

This Week's Schedule | All Are Welcome!

Every Sunday - online worship & printable bulletins available at faithlilacway.org
(After the 9:30 service has streamed, there may be a slight delay)

Sunday, March 27

9:30 AM: Sunday Worship in Sanctuary, parking lot, and streaming live at faithlilacway.org.
10:30 AM: Youth are selling yummy treats for their mission trip
10:30 AM: Come and explore scripture through art and poetry and "Sanctified Art"
10:30 AM: Sunday school in classroom 218 (by the chapel)

Tuesday, March 29

2:00 PM: Afternoon Book Club in the library - Bonhoeffer's Life Together, chapter 3

Wednesday, March 30

3:30 PM: Confirmation in the Library
7:00 PM: Lenten Service: Psalm 23 "God Gives Us A Place of Honor."
Deacon Kirsten Kessel from First Lutheran and Family of God Lutheran will be our guest preacher

Sunday, April 3

9:30 AM: Sunday Worship in Sanctuary, parking lot, and streaming live at faithlilacway.org.
10:30 AM: Youth are selling yummy treats for their mission trip
10:30 AM: Adult Education class in the library - Explore Sanctified Art Lenten Devotions
10:30 AM: Sunday school in classroom 218 (by the chapel)

+March Mission of the Month is NEAR Foodshelf.

+April Mission of the Month is the Youth Mission Trip.

New in Christ (Cover Image)

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Digital painting - See our website for the artist's statement

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

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**FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Full to the Brim

*Prodigal
grace*



Welcome to worship! March 27, 2022

CDC guidelines have changed!

Hennepin County is in the “Green Zone” which means masks are optional. However, you are welcome to wear a mask, especially if you are at risk or interact with others who are vulnerable.

You are invited to the Lord’s Table!

You are invited to come forward for communion or take a communion kit to your pew.

Holy Communion

All who believe are welcome to commune. **You are invited to come forward to receive communion (wine is red and grape juice is white) and a gluten free wafer - or you may pick up a communion kit (chalices filled with grape juice and gluten free wafers) and receive it in your pew.**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

God’s reach is endless.

God’s mercy is unstoppable.

God’s grace is lavish.

God’s love is constant.

God’s wisdom is vast.

God’s hope is stubborn.

God’s presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God’s house.

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home. In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Song *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ELW #608

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,

calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,

watching for you and for me.

Refrain

“Come home, come home!

You who are weary, come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,

Calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Anthem Lamb of God

In This Feast of Love

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,

in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.

Sending Song *Amazing Grace* ELW #779

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
’tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

Blessing

As you go on your way,

may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,

may you find yourself full to the brim with God’s Holy Spirit,

and may it change your life.

In the name of God, who is the Lover of the whole world, the Beloved,
and Love itself – go in peace, full to the brim.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus, it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.

**We believe in a God of prodigal grace—
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.**

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

**We remember that humans are not meant to go through life
alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like
we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant,
over-the-top grace.**

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

Prayers of the People

. . . Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring. . . for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Offering

*We worship God by supporting our church and the mission we share.
Our mission for the month of March is NEAR Foodshelf.*

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

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.**

Sharing Communion

You are invited to come forward for communion or take a
communion kit to your pew.

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for you?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **Refrain**

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

Call to Confession

God is like a parent up at night, standing at the door waiting. The
porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew,
but God is glad we're home. Let us pray the prayer of confession
together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone,
the porch light is always on.

Prayer of Confession

Loving parent God,
**the prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. It
sounds like ours. And we know his story. It sounds like ours. For
who among us hasn't made mistakes? Who among us hasn't
forgotten that we belong to one another and to you? Who among
us has not ached for home? The prodigal son isn't given a name,
but we know his name. It sounds like ours. Forgive us God. We
want to come home.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or
imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can
also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a
prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in
grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go
or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting
for us. The doors are open. The feast is ready and it is for you. This
grace is extravagant. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Greeting

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus
Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

God of open doors,
**we often long to come home to you but we aren't always sure how
to get there. So reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds**

and make yourself known. Quiet everything but your Word for us today. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions. Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice; come. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope, we pray. Amen.

Lesson *2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)*

A reading from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired

hands.” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy ELW #588*

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in God’s justice that is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heav’n.
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment giv’n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creation in that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.