

Miller's Mike March 2021



Brothers and sisters in Christ: grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lent has now begun, and we have begun our 40-day journey with Christ toward the cross. We are coming up on the one-year anniversary of the pandemic lockdown, which changed how we worship, how we work, how we gather, how we interact...how we live. While we didn't come together physically during Lent last year, we still found ways to worship and to practice our faith.

This year, we're in a better place: with some limitations, we have found ways to come together for worship, we have been able to participate in the Lord's Supper...although not all of us. For some there is a great deal of risk. And we must remember and pray for those who haven't been able to join us yet.

As we are still at the beginning of this Lenten season, I wanted to share with you some history of Lent and Ash Wednesday. This article is from the *Manual on the Liturgy*, by Pfatteicher and Messerli.

Ash Wednesday was originally a day for the expulsion of penitents from the church, the beginning of a time of temporary excommunication. In the fourth century those undergoing church discipline had to endure several stages of excommunication and reinstatement: *weepers*, who stood outside the church door asking the prayers of those who went in; *hearers*, who were allowed in the narthex; *kneelers*, who were required to kneel with the standing congregation; *standers*, who stood with the congregation but who had to leave before the Communion. Several years might be spent in each of the stages. In succeeding centuries, however, this public penitence was joined to Lent; and at the beginning of Lent (Sunday) or on the Wednesday before Lent (40 days before Easter), the penitents were placed under discipline. (The time was called *quarantine*, for "forty.") They were admonished, prayed for, given the laying-on of hands, and expelled from the church before the Eucharist.

(Pastor's Message Continued)

As early as the third century Tertullian[1] mentions ashes as an external sign of public penitence. In the ninth century the imposition of ashes together with the seven penitential psalms were added to the rite of expulsion of penitents from church during lent, and the day came to be known as Ash Wednesday. By the eleventh century, the discipline of public penitence had largely disappeared, and Lent was accepted by the entire church as a time to receive ashes and undergo penitence.



Let us all remember that our penitence and discipline during this Lenten season has a good and godly purpose: it is an act of submission to the Lordship of Christ in our lives. It is also a recognition of our own fallen and sinful nature. And it is a way for us to tell God that we are seeking Him and His grace and forgiveness. I pray that all of us would use this time to grow in our faith and to walk a little closer to God each day as we approach Easter Sunday and the realization of the great gift that God has given us in the death and resurrection of His Son.

May God bless and keep you!

Pastor Todd

[1] From Wikipedia: [Tertullian] was an early Christian apologist and a polemicist against heresy, including contemporary Christian Gnosticism. Tertullian has been called "the father of Latin Christianity" and "the founder of Western theology."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Name	Date
Kimberly Greiner	3/4
Stacey Bowman	3/6
Lyla Huffman	3/8
Colt Rhoney	3/8
Alvin Murphy	3/9
Wendy Crump	3/9
Madison Hill	3/11
Gary Lail	3/12
Crystal Baumgarner	3/16
Caydence Huffman	3/17
Patrick Rhoney	3/23
Jane Isenhour	3/25
Mark Spriggle	3/28
Victoria Perry	3/30
Jozlynn Lail	3/30
Annette Moebius	3/31

Happy Anniversary



Mark & Jill Spriggle (26)	3/11
Tony & Wendy Crump (40)	3/21



Remember to Pray For Our Friends and Neighbors	
Faith Tucker	Friend of Mandi Sigmon
Jackson & Bennett Frunzi	Friends of Ann Sigmon
Brad Cook	Todd Cook's brother
Doris Dameron	Gloria Moore's sister
Tammy Yancy	Gloria Moore's niece
Patrick DeMauro	Bob & Susan Pihl's Son-in-Law
Lisa Hawn	Carolyn Killian's Daughter-in-Law
Todd Propst	Jane Isenhour & Ann Sigmon's Cousin
Daxtin Hughes	Friend of Jan Miller
Robert Burgess	Alan Burgess' father
Todd Punch	Susie Punch's son
Rex Phillips	Gloria Moore's Aunt
Jerry Barger	Friend of Ann Ward
Joe Christopher	Sue Hillier's Brother-in-Law
Donna Dedder	Jane Isenhour's tenant
Lori Fox	Niece of Blake & Janice Jones
Anne & Bill Baker	Friends of Blake & Janice Jones
Rachel Propst	Lori Wilcox & Sharon Mull's Sister-in-Law
Elsie Locklar	Wendy Cook's Great Aunt
Faith Smith	Wendy Cook's Cousin
Dan Magee	Friend of Wendy Cook
Mike & Janelle Bolick	Family of Paul & Sandra Bolick
Wayne Propst	Ann Sigmon's Brother

Remember to Pray For Our Members (At Home)

Bonnie Bell, Carol Berry, Paul Bolick, Aslynn Bumgarner, Stewart Bumgarner, Lynn Craig, Wayne Craig, Bob Hillier, Ken Hollar, Tim Hollar, Dot Killian, Doris Mosteller, LaRue Murphy, Dolores Propst, Neil Sigmon, Wayne Sipe, and Greyson Stephens.

Please continue to keep all in our community that are suffering from Covid-19 in your prayers.

Remember to Pray For Our Members Of The Military

SP4 Colby Brotherton (ARMY), SSG Brandon Davis (ARMY),
SGT Jordon Tooman (USMC), A1C Owen Tooman (USAF),
SP4 Evan Short (ARMY)

Remember to Pray For Our Members Away From Home

Eula Kate Hefner	210 Winterlochen Drive Jacksonville, NC 28540
Nancy Holmes	232 Stormy Creek Lane Blythewood, SC 29016
Frances Stone	Room 906 Trinity Village, 1265 21 st St. NE Hickory, NC 28601
Karen Teed	P O Box 208 Taylorsville, NC 28681

Name	Job Title	Council E-mail
Doug Yoder	President	president@millersnalc.org
Holly Bennett	Secretary	secretary@millersnalc.org
Paula Harris	Treasurer	treasurer@millersnalc.org
Shawna Deyton	Vice	vicepresident@millersnalc.org
Todd Cook	Pastor	pastor@millersnalc.org
Lori Wilcox	Evangelism	evangelism@millersnalc.org
Carol Crouch	Fellowship	fellowship@millersnalc.org
Sharon Mull	Finance	finance@millersnalc.org
Jennifer Short	Human	humanconcerns@millersnalc.org
Jan Miller	Parish Ed	parisheducation@millersnalc.org
Bob Krogman	Property	property@millersnalc.org
Teresa Yoder	Stewardship	stewardship@millersnalc.org
Mandi Sigmon	Worship	mandi@millersnalc.org
<vacant>	Youth	youth@millersnalc.org

Miller's Council Minutes

2/08/2021

7:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Doug Yoder, Teresa Yoder, Lori Wilcox, Mandi Sigmon, Carol Crouch, Bob Krogman, Sharon Mull. Shawna Deyton, Paula Harris, Jan Miller, Jennifer Short

Absent: Holly Bennett

Doug called meeting to order, Pastor opened with story and prayer.

January council minutes: Bob made a motion to accept and Teresa seconded motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Teresa made a motion to accept and Lori seconded motion passed.

Property: Parish Hall heating project is almost complete. Bad fire report from Fire Marshall, we have some issues to fix but Bob and Kyle will be taking care of those issues. Gutters are not put up will be soon, weather has put gutter people behind. Bob will be having a property committee meeting soon

Evangelism: Nothing to report.

Fellowship: Nothing to report.

Finance: See attached report.

Human concerns: Jennifer met with Pastor and they made a list of who to send bulletins to in the congregation, they will be getting this together and start the mailing soon.

Parish Ed: Valentine packets went out to the children of the church. ELCA across the street is thinking about an outside VBS this summer and asked if we would want to join. Will keep everyone posted.

Stewardship: Choice dollars need to be addressed by March 31st if you would like for them to come to the church. Love month contributions are through Feb. 28th.

Worship: Ordered Palms for Palm Sunday, we will have an Ash Wednesday service.

Youth: Nothing to report

* Carol Crouch made a motion to send \$1000 to both Hickory Soup Kitchen and Corner Table out of the Hunger Fund. Mandi Sigmon seconded motion was passed.

Pastor Report: See attached (page 8)

* Jan made a motion to continue with no activities but worship until the Governor speaks in February. Bob seconded motion passed.

Council Retreat via zoom: Lori made a motion for the date of March 6th 9am-11am we will do our business meeting at 9am for our monthly council meeting and then Pastor Hale will talk to council from 10am-11am. Paula second motion passed.

* Karin Cook (Pastor Todd's Mother) requested to move her membership to Millers. Doug made a motion to accept the membership move and Teresa seconded motion passed.

* Paula made a motion to adjourn meeting and Teresa seconded.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer



Noisy offering for January was \$100.00 and we will be donating that to **St. Stephens ELCA food pantry.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

In our Lutheran tradition, fresh flowers and live plants are a celebration of God's creation, and this is a way for us to honor God by using His creation to glorify Him. If you would like to volunteer to donate flowers for the altar on a certain week, please **contact the church office** at **(828) 324-8847** to find a Sunday (in honor of a special family member, or in memory of a loved one, or to recognize a special occasion for your family).

For January 2021

Activity:

Worship Services		
Miller's Sundays	5*	*didn't preach 1/3, snow 1/31
Online worship (not Sunday)	21	
Funerals	3	Romine, Bowman, Callaway
Committees Met	1	Finance
Clergy Meetings	8	*CMR Executive Council *CMR Convocation planning *Confirmation Camp planning *Day Camp planning

Old Business

1. Thank you to everyone who reached out to my family following my mother-in-law's death. The cards and messages were quite a show of love from our church family, and Wendy & I very much appreciate it!

2. Network upgrade - Shawn began the installation of the equipment on Jan 16. He and his crew have been running Cat 6 cable (a.k.a. Ethernet cable) throughout the building. There's still a good bit of work to do, but we are making good progress!

3. 2020 yearbook & directory - It's now time to start work on the 2020 yearbook - let's endeavor to get our inputs into Deidra by **Feb 28**. The committee reports for last year are bound to be very unusual or even sparse, but let's get them in so we can get our annual book done.

4. Reopening for other activities - Time for our monthly assessment - I recommend:

* **No in-person activities other than worship** This includes Sunday School, Bible study, crafting & social activities.

* **Reassess** after Gov. Cooper's current restriction end **Feb 28**.

5. **Sound system** - Larry is still willing to train us on this, so I'm seeking anyone who is interested in receiving this training - please contact me ASAP for training!

Two things left to do:

- * need a dedicated circuit wired up in the balcony to support **the amplifiers**;
- * need to replace the new altar microphone, which is picking up a radio station. Larry is aware and is getting us a replacement.

6. **Parish Hall HVAC** - HSM crew worked all last week, but I didn't talk to them on Friday. Did they finish that phase of the project? What's next?

7. **New email addresses**: Everyone now has access. With all of us using the same system, we now have more capabilities than we used to (file sharing, calendars, etc.). I'll offer some of those to Council members in the months ahead.

8. **Daily videos** - will continue for now; I'm still in talks with a few other pastors to share this through the week. It's proving to be a bit of a scheduling challenge, but I'll keep working on it.

9. **Constitution Revision Team/Committee** - I've reached out to the person who originally volunteered, and am awaiting a response.

10. **Visits** - I have started to make some phone calls to members, but it's only been a few so far. I'll be increasing that in the weeks ahead. As for in-person visits, I will continue to follow guidelines for hospitals and nursing homes regarding when they open up to pastoral visits. I will continue offering **private visits** with me at the church, as well as **private Holy Communion** for those who can come to the church.

New Business

1. **Volunteer training** - I would like to meet with our Altar Guild. I am looking at open Sundays in February, hoping to decide that at tonight's meeting (possibly Feb 21 @ 2:00 pm). Please encourage maximum participation.

2. **2021 Council Retreat** - As mentioned last month, I would like to recommend that we do a Council Retreat (ideally, this should be something we do annually). I believe this is an important part of our development as the leadership team of this congregation. I have invited Pastor Brad Hales, who serves on the NALC Staff, to speak to us. If Council agrees, I will work out the details with the Executive Committee.

3. Feb. 15-19 - I've been called for jury duty. I don't expect that will affect Ash Wednesday, but just in case... (see next item)

4. Ash Wednesday - New Covenant Lutheran Church would like to join us for Ash Wednesday service, as their Sunday worship space is not available on Wed. nights. They expect only 5-10 parishioners, and their pastor, Rev. Henry Pawluk (associate member of Miller's) will preach and I will lead worship

5. Feb. 24 - I need to have a minor medical procedure done on this date. It's out-patient, and short recovery. Doc said I would be "good to preach by Sunday" but didn't exactly say what Thursday - Saturday would be like. I might need to reduce my office hours for a couple of days.

****Wish Lists:** I've been told that a couple of committees have done some work on wish lists...

****Reminder:** our constitution says that **each standing committee must meet at least once per quarter**. I can set up a Zoom meeting for any committee that wants to use that instead of meeting in person; I just need a few days' notice to get it scheduled.

Please contact me directly if there are any questions about this report.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Todd



MARCH 2021 VOLUNTEERS	
ALTAR GUILD	Mandi Sigmon & Carol Crouch
SOUND TECH	Tony Crump
USHER CHAIRMAN	Rick Deyton
USHERS/SECURITY	Howard Abernethy, Shawn Sigmon & Jaylen Pless

WORSHIP ASSISTANT	
3/07	Beth Hefner
3/14	Mandi Sigmon
3/21	Doug Yoder
3/28	Jan Miller

COMMUNION ASSISTANT	
3/07	Gary Hefner
3/28	Mandi Sigmon



3/07	Breanna Murphy
3/14	John Cook
3/21	Mandi Sigmon
3/28	Ross Cook

NOISY OFFERING REMINDER

“NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY”, is the last Sunday of each month. Remember to save up your spare change and fill your pockets on **March 28th**. Thank you everyone for your continued support and generosity. We appreciate everyone’s contributions! If you have an idea of how we can use this offering to benefit our community, please contact Stewardship Committee, Teresa Yoder.

Finance Committee Report

Church Offerings for January

Church Offerings YTD

	Given	Monthly Monies Needed	YTD Given	Total Monies Needed
Offerings	\$14,709.00	\$17,520.00	\$14,709.00	\$210,234.00

Church Expenses for Jan.

Church Expenses YTD

<u>Jan. Spent</u>	<u>Jan. Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Spent</u>	<u>Total Budgeted</u>
\$17,552.00	\$17,520.00	\$17,552.00	\$210,234.00

Bank Account Balance — As of January 31st, 2021

Account

General Fund	\$12,875.93
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Special Funds

Capital Projects	\$15,052.01
Carillion	\$2,997.00
Columbarium	\$4,095.00
Heating & Air	\$113,679.30
Hunger	\$6,655.67
Members In Need	\$1,722.13
Memorials (Not Designated)	\$7,917.01
Music & Organ Fund	\$4,105.82
Special Funds Total	\$156,223.94

**Complete reports are available to
review, upon request, during office hours.**