

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22, 2023 • 10:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Introduction to the Day: *On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

Join us on Lenten Wednesdays beginning next week, March 1st - March 29

“The Water Holds You”

10:00-11:00am Bible Study with Pastor Ann in the Upper Room

5:30-6:20pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall (to benefit Youth Mission Trip)

6:15-7:00pm Family Lenten Time for parents and children

There are stories, songs, projects, prayer and brief worship, led by Donna Manke. Children 3rd grade and younger are encouraged to attend with their parents. Participants will learn about Bible stories about our Lenten theme of ‘Water.’ We encourage families to come for the dinner (5:30), then stay for the family time. It’s going to be fun! Come join us.

5:45-6:30pm New Creation Choir rehearsal

6:30-7:00pm New Generation Choir rehearsal

7:15pm Lent 2023 Midweek Service: “The Water Holds You”

Our Lenten path will offer a simple and beautiful service that can be a time to meditate and pray. As the darkness of the evening surrounds us, we ask God’s presence to abide and stay with us. We who are thirsty, ask for the life-giving water that Jesus provides. Our Lenten journey will take us to that glorious Easter Sunday, where we once again can sing “Alleluia.” Take time this Lent to reflect, it will be a meaningful ending to your day.

Waters of baptism give us:

Lent 1: Identity

Lent 2: New birth

Lent 3: Satisfaction

Lent 4: Forgiveness

Lent 5: Eternal Life



More info on inside back panel

Have Dinner with Your St. Matthew's Family During Lent!

We hope you'll observe Lent with us on Wednesday evenings from March 1st through March 29th, starting with a healthy dinner each week. Dinner will be served continuously from 5:30 – 6:20. Suggested donation for the dinner is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children aged 3-10. It's a great way to spend time with your St. Matthew's family before Lenten Family Time. Proceeds go to the Youth Mission Trip.

Here's what's on the menu:

March 1st : Baked Ravioli, salad, bread

March 8th : Tacos, fruit, vegetables and dip

March 15th: Pulled Chicken Sandwiches, salad, fruit

March 22nd: Baked potato bar, salad, fruit

March 29th: Build-your-own-sub, fruit, vegetables and dip



It's appreciated if you sign up for the dinners using the sign- up sheet on the Lenten table or by clicking on the link in the weekly emails. You can also help us out by signing up to donate food for the dinners on the sign-up sheet on the Lenten table.

Our Lenten Offerings will provide TWO water wells through ELCA Good Gifts

Giving Goal: \$5,000 or two water wells

Water is essential to life. As Christians water is one of the first sacred elements we encounter in our baptism. This year we will be celebrating our Lenten season with "The Water Holds You." Therefore, it is only fitting that our designated Lenten offerings go to water. Nearly a billion people – one of every seven people in the world today – lack access to clean, safe drinking water. These individuals must walk, on average, 3.7 miles each day to fetch water, and often the water they do find is not safe to drink. Combined, unclean water and sanitation are the world's second largest killer of children.

Did you know that ELCA Good Gifts help provide water with items as basic as hygiene kits and water filters up to a simple water well that can help as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe water.

For \$2500, a community can receive a simple water well, through the ELCA World Hunger and its partners. Through one well, as many as 500 families will gain access to clean, safe water. The community will be healthier. People will spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children will have more time for work or school.



Make your donation online at: stmatthlutheran.org "Give" page

Or, drop cash, bills or change, in the 5 gallon water bottle displayed in the Commons.

Watch this video for details: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/simple-water-well>