



# Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Tim Miller

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**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 8, 2026**

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Setting 3 with Holy Communion

\*Congregation please stand as you are able.

## **Introduction**

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

**(8:00) Prelude:**                    *The Homecoming*                    **H. Hardy**

**(10:30) Prelude:**                *I Need Thee Every Hour*                **Franklin D. Ashdown**

**Welcome & Announcements:** Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

## **GATHERING**

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

### **\*Invitation to Worship**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Jesus, you did everything to show us both your love and your Father's love. You became a small dependent child to show us yourself in your weakness. You worked for many years as a simple carpenter to show us that you wanted to be with us in our daily work. You were tempted in the desert to show us how to resist the forces of evil around us.

**C: What sacrifice the Son of God has given for me.**

P: You surrounded yourself with disciples to show us to share our vision with others and to work together in ministry. You preached the word of God to show us truth and how to become ourselves, witnesses to truth.

**C: What sacrifice the Son of God has given for me.**

P: You healed the sick and raised the dead to show us that you have power over death. You were transfigured to show us your divine splendor. You went the long road of suffering and death to show us that you love us and that you have redeemed us.

**C: What sacrifice the Son of God has given for me. Amen**

**\*(8:00) Gathering Song:**                      *Amazing Love*                      **TBOB 11**

**\*(10:30) Gathering Song:**    *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*    **ELW 533**

**\*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 confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst  
and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to  
drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth  
through 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:**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.*

R: A reading from Exodus, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at

Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and  
the sheep of God’s hand. Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

<sup>8</sup> **“Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

**Second Reading:**

**Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

R: A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

<sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**      *Open Our Eyes*

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

**To reach out and touch Him**

**And say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears. Lord, help us to listen.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: <sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who

worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Children’s Sermon**

### **Sermon**

**\*Sermon Hymn:**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

**ELW 611**

## **\*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:** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

**R:** O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**R:** When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**R:** When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

R: When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

R: When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

R: O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

R: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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) Senior Choir: *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*     L. Smith

#### \*Offertory                    *The Greatest Thing*

**The greatest thing in all my life is serving you.**

**The greatest thing in all my life is serving you.**

**I want to serve you more; I want to serve you more.**

**The greatest think in all my life is serving you.**

#### \*Offering Prayer

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**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.

### **\*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.

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.

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: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## 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.*

## (8:00) Communion Hymn:

**TBOB 210 *The Lamb***

## (10:30) Communion Hymns:

**ELW 480 *O Bread of Life from Heaven***

**ELW 479 *We Come to the Hungry Feast***

**\*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: God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

**SENDING**

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

**\*Blessing**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

<b><u>*(8:00) Sending Song:</u></b>	<i>Spirit Song</i>	<b>TBOB 202</b>
<b><u>*(10:30) Sending Song:</u></b>	<i>Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me</i>	<b>ELW 623</b>

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

<b><u>*(8:00) Postlude:</u></b>	<i>Spirit Song</i>	<b>John Wimber</b>
<b><u>*(10:30) Postlude:</u></b>	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	<b>Ann Slowins</b>

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**AS WE SPRING FORWARD INTO A NEW SEASON**, may we also step into the fresh grace God provides each day. Though we may have lost an hour of sleep, we gain time together in His presence—a reminder that His mercies are new every morning.

### **The Chosen, Season 4**

Join us for Season 4 of the Chosen, in Faith Lutheran's **Lounge Wednesdays at 5 p.m.** during Lent.

Questions should be directed to Cheryl Paeth at 419-205-3659

### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOPEWOOD OUTDOORS MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL:**

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 11-3 p.m. at Hopewood Pines (Lutheran Memorial Camp)** This is a fun and welcoming tradition for families and our

community. Enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, maple sausage, and lots of more maple-filled fun! Try sassafras tea and donuts cooked over an open fire, take a nature hike, and be sure to visit the sugar shack to see how maple syrup is made. Afterwards, take a break from the fun and relax by the fire with friends, old and new. Plus, all proceeds support summer camperships for kids! Visit our website at [hopewoodoutdoors.org](http://hopewoodoutdoors.org) for tickets and more information.

**NEED HP PRINTER CARTRIDGES (HP 902)?** If anyone can use HP 902 Black XL (2 ea.) or HP 902 Color (Blue, Yellow, Red) (1 ea.) Yvonne Vogel would like to give these to you so they do not get wasted. Please call her at 419-307-1774 if interested.

## TERRA STATE CONCERT CHOIR INVITATIONAL CONCERT featuring



Gabriel Fauré's Requiem will be held **Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 122 W. Ottawa Street, Oak Harbor, Ohio. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. and free will donations will be accepted. Guest Conductor Michael Shirtz and Guest Performers Firelands Symphony Orchestra Chorale as well as Guest Violinist Ron Brooker

and Guest Organist Dan Boyle will be in attendance. Additional selections conducted by Stacey Depner, Terra State Concert Choir.

## FAITH'S MISSION AND OUTREACH PROJECT FOR ATKINSON SCHOOL



### LOCAL MISSIONS

### 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, ANIMAL 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

**GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY:** Come to Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont on **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, for a Lake Erie Yellow Perch dinner including Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Roll, Dessert, and Beverage. Serving begins at 5 p.m. Dine-In or Carry-Out. **Advance Tickets only.** No Ticket Sales at the door. Cost is \$20 per person. Kid's Meal is \$5 (Hot Dog, Chips, Dessert). Purchase tickets at Grace Lutheran office located on Clover Street: Mon. -Thurs. 9-4 pm or Friday 9-1 pm. 419-332-1558. Event Sponsored by Fremont Floor Covering Outlet, LTD.



**SUZIE'S SPRINGTACULAR CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW** will be held



**Saturday, March 21, from 9-3 p.m.** at Hayes Memorial UMC – Fremont, (The church behind the YMCA). Admission is \$2 or a donation to the Food Pantry. Crafts, Food, Jewelry, Home Décor, Candles, Clothing, 50/50, Lottery Tree, Door Prizes and so much more! Lunch will be available. Registration begins Feb. 8th. Contact Suzie

Shook to secure your Vendor Space at 765-238-2708. A portion of the proceeds go to local charities.

**INSIGHTS INTO LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING:** Join Conversations with Croghan for this session on Long-Term Care planning at Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Centers, 1308 Cedar St., Fremont on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. Speaker is Nicole Smith, CRPC, VP Senior Wealth Management Advisor & Investment Coordinator.

**LIGHT SUPPERS FOR LENT 2026:** Light suppers will be provided prior to the Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., on February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU** to the following groups that have volunteered to provide a meal before the Wednesday Lenten services in the Fellowship Hall!

March 11 Faith Fellowship Group  
March 18 Faith Women of the ELCA  
March 25 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 is posted on the bulletin board in the coat room area for anyone who wishes to share their culinary talents.

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

### **PRAYING DAILY**

**For healing and hope:** Joan Bolen, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Pat Forsyth, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Janet Tressler, Minnie Weber, Linda Woessner. Mark Hausch, Al & Judi Krumnow, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Laura Shields.

**For the Family of:** Adeline Bame

**For our Bishops:** Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Yehiel Curry, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff



**For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania**

**And its pastor:** Pastor Peter Magasi

**PRAY FOR OUR**  
  
**MILITARY**

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





## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**March 8, 2026**  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

### **One in a Thousand**

Gathering water from the well is something the Samaritan woman did regularly, habitually even, drawing water up in a bucket hundreds, maybe thousands of times over the course of her life. But this time, this one in a thousand times, is different. While she is busy doing the mundane work of life, she is suddenly confronted by the Messiah—there in the flesh, asking her for a drink of water!

These forty days of Lent interrupt our regular routine and our habits, confronting us with the presence of God in Christ on his journey to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. This interruption of our own daily work calls us to see this Jesus who reaches out to us, promising “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we embrace interruptions in the regular patterns of our lives, sparking curiosity about where and how God is at work in our world, and where we are being called.

This text also shows us that Jesus may be present in unexpected ways in the faces of unexpected people. We may expect to hear the gospel from our pastor, synod bishop, or other church members. But do we have ears to hear the gospel proclaimed in the voice and experience of our neighbors—especially among neighbors too often pushed to the margins of our communities? Are we ready to encounter the signs of the gospel bubbling up outside the walls of our churches?

And like the Samaritan woman, are we ready for that one in a thousand times when the gospel feels so near and so powerful that all we can do is go out and tell everyone we know about this living water? May this Lent interrupt our habits, draw our attention to the unexpected, and send us out to proclaim the love of God to all our neighbors!