Dearly Beloved in Christ,

          The peace of the Lord be with you all!  It is amazing how quickly the time has passed, but it is that time of the year when we, the Body of Christ, begin to look to the cross of our Savior.   Lent will soon be upon us as Ash Wednesday is just a few days away.

          Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes will be held next Wednesday February 22nd at 6:30 p.m., and we will, of course, begin our Wednesday evening Vespers services on March 1st at 6:30 p.m.  Our theme for reflection throughout the season of Lent is “Promised Treasures”.  And once again, for your edification, I have purchased copies of the accompanying devotional booklet, which offers readings and reflections for each day of Lent.  There are 50 available, just ask the Greeter on Sunday morning for a copy.

          Also coming up on February 21st, Shrove Tuesday, the ladies of the LWML will be hosting a Pancake supper from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. in the Church Basement.  It will be a great opportunity for fellowship.  Also, the Ladies of the LWML will be hosting a Spaghetti dinner and their Spring Fling following the Divine Service on March 26th, and as in the past, they will be providing an Easter breakfast in the Church basement before our Celebration of the Mass on Easter Sunday.  The Ladies of the LWML will be quite busy providing for our beloved Church family and we thank them for it and all that they do.  It appears that the Church basement is quite the place to be for the next two months.  I encourage you to come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

          But lest, in all the excitement, we forget.  Lent is a season of penitential reflection.  A time for us to contemplate our spiritual state and our need for a Savior.  It is the time for God’s people to come humbly to the foot of our Savior’s cross in recognition of our sinful state and express our desire for His mercy in Jesus Christ.  It is also a time of preparation, that we may be prepared to see our Resurrected Savior with true joy and thanksgiving on the Feast of Easter.  And so, I encourage you to join us at our Lord’s Holy Altar so that you may be fed with the food of life which is Jesus Christ our Savior.  For it is there that God Himself invites us into fellowship with Him, offering mercy, and forgiveness in Holy Word and in Blessed Sacrament.  Easter is a time of renewal as we remember and celebrate the Resurrection and the new life in Christ that is ours through Christ.  So now is the perfect time to gather at the Lord’s Holy Altar, whether you were just here or if it has been a while.  Please come and join us as we celebrate the hope and promise of our Lord’s victory over death, for His victory is our victory as well.

In Christ’s mercy,

Pastor Bagnall