

Please Note

The designated benevolence for the month of March is for New Horizons (shelter and outreach for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence).

Bulletin Deadline

Please send all information for the Sunday Bulletin and the Weekly Newsletter to Pastor Tim (stmaximos@aol.com). There is no guarantee that information sent after Wednesday will make it in Sunday's bulletin. **Thank you.**

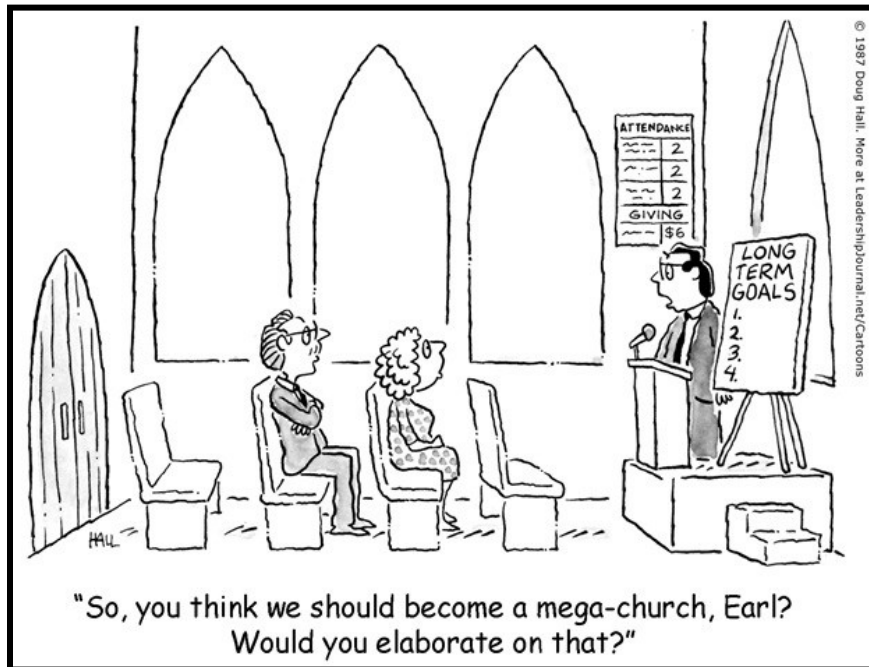
Check out our Web Site (www.giftofgracelc.org)

For more information about Gift of Grace Lutheran Church check our website. Pastor Tim is also available for calls and pastoral visits.

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church

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GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Second Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2023

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

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*WOV - With One Voice (Blue Hymnal)

Announcements

Sunday, 3/5 Second Sunday in Lent (President Wille to Preach)

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion (Also Livestreamed)

10:15am Fellowship over refreshments

10:45am Adult Class - Study of 1 Thessalonians

Wednesday, 3/8 Lenten Midweek Service

6:30pm Soup Supper, Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, 3/9

9:30am Prayer Gathering

6:00pm Church Council Meeting

Friday, 3/10

7:00am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, 3/11

6:00pm Pastor Tim to preside at Emmanuel Lutheran in Rochester

Sunday, 3/12 Third Sunday in Lent (Switch to Daylight Savings Time)

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion (Also Livestreamed)

10:15am Fellowship over refreshments

10:45am Adult Class - Study of 1 Thessalonians

Welcome to Guests and Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us for worship this morning! If you are not familiar with Lutheran Worship it may help to know that page numbers in the bulletin’s order of worship are found at the bottom of the page in the hymnal, while hymn numbers are found at the top.

Concerning Holy Communion

We believe, teach, and confess that in Holy Communion Christ gives His body and blood for baptized believers to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. We also believe that Holy Communion is an expression of our common faith, life, and worship together. For those of you who don’t share our confession of faith we would advise you to talk to the Pastor before partaking of the body and blood in the elements. In the meantime, all are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest (heart) and the Pastor will lay hands on your head and pronounce a blessing. It is our prayer and longing that one day we might all enjoy a full unity in doctrine and faith in Christ.

The Rev. Dr. John Wille

The President of the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the Reverend Dr. John Wille is with us this morning, both to preach and to officially welcome our congregation to the roster of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations.

Lenten Midweek Services

The theme of the Midweek Services is “Meditations on the Second Article of the Creed”. This week we will consider the “The Mystery Person: the God/Man”. We plan to gather for a soup supper at 6:30pm, and then use the Evening Prayer (Vespers Service) with a meditation for the worship service.

Today's Worship Assistants

Assisting MinisterNaomi Rislow
 ReaderPaula Betlach
 CruciferDawson Staff
 Acolyte.....Drew Staff
 UshersPaula Betlach
 Counters Tim Betlach/Dan Molstad
 Communion Assistant..... Tom Rislow
 Accompanist Leslie Duesenberg
 Fellowship.....Naomi Rislow/Cyndi Molstad
 Livestreamer Cole Warner

March 12, 2022 Worship Assistants

Assisting MinisterMike Meunier
 Reader Heather Roll
 CruciferElyse Schoonover
 Acolyte..... Jed Roll
 UshersDave Bjornstad
 CountersJarrod Roll/Dave Bjornstad
 Communion Assistant.....Jarrod Roll
 Accompanist Tom Rislow
 Fellowship..... The Rolls
 LivestreamerJarrod Roll

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9

God called Abram from idolatry to faith, and he promises him that he will become a great nation through which all the world would be blessed. Abram responds to God's call with trustful obedience.

The First Lesson is from the 12th chapter of Genesis...

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 121 (page 279 of LBW)

Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

Abraham's efforts of observing the law did not save him. His trustful obedience was a response to the salvation God grants to those who trust in his promises.

The Second Lesson is from the 4th chapter of Romans...

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the

February Attendance And Giving

	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Gen Giving</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Plus/Minus</u>	<u>Building</u>
Feb 05	33	\$1,827.00	\$2,070.00	(\$243.00)	\$75.00
Feb 12	34	\$1,253.00	\$2,070.00	(\$817.00)	\$130.00
Feb 19	33	\$1,823.00	\$2,070.00	(\$247.00)	\$65.00
Feb 26	35	\$2,102.00	\$2,070.00	\$32.00	\$180.00
Running Total		\$7,050.00	\$8,280.00	(\$1,275.00)	\$450.00
YTD Total		\$14,415.42	\$18,630.00	(\$4,214.58)	\$1,431.35
					\$204,399.99

world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

God gives his only Son as a sacrificial gift to deliver the world from condemnation and to give eternal life to those who believe in him.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, Your Son has shown Your love to the world in His death and resurrection. Give Your people hearts to remember Your gracious works and to proclaim Your name in all things. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You promise us an inheritance not because of Your law but because of Your promise to Abraham and to us. In Your grace, nourish us in the faith unto life eternal. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You made Your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, remember our nation and its leaders. Bless all who make, administer and judge our laws, and enable us to be good and responsible citizens. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, be near to the sick and the suffering. Comfort them with Your divine promises, and grant healing according to Your will. This we pray for Carol Halderson, Jonny Lowell, Jolene Wieman, Pastor John Wille, and those we now name before you... Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Moment of silence for individual petitions and intercessions

Heavenly Father, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross. Sustain us by the gift of faith you bestowed on us when we received the new birth in Holy Baptism. Feed us at Your table by Your very body and blood so that we might be nourished with Your life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You give life to the dead and have united the faithful of all ages in the Body of Christ. As You shelter all the saints in the arms of Your mercy, so comfort us who await Your final victory over death and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us a refuge from the world in the Body of Christ. Protect us from all evils of body and soul, that we would find rest in this life and eternal rest in Your heavenly embrace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**