

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 37, Issue 2

February, 2020

ARE YOU SPEAKING TO ME, GOD? *Prayer as Listening* *LENTEN SERMON SERIES AND STUDY*

On the Wednesdays of February 19, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., I invite you to come and explore Biblical stories that have people asking, "Are you speaking to me, God?" The Wednesday evening of February 26, you are invited to gather for the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.

It has been said that prayer does not change God, but it does change the one who prays. And that change comes when we don't allow prayer to simply be a one-way venture.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Prayer is about listening as much as it is about talking. Prayer is not a tool we use to offer up our wish list to God; prayer is about encountering the Holy and deepening the relationship between us and the One who created us.

For these five weeks we will be exploring stories about: God's calling of Samuel from his childhood; God's call to Elijah's in the sound of sheer nothingness; the call of the young Mary to bring Jesus, the Son of God, into the world; Jesus' call to Saul to not only change his way of

living, but to also change his greatest identifier...his name; and, Jesus' call to all disciples to "take up our crosses and follow him."

My prayer is that by "listening" to these stories and how they have played a role in the faith lives of so many, we too will be encouraged to ask: Are you speaking to me, God? And then...listen!

Below are the texts we will be exploring:

1 Samuel 3: 1-19:	February 19	(sermon text for March 1)
NO STUDY	February 26	(ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @ 6:30 P.M.)
1 Kings 19: 1-15a	March 4	(sermon text for March 8)
Luke 1:26-38	March 11	(sermon text for March 15)
Acts 9: 1-9	March 18	(sermon text for March 22)
Mark 8: 31-38	March 25	(sermon text for March 29)

A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FROM 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Sherry

IT'S ASH WEDNESDAY ALL DAY LONG

7:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon

Imposition of Ashes in the Eastminster Chapel

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday

Worship Service in the Sanctuary

One day a little boy and his mother were in the grocery store. Standing behind them in line was a woman with the sign of the cross on her forehead. As any curious tot is apt to do, he kept staring at her and much to his mother's horror finally asked the lady, "Hey, did your mommy not give you a bath last night? You have dirt on your face!"

Obviously, it was Ash Wednesday and yes, we have dirt on our face. Scripture reminds us that from the dust of the earth we were created and to the dust of the earth, we will return. The symbol of the ashen cross is a call to a season, called Lent, in which we remember the coming death of our Lord and our own mortality. The cross also symbolizes our mourning and our need always for forgiveness as we stray from the ways of the One who gave his life that we will live in God's mercy. By the mark of the cross we are also



reminded that we are claimed and sealed as God's beloved children.

Eastminster has typically held one Ash Wednesday evening worship service at 6:30 p.m. and, we will do so again this year. This service will be held in the sanctuary.

However, after being reminded that it is indeed "Ash Wednesday all day" and a God-given opportunity to show and share our faith by the symbolic cross all day long, we will this year offer two other times for the imposition of the ashes...first at 7:00 a.m. and the second time at 12 noon.

These services, held in the chapel will be brief: a scripture reading, prayer of confession, assurance of God's forgiveness and the imposition of the ashes. You are asked to park in the back parking lot (east side off Samuell Blvd) and enter that door which is closest to the chapel.

May the "dirt" on our faces remind us that, in Christ, we can be washed clean!

Pastor Sherry

As we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, you are invited to take a few minutes to ponder the "scripture and word" of the day as it relates to our faith life and the season. You are then invited to express yourself in ways best suited for you. For instance, take a picture of something that symbolizes the word for you; write a short prayer or another word that it comes to mind; make a drawing; offer your thoughts or any other creative offering.

Then, as a way of sharing our faith and building community, you are invited to post and share your expressions—picture, word, prayer, etc., on our Eastminster Facebook page.

For instance, one of the greatest blessings God has gifted to me: family. So, for Saturday, February 29, I might post this picture or offer these words or both: Having a place to go is home; having someone to love is family; having both is a blessing.





Be on the look out for more details!

Lenten Sermon Series and Study (see related article)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m.

A Time for Silence with Scripture and Prayer, Monday, April 6 from noon until 8:00 p.m. Come and go as your schedule allows.

Maundy Thursday Service,
April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service,
April 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Service,
April 12 at 11:00 a.m.



Burden bearers

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ... We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—Philip Yancey,
Where Is God When It Hurts?



SOCKS are always needed for Saturday morning. Clean out your sock drawers and bring them anytime to the church. All sizes are needed.



After January 12 this year, we entered into a period known as Ordinary Time in some Church traditions. This labeling of parts of the Church (Lectionary)

year was a departure from tradition. For example the Sundays after the Baptism of Our Lord were called by all Catholic and Reformed traditions as “January 19th the Second Sunday after Epiphany” and continued until Transfiguration Sunday and then we were in Lent, Easter, Eastertide, and Pentecost. Sundays after Pentecost were called “June 26th the Third Sunday after Pentecost” which continues until Advent, Christmas and back to Epiphany.

The change came from the meetings of Vatican II. The official name is the Second Vatican Council (1962–65), 21st ecumenical council of the Roman Catholic Church, announced by Pope John XXIII on January 25, 1959, as a means of spiritual renewal for the church and as an occasion for Christians separated from Rome to join in a search for Christian unity. Many reformed churches worldwide participated in Vatican II. It was felt at those meetings that it was better to use “Ordinary Time” to separate “ordinary” parts of the year from seasons of celebrations such as Christmas and penitence such as Lent.

I wrote the following on the Choir’s Schedule following the Baptism of our Lord this year:

“I’m not a fan of the liturgy designations that came out of Vatican II where it was decided that times in the liturgical year that did not have distinctive characteristics such as Eastertide, Christmas Tide or Advent, Christmas, etc. were to be called Ordinary Time. It just sounds so let down since this current season follows such high holy seasons: Christmas, Epiphany. I prefer in this season to call the Sundays after the Epiphany but will do the official Presbyterian take from Vatican II. I just wanted you to know I don’t consider the Sundays or the music we offer to God to be ordinary!”

Because we are human it could be easy for us to see that title on the bulletin each Sunday and feel some sort of a let down from the major celebrations of the church year. Especially since the Sunday label is missing a connection to the most recent celebration, i.e., Epiphany at the time of this writing. As humans, some might look at the “ordinary” designation in the back of their mind feel perhaps that the Sunday wasn’t as important, and many probably never notice what the designation of any Sunday is except maybe Easter and Christmas.

I can assure you that Pastor Sherry, the worship committee, the choir, and music staff, do not consider any Sunday to be ordinary. Of course, musically we sing more on the high holy days and bring in instruments to help us celebrate them, but whether a season or ordinary we also spend lots of time in preparing the liturgy (the work of the people), selecting anthems and the music the congregations sings and some instruments.

There is as stated above, nothing ordinary in the offerings of our prayers, our music, the sermon, or the liturgy every worship service, be it Sunday or at other times. The changes from Vatican II are used by many and not likely to change. Many still use the seasonal terms for the “ordinary time.”

I just wanted you to know some of our history of worship and if the thought creeps in that “Sunday in Ordinary Time” is ordinary remember it is not so. Not because I say it, but because God is present every time we gather. Ordinary Time doesn’t have to mean ordinary worship. The leaders of worship at Eastminster spend lots of time to keep the services from being the same cookie cutter service, words, and music each week.

It is up to you to participate fully from your joyful noise to your unvoiced prayer and you will make the worship for yourself and others extraordinary!

“A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.”
—Denis Waitley

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” —Anne Lamott

“There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved.”
—George Sand

The question we must ask our heart is, “Am I comfortable under the eye of God? Or is God getting too close?” We are strange and lovely creatures. We can ache for God tremendously yet find ourselves getting nervous if God gets too close. After all, the closer God gets, the more we hear the call to be divinized. It is both exciting and frightening to hear that call. —MacRina Wiederkehr

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement.
—St. Augustine

Puzzle!

First, write the opposite of each listed word. Then transfer letters to the correct numbered blanks to discover Jesus’ messages about love.

cool	1	2	3	4	soft	20	21	22	23	
under	5	6	7	8	old	24	25	26	27	28
out	9	10	after	29	30	31	32	33	34	
large	11	12	13	14	15	false	35	36	37	38
quiet	16	17	18	19						

“

14	5	6	7	35	20	7	15	17	36	23	24	5	18	8	28	17	23	
1	9	35	20	2	16	14	24	5	18	3	20	7	13	8	35	2	10	23
1	9	35	20	13	14	16	24	17	37	36	11	5	18	14	2	27	19	
1	9	35	20	21	15	16	24	17	18	36	11	35	3	30	10	28	35	20
2	10	23	1	9	35	20	21	14	16	24	5	37	8	4	9	10	23	
21	27	23	16	32	6	7	24	5	18	22	10	34	9	28	20	29	17	33
13	11	24	25	26	22	11	7	14	31	.	”							

”

Answer: warm, over, in, small, loud, hard, young, before, true; “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27, NIV

Neighborhood Ministry?

Labels can be a good thing or a bad thing. Bad if they lead to self-limiting backward thinking. Good if they provide focus and discipline.

In my mind, I've always labeled one of Eastminster's primary functions as "neighborhood ministry."

When I read the Dallas Morning News article (see accompanying article) about the new housing development down the street, I became excited about the opportunities it meant for church growth. Over time I realized that is not how God would want me to see this news. Instead of growth, it is an opportunity to fulfill our neighborhood ministry in new and exciting ways. For there to be 128 homes between \$250,000 to \$400,000 built less than five blocks from Eastminster should excite us all. We should find ways to reach out to those new homeowners just like we do to families that visit our church for Sunday worship or Saturday morning breakfast. I have already started speaking to Sherry and committee heads about exploring how we fulfill this unique opportunity for neighborhood ministry.

Please share with me your thoughts, suggestions, and criticisms.

Tom Pappas

HOUSING

Project close to downtown

Development plans 128 homes priced in \$250K-\$400K range

By **STEVE BROWN**
Real Estate Editor
stevebrown@dallasnews.com

Developers are starting work on a new East Dallas residential project that will offer more than 100 houses within a short commute to downtown.

Centurion American Development Group bought 26 acres for the community on Samuell Boulevard near Interstate 30. The property, previously used as a seniors housing community, was purchased from Buckner International.

Mehrdad Moayedi, CEO of Centurion American, said he plans a combination of single-family homes and townhouses on the land.

"We are starting demolition and environmental cleanup on the property in January," Moayedi said. "I think most of the homes will

be priced from \$250,000 to \$400,000."

Called Tenison Village, the community will have 128 homes and an amenity center. Pulte and New Synergy Homes will build in the project.

"There are some 40-foot lots for single-family homes that Pulte is building in the mid-\$300,000s," Moayedi said. "There are going to be some townhomes in the \$250,000 range."

The Tenison Village community is next door to the former Timberlawn psychiatric facility, which was recently demolished.

Centurion American earlier this year sought to buy that property, too, but later dropped the deal.

The company is one of North Texas' top developers of home communities. It's also known for its historic preservation projects, including the landmark Statler Hotel in downtown Dallas.

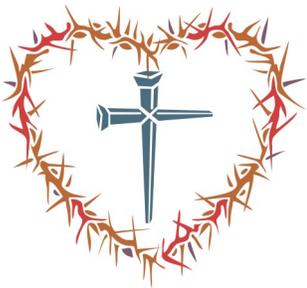
Twitter: @SteveBrownDMN

You may securely give from our website and via text message, you can even set up recurring donations. If you'd like to activate your account, please contact the church office by email at officeadmin@eastminsterdallas.org or by calling (214) 381-4693. We'll then email you so you can get started today.



Our Lenten focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal.



Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

Tuesday, February 25

6-8:00 p.m.

What is happening on Tuesday, February 25?
Hint: Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent begins.

Did you guess Pancake Supper? Right you are!

Do you enjoy the addition to our Worship Services of guest musicians? Well, the choir is sponsoring the pancake supper as a fundraiser to provide the needed funds for the guest musicians.

Come have pancakes and help enhance our worship service.

The cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, with a \$20 family maximum. You may also donate online, or place a donation in the pew envelope marked for the Pancake Supper.



The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word “love” occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900

Love

Answer C

Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A: No, but they had an Apple.

Knock, Knock,

Who's there?

Olive

Olive who?

Olive you!

Q: Why did the banana go out with the prune?

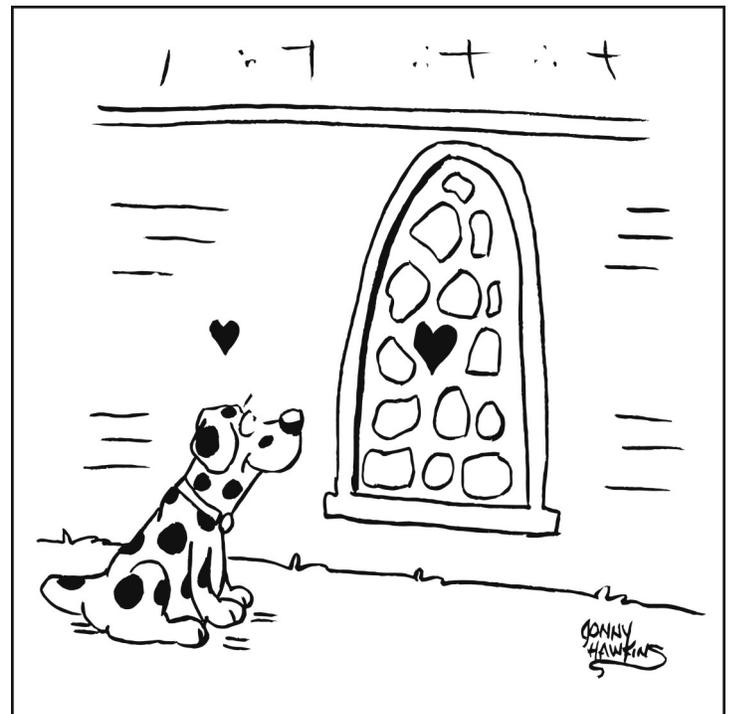
A: Because it couldn't get a date.

Q: What is a ram's favorite song on Feb. 14th?

A: I only have eyes for ewe, dear

Q: What travels around the world but stays in one corner?

A: A stamp.



Scripture Readings for February

1 Gen. 18:1-16	10 Gen. 25:19-34	20 Gen. 32:3-21 1
2 Gen. 18:16-33	11 Gen. 26:1-6, 12-33	21 Gen. 32:22-33:17 1
3 Gen. 19:1-17 (18-23) 24-29	12 Gen. 27:1-29	22 Gen. 35:1-20 1
4 Gen. 21:1-21	13 Gen. 27:30-45	23 Mal. 4:1-6 2
5 Gen. 22:1-18	14 Gen. 27:46-28:4, 10-22	24 Prov. 27:1-6, 10-12
6 Gen. 23:1-20	15 Gen. 29:1-20	25 Prov. 30:1-4, 24-33
7 Gen. 24:1-27	16 Gen. 29:20-35	26 Amos 5:6-15
8 Gen. 24:28-38, 49-51	17 Gen. 30:1-24 1	27 Hab. 3:1-10 (11-15)
9 Gen. 24:50-67 2	18 Gen. 31:1-24 1	28 Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32
	19 Gen. 31:25-50 1	29 Ezek. 39:21-29

LENT 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		*Tag on social media	Feb 26-Ash Wednesday Repent Acts 3: 19	27 Renewed Psalm 51	28 Breath Genesis 2:7	29 Blessed Matthew 5: 9
March 1 Listen Jeremiah 33:3	2 Wait Psalm 62:5	3 Forgiveness Colossians 3:13	4 Secure Romans 8:38-39	5 Temptation Luke 22: 40	6 Wounds Isaiah 53: 5	7 Purpose 2 Timothy 1: 9
8 Restore John 3:16	9 Command John 12: 34-35	10 Wrestled Exodus 3: 11	11 Defeated Luke 19: 2-4	12 Engraved Psalm 139	13 Humility Colossians 3:12	14 Solitude Mark 1:35
15 Community John 4:27	16 Fear Luke 12: 32	17 Fire Exodus 3:2	18 Grace 2 Corinthians 12:9	19 Freedom Galatians 5:1	20 Near Psalm 145: 18	21 Heart Luke 10:27
22 Rest Matthew 11: 28-30	23 Sheep Psalm 23	24 Wisdom 1 Corinthians 1:25	25 Named Isaiah 43: 1-3	26 Follow Mark 8: 34	27 Unseen Hebrews 11:1-2	28 Power Matthew 18: 19-20
29 Table 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	30 Dirt Genesis 2: 7	31 Mercy 1 Peter 1:3	April 1 Remember Luke 23: 42	2 Presence Acts 17: 24	3 Truth John 8: 32	4 Love 1 John 4:18
5 Journey Jeremiah 29:11	6 Sanctuary Psalm 4: 8	7 Clay 2 Corinthians 4:7	8 Holy Hebrews 12: 14	9-Maundy Thursday Betray Matthew 27:3-4	10-Good Friday Suffering Matthew 27: 46	11 Weep John 11: 35

12 EASTER! RESURRECTION!!! Luke 24: 1-6

February

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)
 Choir Practice - Wednesdays (5, 12, 19, 26)
 1-2 SHYC – Grades 9-12 at Austin College
 2 Communion Sunday / Souper Bowl Sunday - food drive; Committee Meetings: Outreach after Worship
 4 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
 9 Committee Meetings: H&P 5pm, Worship 8:30 am
 16 Stated Session Meeting
 17 Newsletter Deadline
 22 Stated Presbytery Meeting: 1st Pres. Dallas
 25 Pancake Supper sponsored by the Choir 6-8 p.m.
 26 Ash Wednesday Service—6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; 7:00 a.m. and Noon in the Chapel

March

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (7, 14, 21, 28)
 Choir Practice - Wednesdays (4, 11, 18, 25)
 1 Communion Sunday; Committee Meetings: Outreach 12:30 p.m.
 3 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
 4, 11, 18, 25 Lent Study 6:30 pm, light supper 5:30 pm
 8 Committee Meetings: H&P 5 p.m., Worship 8:30 a.m.
 15 Stated Session Meeting
 16 Newsletter Deadline
 29 Pulpit Supply – Ron Holloman

April

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday (4, 11, 18, 25)
 Choir practice—Wednesdays (8, 15, 22, 29)
 1 Lent Study 6:30 pm, light supper 5:30 pm
 5 Communion – Intinction; Palm Sunday; No Committee Meetings
 7 EPW (7:00 p.m.)
 9 Maundy Thursday Service (6:30 p.m.)/Communion - Intinction
 10 Good Friday Service (6:30 p.m.)
 12 Easter Service Communion; No Committee Meetings
 13 The Office is Closed
 19 Stated Session Meeting
 20 Newsletter Deadline



FEBRUARY Birthdays

Jennifer Gailey	2/1
Jacob Whitley	2/1
Betty Crabtree	2/3
Rhonda Kraft	2/4
Harry Uche	2/5
Matthew Bennett	2/7
Jerry Jones	2/7
Taylor Kraft	2/9
Ronnie Moore	2/9
Ryan Blair	2/13
Michael Veloz	2/13
Oscar Veloz	2/14
Dylan Gailey	2/17
Susie Fielding	2/23
Tony Bennett	2/24
Javed Almas	2/25
Kellie Karlen	2/25
Wayne Maples	2/27
John Sill	2/27

Leap Day



Those Who Will Serve in February



Ushers/Greeters—Team 1

Jim Fielding Christine Blair
Jan Anderson Will Nixon

February 2

Liturgist: Becky Hensley
Communion: Sharon Smith
Janice Bell Janet Muller

Acolytes:

Hannah Hensley, Candles
Mason Gonzales, Cross Bearer

February 9

Liturgist: Michele Pappas

Acolytes:

Melissa Whitley, Candles
Jacob Whitley, Cross Bearer

February 16

Liturgist: Jan Anderson

Acolytes:

Denise Bennett, Candles
Tony Bennett, Cross Bearer

February 23

Liturgist: Charlotte Turner

Acolytes:

Christine Blair, Candles
Cheryl Wood, Cross Bearer



Eastminster Session

Janice Bell
Denise Bennett
Tony Bennett
Kayla Dixon
Ronnie Dixon
Kathy Kreger
Paul McLin
Janet Muller
Michele Pappas
Helen Randolph
Vicki Thiebaud
Bruce Turner



Pastor	Sherry Holloman
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree

HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

December 15 2019

- ◆ Stewardship Chair Cindy Garrett reported that 92% of pledge projection has been received in Stewardship drive.
- ◆ Christian Education Christian Education: Action Item regarding using funds from account #3714 to purchase shoes for 25 children in the Christmas Village program was approved.
- ◆ Outreach Request from the committee to forward a gift of \$2000 (specified by the giver to benefit youth in need) to the PCHAS Transitional Program. Motion Approved.
- ◆ Worship Committee (Progress report and action item): Pew cushions for the chapel have been ordered, 1/3 of cost deposit made, 60-90 days delivery. Action Item was approved for the Choir to hold Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser to benefit account #3710 (Guest Musicians)
- ◆ Update on status of online building-use reservations forms: Forms are live on the Eastminster website. Elders are asked to review and explore these forms.
- ◆ Update on the Child Protection Policy: The pastor met with Tom Pappas to evaluate the current policy. The document has been “red-lined” and returned to Tom for review. The current policy stands, but will be updated to today’s standards and will be presented to the congregation upon completion. The goal is to have it in place by early 2020.
- ◆ Guest Policy: Discussion was held. Policy forthcoming regarding how to best work with those asking for help during the week and during worship times.



Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2020
- Presidents Day, February 17, 2020
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 23, 2020
- Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020
- Leap Day, February 29, 2020