

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

5709 Wedgwood Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-292-1338 office@stmatthews-elca.org

THE MESSENGER

KID'S EDITION

St. Matthew's Mission Statement:
Living in Christ through faith.
Living for neighbor through love.

SPRING 2025

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, organized in 1953, is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School class at 10:45 am during worship

Kelly Riddle

Community Engagement Coordinator

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Adam Frame

Director of Music Ministries
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John Wolf

Organist / Pianist

Valerie Dyke, Erin Reigh
Nursery Attendants

Faye Youngblood

Congregation President

Kid's Messenger Editor
Mary Nedde - Suggestions welcome!

LENT TO EASTER:

Lent begins March 5 with Ash Wednesday.



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

St. Matthew's & St. Christopher will worship on March 5 when ashes will be placed on everyone's forehead.

Holy Week is the week before Easter. It is filled with many important worship services.

Palm Sunday is April 13.

We remember people cheered as Jesus rode on a donkey into the city of Jerusalem.



Maundy Thursday is April 17.

We remember Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples and washed their feet as a servant.

Good Friday is April 18.

We remember Jesus died on the cross to forgive all of our sins.



EASTER is April 20.

We joyfully celebrate that Jesus is alive again! There will be special music and happy hymns in worship, and we will shout "ALLELUIA!"

BURYING THE “ALLELUIA” AND OTHER TRADITIONS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

During the entire 40 days of Lent the word “Alleluia” is completely absent from the liturgy of the Church. It is never said once, even on Sundays. However, it is an important word, one that deserves an appropriate send off before resuming its use at the end of Lent.

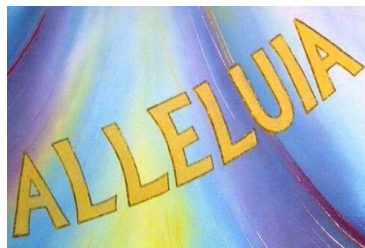
The word “Alleluia” comes from a Hebrew expression that means “praise the Lord.” It is found in the Psalms many times, and has always been associated with joy and exultation. This is why it is not used during Lent, which is a somber season of the church focused on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Often, on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins, churches will “bury” the “Alleluia” by putting a written “Alleluia,” usually on a big piece of paper, into a box or another container and put it away until Easter Sunday. ***You and your family can “bury” the Alleluia at home and bring it out on Easter Sunday - help decide where it should be hidden.***

During Lent, people often give extra offerings in church or to charities to remind them of Jesus’ sacrifice of dying on the cross. They might continue to give extra offerings through the rest of the year, or give extra time to people in need. Talk with your family about how you can help people with extra offerings or donations to an organization that helps people. One way to help is to bring donations to St. Matthew’s food pantry - see below.

Every week in Lent we will have worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. During the last week of Lent, called Holy Week, we will look forward to Easter with worship services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

Food Pantry Needs: Canned items with pop tops are preferred, such as canned vegetables, soups, or Vienna Sausages. Also helpful are peanut butter (plastic jars), cereal, small tubes of toothpaste, deodorant, hand soap or sanitizer, travel-size tissues, hand wipes, granola or protein bars. Bring your items to the bin in St. Matthew’s entry area.



Pretzels

There are numerous accounts regarding the origin of pretzels. Most state that they have a Christian background and were invented by European monks. According to some scholars and various sources, the most popular story is that the pretzel was made in 610 AD by an Italian monk when he decided to make a special treat to help motivate his students to keep on learning, especially their prayers. He rolled out a few strips of dough and crossed them to try and resemble two hands praying, and after he baked it, the pretzel was born. The monk handed them out to his students as "pretiola" (little rewards). Some say the twisted shape is symbolic of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are also stories of the pretzel having begun in France and Germany.



Pretzels made with flour and water could be eaten during Lent when Christians were forbidden to eat eggs, lard, milk or butter (dairy products). As time passed, pretzels were associated with both Lent and Easter. Some people hid pretzels on Easter morning, like Easter eggs are hidden today.

EASTER SUNDAY - ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Our celebration of Jesus rising from the dead is heard and seen through our joyful hymns and use of bright colors on Easter Sunday. We use bright colors for decorating Easter eggs, for the things we might wear on Easter, and for the many flowers we will see in church. If you have a cross at home, put colorful flowers on it on Easter Sunday to remind you that Jesus is risen. During worship, we will shout "Alleluia, Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!"



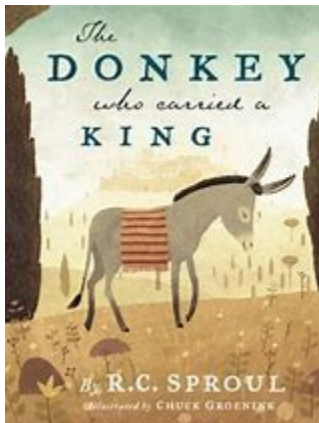
You can watch Godly Play stories and animated videos about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter specially made for children on YouTube. They will help you get ready for Easter!

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear God: I thank You that You are loving and forgiving. Help me to love people in the same way as You have loved me and my family. Guide me to do kind things for others because I love You. When Easter comes, help me to remember to shout "Alleluia!" to remind me that Jesus died and rose to life again to forgive me of all my sins. Amen.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS



The Donkey Who Carried a King

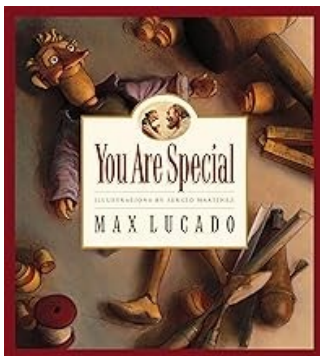
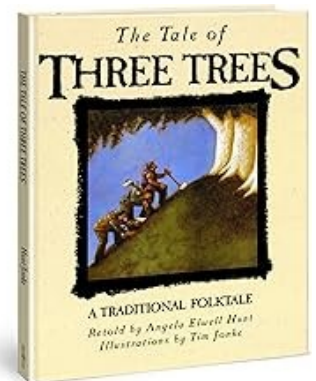
by R.C. Sproul; ages 3-8 Published in 2012

Davey was a young donkey, bored and unhappy because he was never given anything to do. One day, some strangers came to the gate - and Davey's keeper picked him for a very special task. He was chosen to carry the King, who was Jesus, into Jerusalem. A few days later, Davey saw some angry people making the King carry a heavy beam of wood. Davey could not understand it until another donkey helped him see that the King was being a servant for His people.

The Tale of Three Trees, A Traditional Folktale

Retold by Angela Elwell Hunt; ages 3-8 Published in 1989
With beautiful illustrations, this best-selling children's book helps children understand the significance of Christ's life and his sacrifice for us on the cross. A meaningful tale for all ages.

"Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up ..."



You Are Special by Max Lucado; ages 2+ Published in 1997

In the town of Wemmickville there lives a Wemmick named Punchinello. Each day the residents award stickers - gold stars for the talented, smart, and attractive Wemmicks, and gray dots for those who make mistakes or are just plain ordinary. Punchinello, covered in gray dots, begins to feel worthless. Then one day he visits Eli the woodcarver, his creator, and he learns that his worth comes from a different source. This is book 1 in the Wemmicks series.

Lighting the Advent Wreath - December 2024

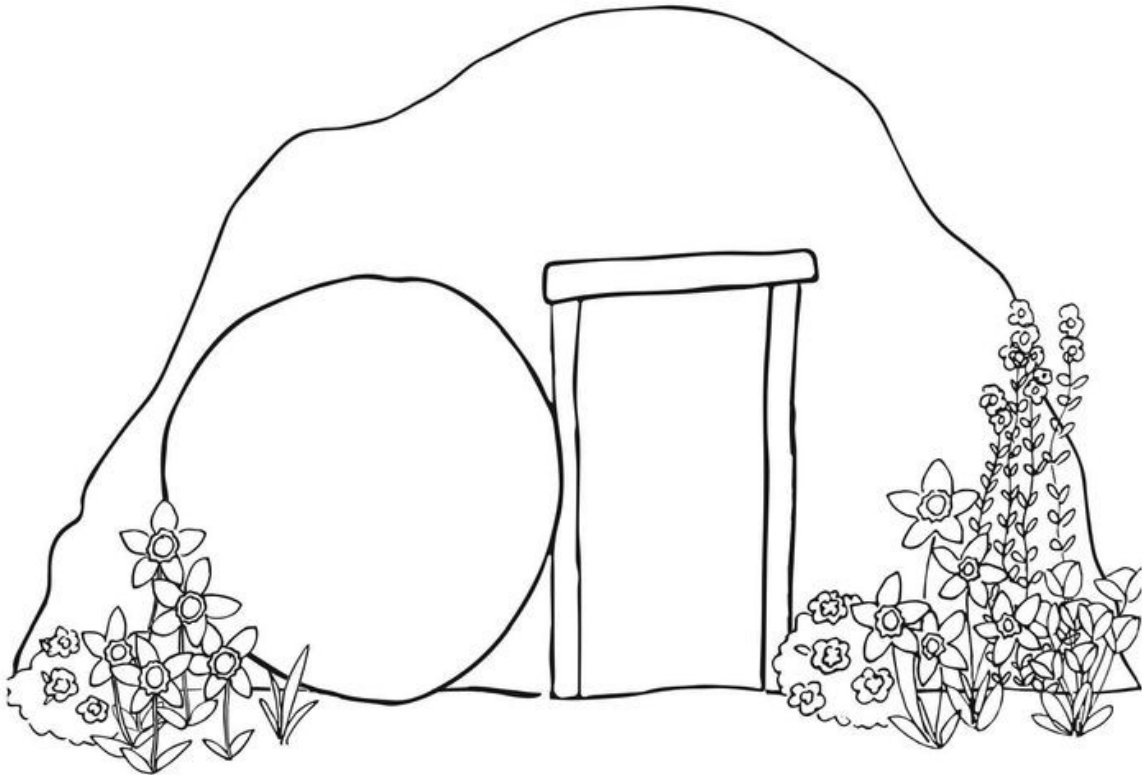


Christmas Eve Worship

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School ↓



Coloring Page



He is Risen

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EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20, 2025