

Upcoming Events

Sunday 03/30/2025	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:15 AM Bible Class
	10:15 AM Sunday School
	11:15 AM Choir Practice
Monday 03/31/2025	7:00 PM Worship Service
Tuesday 04/01/2025	6:30 PM Mega Meeting
Wednesday 04/02/2025	6:30 PM Lenten Wed. Service
	7:30 PM Mr. Chappell's Class Treats After the Service
Sunday 04/06/2025	9:00 AM Communion
Worship	
Monday 04/07/2025	7:00 PM Communion
Worship	

Attendance

† Sunday Service: 105, Monday Service: 20, Bible Class: 33,
Sunday School: 8, Lenten Worship: 48

Our **Time** to Our Lord

**The spring arbor day for the church & parsonage is
scheduled for April 12th @ 9:30am (weather
permitting). Volunteers are welcome.**

Thank You! Mrs. Einhardt's class wishes to thank all who donated to their free will offering at the ice cream social. They collected \$93.00

April 2 Lent Fellowship: Wednesday April 2, Mr. Chappell's class will be providing a Popcorn Night **after** our Lent service. All are invited to come and share food and fellowship served by our 4th-8th grade students!

✚ The free will offering will go towards helping fund the upper grade class trip at the end of the year!

April 9th Lent Fellowship: Wednesday April 9th is our last Lent fellowship before Holy Week. We will be having a Casserole Potluck Dinner at 5PM before our service that evening. A signup sheet is posted in the entryway at church. Contact Rose Walker with any questions. All are invited to come and share food and fellowship.

✚ A free will offering will be gathered and will be given to the **Technology Fund at School.**

Thank you to all who have volunteered for and attended our Lent fellowships!

MLS Homecoming Concert: The Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert

The choir will present their Homecoming Concert on **Sunday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m.** in the MLS Chapel.
Palm Sunday: Palm Sunday the LES students will be singing a song called "*Sing Hosanna to Jesus.*"

Our **Talents** to Our Lord

APRIL SERVERS

April Sunday Ushers: Paul and Silas Schultz, Carter Korthals, Eric Korthals

April Communion Elder: Paul Schultz

April Finance: Gabe Fall, Sam Korthals, Carter Korthals

April Altar Guild: Kerri Hubbard and Jennifer LaPratt

Organist: Olivia Marker



Our **Treasures** to Our Lord

Last Week's Budgetary Gifts: \$2,995.00

Sunday School: \$14.00

Special Gift: \$100.00

School Smart Boards: \$5.00

All mission minded ladies, men, and students are invited to join us for the morning presentation, a noon luncheon and fellowship, Business meeting to follow.

THUMB CIRCUIT SPRING RALLY April 12, 2025

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH 3169 North Branch Rd. North Branch, MI 48461

Registration – 9:00 AM

Welcome! We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255-258 in the hymnal.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.

www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

Setting 1: pg. 154

810 The First Song of Isaiah

CW 810

Ref Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

- 1 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
“Give thanks to the Lord and
call upon his name.” (Refrain)
- 2 Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord for he has done great
things
and this is known in all the world. (Refrain)
- 3 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel. (Refrain)

Text: The Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer, 1976

Text: © 1976 Charles Mortimer Guilbert, custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer. Used by permission: License no. 1300010

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

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 Be to God on High

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
 You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; 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

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹In that day you will say:

I will give thanks to you, LORD,
 for though you were angry with me,

your anger has turned away,
and you comfort me.

²Surely God is my salvation.
I will trust him and will not be afraid,
because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song,
and he has become my salvation.

³Therefore with joy you will draw water from the
wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:
Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.
Declare among the peoples what he has done.
Proclaim that his name is exalted!

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing
things!

Let this be known in all the earth!

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

32 How Blest Are Those

Psalm 32

¹ How blest are those the LORD forgives;
how glad they are to hear
their sin is gone, their guilt atoned,
their record clean and clear.

- 2 I silently concealed my guilt,
but then I groaned all day:
your heavy hand, like summer heat,
took all my strength away.
- 3 I then confessed my sin to you,
my grievous guilt and shame,
and you forgave my wickedness
by your most gracious name.
- 4 Let all the faithful pray to you
while you may still be found;
you place them safe above the flood,
secure on higher ground.
- 5 You hide me, LORD; you hold me fast
in all adversity,
surrounding me with faithful love
and songs of victory.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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Second Reading

Romans 8:1–10

¹So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For in Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴so that the righteous

decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

⁵To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. ⁶Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Luke 15:1–3,11–32

¹All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³He told them this parable:

¹¹Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! ¹⁸I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰He got up and went to his father.

“While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. ²¹The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate.

²⁵“His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷The servant told him, ‘Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹“He answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

³¹“The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³²But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

576 Amazing Grace

CW 576

- 1 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.
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
 his Word my hope secures;
 he will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
 ’tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.
- 4 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.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Isaiah 12:1-6

Praise the LORD with Isaiah

I. Because his anger is gone (1)

II. Because fear is gone (2-3)

III. Because people need to know (4-6)

(Stand)

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

611 Joyously I'll Praise My Savior

CW 611

1 Joyously I'll praise my Savior;
for my God I'll gladly sing,
as I see his loving favor
evident in ev'rything.
In his faithful heart is beating
love that's pure and wide and long,
love that makes his servants strong.
All I see on earth is fleeting;
God's amazing love for me
lasts for all eternity.

- 2 God, with firm and clear conviction,
 gave for me his precious Son,
by whose bloody crucifixion
 I from hell have now been won.
O you spring of love prevailing,
 depth of which I'll never know,
 current which will ever flow.
All I see on earth is failing;
 God's amazing love for me
 lasts for all eternity.
- 3 God had seen my sad condition,
 gave me sight when I was blind;
he will be my great physician,
 healing body, soul, and mind.
When it seems it's not worth trying—
 all my skill gets nothing done—
 Jesus helps me carry on.
All I see on earth is dying;
 God's amazing love for me
 lasts for all eternity.
- 4 Since your love is never-ending,
 far beyond what words can say,
up to you my hands extending,
 Father, as your child, I pray:
Let your grace to me be given

that I may with all my might
 cling to you both day and night
 till I see your face in heaven
 where my praise and love will be
 yours for all eternity.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

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(Stand)

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.**

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 ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

706 Come unto Me, Ye Weary

CW 706

1 “Come unto me, ye weary,
and I will give you rest.”

O blessèd voice of Jesus,
which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction,
of pardon, grace, and peace,
of joy that has no ending,
of love that cannot cease.

2 “Come unto me, ye wand’ers,
and I will give you light.”

O loving voice of Jesus,
which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
and we had lost our way,
but thou hast brought us gladness
and songs at break of day.

- 3 “Come unto me, ye fainting,
and I will give you life.”
O cheering voice of Jesus,
which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager,
the fight is fierce and long,
but thou hast made us mighty
and stronger than the strong.
- 4 “And whosoever cometh,
I will not cast him out.”
O patient love of Jesus,
which drives away our doubt,
which, though we be unworthy
of love so great and free,
invites us very sinners
to come, dear Lord, to thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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