

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday - February 22, 2012

Ash Wednesday Services to launch Lenten Theme "We Have Seen His Glory..."

February 22,
10:30 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.

We begin our faith journey. Holy Communion services, based on the ELW service for Ash Wednesday, will be offered at 10:30 and 7:15 with a Healing Prayer Liturgy after each service. The tradition of imposition of ashes will be offered for those desiring to receive them.

St. Matthew's Lenten focus 2012 - February 22 – March 28

"We Have Seen His Glory"

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory...full of grace and truth." John 1:14 Come, travel with us and "see his glory" through "visits" to some of the places Jesus went. Experience these sacred places through video and pictures, and the words of Jesus, using "[That The World May Know](#)" by Ray Vander Laan. Our worship and study will provide a path through Sepphoris, Caesarea Philippi, Sychar, the road to Jericho, the Pool of Siloam and the Sea of Galilee. Whether you have been to Israel or not come to be inspired for what these ancient places have to teach us about life today.

Explore our theme "We Have Seen His Glory" for Wednesday Evening Adult Education Time

Our focus is "We Have Seen His Glory" from 6:15 – 7:00 PM. Using examples from some of the places Jesus traveled and taught - Sepphoris, Caesarea Philippi, Sychar, the road to Jericho, the Pool of Siloam, and the Sea of Galilee – we'll explore questions like, "Why might Jesus have picked the places he did to teach?" "What do these places have to say to us today?" "How do these places and the stories show us Jesus' glory?" Sometimes Jesus shows up in unexpected, even desolate places. His message is often counter cultural. "How might we find hope from this journey with Jesus to the cross? How does this broad view of Jesus' journey to the cross define and shape our faith? Sessions will be led by Pr Margaret and our retired pastors.

February 29	Caesarea Philippi	Rev. Margaret Schoewe
March 7	Sychar	Rev. Ray Stubbe
March 14	Sepphoris	Rev. Margaret Schoewe
March 21	Pool of Siloam	TBA
March 28	Sea of Galilee	Rev. Ed Weiskotten



We Have Seen His Glory

Why Do We Use Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice which many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

§ Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

§ Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism.

§ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

§ Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

In the liturgy the confession and imposition serve as the gathering rite for the Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion. This confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy.

John Paradowski

New this year – Scripture Study offered on Sunday Mornings during Lent

Come and join us on Sunday mornings during Lent in this scripture study of the texts for the following Wednesday. Led by Sandy Cristan these sessions will introduce you to the text for the upcoming week. The Sunday morning study and Wednesday evening studies will provide different perspectives on the same text. This is an opportunity to learn some of the richness of our texts through different voices and different perspectives. Sunday February 19, through March 25. 9:45 – 10:45 AM in the Bridal Chapel.

Lenten Theme: "We Have Seen His Glory"

Come Join Your St. Matthew's Family We Have Seen His Glory on Wednesdays Five Lenten Wednesdays

February 29 – March 28, 2012

10:30am Lenten Worship Service
Morning Prayer Service in Sanctuary
11:00am Morning Gatherings hosted by the
S.A.I.N.T.S. Senior Group
Light Refreshments and Conversation

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5:15-6:15 Dinner continuously served: Come when you can. This meal offers a time for fellowship, and a chance for families to be with other families of St. Matthew's. Proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip planned for June 2012

6:00-6:30 New Generation Choir Rehearsal.
6:00-7:05 New Creation Choir rehearses each Wednesday in preparation for their musical on April 10th.

6:15-7:00 Adult Education: February 29 – March 28
6:15-7:00 Lenten Time for Families with Children up through Third Grade with their Parent(s). Donna Gardner Manke and Pastor Chris will lead Parents and children through stories from the Bible, projects, and activities on our Lenten Theme.

7:15-8:00 Lenten Worship Service Evening Prayer is offered each Wednesday evening as a peaceful service to close your day in prayer. As we look back to holy sites in Israel we look at how we've seen God's glory and hear personal testimony of how individuals in our congregation have seen God's glory. Each Wednesday evening you will receive a scripture study to take home and continue your exploration of the evening text. You will also be invited to help with an artistic representation of glory based on places in your lives where you have seen God's glory.



**We Have Seen
His Glory**

Lenten Dinners Begin on Wednesday, February 29th

During Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, Wednesdays at St. Matthew's will present many opportunities for you to take time out of your busy week to reflect on the message of the cross. Whether you attend a choir, the Lenten family time, an adult education session, or Lenten Worship at 7:15, we invite you to begin your evening by joining your St. Matthew's family for

dinner.

Each Wednesday in Lent, from February 29th through March 28th, dinner will be served continuously from 5:15 to 6:15.

All proceeds from the dinners will support the Re-New Orleans Mission Trip this summer. Cost of the meal is \$5.00 for ages 10 and up, \$3.00 for 4-10, and free for 3 and under. If you donate a food item, you will receive a free meal. Please sign up ahead of time, or call the church office.

Our Lenten Journey with Jesus

Most of us have never embarked on a journey. We take road trips, and go on hikes, and enjoy vacation travel, maybe splurge on a cruise, perhaps even join an expedition. But a journey is a lengthy ordeal, marked by the unexpected, the delightful or disastrous. In 1742, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg left his comfortable homeland in Germany and sailed to colonial Pennsylvania to minister to its Lutheran churches. That's a journey. In the 1930s, migrants who had been forced off their drought-ravaged farms drove out to California, fueled by the myth of fruit trees ripe for picking, only to encounter yet more poverty. That's a journey. The Israelite creed recorded in Deuteronomy 26 speaks of the beginning of the journey (slavery in Egypt) and of the end of the journey (arrival in the land of milk and honey.) Of the journey itself, the decades of woeful nomadic life, this creed says only that God helped them through. And of course Jesus had his journey, which this lent we will explore a part of in more detail.

When setting out on a journey, we may acquire a guidebook to assist with the planning. We want to know what are the sights and experiences not to be missed? It can be valuable to gain such perspectives so that we don't, out of ignorance, needlessly repeat others' mistakes. The best guidebooks pique the imagination and tantalize with possibilities. Our guidebook: the Bible.

Our Lenten journey is an annual pilgrimage in the springtime in which we encounter once more, as church, the saving, life-giving mercy of the triune God. We might speak of the time from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day as a "Lenten journey" moving through the forty days (Lent) to the great Three Days, and then on to the fifty days of rejoicing (Easter). And we take this journey in the company of others, formed to be a body: living, moving, breathing, and walking through the world.

This journey from death to life is no joke. It can be long and arduous. Such a journey will change your life, and not just your individual life, but your communal, shared life in God. Make this Lenten time a true Journey, using your bible, as a road map for your life journey.

John Paradowski
Minister of Music