

I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.



Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30 p.m.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter. During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth – a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.



The January/February issue of **The Messenger** features an article by Jeremy Ashworth and Fred Bernhard. "*Make Friends, not 'Converts*" is the headline and the article speaks again of the E3 message that relationships are what matters when inviting others to become disciples or followers. As many of you know, Jeremy is now the pastor of the Circle of Peace Church in Peoria, Ariz. And Fred is an advancement associate for Bethany Seminary and serves on the advisory team of the E3 Ministry Group. They also co-authored the book "*Outrageous and Courageous*" with which we began our E3 journey. This Messenger article was adapted from that book.

Also sharing **The Messenger** writing spotlight is our own **Dave Bell**. Dave's writing appears in the *Letters* section of the magazine and challenges our driving strategies in relationship to our stance on climate change. He quotes interesting statistics on the many factors that are involved in driving our vehicles. His letter dovetails an article appearing in the beginning section of the magazine titled "Changing the Climate with Love."

Copies of Jeremy and Fred's article along with copies of Dave Bell's letter are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you are not a subscriber, you can visit it online at <u>www.brethren.org/messenger</u>. Past issues are also available in the magazine rack by the hospitality table and in the church library.



Becky Oetting needs transportation to and from church on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to help her, please stop by the Hospitality Table, the church office or email me. A schedule will be made up that accommodates your time frames. All offers

are greatly appreciated by Becky. - Sara L.

What a Great Potluck!

Thanks to all the stupendously talented chefs who brought all the great pasta dishes last Sunday! And dare we even mention those decadent chocolate desserts, the cakes...the brownies...oh my! Perhaps Lincolnshire should consider having its own network cooking show!? And a big thank you to **Jan Ward** and **Carolyn Gorom** who did the entire Valentine themed decorating! Thanks also to everyone who stayed and did the cleaning up afterwards!



Our prayers, thoughts and expressions of caring remain with... *Casey Drudge* and his family as they challenge, encourage and motivate him to higher levels of progress in his recovery from the fall of three weeks ago. We praise our mighty God for the improvement he is showing! *Betty Dawson* once again makes the journey to and from the hospital always in the hope that a cure will be found for her. Praying also for *Tom* whose health situation often dictates doctor's appointments at the same time Betty is hospitalized.

Loving and sympathy prayers for *Heather Grady* mourning the loss of her stepfather. Prayers also for her mother, *Sharon Grady-McCray* as she adjusts to the loss of her husband.

Our steadfast prayers are also with *Michelle Beckman's* brother, *Phillip. Dick Robbins* recovering from surgery, *Robin and Rosemary La Rue*, *Aletha Sills* and the families of *Janet Peters and Ronda Stevens.*

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

- St. Teresa



A Book of Hours by Elizabeth Yates



Monday, February 16 9:15 – 10:45 Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, February 17 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Team

Ash Wednesday, February 18

6:30 Ash Wednesday Service Choir practice follows.

Thursday, February 19 7:00 District Board at Union Center

1:00 District Board at Union Cente

Saturday, February 20

Youth Community Service 8:15 Community Harvest Parking Lot

Next Sunday, February 22

Debt Retirement Celebration during worship service

From Calling & Discernment...

You are encouraged to suggest up to three persons as being gifted to serve on the Calling & Discernment Team. The team is responsible for matching persons to leadership and service needs of the congregation. Candidates should know people's spiritual gifts, interests and talents, be familiar with the ministries of the church and be committed to serve with a sense of "call".

Beginning today and next Sunday, you are asked to fill out the form in the bulletin by writing the names of possible candidates for the Calling and Discernment Team. Your part in the process is appreciated. -Marty Kaylor, Chair

> "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Charles M. Schultz