

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

Ash Wednesday: Life-Giving Fruit
February 18, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Adam had free access to the tree of life, to eat of its fruit and live forever (Genesis 2:8–9). The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, however, was off-limits. “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die,” God warned (v. 17). Rather than obey God, Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thus bringing the whole world into sin and ruin (Genesis 3:1–19). But God sent Jesus Christ to the world—a new Adam, who would obey the voice of His Father and rescue Adam’s fallen sons and daughters from death. On the tree of the cross, Jesus removed the curse by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). The door to paradise has been opened once again in His crucified and risen flesh and blood (Revelation 22:1–5, 14). His body and blood are for the Christian a life-giving fruit.

Prelude	Fantasy on “Kingsfold” <i>Handbell Choir</i>	arr. H. Dean Wagner
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Please stand

+ ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS +

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection

P: O Lord,
C: **have mercy.**

P: O Christ,
C: **have mercy.**

P: O Lord,
C: **have mercy.**

P: O Christ,
C: **hear us.**

P: God the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit,
C: have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us.
C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: Be gracious to us.
C: Help us, good Lord.

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In the time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You
C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:
C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:
C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C: we implore You to hear us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,
C: hear us.

P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,
C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,
C: have mercy. Amen.
P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Please sit

+ The IMPOSITION of ASHES +

*The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation.
The pastor or an assistant places the ashes on the forehead of each person
in the sign of the cross, saying:*

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

After receiving the ashes, each person returns quietly to his or her pew.

Anthem	"Create in Me" Sanctuary Choir	Michael Larkin
Create in me a clean heart, O God	And uphold me with your free Spirit	
And renew a right spirit within me	With your free Spirit	
Create in me a clean heart, O God	Create in me a clean heart, O God	
And renew a right spirit within me	And renew a right spirit within me	
Cast me not away from your presence	Create in me a clean heart, O God	
And take not your Holy Spirit from me	And renew a right spirit within me	
Restore to me the joy of your salvation	Create in me a clean heart, O God	
	Amen Amen	

+ CONFESSIO and ABSOLUTION +

Hymn	"Savior, When in Dust to Thee"	Hymn No. 419
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Please stand

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal

punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

+ SERVICE of the WORD +

Psalmody

Psalm 34:4-10

P: I sought the Lord and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

C: **Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.**

P: This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

C: **The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.**

P: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

C: **Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!**

P: The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Kyrie ~ Lord, have mercy

Music in hymnal, pages 152-53

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, the First Adam disobeyed You, barring humanity from the tree of life and casting us into the dust of death. Because You do not desire the death of any sinner, You sent your only-begotten Son, Jesus—the Second Adam—to rescue and redeem us from the curse of sin and death by having Him become our sin and die our death. Grant that we, during this season of Lent and all seasons, follow Jesus, whose obedience unto death, even death on the tree of the cross, has earned our way back to the tree of life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1-15

R: ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the

garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Revelation 22:1-5, 14

R: ¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴ They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Lenten Verse

Music in hymnal, page 157

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9-13

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

¹²The Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. ¹³And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please sit

Hymn of the Day "The Tree of Life"

Hymn No. 561

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message "Life-Giving Fruit"

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

L: Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer before You our common supplications for the well-being of Your Church throughout the world. So guide and govern it by Your Holy Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Send down upon all ministers of the Gospel and upon the congregations committed to their care the healthful spirit of Your grace that they may please You in all things.

Behold in mercy all who are in authority over us. Supply them with Your blessing that they may be inclined to Your will and walk according to Your commandments. We humbly ask Your abiding presence in every situation that You would make known Your ways among us. Preserve those who travel, satisfy the wants of Your creatures, and help those who call upon You in any need that they may have patience in the midst of suffering and, according to Your will, be released from their afflictions.

Adam turned his back on Your word and ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which brought sin and misery to us all. Yet, You did not leave us to die forever but rather sent Jesus who perfectly obeyed Your word and bore our sin on the cross to overcome by a dead tree what Adam did by a living one. Through the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the First Adam brought forth sin and death, but through the tree of the cross, the Final Adam has brought forth forgiveness, life, and salvation, which He now delivers to us in the Lord's Supper. Feed us with the life-giving fruit of Jesus' body and blood that we would be enabled to hear and do Your Word as You lead us back from exile to paradise!

As we meditate on the Lord's Supper during Lent, deepen our understanding and appreciation for all the blessings, benefits, and treasures You bestow on us through this salutary gift, that we would hunger and thirst for Jesus' body and blood all life long; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please sit

Offering Moment

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Anthem	“Grant unto Us Thy Peace, O Lord”	Mendelssohn/ed. Schuneman
	<i>Sanctuary Choir</i>	
Grant unto us thy peace, O Lord,		Who could so firmly defend us.
Grant us thy peace enduring		For thou art our hope and safety.
For there is none, none with the strength,		

Please stand

Offertory	Music in hymnal, pages 159-60
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Lord’s Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon	Music in hymnal, page 165
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Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn	“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”	Hymn No. 563
		Verses 1-4

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude	Prelude in F Minor (BWV 857)	J. S. Bach
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*During the postlude, please take a moment to get up and greet guests and worshippers at this service
who are new to you. You are also welcome to stay seated for a time of prayer and reflection.*

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Serving Tonight	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Scripture Reader	Lisa Dorn
Ushers	* (lead) Paul Devine
Choir Director	Anne Lee
Handbell Director	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	*
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Janet Lillestolen (door) June McGurn (welcome center)
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Closer	Roger Thorstenson

* = unfilled as of February 17

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Randy and Melanie Stockman); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod