

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

Service Notes:

Hymns: 602, 401, 394, 404, 400, 631, 409
 Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15
 Epistle: Romans 1:8-17
 Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:1-13
 Sermon: "Under His Authority" Matthew 8:1-13

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Day	Date	Time	Attendance
Thursday	01/12	6:30 p.m.	31
Sunday	01/15	8:00 a.m.	97
		10:45 a.m.	47

FLOWERS are given in celebration of Mike Wang's 70th birthday.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing.

NEW MEMBERS We are happy to receive Paul and Karen Stubler, and James and Paizleigh Nizinski into membership at Our Father's during Thursday's service. Welcome to our congregation!

BAND CONCERT The Lutheran High School Association invites you to the Honor Band Concert on Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. Select band members from Milwaukee Lutheran, Martin Luther, and Lake Country Lutheran High Schools will perform wonderful band music, directed by Dr. Jeffrey Doebler, Band Director at Valparaiso University. The concert will be held in Lake Country Lutheran's Performing Arts Center (401 Campus Drive, Hartland, WI 53029). A free-will offering will be received.

LENTEN SERVICES See the insert for changes to this year's Lenten services.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is hosting its convention at the Wisconsin Center (Milwaukee) June 22-25, 2023. They are looking for youth volunteers and an adult supervisor for four-hour shifts during one or more of the days. The youth would help either with travelers or at the convention itself. If some youth and an adult supervisor would like to help, contact Michelle Prince at LWMLMichellePrince@gmail.com by April 15, 2023. Please include contact information and expected number of available workers.

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE will collect mite boxes on January 29, the *last* Sunday of the month. Mite boxes can be left at any time in the mite box in the narthex.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	01/22	DIVINE SERVICES	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
		Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday	01/24	Board of Directors Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	01/25	Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Thursday	01/26	DIVINE SERVICE	6:30 p.m.
Sunday	01/29	DIVINE SERVICES	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
		Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
		Voters' Assembly Meeting	following second service

WE PRAY for Karen Awe, Michael Borchardt, Sr., Edward Brook (father of Al Brook), Janet Brown, Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Kevin Coerper, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Judy Hanson, Jessica Hetts (niece of Virginia Scholz), Elaine Howe, Elaine Jenson, Jackie Johnson (mother of Don Johnson), Michelle Johnson, Konnie Otto, Angeline Pence, Jeff Pfander (brother of Todd Pfander), David Schneider (grandfather of Leilani Huddleston), Virginia Scholz, Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Michael Villarreal (uncle of Leilani Huddleston), and Joan Wolffersdorff (sister-in-law of Donna Metzfeld).

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING The January Voters' Assembly meeting will be held after the second service on Sunday, January 29.

SCRIP The next order due date is Sunday, **February 5**. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are located in the narthex and church/school office. Place your order and check made out to Our Father's in one of the boxes, *OR* you may order online with the Presto Pay Plan at www.shopwithscrip.com. The website has a list of participating retailers. **Please note that the website name has changed to raiseright.com, but the shopwithscrip.com link will still get you to the correct page to view vendors or place your order.** Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Want to make a difference in the world? There is no greater impact we can make on the world than to train and mold future generations! Our Father's Lutheran Childcare is seeking qualified applicants for lead teacher positions who enjoy working with young children! Both part-time and full-time positions are available. If you are interested, contact Amanda or Michelle at (414) 282-9057 for more information.

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH GATHERING THIS SUMMER! This summer, July 18-21, there is a Lutheran youth gathering taking place in southern Illinois that will strengthen you in your faith and respond to the criticisms of the world against Christ's Word. Area LCMS congregations will be forming a group to travel together. If you are interested in this, please speak with your Pastor/Youth Leader . . . Or you can contact Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church at (414) 795-9005. You can find more information at higherthings.org. Just click

on “Events” at the top of the page. The Bible is not a fairy tale. Come and be built up in your faith!

CONGOLESE MISSION OPPORTUNITY Our Father’s Lutheran School is privileged to have thirteen Congolese children attending our school this year. We can help support them in their daily needs of transportation, food, and clothing. If you would like to become a monthly sponsor and provide a monetary gift to support the Congolese or just provide a special contribution over and above your usual giving, you can use your Mission envelope found in your weekly offering envelope box or use a plain white envelope and label it “Congolese Mission.” This money will also help provide the children with daily school lunches. If you would like to volunteer to help plan or serve these lunches, please call the school office.

2023 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP The charts are now up in the narthex. Please consider signing up to sponsor flowers for the altar or bulletins in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special date or event. We are able to accommodate two flower donations and one bulletin donation per week. The cost for each is \$25. Write a separate check to Our Father’s Lutheran Church and put it in an envelope labeled on the outside *for flowers* OR *for bulletins*. This envelope may be placed *in the offering collection* OR *dropped off in the church office*.

CLASS OF 2023 COOKBOOKS The Eighth Grade Class is selling cookbooks, “*OFLS Class of 2023 Favorite Recipes*,” as a fundraiser for their trip to St. Louis. The books are \$13 with a collection of hundreds of favorite recipes. Contact an 8th grade student or the church/school office regarding purchasing a cookbook. Thank you for your continued support for this trip. The Class of 2023: Sebe, Orlando, Danny, Henry, Joshua, Mayah, Amber, Alivia, Brayden, and Mariah

***OUR FATHER’S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE CENTER***

6025 South 27th Street
Greenfield, WI 53221
www.ofls.org

Rev. Dr. Mark Nuckols, Pastor
mnuckols@ourfatherslutheran.org
Church Phone: (414) 282-8220
Pastor’s Phone: (512) 466-3840

Mr. Bob Cahill, Interim Principal
Office Phone: (414) 282-7500

Mrs. Amanda McGraw/Mrs. Michelle Sroka, Childcare Co-Directors
Office Phone: (414) 282-9057

THE READINGS AND PSALMODY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 5:1-15 (ESV)

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." ⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'"

¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant."

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

Romans 1:8-17 (ESV)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 8:1-13 (ESV)

¹ When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ⁵ When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith." ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 110:1-4 (ESV)

¹ A Psalm of David. The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." ² The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! ³ Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. ⁴ The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

INTROIT

The heavens proclaim his | righteousness,*
and all the peoples see his | glory.

For you, O LORD, are most high over | all the earth;*
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

The LORD reigns, let the | earth rejoice;*
let the many coast- | lands be glad!

O you who love the LORD, hate | evil!*

He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of
the | wicked.

Light is sown for the | righteous,*
and joy for the up- | right in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, O you | righteous,*
and give thanks to his | holy name!

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.

The heavens proclaim his | righteousness,*
and all the peoples see his | glory.

For you, O LORD, are most high over | all the earth;*
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

Psalm 97:1, 10-12; antiphon: vv. 6, 9

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

“Under His Authority”
January 22 through January 28, 2023

Jesus comes down from the mountain as Moses came down from seeing the burning bush to lead the great crowd of people out of Egypt. Moses asked for a sign to show the people that he was chosen by God. That sign was the hand that first was leprous and then clean. Later Miriam would first be made leprous for her sin and then made clean. Now Jesus, the One greater than Moses, wills to take away the leprosy, the stain of sin as we sing in an Epiphany hymn, from all men through His atoning work on the new mountain of Golgotha. He is calling the priests and all men to believe that He is the healer of the nations. So the centurion, a Gentile, becomes the one who confesses faith in Jesus who will have all authority in heaven and earth given to Him after His death and resurrection. So now the Church baptizes so that many who confess that they are not worthy will come from the east and the west to join Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

THE CREED

VERSE: ²⁰ It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20 (ESV)**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 114

PSALMODY PRAYER: O Lord, You showed forth Your power at the crossing of the Red Sea and now You deliver us through the waters of Holy Baptism. Help us daily to die to sin and be raised to live in the way of truth. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Genesis 43:1-34
Tuesday	Genesis 44:1-17
Wednesday	Genesis 44:18-45:3
Thursday	Genesis 45:4-28
Friday	Genesis 46:1-27
Saturday	Matthew 17:1-9

CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." *Romans 6:4*

Luther, on Genesis 15:6 (1536): Faith is the mother, so to speak, from whom that crop of virtues springs. If faith is not there first, you would look in vain for those virtues. If faith has not embraced the promises concerning Christ, no love and no other virtues will be there, even if for a time hypocrites were to paint what seem to be likenesses of them. Therefore, the promise must be distinguished from the Law. The promise requires faith; the Law, works. The promise is certain and reliable, and is surely carried out, because God carries it out. But the Law is not carried out, because we, who try to fulfill it, are human beings, that is, weak sinners. Accordingly, our righteousness does not depend on the Law and works, because we cannot perfectly fulfill the Law; it depends on the promise, which is sure and unalterable.

Therefore, this promise is surely carried out and fulfilled when faith takes hold of it; and it follows with infallible logic that faith alone justifies, inasmuch as faith alone accepts the promise. The Law and works do not justify; yet Law and works must be taught and performed, in order that we may become aware of our wretched state and accept grace all the more eagerly. (*LW 3:25-26*)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord's Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

OR

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: *LSB 402 "The Only Son from Heaven"*
(stanza 3)

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

January 29, 2023
"Listen to Him"

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 414, 413, 402, 810, 637, 639, 417

READINGS

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Why does Matthew tell us that this happened after six days? It was on the sixth day that God made man, and it was on the sixth day that our Lord would be crucified. God has become man that He might restore His creation. Christ's face shines like the sun, even as Moses' face when he had gone into the Presence of the Lord. Moses and Elijah appear with Him for they are figures of death and resurrection. Moses goes up a mountain to die and is buried by God where no man can find him. Moses had seen the glory of God while God hid him in the crack of a rock. Elijah was taken to heaven without death as a mark of our own resurrection and ascension through Christ. Elijah had also seen the glory of God in the still small voice. The bright cloud comes over them, just as the cloud of glory had filled the tabernacle and later the temple. God is present in Christ, whose body is the new temple. The disciples fear the voice they hear on the mountain, just as the Israelites feared the voice of the Law at Mt. Sinai, but Jesus speaks the comforting word of the Gospel and of His coming resurrection. The voice from heaven directed them to hear Jesus. Peter remembers those very words in his Second Epistle when he counsels his readers that all Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit. In the Scriptures, we hear Jesus yet today. When a child is baptized, we hear Jesus. When the Supper is celebrated, we hear Jesus. When the pastor proclaims the absolution, we hear Jesus. In the glorious appearance of Elijah and Moses, we see what Christ has prepared for His hearers in heaven.

New Changes Effective February 22, 2023

The Elders along with Pastor have decided to try some different service changes as we approach the season of Lent, in order to help Pastor out with his responsibilities.

Change Midweek Lenten Services:

As in Advent, we will continue to have only one midweek Lenten service, but the time will change to 6:30pm and the day will “move” to Thursdays. During the season of Lent, these Thursday evening Midweek Lenten Services will include Communion and be uniquely Lenten in themes, texts and hymns. They will not be a repeat of the Sunday before or after.

There will be no light meals during Lent, as it is very difficult to engage groups to sponsor and serve the six meals of Lent.

After Easter, the Elders along with Pastor will reevaluate these service changes.

Midweek Lenten Services at 6:30pm with Communion:

- Ash Wednesday, February 22 (No Thursday evening service on February 23)
- Thursday, March 2
- **Wednesday, March 8 at 4:30pm Vespers Service with no Communion**
(Children in 3-8th grade will be singing. We will find volunteers to sponsor a meal after this service only.)
- Thursday, March 9
- Thursday, March 16
- Thursday, March 23
- Thursday, March 30

Holy Week Services at 6:30pm:

- Maundy Thursday, April 6 with Communion
- Good Friday, April 7 with no Communion

Easter Services on Sunday, April 9: (No Easter breakfast, Sunday

School or Bible Class)

- Sunrise Matins at 6am - No Communion
- Divine Services at 8:00am and 10:00am with Communion

Any questions, please contact Dave Felber
davidfelber1@gmail.com