

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

**Worship with Holy Communion
and Imposition of Ashes**

6:30 PM

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

The assembly gathers in silence.

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray together.

C: 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L: 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 the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

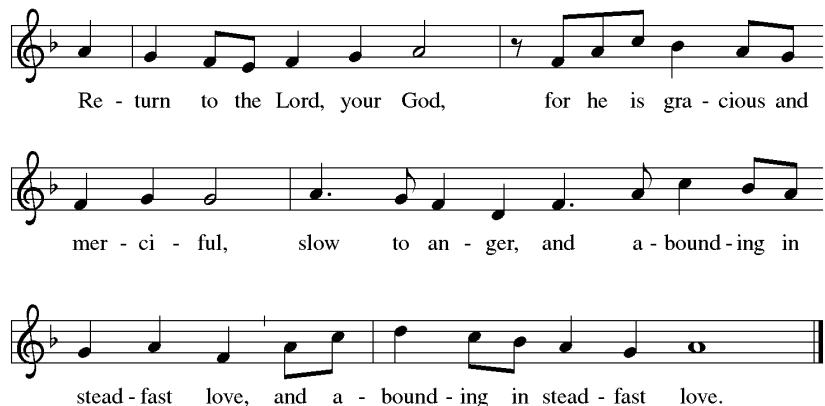
^{20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{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 the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, beginning in the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

"Even Now: Return to the Lord"

Pastor Rudy

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

ELW 592

CONFSSION OF SIN

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of [☩] Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: 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.

Respond to each petition: AM: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

ELW 803

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will take place via continuous line. We welcome all baptized persons to the Lord's Table who believe Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children are welcome to be brought forward to receive a blessing. Participants will be offered a wafer and invited to eat with these words, "the body of Christ given for you." Gluten free wafers are available. Next, step to the silver tray that contains glasses of white grape juice at the center and outer empty glasses for wine. Lastly, participants will step to the last assistant who will pour the wine and share these words, "the blood of Christ shed for you." Place your glass in the small silver bowl at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. If you wish to come forward and not receive either element, simply cross your arms for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW 793

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, \pm bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

INVITATION TO LENT

P: 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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & DISMISSAL

AM: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: You are invited to come forward. A cross will be marked upon your forehead with these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Today we begin a journey of listening, learning, and dwelling together in God's word, forgiveness, and love. Come, for all is now ready.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation is invited to come forward to receive ashes. All depart in silence.

LENT AT EMANUEL'S

LENTEN EVENING DINNER CHURCH is Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25

"By Faith: A Midweek Lenten Series," centers each gathering on this question, "What is faith?" The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines it in this way: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This series will focus on the book of Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter. Our first four weeks provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. Then, our fifth week, will bring us to Jesus, "the perfecter of our faith," and his path to the cross. Our evening begins at 6pm with a communal meal. There is always a place for you at the table.

POVERTYCURE: WORKSHOP & DISCUSSION, Sunday, February 22 – March 29 at 9am in the Family Life Center. If you've ever wondered how to effectively help those in need, or have wondered how to measure generosity, or how we can think about our role as Emanuel's Lutheran in Seguin, then join us for PovertyCure's small group video and discussion series. We will learn and discuss the reality that, when we view people as made in the image of God with creative capacity, it changes absolutely everything about how we approach charity, missions, and development. www.povertycure.org

HERITAGE BIBLE CLASS SPRING STUDY, Sundays at 9:15am in Room 307. This quarter we'll study together the books of Acts, Psalms, and Lamentations. We will see how faithful women and men pray together, lift one another up, cry together, and even question God together. These words from ancient times still ring true to our modern experiences.

OH, LOVE, HOW DEEP 2026 Lenten Devotional. Everyone is invited to download a copy of the Luther Seminary 2026 Lenten devotional at www.lutheransem.edu/godpause/Lenten-devotional/ . Save to your phone, tablet, or computer to access with ease wherever you are. We are grateful for this complementary resource to use during the beautiful, prayerful, and meditative journey of Lent.

EGGAPALOOZA: The 4rd annual community wide EGGAPALOOZA is **Saturday, March 28** and we are back at TLU Bulldog Stadium! The egg hunt is free and open to everyone, of all abilities, from ages 2 to 12 years old. Invite your friends, your neighbors, your family, or someone who just looks like they would have fun at an egg hunt and help us have the biggest and best egg hunt in Seguin to date! Follow our [Facebook Event Page](#) for updates.

SUNDAY WORSHIP is in the sanctuary, online, and aired on KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP LEADERS:

Preaching: Pastor Rudy

Presiding: Pastor Marcus

Assisting Minister: Karen Weinstein

Communion Assistants: Elizabeth Jandt, Marsha Schroeder, Dave English, Liz Witten

Reader: Allison Eladhari

Ushers: Bev Seidenschwarz, Darlene Zies, Council Members

Altar Guild: Sheila English, Dave English

Council Greeter: Darlene Zies

Musician: Edward Workmon, organ

EMANUEL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "To be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all."

Emanuel's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

206 North Travis Street | Seguin, Texas 78155 (830) 379-5046

Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8-5.

www.EmanuelsLutheranChurch.com | info@elcseguin.org

Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un- known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.