

A Lenten Message From the Rector:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1. I remind you that the Lenten Season is a time of special devotion and intentions in our life in Christ. Please consider one or more of these:

1. Participate in the church's Lenten work with Heifer Project International. Acts of charity and financial support of charitable institutions are central to healthy Christian spirituality.
2. Practice a daily commitment to silent contemplation in the presence of God. Silent prayer is less egocentric and frantic. Just be quiet with God and be patient with yourselves in the process.
3. Attend the Contemplative Eucharist when held on Sunday evenings. Participate in a Quiet Day at the church.
4. Pray Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower once a week. It is read at 6 p.m. sharp every night. You will hear the scriptures read aloud and offer your intercession for all on the St. Matthew's Prayer List.
5. If you are a bit out of the habit, come to church every Sunday! It is good for the soul.

Faithfully, Merrill

Ash Wednesday, March 1

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, Preacher: The Rev. Merrill Wade

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, Preacher: Joe Behen, Seminarian

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, Preacher: Joe Behen, Seminarian

The Bride's Room (B-6) will be open for silent contemplation. from 11:00 a.m. until noon and again from 6 00 until 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8**SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER AND SPEAKER**

6:00 p.m. Family Meal in Huffman Hall

Gumbo Supper Prepared by Father Joe Di Paola

Setup and Served by members of the Kitchen Guild

7:00 p.m. Speaker in Sanctuary **The Rev. David Fikes**

Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Austin

"Coming to Grips With What is Gripping You When You Can't Stand It"

Wednesday, March 15**SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER AND SPEAKER**

6:00 p.m. Family Meal in Huffman Hall

***Prepared and Served by Daughters of the King
and Brotherhood of St. Andrew***

7:00 p.m. Speaker in Sanctuary the **Rev. Peter Steinke**

Lutheran pastor and nationally known church consultant

"The Reconciliation of Groups"

Wednesday, March 22

SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER AND SPEAKER

6:00 p.m. Family Meal in Huffman Hall

*Prepared and Served by Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study*7:00 p.m. Speaker in Sanctuary **Dr. Nancy Oelklaus***"Reconciliation in the Workplace"***Wednesday, March 29**

SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER AND SPEAKER

6:00 p.m. Family Meal in Huffman Hall

*Prepared and Served by the Tuesday Night Bible Study*7:00 p.m. Speaker in Sanctuary **The Rev. Bob Lively***"Reconciliation as Truth"***Wednesday, April 5**

SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER AND MUSICAL PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. Family Meal in Huffman Hall

*Prepared and Served by the Newcomers Commission and ECW*7:00 p.m. Musical program in Sanctuary presented by **Letha Crouch, musician extraordinaire**

To offset expenses, there will be a nominal, breakeven charge for the Lenten Meals.

Normally, this will be \$3 for adults, \$1 for children under 12

During the meal and during the speaker/program, childcare is available for infants through age 4.

Children age 5 and older are encouraged to participate with their families at the meal.

Child-friendly food will be available.

After supper there will be activities for children during the speaker hour.

From 7:00 until 8:00 p.m., when the adults are in the Sanctuary, children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join Lenten activities, "Jesus and Friends" in the Education Building

Youth Exploration (Grades 6 – 12) will meet each evening from 7:00 – 8:00 in Huffman Hall/Youth Building.

Note: There will be no youth program on March 15.

St. Matthew's Lenten Outreach: The Heifer Project

Founded in 1944, Heifer International is a humanitarian assistance organization that works to end world hunger and protect the earth. Through livestock, training and "passing on the gift," Heifer has helped seven million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and move toward greater self-reliance. Heifer helps build strong communities because each project participant agrees to pass on the gift of animal offspring, training, or skills to another family in need.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9,

The Sunday of the Passion

*8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:15 am Adult and Youth Classes

9:30 am Children's Classes

*10:30 am The Liturgy of the Palms

5:15 pm Youth Celebration Evening Eucharist

**At the 8:00 am service, the Infant Nursery will be available in the Education Building.*

**At the 10:30 am service, childcare is available for children through age 4 with infants in Huffman Hall and toddlers through age 4 in the Education Building.*

Children 3 yrs—3rd grade are welcome in the 10:30 Children's Sunday School in Room B-21 and in the church service.

Monday, April 10

7:00 am Holy Eucharist with music and sermon

11:30 am Ecumenical Service at NWHills
United Methodist Church

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

Tuesday, April 11

7:00 am Holy Eucharist with music and sermon

11:30 am Ecumenical Service at NWHills
United Methodist Church

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

Wednesday, April 12

7:00 am Holy Eucharist with music and sermon

11:30 am Ecumenical Service at NWHills
United Methodist Church

12 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:00 am Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

*7:00 pm Holy Eucharist, the Washing of Feet, and Stripping of the Altar

At the conclusion of this service, the all-night Maundy Thursday Prayer Watch begins in the Bell Tower

**Childcare available infants through age 4*

Good Friday, April 14

The All Night Prayers conclude at the beginning of the Good Friday Liturgy

*12:00 noon Good Friday Liturgy and
Veneration of the Cross

*Childcare available infants through age 4

5:30 — 6:45 pm Stations of the Cross for
Children in the Basement, Room B-18

*6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Gather at the Sanctuary door from Steck Drive lot

*Childcare available infants through age 4

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

Holy Saturday, April 15

10:00 am Holy Saturday Liturgy

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

*7:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter with
Holy Baptism

*Childcare available infants through age 4

Easter Sunday, April 16

The Sunday of the Resurrection

(Note Change in Service Times for Easter Day Only)

7:00 am Holy Eucharist in Kinney Outdoor
Memorial Chapel, weather permitting

*9:00 am Festival Eucharist including Flowering
of the Cross for Children and Adults and a special
liturgy for children 3 yrs—3rd grade in B-18

10:20 am Easter Egg Hunt for Children

*11:00 am Festival Eucharist including Flower-
ing of the Cross for Children and Adults and a
special liturgy for children 3 yrs-3rd grade, B-18

5:15 pm Contemplative Eucharist in Sanctuary

6:00 pm Evening Prayer in the Bell Tower

*Childcare available infants through age 4

A Gathering of the Diocese — Transformation

Personal Congregational Cultural

We will gather as one body to explore new horizons, broaden our perspectives and witness the power of our faith community focused in our mission of transformation.

June 1—3, 2006 Episcopal High School, Houston, Texas

A note from the Rev. Merrill Wade:

I would love to have between 50 – 75 members of St. Matthew’s present for the Gathering of the Diocese, in Houston, June 1 – 3. Our diocesan leadership has created programming for children of all ages. Therefore, you could travel as a family and participate in the workshops, keynote speeches and still find some fun things to do as a family. Please make every effort to attend. You will be hearing more from me on this subject in the coming weeks. If you choose to attend, please make your own hotel arrangements as stated on the diocesan website: www.epicenter.org

Preacher

The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, believes that giving people the support and the tools to be effective disciples are the most important things the Gathering can provide. “As Christians, we are on a lifelong journey and we are called to be beacons of light to those around us. Each one of us has the capacity and the mandate to make a difference in the world, to be the embodiment of a living Gospel,” Bishop Wimberly says.

Plenary Speakers

Jon Meacham, managing editor of *Newsweek* magazine at the age of 29, graduated from the University of the South and is currently a vestry member at Trinity Episcopal Church, Wall Street, NY. He wrote four *Newsweek* cover stories on Jesus and Christianity and is author of several books.

Anne Lamott, is the author of six novels and four best-selling books of non-fiction. In addition to writing autobiographical essays on faith, Lamott writes and speaks about subjects that begin with capital letters: Alcoholism, Motherhood, Jesus.

Friends of the Groom, a performing arts ministry from Ohio, is committed to reveal the Gospel through drama, storytelling, music and workshops. In addition to leading workshops throughout the Gathering, they will present a special performance of their play “Holy Gossip, Sacred Scandal” on Friday evening. \$10 per person

Workshops

More than 150 workshop sessions will provide resources for personal, congregational and cultural transformation. Among church leaders to be featured are Brian D. McLaren and Horace Clarence Boyer.

Special Activities are planned for Children, Junior High Youth and Senior High Youth. There is no charge for these activities but registrations must be received before April 30.

Registration

Registration fee is \$125 per person before April 30; \$150 per person after April 30. Registration fee includes two continental breakfasts, two box lunches, an opening reception, the program and workshops, all snacks and drinks. Partial scholarships are available. Registration and more information are online at

www.Epicenter.org

