



the Banner of Faith

**FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

FEBRUARY 2021



ASH WED. & EASTER FLOWERS

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP- FEBRUARY 17



Why do we mark the sign of the cross in Ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday? The earliest use of ashes as a sign of mourning, mortality and repentance is found in the Old Testament texts of Job, Esther and Jonah. Christian churches began using Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent as early the 8th century. Today we continue the practice of burning the prior year's palms to create the ashes for our Ash Wednesday services. Marking our foreheads with an ashen cross reminds us of our mortality as we hear

the words: Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. We are called to repentance for our sins - all of the ways that we have knowingly or unknowingly gone against the will and way of God. But, we are also reminded of the first time that the cross was marked on our forehead with water and the words of baptism were proclaimed. With that cross, you were claimed as a child of God and an heir to eternal life. The ashes are a reminder of both our mortality and the immortality that we are given by Christ.

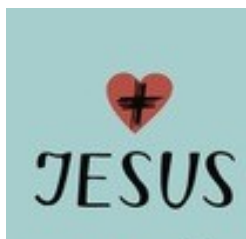
How do we observe Ash Wednesday when we can't gather? Like so much over the past year, Ash Wednesday will look different this year. We will have an online worship service - and we will be sending Worship At Home bags for Lent. (Let us know if you don't receive one!) In your worship bag, you will find a container of ashes. There will be instructions for either using them dry - or adding a couple of drops of oil to them. Don't add water! A chemical reaction happens when water is added that can cause a burning sensation. There will also be a worship service for Ash Wednesday in your bag - or you can join us online. See our website.

WHEN CELEBRATIONS COLLIDE:

Happy Valentines Day and Transfiguration too?!

On February 14 we will celebrate both Transfiguration as the last Sunday of Epiphany AND Valentines day. Valentines day is a day of love and Transfiguration is the day we sing our last Alleluias before we set them aside for Lent. So it should be a great celebration!

Happy Transfiguration- Valentines day!



A NOTE FROM PASTOR PAM

You are invited! What do you think of when you hear or see those words? Usually I get somewhat excited – after all - It could be to a party, a celebration or an event. It means that you/ I have been included, that we are wanted.

You are invited to Lent. Hmm. Maybe that wasn't the invitation you were hoping to receive. The invitation to Lent isn't accompanied by balloons. Instead, it involves ashes – a reminder of our mortality and an acknowledgement that we – you and I – need repentance and God's mercy. It reminds us that we – like everyone else – sin, that is, we do, say and think those things that separate us from God. Lent is not a time to point the finger at someone else. This is a time in which we confess that we have not loved God with our whole heart and that we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

You are invited to experience God's grace. Each week we are reminded "return to the Lord your God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding with steadfast love." This scripture from Joel reminds us that Lent, while it includes confession and an honest look at ourselves, it is also a time for growing in faith, for leaning in to the promises of Christ for us and for our neighbor. This year's Sunday Lenten scriptures focus on the covenants – promises - that God made with Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the Israelites, and the new covenant that comes through the cross of Christ and is made with you, in your baptism.

Friends in Christ, we are invited into the journey of Lent that leads to Easter. It is my hope and prayer that we will be able to celebrate Easter this year together – in our sanctuary. But, whether we are together in person or still online and in the parking lot, we are still a community of Christ who "Grows in faith, Goes in Grace and Serves the Lord!" Thanks be to God!



Join Us for Lenten Midweek Services

Holden Evening Prayer Service on Zoom

Wednesday Nights (Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24) at 7 PM

See the weekly email or contact us for the zoom link.

Are you missing Holden Evening Prayer in this season? Well, we are bringing it back on Zoom! Join us in community on Wednesday nights as we take in this beloved liturgy, the gifts of our talented musicians, and a new meditation each week from Pastor Pam and Vicar Kristin about forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

If you are unsure about Zoom or need a little extra help to get on, please contact the office and we will help! If Zoom isn't for you, we will post a recording on our website following the service at www.faithlilacway.org.

A NOTE FROM VICAR KRISTIN

Did you know that the Greek word in the Bible often translated into English as “repent” is *metanoëó*, which literally means to change the way one thinks? *Metanoëó* is used often in the Bible to refer to changing one’s mind, changing one’s purpose, and changing one’s heart in the direction of God’s love.

The season of Lent is one in which we are invited to experience changes of the heart. During these forty days, we are reminded of what separates us from God, our neighbors and communities, and creation itself. It is a time when remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, prayer, and works of the Spirit move our hearts closer to God.

What is tugging on your heart strings in this season, dear ones?

We all have areas in our personal lives and relationships in need of forgiveness and healing. Our suffering and divided world is also in need of the forgiveness and healing embodied in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The good news is also that we do not face these problems alone, but in community.

Let us deepen community through a five-week Lenten mid-week service series on forgiveness and healing. Embedded in the familiar liturgy of Marty Haugen’s Holden Evening Prayer, we will listen to scripture, pray, and meditate on one different aspect of forgiveness and healing each week: forgiving others; forgiving ourselves; seeking God’s forgiveness; forgiveness and reconciliation in community; healing creation.

I do so hope you will join me, Pastor Pam, and others for this Lenten journey. (See the weekly email or contact us for the zoom link and see our website for the on-line recording)).

The peace of Christ,

Vicar Kristin

**Lenten MidWeek
Holden Evening Prayer Service
Wednesdays on Zoom at 7 PM;
Online following the Recording
Theme: Forgiveness & Healing**

February 24 Forgiving others
- Genesis 50: 15-21 Joseph forgives his brothers for selling him into slavery... forgiveness is complicated and difficult

March 3 Forgiving ourselves
- 1 John 3: 16-24 (Addresses problem of guilt in believer’s life)

March 10 Seeking out God’s forgiveness
- Luke 7: 36-50 (Jesus forgives a sinful woman)

March 17 Forgiveness and reconciliation in community
- Matthew 5:1-10 (Beatitudes – God’s mercy, righteousness, and justice for those who are oppressed; living into the promise of new creation within community)

March 24 For the healing of creation
- Job 38: 1-7, 34-41 (God answers Job out of the whirlwind)

FEBRUARY WORSHIP OPTIONS

**PARKING
LOT WORSHIP!**



Several Worship Options available in February due to the pandemic.



**HOLY COMMUNION
BY ZOOM!**

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

As it gets colder... You can be safe and warm in your car, worshipping and singing God's praise. The pastors will be outside - just dressed more warmly!

Bring your own communion elements and bulletin or pick up a prepackaged cup/wafer and printed bulletin.

Park your car facing the church building and tune your FM radio to the station listed on the white board or crack your window to listen through the speakers.

Mini-Services with Communion available via Zoom Sundays at 10:30 AM

See the weekly email or contact us for the zoom link.



Welcome Guest Preacher Rev. Roderick Gholston!

We welcome Rev. Roderick Gholston, pastor of Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church, to preach for our worship service on Sunday, Feb. 21st. Greater St. John has been a ministry partner, renting worship and program space from Faith - Lilac Way for many years. *(Rescheduled from last month.)*

**ONLINE
WORSHIP!**



We will continue to offer online worship services complete with liturgy, scripture, a message and music. To access, go to our website: <http://www.faithlilacway.org/online-worship>.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY 11:00 AM by Zoom

Sundays February 7, 21 and 28
(No Bible study on Jan 31 or Feb 14)

Reflect with Pastor Pam or Vicar Kristin on the sermon and scripture of the day. What caught your attention? What does this scripture, written years ago, mean for us today? Come with questions or just to listen. See the weekly email or contact us for the zoom link.

YOUTH CORNER

SIGN UP NOW FOR WAPO SUMMER CAMP!

Camp Wapo is planning to hold summer camp this year and it is time to sign up! Space is limited this year because of the pandemic. See Pastor Pam for more details.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of glory and humility,

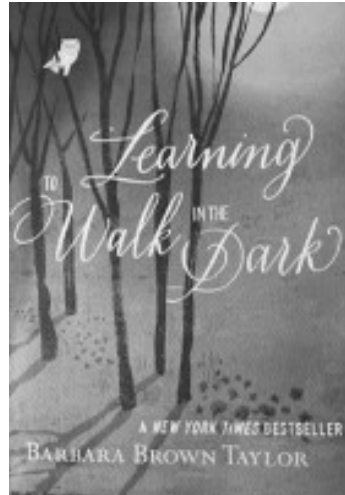
your glory shines like the sun and yet the arc of your care bends down to earth to catch a snow flake fall. God of Wholeness and Healing, we place in your care all in need of healing of body, mind or spirit. Heal those who are ill. Provide comfort and a sense of your presence to all who feel isolated and alone. Be with all living in care facilities and all who are suffering from long and short term illnesses including:

Beverly, Bob, Brad, Carolyn, Cori, David, Gaylan, Helen, Herb, Jacqueline, Jane, Larry, Linda, Lois, Lucas, Margaret, Maja, Ramona, Sandy and all those hurting neighbors, friends and relatives that are on our hearts and in our minds.

God of hope and possibilities, we ask that you lead us in the days and months to come, giving us patience with ourselves and others, the courage to continue to adapt and change what needs changing and the vision for a bright future in which we sing your praises together.

Amen.

BOOK CLUB



Come one, come all for Wednesday night book club on Zoom on January 27, February 3, and February 10. We are beginning a new book by Barbara Brown Taylor called *Learning to Walk in the Dark* and it is sure to be a thought-provoking discussion. Email Vicar Kristin with questions or for a Zoom link.

THANK YOU

ELCA World Hunger - Thank you or your gift of \$250 to ELCA World Hunger. Our savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing the everlasting joy of the transformation with your neighbors around the world.

NEAR - Thank you for stepping up to the plate to help our kids have a good family day. Thank you for your great donation of \$200. Thank you for the generous donation of the gift cards for Children for Christmas. May God be with you and bless you.

CEAP - (Formerly Dinner At Your Door) Thank you for your generous gift of \$300. Your donation has helped nourish your neighbor and ensure they will always have a place to go for help. This wouldn't be possible without you!

Thank you [♥]

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pray for, call, email, send a note to these members as they celebrate their birthdays this month. To correct or add a birthday, call the office (763.537.4523) so we can update our records. Thank you.

2 nd	Corliss Vallis	18 th	Christine Evenson
10 th	Bill Rosenberg		Grace Thompson
11 th	Mesa Vierzba	19 th	Ruby Johnson
13 th	Brian Blackman	20 th	Joyce Merkel
14 th	Brenda Spittle	21 st	Miranda Hortenbach
15 th	Wyatt Wiste	25 th	Lois Anderson
16 th	David Fernelius	28 th	Beverley Maas
			Sarah Peloquin



EASTER FLOWERS

Order your Easter flowers now to beautify the church and then your home!
Here are the prices:

		Qty	Total
Easter Lilies	\$8.00	_____	_____
Tulips	\$7.50	_____	_____
Mums	\$8.00	_____	_____
Hydrangeas	\$15.25	_____	_____
Pansy Bowl	\$10.00	_____	_____
Total		_____	_____



In memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____





PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF



**FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP
ONLINE:
www.faithlilacway.org
PARKING LOT:
9:30 AM**

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U S Postage Paid
Twin Cities MN
Permit NO. 1589

FEBRUARY 2021



Wildfire EveryMeal is our February 2021 mission of the month.

Mission: Fighting Child Hunger
More than 200,000 Children in Minnesota live with food insecurity. When kids don't have reliable access to food—such as free and reduced meal programs at school— the risk of hunger for children is very real. Every Meal will help to reduce this problem in our community by filling the gaps to food access that children face during the weekends, summer, and extended breaks.

Every Meal currently has 4,300 people that volunteer. They sponsor 265 schools, and they have 7809 financial supporters that help to carry on their mission.

Every Meal Coronavirus Response

Since March, Every Meal has responded to the skyrocketing increase in food insecurity in the community as a result of COVID-19. They are continuously monitoring and adjusting.

Thanks to all of the communities support, Every Meal has provided over 2.5 million meals. They continue to adapt to work to meet the rising demand and need our continued support throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Every Meal will be there for children through the ongoing disruption caused by the pandemic and long after to help stabilized families that are in need.