

#### FROM OUR PASTOR...

# The Meaning and Importance of Ash Wednesday in the Church

sh Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season of repentance, reflection, and spiritual growth leading up to Easter. Ash Wednesday is a solemn and sacred day that reminds us of our human mortality, our need for repentance, and God's abundant grace through Jesus Christ. It is a time for Christians to turn toward God, seeking renewal and a deeper relationship with Christ.

#### The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of worshippers in the shape of a cross. These ashes are typically made by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The ashes serve as a visible reminder of our human frailty and the reality that one day we will return to dust. This tradition is rooted in Scripture, where ashes symbolize repentance, mourning, and humility before God.

When the pastor or worship leader applies the ashes, they often say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words, based on Genesis 3:19, remind us of our mortality. They also call us to turn away from sin and toward God's mercy. Some churches may say, "Repent and believe in the gospel," emphasizing the call to turn to Jesus for forgiveness and new life.

While Ash Wednesday is a serious and reflective day, it is not meant to leave us in despair. Instead, it invites us into the season of Lent with an open heart, ready to receive God's transforming love.

#### **Why Repentance Matters**

Repentance is at the heart of Ash Wednesday. In the Bible, repentance means more than just feeling sorry for our sins—it means turning away from them and turning toward God. In Joel 2:12-13, God calls His people to return to Him with all their hearts: "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing."

Repentance is not about earning God's love or proving our worth; it is about recognizing our need for His grace. The ashes on our foreheads are not meant to shame us but to remind us of God's mercy. As Lutherans, we believe that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). This means that even though we confess our sins and acknowledge our brokenness, we do so with confidence in God's forgiveness.

#### The Season of Lent and Spiritual Renewal

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season that lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays), leading up to Easter. These 40 days are meant to reflect the time Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness before beginning His ministry (Matthew 4:1-11).

During Lent, many Lutherans choose to engage in spiritual practices such as:

**Prayer** – Spending more time in personal or communal prayer to grow closer to God.

**Fasting** – Giving up certain foods, habits, or distractions to focus on spiritual renewal.

**Acts of Service** – Helping others, practicing generosity, and showing Christ's love.

**Bible Study** – Reading Scripture to deepen faith and understanding.

(Continued on page 2)

Lent is not about proving our devotion through rituals or sacrifices. Instead, it is about drawing closer to God and preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter. It is a time to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and what His sacrifice means for us.

#### Why Ash Wednesday Matters for Christians Today

Ash Wednesday is important because it reminds us of life's fleeting nature and the eternal hope we have in Christ. In a world that often avoids talking about death, Ash Wednesday confronts us with the reality that our time on earth is limited. However, instead of filling us with fear, this truth invites us to live with purpose, trusting in God's promise of eternal life.

It also teaches us about humility. In a culture that values success, power, and self-sufficiency, Ash Wednesday calls us to acknowledge our need for God. It reminds us that we are not in control, but we are deeply loved by the One who is.

Finally, Ash Wednesday helps us enter Lent with the right mindset. It is easy to go through Lent as just another part of the church calendar, but Ash Wednesday encourages us to take this time seriously. It is a call to examine our hearts, let go of what separates us from God, and embrace the abundant life Christ offers.

#### The Promise of Hope and Grace

While Ash Wednesday is a day of reflection and repentance, it is ultimately a day of hope. The ashes remind us of our sin and mortality, but they are placed in the shape of a cross—the very symbol of our salvation. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are given new life.

As Lutherans, we hold on to the truth that God's grace is always greater than our sin. No matter how broken we feel, no matter how far we have wandered, God welcomes us back with open arms. Ash Wednesday is not just about remembering our sins—it is about remembering God's love. It is the beginning of a journey that leads to the cross, but beyond the cross, there is resurrection.

So, as we receive the ashes, let us do so with both humility and hope. Let us enter this Lenten season with hearts open to God's transforming grace. And let us look forward to the promise of Easter, where death is defeated and new life begins.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." – Psalm 51:10





# Ash Wednesday, Lenten Services and Suppers

sh Wednesday is March 5, 2025. An Ash Wednesday worship service will be held at Our Savior at 7pm. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Midweek Lenten services will be held at 7pm each Wednesday evening, March 12–April 9. The services will include a scripture reflection, a faith story and Holden Evening Prayer.

Join us for **supper** each Wednesday evening before worship; supper is served from 5:45–6:45pm. There is no charge for the meal, but a freewill offering is taken with proceeds going to the group or organization providing the meal. Come, invite a friend or neighbor, and enjoy the evening as community in Christ.

The menu includes:

**Mar. 12**—Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Charity Circle

Mar. 19—Casseroles & Salad Youth & Family Ministry

Mar. 26—Grilled Hotdogs & fix'ens Mission Team

**April 2**—Baked Potato Bar Christian Education & Confirmation Youth

**April 9**—Pastas & Salad Outreach Ministry

# LENTEN CHALLENGE—40 Days/40 Items



Our Savior's Outreach Ministry Team invites the congregation to participate in the 40 Days/40 ITEMS Lenten challenge! You are encouraged to make either a MONETARY DONATION or to BRING 40 FOOD PANTRY ITEMS for the 40 Days of Lent.

A printed list is included on the back of the calendar and also at the back of the sanctuary to use as your guide. Monetary donations should be ear-marked 40/40; OSLC confirmation youth will use that money in a shopping contest at PacNSave to purchase additional items from the list.

The Wayne Food Pantry will receive all donated items. In both 2023 and 2024, more than two full pickup loads were collected!



March 4 & 5 Connie Webber, organist

March 8 & 9 Shelly Armstrong, pianist

March 15 & 16 Connie Webber, organist

March 22 & 23 Connie Webber, organist

Joyful Noise handbells (Sun)

March 29 & 30 Connie Webber, organist

Ron Carnes & Alan Bruflat, Duo



#### SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

You may know that we have been experiencing poor sound quality in recent worship services. In working to correct these issues we learned that portions of our main speaker system in the sanctuary have failed and need to be replaced. We've received and accepted a bid to have the work done; this will take place mid-March. In the meantime, please bear with us! Thanks!!

#### MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE

The congregation's leadership agreed to a \$5,000 gift for the **Sustaining Sacred Spaces capital campaign for Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NLOM).** At our annual meeting in January, the congregation was challenged to match or exceed the allocated gift, which could raise our gift to \$10,000 or more. A thermometer (see back of calendar) is in the narthex to monitor our progress and to provide us with continued encouragement as we prepare our extended gift for this much-needed capital campaign.

#### **2025 RADIO BROADCASTS**

Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast in 2025. We continue to offer the option of having a co-sponsor for the weekend radio broadcast. If you would prefer to be the only sponsor for the weekend; the cost is \$75. If you would like to share the broadcast with another sponsor; the cost would be \$40 for each sponsor. Please contact the church office (kris@oslcwayne.org or 402-375-2899) for more information or to reserve a date.

Note: The first available dates are March 9, 16 & 30 and April 20, 2025.



Our Savior will hold it's 5th Annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 28! This year's fish fry will be held at the Wayne City Auditorium, beginning at 5:30pm. The menu will include fish, cheesy potatoes, bread, salads and desserts; a cash bar will also be available. Hotdogs and chips will be available for kids. All proceeds from the event will benefit OSLC Ministries.

Sign-up sheets to work and/or provide salads, desserts or potatoes are at the information desk! *Please mark your calendars and plan to help/contribute and attend!* 



### THANK YOU...

**Wayne Food Pantry**—Thank you so much for your generous donations of \$200 dated December 2024 and \$100 dated January 28, 2025, to the Wayne Food Pantry. Your donations help to enable us to provide nutrition to individuals and families in need in Wayne County, Nebraska.

Jenny Hammer,

Wayne Food Pantry Coordinator

Thank you received for donation made—

• Wayne State Foundation: \$100 (WSC Food Pantry)

# USE THE CHURCH DIRECTORY APP...TO STAY CONNECTED!

Get our church directory on your mobile device! Call and text members easily. Available for Android & Apple devices. Search for "Instant Church Directory" from your App Store. Once installed, you can create a login using your email

listed in the directory.

Note: We can add/change pictures in the directory at any time and we'd love to update everyone's profile! If you have a new picture you'd like to use, simply email it to the church office (kris@oslcwayne.org) or there is also the option of uploading it yourself.



### CIRCLE & MINISTRY GROUP **MEETINGS**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

• Tuesday, March 4, 10am

#### JOY CIRCLE

• Wednesday, March 12, 2pm Program: Focus on Lent Leader: Phyllis Rahn Hostess: Lynette Lentz

#### CHARITY CIRCLE

• Wednesday, March 12 (note change of date from program book)

Program: Lenten Supper

Leaders: Kim Dunklau, Debbie Bargholz,

Sara Rademacher, Lynette Lentz

#### VISITATION MINISTRY GROUP

Wednesday, March 19, 1pm

#### **QUILT MINISTRY GROUP**

No Meetings until Spring





Altar Guild workers for March: Mary Stalling, Cheryl Henschke, Janet Sievers, Dorothy Wert, Madge Bruflat, Julie Grone, Karen Zach, Mary Hansen, Joan Baier, Denise Broders, Teri Koenig, Lynette Lentz, Paula Gemelke, Julie/ Jim Hansen, Cynthia Miller, Trisha Peters, Peggy Hank, Melia Hefti, Martina Swanson, Virginia Backstrom, Marsha Roth, Debbie Bargholz, Rhonda Blecke.

Bread Bakers for March: Leslie Johnson, Teri Koenig, Corliss Krusemark, Lynette Lentz, Kim Lueders.

Please check the worship assistant schedule for the date.



ell, Mother Nature decided to give us some winter back, after spoiling us with mild weather. Probably best we just put on a

happy face.

Women of the

We have received a poster map from the Minnesota Lutheran World Relief shipping warehouse of where our 2024 Quilts and Kits were distributed. It is hanging in the WELCA area in the Narthex. In 2024, the reach was expanded to our United States neighbors affected by hurricanes in North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida. Over 150 Quilts and Personal Care Kits were distributed to the crews of the seven Cargo ships in the Port of Baltimore, following that terrible accident. A total of 689,814 Quilts and Kits were sent to 16 different countries from LWR. This means that your love and generosity will now comfort families here at home and abroad, as they always have.

February Joy Circle attendees participated in a devotion entitled "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" by Joyce Rupp and given by Mary Mohl. Mary also led us in a wonderful Bible Study, based on Mark 2:1-12, "Walking in Scripture". We then enjoyed fellowship and a delicious dessert, served by Sue.

Since this is "Bold Women of Faith" month, the Women of the ELCA Executive Board is extending an invitation to all women of OSLC to attend Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 26, in Atkinson. We especially, hope to encourage our young women of faith, who have never attended a Spring Gathering to accept our invitation to expand their faith experience. Don't know if you would go by yourself? Grab one or two of your church friends, then give one of us a call to get you registered. It is a chance to meet other young Christian women and an inspirational experience. Show us vour BOLD!

Because of the cold temperatures, Charity Circle was cancelled and re-scheduled for after Newsletter deadline. However, the program was to clean and polish all of the brass items used for church services and then to enjoy fellowship and brownies, served by Joanie and Melia.

Keep warm and keep a smile on your face!

Dorothy Wert, WELCA President

P.S. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to carpool to Spring Gathering.

All women of the congregation are always welcome and invited to participate.

## WORSHIP SERVICES— at Wayne Countryview & Kinship

Worship with Communion is offered on the first Tuesday of the month—March 4.

- Wayne Countryview at 2pm
- Kinship at 3:30pm.

**Worship** is also offered the third Tuesday of the month at Kinship at 3:30pm.

• Tuesday, March 18

#### **WACAM Worship Services**

- March 2—Worship at Countryview
- March 24-28—Radio Devotions



We remember in prayer those who were hospitalized in the last month: Pr. Bill Koeber, Jim Lutt, Carol Griesch.



#### "YOU VISITED ME..."

The Visitation Ministry Group meets to sign and send cards to church members and to share a visit with friends. Please come and be a part of our Visitation Ministry Group. The group will meet on **Wednesday**, **March 19**, **at 1pm**.

For more information about this wonderful ministry, please contact Rhonda Blecke, Sandra Lutt or the church office.



Our Savior's Prayer Chain is shared via our IRIS (Immediate Response Information System)...with each participant being notified of a prayer request by receiving a phone call, email or text. Please let the office know if you would like to be added to our Prayer Chain (402.375.2899 or <a href="mailto:kris@oslcwayne.org">kris@oslcwayne.org</a>).



#### **OWL'S BIBLE STUDY**

The OWL's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. This study led by Mary Mohl is using the *Books of Faith Series* from Augsburg Fortress to study the New Testament book of Romans. Join them on **March 5 & 19, at 10am** in the multipurpose room.

If you haven't been a part of our Bible Studies in the past, please consider joining us. You do not have to be 70 years old to participate; we welcome all ages of people and look forward to growing our group.

#### KINSHIP BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study at Kinship meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, at 3:30pm. This study led by Sharon Garvin uses Lectionary Bible readings and a resource from the ELCA entitled, *Daily Discipleship*. Join them on Thursdays, March 13 & 27. Everyone is welcome.



#### SLEEPING MAT MINISTRY

Sleeping mats are made from plastic shopping bags. This is a great way to recycle all those plastic grocery bags! (A basket is available in the narthex to collect CLEAN bags.) There are several steps to preparing the bags before the mats can be crocheted...so there are opportunities for all to participate! Join us on Thursday, March 6, and Monday, March 17, from 9–11am.

Consider being a part of this wonderful ministry; both the VA in Omaha and Orphan Grain Train look forward to receiving the mats!



If you have a family member who is hospitalized and would like to have a visit or be added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 402-375-2899. Hospitals do not always inform us of a parishioner being admitted to the hospital, so please let us know if you or your loved one is hospitalized.



- 2 Norah Armstrong
- 3 Dave Anderson, Ron Milliken
- 4 Heidi Anderson, Kyler Dunklau, Eric Grone
- 7 Amy Bloomquist, Brenda Lubberstedt, Matt Nelson, Ryder Olberding
- 8 Bruce Frevert, Natasha Petersen, Larry Sievers, Wes Sievers
- 9 Merrill Baier, Carolyn Vakoc
- 10 Josh Hays, Donna Lundin
- 11 McKynley Becker
- 12 Carol Bauermeister, Lincoln Nelson, Weston Nelson, Janet Reeg, Kathy Rutenbeck
- 13 Deb Hammer
- 14 Katie Frye
- 15 Ethan Rademacher, Glenda Reinert
- 16 Adam Bentjen, Jennifer Canham
- 19 Jeremy Vezner
- 20 Hadley Woehler
- 21 Tanya Heikes
- 23 Bryan Reinhardt, Zach Wacker, Connie Webber
- 24 JoAnn Bondhus
- 25 Jessie Piper
- 26 Noah Magnuson, Carissa Sokol
- 29 Berklee Juhl
- 30 Jeff Piper
- 31 Lila Olberding



- 2 Larry & Janet Sievers (57)
- 4 Richard & Janice Johnson (53)
- 5 Joe & Annette Ping (31)
- 24 Kevin & Peg Erwin (18)

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apology and let the church office know.

#### JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Do you or someone you know have an interest in joining the church? We will host a **new member orientation** this spring for anyone interested in joining the church. Please contact Pr. Chad or the church office to let us know of your interest.

# You're Invited... to Coffee with Council



Coffee with Council is an opportunity to meet with members of the church council for coffee, refreshments and discussion. Join them prior to worship, 9am, **Sunday morning, March 9,** in the church narthex

# DOLLAR DOOR OFFERING —WAYNE FOOD PANTRY

Each month our Dollar Door Offering (offering plate in center of the Narthex) goes to support the efforts of a different ministry. The March Dollar Door Offering recipient will be the **Wayne Food Pantry**.

Together our dollars can help them help others!





March 20th

March 9th





You can give electronically to OSLC—just download the Vanco Mobile app OR go to our website at https://oslcwayne.org/give/

#### **GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT**

	AS OI		
	February 15, 2025	Year-to-Date	
Beginning balance	\$45,571.36	\$50,000.00	
Add: Income	44,486.20	70,619.97	
Less: Expenses	-33,711.07	-64,273.48	
Ending balance, 2/15/2025	\$56,346.49	\$56,346.49	

If you have any questions about this report or other church finance matters, please contact Tom Hansen (402-518-0640) or Kim Dunklau(402-369-1696).

#### **COUNCIL CORNER**

### -Monday, February 10, 2025 Meeting

• Council did not meet in person due to weather.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be Monday, March 10, 2025.

#### **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please consider designating your available funds to Our Savior. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." Or go to: http://thrivent.com.



#### **USE ACCOUNT #620!**

Our Savior has an account at *Refind & Refresh*—account #620. Items can be donated and sold with 100% of proceeds going toward youth programing, trips, camp, etc...at Our Savior. Bring items in and let them know you'd like it to go to the OSLC Youth Account #620!



#### **CALENDAR ITEMS**

**Reminder...**please contact the church office regarding any meetings or gatherings scheduled; especially those held after office hours, so that they can be added to the master calendar. If no evening activities are listed, the church building is locked at approx. 5pm.

#### PUBLICATION DEADLINES

For the Weekend Bulletin: by 11am each Thursday. For the Monthly Newsletter: 20th of the month.

#### RESOURCES

- Wayne County Family Coalition (402-375-2200)
- Wayne Food Pantry & Backpack Program (402-375-2669 – fpcwayne.org/food-pantry) In order to use the Wayne Food Pantry, please call or email in advance if you need assistance. All inquiries are confidential.
- Wayne Food Truck Saturday, March 22, at Journey Christian Church



This newsletter is published monthly as an update on the life and activities of

#### Our Savior Lutheran Church

421 N Pearl Street (located at the corner of 5th & Main Street) Wayne, Nebraska 68787 402/375-2899

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

#### Office E-Mail:

oslc@oslcwayne.org pastorchad@oslcwayne.org cwebber2323@gmail.com kris@oslcwayne.org

#### Website:

www.oslcwayne.org

Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday Evening: 5:30pm Sunday Morning: 10am

(streamed live and posted to our Facebook page: Our Savior <u>Lutheran Church</u>, <u>Wayne NE (ELCA)</u> and broadcast live on AM 1590 and FM 98.9)

> **Sunday School:** (N-5th) Sundays—10am; Fall/Winter/Spring

**Confirmation:** (6th–8th) Wednesdays—6pm; Fall/Winter/Spring

#### - Staff -

Rev. Chad Rademacher
Pastor

Connie Webber Director of Music

**Bridget Vaith** 

Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry

Virginia Kniesche

Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Kris Robinson

Administrative Assistant

#### - Church Council -

Kelly Grone
Larry Lueders
Kim Dunklau
Mary Mohl
Marion Arneson
Paula Gemelke
Amber Labenz
President
Vice President
Secretary
Recurrent
Recurrent
Tim Hansen
Chris McGuire

### **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

5th & Main Street l Wayne, Nebraska 68787 402/375-2899

Join us this Lenten season for...



**MARCH 2025** 

Our Savior Lutheran Church 421 N. Pearl Street Wayne NE 68787

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Wayne NE Permit # 7

Giving Thanks For:					

### March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:30pm Worship
9:00am Fellowship Hour 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 1:30pm Worship @ Countryview	3 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Property Team Meeting 5:45pm Executive Committee 6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting	4 10:00am Cluster Test Study 10:00am WELCA Executive Board 2:00pm Communion @ Wayne Countryview 3:30pm Communion @ Kinship Pointe	5  WEDNESDAY  10:00em OWL's Sible Study 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	6 9:00em Sleeping Met Ministry 6:00pm Women Who Love to Telk-and Eat	7 World Day of Prayer	8 5:30pm Worship
Systemy down and 9:00em Coffee with Council 10:00em Sundey School 10:00em Worship 6:00pm Confirmation	10 10:30em Steff Meeting 5:30pm Fellowship Teem Mig 7:00pm Church Council	11 10:00em Cluster Text Study	10:30em WACAM 2:00pm Joy Circle 5:45pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm HS Youth Group 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship	13 3:30pm Bible Study @ Kinship	14)	15 5:30pm Worship
16 9:00em Fellowskip Hour 10:00em Sundey School 10:00em Worship 6:00pm Confirmation	9:00em Sleeping Met Ministry 10:30em Staff Meeting 5:00pm Wicrehip & Music Ministry Team	18 10:00am Cluster Text Study 3:30pm Worship @ Kinship Pointe	10:00em OWL's Bible Study 1:00pm Visitation Ministry Group 5:45pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm HS Youth Group 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship	Sept.		32 5:30pm Worship
23 9:00am Fellowahip Hour 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Confirmation	24 Radio Devotions 10:30em Staff Meeting	25 Radio Devolions 10:00am Cluster Text Study	Radio Devotions 5:45pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm HS Youth Group 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship	Radio Devotions 3:30pm Bible Study @ Kinship	28 FISH FRY at Wayne City Auditorium Radio Devotions	29 00 00 9:30em Weyne Food Truc @ Journey Christian Church 5:30pm Worship
30 9:00am Fellowahip Hour 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Confirmation	34 10:30em Steff Meeting					



- 1. Canned peaches
- 2 Pears
- 3. Fruit cocktail
- 4. Mixed fruit
- 5. Mandarin oranges
- 6. Applesauce
- 7. Canned meats-Spam
- 8. Chicken
- 9. Ham
- 10. Tuna
- 11. Stews
- 12. Canned ravioli or spaghetti
- 13. Peanut butter
- 14. Jelly
- 15. Jam
- 16. Granola bars
- 17. Instant rice
- 18. Helper meals
- Ramen noodles
- 20. Applesauce cups
- 21. Pudding cups
- 22. Cereal (hot and cold)
- 23. Instant oatmeal packets
- 24. Coffee
- 25. Sugar
- 26. Bisquick
- 27. Pancake mix
- 28. Syrup
- 29. Pasta of all kinds
- 30. Spaghetti sauce
- 31. Instant potatoes
- 32. Jiffy corn bread mix
- 33. Muffin mixes
- 34. Cookie mixes
- 35. Brownie or cake mixes
- 36. Canned soups
- 37. Saltine crackers
- 38. Paper towels
- 39. Laundry detergent
- 40. Soap



Ригосрата из то 49 Окло/49 темя

Дален слабокоре

то, але еговичерет о лифе отнет а Мометиям

Осмитом от то 66666 48 Foco-Parener I темя

то 49 Окло от Libet





Jon us for an avening of Fish. Friends and Fellowship!



### **Praying In Color**

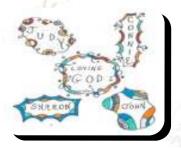
Adult coloring has increased in popularity over the last 10 years as a simple, fun activity to reduce stress, express creativity, and manage anxiety or depression. The repetitive action of coloring can help distract from worries. Focusing on the coloring process encourages mindfulness or the ability to stay in the present moment. Coloring calms the brain and helps your body relax. There's no right or wrong way to color making this practice a noncompetitive activity without the pressure to "level up", win a prize, or beat the clock. You don't need to finish a picture in one sitting. It doesn't matter if your picture is neat or messy. The only thing that matters is that you found a means of enjoyment and relaxation.

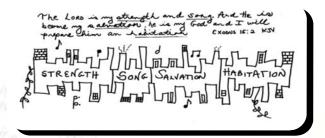
Praying in color is a prayer practice that involves openness to God's presence while you color. The coloring gives you something to do with your hands, body, and eyes while you practice sitting in silence with God. Praying in color is helpful when you want to pray but words escape you, you have trouble sitting still and staying focused, you want to spend time with God but don't know how, or you want a visual, concrete way to pray. All you need is a willingness to put pen and color to paper and an openness to God's presence in your prayer time.

To intentionally spend time with God, start with a verbal prayer or line of scripture that is important to you such as "Be still and know that I am God" or "Create in me a clean heart O God". Repeat the prayer 2 or 3 times to yourself. Choose one of the many names for God that touches your heart like Holy God, Almighty God, Loving God, Creator, Redeemer, or Savior. Write the name for God on a piece of paper and start to draw, doodle, and add color.



There are many different ways to pray in color. To pray for others, or yourself, write the person's name on your paper. Envision this person in your mind, let God know your concerns, and start drawing and adding color. To use praying in color with scripture, doodle a line of scripture, focusing on words that draw your attention.





For gratitude prayers, think of everyday things that bring you joy. Record them on a piece of paper and draw, doodle, and color around them while giving thanks. When worries are heavy on your mind, write them down on paper, doodle and color around words, and offer your cares to God.

Prayer is meant to be a dialog with God. In addition to using words to speak to Him we must also spend time in silence for God to speak to us. Praying in color is a way of intentionally setting aside quiet time for ourselves and God with no other agenda. It is a visual, creative, meditative way to pray, being especially attentive to God's message for us. I hope you'll give it a try.