

ST. MATTHEW'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

5709 Wedgwood Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-292-1338
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THE MESSENGER

KID'S EDITION

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

SPRING 2026

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 Children's Sunday School 10:45 am

Rev. Phil Heinze
Interim Pastor
phillipheinze@gmail.com

Kelly Riddle
Community Engagement Coordinator
community@stmatthews-elca.org

Adam Frame
Director of Music Ministries
music@stmatthews-elca.org

John Wolf
Organist / Pianist

Laura Badgett
Director of St. Matthew's Handbell Choir

Valerie Dyke
Nursery Attendant

Kid's Messenger Editor
Mary Nedde
Suggestions are welcome!

FAITH EVENTS IN SPRING

LENT - Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18. It is the time in the church year when we learn about Jesus' time before his death and how we can be more loving. ✝

HOLY WEEK - Holy Week is the week before Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday 🌿 when we hear the story of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem. The week includes Maundy Thursday, when Jesus shared communion with his disciples 🍷 and washed their feet, and Good Friday, the day when we remember Jesus died. †† Read about these events in John 13 and John Chapters 18 and 19.

EASTER SUNDAY - The joyful day when we celebrate that Jesus rose (was resurrected) from the dead and defeated death. This year, Easter will be on April 5. The Easter story can be read in John Chapter 20. 🍬 🍬 🍬 🍬

PENTECOST - This is the day when we celebrate Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. It will be on May 24. Read the first part of Acts Chapter 2. 🕊

SYMBOLS OF LENT AND EASTER



The cross of ashes (made from burning last year's Palm Sunday palms) is placed on an individual's forehead on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lent season of the church year. Ash Wednesday is a somber day when we remember that Jesus died for us, but we also have joyful hope as we look forward to Easter. Lent is a time of reflection and growth in our faith.



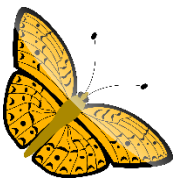
In ancient Jewish times, palm branches were recognized as a symbol of victory, triumph, and glory. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday, the people thought he was coming as someone very important. Using palms was a way to welcome Jesus.



A large cup with a wafer over it is a common symbol for holy communion in Christian churches. Jesus shared communion with his disciples during what is called Holy Week (the week before Easter). Although the disciples did not completely understand the significance of this communion, Jesus was letting them know that he would soon sacrifice himself on the cross.



The cross is a universal symbol for Christians. Jesus' death on a cross is so important an event, that it is used by Christians in churches and in many homes. It is a significant reminder that Jesus died for all of our sins. There are sometimes three crosses shown to represent Jesus (in the center), and the two sinners that died with Jesus, one of whom repented and received forgiveness while he was on the cross.



The butterfly is a symbol of the newness in life with Jesus that we have through his resurrection from the dead on Easter. Like a caterpillar is changed into a beautiful butterfly, we are beautifully changed knowing that Jesus' love for us was so great that he died for all of our sins.



Easter eggs also are symbols of the new life we have with Jesus. Just like baby chicks hatch from the eggs to start a new life, Jesus rose from the dead, coming out of the tomb to begin a new way of life for his disciples, and all who believe in him.

**REMEMBER TO JOYFULLY SHOUT ON EASTER:
CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

Thank you, God, for the food we eat.
(Pretend to hold a plate.)

Thank you, God, for the friends we meet.
(Wave to each other.)

Thank you, God, for the birds that sing.
(Flap arms like wings.)

Thank you, God, for everything!
(Raise hands high.)

A FAMILY MEAL-TIME PRAYER WITH MOTIONS



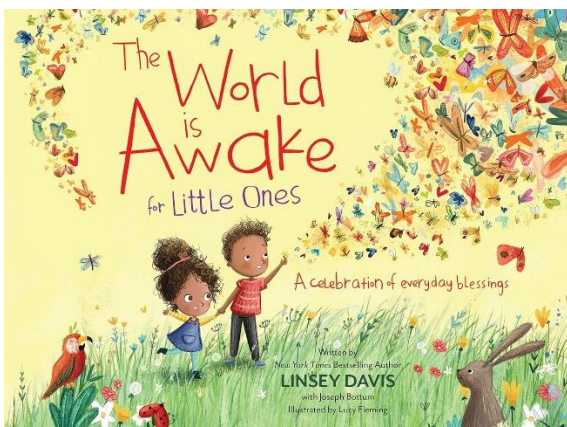
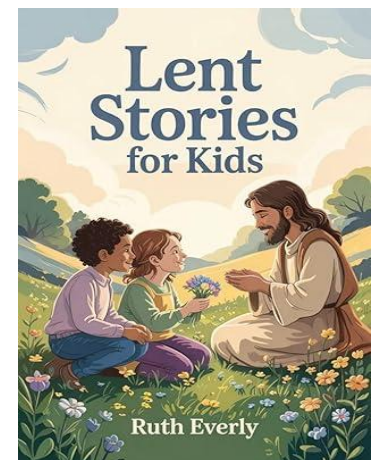
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Lent Stories for Kids

by Ruth Everly; ages 4-8

Through short stories, this book introduces meaningful Lent-related ideas using everyday situations that young children will recognize. Each story has simple wondering questions, actions, and a prayer, all on a children's level. Meaningful conversations often result that allow faith to feel safe, loving, and approachable.

Available on Amazon (Kindle and paperback), published January 2026



The World is Awake: A Celebration of Everyday Blessings

by Linsey Davis; for ages 2-6

This delightful celebration of the simple joys around us inspires children to be thankful for all of God's blessings. Playful read-aloud rhymes are featured with whimsical and colorful illustrations.

Available on Amazon (Kindle and hard cover), published February 2018

EASTER ACTIVITY

HANDPRINT SPRING LILIES



Image from onelittleproject.com

Need: Pink copy paper; green and yellow pipe cleaners; ribbon; pencil; glue or tape

Cut out 3 handprints – fingers spread apart.

Roll the little finger over the thumb on each handprint forming a point on the bottom. Glue or tape the flower closed, but be sure to leave a small hole in the bottom of the “flower” for a pipe cleaner to fit through.

Using a pencil, curl the ends of each flower back from the center to form the flower petals.

Cut a green pipe cleaner to about 6 inches. Attach a 1-inch piece of yellow pipe cleaner to one end of the green pipe cleaner. Insert into the center of the flower.

Arrange 3 flowers together and tie with a colorful ribbon to make a lily bouquet.

Easter lilies are symbols of Jesus' resurrection. Their trumpet shape reminds us of the joyful music we hear on Easter, often accompanied by trumpets. They can remind us of the hope and new beginnings that Jesus' resurrection brings.

ADVENT 2025 PHOTOS



Coloring Page

