



*Be  
reconciled  
to God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:20**



# Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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February 26, 2023

*First Sunday in Lent*

## Silent Prayer and Meditation

*The congregation prepares in silence.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Opening Sentences

*Joel 2:12-13*

- P** Even now, declares YHWH, return to me with all your heart,
- C** **With fasting and weeping and mourning.**
- P** Rend your heart,
- C** **and not your garments.**
- P** Return to YHWH your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,
- C** **slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.**

## Prayer

- P** Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. You hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, repenting of our sins, we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness through your son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

*Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

*LSB 915*

- 1 Today your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.

However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.

- 2 Today your gate is open,  
And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome  
And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav'n.

### First Reading

2 Samuel 11, 12:1-13a

In the springtime of the year, the season when *most* kings took their soldiers out *to fight*, David stayed in Jerusalem and sent Joab out *as general* in charge of David's men and the whole *army of Israel*. They destroyed the Ammonites and put the city of Rabbah under siege.

<sup>2</sup>Early one evening, David rose from his bed and was strolling on the palace roof when he saw a woman bathing *on a roof below his*. She was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup>David sent someone to find out who the woman was, and the answer came back that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. *Uriah was one of David's officers who had gone to war with the rest of David's troops.*

<sup>4-5</sup>David *couldn't get her off his mind, so he* sent messengers to bring Bathsheba to him. She came, and they had sexual relations. Soon after she returned home, Bathsheba realized she was pregnant, and she sent this news to David. Since their encounter occurred just after the purifying bath after her period, *her husband Uriah could not have been the father.* <sup>6</sup>So David sent a message to *his general Joab.*

**David:** Send me Uriah the Hittite.

Joab sent Uriah back to David. <sup>7</sup>There he was taken in front of the king; and David asked how Joab was doing, how the army was getting along, and how the campaign was progressing. <sup>8</sup>When they finished *discussing the news from the front*, David suggested that Uriah go to his own house to clean up, *relax, and visit his wife.*

**David:** *Since I've called you back here, why don't you go down to your house?*

David sent a gift after him when he left, <sup>9</sup>but Uriah did not go down to his own house. Instead he spent the night at the entrance of the palace with all the king's servants.

**Servants (to David):** <sup>10</sup> Uriah did not go home last night.

**David (to Uriah):** You've just come home from a long trip. Why didn't you spend the night in your own house?

**Uriah:** <sup>11</sup> *The people of Israel and Judah and the covenant chest of the Lord are in tents; my general, Joab, and the king's other servants are sleeping in the open fields. Do you think I would go to my home to eat and drink and sleep with my wife while everyone else suffers? As you live, good king, I will not do such a thing.*

**David:** <sup>12</sup> Stay here *with me* today; tomorrow I will send you back *to the battle*.

Uriah remained in Jerusalem that whole day and the next day. <sup>13</sup> David invited him to eat and drink in the king's *royal* company, and David got him drunk. After the party, Uriah fell asleep on a bed with the servants of the king, and again he did not return to his home.

<sup>14</sup> So the next morning, *realizing Uriah would not go home to be with Bathsheba*, David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it back *to the front* with Uriah.

**David's Letter:** <sup>15</sup> Put Uriah at the front of the battle, in a place where the fighting is most intense. Then pull back and leave him *in front of the line* so that the enemy will strike him down and kill him.

<sup>16</sup> *After he received this message*, Joab laid out his attack plans and assigned Uriah to a place where he knew the enemy had put strong warriors. <sup>17</sup> When the warriors of the city came out to fight against Joab's forces, some of David's servants were killed, and Uriah the Hittite was one of them.

<sup>18</sup> Joab sent a messenger to David with news of the battle.

**Joab (to the messenger):** <sup>19</sup> Give the king all of this news about the battle. <sup>20</sup> If he gets angry and asks you, "Why did the army go so near the city to fight? Didn't you realize that they would shoot from the walls?" <sup>21</sup> Wasn't Abimelech, Jerubbesheth's son, killed by a woman who dropped a millstone on him from the wall at Thebez?<sup>[a]</sup> Why were you so close to the wall?" then tell him, "Your servant Uriah the Hittite was also killed *in the fighting*."

<sup>22</sup> So the messenger went and told David everything Joab had instructed him to say. *But he did not wait for the king's reaction before telling him Uriah had died.*

**Messenger:** <sup>23</sup> Their soldiers came out against us into the field *surrounding the city*. At first they had the advantage over us, but we drove them back to their gate. <sup>24</sup> Then their archers fired on us from the wall; and some of your servants were killed, including your servant Uriah the Hittite.

**David:** <sup>25</sup> Take this reply back to Joab: “Don’t let this trouble you. The sword kills indiscriminately. Continue to push forward against the city, and capture it.” And give him my encouragement.

<sup>26</sup> When *Bathsheba*, Uriah’s wife, heard the news of his death, she went into mourning *for seven days*. <sup>27</sup> When her appointed time of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her into his household. He made her his wife, and *in time* she bore him a son.

But the Eternal One was displeased with what David had done.

**12** The Eternal One sent *the prophet* Nathan to visit David. Nathan came to him and told him *a story*.

**Nathan:** Two men lived in the same city. One was *quite* rich and the other *quite* poor; <sup>2</sup> the rich man’s wealth included *livestock with many flocks and herds*, <sup>3</sup> but the poor man owned only one little ewe lamb. He bought it and raised it in his family, with his children, *like a pet*. It used to eat what *little* food he had, drink from his *meager* cup, and snuggle against him. It was like a daughter to him.

<sup>4</sup> Now a traveler came to *the city to visit* the rich man. *To offer a proper welcome*, the rich man knew he needed to fix a meal, but he did not want to take one of the animals from his flocks and herds. So instead he stole the poor man’s ewe lamb and had it killed and cooked for his guest.

*Nathan stood back, waiting for the king’s verdict.* <sup>5</sup> David grew very angry at the *rich man*. *It was his royal duty to protect the poor and establish justice.*

**David:** As the Eternal One lives, the *rich man* who did this deserves to die. <sup>6</sup> *At the least*, he will restore that lamb four times over because he acted without pity.

**Nathan:** <sup>7</sup> You are that man!

This is the message of the Eternal God of Israel: “I was the One who anointed you to rule over Israel, and I was the One who rescued you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> It was I who gave you Saul’s house, Saul’s wives, and dominion over both Israel and Judah; and if that were not enough, I would have given you as much again.

<sup>9</sup> “So why have you despised the word of the Eternal and chosen to do evil in His sight? It was you who killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword and stole his wife, even though you used the Ammonites to do the dirty work. <sup>10</sup> Now *because he was killed with the sword*, the sword will be your constant companion. It will hang over your household, *bringing death and violence to your family*, since you have despised Me *by showing no regard for My law*, and you have taken *Bathsheba*, the *lawful* wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own wife.”

<sup>11</sup> This is the message of the Eternal: “I will bring trouble on you in your own household—right under your nose. I will take your wives and give them to

another, and he will *flaunt that he* sleeps with them in the light of day. <sup>12</sup> You did your evil in secret, but I will do this out in the open, in front of all Israel.”

**David** (*confessing to Nathan*): <sup>13</sup> I have sinned against the Eternal One.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Create in Me

LSB 192

**1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence;  
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;  
and uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

## First Homily

### Second Reading

2 Samuel 12:13b-25

**Nathan:** Because the Eternal has put away your sin, it will not be your death. <sup>14</sup> But because you *scorned the Lord* by these acts, giving His enemies reason to mock Him, the child you conceived *in deceit* will die.

<sup>15</sup> Then Nathan *left the king's presence and* went down to his house.

The Eternal One struck the child born to Uriah's widow and David so that he became very sick. <sup>16</sup> So David appealed to the True God for *the life of his son*. David went without food; he lay on the ground *praying* all night. <sup>17</sup> The elders from his household, *the most highly honored of his servants*, tried to pull him up off the ground and to make him eat, but he would not.

<sup>18</sup> After seven days of this, the child died, and David's servants were afraid to bring him the news.

**Servants** (*to one another*): If the king did not listen to us while his son was still alive, how can we tell him his son is dead? He may hurt himself in some way.

<sup>19</sup> When David saw his servants whispering among themselves, he immediately realized the boy was dead.

**David** (*to his servants*): Is my son dead?

**Servants:** Yes, he is dead.

<sup>20</sup> Then David stood up, washed, anointed himself *with sweet-smelling oils*, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of the Eternal and worshiped. Then he returned to his house and asked for food; and when it was brought to him, he ate.

**Servants (to David):** <sup>21</sup> We don't understand. When your son was alive, you wept and you refused to eat; now that he is dead, *it is as if nothing is wrong*—you are up *and about* and eating.

**David:** <sup>22</sup> While my son was still alive, I wept and fasted *with all my being* because I thought *to myself*, “Who knows? There is still a chance that the Eternal One will have mercy on me and let my child live.” <sup>23</sup> But now that he is dead, why should I continue without eating? Will that bring my son back to life? *Someday when I die* I will go where he has gone, but he will never come back to me here.

<sup>24</sup> David went in to console his wife, Bathsheba. *In time* they slept together, *and she became pregnant*. When their *second* son was born, David named him Solomon. The Eternal loved the boy <sup>25</sup> and sent word by the prophet Nathan that they should call Solomon “Jedidiah.”

### ***Today Your Mercy Calls Us***

*LSB 915 v 3-4*

**3** Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.

**4** O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

## **Second Homily**

### **Psalm**

*Psalm 51*

<sup>1</sup> Look on me with a heart of mercy, O God,  
according to Your generous love.

According to Your great compassion,  
wipe out *every consequence* of my *shameful* crimes.

<sup>2</sup> Thoroughly wash me, *inside and out*, of all my crooked deeds.  
Cleanse me from my sins.

<sup>3</sup> For I am *fully* aware of all I have done wrong,  
and my guilt is there, staring me in the face.

<sup>4</sup> It was against You, only You, that I sinned,

for I have done what You say is wrong, right before Your eyes.  
So when You speak, You are in the right.

When You judge, Your judgments are pure and true.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>5</sup> For I was guilty from the day I was born,

a sinner from the time my mother became pregnant with me.

<sup>6</sup> But still, You long *to enthrone* truth throughout my being;

in unseen places deep within me, You show me wisdom.

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me *of my wickedness* with hyssop, and I will be clean.

*If You* wash me, I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Help me hear joy and happiness *as my accompaniment*,

so my bones, which You have broken, will *dance in* delight instead.

<sup>9</sup> Cover Your face so You will not see my sins,

and erase my guilt *from the record*.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God;

restore within me a sense of being brand new.

<sup>11</sup> Do not throw me far away from Your presence,

and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Give back to me the *deep* delight of being saved by You;

let Your willing Spirit sustain me.

<sup>13</sup> If You do, I promise to teach rebels Your ways

and help sinners find their way back to You.

<sup>14</sup> Free me from the guilt *of murder*, of shedding *a man's* blood,

O God who saves me.

Now my tongue, *which was used to destroy*, will be used to sing with deep  
delight of how right *and just* You are.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, *pry* open my lips

that this mouth will sing *joyfully* of Your greatness.

<sup>16</sup> I would surrender *my dearest possessions* or *destroy all that I prize* to prove  
*my regret*,

but You don't take pleasure in sacrifices or burnt offerings.

<sup>17</sup> What sacrifice I can offer You is my broken spirit

*because a broken spirit*, O God,

a heart that honestly regrets the past,

You won't detest.

<sup>18</sup> Be good to Zion; grant her Your favor.

Make Jerusalem's walls steady and strong.

<sup>19</sup> Then there will be sacrifices made,

burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings,

With right motives that will delight You.

And *costly* young bulls will be offered up to Your altar, *only the best*.

## Confession of Sins

**P** Holy and merciful Father, we confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. For our failure to love you, with all our heart, mind, and strength,

**C** we repent, O Lord.

- P** For our failure to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** For our holding on to grudges and refusing to forgive others as you have forgiven us,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** For our reluctance to share generously and joyfully the time, talent, and treasures you provide,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** For our suspicion of strangers, which sometimes hinders our sharing of the Gospel,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** For our refusal to speak well of our neighbor and to put the best construction on our neighbor's words and actions,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** For our arrogance toward others,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** For all of the ways in which the confession of our lips does not show forth in our lives,  
**C** **we repent, O Lord.**
- P** Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.  
**C** **Amen.**

*Silence*

### **Imposition of Ashes**

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, your people from ages past put on sackcloth and ashes so that their inner penitence might take physical form. As we shape these ashes into the form of your Son's cross, grant that they not only show our penitence but also our confident hope in your forgiveness for his sake; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

*The people may come forward at this time to be marked with the cross. As the pastor applies ashes, the following is said:*

- P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
**R** *Amen.*

### ***The Tree of Life***

*LSB 562 (tune 595)*

- 1** **The tree of life with ev'ry good  
 In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
 And of its fruit so pure and sweet  
 God let the man and woman eat.  
 Yet in this garden also grew  
 Another tree, of which they knew;**

Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
Against whose eating God had warned.

- 2 The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken, as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile  
And Adam too by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.
- 3 What mercy God showed to our race,  
A plan of rescue by His grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed,  
The One to fill our greatest need—  
For on a tree uplifted high  
His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
To crush the ancient serpent's head!
- 4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
Flows life eternal in His name;  
For all who trust and will believe,  
Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood  
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

*All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall*

LSB 561

- 1 All mankind fell in Adam's fall;  
One common sin infects us all.  
From one to all the curse descends,  
And over all God's wrath impends.
- 2 Through all our pow'rs corruption creeps  
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;  
In guilt we draw our infant breath  
And reap its fruits of woe and death.
- 3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone,  
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;  
God's image lost, the darkened soul  
Seeks not nor finds its heav'nly goal.
- 4 But Christ, the second Adam, came  
To bear our sin and woe and shame,

To be our life, our light, our way,  
Our only hope, our only stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell  
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
So by one Man, who took our place,  
We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank you, Christ; new life is ours,  
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.  
This grace our ev'ry way attend  
Until we reach our journey's end.

### Absolution

**P** The ashes upon our foreheads declare what is true. The wages of sin is death, and though we have received new life in Holy Baptism, our old self continues to fight God's promise and reap sin and death in our lives. The shape of the ashes upon our foreheads also declares what is true. God sent his only Son to die in our place and be the death of death, and to bring new and abundant life. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal salvation. As a called and ordained servant of the word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\cdot\ddagger\cdot$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Third Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

<sup>14</sup> You see, the controlling force in our lives is the love of the Anointed One. And our confession is this: One died for all; therefore, all have died. <sup>15</sup> He died for us so that we will all live, not for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose from the dead. <sup>16</sup> *Because of all that God has done*, we now have a new perspective. We used to show regard for people based on worldly standards and interests. No longer. We used to think of the Anointed the same way. No longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is united with the Anointed One, that person is a new creation. The old life is gone—and see—a new life has begun! <sup>18</sup> All of this is a gift from our Creator God, who has pursued us and brought us into a restored and healthy relationship with Him through the Anointed. And He has given us *the same mission*, the ministry of reconciliation, to bring others back to Him. <sup>19</sup> It is central to our good news that God was in the Anointed making things right between Himself and the world. This means He does not hold their sins against them. But it also means He charges us to proclaim the message that heals and restores our broken relationships with God and each other.

<sup>20</sup> So we are now representatives of the Anointed One, *the Liberating King*; God has given us a charge to carry through our lives—urging all people on behalf of the Anointed to become reconciled to *the Creator God*. <sup>21</sup> He orchestrated this: the Anointed One, who had never experienced sin, became sin for us so that in Him we might embody the very righteousness of God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Third Homily

### Presentation of the Offering

*Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshipping and receiving communion with us today.*

*Stand*

## The Words of Our Lord

### Lord's Prayer

#### Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

### Distribution

*We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit.*

### O Taste and See

*Praise Band*

What is this bread? What is this bread?

This bread we break, this life we take?

He died to pay, for our release

O taste and see, the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? What is this wine?

The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace, brings his embrace

O taste and see, the Lord is King.

So who am I, that I should live

And he should die, and me forgive.  
My God, my God, forsake me not.  
O taste and see, the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? His promise clear  
In mouth and soul, he makes us whole.  
Christ present here, in this His meal.  
O taste and see- the Lord is real.

Is this for me? Is this for me?  
I Am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe that I receive  
His flesh and blood,  
O taste and see.

This is for you. This is for me.  
We are forgiven and set free!  
We do believe that we receive  
His flesh and blood, the Lord is good,  
O taste and see.

*When I Behold Jesus Christ*

LSB 542

1 When I behold Jesus Christ,  
True God who died for me,  
I wonder much at his love  
As he hung on the tree. *Refrain*

ref What kind of love is this?  
What kind of love is this?  
You showed your love, Jesus, there  
To me on Calvary.  
What kind of love is this?  
What kind of love is this?  
You showed your love, Jesus, there  
To me on Calvary.

2 For me you gave all your love,  
For me you suffered pain;  
I find no words, nothing can  
Your selflessness explain. *Refrain*

3 You had no sin, holy Lord,  
But you were tortured, tried;  
On Golgotha there for all  
My sins you bled and died. *Refrain*

- 4 What love is this? Greater love  
No one has ever known.  
My life with God— this I owe  
To you, and you alone. *Refrain*

*What Wondrous Love is This*

LSB 543

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down  
Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb,  
Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

**Dismissal**

**Benediction**

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

LSB 418(Tune 857)

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;

**Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God's eternal Word.**

**3**    **Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
      And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
      Since we have known God's love.**

**4**    **Be with us through this season, Lord,  
      And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
      We join in heaven's praise.**

### **Sending**

**P**    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**G**    **Thanks be to God.**

## Serving in worship today

February 26, 2022

### **Pastor:**

Jason Neel

### **Elder:**

Terry Elhardt

Jeff Williams

### **Reader:**

Wayne Chambard

### **Usher:**

Randy Herschman

### **Organist:**

Karine Platt

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Karen Zimmerman 2/27, Morgan Bryan 2/27, Betsy Will 2/28, Deb Walden 2/28, Autumn Degler 3/1, Libby Schoenbauer 3/2, Virginia Henkel 3/3, Natalie Hofman 3/4, and Ryan O’Keeffe 3/4.

**Celebrating Baptism:** Julia Gunderson 2/27, Collin Mathiason 3/1, Dan O’Keeffe 3/1, Les Geren 3/1, and Jean O’Keeffe 3/2

## **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Quarterly Voter’s Meeting
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Apocrypha Study
	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Lenten Service 1
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Apocrypha Study

## **Notes of Information:**

**Congregational Voter’s Meeting: TODAY!** there will be a quarterly voter’s meeting held following worship service at 10:30 in the

sanctuary.

**Soup Supper:** Starting on Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be having soup supper before Lenten Worship Service. If you would be willing to prepare and serve a crock pot of soup, please reach out to Jonelle Welle at 763-767-1392.

**Women's Ministry Event:** Women of SOC, join us for a morning of socializing, storytelling, and prayer. Linda McCarty will be sharing a story and a method of prayer called the Examen. **Save the date - Saturday, March 18, 2023, 9a-11a.**

**Camp Omega:** a group of our girls is going to attend Camp Omega the week of July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup>. This session is for youth ages 9 to 13. If you are interested in having your children attend Camp Omega during these dates, see Laura Marquardt for more information. There are plenty of great opportunities to be had at Camp Omega this summer. For more information go to their website: Campomega.org

**Anoka/Coon Rapids Women's Connection:** Is hosting a morning of fun and fellowship. Where: Majestic Oaks Country Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd., Ham Lake, MN

When: Thursday, March 9, 2023, 9:15 -11 AM Cost: \$15 inclusive. ( A lovely breakfast is provided) Special Feature: Sharon Johnson, Master Gardener, and owner of Minnesota Fresh Farm. Speaker: " Peace in Any Circumstances" Jan Ostroot **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED BY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>.** CALL NANCY AT 763-767-0308 OR EMAIL JULIE AT [dj1245@comcast.net](mailto:dj1245@comcast.net)

**Easter Lilies:** If you would like to contribute towards decorating our church this Easter Season, please take an envelope from the table in the Narthex and put your contribution in the offering basket. Single Lilies are \$10 and Double Lilies are \$20 per plant. If you have any questions, please contact Laura in the church office. Orders are due to the florist by March 22, 2023.

**Monthly 1% Mission Outreach:** As God's Stewards, we are called to serve. A great way to do this is to apply for the Monthly 1% Mission Outreach offering. Simply fill out a request form, state your outreach ministry, and how the funds will be used. Then return your request to the Stewardship Board. Some past activities have included homeless kits, backpacks for World Relief, diaper kits, shopping for food shelf items, and holiday baskets for families. Be creative! Our Lord will use the talents and gifts He has given you to bless others.

**Backup Funeral Coordinator Needed:** There is a need for someone to act as backup funeral coordinator when Jonelle is on vacation. The funeral coordinator acts as a point of communication for the family, orders food for the luncheon, and organizes help for set up, serving, and cleaning up for the funeral luncheon (from a list of volunteers). If you have more questions, please contact Jonelle Welle at 763-767-1392.

**SOC Book Club:** Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet on the following dates In the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. to review the below listed books. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please reach out to Joan Mager at 763-434-9652.

February 27 – Home Again by Kristin Hannah

March 27 – The Longest Ride by Nicholas Sparks

**LWML Byte: Showing God’s Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico -God Cares About You Mission-**

Albuquerque’s International District is home to an ethnically diverse and disadvantaged population with a high crime rate. God Cares About You Mission, which is supported by nine area Lutheran churches, is transforming lives both now and for eternity. Their outreach includes a clothing bank, children’s ministry, food bank, back-to-work program, Christian fellowship, meals, Bible studies, worship services, street evangelism and counseling. Currently the programs are only offered three days a week and they want to expand to six days. With this expansion, they need to add a services director and a kitchen manager to better manage the programs offered. Help is sought for their salaries. With the funds from this grant, God Cares About You can expand their ministry and reach more with Christ’s love.

**Nursery:** The nursery is open, and the sound is working. If you have a restless child, please feel free to use this space.

**Sermons and bulletins posted online:** Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at [www.spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.spiritofchristhamlake.org)

**Offerings via Give+:** Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at [soclc.org](http://soclc.org) to sign up or learn more.

Average Monthly Offering	\$4976
Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan	\$6662

**Readings for next week:**

Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5; 13-17, John 3:1-17





**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org)

**Our Mission:** To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

**Church Office:** 763-755-7234

**Pastor Jason Neel:** [soclcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:soclcpastor@gmail.com)

**Ministers:** All Members

**Music Director**

**John Peterson:** [carsinger@aol.com](mailto:carsinger@aol.com)

**Office e-mail:** [secretary@soclc.org](mailto:secretary@soclc.org)

**Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst):** [Sd\\_hurst@yahoo.com](mailto:Sd_hurst@yahoo.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>