

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
7pm



Saint John Lutheran Church
Fairfield, Pennsylvania
Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor
Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director

Reverend Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor
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Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer and penitence that begins the forty-day season of Lent. During Lent we prepare for the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent is a time when we are invited to carry out the Lenten discipline, practices of fasting, prayer and works of love, as we journey with those in our community and around the world preparing for baptism at Easter.

We receive the sign of ashes as an external mark of penitence. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and mourning, reminding us of our mortality.

With the cross on our brow, we journey through Lent, longing for the baptismal waters of Easter, our spiritual rebirth. *In keeping with the solemnity of this day of devotion, the people and the ministers assemble in silence.*

Mid-Week Lenten Devotions

Join us Wednesdays at 9:30 followed
by Discussion Group Feb. 25-Mar. 25
Everyone Welcome!

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 3rd
3:00 p.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday
April 5th
9:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

GATHERING

Create in Me a Clean Heart *(Mueller)*

WOV

Greeting The Lord be with you. **Also with you.**

*Prayer of The Day

Welcome and Announcements

WORD

First Reading:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.¹⁴Who 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?¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ” The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation (Spoken)**

Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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. ¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793

Invitation to Lent

p.252 ELW

Confession of Sin (p.252-253)

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Imposition of Ashes (p. 254)

People may come forward to receive the ashes.

***The Prayers** Hear us, O God. **Your Mercy is great.**

Offering Prayer

God our provider... you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

***The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. And also 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.

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

p. 145 ELW

*Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling* ELW 608

*Prayer After Communion

SENDING

*Blessing

***Sending Hymn** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* 325 ELW

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Dismissal

Easter Lily Memorials

See inside the Sunday bulletin or at the Usher Stand for an Easter Lily Sponsorship Form.
All memorials are due by Thursday, March 5th.

Mid-Week Lenten Devotions

Join us Wednesdays at 9:30 followed by Discussion Group
February 25th – March 25th
Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, February 22nd

Pantry Breakfast following worship. Hot oatmeal with all the fixin's & Hot Chocolate Bar.

Saturday, February 28th

Soup & Chili Pot Luck 12-2:30pm. Bring a pot of your favorite soup or chili and enjoy lunch in the fellowship hall. You do not need to bring a soup/chili to attend. All are welcome! There is a sign up sheet on the board in the fellowship hall.

