

Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lecten,” which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. **Disclaimer: palm branches will be burned in the Sanctuary during service.**

Announcements

Following Jesus This Lent!

Lent is a time to reflect—through prayer and fasting—on our need for a savior. We journey to Jerusalem with Jesus: following Him with surrendered commitment, repenting of our sin and living His way in our daily lives. This Lent we again are engaging in the TV series *The Chosen* as a way to draw closer to Jesus. This adaptation of Jesus’ life draws authentically on the Gospel narratives while adding Bible-friendly content to help the Jesus story make sense to our contemporary reality. We will watch Season 3 together at church during Lent each Wednesday at 1pm in the Sanctuary and 6:15pm in the Fireside Room. Everyone can also watch at home on a variety of streaming services. We will also go to see the new release of Season 6 in theaters. Be watching for showtimes and join in! As a church, let’s watch the series, keep asking who Jesus is, and take those steps to follow Him!

EvangelCares Is Ready to Help You!

Volunteers are excited to help with temporary food support, encouragement, yardwork and leaf raking, transportation, caregiver support, and household moving assistance.

There are (3) ways to get help:

1. Go to www.evangelum.org and click the request link.
2. Complete a form at the church Information Center.
3. Contact the EvangelCares Coordinator at: 507-910-3230; evangelcares@evangelum.org.

Message this Sunday: “Who Is Jesus? “One to Believe!”

Feeling dry and run down? Jesus says when we put our belief in Him, we are reborn, renewed and replenished. This Sunday we hear how Jesus is the one we put our belief in: not just in knowledge but in trust. Come put your hope in Jesus...and be refreshed!

Memory Verse

*“Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe.’”
-Mark 5:36*



Welcome to
Evangel United Methodist Church!

2645 North Broadway
Rochester, MN
507-289-4817

Website: www.evangelum.org
Email: office@evangelum.org

February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service

GATHERING	“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”	Brooke Fraser
PRELUDE	“It Is Well with My Soul”	Phillip Bliss
WORSHIP PREPARATION: Think upon your need for forgiveness.		
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		
*CALL TO WORSHIP	2 Cor. 6:14b-7:1	
*OPENING SONG	“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”	<i>UMH#269 (1-5)</i>
*MEMORY VERSE		
INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE		
PRAYER	“Ash Wednesday”	<i>UMH#353</i>
OFFERING OF PRAISE	“If You Will Trust in God to Guide You”	Georg Neumark
SCRIPTURE	Romans 7:14-25	
MESSAGE	“Count Down to Start”	Pastor David
SONG	“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”	<i>UMH#357 (vs.1-3)</i>
CALL TO REPENTANCE	Joel 1:12-14, 2:13-17	
BURNING THE PALM BRANCHES		
SILENT PRAYERS OF REFLECTION		
PRAYER		
PREPARATION OF THE ASHES		
IMPOSITION OF ASHES		

WORDS OF PARDON & THE LORD’S PRAYER (*using “sins”*)

UMH#894

*SONG “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” *UMH#357 (vs.4-6)*

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*MEMORY VERSE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “What A Friend We Have In Jesus” Charles Converse

***Those who are able are invited to stand.**

Rev. Dr. David Werner, Pastor
Jim Klepper, Christian Education Director
Clancy Craven, Associate of Christian Education
Fant Steele, Media Technology Coordinator

Mike Aakre, Office Manager
Tom Burson, Organist
Pam Wright, Choir Director

Message Notes