The Second Sunday in Lent March 16, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and



congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Cross Medley

Arranger, Tom Fettke

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

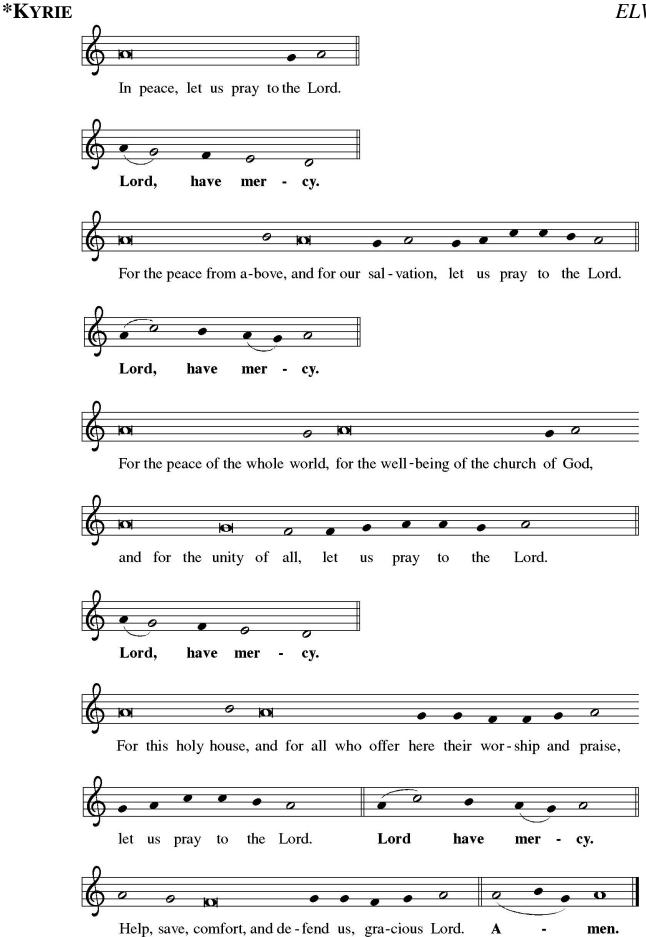
- *P*: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
- P: Compassionate One,
- C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.
- P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW # 335

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C:* And also with you.

ELW # S147





***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27 (read responsively)

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

- ⁸ My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."
 - Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

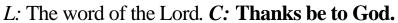
¹² Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

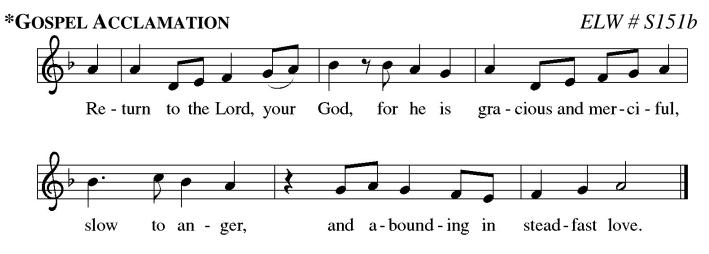
¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.





*Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

*HYMN OF THE DAY *Apostles' Creed

- *P*: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 - I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 - I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- A: Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, *C*: receive our prayer.
- *A:* Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.

- *A:* Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *P*: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. *C*: Amen.

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

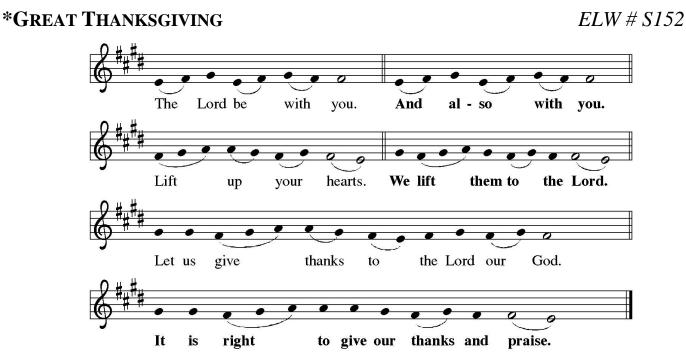
C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray... Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. C: Amen.

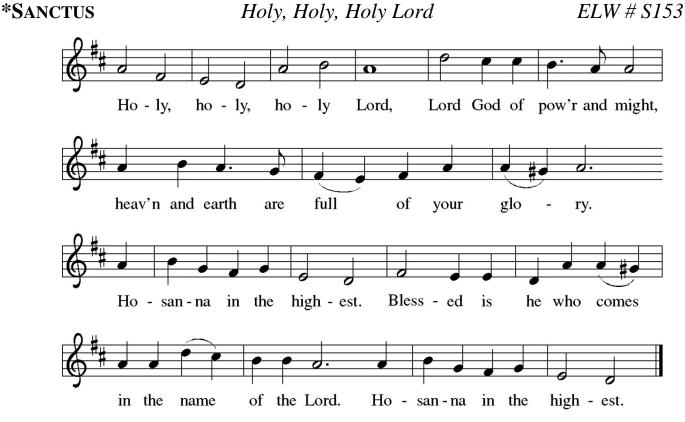


***PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for

the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P:Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

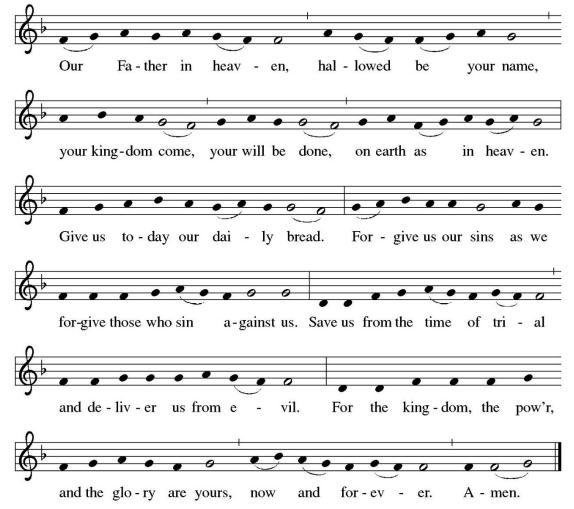
Do this for the remembrance of me.

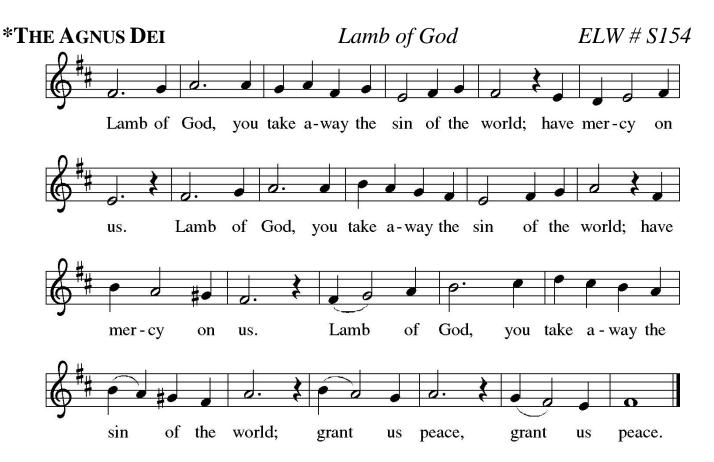
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *C:* Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:





*INVITATION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. *C:* Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. *C*: Amen.

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Praise Him Now

Arranger, Paul Mickelson

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Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Assisting Minister – Jane Hoenstine Our Lector – Martie Gilbert Our Acolyte – Mace Baker Our Usher – Ed Kreider Our Usher – Ed Kreider Our Altar Guild – Jeannie Smith, Cindy Snyder Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Mon. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & Tue. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Jen – Tues. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today –	2 nd Sunday in Lent
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
	St. Patrick Baked Potato Bar & Game Day,
	Fellowship Hall 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday –	Mending Ministry, Mending Room Open 2:30-4:30 p.m.
	Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.
	Lenten Service, Fellowship Hall 6:45 p.m.
Thursday –	Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Life After Doom Book Study, Zoom 7:00 p.m.
Saturday –	Council Retreat, Window Room 9:00 a.mNoon
Sunday –	3 rd Sunday in Lent
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names will be removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should remain longer or be removed sooner.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Dr. Ramon Burket, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Betty Helsel, Marilyn Horton, Don Hosterman, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Joe Keller, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, Bekah Ross, Dan Ross, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Margie Smith, Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Joey Tremmel, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.** Away at School: Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Join us for a new Cross Country Book Study St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Martinsburg, PA & Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Duluth, MN Meet members of our extended church family as Pastor Traci & Pastor Lisa WORLD FALLING APART lead this weekly Zoom discussion of Brian McLaren's Life After Doom | + +--an honest and eye-opening portrayal of our current predicament in human history Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 7PM EST / 6PM CST BRIAN D. MCLAREN See your Pastor for the Zoom Link

Although scripture begins with a call to tend God's creation, we know we have fallen far short in our stewardship of the earth. Brian McLaren's latest book explores the situation we're in, what's coming next, and how we are called to live faithfully in our world of turmoil. With members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth MN, we'll discuss this important topic every Thursday in March by Zoom (7PM). Although this is not a hard text to understand, it is a serious and sobering topic, best studied in community. We will begin March 6th by introducing ourselves and responding to the introduction of the book.





If services need to be cancelled for inclement weather, we will attempt to notify you using email (like we do for the Sunday Bulletin and Messenger) and Facebook. On days when the weather is questionable, please check these notifications before you travel. If you need a phone

call instead, please let the office know. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive offering envelopes (or if you would like to have your name/address changed or removed).

Office Closure During Inclement Weather

On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.



Sign up for the print magazine

We heard you—and listened. We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community.

You can sign up today on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you would like to subscribe to the magazine.



LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

Road to Jericho

6:00 Supper

6:45 Holden Evening Prayer With a weekly photo journey to the locations featured in scripture... See where the stories of the Bible took place

Dinner & Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third Thursdays, March 6 and March 20. It will be open to distribute food from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00a.m. by appointment.



The food items most needed for March are: Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes. Rice Sides and Juice. These or any items may be placed in the food basket at church.

> Thank you! Linda Smith

Church Messenger

The March 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Altar Flowers



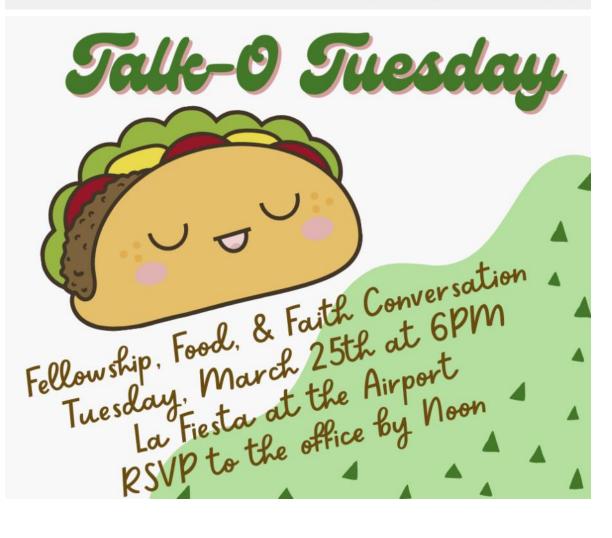
The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00 Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

Favorite clothing in need of repair?

Bring laundered clothes that need mending to work on yourself or get help from our sewers. Materials, machines, & expertise provided. *And we'll have snacks!*

Feel free to stay for supper at 6PM and/or Lenten Worship at 6:45PM

Wednesday, March 19 from 2:30 to 4:30PM St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall 115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)





Weekend Themes

- Self-care
- Food & Health
- Arts & Media
- Environment
- Music & Dance
- Spiritual Life

COST: 120 + housing

Register today

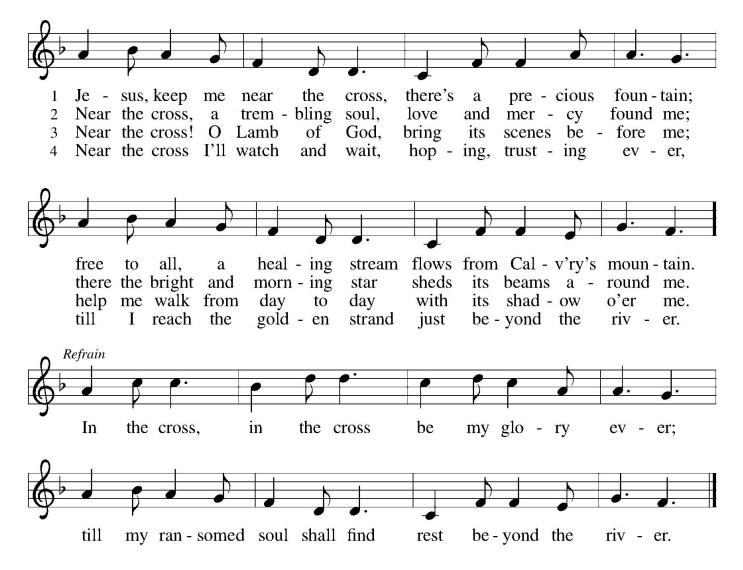


sequanota.com/tendfest

Come to Tend to share in intentional time of faith discussions, good music, art, worship, ecology, and fellowship. This event will have an open schedule allowing participants the freedom to pick what is right for them. It will include options for multiple workshops, open recreation & hiking, food and time to refresh yourself and the family. ***OPENING HYMN**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW # 335



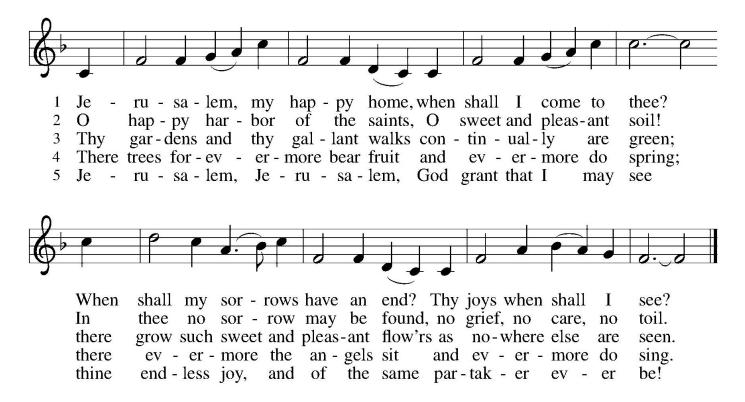
Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Abide with Me

ELW # 629



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Jerusalem, My Happy Home



Text: F. B. P., 16th cent. Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional