



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name**

First Sunday in Lent

10:15 a.m., March 9, 2025



These 40 days called Lent are like no other.

It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn.

This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked.

It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares.

The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word,
will uphold and sustain us.

Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | www.faithlutheransrq.com

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.

The flowers on the altar today are given by Tom Piccoli in loving memory of his husband, Rev. David Wagner, on David's birthday.

Ministers

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. Larry Wright

**Lector
Crucifer**

Jane Sanks
Deacon Mark Greenwood

**Music Director
Cantor
Flutist
Vocals**

Andi Zdrava
Jesse V. Martin
Julianne Geyser
Voices of Faith Choir

Greeters & Ushers

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz,
Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre,
Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard,
Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Deacon Scott Rice,
Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

Media Team

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell,
Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Deacon Mark
Greenwood

Sunday School Teacher

Emily Holst

Altar Guild

Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson,
Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson,
Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

Congregational Council

Ann Greenwood, president; Joan Searles, vice
president; Lauren Wardach, secretary; Anita
Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant
treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang; Julianne
Geyser; Mark Nelson; Peggy Ragan;
Deacon Scott Rice

* * * * *

**Pastor
Assistant to the Pastor
Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen
Rev. Larry Wright
Rev. John Hilficker
Rev. Marianne Powrie
Rev. John Spittal

Interim Executive Assistant

Linda Fewell

- Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister L: Lector C: **Congregation**
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

PRELUDE

Lacrimosa
Voices of Faith Choir

Mozart

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE STAND

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(pause for reflection)

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: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

We sing together



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 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

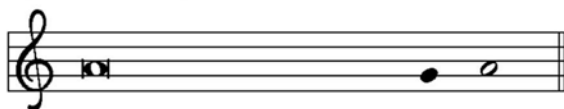
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

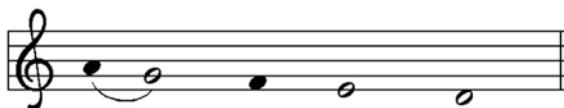
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

We sing responsively



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



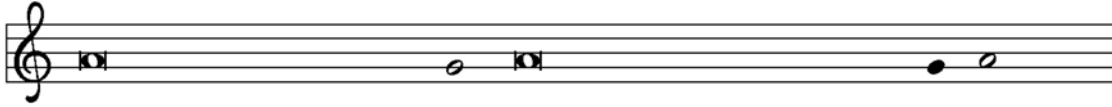
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



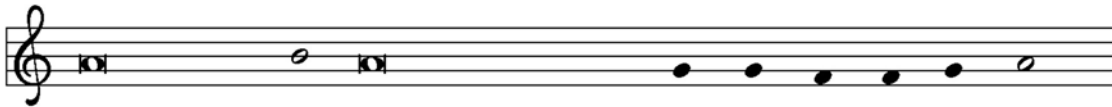
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WE SIT

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

L: A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 91:11

To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once and then we all sing it together.



God will give the an - gels
charge o - ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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PSALMODY: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

L: ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
² you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”

C: Refrain

L: ⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰ no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.
¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

C: Refrain

L: ¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
¹⁴ I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.
¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

C: Refrain

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

L: A reading from Romans.

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We sing together



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WE STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 321

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*We sing together*

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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APOSTLES' CREED

P: Together, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world and all those in need.

L: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and, instead, preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, tribal leaders, legislators, judges, juries, presidents and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. We also pray for an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they may find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable or lonely, that all may find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill or struggling in any way, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (*pause*) God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life, especially Warren Russell. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbors with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY



The offering is collected at this time. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at faithlutheransrq.com. We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Behold Him in Dark Gethsemane

Jay Althouse
Voices of Faith Choir

WE STAND

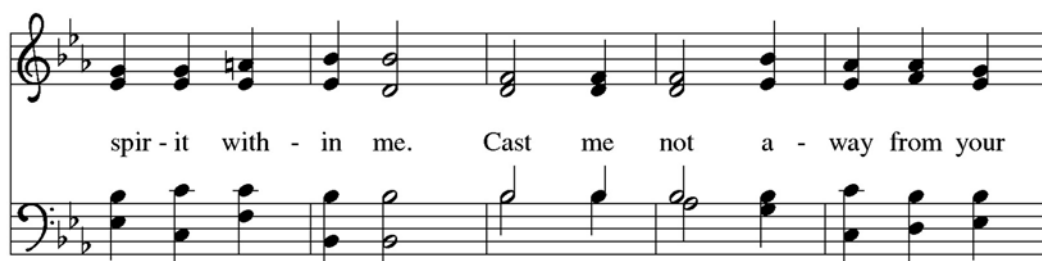
We sing together

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

We sing responsively

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

We sing together

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: 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.**

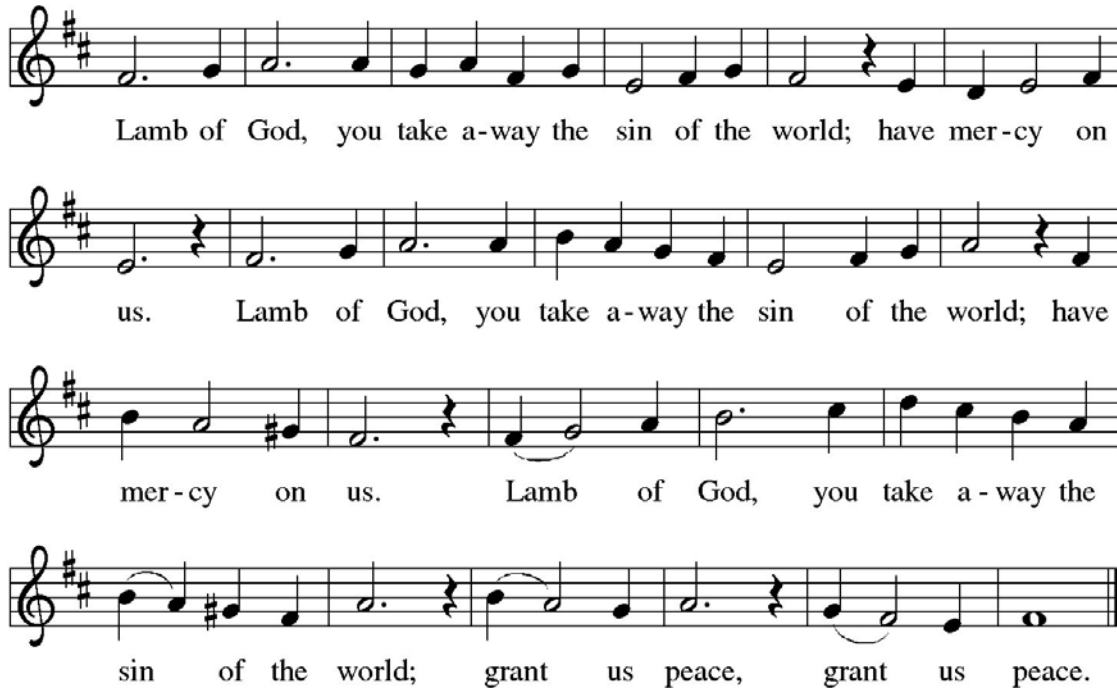
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread, and all are welcome at the Lord's Table.

COMMUNION SONG

We sing together



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.

WE SIT

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Given for You
Voices of Faith Choir

Nolan/Williams

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 705

We sing together



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Andi Zdrava

Welcome, Visitors!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Participate in Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Together, we can urge our elected representatives to fully fund crucial nutrition programs for women and children by participating in the 2025 Bread for the World Offering of Letters. If you have not already written a letter, take home a copy of the sample letter from the counter in fellowship hall, personalize it with information that will make it even more powerful, and address your letter to your congressman (likely either Rep. Greg Stuebe or Rep. Vern Buchanan). No need to add postage. Instead, **return your letter to Faith by no later than Thursday, March 13**. A representative from the local Bread for the World team will hand deliver the letters to our congressmen. You also can write your letter today during coffee hour in fellowship hall. Copies of the sample letter are on each round table and blank paper is available for your use.

Our Journey Through Lent to Easter Continues

Lenten Wednesdays: March 12, 19 and 26, and April 2 and 9

Noon Midweek Lenten Worship followed by a common meal, sanctuary/fellowship hall

Palm Sunday, April 13

8 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

10:15 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

5 p.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 17

7 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

7 a.m. Multi-Denominational Stations of the Cross, park at Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Ave.; take a free trolley to the starting location

2 p.m. Stations of the Cross, sanctuary

7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship, sanctuary

Holy Saturday, April 19

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Part One, parking lot

Easter Sunday, April 20

- 7 a.m. Easter Vigil Part Two, Memorial Garden
9 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, fellowship hall and playground
10:15 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary
-

In Memoriam: Warren Russell

Warren Russell will be interred tomorrow following a graveside service in the Sarasota National Cemetery. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Join in Prayer and Bible Study

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room. Next Sunday, the group will study Lesson 5, *Pentecost: God Changes His Address*, in the "Mission of Jesus" series.
 - **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.
 - **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible study** meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength."
 - **The Prayer Support Group** meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion. Can't be there in person? Join via Zoom, Meeting ID 871 4720 3661, Passcode 041291.
 - **During Lent, the Bereavement Group meets at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays** in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.
 - **The Men's Group** meets at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 13, in the conference room for study and fellowship.
 - **Women of Faith** meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 17, at Skilletts, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, pastorp2.0@gmail.com.
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Worship to Go Needs You

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at:

- **10:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 11**, at Elancé, 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd., Tiffany Room.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 18**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave.
- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25**, at Aravilla Sarasota, 3251 Proctor Road.

Volunteers will meet in the chapel and can carpool to the facility (30 minutes prior). To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055, or show up at the chapel. No experience necessary!

Mary Circle Meets, Hosts, Packages Seeds, Requests Personal Care Donations and Invites You

- **Mary Circle meets at noon, Tuesday, March 11, in fellowship hall.** All women of the church are invited! Bring your lunch; dessert is provided. The group will discuss plans for the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, which Faith will host.
- **Save the date for the WELCA Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Faith.** It will be a day of fellowship, Bible study and a special presentation by Faith's own Al Ernst. Both continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of only \$10. Plan to join us!
- During February, Faith volunteers packed 1,000 packages of tomato seeds that will be sent all over the U.S. and the world as part of the Hope Seeds program, which provides seeds so people in need can feed themselves. The next opportunity to help is at **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25, in fellowship hall.** Come and try it out! Sign up on the narthex table so Hope Seeds will know how much material to provide.
- Mary Circle volunteers recently delivered Lutheran World Relief kits for shipping – now it's time to **start collecting personal-care kit items for next year! Please place nail clippers, combs, bath-size soap and adult-size toothbrushes in the bin in the narthex. Soap is the most-needed item.** A Thrivent grant will cover the cost of towels for the kits. If you are unable to shop, monetary contributions are welcome.

Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory

Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open date is April 6.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday.

To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, faithlutheransrq.com.

Contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885, with questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate.

Coffee Hour Is Important! Please Volunteer!

Coffee hour needs additional volunteers. All you have to do is provide and put out snacks, and clean up afterward. Faith can cover the cost of the snacks if you would like to volunteer but don't have resources to purchase them. Sign up on the sheet beside the coffee pot in fellowship hall.

Daily Lenten Devotions and Prayers Continue

To enrich our Lenten experience, the Faith Evangelism Ministry team is sharing daily devotions and prayers from Luther Seminary called "There in God's Garden." You will continue to receive a devotion via email from Faith each morning during Lent. Printed devotional booklets also are available on the table in the narthex for people who do not use email. During midweek Lenten lunches on Wednesdays, which will follow midweek worship, you will be invited into meaningful discussion based on the daily devotions.

The Evangelism Ministry team prays that the devotions and discussions will draw us closer as a congregation during our Lenten journey.

Faith's Prayer List Begins Anew: Use Email or Prayer Request Cards to Add To or Keep Someone on the List

Today, the Faith Prayer List begins anew. To add someone to the list or to ensure that someone who had previously been on the list remains there:

- Email officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com, or
- Complete a Prayer Request Card. The cards are found in the pews, on the tables at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex. Place completed cards in the offering plate.

You are welcome to use the back of a card for additional names.

It is a privilege and joy to pray for those in need, and all prayer requests are welcome. Names can remain on the list for as long as prayers are requested.

Readers Club Meets March 31

The Faith Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the final Monday of each month. The group will meet March 31 to discuss *How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, exploring thoughts of the Episcopal bishop of Washington, D.C. Come and join the conversation. All are welcome.

You Can Bring Small Batteries to Faith for Recycling

You can place small, used batteries in the box on the counter in fellowship hall. Note the sign with the box, which indicates the types of batteries that can be accepted. A volunteer will take them to Staples once a week for recycling.

More Giving Envelopes Ready to Pick Up on Narthex Table

Additional 2025 giving envelopes that weren't available previously now are ready for pick up in the narthex. Questions? Contact Patty McKee, 941-228-1192 (cell), 941-921-3709 or financialsecretary@faithlutheransrq.com.

Need a Ride to Church?

Faith will pay for Uber or Lyft to bring you or others to worship or other events. Contact Pastor Eric to make arrangements, 716-352-0055.

Joy in Managing God's Blessings

"You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

The world sees money as life's report card, and source of all happiness and security. In contrast, we, as faithful stewards, see money as a means to provide for our needs, to help others and to further God's kingdom.

Dear heavenly Father, help me to hold money loosely and to have a proper attitude toward it. Amen.

Move to the Music During Zumba Class

Zumba begins at 6 p.m. Mondays in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members, and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the fun!

Pictorial Directory: Final Photo-Taking Next Week

Next Sunday, March 16, will be your final opportunity to have your photo taken in the photo booth at the back of the sanctuary. If you can't have your photo taken next week, contact the church office to make special arrangements.

Worship and Service Calendar

Sunday Worship Services

8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.
Morning services live streamed and recorded at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service
and at facebook.com/faithlutheransrq.

Sunday, March 2

Online views	192
8 a.m. in person	44
10:15 a.m. in person	146
5 p.m. in person	17

Next Sunday, March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-28
The covenant with Abram and his descendants.

Psalm 27
*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter
(Ps. 27.5).*

Philippians 3:17-4:1
*Our citizenship is in heaven from where we
expect a Savior.*

Luke 13:31-35
*I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen
gathers her brood.*

This Week at Faith

Monday, March 10

10:30 a.m. Graveside Service: Warren Russell
Sarasota National Cemetery,
9810 State Road 72
6 p.m. Zumba, community center

Tuesday, March 11

8:30 a.m. Men of Faith Breakfast, Skilletts,
8635 S. Tamiami
9:30 a.m. G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study,
library
10:15 a.m. Worship to Go Prep, chapel
10:45 a.m. Worship to Go, Elancé, 3260 Lake
Pointe Blvd., Tiffany Room
12 p.m. Mary Circle, fellowship hall
6 p.m. Diversity Voices of Sarasota,
choir room and sanctuary

Wednesday, March 12

10:30 a.m. Prayer Support Group, chapel
11:30 a.m. Property Committee, conf. room
12 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship followed
by a Common Meal, sanctuary/
fellowship hall
3:15 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, March 13

9 a.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
10:30 a.m. Men's Group, conf. room
4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
5 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith, choir room

Friday, March 14

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center

Saturday, March 15

8 a.m. Jazzercise, community center
9 a.m. Diakonia, conference room

Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:

- If you or someone you know would appreciate a communion, hospital or home visit; to be contacted; or to receive a card in the mail.
- To add or remove a name from the Prayer List.

Prayer List

Michele Bajor
Gail Brown
Dee Burlingame
Linda Craley, daughter-in-law of
 Dick & Jety Zarfos
Nancy Dandino
Mark Evan
Pete Inkrott
Family & Friends of Matthew McKelvey

Jay Millard, son of John & Judy Millard
Kathy Ocker, friend of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen
Family & Friends of Warren Russell
Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller
Darren Thomsen, son of John & Tricia Thomsen
Lola Troost, friend & client of Terrie Ulmer
Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith
Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith

