

God's 5th Commandment of Love



+ Ash Wednesday +
February 18, 2026



Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!

Midweek Lenten Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

God's 5th Commandment of Love – *Preserving and Protecting Life*

NOTICE: As a courtesy to other worshipers, and out of respect for The Lord, please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices, including children's toys. Thank you.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in our Comfort Room located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, Your Son tells us that the worship of You is done in Truth and in Spirit. Bless our time together so that the truth of Your Love will be revealed through the Holy Spirit. Thank You that we can worship together in one sanctuary. Let us leave here today filled with strengthened faith, and zeal to love others. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen*

WORSHIP THEME: During this season of Lent, we reflect upon our sins, not to wallow in guilt or shame, but to acknowledge the ugliness of our iniquities, confess them before God, receive forgiveness, and then focus on living more repentant lives for Christ.

We continue our God's 10 Commandments of Love Sermon Series looking at the 5th Commandment. What is the biblical definition of murder? What does it mean to cause no harm to other human beings? What can we do to better care for our fellow man? How do we respect, preserve, and protect human life? **The Imposition of Ashes will be offered!**

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

OFFERING: *Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.*

Bible Verse for the month: *1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV*

P: For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

C: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

P: God bless you with the Power of Christ's Cross as you worship Him.

HYMN OF INVOCATION.... "O Lord, Throughout these 40 Days" LSB 418

(Please turn and follow the Processional Cross and Light of Christ)

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,
Since we have known 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.

INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND HOLY ABSOLUTION

P Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. You are eternal, but we are limited in our days. You formed Adam from the dust of the ground, and someday we will return to dust. You remind us of this in Your Word:

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P We know Lord, ashes speak of condemnation for sin. When Adam fell into sin, judgment and death came to all. Since we all are born into sin, we are marked for death and ashes.

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P Ashes speak of our total dependence upon You, O God. We are but frail human beings who must rely upon You, dear Father. We think we are capable of taking care of ourselves and make our own plans for greatness. However, so often these plans fail and crumble into ashes.

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P Ashes speak of our humiliation and repentance. As people in the Bible humbled themselves

and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before You, O God, as we ask You to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we repent and put on dust and ashes.

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P People of God, as we see the meaning of ashes and dust for our lives as Christians, we now make our earnest confession unto the Lord. (Silence for meditation) Almighty God....

C You have always warned Your people against trusting in false gods of this world. I am sinful and this nature has given birth to my sinful deeds: things I have done wrong and things I have left undone. I am dust, and I deserve nothing more than to return to the dust, forever. I deserve Your stern punishment, now and forever. But for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me of all my sins and renew me to better live Your forgiveness. Amen.

HOLY ABSOLUTION

P You have heard the Word of the Lord, "Repent, and believe the gospel." With these words, Jesus began His ministry and now directs us to make repentance and hear His Good News. Therefore, as you have made repentance, now hear the Gospel. I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce to you the grace of God. Therefore, I forgive you of all your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES...If you wish, please come forward. All repentant worshipers are invited.

This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God. Source: LCMS.org

THE SALUATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY/THE COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*Moment of silence to collect our thoughts on the worship theme*) O Heavenly Father, please bring Your Word to our repentant hearts to better understand Your call to respect, preserve, and protect human life knowing Your Son died out of love to preserve and protect us for eternity only through Your divine grace and mercy. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Suffering Servant Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING #1.....Genesis 4:1-16 ESV

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it." ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

SCRIPTURE READING #2.....Jeremiah 1: 4-5 ESV

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

SCRIPTURE READING #3.....Matthew 25: 31-40 ESV

Jesus said: ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right,

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

SCRIPTURE READING #4.....Matthew 27: 3-10 ESV

³ Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." ⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷ So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

SCRIPTURE READING #5.....1 John 3:11-18 ESV

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

SERMON: “God’s 5th Commandment of Love – Preserving and Protecting Life”

Texts: Genesis 4:1-16, Jeremiah 1: 4-5, Matthew 25: 31-40, Matthew 27: 3-10, and 1 John 3:11-18

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

(If you are able, please stand)

MAGNIFICAT (Song of thanksgiving from Mary)

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior

C: For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

P: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His Name;

C: And His mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

P: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

C: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

P: He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich He has sent empty away.

C: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW *(At the end of each prayer petition)*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

(At the conclusion of the prayers, if you are able, please stand)

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: Alleluia.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord, rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C: To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

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.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" BROWN 369 (for the notes)

1. O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel Thee near me,
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear:
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;

But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

3. O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

P: Go in peace, with ashes on Your head to preserve and protect life.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ESV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Brown: The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration

Attendance:

- Sunday School, Feb 8: **14** (10 children and 4 adults)
- Adult Bible Study, Tues. Feb 10: **25** (11 in-person and 14 on-line/phone)
- Worship Sunday, Feb 8 – 9am: **70**; 11am: **23**; Wed, Feb 11 - 7pm: **25**
 - Net Attendance: **112**

On-Line Streaming:

- Sunday, Feb 8: **14** devices watching LIVE on our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel (Technical problems)
 - Facebook Total Views: **245** (After full episode uploaded)
 - YouTube Total Views: **60** (After full episode uploaded)

<u>General Fund Operating Offerings Needed Per Month:</u>	\$ 19,534
Month-To-Date Plate Offering:	\$ 5,741
Month-To-Date Givelify:	+ \$ 1,430
General Fund Operating Offerings received for February (2 of 4 weeks)	\$ 7,171
General Fund Operating Offerings still needed to pay February bills	\$ 12,363

***We give praise You, O Lord, for the gifts we have received;
Please, help us receive more for Your glory. Amen.***

Upcoming Events at Messiah

- **Food Pantry now open again twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 3:30-5:30pm**
- **Midweek Lenten Suppers** continue every Wednesday at 5:45pm till March 25
- **Fish Fry Dinners** continue every week Friday from 5-7pm till March 27.
- **Midweek Lenten Services** continue every Wednesday at 7pm, till March 25. **God's 10 Commandments of Love sermon series continues**
- Tuesday, February 24 at 6pm: **Stewardship Committee** – Upstairs Conference Room
- Wednesday, February 25 at 5:45pm: **Youth Bible Study** – Fellowship Hall
- Thursday, February 26 at 6pm: **Forward Planning Committee** – Upstairs Conference Room
- Sunday, March 1 at 12:15pm: **Lay Elder-Deacon Meeting** – Upstairs Conference Room
- Saturday, March 7 from 10am to 2pm **Women's Day Event - Fellowship Hall**
- Saturday, March 14 at 9am: **Men's Group** in Downstairs Conference Room
- Thursday, March 19 at 5:30pm: **Ladies Bible Study Class** – Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, March 21: **Food Pantry at Winter Farmer's Market** – Downtown Beloit
- Sunday, March 22 after 9am service: **Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall**
- **Palm Sunday, March 29 and April 1**
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7pm**
- **Good Friday, April 3 at 7pm**
- **Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9am and 11am and April 8 at 7pm**
- Sunday, April 12 at 11am: **Sunday School ringing bells**
- Sunday, May 10 and Wed May 13: **Mother's Day services with brunch between services on Sunday**
- Sunday, May 17 at 9am: **Confirmation Sunday**
- Sunday through Tuesday, July 25 - 29. 5:30-7:30pm **VBS**; 5-5:30pm free dinner

Thursday	5:30pm	Ladies Bible Study Class – Fellowship Hall
Friday	5-7pm	Fish Fry Dinners – Fellowship Hall
Saturday	8am	New Member Class – Upstairs Conference Room
	9am	Messiah's Choir Practice - Sanctuary
Sunday	9am	Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10am	Sunday School and Fellowship Celebrating February Birthdays
	11am	Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School Ringing Bells

Attention Thrivent Members: Choice dollars are charitable grants to support congregations like Messiah without costing you any money. If you have certain life insurance or financial products with Thrivent you may be able to designate your Choice Dollars to support the ministry work here at Messiah. Please see Pastor Dan for details. You have until March 31 to designate your 2025 Choice Dollars.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Prayer Line: 608-365-4724

Office Administrator: Kristi Sears
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-Noon
Office Email: messiahlutheransecretary@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: dan.eddy@verizon.net

Welcome

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome. To our first-time guests and visitors, we extend our sincere greeting. To those who seek a church home, we invite you to our fellowship. Messiah has existed since 1959 to receive God's forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus through Word and Sacrament and to share the good news that God's Son, Jesus Christ, lives, died, and rose for all.

Divine Worship Schedule

Sundays with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM and 11AM
Midweek Lenten Wednesdays – 7:00 PM

Leadership

Rev. Daniel Eddy	Pastor	<u>314.775.7371</u>
Jared McCannon	President	815-973-8798
Bill Swanson	Vice-President	608-295-1829
Merri Boos	Treasurer	815-703-0990
Zach Anderson	Lay Elder-Deacons	608-207-0509

Messiah is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.



Mid-Week Wednesday Supper -
Wednesday, February 25:

Supper Hosted by Sue Kolander, Sherry Simpson,
Sharon Dwyer, Sue Luethy, and Jon Paquette

On the Menu:

- Lasagna
- Garlic Bread
- Salad
- Drinks: Soda, water, milt

Supper is at 5:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.



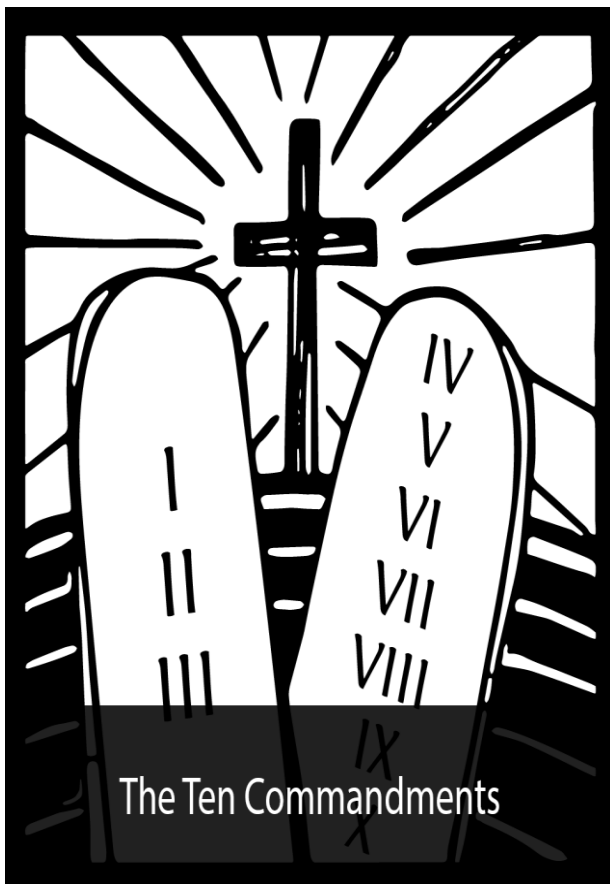
Midweek Lenten Services:
God's Top 10 Expressions of Love

Wednesday, February 25 at 7pm, **we look at God's 4th Commandment of Love: Honoring those in Authority over Us.** If we don't have order then we have chaos in our homes, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world.

And this command comes with a promise!

How can we honor this commandment as we live in the world today?

CDs are in the Narthex of previous services covering the 5th 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th/10th Commandments on Murder, Adultery, Stealing, Gossip, and Coveting,



Els.org