

THE NUGGET

March 2017, from Pastor Dan

As Christians in this changing world it is important to understand where we have come from. We live almost 2,000 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ and therefore we are vastly removed from the historic moments of Christ's life on this earth. But, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, we belong to the Holy Christian Church, created by Christ and early on led by his apostles. Knowing this, we are compelled to know something of the history of this Christian Church. So, let us take a look at the next season in our church calendar, Lent.

As early as the Third Century, Christians devoted themselves to prepare for the celebration of Easter. In these early generations, two days before Easter were dedicated to the Christian practice of fasting. From the end of the worship service on Good Friday to the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on Easter—equaling the time Jesus spent in the tomb—Christians would fast. Generations that followed increased the period of fasting to six days which was also the amount of time catechumens spent in humble preparation for the reception of Baptism and the Lord's Supper that they would receive at the Easter service. Over time the length of preparation for Easter increased from one week to three weeks to six weeks, usually excluding Sundays, which were held by Christians as mini Easters. In Jerusalem, as early as the Fourth Century, Christians fasted for forty days in preparation for Easter. These forty days symbolized the forty years the children of Abraham wandered in the desert wilderness, the forty days that Moses dwelled on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18), the forty days that Elijah journeyed to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8), and the forty days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2). In the Seventh Century, the western church arrived at a forty day preparation period for Easter. They were fasting for six weeks at six days a week for a total of 36 days plus the four days that preceded the first Sunday of preparation. That first day of Lent, then as now, was known as Ash Wednesday (March 1st). Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with its conclusion being Holy Saturday (April 15th), the day before Christ's resurrection. Because Sundays are mini Easters, each Sunday in Lent is *in* Lent and not *of* Lent. The word Lent comes from the Old English word which means to lengthen. In Spring when the days are getting longer or lengthened therefore is when we celebrate Lent.

Historically, Christians have prepared for the celebration of the Resurrection by fasting. Fasting was thought to be beneficial to the Christian because evil spirits were thought to use food as a means of entering the body. Fasting then limited the possibility of the Christian to contract an evil spirit. Over time, however, fasting became more of a spiritual discipline for Christians. During this period of fasting, Christians would not eat any food during the day until the middle of the afternoon. Even though the body strongly desired food, the Christian was to put this desire aside and focus instead on the things of God, the very Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord (Matthew 4:4). The roots of fasting can be traced back to the writings in the Old Testament. Fasting was a means for God's people to practice control over the desires of the body. Those who practice fasting, or the modern version of giving something up for lent, do not do these things to "please God," but rather are encouraged to do these things because we have been set free to do so.

The season of Lent is an opportunity for Christians to prepare for the coming celebration of Easter. At Christ Lutheran we begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service on March 1st at 6:30pm. On the five Wednesdays that follow there will be services at 11am with readings, a monologue and discussion, and at 6pm with the Holden Evening Prayer liturgical service and monologue. Please plan on joining your family and friends at Christ Lutheran during this time of preparation for worship experiences of Holy Week.

COUNCIL MINUTES—

No Meeting in February

REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

February 12th

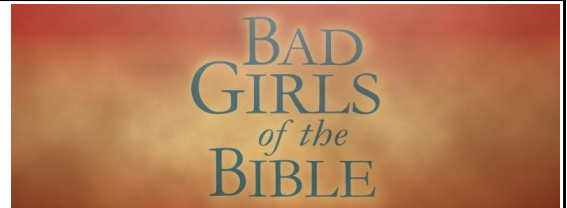
Concerns: Blessings and prayers for our Call Committee; be with Darnell Schneider—be with her doctors and nurses; be with the youth of the community; Jason who is flying.
Joys: Pastor Dan's message; young people in our church as leaders in our community; Beer & Hymns gathering to support the food pantry was a great success

COMMUNION DATES

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 3rd Sunday, March 5th and 19th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, March 12th and 26th

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Please join "The Bad Girls of the Bible"
bible study group at
10:00 AM in the Senior High room.
Contact Kate Veh for information 260-4669.



PODCAST



Christ Lutheran Soldotna podcasts are available on iTunes!
On your mobile device open your podcasting app
(IOS would use iTunes Store) and search
christ lutheran soldotna or go to www.christlutheransoldotna.org
and subscribe by going to the top menu:
Listen-Subscribe to iTunes!
Now you won't have to miss a single message.

CHOIR

For all of you who like to make a joyful noise to the Lord, the church choir practices on Sunday, at 10:00-10:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please Join us!
If you have any questions contact Anna Veach (334)349-3046.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION PROFILE—Update

The Ministry Site Profile committee has completed a draft of the MSP and submitted it to the Bishop for review. Following her review, we will make any appropriate changes. Once those are approved by the Bishop we can submit the MSP to the congregation for a review period and then consideration for adoption. Thank you for your continued support.

The committee: Roger and Marlene Pearson, Mark and Elaine Larson, Jon Lillevik, JoAnn Hagen, Lee and Andrea Frey, and Brenna Belluomini.

UNLEAVEN BREAD POTLUCK



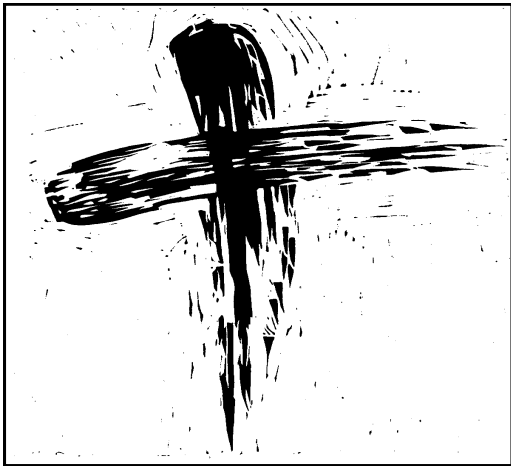
Sunday, March 5th, will be the Annual Unleavened Bread Potluck immediately following the 11:00 Service.

A flatbread is a simple bread made with flour, water, and salt and then thoroughly rolled into flattened dough.

Many flatbreads are unleavened – made without yeast or sourdough culture – although some flatbread is made with yeast, such as pita bread. There are many other optional ingredients that flatbreads may contain, such as curry powder, diced jalapeños, chili powder, or black pepper.

Olive oil or sesame oil may be added as well. Flatbreads can range from one millimeter to a few centimeters thick. Bring a main dish and a side dish (hopefully something with unleavened bread) or dessert and we will enjoy a great meal and one another's company.

LENT



Lent began on Wednesday, March 1st, Ash Wednesday.

The theme this year is “The Voices of Lent.”

During our services we will be hearing from
Simon Peter, the Disciple (Ash Wednesday)

Dora, the Woman at the Well

Marah, the Woman Who Washed Jesus’ Feet

Nicodemus, the Pharisee

Stephanus, the Rich Young Ruler

and Judith, the Servant Girl at Caiaphas’ House

as they reflect upon their encounters with Jesus.

During the Lenten season we are having brief midweek Lenten worship services on Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM and again on Wednesday evening from 6:00-6:35 PM.

Mark your calendar now so you can set aside time as we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem and his suffering and death.

There are a number of Lenten devotional materials available in the entryway to help you with your Lenten journey.



Lent is 40 days (not counting Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Our English word Lent is derived from the word “lengthen”, because Lent occurs at the time of year when the days are lengthening after the short dark days of winter. It is a season that invites the believers into a more reflective mood.

We are encouraged to take time to attend to the parts of our lives that we often neglect.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGES

James Fisher's new address: 144 North Fireweed Street, #3, Soldotna, AK 99669

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, March 14th, 11:30 AM
at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY

We are collecting yarn for the women at Wildwood Prison who are crocheting articles for people in the community.

There is a tote
on the donation station
for any donations of yarn. Everything is appreciated!



SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Anchorage Assembly will be April 28th-30th at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Juneau. If you are interested in being a delegate to this year's assembly, please contact Denise Harro at 394-4876 or Pastor Dan.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A huge thank you from the Soldotna Food Pantry for the Christ Lutheran sponsored Beer and Hymn fundraiser for a final total \$4,306!!! Thank you!

In addition, the food that Christ Lutheran has donated has made a huge impact. The noodles and soup are major components of our food box and so has helped with meeting the Food Pantry's needs. You are truly a giving and generous partner with the Soldotna Food Pantry.



FIRST THURSDAY BLUEGRASS JAM

We invite you to join us at the "1st Thursday Blue Grass Jam" to be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Thursday, March 2nd at 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM.

This evening is for those wanting to "jam" or for those wanting to listen to others jam. Please join us, you will love it!



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Etta Mae Near	3/1
Allison Parshall	3/1
Andrew Stein	3/1
Billie Meisinger	3/2
Matt Altobelli	3/4
Gunnar Romatz	3/4
Kevin Christianson	3/5
Lyn Hodel	3/8
Twyla Mundy	3/8
Scott & Dena Cunningham ♡	3/10
Joy Harper	3/10
Mary Showalter	3/11
Joshua Marquardt	3/12
Jordan Evanoff	3/13
Kari Evanoff	3/15
Ken Harper	3/15
Sue Biggs	3/17
Beckham Carver	3/18
Dave Schneider	3/18
Bob and Mel Krogseng ♡	3/20
Connor Johnson	3/21
Mo Sanders	3/21
Cheryl Schwing	3/21
Jan Stenga	3/22
Brook Carver	3/24
Doug Norbeck	3/24
Ken & Joy Harper ♡	3/26
Dennis & Barb Roper ♡	3/26
Lance & Marsy Ware ♡	3/27
John Brewer	3/31

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AND ANNIVERSARY!**

FOOD PANTRY



**FOOD
PANTRY**

We are collecting items for the Soldotna Community Food Pantry. In February a total of 103 families, 183 adults and 75 children were served. The pantry welcomes more volunteers. Bagging begins Wednesdays at 10:00 AM-2:00 PM and you are welcome to come for an hour or for the afternoon. Volunteers are needed for bagging staple products as well as working with clients. Peanut butter, tuna, cereal, canned fruit, canned entrees like soup, chili, pork and beans, canned and dried beans are always needed. If you are shopping and wish to buy extra food for the pantry, please drop it by the church and we will get it to the pantry. Small bottles of shampoo, bars of soap, tooth paste, etc. are also needed. Of course, money is always appreciated. There is a donation container on the table for your gifts. If you wish to help with the staffing any Wednesday (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM), please call Cosette at 262-7610.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

CLOTHING DRIVE

Clothing Drive



What's in your closet?

Winter is here. When you are homeless life on the street can be harsh. New, clean and lightly used winter gear and clothing including shoes, boots, hats, scarves, socks, etc. continue to be collected. Handmade items are appreciated. Drop off items at the church and they will be delivered to one of the homeless outreach agencies.

Contact Sandy 262-7460 or sandyalaska@gmail.com for more information.



Non Profit Org
PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit #16
Soldotna AK 99669

PO Box 568
Soldotna AK 99669
Return Service Requested

Christ Lutheran Mission Statement:

Knowing Christ

Empowering His Followers

Making Him Known To Others

Please contact us ...

Phone: 262-4757, Web: www.christlutheransoldotna.org or Email: clchurch@alaska.net

We want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits, and announce information to the congregation, when appropriate. Please notify the church office as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or someone you know dies.
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving.
- You or someone you know is in the hospital.
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism, wedding or celebration.
- You move or change telephone numbers.