



MARK TIMES

February 11, 2018 + The Transfiguration of Our Lord



On Ash Wednesday...

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. It is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

+ Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

+ Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.

+ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium. "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284.)"

+ Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day. Following an Invitation to Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy. – from ELCA.org

Ash Wednesday services will be celebrated jointly with St. George's Episcopal Church **THIS Wednesday, February 14** at **9:30AM** and **7:00PM**, in the church.



Father Dale will preside at the Eucharist, both Pastor Brian and Father Dale will assist in the imposition of ashes, and Pastor Brian will preach.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. Mark members are invited to St. George's annual **Pancake Supper THIS Tuesday, February 13** from **5:30-7:30PM** in the Parish Hall. Pancakes & sausage are the traditional fare for this day since meat, eggs, fat & butter were prohibited during Lent. There is no charge, but a free will offering is encouraged.



Lutheran Campus Ministry Visit TODAY



Students from LCM-St. Louis will be in the Parish Hall **THIS morning from 9:00AM to 11:00AM** selling **fair-trade Guatemalan Crafts and direct-trade coffee** to support their service learning trip to **Antigua, Guatemala** this spring break. Students will learn about coffee farming and serve with hands-on projects. We accept cash, check, Venmo (@LCM-STL) and credit card. Learn more: www.LCMstl.org Thank you for your support!

Valentine's Dinner



The youth-hosted Valentine's dinner for the congregation will be held on Saturday evening, **February 17**. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or call the office to make a reservation.



A lovely **quilt** is being raffled to benefit the youth. **Tickets are \$5 each**, with the drawing at the Valentine's dinner. See Julie V. for tickets!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 2/12	2:00P	Fiber Arts at Westfield
Tuesday	5:30P	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper-PH
Wednesday	9:30A	Divine Liturgy w/ Imposition of Ashes
	7:00P	Divine Liturgy w/ Imposition of Ashes
Friday		<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>
	12:10P	Stations of the Cross @St. Luke's
Saturday	6:00P	Valentine's Dinner – Parish Hall
Sunday, 2/18	9:00A	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20A	Coffee & Fellowship
		Adult Forum: <i>The Messiah in the Apocrypha</i>
	10:30A	Sunday School

Offerings for February 4, 2018

Sunday worship attendance:	72
Shine worship attendance:	16
General Fund Donations	\$3,093
Coffee Fund	\$23

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
2/4-2/10	\$3,093	\$40.58	\$3,052.42
YTD	\$13,058.71	\$15,816.48	-\$2,757.77

Schaaf Lecture 2018

The Schaaf Lecture committee is pleased to announce that this year's lecture will be held on **Saturday, March 10** at 7:00PM. The lecturer will be the **Rev. Dr. Ralph Klein**, professor of Old Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology since 1983. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Klein to St. Mark!



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Sunday, February 18, 2018

LOOKING AHEAD

LESSONS:
 Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Assisting Minister: Greg Martens
Acolyte: Jackie Lynch
Crucifer: Rex Rothgangel
Chalice Bearer: Tom Partelow
Lector: Cheryl Newsome
Ushers: Frank Dressel & Jason Martens

A Note from Brooke Schaefer: As most of you know, I am involved in an organization called **Dance Marathon** at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. **Dance marathon** is a 12-hour "Dance event" that raises money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals while hanging out with the miracle children & hearing their personal stories. Did you know that 212,000 children are admitted to Children's hospital in Omaha every year? This year, the University of Nebraska has set out to raise \$212,000, or \$1 for every child admitted to Children's a year. My personal goal this year is \$1,500 and I am hoping to exceed that goal for the kids. This is the event I look forward to the most and I can't believe it is my final year! If you want to donate to this amazing cause, you can do so online or by cash or check (to Bonnie Schaefer). If you would like to pay online or would like more details about please don't hesitate to text/call me at (618) 402-1643 or email (brookeschaefer@outlook.com) Thank you so much for your support!

Confirmation Schedule

The Spring session will continue to cover the books of the Old Testament.
 Upcoming class dates:
TODAY, February 11 **March 11** **March 25**
February 25 **March 18**

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