTTW 2:00 Lenten Service 5:45 Children's Choir 6:00-7:00 Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:15 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30 Bell Choir * Senior Choir 7:30 Lenten Service Spring is here	21 New Member Class 7:00 Career & College Group 7:00	22 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	23			
24 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Family Easter Festival 4:00-6:00 GIFT Bible Study 6:30	25	26	27 HERALD DISTRIBUTION DATE 9:15 JTTW 2:00 Lenten Service 5:45 Children's Choir 6:00-7:00 Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:15 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30 Bell Choir * Senior Choir 7:30 Lenten Service	28 HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY GLADYS STEWART New Member Class 7:00 Career & College Group 7:00	29 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's XYZ noon	30			
31 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	II was to t 7-00 and the	for the 7:20 and							

^{*} Senior Choir will meet at 7:00 and then after the 7:30 service

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	4	5 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	6	7	Parents Night Out 6:30pm @ The Church	9 <u>MIGHT</u> <u>SWAG</u>
10 Brunch Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	11	TNT 7-9pm @ Church	13	14	Spring	16 Campus
17 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm Days	18	TNT 7-9pm @ The Church	20	21	22	23
Sunday School SWAP 6-7:30pm 31 Sunday School SWAP 6-7:30pm	25	TNT 7-9pm @ The Church	27	28	29	30

Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar