

The Third Sunday in Lent Oculi

March 23, 2025



**[Jesus said] “Whoever is not
with me is against me, and
whoever does not gather with
me scatters.”**

(Luke 11:23 ESV)

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome to the Divine Service where the risen Christ comes into our midst to bring us the peace of His cross and empty tomb. We pray that the Lord would grant us His Holy Spirit that His Word would bear the fruits of faith in Christ and works of love toward our neighbor.

The Lord's Supper is a confession that we are united in holding to all the doctrines of God's Word. Those who do not know and hold to the doctrinal commitment of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are requested to attend the Adult Instruction Class for membership before communing at Faith Lutheran Church.

Jesus Overcomes the Strong Man

Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the Word of the Lord (Jer. 26:1–15). So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (Luke 11:14–28). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (Ex. 8:16–24). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord (Eph. 5:1–9). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please remember to silence your cell phones during the Divine Service.)

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Brad and Angela Perry in thanksgiving for their wedding anniversary.

Plan to join us for Midweek Vespers during the penitential season of Lent. A light potluck supper is available at 6:00 p.m. before the service begins at 7:00 p.m. A complete schedule of services is on page 6.

A Special Voters' Assembly has been called for Sunday, March 30 at 12:30 following the Divine Service. All voting members are strongly encouraged to attend to vote on proposed building projects.

Easter Lilies may be purchased from the Women of Wylie (WoW) to beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and may be taken home after the service. They are \$15.00 each and checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church with the memo: "WOW, Easter lily". Sign up today! The deadline to sign up is Sunday, April 13. Contact Sandra Traugott for questions or more information.

WoW is making a last call for books for the Preschool mission work in Belize. Please place your preschooler books in the box displayed in the narthex. Our donation will be shipped early April. We are also continuing our collection of cereal for Amazing Grace Food Pantry. Please drop off your donations in the collection box next to the conference room door in the narthex. When it's full, we will deliver it to the food pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

Save the Date – WoW and the Board of Trustees is calling all volunteers to join in a work day for Spring cleaning the church and grounds, April 12.

Lord of Life is hosting a workshop on *The Fruit of the Spirit* for all Lutheran women in our area on April 26, with registration starting at 9:15am. This is an LWML event, but you don't have to be an active participant in LWML to enjoy this workshop with Bible study and fellowship. The website for the event is: planolutheran.com/rsvp and we would kindly ask all to RSVP by April 6. The cost-sharing for the event is \$12 and does include lunch.

As you plan your summer activities, please keep in mind Vacation Bible School at Faith Plano. VBS will be June 16 – 20 from 9:00 - 12:00 each day. Preschool - 6th grade students are invited to attend. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help. Any questions please contact Mina McDonald at mmcdonald1219@gmail.com.

Book of Ecclesiastes... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon recently started a study on the Book of Ecclesiastes. You can listen on-demand at thewordendures.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

OUR LIFE AS CHRISTIAN STEWARDS

Luke 11:21–22 – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.” Jesus is stronger than Satan and He disarms him for us. But Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with — he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our Stronger Man. He guards and keeps us and ours, and we have none to fear.

UPCOMING WEEK’S EVENTS

SUNDAY	<i>Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)</i>
<i>03/23/25</i>	9:30 AM – Divine Service 11:15 AM – Sunday School / Bible Class 12:15 PM – Adult Instruction
TUESDAY	<i>The Anunciation of our Lord</i>
	9:00 AM – Women’s Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM – Potluck Supper 7:00 PM – Vespers
THURSDAY	10:30 AM – Men’s Bible Study
FRIDAY	9:30 AM – Matins 10:15 AM – Confession and Absolution
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – Altar Guild Workshop

SUNDAY**03/30/25***Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)*

9:30 AM – Divine Service

11:15 AM – Sunday School

11:15 AM – Special Voters' Meeting

12:15 PM – Adult Instruction

PRAYERS

- For all who serve in public safety as police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, that God would protect them, give them courage in danger, and grant them wisdom as they perform their duties, especially Joshan Savage (police officer), Joe Krizan (firefighter and paramedic), Elisabeth Handgraaf, Jonah Underwood (paramedics).
- Birthdays celebrated this week: Norah Gefaller, Sandra Traugott, Chloe Hackbart.
- Baptismal birthdays celebrated this week: Gil Daughtrey, Phyllis Martin, Mike Wright.
- Wedding Anniversaries celebrated this week: Brad and Angela Perry (25), Stephen and Yadshiri Kieser (27).
- Gwen Moore, long-time friend of Gail Sellers, who underwent surgery this past week.
- Emma Casanova, Susan Dickson, Amanda Needham (Todd Hauth's sister), Brianna Mallon, Rachel Rojas, and Mariah Scholz for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- Those struggling with ongoing health issues:
Dony Reaves, Connie Kimber, Tula Sheehan, Devin Jackson, Doug Drawe, Gary Sakko, Deanna, Dana Evans, Greg McClure, Georgette Walter, Dan Kostoff, Jill, Kristina Wishmeyer, Brandon Rhodes, Gaye, JE Purcell, Rush.
- Those struggling with other ongoing needs:
Frank and Antonia, Matt, Michael.

Assisting in the Divine Service Today:

Elder – Gil Daughtrey

Altar: Ellen Horn

Music: Nathan Leicht

3/16/25 General Fund Offerings received: \$5,942.00

Restricted Fund Offerings received: \$0.00

Weekly budget needed: \$4,642.80;

Budget year to date: **deficit: -\$1,538.63**

Calendar year to date: **deficit: -\$1,080.50**



Lenten Schedule

Midweek Services are Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

March 26

Return from Betrayal

John 18:1-11

April 2

Return from Denial

Luke 22:42-62

April 9

Return to the Kingdom of God

John 18:28-38