



# Church of the Epiphany

## FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • March 2025



### *Ash Wednesday Reflections*

As we begin this Lenten season it is good to recall the nature of the season. The early Church referred to itself as "The Way." That was meant to be in Biblical language "the way of the Lord" in your life. On this road or path, it represented the teachings of our Lord as he spread his ministry among the people he touched. The early church understood the power of the Holy Spirit as he showed the people "the way." Jesus called the people to repentance and conversion to this new path in their lives.

The gospels show us the lasting way that repentance can stay with us through the overwhelming generosity or God's grace. When we truly come to Jesus and declare him to

be the Lord and Savior of our life we have made a tremendous move. Our Lenten observance is to remember the wonderful feelings of God's love for us who set us on our own Way.

Lent is there for us as a 40 day retreat. During this period, we are to prepare ourselves spiritually for the climax of the season with Easter Sunday.

The readings for Ash Wednesday for each year of the three-year cycle are the same.

In the first reading from the Prophet Joel, he is calling on the people to return to the LORD and seek forgiveness for their sins. They are to ask God to spare his people and they would return to fasting and mortification and repentance. They ask God to spare his holy people from punishment. And God relented from punishing his people.

The psalm builds on this theme. "Be merciful, O LORD, for we have sinned." This is another plea for God to overlook the past and bring new clean hearts to his people.

In Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, he tells the people to be reconciled to God and now is the time to do it.

The Gospel reading is Jesus speaking of the three signs visible to show how a change of heart looks. The people would show increased almsgiving, additional prayer time, and fasting. These acts are to be done in the eyes of God alone. There is no value in boasting of your willingness to be servants.

These readings then are the bookmarks of the penitential season. Jesus wanted to see signs of change in the worship of the people

**Pastor Fred** *continued*

toward a new fresh relationship with God. This is the "Way."

On Ash Wednesday when we are marked with ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads, we hear the words, "Remember O man that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

In the book "The Anglican Way" by Thomas McKenzie, the author is repeating this thought. When you have drawn close to Jesus in your life it is vital that you retain that closeness. Jesus is your friend and with you constantly. In a way the thought was like the old WWJD, "What Would Jesus Do." If you were confronted by evil thoughts or tempted to break away from God you needed to remember the Holy Spirit being with you and the presence of Jesus always at your side.

The traditional action for Lenten observance is to give up something or take on something new. Way before the thought of Lent was in my head, I had already taken on this new closeness to Jesus. I remember the feeling I had when I came to him and little by little it had faded. But with the book and the emphasis on the presence of Jesus it brought back new life. McKenzie is always looking for Jesus. A sermon written and given without the primary focus being on Jesus is not worth listening to. Jesus should be the most important guide in our life. In my "Education for Ministry" days the same thought was emphasized. The gospel of salvation given to us by Jesus is primary and essential.

Insight and taking the steps necessary to right the condition we may find ourselves taking a good look where we are in God's sight and getting back in Grace.

God has special blessings in store for us when we take the time to seek Him. May these weeks be that time of reconnecting to the mighty God and Father of the Son of God who is the Resurrection and New Life.

Amen.

Pastor Fred

## Epiphany's Lenten Schedule

**Please note some times have changed from times listed in the February newsletter.**

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

March 5 - **1:30 pm**

**Palm Sunday** - April 13

**Maundy Thursday,**

April 17 - **5:00 pm**

**Good Friday,**

April 18 - **4:30 pm**

### **Stations of the Cross**

Fridays during Lent at **5 pm**

*Easter Sunday, April 20*



## *El Paso Deanery*

Pastor Fred and Nancy, Paul and Annette Fazenbaker and Madeleine Fazenbaker attended the deanery meeting in Las Cruces on Monday, March 3. The meeting was held at La Posta restaurant and 14 people attended. Churches represented were St. Clement's, El Paso; Good Shepherd, Hill, NM; and Church of the Epiphany, Cloudcroft. The Dean of the deanery is Fr. Rick Milliorn.

It was decided to hold a meeting of the deanery every quarter and Epiphany will host the next get-together on Saturday, June 7. We look forward to hosting diocesan clergy and laity with the purpose of building connections in our large diocese.



## Lenten Reflections

We all know that Lent is traditionally a time for reflection and self-examination. That tradition goes way back, even before what we now call Anglican liturgy was included in the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. However, with any practice of self-examination comes the temptation to focus more on self than on God, particularly on the grace of God. We seek to maintain our focus on God in our Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy in the Prayer of Humble Access. We lift up that prayer in recognition of God's great gift of mercy. We do not presume to trust in our own righteousness, but in His abundant and great mercies. That is critically important every day of the week, not just on Sundays. It is certainly important in Lent.

This year, in my Lenten struggle to maintain a God-centered focus, a vision of the Cross keeps coming to mind. The vision is of a life-size Cross, not one that will fit in purse or pocket. It is a robust instrument. It can easily hold the weight of an adult - indeed, the weight of an adult Who is taking upon Himself the sin of the world. It is not made of toothpicks and popsicle sticks. Visualize with me railroad ties and light poles.

At the same time, I am reminded that Jesus declared that we are to take up our Cross each day and follow Him (Luke 9:23). So even though the Cross looks to be a weighty burden, He will strengthen us to hoist it on our shoulders, even to share the load with us. Yes, we are lifting as much as we are able. Yet we know in our hearts that we can look to Him to carry as much as we need. Our trust in Him is absolute. His love for us knows no limits.

Balancing what we expect from ourselves and what God expects from us is a daily challenge. Augustine is credited with teaching that we are to pray as though everything depended on God and work as though everything depended on us. The call during the season of Lent is to invite God to walk with us as we delve more deeply into that which most concerns us. The call is to recognize His presence and pay attention to His guidance. Whatever we visualize to help bring us into that kind of intimacy with Him is a precious gift from Him. May you receive such a gift this season of Lent.

In Christ,

Rev. Frank K. Wilson

Associate Pastor

## Community Lenten Luncheons

The Cloudcroft Community Lenten Lunches began on Ash Wednesday and will continue through the Wednesdays in Lent ending on April 9.

We meet at 12 pm and the soup and sandwich luncheon and speaker will conclude at 1 pm. Each church is responsible for 6 soups on those days that their pastors speak. Soups need to be at the Methodist Church by 11:30.

**Pastor Fred will speak on March 19 and Fr. Frank will conclude the series on April 9. We will need to provide soups on those days.**

Please plan to join us in worship & fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Cloudcroft during Lent.

### **Speaker Schedule**

**March 5:** Dan Sherrell, *Cloudcroft United Methodist Church*  
*Bread of Life, John 6:25-40 (I Am the Bread of Life)*

**March 12:** David Price, *Cowboy Church - Cloudcroft*  
*Bread for Growth, Luke 13:18-21 (Parable of the Yeast)*

**March 19: Fr. Fred Griffin, Church of the Epiphany**  
*Bread for Each Day, Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)*

**March 26:** Larry Evans, *First Baptist Church*  
*Bread for Sharing, Luke 14:7-14 (Parable of the Great Banquet)*

**April 2:** Gary Truex, *Cloudcroft Church of Christ*  
*Bread for Community, Luke 19:1-10 (Dinner with Zacchaeus)*

**April 9: Fr. Frank Wilson, Church of the Epiphany**  
*Bread for the Road, John 12:12-16 & Luke 19:28-40 (Triumphal Entry)*

## March Potluck

Our March Potluck was held on Sunday, March 2 and we enjoyed roast turkey courtesy of JD Hestor, who provided the bird and Machele Lackey, who roasted it! A wonderful Thanksgiving meal with all the appropriate sides! A feast before our Lenten observances.



Left: Lydia Tran with sons, Callan & Cohen - Esther's grandsons.



Enjoying a March "Thanksgiving" meal!



## Epiphany's 2025-26 Vestry



Back row l to r: Pastor Fred Griffin, JD Hestor, Patrick Zima, Fr. Frank Wilson  
Front row, l to r: Machele Lackey, Annette Fazenbaker and Karli Sorensen.

### **Fr. Frank's Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:00 PM**

At Grace Methodist Church 16th St. and Cuba, Alamogordo. Wednesdays 3-4 pm.  
They are studying the Book of Revelation.  
For more information call or text Fr. Frank  
At 575-442-1354.

**Combined Ladies Bible Study  
Thursdays, at 10 am** at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2201 15th St., Alamogordo.  
We are studying "The Letter to the Ephesians"  
For more information call or text Nancy at  
575/495-3811

### **Epiphany Military Prayer List**

Dominick Rankin, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX  
Gabriella Murley, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX  
Mason Gregg, US Marines, Okinawa  
Creed Napier, USAF  
JW Grove, US Navy  
Nicholas Tran, USAF, Joint Base Lewis-McChord,  
Shawn Zima, US Army, Hong Kong  
Wyatt Green, US Navy  
Emma Skidmore, US Navy OCS

### **ADSW Clergy Conference**

March 13-15 at Glorieta Conference Center, NM.  
Please keep this meeting in your prayers for safe travel and a spirit filled time of worship and fellowship.

### **Praise Reports**

- For** Donya's continuing recovery and being able to walk.
- For** Kelli Conine's final move to Cloudcroft the middle of March
- For** Pastor Shelby Moon's release from UMN and his return home for a visit before he goes to Denver for a stem cell procedure.
- For** The El Paso deanery meeting in Las Cruces on March 3.
- For** new bookkeeping procedures set up by Paul Fazenbaker and Machele Lackey

### **Prayer Concerns**

- For** Donya Conine to regain more strength and mobility
- For** the Clergy Conference at Glorieta, NM March 13-15
- For** Pastor Shelby Moon as he continues procedures to fight his leukemia
- For** Machele Lackey and Susie Sims
- For** Rev. Elias Rosales Mendez as he recovers
- For** Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, Walter & Carolyn Ford, George and Gayla Chapman, Patty Kendrick, and all our caregivers
- For** the Diocese and Bishop Steven, and
- For** Annette Fazenbaker as a deanery representative to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
- For** Fr. Frank as a member of the Diocesan ROC committee and the Bylaws committee
- For** church plants within the diocese: Light of Life Ministries, Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque; Comunidad del Rey de Justicia, Iglesia Piedra Angular, Juarez MX; Comunidad de Gracia, Xalpa, MX

## March Service Schedule *LEMS & Lectors*

**The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor**  
**The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor**

### **Epiphany Last - Sunday, March 2 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred  
LEM Karli Sorensen  
Lector Paul Fazenbaker

### **Ash Wednesday - March 5 - 1:30 PM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred  
LEM Karli Sorensen  
Lector Carolyn Ford

### **Lent 1- Sunday, March 9 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank  
LEM Patrick Zima  
Lector Karli Sorensen

### **Lent 2 - Sunday, March 16 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred  
LEM Karli Sorensen  
Lector Annette Fazenbaker

### **Lent 3 - Sunday, March 23 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank  
LEM Patrick Zima  
Lector Carolyn Ford

### **Lent 4 - Sunday, March 30 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred  
LEM Karli Sorensen  
Lector Nancy Griffin

### **Lent 5 - Sunday, April 6 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank  
LEM Patrick Zima  
Lector Paul Fazenbaker

## *March Event Schedule*

### **Sunday, March 2**

Potluck after the service

### **Ash Wednesday Service at Epiphany**

**1:30 pm**

following Community Lenten Luncheon

**Community Lenten Luncheons**  
**Wednesdays at Noon during Lent**  
Cloudcroft Methodist Church

### **Stations of the Cross**

Friday evenings during Lent  
**at 5:00 PM**



*Coffee Fellowship*

### *March*

March 2 - Potluck  
March 9 - Machele Lackey  
March 16 - Karli Sorensen  
March 23 - Nancy Griffin  
March 30 -  
Sign-up sheets are on the table.



### **March Birthdays**

Wally Skidmore - 1  
Jessica Williams - 7  
Aliene Gainey - 6  
Charles Stigall - 26  
Lydia Fyock - 29

### **March Anniversaries**

Paul & Kathleen Coleman - 21

## ACNA Lectionary C for February

### Epiphany Last • March 2, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13

Luke 9:28-36

### Ash Wednesday • March 5, 2025

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 103:8-14

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Lent 1 • March 9, 2025 **Time Change**

Deuteronomy 26:5-11

Psalm 91:9-16

Romans 10:4-13

Luke 4:1-13

### Lent 2 • March 16, 2025

Genesis 15:1-18

Psalm 27:9-17

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

### Lent 3 • March 23, 2025

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 103:1-12

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

### Lent 4 • March 30, 2025

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 34:1-8

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:11-32

## The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

### The Anglican Church in North America,

The Rt. Rev. Steve Wood, Archbishop

### Diocese of the Southwest,

Bishop Steven Tighe

### The Church of the Epiphany

The Rev. Willis F. Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Musicians: Esther Fyock, Stan & Sandy Thomas.

Senior Warden

Annette Fazenbaker, Junior Warden

Financial Committee: Paul Fazenbaker, Machele Lackey,

Doug Price

### Church Board

Karli Sorensen Aguilar Patrick Zima

Machele Lachey, JR Hester

Nancy Griffin, Clerk

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere where the Word of God fills each person with an understanding and renewal of their faith in Christ.

Outreach, both within our own community as well as abroad, is a further extension of this faith.

*Romans 10:17 ~ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.*

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### The Anglican Diocese of the Southwest. Bishop Steven Tighe

### The Church of the Epiphany, Cloudcroft, Rev. Fred Griffin, Rev. Frank K. Wilson

Christ the King, Albuquerque (Rev. Peter Falk, Rev. Kyle MacKenney, Deacon Bill Lock); Church of our Lord, Albuquerque (Rev. Harold Trott, Michael Kline); Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque (Revs. Greg & Noel Pfeifer; Christ Church, Farmington (Revs. Carl & Barbara Brenner); St. Clement's, El Paso (Revs. Bill Cobb, Rick Milliorn, Eduardo Gonzalez, Michael Sheehan, Deacon Courtney Brown) Rey de Paz, El Paso (Revs. John Dixon, Ken Hanna); Good Shepherd, San Angelo (Rev. Hal Scott); St. Stephen's, Roswell (Rev. Bob Tally); All Saints' and St. Paul's, Midland Texas (Rev. Tom Finnie); Iglesia La Trinidad, Guadalajara (Lay Leader, Miguel Meriono Lobos) Iglesia de Jesus & Jesus es la Resurreccion, Aguas Caliente, Mexico (Revs. Elias Rosales Mendez and Maria del Rayo Jimenez Victoria, Deacon Roger Griffin); Gran Pastor, Fresnillo, Mexico (Sr. Warden, Norma Rodriguez, Missionary Meredith Omland); Good Shepherd, Hill New Mexico (Rev. Farhid Adabache); Iglesia Anglicana, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Rev. Jack Wehrs, Deacon Fernando Sandoval); St. James, Dalhart, Texas (Rev. Philip Ray). Emmaus Anglican, Castle Rock CO (Rev. Theron Walker; Resurrection Anglican Fellowship, Greenwood Village, CO (Fr. Phil Eberhardt) St. Paul's Anglican Church, Owasso, OK (Fr. Chris Waters); Christ the Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK (Fr. Brad Van Deventer); Iglesia Piedra Angular & Comunidad de Fe, Rey de Justicia, Juarez, Chihuahua;