# March 30, 2025 4th Sunday in Lent



### **Prepare for Worship**

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Amen.

### **Setting One**

### **Sunday School Choir**

10:30

# 523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us



Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Stand

### Invocation

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

Confession CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution CW 154

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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# The Word

#### **Salutation**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Be seated

# First Reading Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say:

I will give thanks to you, LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust him and will not be afraid,

because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.

Declare among the peoples what he has done. Proclaim that his name is exalted!

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things! Let this be known in all the earth!

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,

for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Choir

### **Second Reading**

#### Romans 8:1-10

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For in Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

<sup>5</sup>To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. <sup>6</sup>Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>He told them this parable:

"Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." <sup>20</sup>He got up and went to his father.

"While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

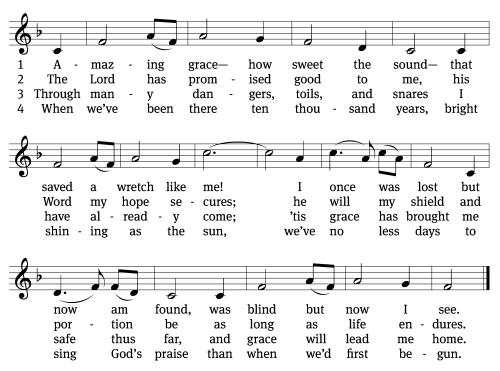
<sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup>because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.' Then they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>"His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>The servant told him, 'Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

<sup>29</sup>"He answered his father, 'Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>"The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**Be seated

### **Reception of New Members**

# 576 Amazing Grace



Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman Text and tune: Public domain

# Sermon Grace Instead of Condemnation Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Stand

#### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

### **Prayer of the Church**

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart. Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

### **Good News for Kids/Offering**

# The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.

Stand

Preface 165

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

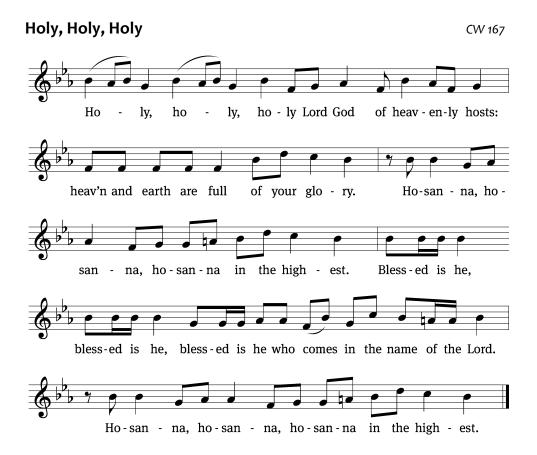


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



### **Proper Preface**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

### **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.

#### **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

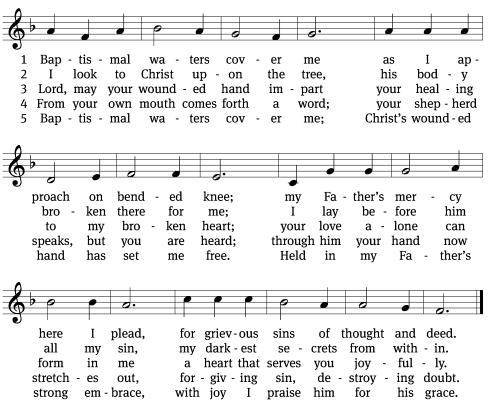
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** 



Be seated

### Distribution

### 657 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, b. 1969
Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer... Melodien, 1742
Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518
Tune: Public domain

### 653 Lord, to You I Make Confession



- 1 Lord, to vou I make con - fes - sion: Ι have sinned and
- Yet, though con-science' voice ap pall me, Fa - ther, Ι will
- suf-fered for For your Son has me, giv'n him self to
- 4 Lord, on you Ι cast my bur - den- sink it in the



gone a stray; seek your face. res - cue me, deep - est sea!

I have Though your died to Let me

mul - ti - plied trans-gres - sion, dare not call child I save me and re-store me, know your gra-cious par - don,



my - self my cho - sen for way. ceive me re to your grace. on - ciled and set me free. from in - iq - ui - tv. cleanse me

Led by vou Do not for my Je - sus' cross a -Let vour Spir - it



Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors. see my er - rors, sins for - sake me, do not let your wrath o'er - take me. van-quish these dark fears and soothe this an - guish. make me on - ly yours for - ev - er. leave me nev - er,

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

### 670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table



- Lord, may your bod-y and your blood be for my soul the high-est good.
- Your holy heart has one obsession, one blessèd thing it burns to do to cleanse the sinner from transgression; so I, a sinner, come to you. (Refrain)
- 6 My soul is burdened; Lord, relieve me, by all this weight of sin oppressed! Though sinful, yet, in grace receive me and feed me as your grateful guest. (Refrain)
- Within me, Lord, your vision traces a heart of deep humility that mourns its sin and yet embraces the merit you have earned for me. (Refrain)
- 8 By faith I call your holy table the testament of your deep love, for by your gift I now am able to know the heart of God above. (Refrain)

- 9 This meal with blessing is abounding: to poor ones wealth, to weak ones pow'r, to angels joy, to hell confounding, and life for me in death's dark hour. (Refrain)
- My heart has now become your dwelling, O blessèd, holy Trinity.
  With angels I, your praises telling, shall live in joy eternally. (Refrain)

Text: Friedrich C. Heyder, 1677–1754, abr.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2, 4, 8–10): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; (sts. 3, 5–7): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, Leipzig, 1756
Text (sts. 1, Ref, 2, 4, 8–10): © 1941 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 3, 5–7): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518
Tune: Public domain

A suggested prayer to use after receiving Holy Communion Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Stand

# **Thanksgiving**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### **Blessing**

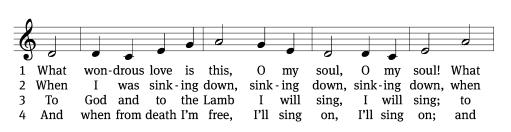
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

### 526 What Wondrous Love Is This





soul! What won-drous love is this. 0 my was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when God and to the Lamb Ι will sing; to when from death I'm free. I'll sing And on.

won-drous love is
I was sink - ing
God and to the
when from death I'm



that caused the Lord of bliss bear the dread-ful curse this to down be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown Lamb, who is the great I while mil-lions join the theme, AM, free, I'll sing his love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty



for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul! for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul. I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing. I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Lynchburg, 1811, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker Text and tune: Public domain

# **Sunday School Choir**

8:00

# THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS March 30 - April 6, 2025

Sunday	8:00 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 11:35 am	Worship with Communion Homeless Meal Delivery Sunday School Wedding Showers Worship with Communion Kunama Worship Hand Bell Practice
Wednesday	5:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm <b>7:00 pm</b>	Catechism and Bible History Choir Children's Hand Bell Practice Lent Worship
Thursday	10:00 am	Women's Fellowship Group
Friday	5:00 pm	Isaiah and Andie Wedding
Sat/Sun		WELS Hand Bell Festival - Zumbrota, MN
Sunday	8:00 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Worship Homeless Meal Delivery Sunday School Bible Class Worship Kunama Worship

# Celebrating WELS 175th Anniversary

An anniversary prayer God of mercy, God of truth, we praise you because you have given your grace in Christ to us. We humbly honor you for placing your gift of Christ in us, and we boldly pray that you keep us faithful to your truth and bless your message of Christ through us. In his gracious name. Amen.

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of WELS

"Just as the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, so also was the very small beginning of our synod". J. Muehlhaeuser

On Dec. 8, 1849, three Lutheran pastors, led by Johannes Muehlhaeuser, met at Grace Downtown in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and "recognized the need of a joint effort to spread the kingdom of God for the Lutheran Church in Wisconsin." Muehlhaeuser recalled, "Just as the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, so also was the very small beginning of our synod." The synod adopted its constitution at its first official meeting on May 26, 1850, in Granville, Wisconsin. The very first resolution in the synod's history, made at the Dec. 8, 1849, meeting, stated: "That the synod which is to be founded bear the name 'The First German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin' and that this specific name and title remain with it forever." There's a story in the details: The synod was technically not "The First" since two other German Lutheran synods were already present in Wisconsin.

- The synod was "German" because its ministers came from Germany, spoke German, and sought to serve the large population of German immigrants who had no spiritual shepherds.
- The synod was "Evangelical" since it sought to make the proclamation of the gospel its chief endeavor.
- The synod was "Lutheran" because it sought primarily to serve churchless Lutherans and it followed the teachings of the Reformer Martin Luther.
- The synod was a "Synod" (a Greek word that literally means "coming together") because the pastors wanted to work together to accomplish more gospel ministry.

The synod was "of Wisconsin" because all its leaders served people in Wisconsin. At that time, most states had Lutheran synods of their own, so the first generation primarily focused on one region within their means. Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee was constructed in 1851. Incorporated in 1849, Grace was where three Lutheran pastors met to discuss founding a synod that would eventually be known as WELS. Much has changed since the synod's mustard seed—like beginnings 175 years ago—including its name. Yet one thing remains clear: the Word of the Lord endures forever.

### Welcome to Lincoln Heights!

We are glad you are here today to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please speak with an usher for any help.

#### Yellow Cards

Please fill out a yellow card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Thank you.

### In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins Linda Thielke, Larry Borchert, Jeff Overson, Pat Oswald, Makenzie Phippen, Bill Stewart - health

Lucas Gilman & Karri Pippett, Daniel Pfeifer & Paige Harman, Isaiah Luellen & Andie Schlabach, Caleb Winecke & Makayla Gallentine, Addyson Pender & Zach Ostendorfengaged couples

### **Online Giving**

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.

www.LHELC.org/giving

### **Prepare for Next Sunday**

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:4b-14, Luke 20:9-19

### **Lent and Easter Worship Schedule**

March 12-April 9 Wednesday Lenten Worship at 7 pm

April 17 Maundy Thursday Worship w/Communion at 5 & 7 pm

April 18 Good Friday Worship at 5 & 7 pm

April 20 Easter Worship at 8 & 10:30 am

Thank You to Today's Helpers

**Accompanist:** Kris Olson

Altar Guild: Christine Pfeifer & Paula Twelmeyer

**Counters:** Karl Kuhrt & Steve Winecke

Streaming: Kale & Payton Weis

Ushers 8 am: Kale Weis & Jon Holmen

Ushers 10:30 am: TBA

**Next Sunday's Servants Accompanist:** Kris Olson

Altar Guild: Candice Pippett & Andrea Travi

Counters: Steve Winecke Streaming: Megan Bowman Ushers 8 am: Lee Bowman Ushers 10:30 am: Tom Oswald

#### **Divine Call**

Pastor Pfeifer has received a divine call to serve as the pastor of Peace of Our Savior Lutheran Church in New Carlisle, Ohio. Your prayers and advice are appreciated as I consider where my gifts and abilities can best serve the Lord and his people.

### **Welcome to Our New Members**

Isaiah Luellen and Andie Schlabach are joining our congregation today. We rejoice in the unity of faith brought about by the Holy Spirit. Isaiah and Andie are also getting married this week. Be sure to greet them at the cake and punch reception between services for them and for Karri Pippett and Lucas Gilman who are also getting married this week.

### **Assisted Listening Devices Available**

If you are missing some of the words spoken by the pastor during the service, we encourage you to try our new assisted listening devices. These transmit the pastor's microphone directly to your ear to avoid background noise and echo. The receivers and instructions are in a basket in the entryway under the banner. Pick one up, turn it on, adjust the volume and hear the words clearly. Simply turn it off and return to the basket after the service. Let Pastor Pfeifer know if you have any questions.

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

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