

+ Third Sunday in Lent +

Mar 23, Year of Our Lord 2024 | DS4

+ Confession and Absolution +

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance
of their Baptism.*



Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

Psalms 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6



P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will perish.

C For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand be- | fore your eyes; *
you hate all evil- | doers.

You destroy those | who speak lies;*
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and de- | ceitful man.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.*

I will bow down toward your holy temple in the | fear of you.

**Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my | enemies;*
make your way straight be- | fore me.**

Glory be to the Father and I to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For the LORD knows the way of the **!** righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will **!** perish.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

C (spoken) **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted in Lent (returns at Easter).

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–20

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn

from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

C O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to

eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

2 Peter 3:9b, c

P The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”



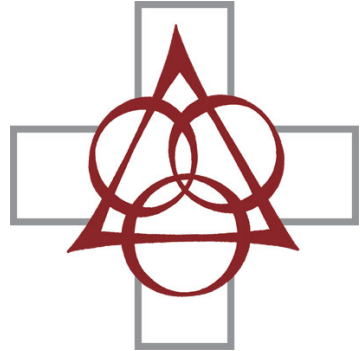
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (*1700th year anniversary this year*)

- ☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.



And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

1 May God be-stow on us His grace, With bless-ings rich pro-
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 △ 3 O let the peo-ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -

vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,

To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the

sav - ing health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
 judge the earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!

And al - so to the na-tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo-ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -

mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Der Lxvj. Deus Misereatur, 1524, Magdeburg Text and tune: Public domain

+ Sermon +

Worse Sinners, Better, Best

Offering Following the offering (when announced), the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

+ Prayer +

World: For **LA fires** recovery. **Hurricanes Milton and Helene flood relief** and recovery in the Southeast. For **Camp Linn Haven** (North Carolina) reconstruction after flood. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**.

Vocation: For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For **Joshua Arguien** and **Adelaide Yoder** upcoming blessing of their marriage on 4/12. For **Elijah & Faith Miessler** expecting. For **Sam & Kate Bohnet** expecting (in August). For **Turner and Mandy Gough** who were married on 12/30. For **veterans and our military** (including **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet, Vicar Daniel Bueckman**, and **Vicar Alex Ogden**. For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife. Birth of **Hudson Hamby**, born 12/12 (Great-grandson of Becky Hamby).

Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Sharon Yoder** who passed on 2/10 (memorial service yesterday at Praise). For the family of **Rev. John Schulz** (Pastor Emeritus at First Lutheran, Knoxville) who recently passed on 3/12. For the family of **Louise Kropp** (Jerry Kropp's mother) who recently passed 2/20. For the family of **Darrel Wehmeier** (Deb Wales's brother) who recently passed 2/15. For family of **Marty Smith** (Tyler and Megan Smith's father[-in-law]) who passed 2/3. For the family of **Brian** (56 yr. old son of Fred & Faye Hansen) who passed away in Texas in his sleep. For the family of **Nancy Vesper** (Jim's mother) who passed away 9/9. Family of **Brad Barnett** (Phil & Carol's son) who passed away and whose memorial service was 9/3. For many remembering loved ones who passed away.

Health: For **Sandy Bagley** health. For **Bob Goodrich** health. For **June McDonnell** recovery from pleurisy. For **Alan Bell** healing and recovery from surgery on 3/17, **Gary** (possible thyroid cancer) and **Kolene** (heart issues) **Lucht** (Joel and Barbara Morsch's bother and their son-in-law's parents). For **Linda Davis** thanksgiving for and recovery from aortic valve replacement on 2/25. For **Chuck Pettyjohn** for lung health. For **Kim Smolter** health. For **Tom Wittkopp** recovering from knee surgery on 2/24. For **Linda McMichael** upcoming knee surgery 4/15 or sooner. For **Gail Rieman** (Kenna Chorney's mom) upcoming cancer treatments. For **Fred Hansen** upcoming aortic valve replacement. For **Kris Smith** upcoming aortic valve replacement. For **Emma Lu Kerekes** health and hospice care (in Oak Ridge). For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rehab (now home). **Ted Frazier** recovery of strength after hospitalizations. For **Tom Wade** (Will Wade's brother) recovering from surgery. For **Nadine Wittkopp** recovering from stomach surgery. For **Ed & Barbara McGillick** health, pain and dizziness management. For **Haley Jenkins** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's niece) esophageal issues. For Katie Felt's uncle, **Tim** in Florida, final months. For **Don Hammond** heart a-fib (Joan Large's son). For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Bill Frazho** (Paul Ruble's brother-in-law) lung and overall

health. For **Steve Pierce's** health (uncle of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Bill** undergoing chemo for cancer (friend of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** recovery from back surgery (now home). For **Carole Vitzthum** (and George in taking care of her). For **Garrison** with ALS (student of Amy Mohr's daughter, Coleen Williams). For **Marie Guinn** (Jennifer Kropp's mother) cancer treatment and health. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Steve Greene** (friend of Jim Vesper) dealing with multiple cancers. For Andrew (son of a friend of Laura Bisconte) treatment for a mass in the base of his brain. For **Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter and son-in-law's** health and cancer treatments. For **Carol** (Alex Hick's aunt) recent diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. For **Tim Smith** heart health. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). Debbie Johnston kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health issues. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** health and stability. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar's Aunt **Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Rosalyn L 3/24, Becky H 3/25, Desmond L 3/26, Megan S 3/26, Chloe P 4/4, Lex S 4/4

Anniversaries: Paul & Angela G 3/24, Fred & Faye H 3/26, Butch & Carol E 4/5

Benediction for those worshipping via the livestream.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus, p. 208

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei, p. 210 for music

John 1:29

C (sung) **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Distribution Hymn: 614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said

Distribution Hymn: 861 Christ Be My Leader

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, ... now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A Let us bless the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart: 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93 Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Address: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: praiselutheran.com

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/>

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com

Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerma

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events



Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know.

Two Large Print Hymnals are available. Please ask those who are helping as ushers to locate a large print hymnal for you.

Visit praiselutheran.com/build to see our build completion video!

Building Fund	2024 Receipts	2025 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$211,037	\$12,060	\$1,190,055
Pledged	\$179,106	\$42,744	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$31,931 [over]	-\$30,684 [under]	\$124,785 [over]

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 38% funded).

Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (through at least the extended end of the Capital Campaign in December 2025). Please prayerfully (continue to) give gifts.

Subscribe to our newsletter at praiselutheran.com, homepage, right hand side, blue box. Need help? Contact tina@praiselutheran.com

Youth and Families

Sunday School (weekly on Sundays) for 2 year olds - 12th grade kids will meet during the Education hour from 9:45 - 10:45. Please see Shelli Haynes, DCE or Linda McMichael with questions on specific meeting places for each group.

Middle and High School Midweek Youth WILL NOT meet Wednesdays during Lent so families can worship together. We will resume youth nights after Easter!

The LCMS Youth Gathering is coming to New Orleans July 19-23! Praise will send a group of 11 to the gathering. Please see Linda McMichael or April Torres for details.

- **Tidal Wave Car Wash Vouchers** available now. Secure their BEST car wash (normally a \$30 wash) for \$12, or 2 vouchers for \$20. Purchase from our Youth.
- **Swig** The popular Swig dirty soda shop has partnered with Praise to offer \$10 gift cards perfect for the Swig Fans in your life. If you haven't had a chance to try Swig, don't forget to grab a gift-card first! Our students are in the narthex ready to sell each Sunday!

Cleaning Out Your Closets?

Praise Lutheran Church is collecting shoes to support our youth attending the National Youth Gathering. Help us raise funds by donating gently worn, used, and new shoes! Youth Shoe Drive Fundraiser: Support Our Journey to the National Youth Gathering! Shoes can be brought to the bin in the narthex. **Please bring in by the end of March for our first pick-up!**



Help Us Reach Our Goal! Every pair of shoes brings us one step closer to our national youth gathering. Your support makes a difference! Any Questions: Reach out to Sammi or Linda McMichael. Thank You for Your Generosity!

DEPOSITS DUE: Campfirmation (yearly event for middleschoolers and highschoolers) at Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina from July 7-11. Theme for 2025: *The Sacraments: Signed, Sealed, and Delivered*. All parents and students interested in being part of this wonderful week of learning, please make sure to send your deposit of \$50 at your first opportunity. **We need to have all soft commitments noted as soon as possible.**

Culver's Fundraiser: Thank you to all who attended the event! We raised **\$316.00** for the National Youth Gathering!

Youth Catechesis with Pastor Roberts
Next Sun, Mar 30 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. (followed by Apr 6)

Personalized Lutheran Mugs Available Be sure to buy your specialty mug! Suggested donation of \$25 and order forms are available in the narthex! See Suzanne Nunnink with any questions. Use, wash, and store here at church or take home if you want. Funds benefit Youth Campfirmation this summer.

Joshua & Adelaide Arguien request your presence at their **Blessing of Marriage** at Praise Lutheran Church on Sat, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. **Please RSVP** by visiting:
<https://www.theknot.com/us/joshua-arguien-and-adelaide-yoder-apr-2025>



What does this Mean?

Adult Catechesis Class leading to Membership or a great review of the chief parts of the faith using *Luther's Small Catechism*: meets again **March 25, Tues at 3:30 p.m.**, lasting a total of 6-8 weeks. Contact Pastor Roberts for details. Meet in person initially and via Google Meet for some classes.

Little Children in Church. We love our little children and how blessed we are to have them present in the Divine Service! It is wonderful to hear them learning to pray, sing, and speak the parts of the Divine Liturgy. Thank you, faithful parents, for bringing your children to the House of the Lord to hear and participate! No child is too young or too old. We are all learning and hearing the Word of God and participating in age-appropriate ways. The Spirit is at work. *Concerning noise-levels and what to do:* Most often, members can withstand the occasional sounds of children being children and can still focus on the service. However, when sounds go beyond what is good for your neighbor to hear or focus well, then please remember that the nursery/children's room may be helpful. Then bring them back into the Sanctuary as soon as seems right. It can be an unintended "reward" for a child to get to go play for being disruptive, yet you may discern how long is just right and what's best to help a child reset. The room can serve as a place to encourage calming and being caring for others in church and reminding them why we are here: to hear and honor Jesus.

Needed: Sunday Ride Share Drivers please contact Mark Ratliff at (865) 724-5657 or Sonja Ratliff at (423) 802-9955. Provide rides to and from church on Sundays for members near you. We currently have two needing rides: one in downtown Maryville and the other off of William Blount Drive near Lamar Alexander Pkwy (HWY 321). Many thanks.

Upcoming Events

Mar 28-29 Mid-South District preparation event for National Youth Gathering, a.k.a. "District Huddle" at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Nashville.

Apr 4 (Friday) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Faith and Family Coalition: **Speaker Mark Tooley** at Alcoa First Methodist Church.

Apr 10 Cards Creation (March make up day) Thursday after Ladies Bible Study around 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Apr 12 (Sat) Public Blessing of Joshua & Adelaide Arguien please see RSVP listed in the bulletin.

Apr 29 Cards Creation (last Tuesday of the month) 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Today

Church Council Meeting after 11:00 a.m. service in the Social Hall.

This Week

Lent Midweek Service on Wednesday at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Soup and Sandwich Supper in the Social Hall on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Middle and High School Youth Wednesday evenings (attending Lent Midweek Services)

Men's Bible Study (on break) resumes after Easter

Ladies Bible Study Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch

Men's Lunch Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Aubrey's

Next Sunday

Ladies Bridal Tea for Adelaide Arguien NEXT Sun, Mar 30 in the Social Hall at 12:15 p.m.

Please call Sonja Ratliff: (423) 802-9955 with any questions.

Return to the Lord: Midweek in Lent

Lent Midweek Services: Noon and 7:00 p.m. on Mar 26, Apr 2, and 9 (Wednesdays). Enjoy also **Soup and Sandwich Suppers** (free) at 6:00 p.m. Theme for Midweek Lent Services: *The Saints and their Songs*. Come learn about the Saints of old and their songs of Christ and our Redemption. **Help provide food** for Soup and Sandwich Supper: Sign-ups are in the Narthex. See Suzanne Nunnink if any questions.

Holy Week Schedule

Apr 13 (Sun) Palm Sunday Divine Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Bible Study for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Apr 17 (Th) Holy Thursday Divine Service with the Lord's Supper at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Apr 18 (Fr) Good Friday Service of the Word at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Apr 19 (Sat) Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) Service of Light, Readings, Holy Baptism, and Confirmation at 6:00 p.m.

Apr 20 (Sun morning) Resurrection of our Lord Divine Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with **Easter Breakfast** (details to come)

Apr 20 (Sun afternoon) Continue the celebration of Easter at Pastor & Gretchen Roberts' home (meat and drinks provided, bring a side or dessert to share).

