Midweek Moment

 Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

As I am writing this reflection this morning, I am in the lobby at First English. I have taken the opportunity to share “ashes” with our ELC parents should they choose. And, a number of them have. But, a number of them also had no idea what “ashes” meant and what I was doing with them. So, I’ve had numerous opportunities to share a bit about Jesus and our belief that we were created by God.

The biggest reflection about Ash Wednesday is the reminder that our bodies, while created and crafted by God in the image of God, are not eternal. Because of the brokenness of sin, they will wear down, they will eventually break and go back to the dust from where they were formed. It’s not the most enjoyable of thoughts, and now that I am 55, I’m perhaps on the downside of my body’s peak performance days (especially in the morning).

The reality is, no matter how hard we try, we cannot slow down the aging process. Many will try, but last I checked, death has a 100% success rate. How we react to this reality is the challenge for many of us. Some will do all they can to defy death and string it out as long as possible. And I get it, we like living. But for those of us who have a belief in Jesus, we have a deeper understanding - that while our bodies may break down and eventually die, we will not. We will continue living life with Jesus.

But in the meantime…. ***Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.***

With this remembrance that our bodies break and don’t work like they should at all times, I lift to you Larry Peterson. Larry is the son of Dan and Pastor Lisa Peterson, and he has acute myeloid leukemia. He has spent a month in the James cancer center at OSU and has been in and out of care there. He is scheduled to have a bone marrow transplant on March 10th, and we give thanks that a donor was found.

His biggest need, besides prayers of the people is help with covering the cost of his procedure. This is not uncommon in today’s worldly conversations. Health care, while we give thanks for the advancements in medicine, has continued to become increasingly expensive. His bills will well exceed $10,000 after his stay and procedures and insurance coverage. Dan and Lisa are doing what they can for him, and I want to share with you a few ways that we can help as a community to support them.

 Pastor Lisa has set up a “Go Fund Me” fundraiser. It is titled…”Larry’s Urgent Bone Marrow Transplant Fund.” The Go Fund me link is ….. <https://gofund.me/20a7406d>

 We as a church would like to help and support Larry and the Peterson family, but the best way to help is to reach out to Pastor Lisa at lisalp01@outlook.com. We will not be collecting any funds directly through the church, so please reach out to Pastor Lisa and let’s show our generosity by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

 Lent is a time of reflection about who we are, created in the image of God, and whose we are, redeemed by the Son of God. It is a time to remember that we don’t just magically happen, but that through God’s amazing gifts, we are a people of hope and purpose, and I look forward to seeing where God is leading us together – especially as we look at the spiritual disciplines during Lent.

 God Loves You and So Do I

 Pastor Jay