



A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Lent, March 01, 2026

Fr. William Stomski, presiding

PRELUDE

New York on a Sunday Morning | Jean Langlais

WELCOME

Fr. William Stomski

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 715 | Christ, Be Our Light | v. 1, 3-4



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

GREETING

Fr. William Stomski

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Fr. William Stomski

CALL) Petitions spoken by the Presiding Minister.

**RESP) have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Fr. William Stomski

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Josh Edwards

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

ELW 595 | *Jesus Loves Me* | v. 1



I Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

FIRST READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Carol Grandy

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup> For 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. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. <sup>16</sup> For 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, <sup>17</sup>as 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.

CALL) Word of God, word of life.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 611 | *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* | v. 3

3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

GOSPEL

John 3:1-21

Fr. William Stomski

CALL) The holy gospel according to John.

RESP) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> 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?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”<sup>11</sup> “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.”<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>16</sup> “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.”<sup>17</sup> “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.”<sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.<sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.<sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

CALL) The gospel of the Lord.

RESP) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Fr. William Stomski

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 815 | *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the  
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the  
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOLSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Raquel Krach

Response: ELW 752 | *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

**Sung Response) Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Fr. William Stomski

CALL) The peace of Christ be with you all.

RESP) **And also with you.**

WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Fr. William Stomski

OFFERING

Giving at FLC  
 Produced by Josh Edwards

*If parents would like their children in communion, please get them during this time.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

CALL) The Lord be with you.

RESP) **And also with you.**

CALL) Lift up your hearts.

RESP) **We lift them to the Lord.**

CALL) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

RESP) **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE 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

ACS Setting 12, p. 40



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONGS

*All Ye Refugees* | Chelsey Scott, Kellie Haddock, & Flo Paris

*Every Table is an Altar* | Ben Smith & Jason Upton



*If you would like one-on-one, personal prayer at this time, we invite you to pray with today's Healing Minister on the north side of the room/wall facing East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Raquel Krach

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Fr. William Stomski

SENDING SONG

*Your Grace is Enough* | Matt Maher

Verse 1:

Great is your faithfulness, oh God.  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart.

Pre-chorus

Chorus (2x)

You lead us by still waters, into mercy.  
And nothing can keep us apart.

Pre-chorus:  
So remember your people,  
Remember your children.  
Remember your promise, of God.

Chorus:  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me.

Verse 2:  
Great is your love and justice, God.  
You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of your salvation.  
And all your people sing along.

BLESSING

Fr. William Stomski

DISMISSAL

Raquel Krach

*CALL*) Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**RESP) Thanks be to God.**

Bridge:  
So remember your people,  
Remember your children.  
Remember your promise, of God.

Chorus

Tag:  
Your grace is enough,  
Heaven reaching down to us.  
Your grace is enough for me.  
Your grace is enough,  
I'm covered in your love.  
Your grace is enough for me.

## Giving at Faith Lutheran



You can use this QR code by opening the camera on your phone and focusing on the image. A prompt from "tithe.ly" will pop up. Click it and you will be sent to our giving page. You can access our giving page at [ChicoFaithLutheran.org/Give](http://ChicoFaithLutheran.org/Give). Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate during service or dropped off at the office. You may donate to our General Fund which supports our budget (staff salaries, operating costs, maintenance) or give to any designated fund like the capital campaign or youth and children.

## **Our service is possible because of today's ministers:**

Presiding Minister: Fr. William Stomski

Assisting Minister: Raquel Krach

On-Site Council Member: Cheri Sandberg

On-Site Equipping Minister: Vickie James

Communion: Suzie Ernest, Sky Sample, Dianna Snyder (shepherd), and Rev. William Stomski

Communion Clean-up: Laurae Dunn

Ushers: Joan Palmer and Lynette Stensrud

Lector: Carol Grandy

Welcome Table: Char Miller and Reidun Waddell

Coffee Hour: Gail Day and Suzanne Steel

A/V Desk: Kai Pappani-McDermott, Pat Snyder, and Kaylen Wilson

Healing Minister: Penny Melvin

Offering Counters: Lori Briggs-Oman & Gayle Palys

Parking Lot: Mark Kimmelshue, Margaret McMillan, Tom Melvin, and Julio Quiñones

Musicians: FLC Contemporary Team

Cantor: Luke Nicolay

## **Class on Christians and Authority: Sundays in Lent at 11am**

Our country is in the midst of major disagreement about the role of government authority. What do the scriptures and our Lutheran tradition teach about how followers of Jesus are to wield authority and to respond to those in authority? Throughout Lent, Pastor Ben will teach a five part class covering such topics as use of force, obedience, resistance, and accountability. This class will be recorded and available online.

## **JOYS: Just Older Youth Seniors, Hallelujah Anyway by Anne Lamott,**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 7 (Next Date: March 9)**

*Rediscovering Mercy* by Anne Lamott explores finding meaning in life through radical kindness, forgiveness, and self-acceptance, even amidst chaos and personal flaws. Lent is often a time when people refrain from saying "Halleluiah" in grief for sin, but this book helps us discover how we can praise God even in our brokenness. All seniors welcome!

## **Spring Cleaning, Saturday, March 7 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.**

Coffee, juice, donuts and bagels provided. Please RSVP to Michael at 895-3754 or [faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheraninchico@gmail.com) Or Joel Zimbelman at [joelzimbelman@gmail.com](mailto:joelzimbelman@gmail.com). It's been over a year since our last spring cleaning! Time to freshen up the exterior, clean the rooms, and prep for painting and flooring installation. We could use about 50 folks for three hours on Saturday morning, March 7.

### **Ecumenical Wednesday Evenings in Lent, February 25th - March 25th**

**5:15-6:15pm: Class on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, 6:15pm - 7pm: Soup supper, 7pm - 8pm: Ecumenical Worship**

Learn how God transforms our lives and the world. Start each Wednesday evening in Lent with a class on the traditional spiritual practice for Lent followed by soup supper and worship. Come, meet your neighbors of faith! Feb. 25th -- Trinity Methodist, March 4th -- Faith Lutheran, March 11th -- Bethel AME with soup support from First Baptist, March 18th -- First Christian, March 25th -- Congregation Beth Israel.

### **Professional A/V Training with Adam from our Synod, March 21, 10am-4pm**

We will have a large training session in which Adam Klopfenstein from a bay area ELCA congregation will help us get to know the ins and outs of our A/V system. If you're interested in learning, brushing up, or checking things out please come and join us. We will take a break from about noon to 1 to have lunch. This training will be a great time to ask questions, practice on the board/cameras/propresenter and more. If you have any questions, please contact Luke via email or by calling the church office.

### **Easter Trunk and Hunt is Back! Saturday, April 4 from 11AM-2PM**

We are excited to bring back Faith Lutheran Church's Easter Trunk & Hunt on Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and we would love your help to make it bigger and better than ever! Last year we welcomed a huge crowd and gave out nearly 5,000 Easter eggs. This year we hope to double that number and expand the fun with a small carnival ferris wheel, live music, the Easter Bunny, and food vendors. *How You Can Help:* Decorate a car trunk and provide a simple game where kids can earn Easter eggs (each trunk is asked to provide its own game and Easter eggs). Donate plastic Easter eggs and candy, filled if possible. Fill eggs on a scheduled date to be announced. Parking lot assistance. Hiding Easter eggs. Set up and breakdown. Craft table help where kids will make Easter bags.

This event is all about welcoming our community and sharing the joy of Easter. Every role helps make a difference! Please talk to Josh Edwards, Director of Children and Youth Ministry, or give the main office a call if you'd like to join in!

### **Growing Healthy Children Walk/Run – April 25, Registration Open!**

Faith Lutheran Church is proud to be a sponsor for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Growing Healthy Children Run/Walk that promotes physical health, good nutrition and emotional wellness. The day starts off with your choice of a one-mile walk or a three-mile run. There will be presentations by Azad's Martial Arts, the Hmong Cultural Center, and Ballet Folklorico. We hope to have plenty of Faith Lutheran kids and their friends participate! There is no cost and the first 300 kids get a free t-shirt! So register soon at [growinghealthychildrenchico.com](http://growinghealthychildrenchico.com)! If you have any questions please ask Marge Troester by calling via your directory or contact the church office.

# Greatest Gift Project



**Special Olympics**  
*Northern California*

For the month of March, the Special Olympics of Butte County will be our “Greatest Gift Project”.

**Mission:** Special Olympics Butte County, SOBC (parent company Special Olympics Northern California) is a volunteer organization providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with disabilities. This gives the athletes opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in sharing of skills and friendships. The vision is to provide sports training programs and athletic competition for all athletes within the county. Special Olympics athletes have a variety of sports they can choose from in Butte County such as basketball, swimming, bocce ball, track & field, softball, golf, and bowling.

**Why it Matters:** Most of the equipment needs are already met by SOBC. When the athletes compete in regional tournaments the volunteers purchase healthy snacks and drinks for the day long tournaments and for the weekend long summer games. This is something we can help with. The competitions take place out of town, last all day and only lunch is provided. With physical activity and warm temperatures, the athletes need healthy snacks and drinks to get them through the day.

**How Can You make a Difference:** You can help by picking up a few items from the list below on your usual shopping trips. Bring them by our church on Sunday morning or during the week.

- Chips variety 1 oz bags
- Gatorade 12 oz regular or zero, NO RED
- Granola bars not hard and no nuts
- Nature's bakery fig, blueberry, raspberry, etc.
- Nutri grain bars
- Waters

Surprisingly we learned from last year most of the athletes do not like Goldfish! All need to be individually wrapped. No perishable items please. No red dye.



The beauty of this campaign is, a little is a lot! You can choose any items based on your budget and usual grocery trip. Thank you for continuing to support our neighbors!

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Class on Christians and Authority, 11:00 a.m. (Pr. Ben)
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)
- Sundays @ 5 Service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

### Mondays

- Inviting Silence at 7:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Seniors Group, Hallelujah Anyway, 10:30 a.m. Room 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month (Dottie Erhardt, Eileen Wayne)
- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting in Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 p.m. (Char Miller)
- Centering Prayer on Zoom from 4-5 p.m. (Bill Kees)
- Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom from 5-6 p.m. (Pr. Ben)

### Wednesdays

- Spanish Conversation Group on Zoom at 9am (Clark Colahan)
- Inviting Silence at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Griefshare at 2:00 p.m. in Room 7 (Nola D, Stephen K, Peter M)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)

### Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room (Mary Schweder)
- Afternoon Games at 1200 Park Ave. Clubhouse from 12 to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Gambler's Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Contemporary Music Practice in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Troop 12 in Room 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Chris Brown)

### Fridays

- Men's Breakfast at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo at 8:00 a.m. (Howie Stensrud)
- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)

