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The Birmingham Eccentric Page
Thursday, March 6, 1952

Walther League Plans Fund Raising Drives; Business Meet Sunday

The Walther League of Redeemer Lutheran church, meeting each Sunday morning at 9:40 a.m., with the Sunday school for Bible study, will hold its regular business meeting in the church at 3:30 Sunday afternoon.

At the last meeting of the League, composed of young married couples, fund raising projects to furnish their quarters in the new educational building were discussed. The first will be the presentation of the Hollywood "Pilgrimage Play" on Sunday evening, Mar. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Two plays will be presented later in the spring and plans are already under way for the toy sale scheduled for October. The members are collecting discarded toys and starting their repair work on them at this time.

Hosts and hostesses at a recent social affair included Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Breener, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Knorr, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pepper, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sheehan.



NEWLY ELECTED officers of the Presbyterian Women's association include (l to r) Mrs. George Johnston, second vice-president; Mrs. Howard Coe, first vice-president; Mrs. E. J. Kempf, elected president and Mrs. Clarence Kroff, corresponding secretary. At the annual meeting Feb. 27, other officers chosen included Mrs. Dwight B. Ireland, recording secretary, and Mrs. H. G. Wood, treasurer. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

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Sunday Sermonette
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LENT

By the Rev. Francis T. Stack,
Pastor, St. Hugo of the Hill Church

"Remember man that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return". (Gen. 3-4)

These words of the liturgy of Ash Wednesday contain the challenge of Lent. In them are the implications of time and eternity, of life and death, of virtue and vice, of heaven and hell, in a word all that is embraced in the eternal truths.

It is to ponder these truths that we are summoned in the holy season, now begun, after the example of the Divine Master and his disciples, as the basis of right and righteous living.

Lent, before all else, is a time of introspection. "Would some power the gift to give us to see ourselves as others see us" might well for this time be changed to read: "Would some power the gift to give us to see ourselves as God sees us."

This, is, or should be, the important concern of these days for in the last analysis, both in time and eternity, the real value of our worth is that which God sets upon us. Others—laurels, friends, admirers, flatterers, may applaud our seeming worth. Even very good people might be influenced in their judgments of us by a kind of spiritual mediocrity which marks our day.

THE RUSH of daily tasks, the round of pleasurable distractions, the turmoil of domestic, social and economic exigencies are bound in some degree to take their toll of spiritual outlook. It is only when seen in the light of God's truth, measured by God's law and weighed in the balance of His justice that all things assume their true character. God alone knows

us as we truly are.

Seeking seriously and sincerely the Divine Presence in these important days, we find ourselves only too quickly and painfully aware of sin, much sin, personal sin. Sin reaching into every phase of daily living, some of it grave in its unwillingness to serve the love of God and neighbor, more of it, and there is some comfort in this though blame before God remains, lesser in its guilt.

Sins of youth, sins of all ages, sins of commission and omission. So many failures before the divine law that we begin to wonder whether this law has not been more observed in the breach than in its keeping. Now we begin to understand the force of St. Paul's words: "It is not the good my will prefers, but the evil my will disapproves, that I find myself doing."

NOW WE understand better the Cross which hovers so accusingly over the Lenten observance with its message that sin is the greatest of all evils, so terrible that it required for its conquest

the very life blood of the Son of God.

It were pleasant, indeed, could we blot out this humiliating, ugly picture from our mind's eye by that same rationalizing power so often the source of sin. But we cannot, we must not, if we are to be true to ourselves and our Lenten purpose. It is necessary that we come to grips with things as they are. This is not the time for human respect and pride. Rather it is a time to cry out in the humility of the publican of the gospel: "I am a sinner."

But Lent is more than a time for merely knowing and bewailing faults. It has other trying work to be done. The axe must be laid to the root. Sheer loss demands that the faults of which we have become so painfully aware are turned away from. Spiritual houses need to be set in order.

FROM MANY sources some of them purely secular, comes the call for a spiritual revival. Such a revival depends upon an individual awakening. There is no better time than Lent for its beginning. "Now is the acceptable time."

Both the demands of Lent and a spiritual renaissance involve many changes. The self love that generates transgression must be replaced by the unselfish desires of pleasing God. The law of love, and of life, also, in the promise of Christ, must begin to hold sway. Self denial, even of legitimate pleasures, needs practicing, both as an atoning work for past faults and as a means, as St. Paul expresses it, of bringing our bodies into subjection, thus to become more willing servants of

their Creator. The little things, in terms of obedience to God's will, will require regular attention.

A turning away from the usual things from time to time to keep Christ in silent meditation will serve as an excellent spiritual tonic. Greater attention to fervent daily prayer and divine worship will set up reservoirs of grace against evil when human weakness and temptation will require the strength of God.

IT IS NOT possible to point out all the ways that lead to God. The individual, sincere and generous in his determination for spiritual progress, will have many inspirations to direct and guide him. The help of God, and His wisdom, are waiting abundantly for all those who seek them. Many earnest multitudes do so this year and may their faithful Lenten endeavor yield them new pleasure in daily living and a surer step as they face towards the Easter of eternity.

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