

## Upcoming Events

Sunday 02/23/2025	9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Bible Class 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Choir Practice
Monday 02/24/2025	Pastor/Teacher Conference <b>No Monday Worship Service</b>
Thursday 02/27/2025	5:30 PM Women's Bible Study
Friday 02/28/2025	6:30 PM Euchre
Sunday 03/02/2025	9:00 AM Communion Worship
Monday 03/03/2025	7:00 PM Communion Worship

## Our **Time** to Our Lord

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**Called Home:** It has pleased our Lord to call home the souls of two of our sisters' in Christ. On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Deborah (Morse) Neill was taken to her Savior after a long-suffering health battle. She is the daughter of former members Bud and Sue Morse. Our member-sister, Joanie (Swaffer) Petty was called suddenly on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Funeral services for Joanie can be seen on the Hanlin Funeral Home website. We keep their families and their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

**Ash Wednesday Pasta Bar Supper:** Wednesday March 5, CEO will be hosting a Pasta Bar Supper at 5PM, prior to our Ash Wednesday service. All are invited to come and share food and fellowship, as we prepare to reflect on and follow Jesus through his suffering, death and resurrection this Lenten season.

- Look for a signup sheet to be posted in the church entryway.
- A free will offering will be gathered to help support CEO activities as we continue our focus on school growth and fellowship opportunities.

**Watch for future Lent fellowship opportunities coming soon!**

**Children Sing:** Our LES children will sing during the service on Ash Wednesday. They are singing *Beneath the Cross*.

**Euchre Night:** The next games will be on **Friday the 28<sup>th</sup>**. This has been a great fellowship opportunity! Lots of giggles and some hearty belly laughs!!!

**Would you prefer an electronic method for your offerings? We have options!**

**Option 1:**

If you prefer automatic payments, you can set this up

through your bank or credit union's "Bill Pay" section. Simply add St. Luke's as a "payee," entering our name, mailing address, and your offering number in the memo line. Then, choose your donation amount and frequency, and save your settings for hassle-free giving.

### **Option 2:**



You can also give through the Givelify app, available in the "Give" section of the St. Luke's website. Please note that a 3% processing fee applies when using this method. This QR Code will take you directly to Givelify.

**Meditations:** The newest book of meditations is now available. They are in the church office. Email or call the office if you would like yours to be placed in your mailbox.

**Befriend a Mission:** St. Luke's has an incredible opportunity to support our men serving our mission locations. We are encouraged as a congregation to support these men with our prayers and cards. The information for our mission leaders, Timothy Otto and Tristan Pankow, is located on the table under our mailboxes.

**Emails and Phone Numbers:** Please help St. Luke's update our files. Entries are coming along very well! We'd like to start the next phase by collecting the emails and phone numbers of each member. The Church 360 program allows us to send mass emails and phone messages to our members in a simple, effective, and timely manner. **Parents of adult and confirmed children, please include their info.** You may email the church with the information or place it in Pat Mecham's mailbox. Following this phase we will be asking for anniversary dates, birthdates, baptism dates, confirmation dates, and the death dates of members called home.

**Attendance: February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday Service: 59, Communed: 55 Monday Service: 17,  
Communed: 13

No Sunday School: Bible Class: 25

Our Talents to Our Lord

### **March Servers**

**March Sunday Ushers:** Brandon and Jared Frank, Jon Woolworth, Jacob Zieroff

**March Communion Elder:** Brandon Frank

**March Finance:** Jeremy LaPratt, Nick Hubbard, Ed Newsome

**March Altar Guild:** Pat Mecham and Jodi Newcomer

**Organist:** Olivia Marker

Our **Treasures** to Our Lord

**Last Week's Budgetary Offerings:** \$5,666.00

**Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255-258 in the hymnal.

**Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.**

**[www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar)**

### **Setting 2, pg. 172**

#### **621 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**

**CW 621**

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing;

Alleluia, alleluia!

praise the everlasting King!

- 2 Praise him for his grace and favor  
to his people in distress.

Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless,

Alleluia, alleluia!

glorious in his faithfulness!

- 3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.

In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes;

Alleluia, alleluia!

widely yet his mercy flows!

*Please stand for the final stanza*

- 4 Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before him;  
all who dwell in time and space,

Alleluia, alleluia!

praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Text: Public domain

## **Invocation**

## **Confession**

CW 173

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)*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

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.**

**Glory to God in the Highest**

CW 176

***Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.

*Refrain*

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

### First Reading

*Genesis 45:3–15*

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?”

His brothers could not answer him, because they were terrified by his presence. <sup>4</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me, please.”

They came closer. He said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>Now do not be upset or angry with yourselves for selling me to this place, since God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For two years now the famine has been in the land, and there are still five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me ahead of you to preserve you as survivors on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great act of deliverance. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God, and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord over his entire household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry, go up to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: “God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me. Do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall live in the land of Goshen, where you will be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will take care of you here, for there are still five years of famine. Otherwise you will come to ruin, you, and your household, and all that you have.”’ <sup>12</sup>Pay attention. Your eyes and the eyes of my brother

Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall tell my father all about my position of honor in Egypt and about everything that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

<sup>14</sup>He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. <sup>15</sup>He kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 103 The LORD Is Kind and Merciful

*Psalm 103*

### *Refrain*

The LORD is kind and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and rich in com - pas - sion.

### *Tone*

Praise the LORD, / my soul;  
 all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—  
 who forgives / all your sins  
 and heals all your dis- / eases,  
 who redeems your life / from the pit  
 and crowns you with love and com- / passion,  
 who satisfies your desires / with good things  
 so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's.

*Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,  
 slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.  
 He does not treat us as our / sins deserve  
 or repay us according to our in- / iquities.  
 For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,  
 so great is his love for those who / fear him;  
 as far as the east is / from the west,  
 so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
 and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Paul Tate, alt.

Setting: Paul Tate, alt.

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## **Second Reading**

*Romans 12:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. <sup>16</sup>Have the same respect for one another. Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

<sup>17</sup>Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>But:

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Matthew 5:44,45*

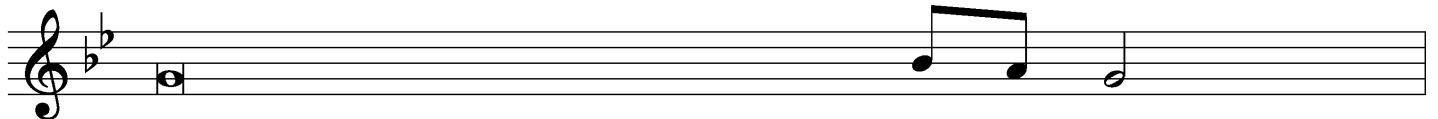


*Refrain*

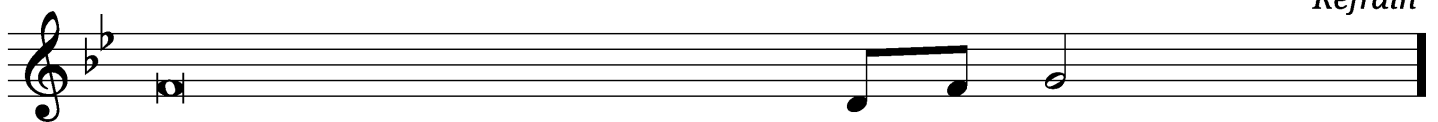


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



Love your enemies and pray for those who perse - cute you,



that you may be children of your Father in heav - en.

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**Gospel**

*Luke 6:27–38*

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup>Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>If



someone strikes you on one cheek, offer the other too. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes away your things, do not demand them back.

<sup>31</sup>“Treat others just as you would want them to treat you. <sup>32</sup>If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? To be sure, even the sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners do the same thing. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you expect to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners lend to sinners in order to be paid back in full. <sup>35</sup>Instead, love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the unthankful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together, and

running over will be poured into your lap. In fact, the measure with which you measure will be measured back to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*(Be seated)*

**729 Son of God, Eternal Savior**

CW 729

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
     source of life and truth and grace,  
 Word made flesh, whose birth among us,  
     hallows all our human race,  
 you our head, who, throned in glory,  
     for your own will ever plead:  
 fill us with your love and pity,  
     heal our wrongs and help our need.
- 2 Bind us all as one together  
     in your Church's sacred fold,  
 weak and healthy, poor and wealthy,  
     sad and joyful, young and old.  
 Is there want or pain or sorrow?

Make us all the burden share.

Are there spirits crushed and broken?

Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

3 As you, Lord, have lived for others,  
so may we for others live.

Freely have your gifts been granted;  
freely may your servants give.

Yours the gold and yours the silver,  
yours the wealth of land and sea;

we but stewards of your bounty  
held in solemn trust will be.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
hallows all our human race,

by your praying, by your willing  
that your people should be one,

grant, O grant our hope's fruition:  
here on earth your will be done.

## Sermon

Luke 6:27-38

Live Like Jesus' Disciples

I. Imitate God's love (32-36)

II. Love your enemies (27-31)

III. Do not be judgmental (37-38)

*(Stand)*

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

### **Prayer of the Church for the Epiphany Season**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.  
*Silent prayer.*

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **733 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive**

CW 733

- 1     “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
       you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
       but you alone can grant us grace  
       to live the words we say.
- 2     How can your pardon reach and bless  
       the unforgiving heart  
       that broods on wrongs and will not let  
       old bitterness depart?
- 3     In blazing light your cross reveals  
       the truth we dimly knew:  
       how small are others’ debts to us,  
       how great our debt to you!
- 4     Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
       and bid resentment cease;

then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

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**(Stand)**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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 and ever. Amen.**



## Blessing

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.**

## 726 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

CW 726

- 1 Love in Christ is strong and living,  
binding faithful hearts in one;  
love in Christ is true and giving,  
may his will in us be done.
- 2 Love is patient and forbearing,  
clothed in Christ's humility,  
gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,  
reaching out in charity.
- 3 Love in Christ abides forever,  
fainting not when ills attend;  
love, forgiving and forgiven,  
shall endure until life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934

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#### Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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