

# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, MARCH, 2017

## From the *Pastor's Perspective*



### The Ashes of Lent

*"All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust."  
Ecclesiastes 3:20*

Lent. It starts on the first day of March and carries us right up to Easter. It's a season of prayer, reflection, and a growing awareness for our continued need for a savior. Christians have traditionally practiced "prayer and fasting" during Lent. As we have been called into a season of prayer prompted by the Healthy Church Initiative journey, perhaps you might consider a disciplined prayer and fasting. What will

you "give up for Lent"? Check out our church website for resources!

Our message series for Lent continues with the Grounded theme, that our God is a God who showed up among us. He came to where we are, living on the ground, and took on a body made of dirt to be one with us. It was this way, in the person of Jesus, that God worked the miracle of salvation: for Jesus brought the Kingdom of God among us, then died physically and spiritually on the cross as atonement for sin, and was raised again, to conquer death and earn life abundant and eternal.

God is a God who comes to us "down in the dirt" and redeems dirt itself, so that we can live with physical bodies in heaven of a re-created earth (Revelation 22), for eternity as God intended.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. We'll burn last year's palm branches as part of our worship service, a reminder that all our good plans and efforts, and all of our human abilities to worship God rightly, fail (go up in smoke!). The ashes left behind will serve as a symbol for how we need to repent and turn back to God. They are a reminder that without God, our future is death: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. As Ecclesiastes 3:20 reminds us, "All go to the same place. All came from the dust, and all return to the dust." Our only hope is to put our trust in Jesus, who redeems the dust, the dirt. He came down into the dirt to save us!

### Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

Mar 1	6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
Mar 4	9 am United Methodist Men
Mar 5	10 am Communion
Mar 6	6 pm DWU College Choir 6:30 pm LLMT Meeting
Mar 8	10 am Birchwood Service
Mar 9	1 pm United Methodist Women 6 pm SPRT Meeting
Mar 11	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship
Mar 12	10 am MN Teen Challenge Choir
Mar 13	6:30 pm Finance Meeting
Mar 15	11:30 am Romeos & Juliets 6:30 pm W.O.W
Mar 16	6:30 pm MLT Meeting
Mar 18	6 am Community Care Set- Up 8 am Community Care
Mar 19	10 am Hymn Sing
Mar 20	6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
Mar 21	10 am Rebecca Circle
Mar 26	11:30 am Bluegrass Lunch Service

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# *Pastor's Perspective Cont...*

We will continue on Sunday mornings to walk with Jesus, getting our feet dirty and dusty, as we follow Him the last week of His earthly life. We will walk into Jerusalem waving palm branches. We will be with Him at the temple. We will hear His argue with the Jewish leaders. We will see Him wash His disciples' feet, and eat the Seder with them. We will pray with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, and stand trial with Him, hearing Him condemned to be crucified. It is a journey that will get you dirty. But that's a good thing, because Jesus comes to redeem the dirty...

I also ask for prayers from our church family as I lead a spiritual pilgrimage of 30 of us to the Holy Land this month. Our trip dates are March 10-21. We will literally be getting our feet dirty with the dust of the Holy Land, walking where Jesus walked. Pray that as we follow Jesus, wherever we may be (in Minnesota or Israel), that we would grow closer to our Savior, would trust in Him completely, and fall even more in love with Him!

Blessings this Lent. We begin Ash Wednesday (March 1). Let's get ready to get dirty!

Pastor David

## **Events and Info**

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, March 1st, at 6:30 p.m.

Join us on Ash Wednesday as we begin the season of Lent and start on the journey with Jesus to the cross. We will be having a soup fundraiser for youth mission trips at 5:30 pm. Come on the 1st enjoy our Wednesday night community dinner and then experience how we have been Marked by Jesus.

### **Community Care**

Saturday Mar. 21st 8 am - 11 am

\$20 Donation at the door, bring a basket or two for all you things.

### **Bluegrass Festival Luncheon**

Sunday Mar. 26th

we are having a fundraiser the last Sunday of each month following worship to help cover costs for the Bluegrass Festival in July. Bring a dish to share, but be sure to stay and eat!

### **Romeo's and Juliet's**

Will be Mar. 15th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come; watch for updates on locations.

### **Adult Fellowship**

Will be Mar. 11th at 5:45 pm. Watch for the sign up Sheet in the lobby.

### **Birchwood Service**

Will be Mar. 8th @ 10 am

Once a month Forest Hills serves Birchwood Senior Living Center by hosting a worship service in their chapel. Music, a message and Holy Communion are all part of the experience. All who are interested are invited to join us.

### **MN Teen Challenge Choir**

Sun. mar. 12th @ 10 am

Hear the gospel through music and testimonies and stay for a plentiful brunch afterwards.

### **DWU Chamber Choir & Handbell Ensemble Concert**

Mon. Mar. 6th @ 7 p.m.

Dakota Wesleyan university Chamber Choir and Handbell ensemble are presenting a free concert at Forest Hills as part for their spring tour.

# Worship's Word

## Magnify the Lord!

You might dare to walk through your home with the lights off. Even in the pitch black you would be able to identify where you are and quickly make it to the nearest light switch. Imagine, however, being in the dark, in a strange place, with no sense of direction. You would be on edge, listening for the slightest sound and flailing your arms in front of you in a blind search for clues. When you're lost in the dark, you need a light.



Together, as a church, we are engaged in the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI). We began by collecting data and looking at ourselves and our community in order to better understand what is around us. Now we need to look through all the information we have compiled. But it is easy to get lost in the stats and numbers. It is easy to get side-tracked on bunny trails. How will we know what is truly important?

We need a light. As we take on the task of sorting through minutiae, we need a light by which we can see clearly. And when we find a light, we do not hide it away, we magnify it!

Psalm 34:1-4 says:

*"I will extol the LORD at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips.  
I will glory in the LORD;  
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.  
Glorify the LORD with me;  
let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;  
he delivered me from all my fears."*

Notice how the Lord's answers and deliverance come because David sought the Lord. As we move forward into the unknown, as we press farther into this HCI journey, we would be wise to seek the light of God's presence. This month, we want to introduce a new song called "Magnify." It will keep our hearts and minds focused on the light that God provides for us. And so we will sing:

*"He has heard our cry, and has shined an everlasting light...  
magnify the Lord together, exalt His name forever!"*

For the King,

Andrew

# Scott's Script...



## **Visual Media. Moving Forward.**

When I was in elementary school, I thought it would be fun to join Boy Scouts. It seemed like a good idea, and everyone looked like they were having fun! However, I kind of overlooked the fact that I didn't like camping at all. The first time I went camping, I kept getting lost; eventually, the counselors realized I didn't have a compass, so of course I would get lost!

When it comes to Visual Media at Forest Hills, we don't have a compass. This is uncharted territory for us, but that is incredibly exciting! We get to forge the way forward. There are many ways that visual media can be utilized within Forest Hills' existing ministries, but ultimately, the focus of Visual Media should be on outreach and telling the stories of our church and community. While we will still create videos for worship, Visual Media will be a great way to invite people to see what Forest Hills is all about, and how they can join in the mission of Forest Hills.

With all this in mind, ministry and film are both team sports. If yourself or someone you know knows about video, wants to learn, or anything else, please connect with me! Let's build this new ministry together!

Grace and Peace,

Scott Van Daalen



# Kids Korner...

## Have You Been to Red Rock?

Every summer, Forest Hills Church packs up and takes a trip to Paynesville MN. There on beautiful lake Koronis we spend a week together at Red Rock Camp. Camp is a great opportunity to get out of the normal routine of life and enjoy the beauty and leisure of God's creation.



Red Rock Camp includes activities for the whole family! Not only can you partake in normal camp fare: swim at the beach, take out a canoe, learn to play Gaga ball, but Red Rock also offers ways to develop, engage and deepen your faith in Jesus Christ. Bible studies, worship services, national speakers and the connections made with other Christians around the state all make for a memorable week. The greatest aspect of camp is that it is a place dedicated to helping people meet Jesus.

Bring friends and neighbors and others who may not know Jesus along to experience his saving power. It could be an eternity changing week! If you have not been to family camp, make plans to attend this summer and bring someone with you! There are scholarship funds available to assist with the cost. You can download the forms from our website at [www.foresthillsumc.net/youth/](http://www.foresthillsumc.net/youth/) or you can contact the church office for more information (651)464-5249 or email [foresthillsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillsoffice@gmail.com).

**Red Rock runs from June 25-July 1st!**

