

## WELCOME!

We are happy you have chosen to worship at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd! Please use this bulletin as a guide for today's liturgy. Join us for treats after worship!

**PARENTS & KIDS:** We have a few special things to help children enjoy worship:

- Children's Chapel is at the back of the sanctuary with a bookshelf filled with books and other activities. You are welcome to bring a Bible into worship with you today!
- In the back of the sanctuary are Joy Bags filled with fun activities for younger kids.
- Come sit in the front of the sanctuary so your child can see everything that's happening!
- Please come up front for the Children's Sermon! (*Parents, you are welcome to come up with your child to help them feel more comfortable.*)

**We love to have children in worship, but we also understand that sometimes kids need a break.**

For more information about LCGS go to [www.lcgsduluth.org](http://www.lcgsduluth.org)

You will find a sign up for a weekly e-mail of events and updates!

**People can give** online by going to [www.onrealm.org/LCGSDuluth/Give](http://www.onrealm.org/LCGSDuluth/Give). You can text LCGSDULUTH to 73256 followed by the gift amount, to give online through text.

Or people can mail their gift to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1325 N 45th Ave E, Duluth, MN 55804.



**LCGS Office is open:** [office@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:office@lcgsduluth.org)

Monday – Thursday 9am-4pm

Friday 9am – noon

**Pastor Lisa Buchanan** is in the office Monday – Wednesday and working from home on Thursdays. Please call/email to make an appointment if you would like to meet with her and have her full attention! [interim@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:interim@lcgsduluth.org) or 218-525-1922

**Katie Rich, Director of Faith Formation**

has varied hours to meet the schedules of families and programs, especially in the summer!

Contact: [KatieRich.lcgs@gmail.com](mailto:KatieRich.lcgs@gmail.com)

**Announcements: Amie Abenth** [communications@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:communications@lcgsduluth.org)



### LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*A Community of Christ Experiencing God, Reaching Out, Nurturing Faith*

1325 North 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue East · Duluth MN 55804

218.525.1922, [office@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:office@lcgsduluth.org), [www.lcgsduluth.org](http://www.lcgsduluth.org)

**Pastor Lisa Flinn Buchanan**

Katie Kaiser Rich- Director of Faith Formation ; Parker Hinnenkamp –Cantor;

Christine Whitcomb- Office Manager;

Amie Abenth- Communications Coordinator- Greg Susens, Rick Guerndt -Custodians

## Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

March 1, 2026



## INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

## PRELUDE

"Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ" (BWV 639) by J. S. Bach

*\*asterisk indicates when stand as able*

## + GATHER +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of (+) Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

## Confirmation Families!

Here is the plan for Confirmation:

- March 4: Confirmation students help lead worship
- March 11: help lead worship
- March 18: help lead worship
- March 25: help lead worship
- April 1: spring break! No Wednesday night worship service, instead, join in our Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday
- April 8: End of the Year Parent Meeting starting at 6:00 pm, here at church
- April 15: End of the Year Activity: Volunteering at Second Harvest! Please meet \*at\* Second Harvest, for a volunteer shift from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Leadership Camp happening at Camp Vermilion June 7-10. This is open to 8th-11th graders but you must apply online! More information here: <https://nemnsynod.org/youth/youthlead/> Good Shepherd is happy to cover the cost of this leadership camp.

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## Sunday School Families,

Please join us at 8:45 am, downstairs in the big, open Fellowship Hall.

For those of you who like to look ahead:

- Sunday, March 1, 8, and 15: Regular Sunday School
- March 22: Easter Gardens and our Prayer Milestone for Kindergarten and 2nd Graders
- March 29: Palm Sunday and our "End of the Year" Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt!
- April 5: Easter Sunday

**Bell Ringing Thank you!**

Christmas is the time when The Salvation Army has the greatest opportunity to do the most good. The Red Kettle campaign is their largest fund raising event. THANK YOU everyone who helped with bell ringing this past holiday season - Jeff Kreager, Marge Kangas, Savannah & Ted & Juniper Blenkush, Dave & Betsy Larsen, Cyndi & Tod Venberg, Missy & Nick Bergman, Patty Altonen, Tom & Pat O'Brien, Marilyn Odean, Peter & Sarah & Emily & Ben Wlosinski, Matt & Mabel Webb, Tom & Julie Seidemann, Nan & Jerry Asperheim, Lois Opseth, and Marcia Semerau. We covered 16 hours at Cub Foods on two Saturdays in December. People were richly blessed as a result of your generous contribution of time and for your giving spirit during this very busy time of year. This is our 26th year of doing Salvation Army bell ringing.



So again, THANK YOU!

Marcia K. Semerau, Reaching Out Leadership Team

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The Salvation Army and those we serve, thank you for volunteering as a bell ringer in 2025. Your gift of time at the Red Kettles helped during the holiday season with Christmas dinners and/or toys and continues to help sustain vital services such as food assistance, transportation, and help with rent and utility costs. Every minute you spent ringing bells contributed to life-changing support for neighbors who need it most.

Here are some highlights:

**You raised \$1,776.91 (\$1.85/minute)**

Red Kettle Campaign Goal: \$215,000.00

Total amount collected: \$288,881.07

Volunteers raised \$148,047.34

Thank you for being a part of our mission of hope and compassion.

Warm regards,

June Stanley, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator

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**Damiano Center serving is Sunday, March 5th.** For many years, the LCGS congregation has supported the Community Kitchen at the Damiano Center through the Hunger Team mission focus. Our serving efforts are broken up into two sessions, a meal preparation session at 1:30pm and a serving session starting at 4:30pm. Sign-up is online on our website "news and activities" page or in our weekly e-newsletter.

**C: Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE

P: Having been made right with God, we are empowered to create peace with our neighbor. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

\*HYMN

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

ELW 337

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SABBATICAL SEND-OFF for Katie Rich

Poem "Beloved Is Where We Begin" by Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*

P: We bring before you Holy One, our sister in Christ, our Director of Faith Formation and friend, Katie Rich. We send her on sabbatical with our earnest prayers, asking your blessing upon her, and upon this congregation that she serves. May this sabbatical be for Katie a time of adventure and discovery. May her travels introduce her to people and places new to her but known to you.

**All: Guide her steps, O God. May she know your accompanying presence on each journey and find you waiting for her, welcoming her, at each destination.**

P: May Katie enjoy, in these weeks away: a release from responsibilities, a child-like curiosity, and a thorough refreshment of body, mind and spirit.

**All: "Come to me," says Jesus, "all you that are weary and are carrying heaven burdens, and I will give you rest... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28 &30)**

P: Grant to her, Gracious God, times of reading, times of play, times of deep contemplation, of rich conversation, of both leisurely dreaming and focused reflection. And enable her to gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation.

**C: Hear your servant when she prays to you, Holy God. Help her to worship you freely, whether in times of solitude, joy or sorrow, in strength or in weakness. Watch over her and draw her close to yourself.**

P: Let us bless Katie... (please raise a hand in blessing)

Eternal God, you fill us with every good thing and your steadfast love endures forever. We thank

you for Katie, her family, and for our life together at Good Shepherd. As she departs for sabbatical, send her forth with your blessing, fill her with your Spirit, and bring her again into our presence with renewed life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Here ends the reading.

PSALM: Psalm 121 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ” ELW 517, v. 2

*Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,  
for you are Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church,  
that we may sing your praise eternally.*

\*GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

P: The holy gospel is from John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter

**C: 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

**We are putting together a church-wide Art Show!**

Holy Art by Everyone

What is Holy Art?

Holy Art can be anything!

Pray or think about God while you paint, draw, collage... get creative!

Pick up a canvas here at church, and return it by/before Sunday, March 15.

There are boxes for both pick up and drop off in the Gathering Space.

These are our Sunday School "To Go" bags this year,

but we'd love to have all ages to participate!

Help the Sunday School kids "Create Church Together" by joining in this intergenerational, church-wide expression of Holy Art

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From CHUM: **Community Education event by Stepping on Up Recognizing & Responding to Neglect, Violence, and Trafficking**

March 5th, 9:00 am -11:00 am - Trinity Lutheran Church

Doors open at 8:30 with a free breakfast!

Parishioners often approach me with expressions of compassion and concerns with how to engage when they encounter people who are homeless or experiencing mental illness or substance use disorder. Trinity Lutheran Church in partnership with Stepping On Up is offering an education series to guide us. This session includes a panel of speakers are from PAVSA, First Witness Child Advocacy Center, and Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center. Register here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5205635>

For other future community education events, check out <https://steppingonupduluth.org/community-education>

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**Laundry Love News**

It was a sad day watching people drag clothes through the snow to find out that the laundromat is closed permanently. Our dedicated volunteers showed up despite this, to tailgate our hot beverages, snacks, and many donated clothing items to poorly clothed people who depend on us. Mike, our “cookie man”, also arrived with treats. Standing outside for 3 hours on a snowy, cold morning seemed fitting.

There was not one complaint or ill word about the loss of service. Only, “thank you’s and gratitude” for coming today with something warm to offer and the promise of a new location. We will continue to provide support people of need in our city with this program and will let you know it’s new location once plans are finalized.



**This year for the Wednesday Lenten services**, the confirmation students will once again be taking charge of the service, while Parker and our gracious vocalists lead the congregation through Holden Evening Prayer. The speakers this year will be from the Call Committee to give us “Visions of What’s Next”.

**Lent worships and Lenten meals!** We hope you will plan to join us each Wednesday of Lent as we celebrate the coming of Easter. The **meal will start our evening out at 5:30** with some warm food and then lead us to a **service at 6:15**, presented by the confirmation youth of the church. This gives us a chance to gather together multi generations of worshipers to spend the evening in fellowship and faith.

Please consider joining us as a guest or jumping in and volunteering to help on February 25 (Sunday school families), March 4 (women’s circle), March 11 (Vision Council) , March 18 (men’s Bible Study), March 25 (choir). There will be sign up sheets for each night in the gathering space and online. Can you help serve? Get together with a sponsor group and bring pizza, potato bar, taco bar, sub sandwiches, appetizers or other convenient meals that feed 50-75 people or bring a crockpot of something warm like soup or hotdish or a donation of buttered bread? Gluten-free and vegetarian options are appreciated. We also need to help clean up after the meal. If you have any questions, connect with Cyndi Venberg at 218-391-8953 or [cyndivenberg@gmail.com](mailto:cyndivenberg@gmail.com).

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**Flex Family Camp at Camp Hiawatha !ALL FAMILIES!** - July 6-10 at Camp Hiawatha [www.vlmcamps.org](http://www.vlmcamps.org) Last year, four families from Good Shepherd went to Flex Family Camp. What we loved about it: you pick how long you want to stay! You can come to camp for just a couple of nights, or all week! You must sign up through VLM (Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry)

but sliding scholarships are available from Good Shepherd (pay what you feel comfortable with, and we can help cover the rest...) Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information. Or, you can check out their website: <https://www.vlmcamps.org/summer-camps/flex-family-camp>

**SUMMER CAMP!** We also love VLM (Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion) for all their summer camp opportunities. Whether that’s family camp, a full week at camp, shorter camp options for younger kids, canoeing, or hockey camp! They have great options, so if you are interested, please check them out.

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**Day Camp 2026 -June 15-18**  
**here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd!**  
**Registration is on our website! [Lcgsduluth.org](http://Lcgsduluth.org)**

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.”

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am” (x3)

ELW 814

COMMISSIONING NEW COUNCIL LEADERS

OFFERING

“Fantasia in G minor” by J. Pachelbel

Give now  
online



\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*John 3:16 prayer by John Birch*)

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity. For God so loved the world,

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned. For God so loved the world,

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come. For God so loved the world

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand. For God so loved the world,

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness. For God so loved the world

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest and king and yet humbled himself to take our place upon the cross. For God so loved the world,

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant and revealed to us the extent of God’s love for humankind. For God so loved the world,

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the shame of death on a cross to the triumph of a savior's resurrection. For God so loved the world,

**C: That all might have eternal life**

L: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son for the sake of me, and you, and other sinners too.

**C: Blest are you Lord Jesus, our savior and redeemer. Amen.**

\*LORD’S PRAYER

**C: 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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

+ SEND +

\*BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, (+) bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

\*SENDING

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN

*“Lord, Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”*

ELW 808

POSTLUDE

*“Prelude and Fugue in E minor” - J. S. Bach*

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**Thank you all our volunteers who signed up this morning and the following who prepare ahead!**

Projections Preparer

Bruce Johnson

Projectionist

Bruce Johnson

Streaming

Brian Fischer

Hospitality

Rachel Perlinger

Next Week: Dona Schafer

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**Did you notice the new candle up front?**

This candle will be on display throughout Katie's sabbatical time. When you see it, we hope you will say a prayer for her, her time away, her family, and our church. Katie is taking three months away from Good Shepherd to focus on rest, renewal, and a Spiritual Direction training program she started last fall. We look forward to her return to worship on Sunday, May 31.

**This Week at LCGS!**

**March 1, Sunday**

8:45AM Sunday School  
9:30AM Worship  
10:30AM Coffee Fellowship

**March 2, Monday**

9:00AM –4:00PM Quilters  
9:00AM Growing Little Loves  
10:30AM Growing Little Loves  
4:00PM Music lessons with Cantor Parker  
6:00pm Bluestone Dance group

**March 3, Tuesday**

9:30AM Growing Little Loves  
4:00PM Music lessons with Cantor Parker  
6:00PM Brass Rehearsal

**March 4, Wednesday**

7:00AM Men’s Bible Study  
9:30AM Growing Little Loves  
11:00AM Funeral Team meeting  
5:30AM Lent supper  
6:15PM Lent worship  
7:00 PM Young Adult “Gather”

**March 5, Thursday**

9:30AM Women’s Faith Study  
9:30AM Growing Little Loves  
1:00PM Al-Anon  
2:30PM Music lessons with Cantor Parker  
7:00PM AA

**March 6, Friday**

8:00AM Women’s “Son”rise Bible Conversation (ZOOM)  
11:30AM Music Lessons with Cantor Parker

**March 7, Saturday**

12:00PM Lake Superior Modern Quilt Guild

**March 8, Sunday**

8:45AM Sunday School  
9:30AM Worship  
10:30AM Coffee Fellowship