

***APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH***

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Church Facebook Page: Apostles Corner

***The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!***

***As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.***

***Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!***

***Pastor Peter Edwardsen***

**APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
The Second Sunday in Lent

*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*

**Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: **Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

*you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.*

*We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.*

*Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.*

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the

wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. *Amen.*

**Kyrie**  
(#152 ELW)

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.*

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer for today, March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday in Lent.

*God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Gathering Hymn:** “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” #597 ELW (3 verses)

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]*

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

**First Reading:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 27**

27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

***27:2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-- my adversaries and foes-- they shall stumble and fall.***

27:3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

***27:4 One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.***

27:5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

***27:6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.***

27:7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

***27:8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.***

27:9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

***27:10 If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.***

27:11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

***27:12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.***

27:13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

***27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!***

**Second Reading:** Philippians 3:17-4:1

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** *“I Come to the Cross”* by Bill Batstone, Bob Somma, and Jack Schrader  
*Performed by the Apostles Lutheran Church Choir and Phyllis Griffiths.*

*Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

“Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us” pg. 189 ELW

*Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.*

**The Gospel:** Luke 13:31-35

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you O Lord.**

*After the reading*

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *The Rev. Peter Edwardsen*

*Please rise if you are able.*

Hymn of the Day: “Thy Holy Wings” #613 ELW

*Thy Holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my ev’ry moment be lived within thy grace.*

*Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest. Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there, for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care,*

*Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah’s cleansing flood. Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good. Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small, and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in that joyful baptismal promise, we celebrate and confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

## **Prayers and Concerns of the Community**

**“Come Bring Your Burdens to God”** *South African Traditional*  
***Come, bring your burdens to God. Come, bring your burdens to God.***  
***Come, bring your burdens to God. For Jesus will never say no.*** (sing twice)

D: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

*The Deacon, pastor, or worship leader continues with the prayers. Each petition ends;*

*D: God, in your mercy,*

**All: Receive our prayer.**

*The final petition ends;*

D: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ**

*Please be seated.*

### **Offering**

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self and called us to this feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**C: Amen.**

*Please rise if you are able as the collection plates are presented at the table of the Lord.*

**Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of  
life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

**Offertory prayer:**

D: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen**

**The Meal**

**The Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.**

*Preface: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**(ELW page 108)**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***





### **Eucharistic Prayer:**

P: 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.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer:**

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

**All: 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.**

**Lamb of God**  
(ELW page 112)

*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, grant us peace.*

**Invitation to Communion**

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

C: Amen!

*Please be seated.*

*As sinners redeemed not by our own actions but by God's promise of grace alone Lutherans practice an open table: Christ invites all to the table. All who desire to receive communion are welcome. Christ turns no one away.*

*Ushers will direct you when to approach the altar rail. Communion trays contain empty cups for wine, as well as filled cups of grape juice in the center for those who cannot drink wine. If you have a gluten sensitivity, please tell the pastor as he approaches with the bread and he will offer you to take from the tray of gluten-free wafers.*

*If you are unable to approach the rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please let the ushers know.*

**Communion Hymn: "O Living Bread From Heaven" #542 ELW**

*O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest!*

*The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest.*

*O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes!*

*My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'erflows!*

*My Savior, you have led me within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die.*

*You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown,  
and all my soul and spirit bow down before your throne.*

*Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened with heav'nly food, while here  
my course on earth is lengthened, to serve you, free from fear:  
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace destroy,  
where I will ever raise you glad songs in endless joy.*

*After all have received communion the community stands and sings three times:*

*Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your Kingdom.*

### **Table Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever.                      C: Amen.

### **Canticle: “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” #207 ELW**

*Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Amen. Amen.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SENDING**

#### **Blessing**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” #335 ELW**

*Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.*

*Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]*

#### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

*Thanks be to God!*

**We pray for those celebrating a Birthday and an Anniversary:**

*3/16 Ted Kane*

*3/17 Ken & Tammie Kennedy*



**Please keep in prayer...**

... all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters.

... all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.

... all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

*God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice.*

*We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Ken & Tammie Kennedy,*



*Happy St. Patty's Day and Happy Anniversary to my wife Tammie.*

**Today's Altar Volunteers:**

*Deacon: David S.,*

*Acolyte: Nicole G.,*

*Greeter: Barb S., & Usher: Carol B.*

*Readers: Laura E., David S.,*

*Set Up: Carol B., & Clean Up: Barb S.*

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> Altar Volunteers:**

*Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.*

*Greeter: Sylvia D.,  
Stephanie M.,*

*Readers: Eleanor B., Mark I*

*Set Up: TBD & Clean Up:  
Judy M.*

**Lenten Bible Study: Please join us today, and every Sunday until Easter, as we study the Gospel of Luke. (We meet immediately after the service.)**

**March 27<sup>th</sup>: Food Closet, 1-3pm.**

***Easter Flower order forms are on the table in the Narthex.  
Please have your orders in by April 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.***

**Save the Date: Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Earth Day Cleanup!  
(See Ken for more details.)**

**February 2025 Financial Update**

**Year to Date Giving: \$29,997.13**

**Year to Date Expenses: 23,737.95**

**Year to Date Margin: \$6,529.18**

**Money Market/CD Balance: \$91,925.06**

***(For more information, please see Gene Abel or Joan Tartamosa)***

***Altar Flower Dedications:***

***\*\*\*\*Please use the forms that are located next to the flower chart in the Narthex and return them to the church office at least one week before the date(s) you have chosen. This is to ensure that your dedication will appear in the bulletin. Thank you! \*\*\*\****

***There is now a “Memorial Wall” in the Narthex; if you would like, you can place a cross on the wall either in Honor of Loved ones who are no longer here, or to Memorialize an event. (We ask, if possible, that you include a command hook with the cross that you would like to place on the wall.)***

***If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.***

**We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.**

**The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the Apostles' website.**

**Any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.**