

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
Setting 5, p.156



**St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church**

914 West Boulevard South

573-449-5674 † SaintAndrewsLutheran.org

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome to worship! Whether you are here for the first time or have been a life-long member, we pray that you experience God's presence in worship.

All God's Children are Welcome! If you have children, know that all of you are welcome in worship. Little people sounds tell us that everyone is here. Families may want to sit near the pray ground (by the small table) in the front left side of the Worship space. If your little one becomes fussy, feel free to step out for a moment. There are speakers in the gathering space.

Pastoral Concerns occasionally come up. In cases of severe illness, hospitalization, death, birth of a child, marriages, joys and sadness, many people would like a pastor to visit with them. Please be sure to contact the office to let us know of your desire.

Offering is received as a response to God's grace and blessing, and as an expression of our faith. Jesus tells us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Holy Communion is celebrated at nearly every service. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. All are welcome.

Interested in growing in faith? If you have questions about what it means to enter into partnership in our shared ministry feel free to contact Pastor David.

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church Welcome Statement



At St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA), we hold space for you—the full you—including your race, age, ethnic background, personality, experiences, gender identity, sexual orientations, gender expressions, and mental, spiritual, and physical needs. Here, you are invited to worship, pray, play, be baptized, get married, and celebrate Holy

Communion.

Together, we strive to eliminate human-caused barriers to a holy relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another. We hear the call to love our neighbor as a commitment to antiracism and welcome for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We pledge to work intentionally to further justice and inclusion. We strive to glorify God in the ways we care for each other, our communities, and our planet. Recognizing that we are all siblings in Christ, we celebrate, affirm, and welcome individuals and families in all their beautiful and varied compositions. As a church that holds space just for you, we are better for having you and your unique voice here! Come

Welcome to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Page number references (such as p. 156) refer to numbers in the lower corners of the front of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* or *All Creation Sings (ACS)*. Hymn numbers (such as ELW 605) refer to large numbers

‡GATHERING‡

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *O God! Hear My Sighs and Laments* Johann Krebs

GATHERING SONG *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* ELW 600

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you;
 O Lord God, hear me calling.
 Incline your ear to my distress
 in spite of my rebelling.
 Do not regard my sinful deeds.
 Send me the grace my spirit needs;
 without it I am nothing.
- 2 All things you send are full of grace;
 you crown our lives with favor.
 All our good works are done in vain
 without our Lord and Savior.
 We praise you for the gift of faith;
 you save us from the grip of death;
 our lives are in your keeping.
- 3 In you alone, O God, we hope,
 and not in our own merit.
 We rest our fears in your good Word
 and trust your Holy Spirit.
 Your promise keeps us strong and sure;
 we trust the cross, your signature,
 inscribed upon our temples.
- 4 My soul is waiting for you, Lord,
 as one who longs for morning;
 no watcher waits with greater hope
 than I for your returning.
 I hope as Israel in the Lord,
 who sends redemption through the Word.
 Praise God for grace and mercy!

GREETING

ELW p.251

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

✠WORD✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

¹ Blow 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—
² a 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ rend 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.

¹⁴ 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?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather 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.

¹⁷ Between 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?'"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- ¹³ Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴ **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶ **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians.

^{20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Glo-ry and praise to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

Return to the ¹ Lord, your God,* who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

Glo-ry and praise to you, O Lord Jesus Christ. *(Joel 2:13)*

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ But 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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so 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, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON**

- 1 All things of dust to dust return
on earth and in the sky.
The hottest, brightest suns that burn
in time grow dim and die.
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
the newborn young that play,
the leaves that fill the forest floor
revert to dust and clay.
- 2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow
so I may comprehend
that ev'ry moment here and now
links me to that same end
I share with all that breathe and burn,
that flare and fade and tire
yet by their waning light discern
your own undying fire.
- 3 Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss,
and at the touch of dust and ash
awake my heart to view
how death itself is but a flash
that dies away in you.

INVITATION TO LENT

ELW p.252

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

ELW p.252

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ELW p.254

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

All you desire to receive a cross of ashes on their forehead may process forward.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world (places may be named). Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for (Martin Luther and) all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

✠MEAL✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Please remember that Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church continues important ministry. Consider making offerings by any of these means:

- **Offering Basket:** Place your offering in the basket as you enter or leave worship;
- **Mail:** send offerings to Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church weekly or monthly;
- **Online:** visit the SaintAndrewsLutheran.org website and click the Donate Now button;
- **Bill pay:** use the convenience of the bill pay feature through your financial institution.
- **Give by Text:** Use a smart phone to text the contribution amount to **844-989-4094**. Return text will provide a link for recording credit/debit card information and your contact information.

OFFERING HYMN (7:00 PM ONLY) *Create in Me a Clean Heart* arr. Michael Larkin

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Dialogue

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r 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.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

p.163

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Holy Communion at Saint Andrew's

- *At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. This Table of the Lord is open to all the baptized.*
- *Grape juice is available in the center ring of glasses. Gluten-free wafers are available: Please speak to those serving the bread when you come to the rail.*
- *Please follow the guidance of the Worship Hosts, going forward on one side of your section and returning to your seat on the other side.*

COMMUNION

p.112

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION SONG *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* setting, Rachel Porter

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

✠SENDING✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust
in God's eternal word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*Fugue*

Johann Pachelbel

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TODAY'S MINISTERS FOR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister:	Pr. David Frerichs	
Minister for Music:	Megan Lyon	
Organist	Sheryl Mehrhoff	
	12:15	7:00
Greeter	TBD	TBD
Worship Hosts		Debbie Hedlund
		TBD
Assisting Minsters	Read	TBD
	Pray	TBD
Acolyte		TBD
Communion Preparer	Jayne Young	Jayne Young
Communion Cleanup	Jenine Loesing	Shari Freyermuth
Visual Projectionist	TBD	TBD
Zoom Worship Host		TBD
Zoom Tech Director		TBD
Building Opener		TBD
Building Closer		TBD

Rev. David Frerichs, Senior Pastor: pastordavid@saintandrewslutheran.org
Megan Lyon, Minister for Music: mlyon@saintandrewslutheran.org
Sheryl Mehrhoff, Organist: smehrhoff@saintandrewslutheran.org
Wilson Freyermuth, Church Council President: freyermuthr@missouri.edu
Jamie Langbart, Parish Administrator: office@saintandrewslutheran.org

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Contributions and expenses through December 31, 2025

	December	YTD
Offerings	\$43,663	\$443,604
Expenses	\$37,510	\$442,548
Over/(under) expenses	\$2,123	\$1,056
Nonbudget Special Offerings	\$8,237	\$22,542

Prayers for February 18, 2026

We add to our prayers this week:

For the family and friends of Mike Schierling, who died last week; he is a friend of the Frerichs.

We continue to offer prayers of hope and healing for:

Dorcas Leighton	Linnea Geenen	Arlene Cunningham
Karola Wolfe	Dale Whitman	Candi Glancy
Joyce Berschauer	Cathy	Patric
Michelle Knipp	Suzi	Joanne Boomer
Phyllis Glasker	Mo Champion-Garthe	

We pray for those in the military:

Eric Childers, Matthew Lee, and those serving throughout the world.

We pray for those with other kinds of needs:

For all who live in times of war and conflict, particularly in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan and Congo; we pray in particular for these Palestinian detainees: Layan Nasir, and Hadeel Shatara.

Those who are incarcerated with whom we minister: Brooke, Natalie, Bettina, Miranda, Boosie, Estelle, Zayla, Yolanda, Hailey, Sandra, Jackson, and Marilyn.

We pray for our partners in ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Central States Synod and these congregations: St. James Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO; St. Mark Lutheran Church, Atchison, KS; St. Philip Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea.

Background on Palestinian detainees for whom we pray:

We pray for Layan Nasir, a Christian Palestinian student. She has been subjected to ongoing military trials for four years. In 2024, she was re-arrested and held for eight months under administrative detention. Today, she still faces the threat of an 8-month prison sentence, based on proceedings in a military court system that denies basic legal protections and presumes guilt rather than justice.

We pray for Hadeel Shatara, our FOSNA Palestinian partner, an advancement officer at Birzeit University near Ramallah. She is a fierce advocate of Palestinians and has been detained in the past for speaking out. She asks us to pray for peace for her homeland.