

CLC Weekly Update - March 6th, 2022

the First Sunday of Lent

Jesus . . . was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

this Sunday, March 6 at 9:30AM

Pastor Erin Evans preaching

please visit us at: <https://www.clcmillvale.com>

WORSHIP WITH US

The First Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second Reading: Romans 10:8B-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Erin Evans preaching



Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

LUKE 4:1

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us. ~

CLC Council News:

- **Council recently filled two vacancies for this year.** Thanks to Jean Thens and Joe Imhoff for agreeing to take those spots on council!
- **Pastor Evans' interim contract will be up for renewal in April,** and this discussion will be a part of our council agenda for March. If you have any input or questions regarding this process please don't hesitate to reach out to Council Presi-



Now is the time for members and friends of CLC to step up their support of our Food Pantry!

The outpouring of generous donations is evident, but can you spare a few hours of your time each month to work at the Pantry?

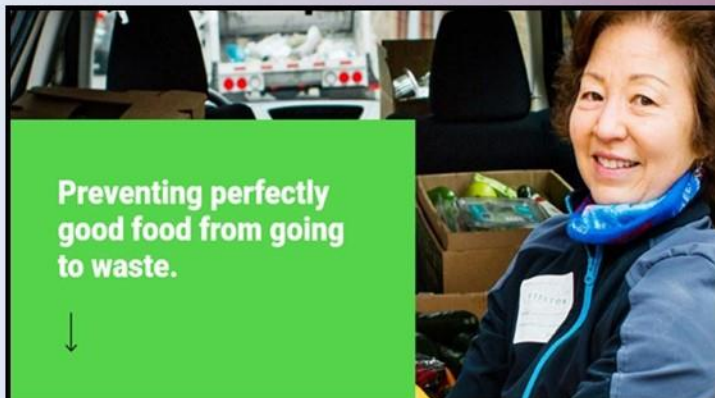
The Food Pantry is currently open from 9:30am-11:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. We would like to keep this same schedule through March, while thinking about ways we can make changes and involve more volunteers (and feed more clients) who typically work weekdays. The council is committed to this work, and we'll be putting together a group of supporters soon to brainstorm next steps.

Right now we need volunteers to pack groceries for clients on weekday mornings. Sign-up with this link, and see for yourself the great ministry happening here on a daily basis. See your Weekly Update for online sign in or go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eaea722a4ff2-food>

MEETING AFTER CHURCH on SUNDAY, MARCH 13th

For all interested volunteers and supporters of the food pantry! Let's brainstorm, collaborate, and review the work that needs to happen!

The CLC Food Pantry is open 9:30-11:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Preventing perfectly good food from going to waste.



Special Volunteers Needed to receive donations at CLC

Because of our Food Pantry's partnership with **412 Food Rescue**, donations of fresh food can come at any

time during the week



Ashes to Ashes

Joseph Imhoff

This past Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, the Pastor offered the imposition of ashes on foreheads of those who wished it. Ashes and sackcloth were signs of mourning both in Bible times and in many other cultures. They remain with us symbolically and part of the language, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust!" This first day of the Lenten Season is not about mourning; in one sense it is not about death, and in another it!

The ashes, traditionally the burnt palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday, are the outward sign of an inward purification. The fire burns away the impurities and we are left with the ashes, the dust, if you will. "Remember thou art but dust, and unto dust thou shalt return."

The dust and ashes are curious in that they become the soil for a new life. Where wild fires and often forest fires have raged, some vegetation sets down roots rather quickly in the newly enriched soil where the nutrients have been concentrated, the good soil where the dead seed is planted to produce a new crop of grain. We can grow in this new soil (dust and ashes) of our lives.

I will leave you with the image of a number of years ago of the burning of a church. In a Coptic Christian Church in Egypt the congregation was kneeling and praying in the ruins, on the dust and ashes of what once had been a magnificent building. This was renewing life taking root in the purified soil, those worshipers knew that God burns out the old building but the new still stands.

You are Not Alone



When Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, he may not have had the company of friends and family surrounding him, but he was not alone. Every word he spoke to address the temptations of the devil came from Deuteronomy. Through these familiar words, Jesus was able to summon up the presence of his ancestors and the voice of God that spoke to them, recorded in Holy Scripture.

Memorization is an old art, rarely valued or taught in schools anymore. And yet, in times of distress, familiar words find their way back into our minds: a fragment of a poem, a song lyric, a Bible verse learned in childhood. People with advanced dementia are often still able to join in praying the Lord's Prayer, the words coming from a deep place within.

What words are written on your heart? In times of crisis, what words find their way through the ages to bring you strength? The coronavirus pandemic brought great loneliness and isolation as so many of our familiar connections and gathering rituals were no longer available. Yet spiritual connection with those unseen is a big part of what it means to be united in the mystical body of Christ. Even when we are unable to gather at the same physical table, familiar refrains from the liturgy continue to hold us together.

Upcoming Commemorations

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202 Monday, March 7, 2022

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society Thursday, March 10, 2022

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604 Saturday, March 12, 2022

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.



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