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Marked with the sign of Christ crucified for us

DID YOU KNOW?

- More tourists are seen on the island, yet many dockside stores remain closed
- Cruise ships might be returning March 21st.
- When they do, closed waterfront stores might reopen.
- Unfortunately, some have become insolvent, like the popular Atlantis Submarines, some beach bars, restaurants, and other tourist-related ventures.
- Thankfully, covid cases are way down, yet feelings of uncertainty and fear still prevail.
- Current favorite Spanish word/phrase: "de hecho" – meaning "in fact".



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First Divine Service at new Parsonage



The parsonage porch set up for the Ash Wednesday Divine Service. A big plus: it's air-conditioned!

"Remember you are dust..."

These words from Genesis are a stark reminder that we are but mortal and sooner or later will return to that from which we had come. Also, that we are created by God, and are totally dependent on Him for everything, especially for our salvation. Thanks be to Jesus He's already appeased God's wrath over our sin on the cross – and has clothed us in His righteousness in our baptism.

Christ re-created us in our baptism...

In effect, He has re-created us there, raised us out of the ashes through baptismal waters to grant us new life in Him – life that never ends, despite our bodies eventually needing to return to dust. What comfort! Even in these fearsome covid times and of war, this is the only comfort we can cling to and bring to others.

Parsonage porch dedicated

At the beginning of the Ash Wednesday Service, Pastor Paul dedicated the

parsonage's porch for use as a sacred space as it was the first time it was used as such. Subsequent Lent and other services not held on a Sunday morning, will be held here as the room at the Chamber of Commerce is only rented and available to us on a Sunday morning.

Standing Invitation

A sandwich board on the sidewalk opposite Governor Beach on the popular 7-Mile Beach invites people to church every Sunday morning. This is a prime location for a "standing invitation"!



Completed banners, and a Pizza Party



We're opposite Governor Beach



Please Pray for:

- God's comfort to those still gripped by fear.
- The faithful to not lose courage
- Strengthening of faith for all
- Outreach efforts to continue
- For us to continue sharing God's love and comfort with renewed courage and grit
- Wisdom for us to know how to proceed in these conditions.
- Continued good health

Give thanks for:

- Mild covid symptoms for most and excellent recovery rates
- The faithful few regularly attending the Divine Services

Praise God for:

- The many congregations and individuals who encourage support and pray for us and the mission.
- We thank YOU personally for all of YOUR support, prayers and encouragement. We LOVE receiving your notes



Heidi with the first completed banners. The pizza-meisters at work!



Heidi completes the first banners!

In thanksgiving to God, the first banners, completed in time for the first Sunday in Lent, were dedicated during the service. A big shout out to Cathy and her fancy machine for cutting out the letters, crown, and nails. Appliqué work takes a lot of time, so the midterm break from school came at a very opportune time!

Pizza Party – a time to reconnect

Finally, after social and outreach events had to be canceled a few times because of covid regulations and fear of covid, we were finally able to host a pizza party at the parsonage on the last Sunday in February. Two outside pizza ovens baked the pies that were put together by individuals in the kitchen. It was a valuable fun afternoon where good fellowship allowed for healthy reconnections

to be made outside of worship time. Time to plan the next event!



Soli Deo Gloria



“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster”
Joel 2:13.

- Your partners in mission,
Gerald and Heidi Paul



To support the LCMS through the work of Gerald and Heidi Paul, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and marked “Support of Gerald Paul.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on his online giving page at lcms.org/gerald.paul.

You can also send your gifts to our friends at Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

