



DIAMOND LAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday ♦ February 18, 2026 ♦ 6:30 pm

The logo for The Work of Imagination (seen on the front cover of this bulletin) tells an important story.

The dove is not passive.
It moves with power.
It disrupts what harms.

It breaks the crown.

Peace is not submission.
Peace liberates, creates, and reshapes.

The crown represents domination:
Empire, hierarchy, control.

Breaking the crown is holy work.
Defiance can be faithful.

This is the work of imagination.

Lent invites us to break what binds
and build what frees.

This is the work before us.

Explore the Work of Imagination for Lent:
<https://www.illustratedministry.com/theworkofimagination>

Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here! If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or to Pastor Andrea following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! Please wear your name tag—it helps us welcome guests, get to know one another, and support those with memory concerns. If you don't yet have one, visit the Commons Area name tag station to make yours. We encourage adding pronouns to name tags!

Children in Worship

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. Children are invited to use the Pray-Ground at the front of the sanctuary. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

Participating in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Assisting Minister: Darren McKigney

Organist/Pianist: Kevin Hobbs

Choir Director: Bruce Gleason

Door Monitor: Robb Bass

Ushers: Wendy Farr

Acolyte: Sue Nelson

Greeters: Kathi Gallup, Julie Schmidt

Reader: Sue Haffield

Ash Servers: Kirk Gallup, Julie Schmidt, Summer Schleicher

A/V Tech: John Nelson, Frank Anderson

Pursers: Anne Groskreutz, Russ Michaletz

ASH WEDNESDAY

We invite you to rise in body or in spirit each time the ‡ symbol appears.

Ash Wednesday begins a journey of truth, grief, and renewal—a communal turning that makes space for healing. Lent is not about self-denial for its own sake, but about reckoning with the systems within and around us that cause harm. Scripture invites us to honest devotion, not performative piety; to return to God not through empty ritual, but with open hearts and shared humility. This is a season of authenticity, restoration, and grounding our lives in God's justice and mercy.

PRELUDE

Danzas españolas, No. 2, Granados

WORDS OF WELCOME

TRINITY CHIMES

GATHERING LITANY

Beloved of Christ, let us enter this holy space of worship and this holy time of Lent.

We come, turning and returning to God.

We gather knowing that God embraces our whole selves.

We come laughing or weeping, rejoicing or mourning, confident or doubting, carefree or burdened.

We begin in dust and in quiet, seeking courage to begin again.

We come, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

We take on the disciplines of Lent as acts of faithful resistance.

**We come to dream of a world renewed. We imagine a world at peace.
We lift our voices in praise.**

‡ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

And as we gather on the precipice of this holy season, let us confess our sins to God, laying down our burden of guilt into the grave of forgiven wrongs, where shame is conquered forever. Holy God, you created life from dirt, breathing air into our lungs, and entrusting us to live rightly. Today, as we remember our mortality with ashes and prayer, we confess our tendency to forget.

We have forgotten our Creator. We have forgotten that we came from dust and we shall return to dust.

Remind us of our fragile humanness, held delicately in the palm of your hand. Remind us to observe and appreciate creation—this incredible universe imagined for your glory and life's flourishing.

Forgive us for living as if we are invincible. Forgive us for living as if we are powerless.

For you are both the great God of all living things and the precious Spirit that inhabits each of us.

Have mercy upon us, your children.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Beloved, God knows we lose sight of our place in creation, falling into arrogance or misery, forgetting God's mercy. Remember and receive God's pardon and be at peace.

Amen.

‡ **GATHERING HYMN**

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days.....ELW 319 (vs 1, 2, 4)

‡ GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

‡ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of liberation,

**you call your people to faithfulness in this and every age
not through extraordinary displays of religious devotion,
but through ordinary things:**

praying, simple living, acts of generosity.

By these gentle and subversive acts,

turn us toward you, toward one another,

and toward your vision for a just and liberated world,

following the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

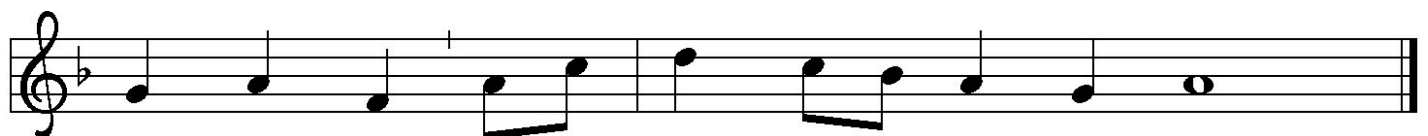
‡ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

‡ **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shepherd Me, O God.....ELW 780

(choir sings verses, congregation joins on refrain)

✠ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

Hear our cries to you, O God,

Refrain
All

Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life. life.

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 *to stanza 4*

Receive the prayers of your people, and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death into life.

Amen

✠ SHARING OF THE PEACE

As we step into the wild wilderness of Lent, we imagine a world where all creation is at peace. We imagine a world without war, where creation flourishes and children are safe. Let these dreams of peace begin with remembrance that we are all human, all beloved children of God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

You may share the peace with those around you.

OFFERING *“Hear Thou Our Prayer, O Lord” from the Russian Liturgy, arr. Tkach*
Diamond Lake Lutheran Choir

General Fund

We give thanks for all the ways members and friends of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church contribute to the mission and vision of this congregation—gifts of time, gifts of participation and expertise, as well as finances. Financial gifts to the general fund help to make possible both in-house and outreach ministries, as well as sharing of our resources with the wider community.

February Mission of the Month: Lake Street Council

Recent immigration raids have made it harder for some business owners and employees to show up safely and consistently, leading to lost income and increased uncertainty. The February Mission of the Month supports Lake Street Council, whose work helps employ community members, keep storefronts open, and sustain the neighborhood’s economic and cultural vitality. To learn more about the Lake Street Council and its work, go to www.visitlakestreet.com.

Give to the General Fund or Mission of the Month via:

Cash – Use a “Give Back” envelope from the pew pocket to designate a fund for your donation.

Check – Write the name of the designated fund in the memo line.

Phone – Scan the QR code to visit the Give Back page of www.dllc.org and select a fund from the drop-down menu. Repeat the process if giving to both funds.

Thank you!



Scan to Give

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of discernment, reflection, and growth. We pause now to remember our mortality and the cycle of life: birth, death, new life. In the same manner, may we also remember the cycle of prophetic imagination: critique, lament, imagine. We are called as God’s people into both of these cycles, providing renewal and hope.

As these ashes are placed on your forehead, remember you were formed from the dust of the earth and given life by the breath of God. Remembering we are dust doesn’t diminish our worth or cleanliness; rather, it affirms our integral, connected place in this beautiful work of God’s love. We were made with love, and when we die, God will receive us with love.

Let us pause today to remember our mortality, thank God for this precious life, and commit ourselves to the work of imagination.

Bless Now, O God, the Journey.....ELW 326
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive.....ELW 605

PRAYER AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Let us pray.
Creating God, you breathed life into the dust of this world,
forming us in beauty and in love.
As we have been marked with ashes
and confronted the twin truths of life and death,
humble our hearts and draw us close to the promise of resurrection
which you have given to us through the incarnation,
death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your son and our Savior.
Amen.

‡ BLESSING

Beloved humans,
created from dust and inhabited by God's Spirit,
go into the world with confidence,
trusting that God, who knows our frailties,
will never abandon us to death,
but will accompany us through all of life and to our end.
May we be humble enough to know our human weakness,
and inspired enough to know our place in God's heart.
Amen.

‡ SENDING HYMN

Abide with Me.....ELW 629 (vs 1, 2, 5)

‡ DISMISSAL

Go out into the world,
living in the realm of God's holy imagination,
where heaven and earth meet.
Amen.

‡ CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

The Glory of These Forty Days, arr. Hobbs

This congregation traditionally sits and remains in the sanctuary to hear the postlude, which is offered by Dr. Hobbs. If you need to leave early, please feel free to do so quietly.

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You are welcome at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Your presence makes your journey part of our journey—one we share with people of all ages and abilities, family structures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, races and ethnic backgrounds, and financial circumstances. We affirm that every individual is a member of God's family, uniquely created and worthy of belonging. We are joyfully committed to hearing your stories, engaging your gifts, and working alongside you to strive for racial equity, promote social and economic justice, and heal our broken world. This congregation, like all congregations, is fallible and flawed. We make mistakes. But we are dedicated to building relationships with all who believe, doubt, question, seek, and wonder.



We acknowledge that we gather as Diamond Lake Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Wahpekute band of the Santee division of the Dakota people past and present.

Our mission: Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow, and serve.
5760 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55417 + 612-866-2579 + www.dllc.org

Diamond Lake Lutheran Program Staff

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalfe
she/her
Lead Pastor
andrea.roske-metcalfe@dllc.org

Austen Hartke
he/him
Business Administrator
dllc.office@dllc.org

John Pedersen
he/him
Director of Community Outreach
john.pedersen@dllc.org

Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold
she/they
Director of Children, Youth, and
Family Ministries
lacy.tooker-kirkevold@dllc.org

Kristine Spanier
she/her
Director of Communications
kristine.spanier@dllc.org

Parker Webster
he/him
Parish Nurse
parker.webster@dllc.org

Beya Leora
he/she/they
Facilities Manager
beya.leora@dllc.org