

**ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6, 2019**

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
Missouri Synod



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**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor
956.463.1305
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***Sunday Worship Service*
9:00 AM**

**Adult Bible Class
Sunday School
10:30 am**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**Website
lutheranmercedes.
com**

**[https://
www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

**Office Hrs, M-F
8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

CCLI # 2585510



REMEMBER!

You are dust, and to dust
you shall return.

Genesis 3:19

The Lord has "made peace with you
through the blood of His cross".

Colossians 1:20

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 6, 2019

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are the 3x5 white cards located in the pew racks in front of you.

AS WE GATHER The Bible is a dust-filled book, with references to dust at the beginning in Genesis all the way to Revelation, the last book of Scripture. In Old Testament times, dust or ashes placed on the head was a sign of sorrow and mourning. Dust also has been associated with the grave and death. The word of the Lord first spoken to Adam echoes in our minds: “You are dust.” Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality but also reminds us that in His great love, God has “dusted us off” through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for our sins—the truth that is at the heart of the message of Lent.

PRELUDE *(A Quiet Time for Prayer and Meditation)*

OPENING *Psalm 6:1–4, 9*

P O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,
C **nor discipline me in Your wrath.**
P Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
C **heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.**
P My soul also is greatly troubled.
C **But You, O LORD—how long?**
P Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;
C **save me for the sake of Your steadfast love.**
P The LORD has heard my plea;
C **the LORD accepts my prayer.**

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have**

not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19

(The Lord responds to His penitent people.)

12 "Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him—A grain offering and a drink offering For the Lord your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; 16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room. 17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " 18 Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, And pity His people. 19 The Lord will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**C who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

(Now is the day of salvation.)

20b we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. 4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, 5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; 6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, 7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

(Jesus teaches about fasting.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. 5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves

treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 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 OF THE DAY

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

LSB 606

SERMON *“From the Dust of Sin to the Righteousness of God ”* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440, v 1

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives.

Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [names . . . and] all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

(Silence for reflection)

P O Lord,
 C **have mercy.**
 P O Christ,
 C **have mercy.**
 P O Lord,
 C **have mercy.**
 P O Christ,
 C **hear us.**
 P God the Father in heaven,
 C **have mercy.**
 P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
 C **have mercy.**
 P God the Holy Spirit,
 C **have mercy.**
 P Be gracious to us.
 C **Spare us, good Lord.**
 P Be gracious to us.
 C **Help us, good Lord.**
 P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
 by Your holy nativity;
 by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
 by Your agony and bloody sweat;
 by Your cross and passion;
 by Your precious death and burial;
 by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
 and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
 C **Help us, good Lord.**
 P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in
 the day of judgment:
 C **Help us, good Lord.**
 P We poor sinners implore You
 C **to hear us, O Lord.**
 P To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to
 strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and
 strength to our repentance:
 C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
 P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over
 and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the
 abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all
 works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
 C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
 P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and

slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The Lord has made peace with you through the blood of His cross.

COLLECT

P Let us pray. Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives be pure and holy and that at the last we come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24–26)

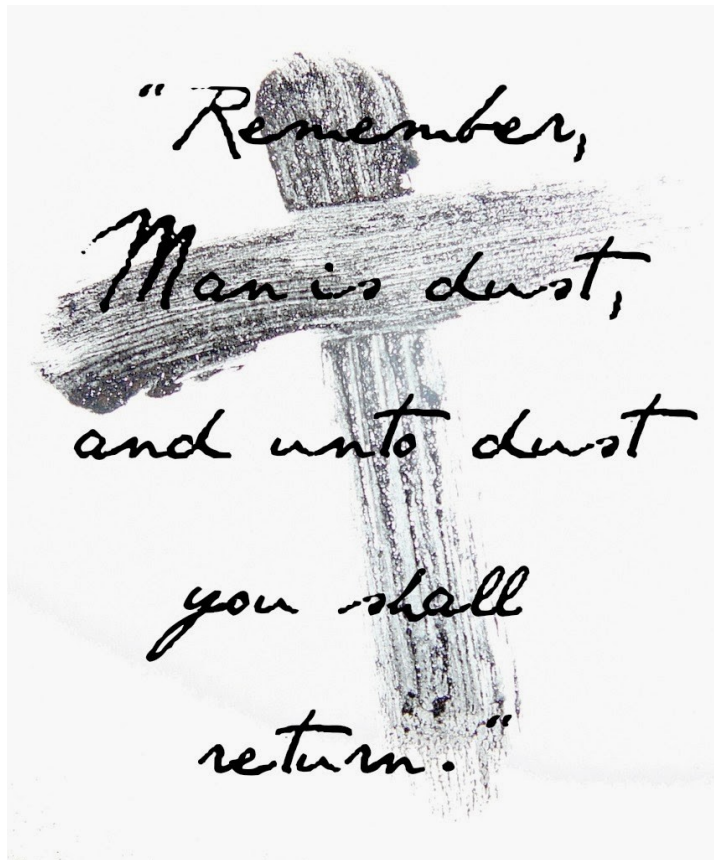
C Amen.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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22 Mission Grants. 1 Mission for God.

2017-2019
Biennium

Mission Goal
\$2,075,000

\$50,000

RECONNECT to the Body of Christ

Circuit 28 — Texas District

The congregations of Texas District Circuit 28 have a great desire to work together as one group in training mission workers to share the Word and unite these congregations and communities. They have developed a long-range plan to assist the struggling congregations in reaching out to the communities to bring the Word into the homes of hurting families. The first step in the plan has been realized with the arrival of a Director of Christian Education (DCE) that will be serving the circuit – not just an individual church. With this in place, the next stages can begin by training leaders within the congregations in a mission and ministry model utilized by a local, thriving congregation, building campus relationships with the 50,000 students attending local colleges,

and conducting community mercy projects. These funds will assist in the project startup costs, training materials, transportation costs, scholarships, and other incurred expenses of the training program.

We Pray Together...

Precious Heavenly Father, fountain and the origin of all goodness, we give you thanks for daily providing us with all that we need to support our body and soul. Help us to give generously to provide for the Circuit 28 — Texas District project to equip them to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we always be content at the foot of the cross, trusting that you will always provide for our needs. In Jesus Name, we pray Amen.

For more questions, or to learn more about us
1-800-252-5965 www.lwml.org



Prayers

Prayer #1 – Heavenly Father, we lift up this new ministry in Texas seeking to reconnect the churches with their communities, the people with their neighbors, and all with the love of Jesus. There are so many poor people in this area that need Your mercy and grace. Help the leaders and churches of this community to reach out to the lost with the love of Christ. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

Prayer #2 – Oh, God, our Father, hear our prayer. *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor ...* (Luke 4:18). Bless this ministry of connecting people with You and Your love. May this grant bring the unchurched poor in this region to faith in You. In His Holy Name, Amen.

Prayer #3 – Gracious and merciful God, hear our prayer. It is written in Proverbs that *Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God ...* (Proverbs 14:31). Help us to honor You through our prayers and our mites for the trained church workers and pastors and volunteers in Texas who are reaching out to their neighbors through Bible studies, and literacy classes; through missional training to young people. They are reaching out to their neighbors with a helping hand and the message of love and forgiveness that Jesus has for us all. We pray for all involved in this new ministry of reconnection and ask for Your blessings on them. Amen.

Story

Did you know that the United States is the third largest mission field in the world? Hard to believe but unfortunately all too true. But, think of the opportunity to share the Gospel right here in our own backyard! There is no place more in need of missionaries than in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas on the Mexican border. This area of Brownsville is the lowest socio-economic area in the US as of 2015 with 35% of all households living in poverty, and the majority of these people is Hispanic and unchurched. A large part of the problem is that we, like most Americans, do not know our neighbors. We need to reconnect!

The harvest is plentiful, the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, send the workers into His harvest field ... (Luke 10:2).

The goal is to bring the Good News of Jesus through these new relationships with students, congregations, and the community using the missional training programs provided through this grant. The beauty of this idea is in sharing resources – trained church workers for the circuit – and using existing ones in new ways such as ESL classes and literacy programs in local congregations. These ideas bring people together and establish new relationships, sharing the love of Jesus with them. The grant will provide for startup costs, training materials, scholarships, transportation costs, and other expenses to train new leaders to go and make disciples. Praise God!

March 2019

RECONNECT to the Body of Christ -
\$50,000





March 2019

Devotion

RECONNECT to the Body of Christ - \$50,000

Leader: God loves us dearly and he has blessed us richly. We have been blessed in physical ways through what we have – a home, food on the table, a job. Most priceless of all we know Jesus. Either we were baptized shortly after birth or we came to know Him later in life. But we know he loves us. We know he lived, died and rose again to save us from our sins and in Him we have eternal life. What a joy!

All: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Leader: Most of us feel we have more than we need and all that we want. We know He is always with us. But He is also with the poor and the lost. There are verses upon verses in the Bible about helping the poor and needy. Who cares for them? Isn't it our response to God's goodness to share our blessings with the helpless? Isn't God's command to love our neighbor as ourselves?

All: *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

Leader: Our greatest blessing is the knowledge of the Lord. We know His story. We trust in His forgiveness. We treasure His love and kindness. Aren't we, as children of God to share this abundance of love, kindness, forgiveness? *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you ... (John 15:12).*

All: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Leader: *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person ... (Colossians 4:2-6).* The people of the Texas District Circuit 28 have opened the door. They have seen the need and have answered the call. They want to share the Good News with others; they want to speak of God's love.

All: *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

Leader: *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ ... (Romans 10:17).* The hymn says "We love to tell the story". Don't you think there are a great many people who would love to hear the story? The greatest part of telling others about the Lord is that you now have the opportunity to affect the lives of others for good. They have the chance to come to know Christ as their Savior.

This great blessing can be shared with the poor of Rio Grande to bring them hope. The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor... (Like 4:18).

All: We pray that all will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Amen