SERMON NOTES

Genesis 3:1-13, Matthew 7:12, Romans 1:18-25 (NRSV)
Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

1. "My Truth" vs. Shared Truth

How have you seen the idea of "my truth" shape conversations or relationships in your life, and what challenges does it create for community?

2. Loneliness in a Relative World

Why do you think the loss of shared, objective truth can create a sense of isolation? Do you see this happening today?

3. Lewis' Story of Loss and Longing

Which part of C. S. Lewis' early journey—loss, atheism, war, intellectual struggle—most resonates with you? How have grief or longing shaped your pursuit of God?

4. Genesis 3 and the First "My Truth"

Read Genesis 3:1-13, Matthew 7:12, and Romans 1:18-25. Where are you personally tempted to elevate feelings or personal experience over God's revealed Word, as seen in Genesis 3 and Matthew 7:12? And how have humans (including you) replaced God with what God has made, as described in Romans 1:18-25?

5. The Reality of the "Oughts"

Do you agree with Lewis that real moral truths exist outside of us? How do the "oughts" in your life point toward God's character and authority and love?

6. The God Who Pursues

Where have you experienced God pursuing you—not accusing you but lovingly drawing you home, like Lewis' "hound of heaven"?

7. Lent: Invitation, Not Accusation

What truth about God is Jesus inviting you to rediscover this Lent? What might it look like to allow the "hound of heaven" to finally catch you?

Financial Update as of Mar 1, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	2,319,918
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	12,408,810

Journey to Easter

Sat, Mar 28 | 10am-12pm

Join us for Journey to Easter at MDPC! At this free outdoor festival, families are invited to participate in interactive stations to learn the true story of Easter! Enjoy live music, a petting zoo, face painting, inflatables and more!

Young Adult CityServe

Sat, Mar 28 | 9:30am-12:30pm

New to the city? Looking for friends, faith, or a meaningful connection? You're not alone! CityServe is a monthly gathering for young adults in their 20s and 30. We'll serve side by side, then grab lunch at a local spot. See project details and more: cityserve.mdpc.org

The Spoken Word

Mar 30-Apr 2 | Chapel

MDPC's annual Holy Week cover-to-cover reading of the Bible returns! Sign up individually, with family, groups, or friends. Registration opens on Wed, Mar 4: tsw.mdpc.org

The Well Women's Speaker Series

Thu, Apr 9 | 6:30pm

Join us for this one-time, special evening at The Well. No matter where you are in the journey, God meets us in the unknown with strength for every step. Come be encouraged as we hear from moms of special needs kids about the unique journey they are on. RSVP: thewell.mdpc.org

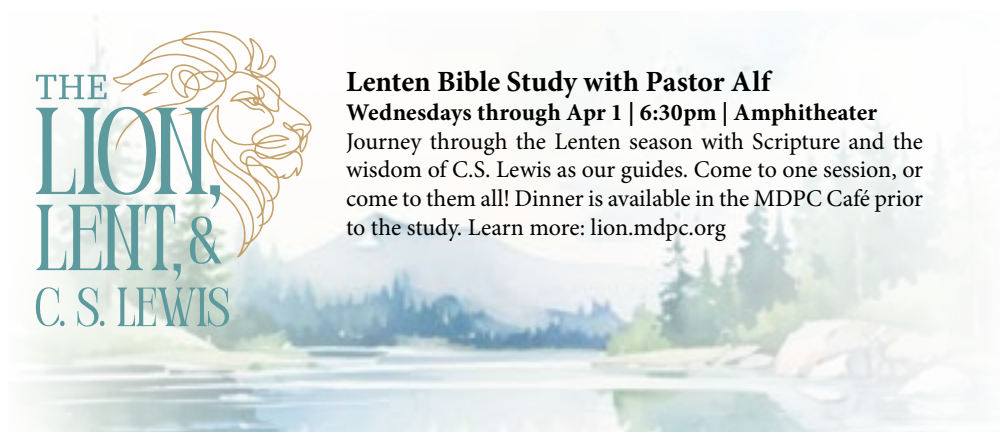
Holy Week & Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, Apr 2 | Chapel | 7-8pm
Communion Service
Good Friday, Apr 3 | Sanctuary | Noon
Easter Sunday, Apr 5 | Sanctuary
7, 8:15, 9:45, 11:15am

Youth Connection

Every Sunday | 11:15am-12:15 pm

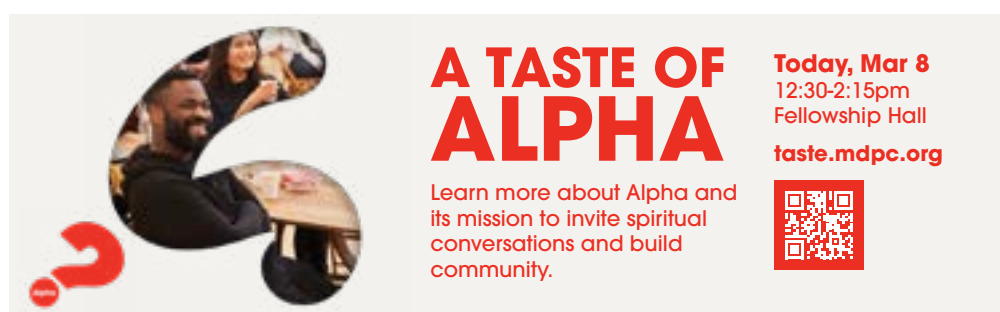
Students come together for fellowship, teaching, and worship. Middle and high school meet separately. All ages, come to the Youth Loft upstairs in the CLC and we'll get you sorted!



Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Alf

Wednesdays through Apr 1 | 6:30pm | Amphitheater

Journey through the Lenten season with Scripture and the wisdom of C.S. Lewis as our guides. Come to one session, or come to them all! Dinner is available in the MDPC Café prior to the study. Learn more: lion.mdpc.org



Online Giving give.mdpc.org

All Events events.mdpc.org

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Rachel Poysky

Worship Songs — *O Worship the King*
How Great Is Our God

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People — Amy Delgado

*Worship Songs — *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing / A Thousand Hallelujahs*

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis: Truth & Conversion** — Alf Halvorson
Genesis 3:1-13, Matthew 7:12, Romans 1:18-25 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Offertory — *Goodness of God*

SENDING

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship — Rachel Poysky

Worship Songs — *How Great Is Our God*
Who Else

*Confession and Assurance | Prayers of the People — Taylor Coleman

*Worship Songs — *God I'm Just Grateful*
A Thousand Hallelujahs

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis: Truth & Conversion** — Alf Halvorson
Genesis 3:1-13, Matthew 7:12, Romans 1:18-25 (NRSV)

RESPONDING

Offertory — *Goodness of God*

SENDING

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

Musicians in these services: Asher Pudlo, drums | Uvaldo Callejas, bass | Tim Hughes, violin
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude — *Partita on 'Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven'* — Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

Call to Worship — Rachel Poysky

Choral Introit — *O Holy Jesus* — arr. Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

*Hymn of Praise — *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* — Vs. 1, 2 | #92 | St. Christopher

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon — Amy Delgado

*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

*Congregational Response — *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us (Kyrie)* — #572 | Merbecke

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation — *And Can It Be* — arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Message — **The Lion, Lent, & C. S. Lewis: Truth & Conversion** — Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response — *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*
Vs. 1, 3, 5 | #426 | Canonbury

*Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer — Amy Delgado

Offertory — *Beautiful Savior* — arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

SENDING

*Doxology — *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* — #592 | Old 100th

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

Postlude — *Rondeau Glocoso* — Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

Musicians in this service: Megan Berti, soloist | MDPC Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

Our pastors are here to help. **We'd love to hear from you!**

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Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.