



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

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."

Prelude:

Ah, Holy Jesus

Todd Davis

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

Noisy Offering: The Noisy Offering is given so children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

***Opening Hymn:** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* **ELW 834**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

P: Compassionate One,

**C: 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,

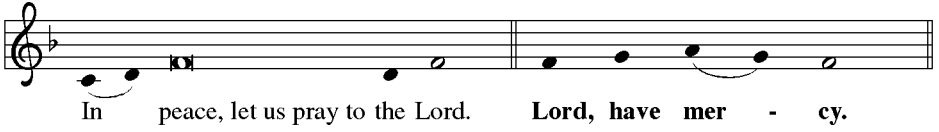
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

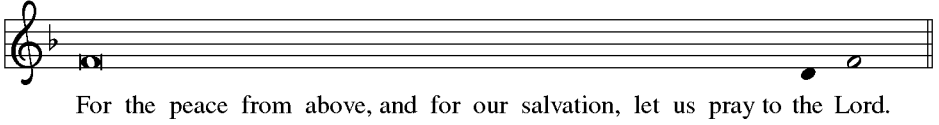
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

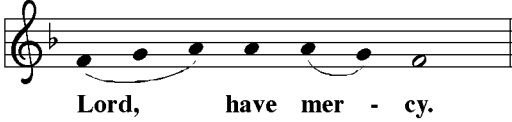
***Kyrie**



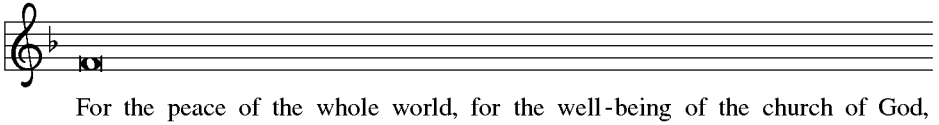
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



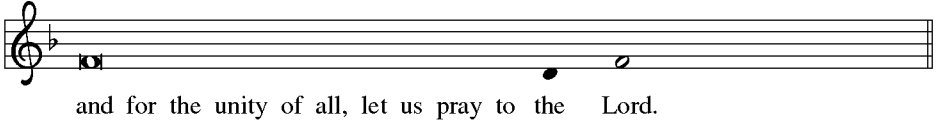
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



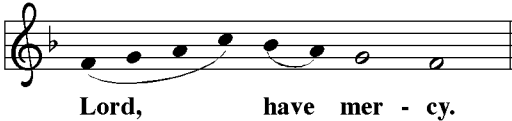
Lord, have mer - cy.



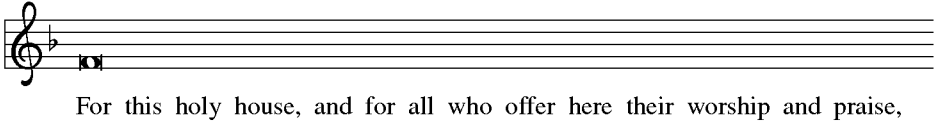
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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: A reading from Genesis, the 15th chapter.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the
temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high
upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround
me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God
of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

- ¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**
- ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!
- ¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong.
Take heart and 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: A reading from Philippians, the 3rd and 4th chapters.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

***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.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

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

A brief silence.

R: Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need, *especially those we name at this time. (Pause for people to be named).* May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

R: 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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(10:30) Sr. Choir:

Love Led Him to Calvary

E. Lewis

***Offertory:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Offering Prayer**

P: 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 Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

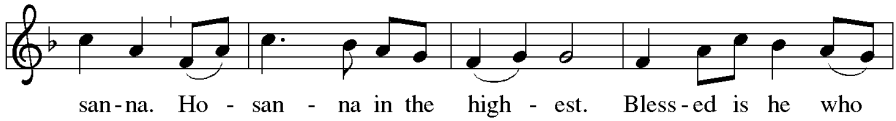
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: 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:



***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

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

C: **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.**

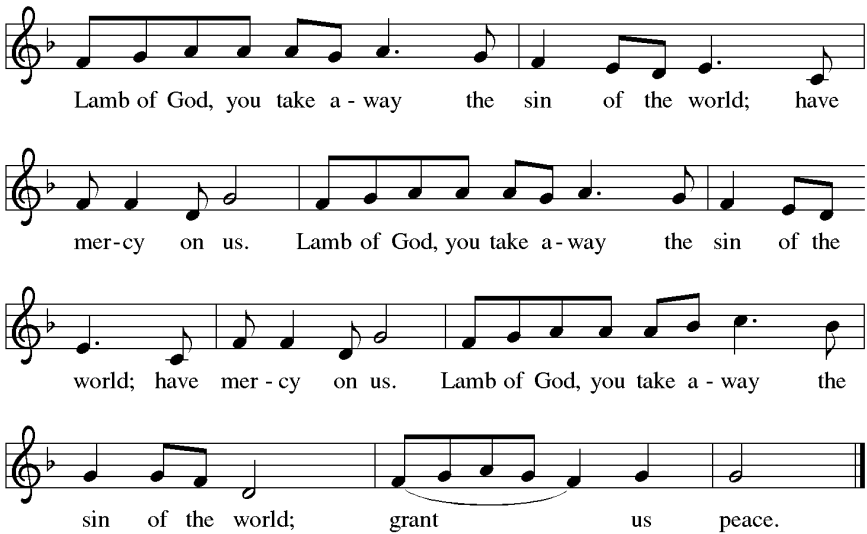
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by

the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 515 *Break Now the Bread of Life*

ELW 502 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** *God of Grace and God of Glory* **ELW 705**

***Dismissal**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* **Robin Dinda**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH THE SEASON OF LENT, seeking to grow in faith, hope and love. Lord, prepare our hearts for worship. Still our souls. Ground us in your grace. Amen.

THE YOUTH & GROWTH COMMITTEE is in need of a Sunday School Teacher for the 1st thru 3rd grade class. Thank you.

TERRA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR & STRING ENSEMBLE will present a free community concert at Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State St., Fremont, on **Sunday, March 23**. Doors open at 2:30 & concert is at 3:00 pm.

OHIO SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT – Save the date: **June 29th-July 2nd, 2025**. This year, there is going to be a statewide youth summer retreat at **Hopewood Pines**, in Marengo, OH, which is about 1 1/2 hours south of us. This will include youth from all three synods. If you have a child that will be entering 6th grade through 12th grade next school year, they are eligible to attend.

The retreat will be from Sunday June 29 to Wednesday July 2. Check in is June 29 from 2:30-4:30 and check out is Wednesday July 2 at 1pm. There will be programming, worship, and campfires. And the youth will be able to sign up for activities like kayaking, low ropes, archery, climbing wall, hiking, ziplining, etc.

We would need at least 1 adult per every 10 kids, and it would be great to have 1 male and 1 female leader, but that's not an absolute. Each adult will need to have an updated background check done. The kids will be grouped together in cabins. I'm guessing by age but I do not have that information yet. **The deadline to register is tentatively set for May 31** but since the camp can only accommodate so many people at a time, the sooner we can register, the better. The cost is \$150 per youth and will be paid for by Faith Lutheran Church. Adult chaperones are free. If this is something your child would be interested in doing, or if you would be interested in being an adult chaperone for this, please let Pastor Tim know as soon as possible.

THE CHOSEN, SEASON 3

- The viewing of *The Chosen, Season 3* will begin in the Faith Lutheran Church **Sanctuary Wednesday, March 12th at 5 p.m.** and will continue Wednesdays at 5 p.m. through Lent (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23rd (after Easter)).
- These episodes are longer therefore, there will not be time for a discussion.
- If you are interested in *The Chosen, 40 days with Jesus, Book Three* devotion, sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, March 2nd. If you are interested in covering the cost, \$8.04 (as of 2/18/25) on your offering envelope line item to Christian Education.
- You can find *The Chosen* at a library or stream through Chromecast, Amazon Firestick, Apple TV, and Roku or TheChosen.tv/app for more information.
- Questions should be directed to Cheryl Paeth at 419-205-3659.

LIGHT SUPPERS FOR LENT 2025: Light suppers will be provided prior to the Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., between Mar. 12th-Apr. 9th. **THANK YOU** to the following groups that have volunteered to provide a meal before the Wednesday Lenten services in the Fellowship Hall!

March 19	Both Adult Sunday School classes
March 26	Faith Fellowship Group
April 2	Faith Women of the ELCA
April 9	Christian Worship Committee

Many hands make light work. **Please join us and consider bringing a dish to share!** A sign-up sheet to assist these groups with additional salads, sides, and desserts will be posted on the bulletin board in the central gathering area for anyone who wishes to share their culinary talents.

Thank you for sharing with others your bountiful blessings from God!

EASTERN CONFERENCE – WOMEN’S SPRING GATHERING

Our spring gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be held Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 902 E. State St., Fremont. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with In-Kind Gifts of bed pillows for *Let’s Build Beds* project. Registration fee is \$10.00 payable at the door. Please RSVP by April 19th to Annette Moore at 419-680-4381 or j88a62m60@aol.com .

FAITH’S MISSION AND OUTREACH PROJECT FOR ATKINSON SCHOOL

TESTING WEEKS - We are continuing our partnership with Atkinson Elementary this year as the students in grades 3-5 approach state testing. The testing begins the last week in March and extends through the first week of May. The Faith Mission and Outreach Committee is again asking our congregation to help by purchasing snacks for the students during those testing weeks.

During the school day, many students eat their lunches earlier in the day and then require a snack later in the afternoon. Mr. Ward, the principal, said that the teachers often provide a small snack for the students to eat. Some of the snacks may include **PRETZELS, LANCE PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS, GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT SNACKS, CHEEZ IT CRACKERS, and GRANOLA BARS**. These treats need to be in single prepackaged units for sanitary reasons.

A display will be set up in the narthex of our church showing the variety of items needed. A basket for monetary donations is also available if you would like us to do the shopping. Our committee is hoping to make its first delivery of items near the middle week of March.

I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us in this endeavor to support the staff and students of Atkinson Elementary. Thank you.

In Christian Love,

Randy J. Brown/ Project Coordinator

REMINDER... *When Sandusky County is under a Level 3 Snow Advisory the church will be closed. This includes Sunday services as well as all weekday events, meetings and activities for that day. If we are under a level 1 or 2 snow emergency, the church will be open and if it's on a day of worship, we will have worship.*

THANK YOU – Pontifex, a non-profit 501 (c)3, thanks you for your contribution of many coats. Thanks to people like you, last year we performed over 20,000 acts of kindness and were able to help Stomp Out Hunger in our community. Bless You!

THANK YOU – On behalf of our Mother, Dorothy Swedersky, we would like to extend our gratitude to everyone at Faith Lutheran Church for your love and support over the last several years of her life. The many visits, cards, and at home communion and pastoral visits she received meant so much to her. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Pastor Tim for officiating at her funeral and to the women of the church who provided the delicious food and excellent service at her funeral luncheon on February 22, 2025. We are eternally grateful for your kindness, fellowship and support of her faith over these many years.

With profound gratitude, Karen Swedersky, Lisa & Terry Arrasmith

HERMAN FUNERAL HOMES GRIEF SUPPORT, 900 North Street, Fremont. Grief 101 with Stein Hospice will offer a bereavement support group free of charge to the public where you can find a safe space to explore your grief, engage in discussions, or simply listen to shared experiences related to the loss of an adult loved one. Meetings are quarterly this year and will be held **Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 4-6 p.m.** RSVP by calling 419-332-7391 by March 17, 2025. Refreshments provided.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Ron & Nancy Root Alta Olmstead & Ruth Gerber

Lector: Annie Gazdecki Ken Walker, Jr.

Acolyte: Easton Root Evan McBride

Communion: B. Fox, A. Gazdecki N. Leutenegger & G. Walker

Counters: Laurie Krynock* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Brianne Harder & Ginger Walker

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Den & Deb Fahle Minnie Weber

Lector: Robert Fought Amy Wagner

Acolyte: Greyson Tooman

Communion: D. Fahle/K. Smith A. Wagner & P. Antesberger

Counters: Ann Waggoner* & Anne Gerner

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Brianne Harder & Ginger Walker

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Pat Copley, Connie Diekman, Mary Ann Diekman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Kathy McClain, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer, Letty Rusch, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Janet Tressler, Carnetta Weber, Willis Weber, Linda Woessner. Lucas Boltz, Allen Gazdecki, Doug Weber.

For the Family of: Dorothy Swedersky

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – March 16 to March 23

Sunday

Mar. 16-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 Dartball Playoffs

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Monday

Mar. 17-----10 a.m. Valley View Worship & Holy Communion

Tuesday

Mar. 18-----2 p.m. Ruth Circle
 6:30 p.m. Executive Council
 7:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday

Mar. 19-----5:00 p.m. The Chosen – Season 3
 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal & Worship in Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Sr. Choir

Thursday

Mar. 20-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
 3 p.m. Christ Care
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir

Friday

Mar. 21-----

Saturday

Mar. 22-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care
 1-6 p.m. Hall Reserved – Marilyn Ring

Sunday

Mar. 23-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 Dartball Tournament

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 129 – OFFERING: \$5,944.52
ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 72 – OFFERING: \$485.00

GOSPEL MESSAGE
March 16, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Judgment in the Name of the Lord

Some of us in the room, likely more of us than we imagine, know what a conviction is like. We've had experience with a physical, undisputable, black-robed conviction, the kind handed down by a judge or jury. It's a statistical fact that nearly half of the American population is personally affected in some way by the criminal justice system. Those numbers are staggering; even more so is the weight of guilt that welds itself to the convicted one's shame like steel clenching iron. To be convicted, found guilty as charged, is no small matter.

It is with such certainty and severity that Jesus unleashes his anguish over Jerusalem—anger and grief that rail with the reverberations of a gavel's blow in the courtroom when words, sharpened for penetration, are pronounced from behind a high bench. Judgments can last a lifetime, and they intentionally have the power to change futures. Jesus was about the work of God, to change futures.

There is no courtroom, no black robe, no jury of twelve peers in Luke's account of Jesus' encounter with some Pharisees. But there is an exacting judgment that rumbles like rolling boulders, a conviction meant to loiter hauntingly like shivering nightmares. Jesus' words prosecute with a burden that few gospel lines expose so solemnly; the accusations are decisive. His judgment falls on the religious.

No, we do not escape, do not get away by dismissing Jesus' words as ancient, frozen in a time long past, petrified among a people long gone, meant only for some others' failures—not our own. The judgment lives on. Pronounced then in the holy city, it ricochets even now through our sacred spaces and hallowed sanctuaries, aimed at the pious and devout who with self-appeasing righteousness look to tame God's word, rebuff God's scandalous mercies, silence God's voice, and break God's will.

The judgment: "How often . . . and you were not willing!" And yet, the promise: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 13:34-35).