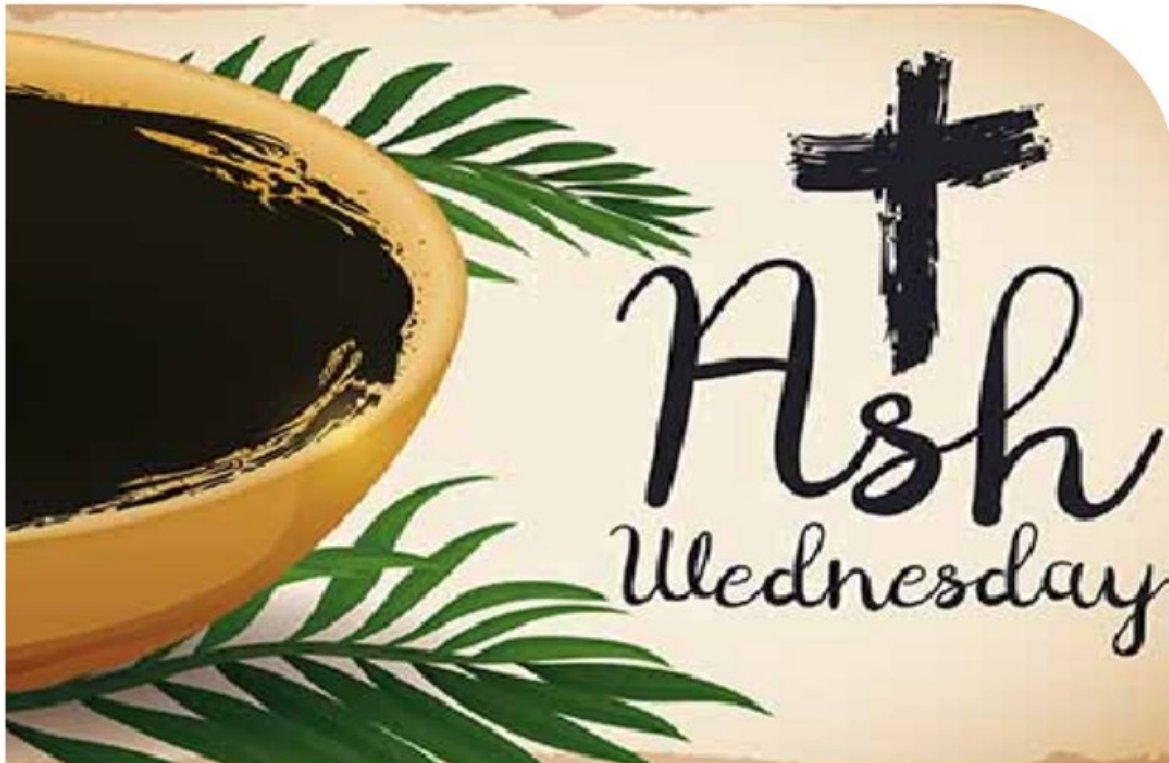




# ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

~ TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN ~

## Ash Wednesday



February 14, 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

### WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW!

God is serious about his Word in both law and gospel. It is addressed to us both collectively and individually. This Sunday it is well summed up in the pertinent question: Where are you? In the liturgy of confession may we answer honestly! In the absolution and the gospel may we hear God's response! For faith begins and ends with confession and absolution; They are its constants that are never to be taken for granted.

**Please sign our guest registry in the narthex, and fill out a guest info card located in your pew or the narthex, we would love to connect with you.** If you could also, take time to introduce yourself to the Greeters and Pastor Ben. An unstaffed nursery is available, and is located behind the Penn St. entrance. Restrooms are also located there and in the lower level of the church. The greeters will be glad to assist you with any need you may have. May God bless your worship with us this morning.

### ST. ANDREW ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FEBRUARY OUTREACH – The Son Light House** - The Son Light House is a non-profit organization, that with your generous donations will be able to distribute food, clothing and limited furniture to eligible individuals and families in our community.

**FEBRUARY CARE CARDS** - Our February care cards will be going to Bobbie Jo Kline and Penny Wettlaufer. We have cards available in the Narthex or you can bring your own. Please sign them with an encouraging note or thoughtful message and give them to the office and we will mail them out for you! Thank you!

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** - Join us this Lent as we journey together toward the cross with our friends at Muncy Baptist Church. We will meet every Wednesday at 7pm, alternating locations. Our first meeting will be at Muncy Baptist church on February 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope to see you there.

**LENTEN CROSS - MEGAN'S BOX FOUNDATION** - As a child in Hughesville, 25 years ago, Meagan Murray started to use her birthday/yard sale money to buy gifts for children at Christmas. Believing all children should have a wonderful Christmas, she gave out 16 gifts that first year. Her efforts have grown and today she has many helpers who share in her dream to help deliver cheer to children during the celebration of Christ's birth. If you would like more information before donating, you can check out her website on Facebook.

**EASTER TRUNK HOP** - March 31<sup>st</sup> means an early Easter this year! On Palm Sunday, we will have a Trunk Hop, rather than our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Just as we gather our decorated vehicles for Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Halloween, we are asking you to consider decorating your vehicle in an Easter theme and joining us on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, for a time of laughter and fun of sharing the love of Christ. As in the past, we are looking for donations of wrapped candy and snacks. Any donations are greatly appreciated and may be placed in the church library. Thank you!

**2023 FINANCIALS** - Review of the 2023 financials has been completed and are on file in the office. If you wish to view the financials please contact the office. Thanks, The Finance Committee

**MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY** - Join us for a men's or women's basic once-a-month study. The women will meet the first Saturday of the month and the men will meet on the second Saturday of the month both studies from 8-9am

## THE PRELUDE

**WELCOME** - Announcements

\* *(Indicates The Congregation To Stand)*

\* **INVOCATION**

**LBW Page 56**

\* **INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT**

**Pastor Ben Lander**

\* **(SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF EXAMINATION)**

\* **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

[Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.]

*AFTER ALL HAVE RECEIVED THE ASHES*

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

**C: That we may show forth Your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and suffering of Your Son, O Lord.

**C: Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

\* **ABSOLUTION**

\* **THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS** (YOU ARE WELCOME TO KNEEL IF ABLE)

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to You and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault; by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We have been deaf to our call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We confess to You, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, the hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**C: We confess to You, O Lord.**

**C: We confess to You, O Lord.**

P: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**C: We confess to You, O Lord.**

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us.

**C: We confess to You, O Lord.**

P: Forgive us Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with Your will,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for Your mercy is great.**

P: Let us join together in the prayer for Ash Wednesday.

**Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\* **OPENING HYMN**

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

**LBW Page 99**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**THE FIRST LESSON - JOEL 2:12-19**

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

**Anthem** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" **Chancel Choir**

### **THE PSALMODY - PSALM 51:1-19**

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

L: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

**C: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.**

L: For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**C: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

L: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**C: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.**

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**C: Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

L: Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**C: I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**

L: Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

**C: Open my lips, O LORD, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

L: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

**C: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

L: Be favorable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

**C: Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt offerings and oblations; then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

### **SECOND LESSON - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10**

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L: Here ends the reading.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **THE GOSPEL - MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For

they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

Hymn	“It Is Well with My Soul”	WHM Page 524
THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE		Pastor Ben Lander
THE SERMON	“Turning Back”	Pastor Ben Lander
Apostles Creed		LBW Page 65
GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
The Offertory Response		Screen
Offertory Prayer		

**OFFERING:** *There’s an online giving option available on our website. One way the members of St Andrew show their love for their Savior is by sharing with him a generous portion of the blessings they have received. However, our guests should not feel obligated to give. We want everyone to give out of love for Jesus and what he has done for us, and not “reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

#### ASH WEDNESDAY RESPONSE PRAYERS

**P:** Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before You in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only Your wrath and punishment. Yet You reveal Yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our

own merits and worthiness, and in response to Your gracious invitation, we come pleading for Your forgiveness.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Your holy name’s sake.**

**P:** You have revealed Your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. You sent Him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment He endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love He suffered and died for us.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Your holy name’s sake.**

**P:** In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness He has won for us, and ask for God’s continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

*[Time for silent meditation follows]*

**P:** God of grace and mercy, may Your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior’s passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve You by reflecting Your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom You lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in Your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to You, Lord God. Hear us, according to Your promise, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

\* **THE LORD’S PRAYER** LBW Page 71

**GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD**

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **CLOSING HYMN** “Abide with Me” LBW Page 272

**THE POSTLUDE**