



Why No One Likes Hearing the Words, “You are Dust and to Dust You Shall Return.”

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

Life asked Death, “Why do people love me but hate you?” Death responded, “Because you are a beautiful lie and I am a painful truth.”
—author unknown

Talking about death makes us, well, uncomfortable. In a “polite” society, one doesn’t talk much about death—and, if we are forced into a conversational corner, we even have “polite” euphemisms to dodge naming death, like “she passed away,” or “he went home/went to heaven/went to a better place,” “he lost his battle,” “didn’t make it” or (my personal favorite) “she kicked the bucket.” Even in the medical world, one doesn’t die...one “expires” and even then, the physician sees death as a personal failure to keep his patient alive. *A failure.*

The denial of death is all around us and we spend a good portion of our lives trying to evade the painful truth of our own finitude. The cosmetic industry loves to sell the façade of youth—dye to cover graying hair, foundation cover-up for age spots, Botox for wrinkles. *Life asked Death, “Why do people love me but hate you?” Death responded, “Because you are a beautiful lie and I am a painful truth.”*

In a culture of daily dodging the painful truth of death, no wonder we liturgically despise Ash Wednesday! Ash Wednesday not only squarely places our finitude before us (“You are dust and to dust you shall return”), but adds injury to insult by painting the ashy cross upon our foreheads (just in case we will forget our inevitability). In public view. In our view. Ash Wednesday is a day to stare death in the face.

If you think about it, death is what gives life meaning. So many people go about their days as if they are going to live forever. But it is in those moments when we brush up against death—times that really shake our finitude—that we remember how precious life really is and we begin to live differently...purposely. Ashes place the reminder of our mortality in plain sight and invite us into those sacred moments where we reflect on our living. Ashes remind us of the paradox of life—and that is, in living, we die a little each day. Instead of sounding dismal, think of the freedom that this reality gives us! Because it means that

what we fear and are uncomfortable to talk about, is actually the most beautiful truth—that, in death, we have an assurance of life (real life) in our eternal life. Through Ash Wednesday we are reminded of more still yet to come. Through Ash Wednesday we are reminded that only God is God, and we really are but ephemeral humans. That is good news indeed, for we can face death without fear or pretending, because we know the One who defeated death. Famed theologian Frederick Buechner once said, “Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.”

Just think about the beauty of that: in our daily dying, we have daily reminders of this resurrection promise. The irony in observing Ash Wednesday is that, though death is an undeniable vocational hazard of living, we find new delight in the everyday gifts that we often take for granted. How bold it is to stare at death squarely in the eye and say that what we perceive as the worst thing is never the last thing.

You are dust and to dust you shall return.

Pastor Chas



In this Issue



- Member Spotlight, page 4*
- Sunday School News, page 5*
- Youth News, page 6*
- ...and so much more!*

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday (March 6, 2019)
Get your “ash” in church:



- 6:30A-8:15A: Drive-Thru Ashes at the Fallston Park-n-Ride
- 10A: Midday Contemplative Worship
- 6:15P: Dinner Church, a unique worship experience (to learn more about Dinner Church, visit our website www.HolyCommunionFallston.org and click on “Dinner Church” under the graphic

Life asked Death, “Why do people love me but hate you?” Death responded, “Because you are a beautiful lie and I am a painful truth.” Author Unknown

If you think about it, death is what gives life meaning. So many people go about their day as if they are going to live forever. But, it is in those moments when we brush up against death—times that really shake our finitude—we remember how precious life really is and we live differently (purposefully). Ashes place the reminder of our mortality in plain sight, and invite us into those sacred moments where we reflect on our living.

Dinner Church: Frequently Asked Questions

What is “dinner church?” Dinner church is a unique worship experience unlike traditional Sunday worship. In Jesus’ time, people gathered in each other’s home to worship, which often included a meal. Breaking bread together is holy—food (preparing, making, eating) is love shared in community. The church is also love shared in community, so it makes sense to put the two together!

What can I expect? Expect the unexpected! We worship while we eat and commune each other (e.g. give each other bread and wine/grape juice as Jesus did at The Last Supper). We sing, light candles, and pray for the world. The sermon is conversational and will create space to reflect on the message in conversation with those sitting around the table. We collect a free-will offering to help off-set the cost of the meal and to support the ministries within our church.

Do I need to RSVP? Yep...because we believe that it is such a tragedy to waste food when so many other people go hungry in our world. There is a sign-up sheet on our church website for each time that dinner church is offered. Our website is www.HolyCommunionFallston.org

Is dinner church appropriate for kids? Uh, yeah... especially because children have to eat and because children are some of our best theologians/”light bearers!” Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.” Children are hard-wired for faith and this experience helps to nurture that. Unlike traditional Sunday worship where children are ushered into their own age-appropriate learning setting (e.g. Sunday School), dinner church supports a sense of family because everyone is gathered around the dinner table for conversation about living life faithfully.

What can I do to help? Come. Invite someone. If you would like to do more, we are always looking for “host” families who plan and prepare the meal. Ideally, we like to have three host families for every dinner church. Planning and preparing is done on your own schedule and availability. Each host family will coordinate with the other host families and then cook the bulk of the meal in their own homes (since our church does not have a commercial kitchen). Food can be warmed on-site. If you are interested in becoming a host family, please contact Pastor Chasity Wiener at PastorChas@HolyCommunionFallston.org

What kind of menu can I expect? Sometimes it might be pasta or pizza; sometimes it might be meatloaf or a vegetarian dish...and sometimes we might be grilling in our backyard at the Outdoor Worship area and making smores. For our Ash Wednesday dinner church, you can probably expect bread or soup/ We are a small church, not a full-service restaurant, and the point is to create a “dinner table conversation” atmosphere!

But, if you have food sensitivities, we can give you some advance notice of what we are serving by contacting our host families (see above, What can I do to help?). If you have severe food allergies, we invite you to bring your own dinner—but still come for the conversation and experience. Lastly, we do offer gluten-free communion wafers if you have gluten sensitivities.

Books and Broth: What to Expect During Lent

Busy. Busy. Busy. How many times a day do you say the “B” word? Everywhere you go, it seems like we meet more and more people who find themselves exhausted and burned out on busy. It’s an epidemic: our bodies, our minds, and our souls are sick and getting a hold on our schedules feel just about impossible. It is no wonder we feel even more disconnected with God. Join us as we banish the “b” Word and reclaim a sense of balance and peace.

At the end of our Lenten Journey, you will have aligned your schedule with your spirit, created an “ideal schedule” to use as your baselines to make decisions about your daily calendar, learned a discernment process to decide whether the demands of the moment supersede your ideal schedule and gained greater peace because there’s congruence between you, God, and the use of your time.

How? By trusting more deeply in God’s abundance, banishing the “B” word, pay attention to the information your body, mind, and spirit give you to discern whether you’re aligned in right relationship with God, create a “stop-doing” list, and by being affirmed of every little step of progress through our book study, *Present over Perfect* (by Shauna Niequist).*

*Books will be available only by advance order. The cost of the book will be \$20. If you did not pre-order a book through our church, this book is available—in both kindle and print version—via Amazon or other book stores. Please note that you may also borrow a copy through the public library using your personal library account.

After each discussion, feel free to join us at 7P, where we will expand this concept of “Banishing the ‘B’ Word” through worship! What better way to put everything into practice by carving out sacred time of peace, stillness, and contemplation!?

Tentative Holy Week Schedule*

*Subject to change, depending on interest for the SonRise Service



Books and Broth Reading Schedule:

Present over Perfect, by Shauna Niequist

March 6 @ 6:15P (Ash Wednesday): You are invited to Dinner Church! Receive pre-ordered books this day!

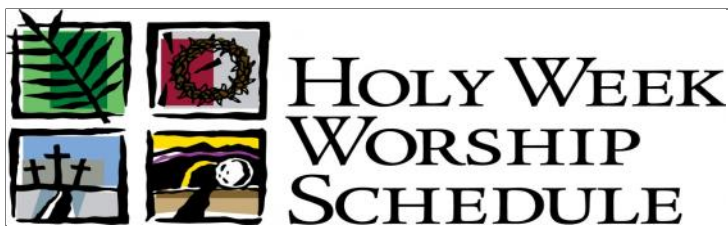
March 13 @ 5:45P: Discuss Part 1 of *Present over Perfect* (by Shauna Niequist).

March 20 @ 5:45P: Discuss Part 2 and Part 3, *through page 120 only*

March 27 @ 5:45P: : Finish Part 3 and Discuss Part 4

April 3 @ 5:45P: : Discuss Part 5

April 10 @ 5:45P: : Discuss Part 6



Palm Sunday: 8:30 & 10:15 with dramatic reading and music

Maundy Thursday @ 6:15 Dinner Church with foot washing

Good Friday @ 7:30 at St. Mark’s Catholic Church

Easter Sunday: ??? “Son”Rise Service???
8:30A & 10:15A

Member Spotlight

by: Kim Thompson

What brought you to HCLC?

“My family attended Advent Lutheran in Forest Hill for several years, but never felt the sense of belonging and friendliness that is so standard at HCLC . We also got to a point where we let travel sports and busy kid schedules pull us away from church altogether. Holy Communion is the sweetest church I’ve ever been to, and I only wish we’d come sooner!”

What do you see as your gifts to serve God, God’s people, and the church?

“I love to do things for people that make even a small, positive difference. I’m really good with details and I try to be friendly and accepting to everyone I meet.”



Favorite ice cream flavor?

“Jarrettsville Creamery’s coconut almond chip”

What is something people may be surprised to know about you?

“I’m a total Words With Friends addict, so if anyone wants to play me :) I am also a really good roller-skater!”

What bible verse is meaningful to you?

“John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

How do you serve at HCLC?

“I love to be involved at HCLC! Currently I am an usher and a greeter, I serve on both the Human Resources and Evangelism Committees and I help Pastor Chas manage HCLC’s Facebook page.”

New Members Class

New Member’s “Welcome Lunch/Class” will be held on March 24th immediately after 2nd service. Please RSVP to Hailea at office@holycommunionfallston.org if you are planning to attend. If you have any questions concerning membership, please see Pastor Chas.



Our Story to Share

by: YOU, the people of Holy Communion Lutheran Church

“*Why in the world would you want to do THAT?*” This is a common question that our youth get when they share that they will be participating in our 30 Hour Famine. Their story surprises most, because fasting is a spiritual practice that we, as a culture, just doesn’t do anymore. Our culture screams at us with a “more, more, more!” mentality so loudly that the humble practice of self-deprivation, or going without something, seems absurd. And yet, that is what our 12 youth did. They started the hard and holy conversation with others so that we are reminded of those in need. They also reminded us of the divine mandate for us to care for those in need. That is, we have a part: feed them. It really does make hunger the most easiest, curable disease!

In addition to going without food (and technology) for 30 hours, they played tempting games with decadently smelling food that they could not eat—it was a lesson about privilege that they would not forget! They learned that sleeping in cardboard boxes might *sound* fun, but the concrete floor is hard and the cold travels up from below. They also prepared and served a meal on hungry bellies to other hungry folks at the Sharing Table. And, throughout the weekend, we studied about God making abundance out of our own scarcity, when the disciples were fearful that 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish were not enough to feed the crowds. Finally, each youth participated in the *Food for a Week* simulation, where they were given another identity and they had to feed their entire family on a limited budget for a week. They quickly became frustrated as they realized that money is not an infinite resource (who knew?!). Finally, it was a joy to see and hear the youth give witness to what they learned from this holy encounter during Sunday’s worship. These 12 youth were not the same people that walked into the start of the famine. That is what happens in these holy encounters.

To see a “different” reading of our Matthew 14 reading, flip to the next page!



The Holy Gospel, based on Matthew, the 14:13-21

by: The 30 Hour Famine Youth and Pastor Chas

Now when Jesus heard about *this* (that is, people who go hungry in Harford County), the spirit went to the hearts of those at the Sharing Table, at a little church called Prince of Peace. When the crowds heard about it they went to The Sharing Table every Saturday for a hot meal and a bag of groceries. Jesus had compassion on them and sent people to walk with them in their rough times. At ten o'clock Pastor Chas announced to the people of Holy Communion "Let us send our congregation to the Sharing Table to help them and try to heal their brokenness, and our youth will fast for 30 hours." But the youth replied "Pastor Chas, we can't possibly go 30 hours without food! Let alone cook and serve the food too!" One church member said, "I can make two casseroles." Jesus said, "Bring your two casseroles here to me and I will take the two casseroles you made and put it on the hearts of other people to make 57 casseroles."

As the hungry Sharing Table guests filed in, He instructed the Sharing Table folks to sit down at the table of their choice. Jesus took the casseroles, gave thanks, and—just like communion—connected unlikely folks. They all ate, not one, but two servings there, and they were able to take "to go" boxes with additional meals and some were even provided with full trays of casserole. Along with this, there were 12 trays that were left over and given to (not one, but) two nearby fire stations. Not counting the "to-go" containers there were about 124 people who ate at the Sharing Table with over 300 meals served.



Giving Up Something for Lent

Based on an article by Winn Collier, Charlottesville, VA
by Pastor Bob Ridenour

We are all familiar with the practice of "giving up something for Lent." Perhaps we have done it to ourselves. It is an ancient practice. But why? Why do we do it? What is its purpose?

Winn Collier, a pastor in Virginia, provides us with a fresh and faithful meaning in his recent Christian Century magazine article.

I quote and paraphrase a portion of his writing:

Jesus knows that both he and all of us crave and hunger for food and for material things. But Jesus also knows that the one thing humans truly crave and hunger for is God. "One does not live by bread alone" says the Lord.

Lent is the season in which we are all called to give up some of the things that we (and Jesus) crave.

We do this so that we may learn to crave and hunger for God above all else.

This need not be a grim taking, because in truth we are fasting (like Jesus) toward joy, Easter, and hope. We are simplifying our lives. We are moving toward God—toward hope and joy. Lent is a season in which we seek to know more clearly God's love and healing; a time to return to the one who is good and true. We don't give up things just to show how "spiritual" we are. We do it because, as humans we need at least every so often to pay closer attention to God, so that we might be renewed in him.

Our hunger pangs remind us of our truest hunger, prodding us toward what our soul needs most. Lent reminds us that we desire God above all—and that we need God, if we are to truly live.

Thanks to Pastor Collin for these thoughts—and thanks be to God!

Youth News

Important News Updates

by: The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener

On behalf of the Youth Think Tank and the Human Resources Ministry Teams, I wanted to share that we are currently in the interview process for our next youth leader. We also trust that God has already been nudging the heart of our next youth leader, in his/her own discernment process.

Through the interview process, we have identified our top candidate. The next step is to see how this individual interacts with the youth and the families of our youth. On March 10, our top candidate will lead the Wiggle Worship during the second service. We invite you and welcome your input.

We ask for your prayers as we discern. Personally, I am grateful for the gifted individuals who are on both the Youth Think Tank and Human Resources Ministry Teams. More information will be forthcoming, as it becomes available to us.

Palm Sunday - Sneak Peak

On Sunday April 14th we will have our annual Pre-Easter Family Celebration. Events include pot-luck lunch (chicken, drinks and paper products provided) at noon, followed by the highly anticipated Easter Egg Hunt and also crafts and games. Mark your calendars to save the date and remember to invite family, friends and neighbors. This event is a great way to Reach Out and Share God's Love!



Looking Ahead to VBS

Believe it or not, VBS planning has begun! In planning for VBS 2019, we would like your input! There are currently two weeks being considered.

We need to know which works better for your family? Regardless of the week chosen, camp will be held during evening hours. The weeks being considered are:

- June 24-28
- July 15-19
- No preference, either will work for us



Please let the church office know your preference through email at office@holychurchfallston.org. Thanks for your continued support of our youth!

Sunday School

by: Carrie Dorsey

Happy March to all and hopefully the ground hog is correct and spring is coming early!

Lent is now upon us even though it feels like we just finished with Christmas. We are launching something new this year for Lent and Holy Week. On March 3rd the children will receive a "Lent Passport." They will use this to collect stamps for the services they attend. Also included is an option to complete an activity at home if you are unable to make it to church. These activities range from reading a scripture or saying a prayer to drawing a picture. The children can bring their completed books to church on Easter Sunday or after and receive a special reward. I know the kids will have fun collecting stamps and will learn a lot along the way. I definitely learned a thing or two in preparing the booklet.

Keep reviewing the 10 Commandments and the Books of the Bible at home. We have lots of pins to handout for those that memorize and recite to Pastor Chas. They can also recite to me for practice.

Lovin' Life Seniors

by Nancy Campbell

LOVIN' LIFE SENIORS

Our goal is to offer friendship and support to one another through social events. Please join us! Invite your friends! Our 2019 schedule and sign-up sheets for upcoming events are posted on the senior's bulletin board in the hallway. Please read the Sunday bulletins and Bread and Wine for any changes to the schedule below. All activities take place on 2nd Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise noted.

2019 CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 12 at noon

Fisherman's Catch—Forest Hill Bowling Lanes

Tuesday, April 9 at noon

Sunshine Grille—Fork Road

Tuesday, May 14 at noon

Della Rose's Restaurant—Fountain Green and Churchville Roads

Tuesday, June 11 at noon

Bayou Restaurant—Rte.40 Havre de Grace

Tuesday, July 9 at noon

Baldwin's Crab House—Rte.40 Joppa

Tuesday, August 13 at noon

Friendly Farm—Upperco

Tuesday, September 10 at noon

Crab Feast at church

Tuesday, October 8 at noon

Tuesday, November 12 at noon

Tuesday, December 10 at noon

We welcome new ideas as well as new members.

Contact Ellen Priebe 410-679-8655; Frances Gosnell 410-893-4622; Nancy Campbell 410-836-7688.

"Good Grief" Group

The Good Grief group meets, on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. Their next meeting will be at the church on

March 19



March Birthdays



03-02 - Bea Sherrill
03-02 - Kelly Bark
03-03 - Diana Appel
03-03 - Vanessa Perkins
03-04 - Craig Bark
03-04 - Arlene Hildebrandt
03-04 - Evan Snyder
03-05 - Liam Thanner
03-05 - Aidan Bowling
03-09 - Jerry Ey
03-10 - Janet Wirtanen
03-11 - Heather Billings
03-12 - Fred Hildebrandt
03-12 - Christine Krieger
03-13 - Rebecca Gaines
03-13 - Chris Phillips
03-14 - Justin Plott
03-15 - Paul Airey
03-15 - Kim Ey
03-15 - Eric Thompson
03-16 - Debbie Mueller
03-17 - Diane Ogle-Sullivan
03-19 - Paige Eyler
03-19 - Bob Kruelle
03-19 - Scott Taylor
03-24 - Neil Huber
03-24 - Eleanor Schissler
03-24 - Aubrey Shaver
03-26 - Kathi Parris
03-26 - Candiss Dominick
03-26 - Larry Phillips
03-27 - Nancy Campbell
03-27 - Adrienne Smith
03-28 - Jimmy Plantholt
03-28 - Robert Reed
03-28 - Ethan Smith
03-29 - Abigail Reed
03-30 - Noah Bark
03-31 - Joe Waller
03-31 - Kimberly Deems

Happy Birthday

Do you have a **March** birthday but do not see your name printed here? That means we do not have your complete information on file. Please contact Hailea in the church office to update your information.

Church Webcam

People get sick. People travel. We understand that and try to find new ways that you can still remain connected with our community. While you are away, join any service by watching our webcam at webcam.HolyCommunionFallston.org

This is an innovative way to connect the gifts of technology to practical faith. However, this gift of technology comes with its own limitations, in that, this webcam can never fully create the sense of community that one is part by actually being in the pews. The webcam is on for all services and only shows the front portion of the sanctuary. The webcam works on most devices (smartphones, tablets, PCs, iPhones®, and iPads®). It does not work on Amazon Kindle Fire® tablets.

Let us know if you are watching our services. Please send comments or issues relating to the broadcast to webcam@HolyCommunionFallston.org

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Council Members



*Eric Thompson,
President*



*Dave Frieman,
Vice-President*



*Jon Perkins,
Secretary*



*Joann Theys,
Treasurer*



*Sue Phillips,
Assistant Treasurer*



*Ron Mickley,
Council Member*



*Bertha Deck,
Council Member*



*Candiss Dominick,
Council Member*



*Arlene Weber
Council Member*



*The Rev. Chasity L.
Wiener,
Ex-Officio Member*