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February 8, 2026



The greatest of these is LOVE!

Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession
<https://clclutheran.org/>

WELCOME: *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

In a world marked by weakness, fear, and broken vision, God does not call us to deny what we see in the world, but to look to what He is doing through it all. Where human sight exposes sin and suffering brought on by it, God opens blind eyes and strengthens failing hearts through a love that does not pass away. That enduring love fixes our eyes on Christ, through whom what we see is no longer despair, but hope, life, and joy through the forgiveness of sins obtained by His cross.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER: We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.

HYMN: #394

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,

Thou Lamb of Calvary,

Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray;

Take all my guilt away;

Oh, let me from this day

Be wholly Thine!

**May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;**

My zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me,

Oh, may my love to Thee

Pure, warm, and changeless be,

A living fire!

**While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,**

Be Thou my Guide.

Bid darkness turn to day,

Wipe sorrow's tears away,

Nor let me ever stray

From Thee aside.

**When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream**

Shall o'er me roll,

Blest Savior, then, in love,

Fear and distrust remove;

Oh, bear me safe above,

A ransomed soul! Amen.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: (spoken) Amen.

CONFESION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart to confess our sins unto God, our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy upon us and to forgive us.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Cong: The Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Cong: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. For this reason we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cong: O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace we might come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the right to become children of God and has promised

them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Cong: Amen.

GLORY TO GOD:

**Father, who the light this day
Out of darkness didst create,
Shine upon us now, we pray,
While within Thy courts we wait.
Wean us from the works of night,
Make us children of the light.**

**Savior, who this day didst break
The dark prison of the tomb,
Bid our slumb'ring souls awake,
Shine thro' all their sin and gloom;
Let us, from our bonds set free,
Rise from sin and live to Thee.**

**Blessed Spirit, Comforter,
Sent this day from Christ on high,
Lord, on us Thy gifts confer,
Cleanse, illumine, sanctify.
All Thy fulness shed abroad;
Lead us to the truth of God. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, who sees clearly what we cannot and loves us with a love that does not fail, strengthen our weak hands and steady our anxious hearts. Open our eyes to see not only the brokenness of this world but, above all, Your saving work accomplished through Your Son. When fear clouds our vision and sin distorts our desires, fix our eyes on Christ crucified and risen, that, seeing Him in faith, we may walk in

hope, serve others in patient love, and follow Him with confidence until the day when all blindness is removed and joy is made complete; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-7

(ESV) The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; (2) it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. (3) Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. (4) Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” (5) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; (6) then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; (7) the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: I Corinthians 13:1-13

(ESV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (2) And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (3) If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (4) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant (5) or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; (6) it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (7) Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never ends.

As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (9) For we know in part and we prophesy in part, (10) but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. (11) When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. (12) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. (13) So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

CONFESSTION OF FAITH

The Apostolic Creed

I believe God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And 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.

HYMN: #351

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Love Divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter ev'ry trembling heart!

**Breathe, oh, breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Nevermore, Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.**

THE SERMON: Matthew 18:31-43

(ESV) And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. (32) For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. (33) And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." (34) But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. (35) As he drew near to Jericho, a

blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. (36) And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. (37) They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." (38) And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (39) And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (40) And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, (41) "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." (42) And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." (43) And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

“From Blindness to Sight to Insight”

OFFERTORY

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

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #777 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*
**Amazing grace – how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be**

As long as life endures.

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, we implore You to give to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word, as is fitting for it, may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people, that in constant faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide until the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen. Amen. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION HELPER DONATION FUND: This summer, Ms. Lydia Ohlmann will be joining the Mission Helpers Trip to Africa. Recognizing that there is a significant expense involved in this work, Faith Lutheran Church will accept special offerings from the members of Faith to help defer the cost to Lydia. If you would like to help with this, you may place your special offerings in the offering on any given Sunday specifically marked “Mission Helper Donation Fund.”

PASTOR JOHN HEIN CALLED TO REST: Last Sunday, Pastor John Hein of our sister congregation in Fridley, MN preached his farewell sermon as it was the chosen day of his retirement from the ministry. Pastor Hein had been battling a specific cancer for several years and was given victory over it yesterday by our Savior, as He called Pastor Hein to eternal rest. The victory service for Pastor Hein will be this Saturday at Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, MN. Please remember his wife, Janelle, their children, and the rest of the Hein family and friends in your prayers. Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

PASTOR GANTT ABSENT NEXT SUNDAY: Having gone through college and seminary with Pastor Hein, Pastor Gantt has requested that he be allowed to attend the victory service of Pastor Hein in Minnesota this Saturday. This will preclude Pastor Gantt from being able to conduct the services next Sunday. Leonard Benter will conduct the service. There will be no Bible Class. Pastor Gantt will leave Thursday and return Sunday afternoon, God willing.

LENT 2026: In a week and a half, on February 18, we will begin our special mid-week Lenten services during our normal Wednesday morning Bible Class hour. The services will begin at 9:30 AM each Wednesday of Lent. If you are not able to join us in person, the services will be streamed to our YouTube channel for your viewing sometime later.

CALL NEWS: Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD, has received and returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Paul Agenten of Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Iron River, MI, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has returned the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has received the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Ev. Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY.

RETIREMENT: Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of April 30, 2026. <> Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of summer 2026.

APPOINTMENT: Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has been appointed by President Michael Wilke and has accepted the call to serve on the CLC Board of Regents. Pastor Eichstadt will serve as interim CLC Secretary until a permanent appointment is made to fill that position.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

February 09 – February 14, 2026

Mon Matthew 13:3-23 Even where heaven's King rules, the harvest is not always the same. The seed and Sower are the same, but still have opposition in many different forms, pictured by weeds, rocks, birds, etc.

Tues Matthew 13:24-30 Why does not heaven's King simply wipe out the weeds sown by His enemy? Because He cares so much for the wheat which He has planted. But the day of harvest is coming.

Wed Colossians 3:12-17 May all the love of our glorious Savior be reflected in our compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love toward one another, whether in word or deed.

Thurs Jeremiah 17:5-10 Evil proceeds from misplaced trust, such as trusting in human strength. Following such a heart leads to disaster, but blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD.

Fri Psalm 86 "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Mt5:3). In this Psalm we have the chance to pray with David, who was poor and needy. With him we look to the LORD who is good and forgiving, full of mercy.

Sat Psalm 20 As we worshiped the LORD in the day of peace and plenty, may we also look to Him in the day of distress. Some rely on earthly strength, but we will rely on the name of the LORD, our God (v7).