



I hope this letter finds you well. February is an interesting month stuck somewhere between the holiday celebrations and spring. It can be a challenging month for some of us with too little sun and too much cold. In spite of that, I have come to appreciate this as a quiet time of reflection.

This year Lent begins mid-February starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18. It feels earlier than usual but every couple years it happens about this time. Lent provides us a wonderful opportunity to consider and pray about how we can get closer to being the person God would have us to be and to consider what it is God would have us to do.

Many consider Lent simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days but I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called to spend time considering our own ministry. Let us use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I invite you not to simply give up something but to take time to prepare your spirit for an exciting new journey. Here are a couple suggestions. Spend an extra few minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the upper room every morning with your coffee (it's only a small page), read one proverb every day from the bible (there are 31), commit a daily and intentional act of kindness, join me in a day of fasting, you get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you.

However, as excited as I may sound about Lent, I am still very much enjoying this time in Epiphany. The whole idea of Epiphany keeps revealing itself to me every time I notice some little thing like driving home from a late afternoon appointment and realizing it is staying light outside later and later. Ahhh... Epiphany. Epiphany that moment when things are revealed to us. I love experiencing those ah-ha moments. Those are the moments when something becomes clear to me that was not clear to me before. I have been told and it has been proven to me that if we continue to maintain a working relationship with God we WILL have spiritual experiences. This is not a maybe statement but an absolute statement. We just need to be aware enough to notice them. Isn't that what Epiphany is all about. Learning to trust God enough to let God guide us and teach us, in spite of what we think is a better way. Allowing ourselves to learn how to grow and live more spirit filled lives. Then doing so! When we do that, we allow ourselves to be present to and experience a never-ending number of miracles that occur in us and around us.

For those who are anxious about whether you are ready to do what it is that God may call you to do, remember that God does not call the prepared but prepares the called.

During this Epiphany season, it is my hope that you allow God the opportunity to shine more brightly in you and through you. May each of us bring a little more light to the world that so desperately needs it as we prepare ourselves for Lent.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. And there is a place for you here in at St James.

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

Church Council Members:

Thank you to outgoing Council members. Carole Bryant, Sue Tews and Terri Wagner. Welcome to Doris Doss, Jerry Brown and Devon Klomp who have agreed to serve for 3 years.



K.I.D.S. in Distress

We will be collecting pants/jeans for Kids in Distress for the month of February. Please bring in size 3 - 10. We will be doing a specific item each month for a while. You can still donate clothing, new or gently used, anytime and the old shoe drive is ongoing. Thanks for your support. See Bev Kulman for more details.

Food Pantry



The St. A's food pantry is in need of the following items:
Hamburger Helper, Jello, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Cake Mix and Frosting.
Please remember the food pantry while you are shopping. The items can be left in the box in the vestibule. They will be delivered when the box is full so please help fill it.

Recycling at St. James



In an effort to be more intentional about our stewardship role in God's creation, please use our new recycling bins downstairs for both plastic and paper. The bin for plastics is in the kitchen (water bottles, plastic silverware, containers, communion cups, etc.) There is a bin for paper in the basement office near the copier, and a small blue bin in the foyer for bulletins and miscellaneous paper.



Prayers for

Ellen Grimnes, Barb & Joe Tocco, Sue, David, Joe and Carmela, Doris Suess, Karen Marie, Mary, Barbara, June, Anne Enders, Leo Solomon, Paul Veryser, Tom and Sandy A & family, Carlene Kaniski, Erin, Sue, Carol, Kerry, Kenny Murphy, Scott, Erin and Charlie, Jeremy, Brian, Carol, Gepi, Sandy S

For those

- in recovery and those struggling with addiction
- imprisoned and those responsible for their care
- homeless, hungry and abused
- having difficulty in their relationships
- facing financial hardships and issues with employment
- home caregivers
- those in the armed forces, for protection and peace
- traveling mercies for those on geographic and spiritual journeys
- our own personal transformation



Communion Elders

February

Bev Kulman- Preparing
Bev Kulman- Serving
Beckie Pittman - Serving



Ushers & Greeters

February

Feb. 1 – Bev & Gordie Kulman
Feb. 8 –Pittman Family
Feb. 15 –Bob & Teri Wagner
Feb. 22- Open

Liturgist February

Feb. 1 – Bev Kulman
Feb. 8 – Bradley Strunk
Feb. 15 – Teri Wagner
Feb. 22 –Maraleen Cottrell

Altar Care February

Bev Kulman

Scripture Readings for February

Sunday, Feb. 1

*Deut 18:15-20
*Ps 111
*1 Cor 8:1-13
*Mk 1: 21-28

Power to Do

Sunday, Feb. 8

*Isa 40:21-31
*Ps 147; 1-11,20c
*1 Cor 9: 16-23
*Mk 1: 29-39

Source of Strength

Sunday, Feb. 15

*2 Kings 2:1-12
*Ps 50:1-6
*2 Cor 4: 3-6
*Mk 9:2-9

Compassionate Community

Sunday, Feb. 22

*Gen 9: 8-17
*Ps 25: 1-10
*1 Peter 3: 18-22
*Mark 1: 9-15

God's Loving Paths

