



ELK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March-April 2019

From the Pastor's Study...

It seems that long ago the biblical figure Job started something. When he lost everything, in his grief, he sat on an ash heap and threw them on his head. All these years later, we're still doing it.

The sign of the ash on the forehead has been a lasting emblem in Christianity for a long time. It signifies anguish, and is the sign of Ash Wednesday. The next day begins the 46-day calendar countdown to Easter called Lent (Sundays are not counted). Lent is for preparation and reflection. It is not mentioned in the Bible, but has been around for 1700 years and is drawn from the story of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days. Because it is not mentioned in the Bible, Protestants did not recognize it, biblical literalists that many of them were. Yet today Protestants increasingly recognize Lent and spend forty days with the ancient practices.

Many of you that follow Jesus through those forty days give up something—chocolate, smoking, drinking (you know who you are...). Many will fast one day a week, or eat seafood on Fridays.

Yet I wonder what our world would look like if we followed *God's* idea of a fast, and not our own. Isaiah wrote it down for us: "*Is not this the fast that I choose,*" God said to Isaiah, and instead fight injustice, let political prisoners go free, share bread and clothing with the hungry and needy, bring the homeless indoors—a far cry from skipping a Hershey bar, isn't it? [Is. 58]

Jesus thought so, too. After he returned from the wilderness he went into his hometown synagogue, recited these words, and added that his purpose (*his* fast, you might say) was to "*proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*" [Luke 4] If we truly fasted in that way, God's way, he would truly smile on us.

God and Jesus both, in other words, didn't spend their time looking back in anguish at what had happened; they looked forward to prepare us for a better time filled with hope when "*your light will shine like the darkness and your gloom [will] be like the noonday,*" full of sunlight. [Through all the raindrops, you remember sunlight, right?]

Whether it's helping the homeless to move ahead or keeping plastic out of the ocean, wouldn't this be a Lenten season worth remembering.

Mickey

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

12th and 26th	Book Study - at the church - 7:00 p.m.
Cancelled	Women's Card Ministry
24th	Deacon's Meeting - after 11:00 a.m. service
31st	Quarterly Business Meeting - 10:00 a.m. (Please note change of time)

April

04th	Women's Card Ministry 9:00 a.m.
06th	Spring clean up - 9:00 a.m.
9th and 23rd	Book Study - at the church - 7:00 p.m.
14th	Palm Sunday
19th	Good Friday Service - 6:30 p.m.
21st	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - 7:00 a.m. Lakeside Breakfast following the 7:00 a.m. service
28th	Goshen Spring Meeting

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March

Burghardt, Brian	5
Losinski, Coral	6
Evans, Donna (Duerson)	8
Sissie Sharp	8
Chewning, Doug	10
Schultz, Darrell	10
Klingenberg, Bob	10
Hawkins, Joe	11
Canova,Jo	12
Polonsky, Stan	12
Pitcher, Kelly	14
Vaughan, Joey & Clorese	16
Troy, Cheryl	20
Shoop, Bruce	23
Ward, Mindy & Doug	26
Robertson, Pam	27
Wendt, Cheryl	29
Wendt, Howie	29

April

Edmonds, Larry	04
Hupp, Janis	05

Ward, Matthew	05
Wood, Rodney	07
Tyler, Kathy	09
Mason, Phillip & Linda	10
Koslow, Lori	11
Stahl, Norman & Lee	13
DiFranco, Michele	13
Bell, Abi	19
Anderson, Sharon	25
Sherred, John	28
Vaughan, J.B.	29
Wilson, Sandra	30

VALENTINE DINNER















Together in Christ.

Alana Frazier