

...NO ONE CAN ENTER THE

kingdom
OF
God

WITHOUT BEING
BORN OF

water
AND
spirit

John 3:5



OUR WORSHIP
SERVICE
MAR 1, 2026

american

LUTHERAN CHURCH

801 Monroe Street
La Porte City, IA 50651

(319) 342-2852

Services led by
Pastor Sevaraj Periannan
(Pastor Selva)

Email:
selvaperia@gmail.com

Phone:
(319) 961-5828

Church Secretary
Brynna Hemsath

Email:
alsecretary@lpctel.net

FIND US ONLINE



lpcamericanlutheran.org



lpcamericanlutheranchurch



lpcamericanlutheranchurch3973

volunteer

Select a Sunday.
Select a Role.

BE OF SERVICE.



OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

- * Worship begins @ 9 am * Fellowship @ 10 am
- * Sunday School @ 10 am (September - May)

Welcome to Worship

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

INTRODUCTION

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

(Congregation, please stand)

****All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #660 Lift High the Cross

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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.

(Congregation, please be seated)

FIRST READING

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Psalm 121:1, 2)

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

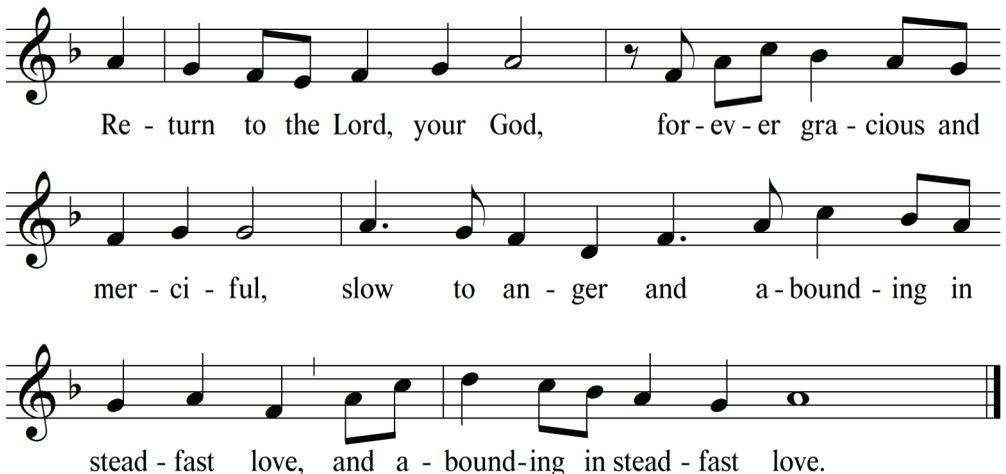
¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

(Congregation, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for - ev - er gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits
Jesus by night to learn
from the teacher his
friends reject. Jesus speaks
to him about life in the
Spirit and the
kingdom of God.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

CHILDREN'S
SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF
THE DAY

ELW #323 God Loved the World

(Congregation, please stand)

THE
APOSTLES'
CREED

(text is printed in the back cover of the red hymnal)

PRAYERS OF
INTERCESSION

Petitions end "Hear us, O God." Congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

SHARING
THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

OFFERING

(Congregation, please stand)

OFFERTORY

ELW #334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery *(General and Lent 2)*

Light of life beyond conceiving, might Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word.

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true; may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.
(Congregation, please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

ELW #451 We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

ELW #335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW #638 Blessed Assurance

(Congregation, please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **ELW #803** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS026260. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.



You are invited to follow the LPC American Lutheran Church Facebook page (scan the code with your phone camera) and use the 2026 Lenten devotional, “Oh, Love, How Deep,” from Luther Seminary, located in St. Paul, MN to give one minute to God each day this season.

This year’s contributing authors from Luther Seminary are:

Stanley Ayashim ’21 M.A., Residential Life Program Coordinator, Luther Seminary; **Kjersten Karlsgodt Darling** ’25 Ph.D., Visiting Instructor for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Luther Seminary; **Gracia Grindal** ’83 M.A., Professor Emerita of Rhetoric, Luther Seminary; **Karoline Lewis** ’94 M.Div., Professor and Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary; **Sally Messner** ’07 M.S.M., Minister of Worship and the Arts, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Director of Worship, Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University; **Mercedes Roesch** ’24 M.Div., Philanthropic Advisor, Luther Seminary; **Ashley Wheeler**, Associate Director for Candidacy and Vocational Formation, Luther Seminary

The theological editor is **James L. Boyce** ’71, Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Greek. The editorial coordinator is **Bethany Riethmeier**, Donor Engagement Manager.

new testament

Lamentations

□□□□□

Ezekiel

□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□

Daniel

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□

Hosea

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□

Joel

□□□

Amos

□□□□□□□□□□

Obadiah

□

Jonah

□□□□

Micah

□□□□□□□

Nahum

□□□

Habakkuk

□□□

Zephaniah

□□□

Haggai

□□

Zechariah

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□

Malachi

□□□□

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



the gospels

Matthew

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□

Mark

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□

Luke

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□

John

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□□□
 □

CHURCH HISTORY

Acts

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□

Romans

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□

1 Corinthians

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□

2 Corinthians

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□

Galatians

□□□□□□

Ephesians

□□□□□□

Philippians

□□□□

Colossians

□□□□

1 Thessalonians

□□□□□

2 Thessalonians

□□□

1 Timothy

□□□□□□

2 Timothy

□□□□

Titus

□□□

Philemon

□

Hebrews

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□

James

□□□□□

1 Peter

□□□□□

2 Peter

□□□

1 John

□□□□□

2 John

□

3 John

□

Jude

□

GOD IS "Light + Love"

general letters

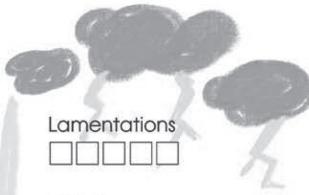
PROPHECY

Revelation

□□□□□□□□□□
 □□□□□□□□□□
 □□

prophets

Paul's letters



Paul's letters

2026
FAITH JOURNEY
SERIES

*a season
of preparation*

FOOD, FAITH & FAMILY



lenten VESPER SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

FAITH STORY
SCHEDULE

FEB 25

Pastor Selva

MAR 4

Cindi Hartman

MAR 11

Katie Jackson

MAR 18

Bob Burkgren

MAR 25

Jon Barz

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

MEAL @ 6 PM, WORSHIP SERVICE @ 7 PM

Our evening begins with a shared meal. A group of 4-6 members sign-up to bring soup and everyone else is invited to bring a dish to share. A worship service will follow incorporating the Holden Evening Prayer and highlighting a Faith Journey shared by a member of our church family.

american
LUTHERAN CHURCH