

February 14, 2024 • 6:30pm
Ash Wednesday



ALTERED

in witness



WELCOME ***to Elk River Lutheran Church***

Welcome to Elk River Lutheran Church! Whether you are joining us in-person or online, we're glad you're here. Elk River Lutheran Church is a forward-thinking congregation made up of people of all ages. We are a pretty new church (formed in 2009), located in a remodeled bank building on the Mississippi River in downtown Elk River. Our mission is: *Trusting in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community, serving God and neighbor.*

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together as a denomination (to learn more about the ELCA visit www.elca.org). We welcome all people and as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation that welcome extends to the LGBTQ+ community.

Please fill out the enclosed Connection Form slip and drop it in an offering plate to receive more information about Elk River Lutheran or share prayer concerns.

Things to know for the service today:

- **Bathrooms**, complete with changing tables for little ones, are located in the Fellowship Hall in the corner opposite of the main entrance.
- We welcome **kids** with their wiggles and noises in worship. We are also aware that as a parent, time away from wiggles and noises can be a blessing too. You will find our staffed nursery (For children 5 and under) by the entrance in the far corner of the fellowship hall.

We hope and pray you have a wonderful worship experience here today. To learn more about the many opportunities to participate and volunteer with the ministries of ERLC, visit our website: <https://www.elkriverlutheran.org>



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Gathering of God's People

Welcome

Gathering Hymn

(#532) "Gather Us In" v1, 2 & 4

Psalm

Psalm 51: 1-17

Lenten Hymn

(TFF #216) "Give Me a Clean Heart"

Prayer of the Day

The Word of God Proclaimed

Hymn p 205

"We Are Turning"

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Mugaas

Hymn of the Day

(#592) "Just As I Am" v1 & 3

Sharing & Receiving the Gifts of God

Offering

"Forgive Us"

Offertory Prayer

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin p 252

Imposition of Ashes

(ELW #770) "Give Me, Jesus"

"Beautiful Things"

(ELW #770) "Give Me, Jesus"

The Lord's Prayer

The Sending of God's People

Blessing of Congregation

Sending Hymn

(#319) "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" v1 & 4

Sending Dialog

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Give Me a Clean Heart



Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my



heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not wor -



thy of all these bless - ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee.



1 I'm not ask - ing for the rich - es of the land.

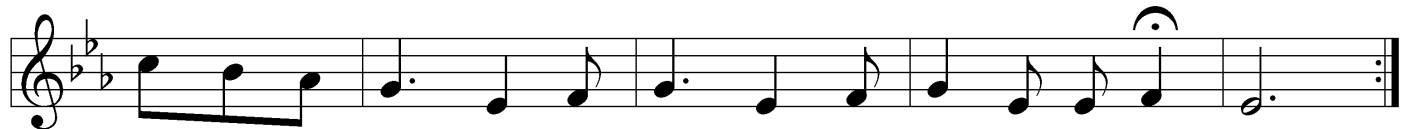
2 Some-times I am up and some - times I am down.



I'm not ask - ing for the proud to know my name.
Some-times I am al - most lev - el to the ground.



Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may fol - low thee.
Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may fol - low thee.



Give me a clean heart, a clean heart and I will fol - low thee.
Give me a clean heart, a clean heart and I will fol - low thee.

Text: Margaret J. Douroux, b. 1941

Music: A CLEAN HEART, Margaret J. Douroux, b. 1941

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Why do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?



Background: Why?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday on the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day 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.

Tonight we are using the liturgy of "*Ash Wednesday*", found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (p 251). 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.

ALTERED

by the spirit

Elk River Lutheran Church Lent 2024

ALTERED BY THE SPIRIT

Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. This Lenten season we are looking at a kaleidoscope of stories from the ministry of Jesus and the early church. We'll see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us.

We'll catch up with the work of the Holy Spirit, finding ourselves:

- *Altered in Witness*
- *Altered In the Margins*
- *Altered on the Edge of Belonging*
- *Altered Alongside Our Enemies*
- *Altered by Disruption*
- *Altered through God's Creativity*

NEW

*EASTER SUNDAY

SERVICE TIMES

MARCH 31

8:00 AM
9:30 AM
11:00 AM



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30AM AND 10:30AM

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14

5:30PM - SOUP SUPPER

6:30PM WORSHIP

DINNER CHURCH

Food, Fellowship, Scripture

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00PM

February 21 to March 17

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

MARCH 24

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28 @ 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29 @ 6:30PM

*EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

APRIL 7

HOLY WEEK





JOIN US THIS LENTEN SEASON FOR:

DINNER CHURCH

ELK RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesdays @ 6pm
February 21 - March 20



Volunteer at bit.ly/2024LentMeals

FOOD. FELLOWSHIP. SCRIPTURE

Meet the Staff

Pastor Nathan Mugaas

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Lori Sundman

Bookkeeper

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Nursery Attendants:

Clara Anderson, Emma Anderson
and Amy Brown

Meet the Church Council

President:

Kent Larson

Vice President:

Tom Werk

Treasurer:

Julie Marie Haugen

Secretary:

Matt Glasoe

Amy Anderson

Zoey Day

Sue Hales

Kelli Horner

Conni Natwick

Jeff Schrock

Confirmation Links



Confirmation Worship
Notes Form



Confirmation Volunteer
Form

Ways to Give



Cash / Check

Offering plate is
by the entrances
to the sanctuary



Mobile Giving QR Code



Text to Give

Text Give to
(612) 324-8257

Additional Ways to Give:

- **Automated Recurring Giving:** Set up online via website give button, via the Tithe.ly phone app or by contacting the church office
- **Stocks:** consider donating stocks through a conversation with your financial advisor and the church.

Elk River Lutheran Church

729 Main Street – Elk River, MN 55330

(763) 595-1216

www.elkriverlutheran.org

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 am – 4 pm; Fri Closed