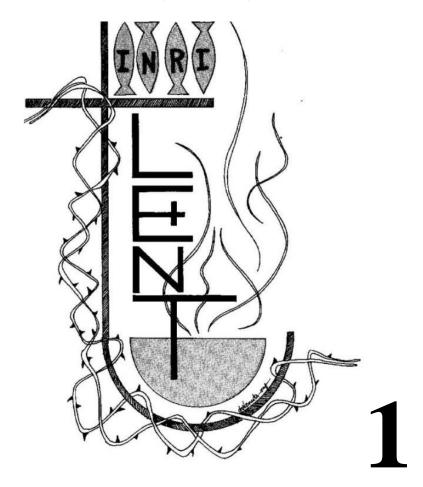
ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH FIRST WEEKEND OF LENT

Saturday, February 17, 2024 Sunday, February 18, 2024



On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship

Please note: Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. If you prefer not to appear on camera please sit along the side aisles. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.

PRELUDE: 5:00 "Take Time to Be Holy" -arr. L. Smith

9:30 "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" -arr. Friedrich Zipp

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Creator God, you made us from the dust of the earth.

C: You breathe your Spirit into us, and it gives us life.

P: Loving Christ, you walk with us on the dusty roads of our human frailty.

C: You give us courage to face our shadows, and it gives us hope.

P: Holy Spirit, you drove Jesus into the wilderness.

C: You draw us into our lives, and it gives us gratitude.

P: We worship you. We trust you. We follow you into the desert.

C: Bless us, that we may repent and believe the good news. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #322 Oh Love, How Deep

(please stand as able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm 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.

Silence is kept for 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 hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

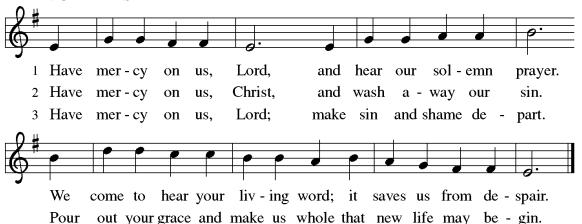
P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alex Dollar

us new hearts!

in

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be

cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (please stand as able)



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: "A Journey"

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #766 Lord of Our Life

APOSTLE'S 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

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the wellbeing of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

- **P:** God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **P:** God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **P:** God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation and sustain those who live in areas of war and conflict, especially Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **P:** God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Be with those we remember before you know. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **P:** God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. Hear us. O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **P:** God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- **P:** Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE (please be seated after sharing the peace)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERINGS

Thank you for sharing your gifts. Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app.



More information can be found on our website ssmelca.org. or use the QR codes listed here.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "The Lamb" - Coleman

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- **P:** Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered 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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Partaking of the elements will occur after the Lord's Prayer.

You will have the opportunity to come forward to receive communion, otherwise prepare your elements by opening the two separate parts, wafer and juice (if you need assistance, please wave to an usher).

- **P:** The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- **P:** Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- **P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- **P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



7 - Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: "In the night..."

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.

AGNUS DEI:





set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, you pray.

God you made: give us your peace, we pray. ter - nal peace with

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW #325 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please be sure to read the printed announcements on the insert.)

BLESSING

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

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN: ELW #504 A Mighty Fortress

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: 5:00: "Chaconne" -G. Young

9:30: "A Mighty Fortress" -arr. Wilbur Held

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Flowers are provided by Nancy Schneider in celebration of family and friends

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP

Ushers: 5:00: Jim Hennessy and Jerry Seroka **9:30:** Pat & Shelley Burns and Nancy Mineau **Reader: 5:00:** John Rech **9:30:** Kelly Sachse

Communion: 5:00: Bonnie Court (9:30): Diane Moraza and Julie Starks

Streaming Tec: Eric Sanders

Announcements

Food items collected in February will be donated to Unity Lutheran Church. Please consider purchasing some food items for the "campers" that do not require a can opener to open. Items such as peanut butter (jelly, too) and canned meats such as chicken or tuna are great sources of protein and are in high demand. If you prefer, cash donations can be placed in the offering plate. Please remember to indicate your contribution is for Food Pantries. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE. MARK YOUR CALENDARS. NO RESERVATIONS
NEEDED! COMING SOON: 2024 Easter Breakfast, Sunday March 31st. Join us for

good food and fellowship. Stay tuned! Details and restaurant fundraiser information to follow. Friends and family welcome. The more the merrier. Volunteers are always welcome.

The Sunday School has made their selections for disbursement of the <u>Good Gifts</u> <u>Proceeds</u> received from the ornaments that were purchased leading up to Christmas. After much discussion about the needs of so many and about our call from Jesus to help those in need, the \$1,640 collected will be disbursed as follows:

- 3 honeybees
- 3 water filters
- 3 hygiene kits
- 3 mosquito nets
- 3 sets of personal protective equipment
- 3 children will receive nutrition for a month
- 3 blankets
- 3 nights of shelter for vulnerable youth
- 3 weeks of shelter for vulnerable youth.

The Sunday School children and staff and the Human Concerns Committee would like to thank you for your generosity.

Don't forget your Ash Wednesday and Lent special envelopes. 60% of the funds received in the blue Ash Wednesday envelopes will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response and 60% of the funds received in all of the purple Lenten envelopes will go to Outreach for Hope. The other 40% of the funds received from all special envelopes goes to support the ministry of St. Stephen the Martyr which includes practical things like paying the electric bill and mission support built into our budget, like supporting our various partner churches.

This Week at SSM			
Monday , 2/19	1:00pm	Quilting – Layering – until 3:00pm	
Wednesday 2/21	9:30am	Men's Bible Study	
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Worship – Holden Evening Prayer	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
2 nd Weekend of Lent			
Saturday, 2/24	5:00pm	Worship	Ushers: Jim Hennessy and Patti Nelson
			Reader: Heidi Hennessy
			Communion Set Up: Betty Kroll
			Communion Server: Heidi Hennessy
Sunday, 2/25	9:30am	Worship	Ushers: Dan Resterhouse, Mason
			Resterhouse and Tom Zueger
			Reader: Diane Moraza
			Communion Set Up: Denise Sanders
			Communion Servers: Denise Sanders and
			Kipp Zimmermann
	10:45am	Coffee Hour – Hosts JP and Pam Maschke	

Please join us for mid-week Lenten services, <u>Holden Evening Prayer</u>, every Wednesday at 6:30pm.

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Penny Dowling, Mary Freiburger, Diana Gastrau, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Sally Kowalewski, Carol Kucharski, Karen Palasz, Patrick Rafalski, Joan Retzlaff, Dick Rutzen, Greg Sachse, Bob Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff Scott, co-worker of Mary Luedtke Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies Sandy Bell, friend of SSM – sister of Bill Bravner & friend of SSM Jim Bembenec, friend of Mike and Tracv Wholean Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese Jim Busta, friend of Carol and Don Manning Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese Tim Drover, son of John Drover Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally Kowalewski Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana Gastrau Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese James Haas, friend of Patti Winter Roberta Henrichs, sister-in -law of Joan Retzlaff Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt Dan Knapik, fried of Don & Carol Manning Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally Kowalewski Susan Kueny, friend of Mary Luedtke

Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus Joseph Pearson (husband of Cherish Pearson) and the "Iron Thunder" 4-27 Field Artillery as they are deployed Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller Sarah Reyes, daughter of Debbie and Vic Barth Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt Ben Sachse, nephew of Kelly & Greg Sachse Tommy Schwietzer, friend of Deb Perl Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan Rick Sibley, friend of Heidi and Jim Hennessy Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann Simley Andy Stein and his family, son of Barb Stein Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan Judy Ventimiglia, friend of Shelly Rosenstock Alfred Waltke, father of Kelly Sachse Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas Mark Weber, son-in-law of Marian Walton

Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor - 262-271-8913 Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Mark Langhoff, friend of Shelly Rosenstock

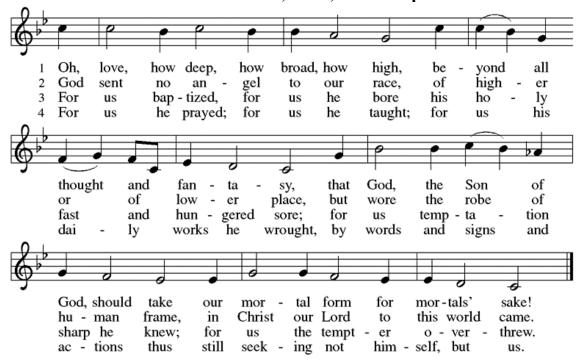
Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
email - office@ssmelca.org
Website - www.ssmelca.org
Facebook - https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/

Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski

Lisa Wholean, daughter of Mike & Tracy

Wholean

HYMN #322 Oh, Love, How Deep



- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed, he bore the shameful cross and death; for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign; for us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad: the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt. Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

HYMN #766 Lord of Our Life



- 1 Lord of our life and God of our sal-va-tion, star of our
- 2 See round your ark the hun-gry bil lows curl ing, see how your
- Lord, you can help when earth-ly ar mor fails us; Lord, you can
- 4 Peace in our hearts, our trou-bled thoughts as suag ing, peace in your



night ev - 'ry re - ceive and hope of na - tion: hear and your their ban-ners foes un - furl - ing. Lord, while their poi - soned are when dead - lv sin as - sails and, in the day when save us; church, where kin-dred souls are rag - ing, peace, when the world its



Text: Matthäus A. von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt. Music: ISTE CONFESSOR, Poitiers Antiphoner, 1746

Hymn # 325 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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