

ASLC NEWS

United in Christ. Welcoming All.

Lent Midweek Worship

During the season of Lent, ASLC will offer Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday nights, 7:00pm. Come and join us for a night of meditative worship and holy conversation.

Treasurer's Report

	Jan 2020
Income	\$8,494.59
Expenses	<u>-9,325.07</u>
Net Income	-\$830.48

YTD 2020 Net Income =
-\$830.48

Sincerely, **Bob Lierman**

NOTE: Just a quick update on our roof. The Church Council is currently working with the Home Mission Foundation. We hope to take the remaining balance of our two old mortgages, add the cost of the roof and have one new combined payment. The great new is that we'll not only have a new roof but it will also reduce our monthly mortgage! (It's a 15 year loan.) We'll update you once the load is approved.



Pastor Dave's Column

LENT 2020: LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS

This Lent we are studying Jacqueline Bussie's book *Love Without Limits*. The story behind how it was published is quite interesting. Initially this book was censored by her original publisher. Apparently loving without limits has its limits and they wanted her to omit two chapters from the book. She refused.

In turn, the publisher terminated her contract and insisted they owned the rights to the book because they had paid her to write it. If she wanted to publish the book elsewhere, she—or another publisher—would have to pay back every cent invested in it. Long story short, Fortress Press eventually came to the rescue and that's how it came to be.

Here's what Bussie wrote about the experience: "The situation's irony reared up on its hind legs and stared me down. Think about it: I wrote a book about how people of faith are called to love with no exceptions, asterisks, or [con't p.2]"

[from p. 1] limits. And then my publisher asked me to make exceptions, add asterisks, and set limits. It was my publisher who came up with the original subtitle: *Jesus' Radical Vision for Love With No Exceptions*. Seriously, I couldn't make this stuff up. If I hadn't been crying so hard, I might've laughed."

In theory, I think we all see ourselves as people who love without limits...until we begin setting limits. Sometimes these limits come in the form of sayings like "Love the sinner, hate the sin." Or we begin to compile a mental list of what Jesus would or would not do. Not surprisingly, our list of what Jesus would do always aligns with our personal values and behaviors. It rarely offers us areas where we need to stretch and grow in our understanding of God's unconditional love.

So, this Lent we will have to challenge ourselves in ways that might not always be comfortable. We will first begin by examining what it means to love ourselves, which is something we often neglect. Then we'll expand our circle to see if we can stretch the boundaries of those whom we consider to be our "neighbors."

On a personal note, I enjoy Bussie's writing style. She is a great storyteller who is able to convey spiritual truths with clarity and deep wisdom. You will be both blessed and challenged by what she presents in her book. It's a great way to observe this year's season of Lent.

Blessings, Pastor Dave

Coffee With Jesus

Each Lent midweek worship service is followed by a time of fellowship. We need volunteers who are willing to make the dessert for the night. There's a sign up sheet in the gathering space. Thank you!

Election Day

ASLC is a voting place for the upcoming election, March 3rd. This will take place in our Fellowship Hall. They will set up on Monday night and will be out of the space by the end of the day.

Easter Breakfast

We will have our annual Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 12th, 9:45am. We need folks who are willing to do an egg casserole or donate other items for the breakfast. Check out the sign-up sheet in our gathering space. Thank you!

Easter Lilies

There is a sign up sheet in the gathering space for those who wish to donate an Easter lily in memory/honor of someone. Cost for each lily is \$9.00. Please designate your donation for the "Flower Fund."

Create in Me Retreat

This is just a reminder that Lutheridge's annual "Create in Me" retreat will be held the weekend after Easter, April 16-19. This retreat focuses on the connections between faith and the arts. Check out the camp's website for more information or ask Pastor Dave, Jen Ownbey, Susan Bolick, Leanne Cuningham or Linda Butera about it.

