

St. John Lutheran Church



*Love
your enemies*

LUKE 6:27

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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY • FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Softly And Tenderly (#608)

Apostolic 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.**

Kyrie p. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. 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.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Response: The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire. R**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.

⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil. R**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in the abundance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (especially).

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (other ministries may be named).

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

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.**

Preface p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: Here I Am Lord (#574)
I Come With Joy (#482)
Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn: All Creatures, Worship God Most High (#835)

Dismissal

Postlude

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Regular Sunday Morning Church Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	11:15 am	Youth Chime/Vocal Choir
	11:30 am	Bell Choir (<i>every other Sunday</i>)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
		Crocheting for a Cause
		Collection for Baby Pantry Holy Communion Berlin
Monday, February 24th	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, February 26th	6:00 pm	Dinner and Discussion
Tuesday, March 4th	7:00 pm	Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles in the Parish House
Wednesday, March 5th	Noon	Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, March 5th	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Saturday, March 8th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Bldg.
Monday, March 10th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, March 12th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Wednesday, March 19th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Wednesday, March 19th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Monday, March 24th	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, March 26th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Monday, March 31st	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Indie Fisher	Valerie Hoffmann	Kimberly Rickert	Beverly Warming
Brian Byrnes	Rhea Fryor	Rebecca Livingston	Ashley Rosser	Christopher Weaver
Randy Cantoral	Bob Garner	Joanne McVelli	Finn Schureman	Ryan Williams
Janet Cappuccio	Heidi Goff	Melanie Miles	Frank Siderio III	Helen Yezusko
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Kent Montford	Eric Sprengel	Ashley Zenzola
Helen Dominic	Stan Harmer	Sue Murphy	Janice Stronski	Bob Zielsdorf
Rosemarie Doucette	Ann Henning	Doris Piech	George Vaneman, Sr.	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.



HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BERLIN BABY PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS OF BABY DIAPERS (especially larger size ones).

Collection will take place in the Narthex.





JUST A REMINDER...

We are accepting donations of
Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

CONFIRMATION CLASS



Monday, February 24th
5:30 pm
in the Parish House



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH
6:00 PM IN THE EDUCATION BUILDING
Potluck Dinner • Bring a dish or dessert to share
Participate in an after dinner Inspirational Discussion.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



BIBLE STUDY!

Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 pm
in the Parish House. Please join us!



SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH • 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
IN THE ED. BUILDING

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SOME GOOD FOOD
& GOOD FELLOWSHIP!

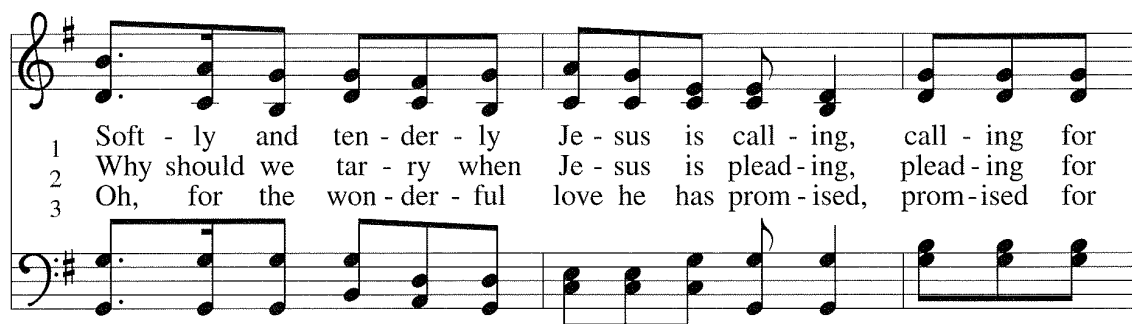
MONDAY • MARCH 10TH @ 7PM
COUNCIL MEETING
PARISH HOUSE

Grief Gathering
Wednesday,
March 19th

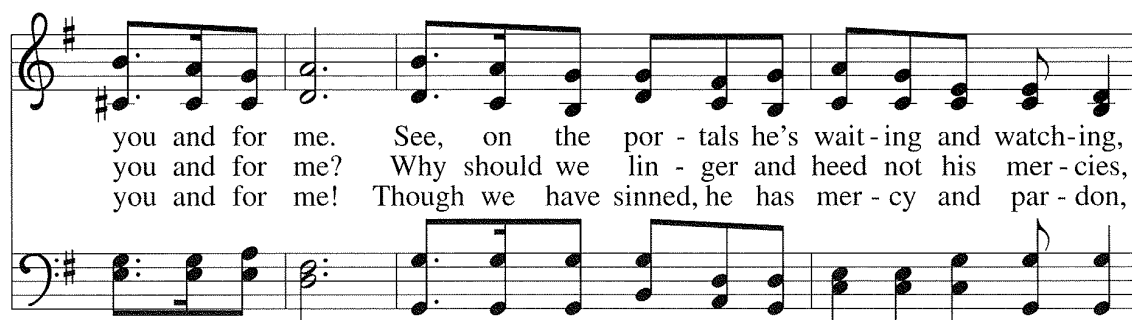


Parish Tea Room
@ 7pm
All Are Welcome!

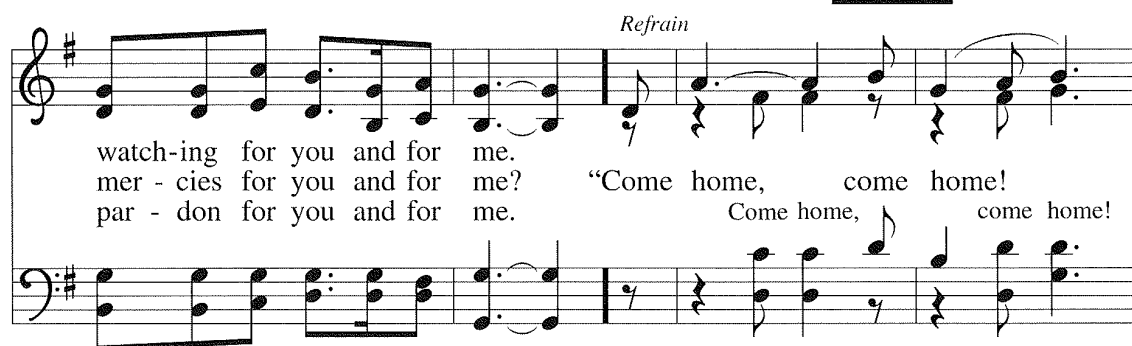
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



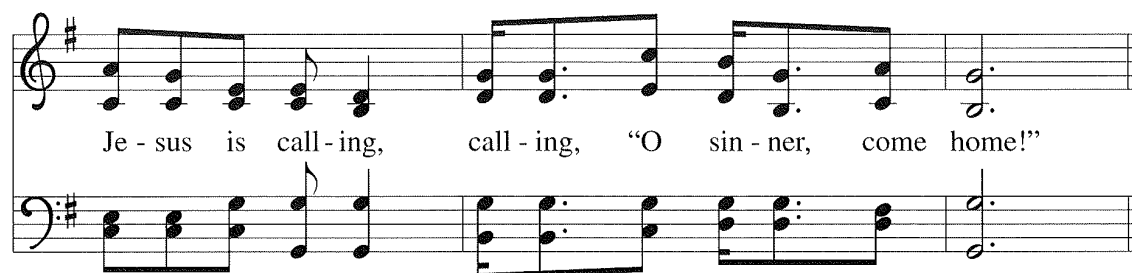
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Here I Am, Lord

574



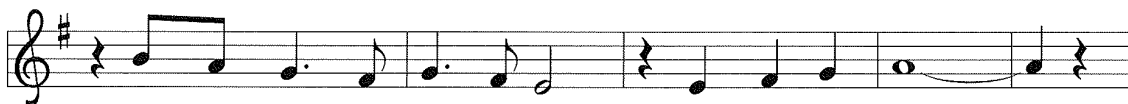
1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



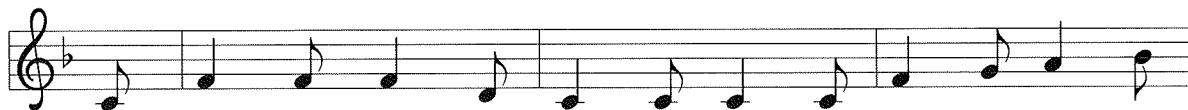
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Let Us Break Bread Together

471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Refrain
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system of the song features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



LUTHERAN INDIAN MINISTRIES

Banks are on the table in the Narthex.

Please see Lynn Illi to donate by cash or check.



Ash Wednesday Services

MARCH 5TH

Noon: *Imposition of Ashes*

7:00 pm:

Ash Wednesday Worship Service



**MARCH 12th • 19th • 26th
APRIL 2nd • 9th**

6pm in the Ed. Building

Bring your favorite soup, side or dessert to share
and participate in the Lenten Study.

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer
Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver
Administrative Coordinator: Pat Reed
Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher
Head Usher: Ted Adams

Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith
Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver
Sexton: Betsey Eley
Webmaster: Rich Oberle/Tom Schofield
Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher