

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

Unless a grain of wheat



falls into the earth  
and dies, it remains  
just a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it bears much fruit.

John 12:24

***Christ's Lutheran Church  
Murrysville, Pennsylvania***



**Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.**

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals to sing the hymns.

**Communion** - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. You can either kneel or remain standing when you come to the altar. We offer both wheat and gluten-free wafers, and both wine and grape juice. If you would like to receive grape juice, please take a glass from the tray that has already been filled when you come forward. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let Pastor Wayne know when he gives you the bread.

**Children are always welcome!** Please feel free to walk around in the rear area of our worship space if your child becomes restless. Rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. You can find cloth bags containing activities for children aged 3 and older in the back of our worship space. We ask you to please return the cloth bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates while you are worshipping) at the end of today's service.

**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668**

**Office: 412-795-1212**

**Church Office email: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)**

**Website: [www.christsmurrysville.org](http://www.christsmurrysville.org)**

**App: [Christ's Lutheran \(ELCA\)](#)**

# **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*(Please take a moment to silence your electronic devices)*

## **PRELUDE**

"Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

*Richard Purvis*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(pause for a short time of silent reflection)*

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurt grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

"Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"

ELW #327

## **GREETING**

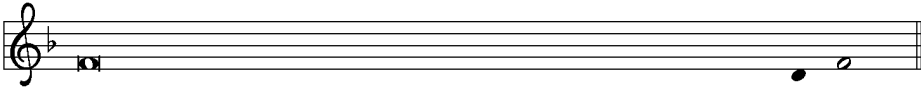
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**


**THE KYRIE**



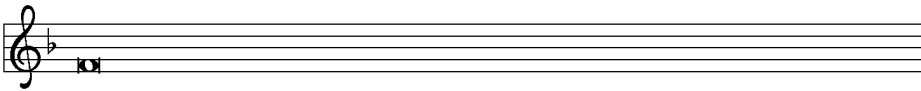
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



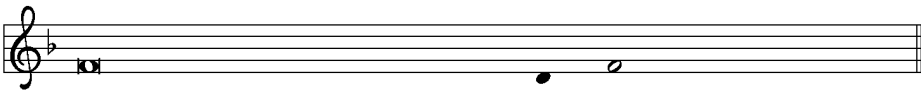
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.




**Lord, have mer - cy.**



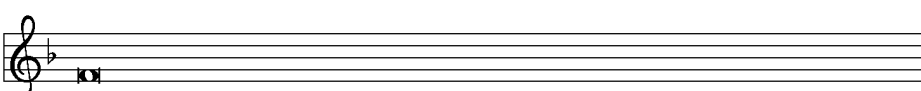
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



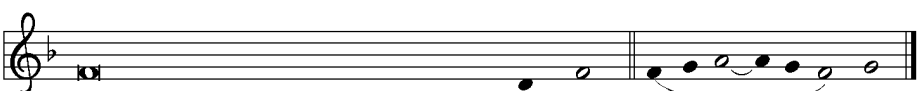
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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.**

# On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im-age, bless-ed Je - sus, King of grace,



that life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures have no pow'r to hide your face.



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, and my glo-ry and sal-va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: public domain

DER AM KREUZ

87 87 77 88

Lk 8:14; Ro 8:29; 1 Co 1:23,24; Heb 6:19

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Oh God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **FIRST READING: PSALM 51:1-12**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought

forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. 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 to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

## **SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10**

So also, Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

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

### **GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **SERMON**

*Pastor Wayne Gillespie*

*(please be seated)*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"God Loved the World"

ELW #323

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father,  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures,  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Trusting that God hears our prayers, and that God promises to wipe away every tear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P: Hear us, O God., (*after each petition*)

**C: Your mercy is great.**



**TODAY, WE ARE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING  
PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Debbie Faust, Jim Flynn, Steve Gebhard, Kate Hall, Peggy Henry, Oren Keibler, Bill Limegrover, Grace Lucas, John Magnus, Charlie Meade, Taylor Niemetz, Linda O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Rizzo, Howard Rockette, Andrea Schwartz Nutter, Sandy Shaffer, Cindy Shaner, Bob Stover, Sandy Tambellini, Jack Tjaden, Sean Vandy, Theona Waxbom, Rev HB West

**Praying for Our Mission Partners & Friends:**

M. Jayne Gustafson  
John, Erin, and Grace Guzzie  
Dave & Barb Hall  
Richard & Genevieve Harvanek



P: Loving God, receive these prayers and those that remain unspoken, and in return grant us your peace, all for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**OFFERING to Support God's Work in Our Church and Beyond**

*This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do, is an offering to God.*

*You can scan the code to download and use our new app [**Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)**] to send your offering, place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service, or send your offering to the church by mailing it to: **Christ's Lutheran Church, 5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668***

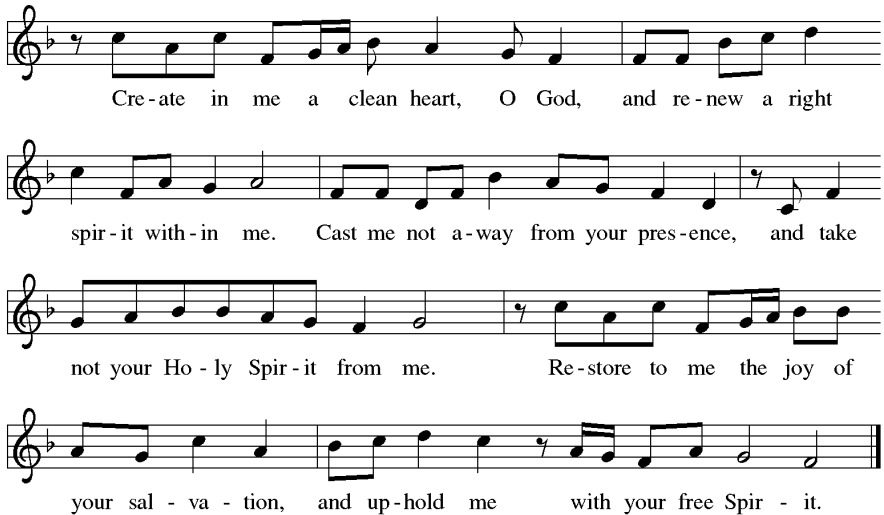


**OFFERTORY**

"Contemplation"

*Richard Purvis*

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**



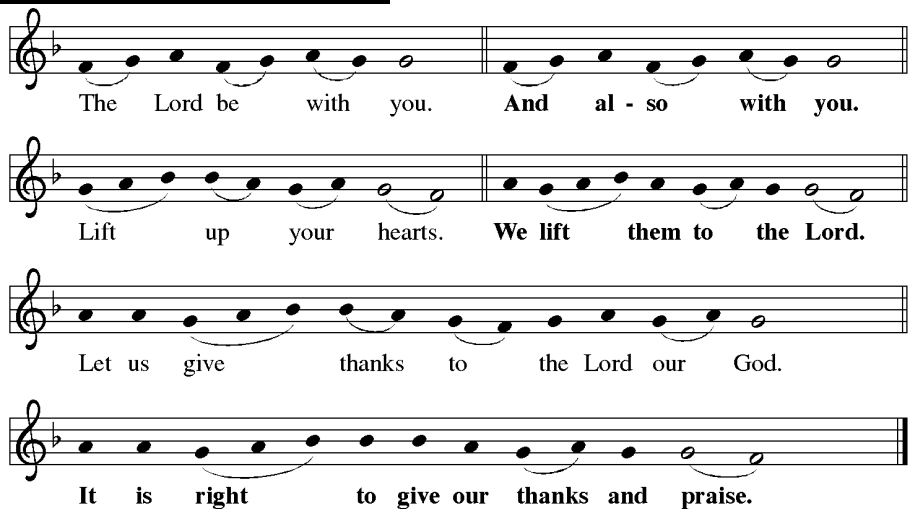
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A:** Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered, so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

**C:** Amen.

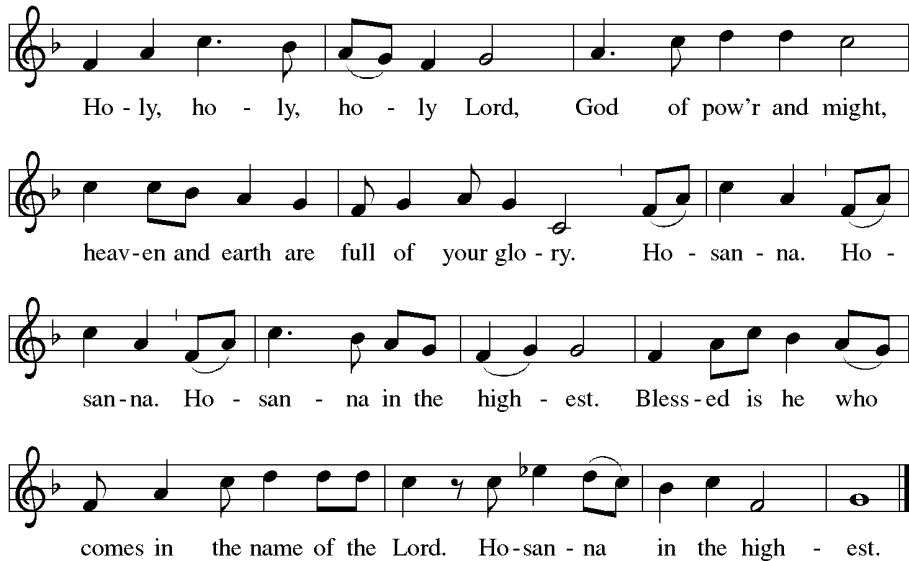
## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . (*concluding*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS**



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

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

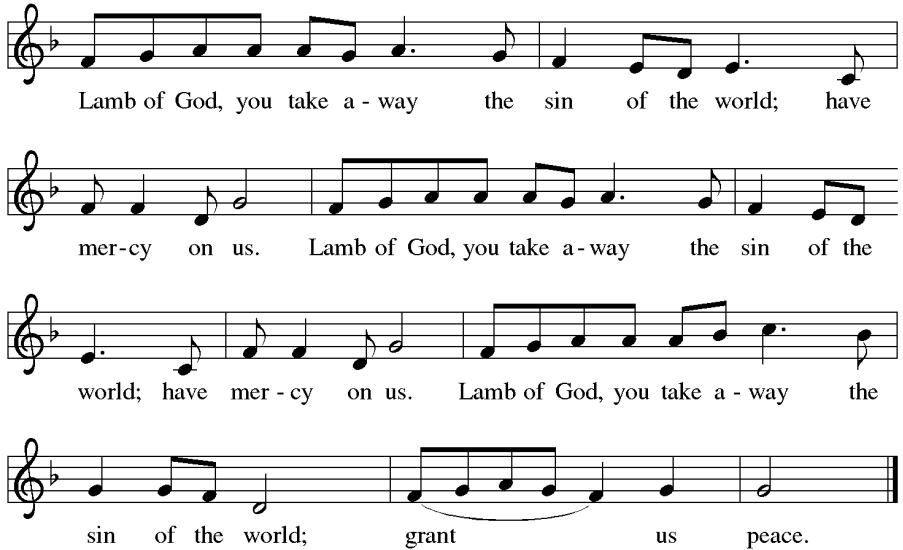
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

## **AGNUS DEI**



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.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the first two measures, the second line the next two, the third line the next two, and the fourth line the final two measures. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. A slur is placed under the notes for 'grant us peace' in the final measure.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(When Communion is finished, please stand)*

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

**C: Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world, in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

**P:** Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. May God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **"AARON'S BLESSING"**

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

**May the Lord bless and keep you forever.  
May the Lord always be by your side.  
May the Lord make His face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you ev'ry day.  
May the Lord give you peace on your journey.  
May God's love and peace fill your heart.  
May the Lord bless and keep you forever.  
May the Lord always be by your side.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

ELW #545

## **THE DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

"Toccata Festiva"

*Richard Purvis*

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Pastor

Rev. Wayne G. Gillespie

Email: [revwaynegillespie@gmail.com](mailto:revwaynegillespie@gmail.com)

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Steven J. Myers

Organist

Kevin Clemens

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



We appreciate the continued commitment of our Readers, Worship Assistants, Reconcilers, Tech Team, Ushers, and many others who make our worship services happen. You can volunteer by signing up on our app by clicking on Weekend Worship Teams or by contacting the church office.

**Thank you for helping to make our Worship Services possible!**

### **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR JOB OPENING**

*We are currently seeking qualified applicants who are interested in serving as our Parish Administrator. General Office Management and Administrative duties, requiring proficiency in Microsoft Office with emphasis on Word and Excel. Part time, 20 hours per week: 4 days (M,T,R & F). This job description is posted on our church website and Facebook page. If you are interested in applying, or know someone that would be interested in this position, please send resumes to [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org) Please be aware that currently we do not have someone in the office during regular office hours. Please email or call the Church Office to ensure that someone is in the office prior to coming to the church.*



**MEETING ON THURSDAY,  
MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM**



## **Christ's Little Pantry – Preparing for Easter and additional items needed this week**

With Easter coming, items for children's Easter Baskets would be a great contribution to the Little Pantry. Sidewalk Chalk, Bubbles, and Non-chocolate candy are some suggestions.

Crackers, fruit, vegetables, juice, pasta sauces, chunky soups are currently needed. Thank you to everyone who has so generously helped to fill our Little Pantry by bringing items when coming to worship and putting them in the collection box in the Entryway or directly into the pantry. Your kindness is truly appreciated. Thank you!

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## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

By directing Thrivent Choice Dollars through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible Thrivent members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. **Christ's Lutheran is an eligible recipient.** 2023 Allocations, which can be made online or by phone, are required to be made by **March 31, 2024**, or the allocations will expire unused.



## **Registration for Summer Camp 2024 is OPEN!**

Please visit [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com) for dates, prices, details, and registration. First time campers get \$100 off with coupon code "FIRST". Visit [lutherlyn.com/first](http://lutherlyn.com/first) for details. Camperships are available for all who need assistance. Call 724-865-2161 or email [registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com) for a campership application.

## Heifer International – Our Annual Lenten Appeal



Heifer helps families that are facing hunger and poverty by sharing the love of Jesus. Heifer International believes that, on Easter, God calls us to give thanks for the gift of salvation through His Son and to share the love of Jesus by serving others. If you want to make a tax-deductible donation to Heifer, you can easily send your gift by using our app **Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)** or by sending a check, payable to Christ's Lutheran Church, that includes Heifer on the memo line. You can find more information at <http://www.heifer.org> or by visiting the bulletin board in our entryway. Thank you for your consideration and generosity  
~Eric Waxbom

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## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024**

**9 AM – 10 AM**

**Meet in Downstairs Social Hall at 9 AM  
Crafts and Activities**

**Bring a basket or bag, bring a friend, and come join in the fun! Ages 1-15. All those who bring a friend will be entered in a drawing for a special prize!**

Donations of individually wrapped fun-size and small candies would be appreciated! A basket for donations is located in the church entryway as well as a sign-up sheet for volunteers.





## **Our Lenten Journey 2024**

### **Palm Sunday Weekend – March 24**

**Easter Egg Hunt – 9:00 a.m.**

**Saturday Evening Worship (In-Person) – 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Morning Worship – (In-Person and Livestream  
Worship) – 10:00 a.m.**

### **Maundy Thursday – March 28**

**In-Person and Livestream Worship - 7:00 p.m.**

### **Good Friday – March 29**

**In-Person and Livestream Worship - 7:00 p.m.**

### **Easter Weekend – March 30 and 31**

**Easter Worship (In-Person) – 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday Easter Fellowship – 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Worship – (In-Person and Livestream) – 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Easter Fellowship – 11:00 a.m.**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**  
**March 17, 2024 – March 23, 2024**

**Sunday 3/17**

9:00 am  
10:00 am  
7:30 pm

**PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

Children & Adult Sunday School  
Sunday Morning Worship  
Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Monday 3/18**

5:30 pm  
8:00 pm

**GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS**

Kindermusik  
AA Meeting

**Tuesday 3/19**

9:30 am  
9:00 am  
5:30 pm

**PRAY FOR OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kindermusik  
Sewing Group  
Kindermusik

**Wednesday 3/20**

9:30 am  
5:30 pm

**PRAY FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Kindermusik  
Kindermusik

**Thursday 3/21**

9:30 am  
6:30 pm

**PRAY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

Kindermusik  
Church Council Meeting

**Friday 3/22**

**PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES - EVANGELISTS**

**Saturday 3/23**

9:00 am  
6:00 pm

**OUR CONGREGATION AS WE WORSHIP**

WCFB Senior Food Box Packing  
Saturday Evening Worship

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