

Dear Families:

This week, we discussed the story of Genesis 2 that tells of the fall of man. God had given Adam and Eve a command to not eat the fruit of two specific trees in the Garden of Eden: the Tree of Life, and the Tree of Knowledge. Adam and Eve happily obeyed God, until one day Satan entered the garden as a serpent. He talks Adam and Eve into eating the forbidden fruit and from that moment on, mankind was cursed with sin. God punishes us for our sin- and rightly so! For justice is fair. He tells Adam and Eve that human life will be hard from now on, and tells them to remember that they are but dust, and will one day become dust again.

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent. Throughout this season, we need to be reminded that we will die- it's inevitable. What happens after we die is not inevitable, though. That depends on God. Now is the time to think about eternity. Thanks to Adam, Eve and ourselves, we cannot ever earn our way into Heaven. Our sin is too great. We will never be perfect. But if we turn to Jesus, prepare our hearts and minds for His return, and live out His will on Earth, we will get to celebrate in Heaven with Him for all eternity! And that is something to work towards!

This first week of Lent, we are being challenged to fast. Jesus asks us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. This week, focus on denying yourself pleasures. Purposefully abstain from treats, not just food but of all kinds. Instead, resist the temptations for pleasure and replace those thoughts with penitence and prayer. You will definitely feel closer to God by doing so!

Please support the youth's mission projects while you're here! There is an ongoing mini-rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. You can continue to bring in bottle slips. And the donation boxes in Fellowship Hall are always there. The bin that supports our church Blessing Box is also in constant need of items.

Time is running out on the weekly hot chocolate sales! Purchase a cup this week to help the students support their mission. We don't have many more cold Sundays left; get it while it's hot!

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director