

E-DEVOTION FOR FEBRUARY 18

“Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

Those ashes placed on our forehead this year have prompted me to think of the near 500,000 lives we have lost to this pandemic. 500,000 families whose lives have been changed forever.

A year ago, we began this journey together. We struggled with how to do church services, Easter Celebrations, etc. and in my mind... I KNEW this was just a short time in our lives. The pandemic would soon be behind us and we would return to 'normal.'

And here we are. A year has gone by and we still find ourselves doing things differently than we have ever done before.

It's just plain sobering. So, we come to terms once more that we are really nothing but dust. We come and we go. It is the life we live as we move from dust to dust that really matters. It is in the days we spend caring for one another. Loving one another. Showing respect for one another. All people. All folks – with no regard for race, color, or religion.

I don't want to be remembered as JUST DUST! I want my family, my friends, my fellow church members, my neighbors to see me as more than that. And how do we make that happen?

These are the times that call us out to be what Jesus Christ, the one who walked the way to Gethsemane, the one who hung upon that cross... charged us as His namesakes to be. We are to be more than dust... we are to be the salt of the earth. The light of this world.

So, I ask you to take this Lenten Walk with me as Pastor Dennis Nelson shares our journey through the online Lenten Services. As we move from dust to dust... let's be a little more salty! Let's let that light shine a bit brighter! It's not good enough to just keep on keeping on. It's time to do what God calls us to do in this world. For our world is not a dismal place. It is a place of hope, it is a time for determination. It is a time for us to build one another up and then... carry on.

In the meantime, it is so important for us to wear our masks, to get our shots, keep washing our hands. To fold those hands and bow our heads. It is time for us to ask God to help us be salt and light.

Pray with me: “Dear Lord, we cannot just accept that the world is a difficult place. We need you to inspire and direct us as to how we can change it. We pray especially for those who are so tired of taking care of others. Give them your strength. We walk now with you to the cross these weeks. We have come from the dust and it is to the dust we will return. But in the meantime, let us be your hands and feet in this world today. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.” Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen