

Luverne United Methodist Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Combined Worship Service  
*Ash Wednesday*  
March 5, 2025

GIFTS OF MUSIC

ANISSA VIS

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

#95 UMH

CLOSING HYMN *"Come and Find a Quiet Center"*

#2128 TFWS  
VERSE 1

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING *"Come and Find a Quiet Center"*

#2128 TFWS  
VERSES 2 AND 3

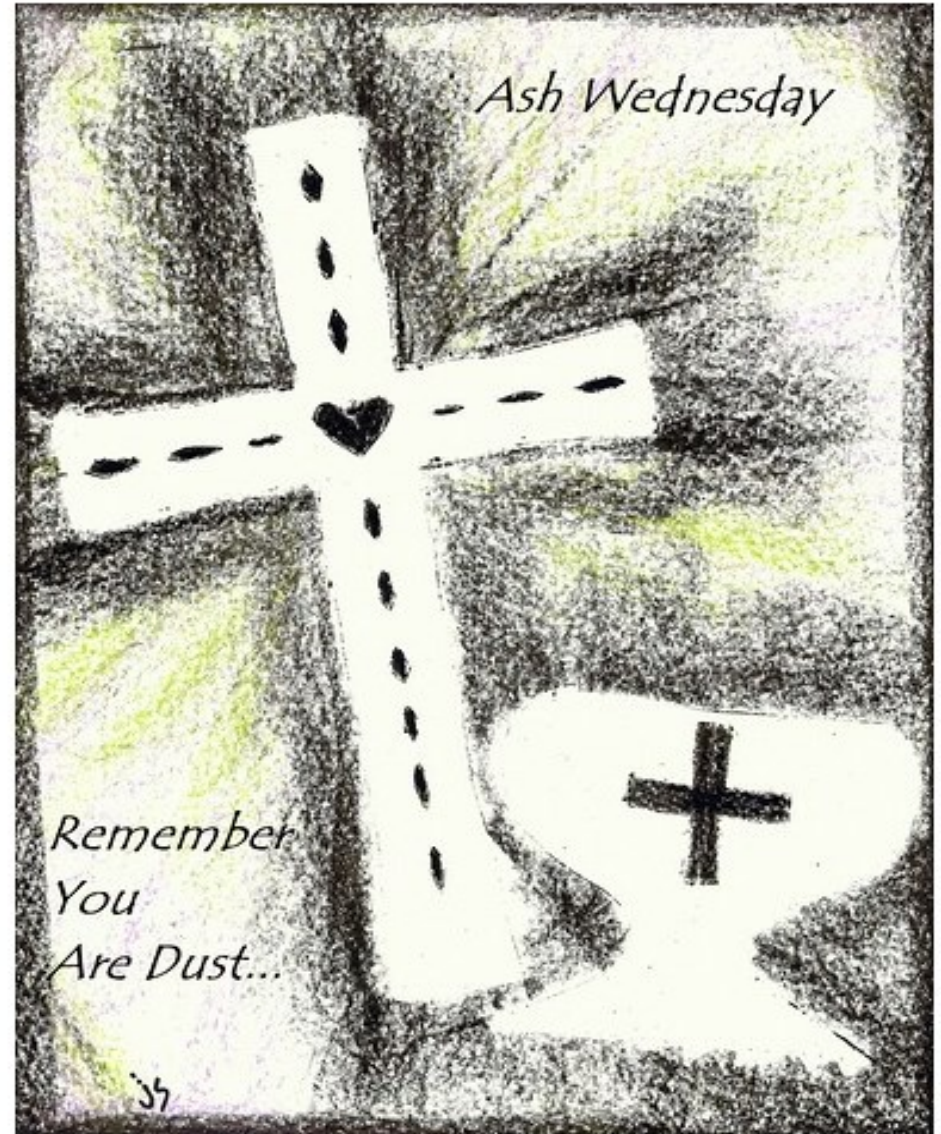
POSTLUDE

*We will accept offerings for our Rock County Food Shelf this Lenten Season. Our offering plate is provided as you come in the Sanctuary.*



Pastor Dorie Hall  
Pastor Steve Voris Officiating  
Luverne United Methodist Church  
Annisia Vis Accompanying  
March 5, 2025 ~ 7pm

*Thank you all for joining us for this special Ash Wednesday Service as we begin our walk with Jesus this sacred Lenten Season!*



## PRELUDE MUSIC

ANISSA VIS

## A CALL TO A HOLY LENT

### GREETING

#### CALL TO WORSHIP, *responsively*,

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

**C: And also with you.**

L: Gather the people, young and old.

**C: The day of the Lord is coming.**

L: Blow the trumpet!

**C: The day of the Lord is coming.**

L: "Return to me with all your heart," says the Lord.

**C: The day of the Lord is coming. It is coming near.**

L: Let us pray,

**Gracious and merciful God, we gather in your name on this holy day. May our hearts return to you as we begin the season of Lent. When we struggle with sorrow, remind us of the joy of your amazing love. When we focus on the things we lack, remind us of your limitless generosity. When we think that we have nothing, remind us that through the sacrifice of your Son, We possess everything we truly need. Take our hearts and make them clean, O God. Take our lives and make them your own. Amen.**

UNITED WE SING      *"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"*

#340 UMH

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

We often think of the Lenten journey as a personal and even somewhat lonely walk with God. But the truth is, as the body of Christ, these forty days can be an experience of profound community- a time to draw closer to God and to one another. As we prepare to embark on this journey, I invite you to offer words of support to your traveling companions. Greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.

UNITED WE SING      *"Be Thou My Vision"*

#451 UMH

### SCRIPTURES

Joel 2:1, 12-19  
Pages 910-911 NIV

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
Pages 971-971 NIV

### SERMON

The Day of the Lord  
Pastor Steve Voris

Even now it is not too late to return to the Lord. When we come before God with a contrite heart, mercy and love await us. Now is the acceptable time to offer our hearts to God. Now is the day of salvation. We cannot wait until we are worthy to approach the throne. The ashes remind us that we will never be worthy. But the cross that waits at the end of this journey proclaims that even imperfect mortals like us are worthy of God's love and salvation. Here is the delicious irony: as we wear the ashes of mortality and sin on our foreheads, we are proclaiming God's victory over these very elements. Truly, now is the acceptable time to offer our hearts to God.

#### THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES, *in unison*,

**Merciful God, you ask us to rend our hearts, not our clothing. In the dust of these ashes, we come face-to-face with the shortcomings of our own humanity. Help us resist the temptation to wash away the dust, or we know that it was from the dust itself that you created us. Wash our hearts and mark us with ashes on the outside, that we might be made clean on the inside. Amen.**

### IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

The pastor will meet you at the front of the sanctuary. You will hear the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return", "Repent, and believe the gospel", or "May you be reconciled with God" as you receive the ashes upon your forehead.

### PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE

Please take these moments in silence to offer your own prayers to God. The silence will be broken with these words: "May the almighty and merciful God, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life," In Jesus Name, as he taught us to pray...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.