

Special Edition – Lent 2024



# *The Eagle*

A Publication of St. John's Lutheran Church in Albany, NY



*Lent &  
Holy Week  
at St. John's*

# Invitation to Lent

## Marked by Ashes

Ruler of the night, Guarantor of the day . . .  
This day – a gift from you.  
This day – like none other you have ever given,  
or we have ever received.  
This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and  
newness and possibility.  
This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of  
the day, for we are already halfway home  
halfway back to committees and memos,  
halfway back to calls and appointments,  
halfway on to next Sunday,  
halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,  
half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way  
from Ash Wednesday,  
but all our Wednesdays  
are marked by ashes –  
we begin this day with that taste of ash  
in our mouth:  
of failed hope and broken promises,  
of forgotten children and  
frightened women,  
we ourselves are ashes to ashes,  
dust to dust;  
we can taste our mortality  
as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with  
some confidence, only because  
our every Wednesday of ashes  
anticipates your Easter victory  
over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way  
to you –  
you Easter parade of newness.  
Before the sun sets,  
take our Wednesday and Easter us,

Easter us to joy and energy and courage  
and freedom;  
Easter us that we may be fearless  
for your truth.  
Come here and Easter our Wednesday  
with mercy and justice and peace  
and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One  
who comes soon.

–Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)  
from *Prayers for a Privileged People*  
(Nashville: Abingdon, 2008)



**Ash Wednesday + February 14**

**12:00 p.m. (in person)**

*Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes*

**7:00 p.m. (in person & [livestreamed](#))**

*Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes  
& Saint John's Collegium*



# Wednesdays in Lent

## Wednesdays in Lent

Midweek Series with [Albany Lutherans Together](#):

*A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil*

**6:00 p.m. (in person)**

Supper (vegetarian & gluten-free options available)

**6:45 p.m. (in person & Zoom)**

Holden Evening Prayer

Connect via Zoom:

[firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom](https://firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom)

Connect via phone:

Call 929-436-2866.

Enter **Meeting ID 518-463-1326**

and **Passcode 1** when prompted.



**February 21**

St. John's  
303 Sand Creek Rd., Albany

**February 28**

First Lutheran  
181 Western Ave., Albany

**March 6**

St. John's  
303 Sand Creek Rd., Albany

**March 13**

Holy Spirit  
57 Hurlbut St., Albany

**March 20**

Good Shepherd  
510 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville

ALBANY LUTHERANS TOGETHER

## *A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil*

**Wednesdays at 6:00 PM  
Supper & Evening Prayer**

a collaboration of

FIRST + GOOD SHEPHERD + HOLY SPIRIT + ST. JOHN'S





**Sunday of the Passion + March 24**  
**9:30 a.m. (in person & [livestreamed](#))**  
*Holy Eucharist with Palm Procession,  
the Passion According to Saint Mark,  
& Saint John's Collegium*

**Maundy Thursday + March 28**  
**12:00 p.m. (in person)**  
*Holy Eucharist with  
the Laying On of Hands*

**7:00 p.m. (in person & [livestreamed](#))**  
*Holy Eucharist with  
the Laying On of Hands,  
Stripping of the Altar,  
& Saint John's Collegium*



**Good Friday + March 29**  
**12:00 p.m. (in person)**  
*The Passion According to Saint John,  
Veneration of the Cross,  
& Saint John's Collegium*

**7:00 p.m. (in person & [livestreamed](#))**  
*The Passion According to Saint John,  
Veneration of the Cross,  
& Saint John's Collegium*





## Great Vigil of Easter + March 30

7:00 p.m. (in person)

*This is the night!*

*New fire, stories by candlelight,  
the first Eucharist of Easter,  
and a festive reception.*

**Hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
510 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville



## Easter Sunday Resurrection of Our Lord

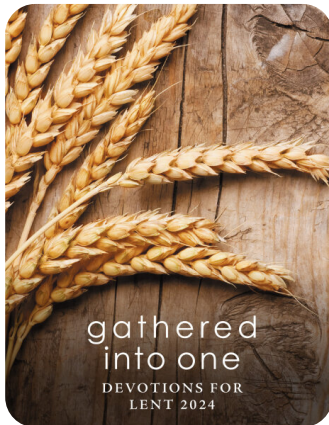
March 31 + 9:30 a.m.

(in person and [livestreamed](#))

*Festival Eucharist  
with Saint John's Collegium*

# Formation

## Nourish your spirituality with daily devotionals



*Gathered into One* provides daily devotionals for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from First Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

Portions of First Corinthians appear in the Revised Common Lectionary during each lectionary year. The apostle Paul writes this letter to the church in Corinth after hearing of quarreling and divisions among the people. He teaches the Corinthians that each person has a unique set of gifts from the Holy Spirit, given for the common good, and reminds them that the church is the body of Christ, joined together with one bread, one cup, one baptism, one God, and one Spirit. This theme of unity amid diversity is as timely now as it was when Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

**Pick up a copy at church, purchase the [e-book](#), or give us a call to request a mailed copy.**

# Generosity

## Support immigrants and refugees

Support the work of [Global Refuge](#) (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) this Lent with a special Albany Lutherans Together (ALT) offering appeal. Since 1939, Global Refuge has provided welcome and hope to more than 750,000 refugees, witnessing to God's love for all people, advocating for immigrants and refugees, and transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.



### WAYS TO GIVE

- 1) Online at [stjohnsalbany.org](http://stjohnsalbany.org)
- 2) Cash or check during midweek worship on Wednesdays in Lent  
(Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with "ALT Lent" on the memo line.)
- 3) Text "[Amount] ALT Lent" to 84321  
(Standard message and data rates apply.)





Listen to a recording of the hymn [online](#).

As the winter days grow longer,  
drawing short the hours of night;  
as our eager expectation  
waits for Easter's dawning light—  
yearning people, here we gather,  
turning watchful eyes to you:  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
shine within our world anew!

As the vines burst into blossom,  
fragrant in the morning air,  
lifting spirits with their sweetness,  
luring hearts to thankful prayer—  
Lenten people, here we gather,  
seeking lives refreshed from sin.  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
bloom within our hearts again!

As we journey through this season,  
pilgrims through a thirsty land,  
quench us with your living presence;  
guide us with your loving hand.  
Wand'ring people, here we gather,  
called to rest along our way.  
God who blesses earth with springtime,  
grant us sabbath joy this day!

—Mary Louise Bringle (b.1953)  
from *All Creation Sings*, #924

## Office Hours

10 AM – 4 PM

### Monday & Friday

Maggie Anderson

### Tuesday – Thursday

Pastor Josh Evans

*Please call ahead before stopping by  
to ensure someone is in the office.*



## Connect with Us



[facebook.com/StJohnsAlbany](https://facebook.com/StJohnsAlbany)



[stjohnsalbany.org](https://stjohnsalbany.org)



[youtube.com/@StJohnsAlbany](https://youtube.com/@StJohnsAlbany)



[office@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:office@stjohnsalbany.org)



**St. John's**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**PO Box 5085**

**Albany, New York 12205**

NONPROFIT  
ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, NY  
Permit #306

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

***Our Mission***

We worship God, serve faithfully, and reach out.



***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.***

Trusting in the extravagant grace of God that sets us free,  
we affirm the sacred worth and dignity of our siblings in Christ  
– of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions,  
racial and ethnic identities, ages, abilities, and socio-economic statuses.

We confess the church's complicity in systems that harm God's people,  
including homophobia and transphobia, sexism,  
racism and white supremacy, and ableism.

Together, as a community of Jesus followers, rooted in grace,  
we commit ourselves to the work of racial equity and anti-racism  
and to confronting and dismantling all systems of injustice and oppression  
in all we do and say.

***Church Staff***

***The Rev. Josh Evans***

Pastor

[pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org)

***Dan Foster***

Director of Music

[danfoster@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:danfoster@stjohnsalbany.org)

***Maggie Anderson***

Parish Secretary

[parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org)