

# *The Third Sunday in Lent*

**March 23, 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**                      *Even So, Lord Jesus Come*                      *William J. Gaither, Comp.*

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

*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.**

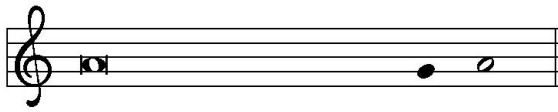
**\*OPENING HYMN**                      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*                      *ELW # 588*

## **\*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.**

**\*KYRIE**

*ELW # S147*



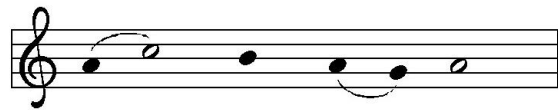
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



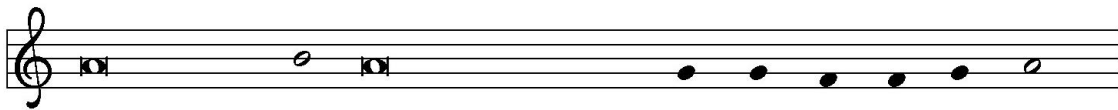
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Glory to God*

ELW # S148



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray ...* Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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: Isaiah 55:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

**PSALM 63:1-8 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup> **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

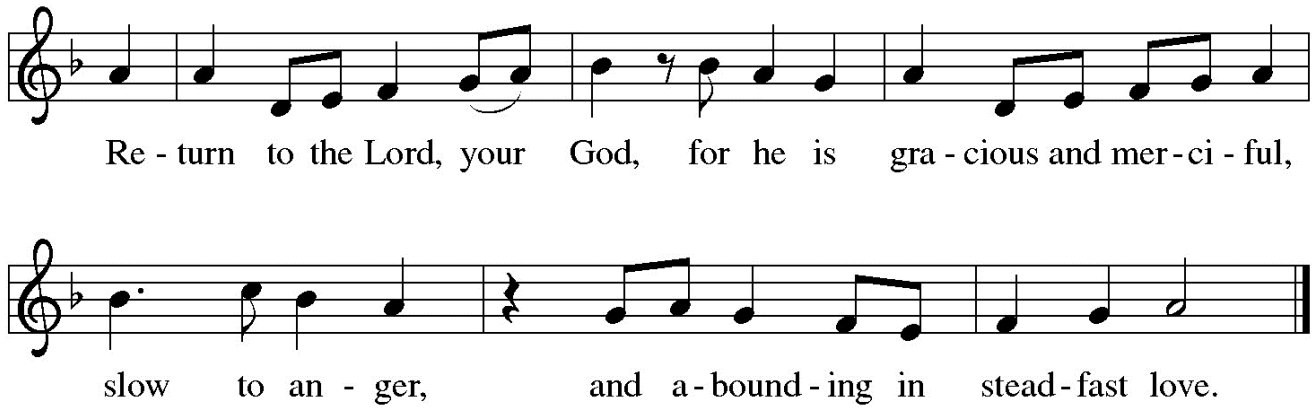
<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*ELW # S151b*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

\*Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*As Rain from the Clouds*

*ELW # 508*

**\*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:** We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. 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.*

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*ELW # S152*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*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.

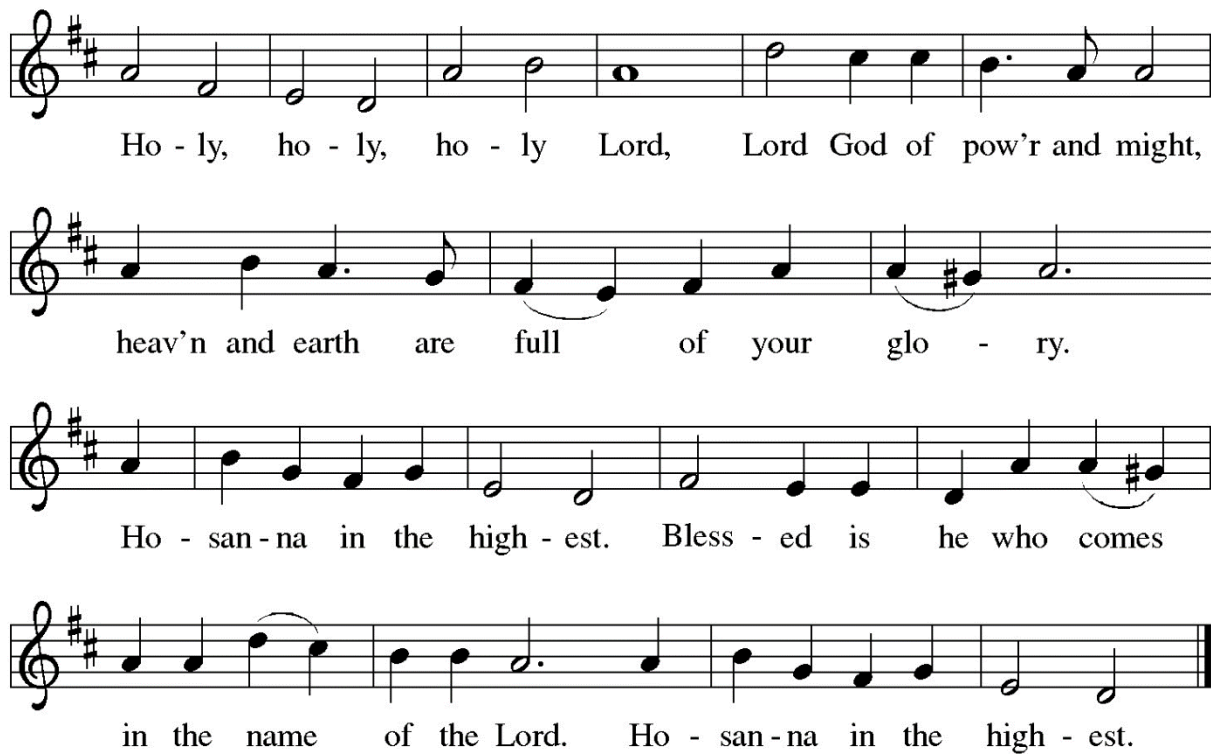
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**\*SANCTUS**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

*ELW # S153*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*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:



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW # S154*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**\*INVITATION**

*P:* All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*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.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*

*ELW # 327*

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Alleluia*

*Composer, Paul Mickelson*

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

### **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 Assisting Minister – Shawn Orczeck

Our Lector – Elaine Smith

Our Acolyte – Lily Lightner

Our Usher – Randy McGraw

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 – Wed. 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **This Week Events**

- Today –** *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- Monday –** Worship & Music Meeting via Zoom 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday –** Knotty Ladies, Quilting Room 12:30-3:00 p.m.  
Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday –** Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.  
Lenten Service, Fellowship Hall 6:45 p.m.
- Thursday –** *Life After Doom Book Study, Zoom 7:00 p.m.*
- Sunday –** *4<sup>th</sup> 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, 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.**

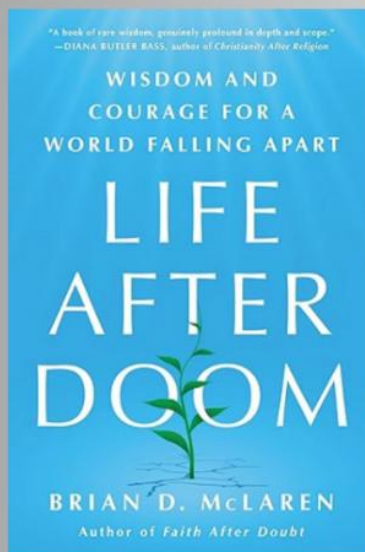
**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

**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 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

*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.

## ATTENTION



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 WEDNESDAY  
DINNER MENU**

March 12th  
Vegetable Soup & Ox Roast

March 19th  
Chili & Corn Bread

March 26th  
Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

April 2nd  
Chicken Corn Soup & Chicken Salad

April 9th  
Potato Soup & BBQ Ham

*Fellowship Hall, 6 O'Clock*

**LENTEN WEDNESDAYS**  
**AT ST MATTHEW**

**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**

*Road to Jericho*





## Easter Flowers

We are offering a variety of flowers to enhance our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to place flowers in the church for Easter Sunday, please complete the bulletin insert and return it to Margie Smith by placing in her mail box OR, place the form in an envelope and then in the offering plate. Extra order forms are available at the usher station. Your check should be made **payable** to: "**St. Matthew Flower Fund.**"

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 30, 2025.

## Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting with the regular volunteers to distribute items on Thursdays, April 3 and April 17. The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00a.m. and other times by appointment.



**Following is the "Wish List" for April:** Cereal, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken Broth, Cleaning Supplies.

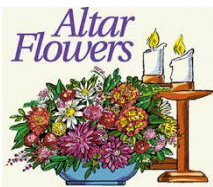
These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

***Thank You!***  
***Linda Smith***

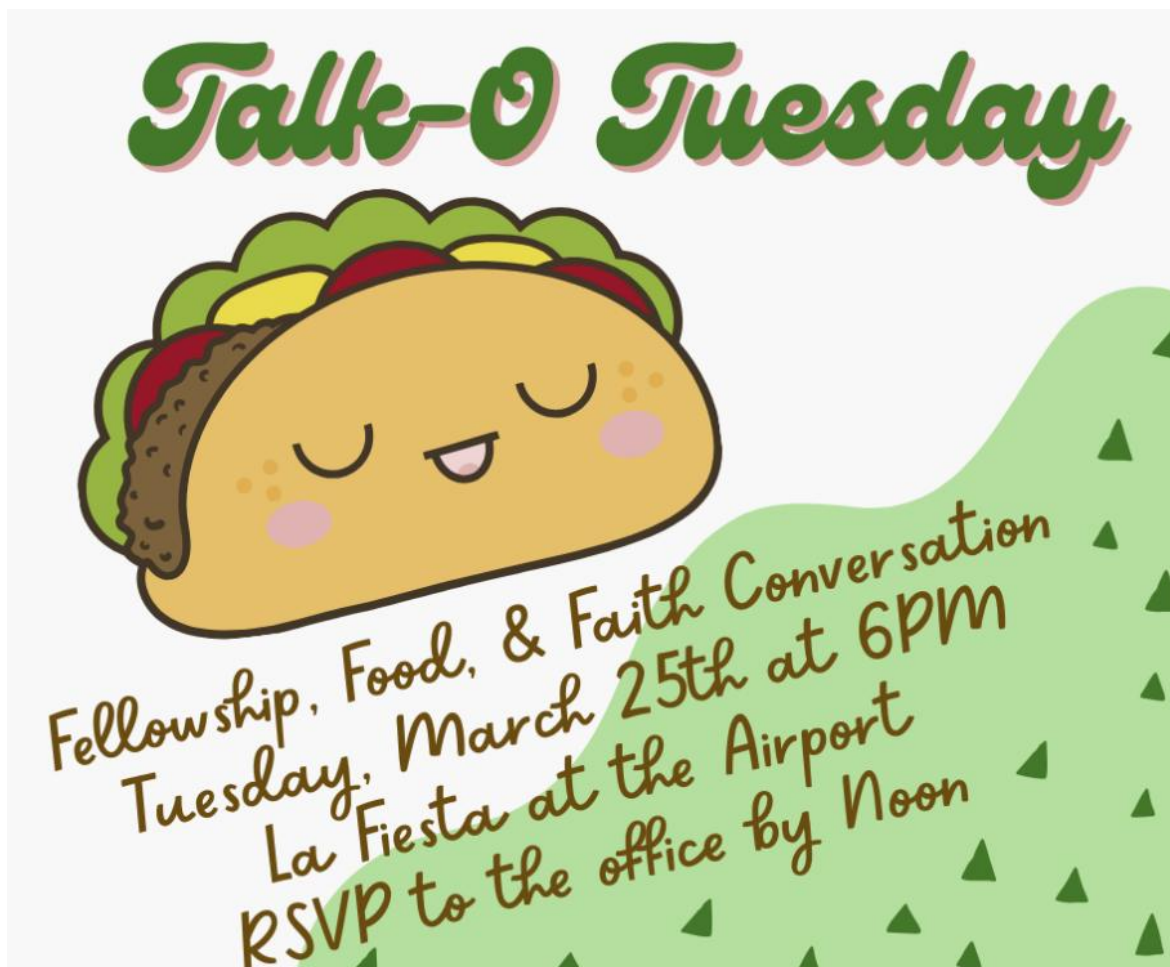
## Church Messenger

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





### Weekend Themes

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

COST:

120 + housing

Register  
today



[sequanota.com/tendfest](https://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.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown  
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.  
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.  
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow  
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow  
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*

ELW # 327



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward  
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the  
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as  
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -  
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and  
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the  
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -  
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the  
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the  
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the  
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which  
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -  
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of  
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing  
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y  
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.  
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.  
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.