



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

✦ ✦ ✦

MARCH 5, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

During Lent we journey with all around the world who, like Nicodemus, seek to know more about Jesus. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. In Baptism, we are given new birth as children of God, and by faith we are made heirs of God's promise to Abraham. During Lent, we remind ourselves that we walk by faith, believing and sharing the good news that God loves this world and all its people!

GATHERING

Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance.

The Offering will be brought forward by the ushers during the Offertory Anthem.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“When Thou Art Near” BWV 508

Johann Sebastian Bach

Setting for cello and organ by Linda Latham

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church” ELW 321

OLD 124TH

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.
2. So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living in your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.
3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the first-born of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931-2003 © Thomas H. Cain; Music: *trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Please be seated.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
† forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ † , the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie “O Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” from *All Creation Sings*
Christian Souza, cantor; Holy Communion Setting Eleven

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

Bill Schwartz, lector

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. ²I 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 the one who curses 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

Matt Blaker, Delenn Rumbolo, cantors

Psalm 121 (Rick Erickson) Psalm refrain reproduced for *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

My help comes from the LORD, the mak - er of heav'n and earth.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Second Reading**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

Bill Schwartz, lector

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor 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 reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If 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, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 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***Please stand as able.***Gospel Acclamation****“Return to the Lord”**

Anna Krentz Organ

Text: Joel 2:13; Music: © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -

ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a triplet of eighth notes over the words 'gra-cious and'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, ending with a double bar line.

The Holy Gospel**John 3:1-17***The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, 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 a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just 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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the 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.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“It depends on faith”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“God Loved the World” ELW 323

ROCKINGHAM OLD

1. God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe should ever-lasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
3. If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
4. Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus’ blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
5. All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt; Music: Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.

The Apostles’ Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

(Dave Dunlap, prayer assistant)

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. You gather the church and its members by the Spirit, sending us into the world so that the world might know the saving power of Jesus. Bless the members and friends of all churches with grace and faith to work for Jesus in this world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your creation. We continue to see unprecedented weather events and natural disasters. The people of Turkey and Syria are present in our hearts and minds. The victims of these events need food, water, and shelter. Help them to find the services and resources they need, and help local, state and national leaders to provide needed assistance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world. You sent Abram out to make a great nation. The leaders of our great nations need your guidance to address the issues of war, famine, and natural disaster. Please help them see their way to find peace, feed the hungry, and house the homeless. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your people. Accompany all people who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany caregivers who walk with them in healing and recovery. May your Spirit of healing and consolation be upon: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Helen Howard, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White, John Simon, Dan Price, Jane Waggoner, Roxi Tolbert, Susan Campbell. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your children. Loving God, please help us to show your love to those facing adversity, unfairness or injustice based on their race, religion, gender or sexual identity, age, or disability. Diversity is a building block of a strong society. We must all learn from each other to become better people. Our biases are often unconscious, but they are still real. Please help us to follow your commandment and show each other love in thought, word, and deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your saints. As Abraham and Sarah, along with all the saints, walked by faith and were blessed with righteousness, inspire us by their example to journey by faith believing in the promise, so that we might be led to your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Peace

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING (Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance)
Please be seated.

Anthem "God so Loved the World" from *The Crucifixion* John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that who-so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

Offertory (The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)
"Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW 188

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

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by "Communion Kit" or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a "kit" please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music

"Lamb of God" from *Land of Rest Acclamations*

LAND OF REST; Arranged by Richard Proulx

Cantor, All repeat (Canon)

1. 2.

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world, have mer - cy on us,

Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

"Andantino in C Minor" for Cello and Piano

Gabriel Faure

"Meditation on 'Lift High the Cross'" from *Partita on Crucifer*

Tune by Sydney H. Nicholson
Organ Setting by Charles Callahan

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Lift High the Cross” ELW 660

CRUCIFER

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; T&M: ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Praeludium in C Minor” BWV 549

Johann Sebastian Bach

‡ ‡ ‡

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; lector: Bill Schwartz; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Joanne Marz, Ted Seman, David Thomason; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Susan Lakeman, Nick Wartner, Gretchen Payne, Charles Lakeman; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Alan Harms, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, John Brumbaugh, cello; Delenn Rumbolo, Matt Blaker, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; acolyte: NEEDED; lector: Brooks Stevenson; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team D; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Ruth Barrett, Ken Hazen, Jay Jacob, A. J. Pridgen; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding

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Parish News

From the pastor -

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lent is the journey of forty days during which we are invited to renew ourselves in discipleship to Jesus, who calls us to self-denial and the way of the cross. Jesus' words about self-denial invite us to examine who we are in the most profound way. Who is this person I think I am? Who is this "self" I think I know well, yet remains elusive? The Lenten journey of forty days is an invitation to see and understand ourselves before Jesus' cross on the path that Jesus walks. Jesus lives raised in this world in service to others. To follow Jesus is not the work of a single day or even forty days. It is the discipleship of a lifetime. Lent provides an opportunity to sharpen our focus upon Jesus and his suffering love for humanity, so that freed from a desire for the things of this world, we might more fully live for Jesus in service to others. This Lent, led by Christ, may you rediscover his grace in our life together as St. Mark's serving others!

In the fellowship of Christ, Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesday Supper 6 pm-6:45 pm Fellowship Hall, beginning March 1.

Lenten Midweek Worship 7 pm (in-person and online)

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. One of our small sacrifices during this period is our donations into a small Lenten box. Boxes were passed out last Sunday and will be available after the service again today. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Infant car seats will be purchased for the little ones of our recently arrived refugees. Be sure to put your name on the box along with your envelope number if you have one.

Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St. Mark's and put it in the box. Keep the box where you can see it as a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and the infants we will be helping. Please return to church before Easter.

Volunteers needed to answer the phone at the front desk, Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. Please call or email if you would like to help. Thank you!

Love Circle Wednesday, 3/8/23 at 11 am in the Large Conference Room. Come join us!

Theology on Tap is back! March 9 at 7pm at Resident Culture Brewery located at 2101 Central Avenue. Michael Thompson will facilitate the discussion.

The Men's Group has adopted a 1.3 mile section of Scott Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue as part of the City of Charlotte's Adopt-a-Street program. The Men will be picking up trash on Saturday, March 11 after the Men's Group meeting at 9:00 am.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Southern Pecan in Phillips Place on March 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Southern Pecan is a relatively new restaurant that features Gulf Coast cuisine. It is operated by the same group that runs Café Monte. The address is 6706 Phillips Place Ct, Charlotte, NC 28210. These dishes have distinctly Deep South profiles. The menu covers a wide range of favorites from the Gulf States. The atmosphere is casual and friendly. Come join the fun, and bring a friend to share the experience! All people are welcome. Please RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert (call the church office) by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. We look forward to seeing many of you at Southern Pecan.

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able. Explore the life and faith of C. S. Lewis each Sunday at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. Examine Lewis's experiences with doubt, conversion, grief, and joy and how to apply those lessons today. Professor Michael Ward leads this video course based on Lewis's classic writings.

"Hybrid Worship" is both in-person and online worship at the same time. The Holy Spirit gathers us both in-person and online as we continue to live together as the body of Christ during this pandemic.

Online worship continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please Volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Stewardship

2023 Stewardship Appeal

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2023 Offering Envelopes If you would like a box of offering envelopes, please contact Jessie Craig at saintmarksfinance@gmail.com, or call the church office.

Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please

sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

Loaves and Fishes Please remember families who need some assistance putting food on the table every day. Let's continue to overflow our baker's rack with non-perishable, **non-breakable** food items. Or you can leave your donation by the choir room door from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday. "I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt.25:35

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Youth and Family Ministry

Youth Classes

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

Confirmation Class meets every other Sunday at 9:30.

Announcements

Open Eyes Help Everyone! If you see leaking pipes or something amiss in the building, please contact the church office.

AA meets Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m. in Room 210; Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".



PEACE LILIES

They are \$14.00 each.
Deadline is April 2nd.

CROSS SUNBURST

Donations accepted through Easter.



ALTERNATE GIFTS

REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES - For baby car seats
Donations accepted through Easter.

Forms are in the Gathering Place.

Music Notes

"God Loved the World" ELW 323 This anonymous German hymn text, based primarily on John 3:16, is perfectly paired with the English psalm tune **ROCKINGHAM OLD**. This hymn text first appeared in a large collection of hymns (1,313 total) published in 1778. August Crull (1854-1923) made the first English translation, published in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book* (Baltimore, 1889). August Crull was born in Germany, but spent most of his life in the United States. He began his studies at Concordia College, and was a graduate of Concordia Seminary. Edward Miller (1731-1807) included the tune **ROCKINGHAM OLD** in his collection *Psalms of David for the Use of Parish Churches* (London, 1790). In addition to being a publisher, organist, and writer, he was an accomplished flutist, and apparently played flute for the great George Frideric Handel.

"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660 was first published in 1916, and included eleven stanzas! Evangelical Lutheran Worship only includes five stanzas, with a rousing refrain. Stanley Osborne writes of this hymn: "The hymn has no room for weak resignation. It summons the mightiest and leaves them gazing upon a Love that gave its life to achieve life." American hymnologist Austin Lovelace says: "It is related to 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'For All the Saints' ELW 422 in its symbolism of marching in the ranks of soldiers of the crucified. It is the crucified Christ and his cross which we follow, and his love we proclaim to the world." The tune **CRUCIFER** was written by Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947) for this hymn text. **CRUCIFER** means "cross-bearer."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 7, Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

In the year 202 the emperor Septimius Severus forbade conversions to Christianity. Perpetua, a noblewoman, Felicity, a slave, and other companions were all catechumens at Carthage in North Africa. They were imprisoned and sentenced to death. Perpetua's father, who was not a Christian, visited her in prison and begged her to lay aside her Christian convictions in order to spare her life and spare the family from scorn. Perpetua responded and told her father, "We know that we are not placed in our own power but in that of God."

March 10, Harriet Tubman (1822-1913); Sojourner Truth (c.1797-1883), renewers of society

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and remained a slave until about age thirty when, fearing she would be sold and moved further south, she escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad. After that, she helped about three hundred others to escape until slavery was abolished. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and the poor. Sojourner Truth, too, was born a slave in New York state. Her birth name was Isabella Baumfree. After slavery was abolished in New York in 1827, she was freed and, while working as a housekeeper, became deeply involved in Christianity. A number of years later, she discerned a call to become a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving. In later life, she also became a popular speaker against slavery and for women's rights.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

Lenten Suppers
Wednesdays
March 1 - 29 at
6:00 PM

Sign up in the
Gathering Place to
help our cooks
prepare each week.

Lenten Midweek
Prayer 7 PM.



St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Ingrid Keiris, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White, John Simon, Dan Price, Jane Waggoner, Roxi Tolbert, and Susan Campbell.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

Readings for 3/12/2023,

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

*Let us shout for joy to the rock
of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Birthdays

3/5 Cliff Edahl

3/9 John Danello



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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