

A black and white photograph of a cross in a field under a cloudy sky. The cross is a simple wooden structure, standing in a field of tall grass and wildflowers. The sky is filled with dramatic, layered clouds, with a bright light source breaking through near the horizon, creating a silhouette effect on the cross and the vegetation.

FOR IT IS BY
GRACE
YOU HAVE BEEN
SAVED

E p h e s i a n s 2 : 1

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 7 / 10, 2024

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

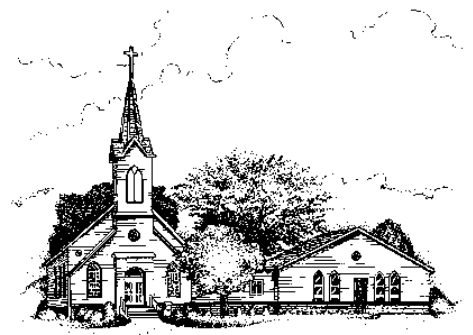
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Steven D. Bode, pastor

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Welcome to God's House

While not every religion uses the word “sin,” they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind’s flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, better behavior. What do they have in common? Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who believe *they* can beat their sin are killed by pride.

True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday School Song

Jesus Loves Me (*Sun. late service*)

Opening Hymn

Jesus Refuge of the Weary #409

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,
fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above,
often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
yet, upon the cross extended, you endured the pain of all.

Dare we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
as we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn-encircled brow?
Since your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest,
only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you!
May our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew,
till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
graven in our hearts forever dwell the cross, the Crucified!

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession of Sins

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

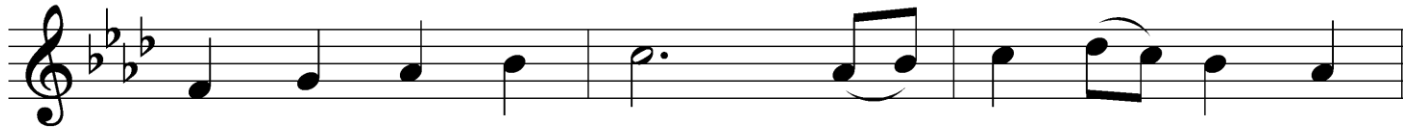


Psalm of the Day

How Blest Are Those - Psalm 32B:1-4



1 How blest are those the LORD for - gives; how
2 I si - lent - ly con - cealed my guilt, but
3 I then con - fessed my sin to you, my
4 Let all the faith - ful pray to you while



glad they are to hear their sin is gone, their
then I groaned all day: your heav - y hand, like
griev - ous guilt and shame, and you for - gave my
you may still be found; you place them safe a -



guilt a - toned, their rec - ord clean and clear.
sum - mer heat, took all my strength a - way.
wick - ed - ness by your most gra - cious name.
bove the flood, se - cure on high - er ground.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the

incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

God Loved the World So That He Gave #570

God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save
that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

Christ is the solid rock of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; his Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word declares that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood; baptized, you are a child of God.

If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; this is the anchor of my faith!

Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Sermon

Ephesians 2:1-10

From Start to Finish...All Grace

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and
earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally
begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true
God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all

things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of

pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. [We pray especially for...] Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Silent prayers and special intercessions may follow

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

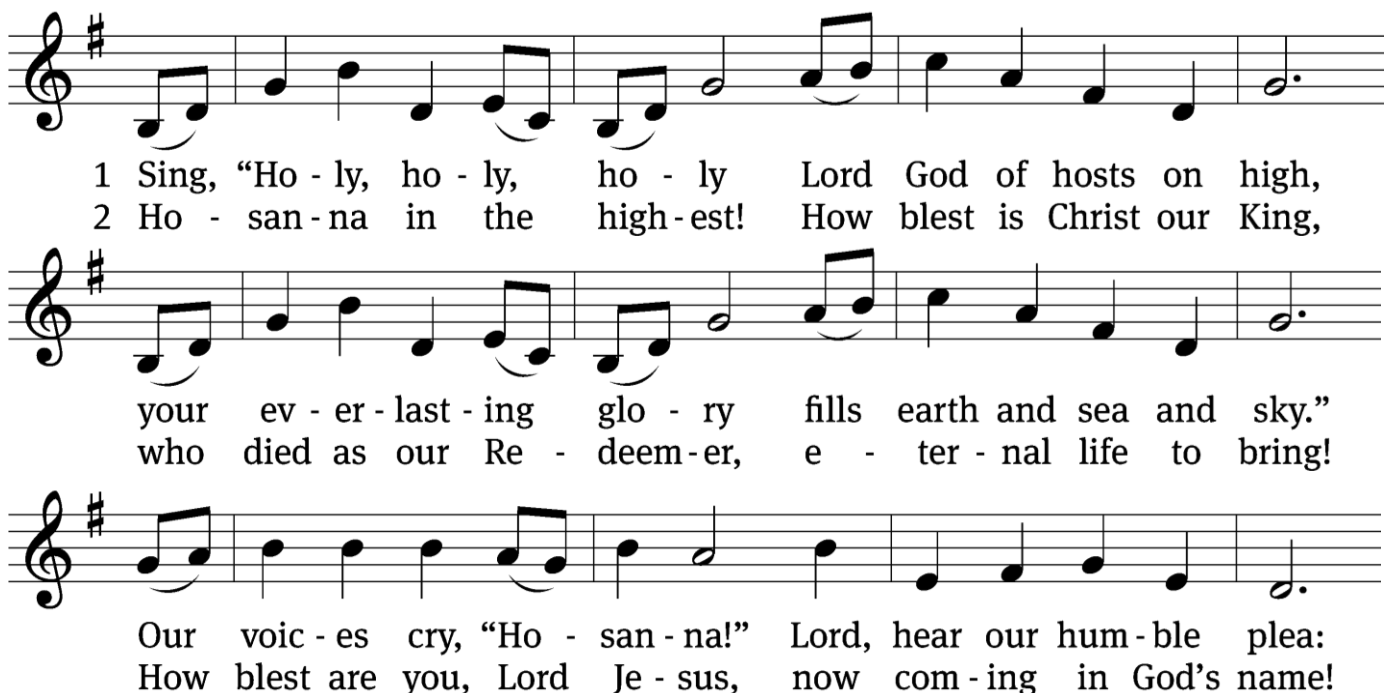
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

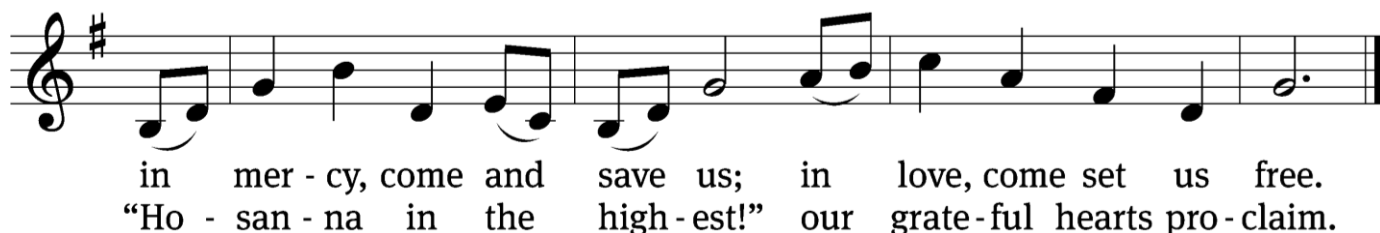
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR CW 1073



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

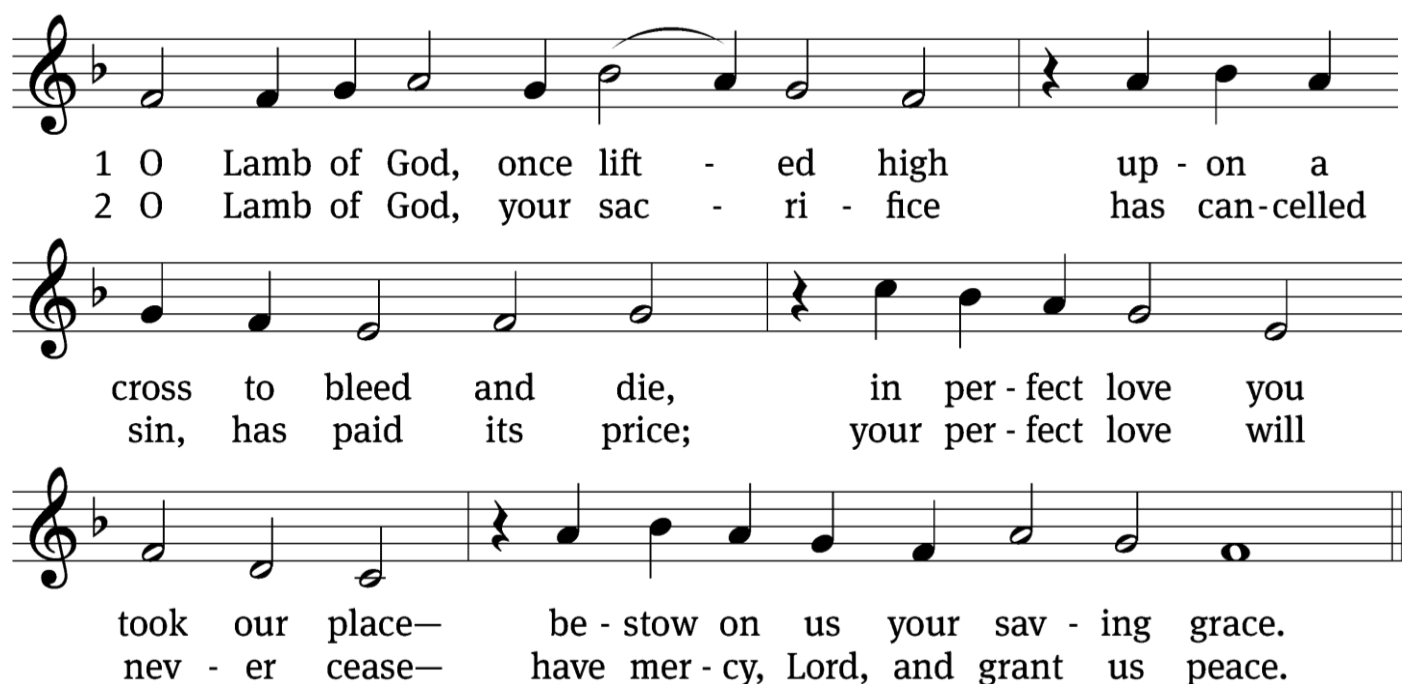
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 1060



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will
took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

By Grace I'm Saved #575

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;

my soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why waver at this word of promise?

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

So then this word must true remain:

by grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
that Jesus died, your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
that brought him from his heav'nly throne.

By grace! O mark this word of promise
when you are by your sins oppressed,
when Satan plagues your troubled conscience,
and when your heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by his grace to you did send.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
in tribulation's furnace tried,
by grace, despite all fear and trouble,
the Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
if grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
in Jesus' promise I rejoice,
for though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
since I am saved by grace alone.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Sunday School Song

Jesus Loves Me (*Sun. early service*)

Closing Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee #811:1-2, 4

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;

O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!

As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee

pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,

blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;

O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

This Week at Zion

Today:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Adult Bible study
	2:00 p.m.	Luther Prep Sacred concert, Watertown
Mon:	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Tue:	1:00 p.m.	OWLS meeting at St. Peter's, Fond du Lac
	6:30 p.m.	KML Sacred Concert
	6:30 p.m.	Sunday School teacher meeting
Wed:	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Worship
Thu:	7:00 p.m.	Worship
Sat:	9:00 a.m.	Catechism instructions
Sun:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Adult Bible study
	2:30 p.m.	WLC Choir Concert, Milwaukee

In Our Prayers Calvin Eichsteadt, at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac; Rhea Schmidt, continuing to receive rehab at Cedar Lake Campus in West Bend.

Holy Communion We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the confession, commitment and unity we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice.

Lenten Worship Join us this Wednesday for our fourth midweek Lenten service at 6:30 p.m. Vicar Chris Gorr from David's Star will be with us and will be using Matthew 26:57-75 for his sermon on the incredible restraint Jesus exercised throughout his Passion.

We thank Jared Peterson for serving as our organist on Thursday and Barb Olsen for serving as our organist on Sunday morning. We also thank our Sunday School children for singing today during the worship services.

Bible Study We return once again to the story of Joseph in our adult bible study on Sunday mornings. This week we'll focus on the events of Genesis 43, especially on the topic of forgiveness. If you've ever had challenges forgiving someone, you'll benefit from this study of Joseph and how he showed the essence of forgiveness.

Easter Lilies Help beautify the church on Easter Sunday with an Easter lily this year. Fill out one of the half sheets from the cabinets and return it to the Ladies' Aid box (top center) You can make checks payable to Zion Ladies' Aid. **The deadline is next Sunday, March 17th.**

Easter Breakfast Signup You'll find a signup sheet on the bulletin board for food / drink items needed for our Easter breakfast this year. There aren't too many who have signed up yet...please check the sheets and sign up for an item or two. Thank you!

Bags Tournament Sign up on the bulletin board for the bags tournament on April 6th!

Open Enrollment for School Choice If you're looking for a quality Christian education for your child(ren) in a smaller elementary school with a loving atmosphere, consider St. Lucas Lutheran in Kewaskum. Since St. Lucas participates in the Wisconsin Parental School Program, you may be eligible to have your tuition covered. The signup runs through April 18th. E-mail or call Principal Mark Hesse with any questions at 262-626-2680 or mhesse@stlucaswels.org.

Sacred Concerts You are invited to attend a couple of sacred concerts this weekend: Luther Prep's Spring Concert will be ***this afternoon March 10th, at 2 p.m.*** (livestream: www.lps.wels.net and click on the vimeo or youtube icon). ***This Tuesday, March 12th***, you're invited to join the KML bands and choirs as they glorify the Lord in concert at 6:30 PM. Can't make it in person? Watch online at kmlhs.org/stream.

Online Bible Study Did you miss Forward in Christ's live Bible study on Feb. 20 with Pastor Greg Lyon? He builds on his February article "What if it's true . . . that you are a sinner." Watch it now at forwardinchrist.net/online-study. Then

join us at 7 p.m. on March 26 for his next live study: “What’s if it’s true . . . that God wants your broken heart.”

Pick up the new March newsletters, calendars and Forward in Christ issues from the cabinets in the entryway.

Save the Date The Spring Rally of the Dodge/Washington LWMS circuit will be held at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Iron Ridge, WI on Saturday, April 13th from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Registration starts at 8:30. The scheduled guest speaker is Juan Escobar, a student at our Seminary and he will be talking about our WELS Latin American missions, *Academia Christo* and how a basketball camp changed his life. Come and enjoy a morning with fellowship, food and learning how our WELS continues to spread and grow around the world.

Preschool Hiring St. Paul Little Learners Preschool and Childcare is accepting applications for part-time or full-time teachers in our childcare. We operate a 3K and 4K preschool along with full day childcare for children from 30 months (and independent in the bathroom) to 13 years old. If you would like to learn more, contact Lisa Meissner at littlelearners@stpaulslinger.org or 262-644-8295 ext. 1. The Preschool / Childcare is located at St. Paul Lutheran Church (799 St. Paul Drive, Slinger, WI 53086).



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Psalm of the Day

How Blest Are Those - Psalm 32B:1-4

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Holy, Holy, Holy

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR CW 1073

1073 Sanctus (Eve) - BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

CW 1073

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1060 Agnus (Ger) - WENN WIR IN HÖCHSTEN NÖTEN SEIN CW 1060

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