

February 18, 2009

HE IS THE POTTER, WE ARE THE CLAY

Lent means to lengthen – the lengthening of days as we await the coming of spring. Such an idea lays hope within it. Lent is also a time of reflection. It is a time to be honest about ourselves, our sin, our repentance and our hope. Both understandings of Lent seem true to me these days. It is a powerful time to be the people of God. We have much to say in the midst of the uncertainty around us. We understand ashes. This is the stuff of Lent. Yet, we know more powerfully of the cross and of the hope of the resurrection. We can speak boldly of the solid rock on which we all stand and we can claim the hope of an empty tomb.

During Lent we set our roots deeply in the grace of God as we wait with confidence for what he is even now raising from the ground. In our worship together, we will speak of what it means to be created from the dust of the earth by the hand of God. The master potter is at work in us and we are being fired and strengthened according to his grace. We will speak of healing and salvation from the perspective of a man born blind. We will then turn to what it means to hold the treasure of the Word and to bear witness to the grace in which we stand.

Please join us for Lent. We will gather for soup, conversation and laughter at 6:00pm. Pastor Daren will then teach a class on early Christianity and we will learn much of the history and heart of the early church. We will close with worship together and Holden Evening Prayer. There will be clay and worship pages for the children and hope for us all. Finally, we will enter into Holy Week. It is a journey meant to minister to the heart. Palm Sunday: hosanna, and palms, voice and music. *Maundy Thursday*: wine, the cup of sacrifice, and bread, the stripping bare of the altar, the light of Christ leaving us in darkness. *Good Friday*: the night of darkness and betrayal, seven last words, the pounding of nails, the rending of our hearts. *Easter Sunday*: sunrise, resurrection, lilies and an empty tomb.

May the cross guide you and the empty tomb be your hope. Blessed Lent to us all.

Pastor Laura

LENT Schedule 2009

ASH Wednesday Service only —Imposition of Ashes (February 25 at 7 pm)

WEDNESDAY Evenings in LENT (March 4 – April 1):

6:00 - 6:30 pm Soup Supper in the Family Center

6:40 – 7:30 pm Education in the Sanctuary – Childcare provided

HISTORY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY:
WHAT THEY NEVER TAUGHT YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
Pastor Daren Erisman will teach a five-week course on the history of early Christianity during the Wednesday evening Lenten gatherings from 6:40–7:30 pm in the sanctuary.
You will learn some critical moments and movements that shaped the early church and still affect the way we understand our faith.
From Judaic roots up to the beginning influences of the Reformation, you will gain new perspectives on the Bible, the Church and even today’s news headlines.

7:30 – 8:00 pm Worship – Holden Evening Prayer

“He is the Potter, We are the Clay”

During Lent, we will take up a story of Creation, Healing and Redemption.
Holden Evening Prayer begins at 7:30 pm, Wed. March 4th -- Wed. April 1st

<u>March 4th</u>	Created from the Dust of the Earth
<u>March 11th</u>	In the Hands of the Master Potter
<u>March 18th</u>	Mud, Sin and Healing
<u>March 25th</u>	Treasure in Clay Jars
<u>April 1st</u>	Empty Water Jar and Living Water

HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY - April 5th
8:00 am Service of Holy Communion;
9:00 and 10:30 am Choir Cantata (No Communion).

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 9th
11:00 – 11:30 am Communion service followed by a light lunch at 11:30 am
7:00 pm Holy Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY – April 10th
7:00 pm Service in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY – April 12th
Holy Communion at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 am
Easter Breakfast served in the Family Center from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm