



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent. The word "Lent" originally meant "spring." It is a time to reflect on our baptism and a time of rebirth and renewal.

The season of Lent lasts forty days, excluding Sundays. The altar colors are purple to reflect the solemnity and somberness of the season. In church history, candidates for baptism would fast during these forty days leading to their baptism at Easter. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context, suggest judgment and God's condemnation of sin, our total dependence upon God for life, and repentance. We are reminded of the words of the burial service... "earth to earth and dust to dust." Ashes are also a symbol of cleansing and renewal. Just as baptismal water suggests death and life... so do the ashes of Ash Wednesday.



## 2009 Lenten Series

*"What Does Faith Mean?"*

Wednesdays, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Lenten Simple Suppers, Served 5:00-6:45 p.m.  
Free will offering for the ministries highlighted below.

*Food or dessert donations are always welcome.*

***Faith Speakers:***

March 4 - Leigh Nelson  
March 11 - Adam Rachuy  
March 18 - Mike Swanson  
March 25 - Amy Peterson  
April 1 - Taylor Wasvick

***Supper Proceeds to:***

Mission Mexico  
M.S. Mission Trip/CampWapo  
Hastings Family Service  
Tanzania Ministry  
Quilting Ministry