



Eastside Ministry

The Legacy of Silver Lake United Methodist Church

Newsletter Winter 2022



Drive-By Ashes

Eastside Ministry will provide opportunities to receive ashes on

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

Step one: Go to our Facebook page @Silver Lake United Methodist Church (Eastside Ministry is a legacy of Silver Lake)

Step two: Watch the Ash Wednesday video

Step three: Visit one of our Drive-By Ash times/locations for the imposition of ashes (a cross on your forehead or hand)

11:30 am -12:30 pm at Casey Lake Park
2101 17th Ave E, North St. Paul, MN 55109

OR

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm North St. Paul VFW (outside)
2483 7th Ave E, North St. Paul, MN 55109

Please be sure to watch the Ash Wednesday worship video on Facebook, then go to one of the Drive-Through Ashes locations. Please like and share the video. Follow us throughout Lent for daily meditations. There are opportunities for you to join House Churches/Fellowships, as well. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Steve.

Fellow Eastsiders

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022. Lent continues through Easter on April 17, 2022. The season of Lent is a time of preparation (like Advent), though in Lent, we are preparing our hearts for a different sort of celebration of Christ. During Lent, we are in a season of repentance. Through the prophet Joel, God calls to Israel (and us), “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.”

One way you might “rend your hearts” is to follow along each day (Monday-Saturday), when I’ll be posting videos of some of the lectionary readings on our Facebook Page. Allow God to speak to you through these texts that you might “return to God” this Lent.

We are looking to start additional House Churches (or you could call them House Fellowships). We have a “meeting format” that can be replicated with any group, with plenty of space for an individual group’s tastes and talents. Additionally, I’m developing a “curriculum” that could be followed. Would you be willing to host a House Fellowship?

Very soon, we are planning to start Beer & Bible: *Eastside*. Who might be interested? What biblical book would we like to start reading? We’ll plan to meet about once per month on the same day each month (like the second Friday or the first Tuesday or something). Thoughts?

I am REALLY looking for your feedback! Please contact me anytime for conversation, comments, or questions. Email: eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com OR eastsideministrymn@gmail.com OR text/call me 612-708-2466 OR connect via Facebook at the Silver Lake Facebook Page.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Why I Need Silver Lake (Eastside Ministry) House Church

by Betsy Scherber

I am with my Silver Lake Church family, which is very important to me. They give me unconditional love, support, friendship, and fellowship. House Church feels more personal.

When I don't understand something, Pastor Steve takes the time to explain until I understand. I learn a lot from his "sermons." I pray Pastor Steve will be our minister for many years.

Typical House Church Format

Gathering: for us, this is small talk and prepping the space. Some folks connect via Zoom and this is the time they join, also. When we are at the VFW, folks get food, make tea, and get their drinks. Gathering is a very informal time. Some groups could eat a meal together during their gathering. More musical groups could incorporate music into this time or use music as a way to transition from Gathering into the more formal time. Our current transition is rather brief. The Gathering is also certainly a time to invite the presence of God's Spirit (or to acknowledge God's ever-presence).

Intentional Conversation (or Soul Check-In): this is a time for deeper conversations, for discipling, for expressing our own challenges and short-comings. There are a few ways into these conversations and they do need to build over time out of vulnerability and openness. A few questions that might be asked to find this place of conversation:

- A. How is it with your soul? OR more historically accurate: How does your soul prosper?
- B. Where have you seen/experienced God since we last met?
- C. The spiritual check-in might begin with physical/emotional check-in, but it can't stop

there. Additionally, it cannot be a therapy session.

The purpose is to engage with your own and with others' faith journeys. We are not trying to solve each other's emotional issues.

Prayer: in our gatherings, this shifts and moves a bit. Sometimes, we each take a turn praying aloud for one other person in the group. Our prayer might center around the blessing that the person is or it might touch on their spiritual struggles and for God's strength. The prayer might cover both areas – it might also address the emotional/life challenges. Sometimes, one person offers a prayer for our whole group. They might do this extemporaneously or they might read something written by themselves or another. The prayer might be a prayer, but it could be a poem or a hymn or a song. The more musical groups might sing together either as a prayer (but I wouldn't do that every week), or the song might come in the transition between prayer and the Scripture time that comes next.

Scripture: A couple things about Scripture: I would encourage at least one person in the group to have a Study Bible (two good ones are the Harper Collins and the New Oxford). We read a few chapters (yes chapters) of Scripture every week. Folks are certainly encouraged to read the passage prior to our Wednesday meeting, but there is no requirement. We read the Scripture aloud, taking turns around the group, making an effort to divide the text as evenly as possible. People can certainly choose not to read. A different church could have the same person read this week's Scripture and someone else read next week, passing the responsibility around that way. Do what works for your group.

"Intro" to the Scripture: this bit could certainly happen before the reading as well, but I've chosen to wait each week so that folks can simply listen to the words (to the Word) openly and without having their thoughts overly shaped by the introduction. In the introduction, we explore: the historical/contextual placement of the passage, previous interpretive understanding, modern Biblical scholarship, and connections to other texts – both intra or extra Biblical (inside and outside the Bible).

Comments/Questions/Discussion:

- A. Which verse or verses or sections spoke to you today and why?
- B. Allow some space even for tangential conversation.
- C. How does this text inform or reshape our lives today?
- D. How does the text describe our relationship with God or our relationships with each other?

Segue into Communion: This could be through prayer or a song or a simple and direct transition.

Communion: Follow a liturgy. Connect with the Pastor prior for a discussion about the elements and the liturgy. Be aware of food allergies and gluten intolerance.

Dismissal: Formal or informal, perhaps rooted in a Scriptural challenge or consolation. Be sure to challenge folks to invite someone new, to see God at work in their lives, and to live out the love of Christ in the daily lives.

Fellowship

We are gathering for fellowship via ZOOM on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am**. The link is also on our home web page.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89940144410>

If there is a better day or time for us to chat and catch up with each other, please let us know.

Giving/Tithing

Giving, tithing, and offering are still available via online giving at https://silverlakeunitedmethodist.org/?page_id=1247 and by sending checks to Silver Lake United Methodist Church at PO Box 10847, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

There are still expenses for us. We still have salaries. We still have communications to maintain. We might need to invest in some equipment for mobile worship or mobile ministry. What dream or what calling might we need to follow in the future? Share

your ideas even as you share your gifts, your tithes, and your offerings.

Follow Us

Be sure to “like” and follow us on our Facebook page,



Listen to Pastor Steve on Sunday mornings as he reads through the Psalms. This is a great way to start your day!

If you miss him in the morning you can watch/listen later in the day. The recordings of the Psalm readings are also added to our web site weekly.

Contact Us

eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com or 612-708-2466.

Messages can also be relayed through the church at silver_lake@live.com or eastsideministrymn@gmail.com.

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