

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Mid-Week 2021

Bethany Lutheran Church - 4644 Clark Ave, Long Beach CA 90808

We live in a world in which many of us feel that constant demands are made upon our attention.

- ♦ “Did you see that?”
- ♦ “Check this out!”
- ♦ “Look at me!”

It’s funny, but up until 2020, at least for me, life also seemed to be increasing at an alarming speed.

- ♦ What do you mean she’s already being confirmed?
- ♦ What do you mean he’s already driving and buying his own car?
- ♦ What do you mean he’s graduating from High School?

Along came 2020 and suddenly the past year no longer flew by. It was only a year ago that our Lenten Theme was **“Eyes On Jesus”** yet, in all honesty in my mind’s eye I can’t really see March 2020; it seems like such a long time ago. Whether the days are flying by or dragging on, whether our attention is required by so many and so much or we feel forgotten with nothing being asked, the temptation is to focus on all that swirls around us, or that which stirs within us. The servant of Jesus however, author to the letter to the Hebrews, invites us instead to focus on Him. **“Fix your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of your faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

“Eyes on Jesus” is (again) our Midweek Lenten theme this year. Last year we only had a pair of services before all gatherings in person were suspended. This year, though we are gathering and worshipping in-person, on campus weekly each Sunday morning, we will be gathering off campus, on-line via Facebook Live and Zoom on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM starting February 17th (Ash Wednesday)**.

Zoom Information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88210795871?pwd=akRUSW5mdytSZ3hTWmIzNThVVkpzUT09>

Meeting ID: 882 1079 5871

Passcode: Jesus

We invite you to **PICK UP** a Lenten Series Packet from Bethany on **Transfiguration Sunday, February 14th** before or after on-campus worship, or from the Church Office during office hours (7:30AM-Noon) on **Monday, February 15th** or **Tuesday, February 16th**. These packets will have **items and information** we will use each Wednesday in our Mid-week worship.

For the Imposition of Ashes - there are TWO options to receive ashes on this day:

1. Included in the Lenten Series Packet will be a **Pre-Packaged Ash Kit** for your household to use **AT HOME** during our on-line, off campus, Ash Wednesday service; a drop of olive oil will be needed for the ashes.
2. For those who desire to receive the Imposition of Ashes **IN PERSON**, we are scheduling individual family unit Imposition of Ashes on campus earlier in the day on **Wednesday, February 17th**. **Look for a Special Bethany Bullet on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th on how to register for this.** In-person timeframes are **every 10 minutes from 6:00-8:30AM and 11:00AM-2:00PM**. Those registered to attend the in-person timeframe will be ushered into the Narthex (a family unit at a time), and then enter into the Sanctuary. There will be a Confession on the screen that will be read together from the Communion rail area. The officiant will then use a Q-Tip to mark the back of the hand of each household member with an ashen cross and then the family will then exit the Sanctuary.

- Pr. Kevin Kritzer

The Texts for our Mid-Week Wednesday Services are:

February 17

Mark 14:1-11— “Better Than a Poke in the Eye”

February 24

Mark 14:27-31— “Eye Contact”

March 3

Mark 14:32-42— “Shut Eye”

March 10

Mark 14:43-47— “More Than Meets the Eye”

March 17

Mark 14:53-65— “Eye Candy”

March 24

Mark 15:1-20— “The Eyes of the Heart”



If you'd like to “fix your eyes on Jesus” each day this Lent you can use this link to purchase an electronic copy of Eyes on Jesus Lenten devotional.

<https://www.cph.org/p-33591-eyes-on-jesus-daily-devotions-for-lent-and-easter-ebook-edition.aspx>



In March we will send out the Holy Week and Easter edition of Chimes.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday—March 28

Maundy Thursday—April 1

Good Friday—April 2

Easter Sunday—April 4

LCMS Life Ministry will hold its first-ever virtual life conference March 19–20.



Life Ministry Announces Virtual Life Conference



LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19–20, under the theme “Making Disciples: Valuing Life.” [Registration is open now.](#)

“This conference is for everyone,” explains Life Ministry Director Deaconess Tiffany Manor. “The pandemic constraints have given us an opportunity to share presentations by many experts with students of all ages, missionaries, church workers and congregation members who couldn’t make it to previous in-person events.”

And that includes you!

Conference sessions will help you explore a distinctly Lutheran understanding of the sanctity of human life, specifically as it pertains to:

- Speaking for life in the public square;
- Caring for life in your community; and
- Teaching about human life.

Hear from theologians and human care advocates, including LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Focus on the Family Vice President of External and Government Relations Timothy Goeglein, and Deaconess Manor.

Explore a variety of life topics for participants of all ages, with your family, congregation or on your own. A Spanish track — with sessions offered in the language — will be available as well.

“More than ever we need to be focused on the truth of our triune God’s value of all human life no matter a person’s stage of development or abilities,” Manor notes.

Join in:

- Access the conference by livestreaming, watching on-demand videos and engaging with speakers through question-and-answer opportunities.
- Register individually, or as groups of 10 for a group registration discount. (Consider gathering a group at a local congregation to stream the conference together.)

To register for the conference or learn more information, visit lcms-life.org.

Mission of the Heart



Dear Supporters,

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya! We pray that you are all well in the Lord. Please see our recent newsletter, telling you of the ministry going on here in Kenya. May God continue to bless and keep you all!

For Our Latest Newsletter:

[https://mcusercontent.com/7632c42424c67f7addaf5fed2/files/b62cc476-a198-446e-b8c5-ad260210f700/Jan. 2021 newsletter.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/7632c42424c67f7addaf5fed2/files/b62cc476-a198-446e-b8c5-ad260210f700/Jan._2021_newsletter.pdf)

Click [HERE](#) for Our Latest Newsletter



P24 students returning back to Nyambiri



P24 Othoro boys receiving a few hand washing stations for their site.

To Support our Ministry:

<https://www.lcms.org/odemba>

Click [HERE](#) to Support Our Ministry