



The following article is a repeat from 1999, when we introduced the growing practice in the WELS of the imposition of ashes. This article is repeated now to help everyone see that we are not giving up any of our doctrinal positions, but are reclaiming some of the practices of the ancient church and early Lutheranism that have helped Christians focus on sin and grace.

Dust to Dust

"For dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19)

With this solemn pronouncement God sentenced Adam and Eve and the whole human race to death. God created man as the crown of his creation. He gave his people everything they could need or want. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They chose to follow Satan's lies instead of remaining in God's love.

So God pronounced the result of their disobedience: to dust you will return.

Many Christians throughout the world are reminded of their mortality on Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes. Ashes are placed on their foreheads in the shape of the cross while the minister says, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return."

"Ashes symbolize two things," reports Peter Scarlet of the Salt Lake Tribune. "They are a reminder of our mortality, our death. And the ashes are a symbol of our penitence and humility."

In ancient times people marked times of repentance and remorse by placing ashes on their heads, as in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6 and Jeremiah 6:26.

An Ancient Practice

While we have not followed the practice of imposing ashes on Ash Wednesday, many churches of many different denominations have done so. Even some WELS churches, including churches in Appleton, have returned to this ancient custom. (Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes as a regular practice of the church can be traced to about the year 900.)

When Luther reformed the church in the 1500's he did not remove all the rites and customs of the ancient church. In fact, he sought to retain as much of the ancient

liturgy and rites as possible. He only removed or revised those things that were full of false teachings.

It was during the period of Pietism, which downplayed doctrine, sacraments and liturgy that the Lutheran church lost its connection to many ancient practices. Many churches today are trying to regain some of those practices lost over the years.

Some people think of the imposition of ashes as a "catholic" thing, but that could be said about a lot of the things we do. Our whole liturgy is catholic in the sense that Luther did not throw out the beneficial worship patterns of the ancient church. The imposition of ashes is really no more catholic than our Sunday morning liturgy. Some, however, may perceive it to be "too catholic", and we want to be sensitive to their feelings

But if we don't see it as a "catholic thing" but regard it as an ancient custom of the church, the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday can serve a good purpose. It can remind us of our mortality, that we are dust. Its use in connection with the confession of sins can be a striking object lesson which can reinforce the Lenten emphasis of repentance.

As with anything we do in worship, such a practice can be valuable only when it helps us focus on Jesus. If it reminds us of our sins and the death we deserve; if it drives us to Christ and the forgiveness he won for us by taking our death, it can be a valuable practice.

In all that we do, we want to lift up Jesus Christ, to focus on him as our Savior, and to grow stronger in our faith in him. May this season of Lent and whatever customs we use, bring us closer to Jesus and his promise of life from death.

Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022
Services at 3:45 pm and 6:00

In this Issue:

Worship Schedule	2
Official Acts	2
Financials	2
School News	2-3
Women's Ministry Report to Cong.	3
Women's Ministry Greeting Cards	3
Lent Fellowship Meals	3
Annual Church Cleaning	3
WELS Night at AmFam Field	4
LWMS	4
ECC Update	4
St. Paul Wish List	5
FVL News	5

Worship Schedule

Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Lent Services begin on Wednesday, March 2nd. Services will be at 3:45pm & 6pm every Wednesday through April 6th.

Our 8am Sunday services are on facebook live and can also be heard on WNAM 1280 AM.

Series Theme: CRUSHED - When someone is devastated or defeated or despondent we speak of him being "crushed." It could be due to some agonizing loss or unrealized dreams. It could be due to carrying a crushingly heavy load of guilt over some past mistake. In a broken world, it is simply a matter of time before we feel crushed. This is why we need Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring: "lengten," when the days grow longer. For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. Believers humbly acknowledge that sin is the ultimate source of all the crushing moments in life. Our sin even crushed Christ. Yet, on Easter Sunday, Jesus took up his life again. Our Savior crushed both death and the serpent's head. Yes, Lent is a solemn season. But it is also a season of great hope. With the psalmist we say, "The Lord saves those who are crushed in spirit."

3/2	Ash Wednesday – I Will Keep the Passover
3/6, 3/7	Lent 2 – Our Temptation is Crushed by Christ's Obedience
3/9	Midweek Lent 2 - Satan has Asked to Sift all of You
3/13, 3/14	Lent 2 – Shortcuts are Crushed by Determination
3/16	Midweek Lent 3 – They Bound Him

3/20, 3/21	Lent 3 – False Security is Crushed by Faithful Presence
3/23	Midweek Lent 4 – The Semblance of Legality
3/27, 3/28	Lent 4 – Our Condemnation is Crushed by God's Grace
3/30	Midweek Lent 5 – What to Remember When You Are Seized with Remorse

Official Acts

Forever with the Lord:

Garnett Woods departed this life on January 30th, 2022 at the age of 82 years, 6 months, and 20 days.

Adult Confirmation/Baptism:

Taylor VanRiper, Susan Martin, Jean Wickesberg, Kenneth & Ashley Keopke

Profession of Faith:

Allen Kraemer

Transfer Out:

Jason Lenz and daughter

Baptized:

Jordan Martin, son of Don & Susan Martin
Ezra Laux, daughter of Jean Wickesberg
Miles Abitz, son of Luke & Bethany Abitz

Financials through Jan. 31st

	Jan.	July – Jan.
Income	\$ 162,479	\$ 1,352,382
Expense	\$ 183,263	\$ 1,381,344
Behind / Ahead	\$ -20,784	\$ -28,962

All bills are paid; all obligations are met.

School News

Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.

Divine Call News: Mr. Hoffman has ACCEPTED his divine call to serve as director of network services and teach some classes at FVLHS. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he completes his school year at St. Paul and moves on to FVL. A call meeting will be set in the next couple weeks to call a new 6th grade teacher.

St. Paul Lutheran Ministries issued a divine call to Mrs. Alyssa Wascher to serve as 1st grade teacher at our school. She currently serves as 1st grade teacher at Risen Savior Lutheran School in Milwaukee, WI. She and her husband Shane have 4 children (ages 1, 4, 6 & 8). Please keep her and her family in your prayers as they deliberate this call. You may reach out to her via email

(awascher@risensaviormilwaukee.com) with your thoughts regarding the two calls she is now holding- St. Paul and Risen Savior.

Mrs. Dina Dietzler has received a divine call to serve as 5th & 6th grade teacher and to direct the Junior Choir at Trinity Lutheran School in Belle Plaine, MN. Please keep her and Matt in your prayers as she deliberates this call. You may reach out to her via email (ddietzler@stpaulappletonwi.com) or in person with your thoughts regarding the two calls she is now holding- to St. Paul and Trinity.

Mr. Tommy Stelter has received a divine call to serve as an English teacher and coaching responsibilities at Arizona Lutheran Academy in Phoenix, AZ. Please keep him in your prayers as he deliberates this call. You may reach out to him via email (tstelter@stpaulappletonwi.com) or in person with your thoughts regarding the two calls he is now holding- to St. Paul and ALA.

WELSSA Visit March 7-9: A group will be here from March 7-9 for our WELS School Accreditation. After their visit, there will be a report given in the gym on Wednesday, March 9th, beginning at 2:55pm. All are invited to attend.

2022-2023 School Year Registration: Please let us know your registration intent for the 2022-2023 school by filling out the [2022-2023 REGISTRATION FORM](#). Any new students for the 2022-2023 school year will need to complete an [APPLICATION](#) for enrollment. Please fill out the registration form by March 1st. If you have questions regarding enrollment, please contact the office.

WI Parental Choice Program: The window for applying for the Choice Program is NOW OPEN through April 21st, 2022. If you would like more information on this tuition assistance program, please contact Mr. Rehberger via email (prehberger@stpaulappletonwi.com) or check out the website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs>.

Women's Ministry Report to the Congregation

Women's Ministry traditionally leads a number of events during the year, some of which generate income. Because these events have required and received the support of you, the members of the St. Paul congregation, we have prepared this report to share the results of these efforts.

The events that you may have helped with or attended include:

- Fall Festival
- Soup Sale (21 people made 23 different varieties of soup totaling 110 quarts)
- Serving Advent, Lent, special events and funeral meals

The members of Women's Ministry would like to thank you for your participation and also let you know what happens to the money these events generate. Following is a list of items funded, at least in part, from the Women's Ministry treasury in the past several years:

- School kitchen countertop and sink replacement, \$6200
- Roll-up aluminum shade for school kitchen \$3900
- Pull down screen on school stage, \$800
- School roof repair, \$1000
- Church organ restoration, \$3000
- Various school projects, \$800

We hope this report will help to encourage your continued support of Women's Ministry's efforts. Perhaps you will even consider joining this group of women who enjoy meeting together once a month, September through May, to plan for ways to serve our congregation. Meetings are currently the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the church basement.

Women's Ministry – Greeting Cards

Easter cards will be available in the card racks in the church basement in mid-March. Please also note that Confirmation and Graduation cards will be brought in for purchase in April. These cards are located in the basement near the Confirmation Photo display and are sold on the honor system.

Lent Fellowship Meals

With the Lenten season, come the opportunity for fellowship meals. Meals are served between the Wednesday services from approximately 4:30 – 5:45pm. If your group or committee would like to sponsor a meal, please stop by the office or email office@stpaulappletonwi.com.

Dates available are as follows:

3/2 – Women's Ministry serving Chili, Potato, & Cheeseburger Soups

3/9 – AVAILABLE

3/16 – Evangelism menu tbd

3/23 – AVAILABLE

3/30 – Youth Rally serving burgers, brats & hot dogs

4/6 – Athletics serving baked potato bar

Annual Church Cleaning

Our annual church cleaning day will be on Saturday, March 26th, beginning at 8am. Please save some time this morning to help – many hands make for light work! Bring the whole family – there will be jobs for everyone. A light breakfast will be provided.



WELS Night at AMFAM Field

Friday, July 8th is WELS Night at American Family Field. The Brewers take on the Pirates at 7:10pm. Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members to watch some baseball! Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating areas. Tickets range from \$9 to \$21 each, and can be purchased online at brewers.com/wels. Purchase deadline is Friday, June 10th.



LWMS

St. Paul LWMS Meeting: Our first meeting of 2022 will be Thursday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Please join us to learn about the ways we can support missionaries and their families right here in Appleton, WI.

LWMS Mission Door Offering for March: The Door Offering on March 20th will be for LWMS mission projects. These offerings are collected in the Spring and Fall for mission projects voted on by LWMS. This is a great opportunity to support missionaries in places that we cannot go ourselves. The LWMS Mission Box is also available for contributions in the Narthex on the following Sundays: March 6, 13, and 20. Please pray for all of our missionaries as they serve in the US and abroad!

Spring 2022 Home Mission Project: Language Training. Our called workers receive training in the biblical languages during their college and seminary years. However, they do not have the time in their schedules to become proficient in the languages spoken in the ethnic communities of our mission fields in North America. Your gifts will assist Home Missions in providing the needed language training.

Spring 2022 World Mission Project: Academia Cristo Project. Academia Cristo is a Spanish-language website which offers video and audio Bible studies and live online training to reach out to non-Christians as well as to teach Latin American church members how to share their faith. Your gifts will help support this online outreach, the development and maintenance of a mobile application, and the online training that occurs through Academia Cristo.

LWMS Spring Rally: LWMS Paperland Circuit Spring Rally will be held Saturday, April 2nd, hosted by St. Peter Lutheran Church, N2940 French Road, Appleton. Rally is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. and lunch served following the rally. The theme is **"I am Jesus Little Lamb"** with guest speaker Susan Nitz, former Missionary wife in Malawi. The building is handicap accessible. Contact Connie Frey if you have any questions or would like to register for the

rally, uconn12456@gmail.com or 920-428-5623. Registration deadline is March 21, 2022.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, ...to him be glory in the church...forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

A message from Pastor Jeremy Belter, Shepherd of the Valley in Candelas, Colorado:

Pastor Jeremy Belter, his wife Kelsey, and their children, Ellie and Kieran, serve Shepherd of the Valley – Candelas, a new mission started as a multi-site partnership with Shepherd of the Valley – Westminster, Colorado. This mission began in October 2019 in the northwest Denver suburb of Arvada. Far west Arvada has seen tremendous growth over the last five years, with 15,000 new residents, and approximately 10,000 more estimated in the next decade. This growing area, nestled against the Rocky Mountain foothills, had no churches! So Shepherd of the Valley took the bold step to plant a mission church. The Lord has blessed the mission with many community contacts and lots of outreach opportunities.

*Pastor Jeremy Belter, Shepherd of the Valley,
Candelas, CO*

ECC Update

Greetings from the infant 2's room. We have been very busy since opening this new room on September 7th, 2021. We have children in our room that are approximately ages 9 to 16 months. We have been able to keep this room full. We can have 8 children with 2 teachers. We have had 3 children move up to the toddler's room and 3 new kids from the Infant 1 room move in. Next month 2 more kids will be moving up and 2 more moving in. We just finished up our Valentine's Day projects and will start some art for St. Patrick's Day. The art in our room is usually us painting the children's feet and hands and creating something beautiful for the kids to hang in our room, hallway, or to take home. We had some fun playing in our sensory table with pretend sand. Some of the children discovered that it was cake mix and started eating it. We also put a little food coloring in vanilla pudding as edible paint. As you can imagine, they tried to eat that as well. At least it won't harm them if swallowed. We have a lot going on in this room and a lot of milestones are achieved. They each reach of these at different times. Teething and 'Stranger Danger' are very common in our room. We also work on drinking from a cup and eating with a spoon. It is cute when they hold the spoon with one hand and eat with the other. Thank you to everyone who helped make this room happen.

Ms. Joanie & Ms. Lynn

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and School Project Wish List

1. Push Bars for Door	\$2500
2. Small Playground Improvements	?
3. Refinish Pews	\$40,000
4. Classroom doors	\$29,000
5. WELS hymnology curriculum	\$900

Any donations (large or small) given toward these items is greatly appreciated. Some of these items/projects have been purchased/completed and we are looking for members to help in covering any part of the costs involved. For a closer look at these items as well as giving options, including 'Easy Tithe', please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#).

We've been blessed to receive donations to fully fund the following items, totaling \$481,114. They have been removed from the active Wish List and will be completed as soon as possible, if they haven't been already. Some of the items that you have assisted in funding are new hymnals, ECC loan, security cameras, the ECC & School Construction Project, VEX Robotic Program, a baby grand piano, and a Stem Lab. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations toward these items!

FVL News

FVL's International Program needs host families. Students stay for 9 months and pay their own expenses. Families receive a stipend to offset costs. Contact Monica Uhlenbrauck (muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org). This is a wonderful ministry opportunity for your family!

The FVL Theatre will perform *Disney's The Little Mermaid* on March 4 & 5 at 6:30 PM, and March 6 at 2:00 PM. Visit fvlhs.org/mermaid for more info and a link to buy tickets. Reserved seating tickets are available online. You can also purchase tickets at the box office. The cost is \$14 per seat (plus a convenience fee).

New location for the FVL FoxFest Dinner Auction on Friday, April 8! Join us at the Appleton Paper Valley for an evening of fellowship and fun supporting FVL's Tuition Assistance Program. The RSVP deadline is March 25. Visit fvlhs.org/foxfest for more info and to register.

Spring and Summer Youth Camps and Fall Youth Football Registration Open- Go to fvlhs.org/youth-sports for info on upcoming youth sports opportunities.

The FVL General Board meets Monday, 2/28 at 7 PM in the auditorium. Important issues include early work on the 2022-23 budget. The meeting is open to parents and Federation members.

FVL is hiring a Mission Advancement Assistant and one or two people to manage (or co-manage) the canteen. Visit fvlhs.org/about/employment for details and application. Applications accepted until positions are

filled.

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) offers families the opportunity to have their FVL tuition fully funded. The application periods for WPCP and for FVL's Tuition Assistance Program are open through April 21! Visit fvlhs.org/tuition-help for details. Email Admissions Director Joe Blum (jblum@fvlhs.org) or Executive Assistant Heather Knoll (hknoll@fvlhs.org) with questions.