

# February 18, 2026 – 6:30pm

## Ash Wednesday



### **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](http://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:

- **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.
- **Assisted Listening Devices** are available. Please contact the Media Booth

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" v1**

Prayer of the Day

## ***The Word of God Proclaimed***

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

**"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"**

Offertory Prayer

## ***Invitation to Lent***

Confession of Sin p 252

Imposition of Ashes

**"From the Dust"  
"Beautiful Things"**

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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Confirmation Worship  
Notes Form

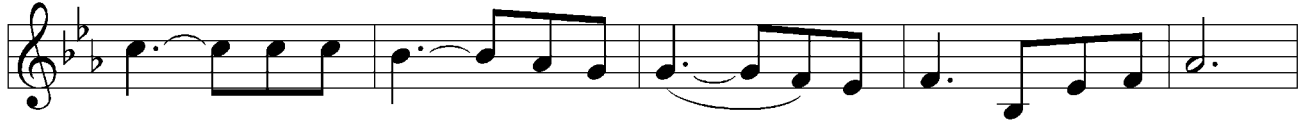
**Sign up to bring a meal item at  
[elkriverlutheran.org/lent-to-easter-2026](http://elkriverlutheran.org/lent-to-easter-2026)**



# 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.

# Ash Wednesday

F Y D W A K A N O I S S E F N O C  
D P E R U T P I R C S P P T R L N  
Z V C V C L E A N S I N G F E S G  
S S C H S S C U J N T I Y Y P G E  
S I L H S M D I O E F E C D E O U  
E N V O R S S I X K N A R I N O O  
N U R T B I T I C G C K E Y T N R  
E C S U T U S P T Y E W M H A U W  
V D F S L N L T E P A L T O N P H  
I Q U O M W A I I N A B B A C P C  
G D B D T Y W D T A I B U I E Y T  
R A S K A Z E O T U N T M E B G N  
O N E T O L N Y D E R S E F E R E  
F N H V J B E H Z F N G L N I A L  
E B S R L Z R I H Q P B Y E C C U  
X U A E L K A R E T S A E Q C E G  
S Y N I C W I D F O Q C E V X N M

Ashes	Lent	Repentance	Penitence
Confession	Sin	Dust	Cross
Baptism	Forgiveness	Grace	Mercy
Scripture	Bible	Christians	Renewal
Cleansing	Easter	Liturgy	Abolution

# Worship Volunteers



	<b>Wednesday, February 18</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Mark Johnson and Gail Palmer
<b>Ushers</b>	Chuck Hulse and Joe Livingston
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Kerry Livingston
<b>PowerPoint Operator</b>	Chris Hansen
<b>Soundboard Operator</b>	Brad Evert
<b>Switcher Operator</b>	Tom Clements

*If you would like to serve, Great! Please get in touch with the Worship Volunteer Coordinating Team so we can get you filled in. If you cannot volunteer for the upcoming Sunday, also contact the Team at [erlcvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:erlcvolunteers@gmail.com)*

**JOIN US THIS LENTEN SEASON FOR:**

## ***DINNER CHURCH***

*Share a Meal. Share a Moment. Share in Worship*

**Wednesdays @ 6pm  
February 25 - March 25**



**Sign up to bring a meal item at  
[elkriverlutheran.org/lent-to-easter-2026](http://elkriverlutheran.org/lent-to-easter-2026)**





MAKE SOME SPACE THIS LENT FOR

# UNBOUND

*Longing for Wholeness*

## Lent & Holy Week Schedule - 2026

Lent is a season that invites honesty about what we carry and what we seek. This year, we explore the many forms of longing that shape our lives—longing for wholeness, mystery, relationship, community, courage, and new life. Rather than rushing to easy answers, this series invites us to listen for how Jesus meets our deepest longings with presence, compassion, and grace. Our Lenten journey unfolds through Ash Wednesday, Sunday worship, alongside our Dinner Church gatherings, and Holy Week.

### Ash Wednesday — February 18

Soup Supper (Community Room): 5:30 PM

Worship (Sanctuary): 6:30 PM

### Sunday Worship During Lent - 8:30AM & 10:30AM

February 22 — Longing for Wholeness

March 1 — Longing for Mystery

March 8 — Longing for Relationship

March 15 — Longing for Community

March 22 — Longing for Authenticity

### Dinner Church (Meal & Worship Together)

Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25

6:00 PM in the Community Room

### Palm Sunday — March 29

8:30AM & 10:30AM

W/ Special Kids Program

### Special Holy Week Service — Friday, April 3

6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

A service combining elements of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

### Easter Sunday Worship — April 5

8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:00 AM

Elk River Lutheran Church ELCA