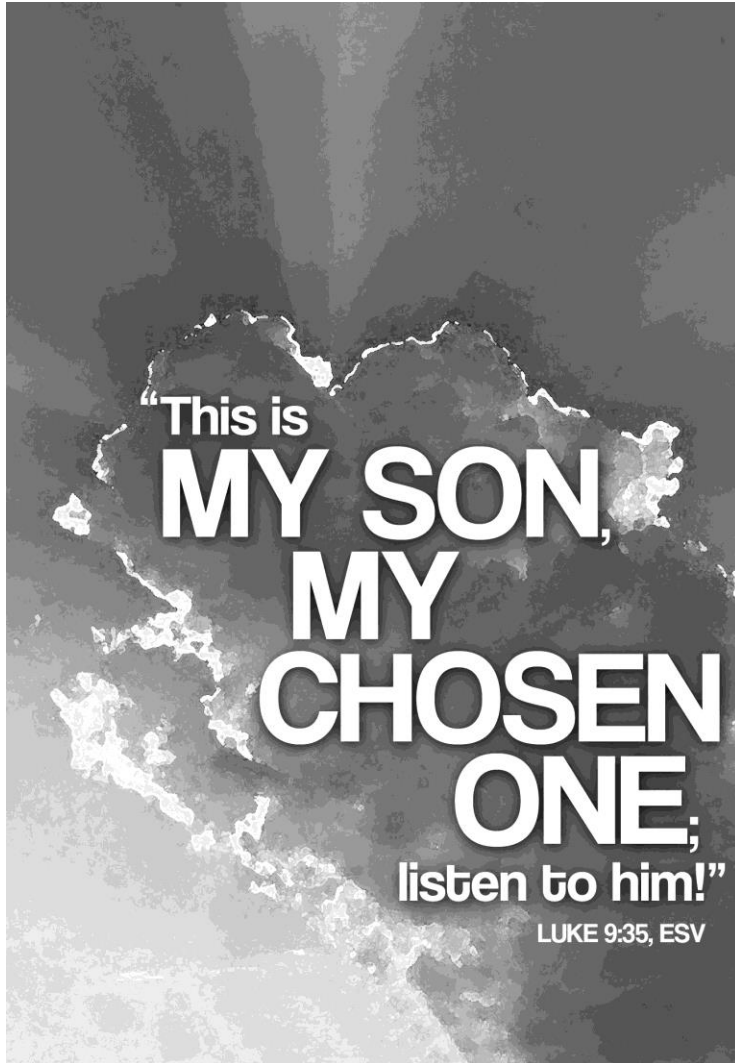


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Epiphany Moments:
Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed
Transfiguration Sunday

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

March 2, 2025



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service

Would you look directly at the sun? Only if you wanted to burn your retinas and have permanent blind spots. Would you like to look directly at God? It sounds wonderful in theory. Yet Scripture describes God's glory as being brighter than the sun. Moreover, one component of God's glory is his holiness. Being holy doesn't just mean God loves good; he also hates evil with burning intensity. And we sin every day. No wonder the Lord once told Moses, "No one may see me and live" (Exodus 33:20). Sinners would die of fear if they saw God in all his holy glory.

So, how then can we possibly know God? How can we draw near to him without dying of terror? In our final epiphany moment of this Epiphany season, God explains. God hides his glory in order to reveal himself. To carry out his good and glorious work of salvation, Jesus hid his glory and went to the cross. To allow sinners to stare at his glory without fear or harm, God hides it in the gospel. In the gospel, we see the glory of Christ's love, power, and salvation. The reality is that when God's glory is hidden, it is most on display.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 11 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Retired Pastor Mike Plagenz; Liturgist Staff Minister Randy Pahl; Accompanist, Destinee Fiecko; Offering Music, Kristi Perry

Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Service: Setting Three

Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

388 Down from the Mount of Glory

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly".

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Exodus 34:29–35

The glory of God was reflected in the two-sided covenant of the law which God established through Moses. It made people afraid. Through Christ God would establish a new and greater covenant which would remove all our fears.

²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not realize that the skin of his face was shining because he had been speaking with the LORD. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, they were amazed that the skin of his face was shining, so they were afraid to come close to him. ³¹ Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the rulers of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them. ³² Afterward, all the people of Israel came close to him, and he gave them all of the commands that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses was finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out again. Then he would come out and tell the people of Israel what he had been commanded. ³⁵ Whenever the people of Israel saw Moses' face, they would see that the skin of Moses' face was shining. Then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the LORD again. (EHV®)

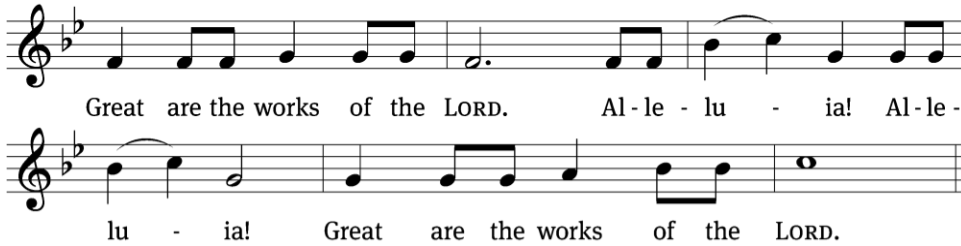
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

The Father's work through the Son is seen on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Tone



Why do the nations / conspire
and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD
and against his A- / noointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;
the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD's decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Paul declares that the glory of the New Covenant of grace far surpasses the glory of the Old Covenant of law. The glory of the New Covenant is hidden in the work of Christ and revealed through the work of the Holy Spirit.

⁷ If the ministry that brought death (which was engraved in letters on stone) came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look directly at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face (though it was fading), ⁸ how will the ministry of the spirit not be much more glorious?

Gospel

Luke 9:28–36

The glory of God, hidden in Christ, shines through on the Mount of Transfiguration.

²⁸ About eight days after he said these words, Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ Just then, two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him! ³¹ They appeared in glory and were talking about his departure, which he was going to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem.

³² Peter and those with him were weighed down with sleep, but when they were completely awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let’s make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not realize what he was saying.

³⁴ While he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them. They were afraid as they went into the cloud. ³⁵ Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” ³⁶ After the voice had spoken, they found Jesus alone. They kept this secret and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

385 Christ Begins (sts.1-3)

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

- † For Destinee Fiecko who holds a call to serve in Doral , FL
- † For Mary Harris who we called to serve as a teacher in the primary grades.
- †
- †
- †
- †
- †

Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Musical Offering

This Brightness, Lord! What Shall I Say

Questions for Examination

- † *Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?*
- † *Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?*
- † *Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?*
- † *Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?*
- † *Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?*
- † *If you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.*

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

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, grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

660 *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

522 Beautiful Savior



Take Home Questions

Exodus 34:29-35 & 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

1. Both Moses' ministry of the law and Paul's ministry of the gospel were glorious. But their glory was not equal. Explain.
2. Discuss the image of the veil from both readings. Why did Moses put on the veil? How did Paul talk about a veil in his own ministry?
3. Based on all the preceding verses, in what ways might we reflect the unveiled glory of the Lord (v. 18) in our everyday lives?

Luke 9:28-36

4. Read Luke 3:15-17,21-23 which is Luke's account of Jesus' baptism. This began the season of Epiphany. What things jump out as notable from this account?
5. Now, reread today's Gospel of Jesus' transfiguration, which ends the season of Epiphany. What is notable from this account?
6. Compare and contrast these two accounts. What do these similarities and differences teach us about Jesus and his work?

Bonus

7. Review the themes from this series of Epiphany Moments below. Which one was the biggest "lightbulb moment" for you? Why?
 - God Delivers More Than We Ask, Not Less
 - Popularity Is Not Proof of Success
 - The Least Qualified Are the First Sent
 - Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed
 - Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good
 - Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study Hour: 1 Peter Wrap Up & Introduction to Apologetics—Defending Your Faith

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Only One Ash Wednesday Service This Year

Mar. 5 | 5:00 pm

We have a new schedule for our midweek Lent worship and fellowship meal. We will have only one Wednesday worship service at 5:00 pm with a meal to follow at 5:45 pm. The first midweek service is this week, Ash Wednesday, March 5. We hope you will attend and join us for supper. The Board of Fellowship will be serving chicken and beef tips.

Teacher Called

On Tuesday, we called Mrs. Mary Harris to serve as a teacher in the primary grades beginning in the fall. Mrs. Harris currently serves St. John's Lutheran School in Saginaw, MI. She and her husband have four children (ages 9-18). Please keep Mrs. Harris and her congregation in your prayers as she deliberates this call.

Family Fun Night This Thursday

Mar. 6 | 5:30 PM

An indoor kickball tournament is planned for the Family Fun Night this Thursday, March 6, 5:30-8:30 pm. Food and drink will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Everyone in the church or school family is welcome to attend.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Mar. 17-21

St. Paul's will be serving at the food pantry the week of March 17. Volunteers are needed to fill grocery orders. The hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday from noon to 3:45 pm and Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:45 pm. If you can help, please contact Kaytlyn Peardot (970-413-0883 or kaytlyn.peardot@gmail.com).

Youth Bowling

Mar. 22 | 1:00 pm

Kick off Spring Break with a fun activity. The Youth Group of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites teens (grades 6-12) to an afternoon of bowling on Saturday, March 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please let them know that you will be coming by contacting Laura Stickel of Good Shepherd at 715-697-8753.



NLHS Production of Peter Pan

Mar. 14-15

The Drama Club at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) will present “Peter Pan” on Friday, March 14 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 15 at 3:00 pm in the NLHS gymnasium. This Children’s Theater adaptation of the J.M. Barrie’s class tale follows the story of the Darling children as they fly away with Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, on a magical and dangerous adventure in Neverland. Tickets are \$5/adult and \$3/children at the door. There will be a concession stand offering treats and drinks to enjoy while watching the performance!



Defending Your Faith

Mar. 9 | 9:15 am

As we engage in apologetics (defending our faith) we recognize that we cannot argue anyone into faith and that no rational argument is foolproof. Our goal is to show love to our neighbor. This Sunday, Pastor Plagenz will do an introduction to a video-based bible study on apologetics. Next Sunday, we will view our first video featuring WLC theology professor, Dr. Michael Berg. Join us from 9:15-10:15 in the cafeteria to learn how to defend your faith!

A Little Bit of Soap, etc.

Mar. 16

Take a peek in our collection box for the hygiene drive and you will see that several people have already donated items like shampoo, toothpaste, and toilet paper. You still have two weeks to make a donation. A complete list of needed items is attached to the collection box.

Easter for Kids Volunteers Needed

April 12

Help us share the good news about Jesus’ victory over death at Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 12. This half-day, VBS-style event needs lots of volunteers especially on the morning of the event. Both leaders and lots of helpers are necessary. Areas include crafts, lesson, music, make-a-snack, games, registration, childcare, lunch, setup & takedown. See the signup sheets on the Ministry Table or look for the link on our website under the Serve tab.

Easter/Lent Concert at NLHS

Mar. 16 | 3:00 pm

Set your hearts and minds for the Lenten season attending the Lent/Easter Concert at NLHS titled “Jesus is Worthy.” The concert will be held on Sunday, March 16 at 3:00pm at Northland Lutheran High School.

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 10 Sisters on a Mission
- Mar. 12 Midweek Lent Service & Meal
- Mar. 14 & 15 Peter Pan at NLHS
- Mar. 16 Lent/Easter Concert at NLHS
- Mar. 17-21 Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry



Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group at the chapel of WR Health Services
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Unified Board Meetings
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
	5:45 PM	Fellowship Meal
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	5:30 PM	Family Fun Night in the cafeteria & gym
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship/3K-K Singing
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 213

Amazing Grace Update

Thru Feb. 16: \$39,236 toward mortgage principal
 Goal: \$125,000 in 125 days (by May 31)

Next Sunday

Theme: Open Door Policies: One Stands; Everyone Else Sits
 Readings: 1 Samuel 17:4-11,32-40,45-49; Hebrews 4:14-16; Luke 4:1-13





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