## Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

# February 22, 2026
# First Sunday in Lent
## Rev. Gail Heidtke

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
*(ELCA* – www.elca.org*)*

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## All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.

Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS, THANKSGIVINGS

After chimes, Kathy Davis will take requests to add to the Prayers of Intercession,
and provide Pastor with the updated sheet.

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*– Silence for reflection –*

*Most merciful God,*

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**
**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,**
**by what we have done and what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**
**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.**
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may**
**delight in your will and walk in your ways,**
**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit
that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

## SONG: A Mighty Fortress, #504

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe, has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might, he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side, with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## READING – Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*The Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

# RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
**whose sin is covered.**

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
**and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silent, my body wasted away
**through my groaning all day long.**

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
**my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"**
**and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
**at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
**you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
**I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
**whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,**
**else it will not stay near you.**

Many are the torments of the wicked,
**but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
**and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

## READING – Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*The Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

**–** *Please stand as you are able –*

## LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
## Jesus, Remember Me, ELW #616

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.**
**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**
*(Repeat)*

# THE GOSPEL – Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished.The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*The Gospel of our Lord.* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON: Rev. Gail Heidtke

## SONG: Thy Word, *by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith*

*Printed on bulletin insert*

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**
**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid – Think I've lost my way – Still you're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear – As long as you are near; Please be near me to the end…
***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet…***

I will not forget Your love for me and yet – My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side. I will love you to the end…
***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet…***

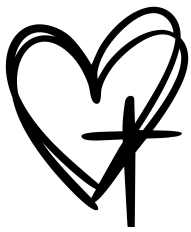
## APOSTLES' CREED

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 *(on separate sheet)*

*Hear us, O God…* **Your mercy is great.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE



*The peace of the Lord be with you always.* **And also with you.**
**–** *Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(Presider's book on altar)*

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament.** We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to receive Communion or a blessing. If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

**Today we will offer both traditional distribution of bread and wine as well as single-serving Communion kits. Please choose as you feel comfortable.** If you would like **Traditional Communion,** select an empty cup from the tray and come forward to receive a piece of bread in your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. **Single-serving kits** are available in the second tray. Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SONG: He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!

*Printed on bulletin insert; LBW #501*

He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought! Oh, words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be; Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me; By his own hand he leadeth me.**
**His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom; Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom;
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me; By his own hand he leadeth me.**
**His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine; Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me; By his own hand he leadeth me.**
**His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

And when my task on earth is done; When by thy grace the victory's won.
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me; By his own hand he leadeth me.**
**His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Thank you for your presence!*

*Please enjoy refreshments and conversation.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Calendar:**
  PreSchool Open House – Feb. 24 from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m.
  Lay Leader Day in Schaumburg – March 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  Good Friday Worship – April 3 at 7 p.m.
  Birthday Bash – April 25
- **Lenten Devotions** – Check the website (ChristLutheranVH.org) for devotions and resources to support you during our Lenten Journey.
- **Caring Hands** – Meeting from 9 a.m. to noon on the following Saturday mornings – February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hat and mittens. Reach out for information or projects for home. (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Meals in a Bag** – 2 gal ziplocks with all the nonperishable ingredients needed to make a hearty meal – bags and ingredient list/recipe cards available in the Narthex or on our website. We will provide these as needed and encourage everyone to have a couple to hand out.
- **Stock the Pantries! – Non-Perishables Needed.** Bring your donations of nonperishable food, paper goods, hygiene supplies, etc. and we will deliver to local pantries, which need all they help they can get. Also collecting fresh milk, eggs, meat, produce for specific families.Thank you!
- **Sue's Pantry Special Request** – Rice, pasta, Mac & cheese, tuna, canned chicken, zip lock bags with after-school snacks.
- **Here to help.** Do you or someone you know need food or support, especially with the loss of benefits? Reach out to the church at ChristLutheranVH@aol.com or 847-367-5787**.**
- **Alert Whistles & Rights Cards** – On the bulletin table. To use or share as needed.
- **Pray Over Our PreSchool Ministry** – May we continue to effectively bring the message of God's love for all into our community.
- **Donating to Victims of Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Drought, War** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at ELCA.org. There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Scouting! –** Christ Lutheran is the Charter Organization for Pack 273 & Troop 273. Programs for girls and boys ages Kindergarten through high school, building skills, making connections and having fun. For younger kids, email committee.chair@Pack273VH.org. For older kids, email committeechair@troop273vh.net. Thanks to Holly & Bill Jones and their volunteers for their efforts in leading the groups. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **Sue's Pantry** – Sue has moved her pantry to a space in Arlington Heights. We will continue to collect anything needed to keep a home and family clean.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Know a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie! (https://loveinclakecounty.org/)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. (CoolMinistries.org)
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you!