



***Our Mission...*** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to the changing of lives through Jesus Christ by helping others find salvation in Jesus Christ.

**AS WE GATHER:** When Ezra read the Law to the Jews who had recently returned from exile, they heard it gladly. It was yet another time when God's grace was apparent to His people. He who created mankind, promised salvation when sin entered the world. He led His people out of slavery in Egypt and gave them the Promised Land. He even brought them out of exile, just as He had promised. The story of salvation reaches its pinnacle when Jesus boldly announces the Good News (in today's Gospel) and then, suffers and dies on the cross. The new life we have through the death and resurrection of Jesus gives us reason to rejoice and delight! **GUESTS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME**

**OPENING SONG** "Ancient Words"

**Holy words long preserved, For our walk in this world  
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart**

**Words of life words of hope, Give us strength help us cope  
In this world where'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home**

*Chorus:* **Ancient words ever true, Changing me changing you  
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart**

**Holy words of our faith, Handed down to this age  
Came to us through sacrifice, O heed the faithful words of Christ**

**Holy words long preserved, For this walk in this world  
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart *Chorus 2x***

**We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart  
O let the ancient words impart**

**THE BAPTISM OF MACKENZIE LYNN WEISS**

*LSB; page 268*

## SONG OF PRAISE

“Your Grace Finds Me”

**It's there in the newborn cry There in the light of every sunrise  
There in the shadows of this light Your great grace**

**It's there on the mountaintop There in the everyday and the mundane  
There in the sorrow and the dancing Your great grace Oh, such grace**

*Refrain:* **From the creation to the cross Then from the cross into eternity  
Your grace finds me Yes, Your grace finds me**

**It's there on a wedding day There in the weeping by the graveside  
There in the very breath we breathe Your great grace**

**Same for the rich and poor The same for the saint and for the sinner  
Enough for this whole wide world Your great grace Oh, such grace** *Refrain*

**There in the darkest night of the soul There in the sweetest songs of victory  
Your grace finds me Yes, Your grace finds me  
Your great grace, O such grace Your great grace O such grace**

**So I'm breathing in Your grace And I'm breathing out Your praise  
I'm breathing in Your grace Forever I'll be**

**Breathing in Your grace And I'm breathing out Your praise  
I'm breathing in Your grace Forever I'll be**

**Breathing in Your grace And I'm breathing out Your praise  
I'm breathing in Your grace Forever, God. Forever, God!  
Oh, Your grace finds me; Yes, Your grace finds me!**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 (*Ezra reads the Word of God.*)

**8** <sup>1</sup> all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

<sup>2</sup> So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup> He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

<sup>5</sup> Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. <sup>6</sup> Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup> They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

<sup>9</sup> Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

<sup>10</sup> Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 4:16–30 (*Jesus declares Himself to be the promised One.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup> “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SERMON SONG “I Will Follow”

**Where you go, I'll go Where you stay, I'll stay  
When you move, I'll move I will follow...**

**All Your ways are good; All Your ways are sure. I will trust in You alone.  
Higher than my sight, High above my life, I will trust in You alone.**

*Chorus:* **Where You go, I'll go Where You stay, I'll stay  
When You move, I'll move I will follow You  
Who You love, I'll love How You serve, I'll serve  
If this life I lose I will follow You, yeah; I will follow You, yeah.**

**Light unto the world Light unto my life I will live for You alone.  
You're the One I seek Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone, In You alone** *Chorus*

**In You there's life everlasting In You there's freedom for my soul  
In You there's joy unending joy And I will follow**

**Where You go, I'll go Where You stay, I'll stay  
When You move, I'll move I will follow  
Who You love, I'll love How You serve, I'll serve  
If this life I lose I will follow** *Chorus*

**I will follow You, yeah; I will follow You, yeah.**

**SERMON** “Delight in the Lord” Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord for His church, for all Christians, and for everyone as they have need.

*Silence for prayer and meditation.*

Pastor: God of mercy, You have made known to us Your Word, and from that Word we have come to know Jesus. Guard our unity in Christ, and give us the Holy Spirit, that we may work together in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Send down upon Your church the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in the confession of Your name. Keep us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who confess your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Hear the prayers of those who cry out to You in any need or want and daily and richly supply Your people with all they need for this body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give ear to Your people and to those who govern in every place, that we may enjoy the blessing of good government and good leaders and so reflect this gift by faithful stewardship of Your gifts and good citizenship wherever we live. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lift up those who have been brought low by illness, affliction, a troubled heart or mind, or grief over the loss of those whom they love, that Your grace may support, defend, and heal them in the day of trouble. We remember especially . . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: By the power of Your Holy Spirit, bring us to repentance and faith that no sin may prove harmful to us and we may be strengthened and nourished in faith by this Holy Communion with the body and blood of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Though we have every treasure of this moment, without Your grace we live in poverty of life and spirit. Grant to us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a grateful heart to give thanks to You for all Your kindness to us, and inspire us to be faithful in our offerings and generous to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,  
People: **hear our prayer.**

*(Special petitions may be offered here.)*

Pastor: As You are one, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make us one people on earth, united in the confession of Your name, until that day when every barrier and division shall be overcome and Your church on earth and Your church in heaven shall be one forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.  
People: **Amen.**

**OFFERING** *(Please sign the Friendship Register.)*

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and eternal God, we give You thanks for all Your goodness given to the children of men, who deserve none of Your kindness because of sin. You did not abandon Your creation to the dominion of sin or death but united us in Christ, our Savior. His death, which gives us life, and His resurrection never to die again have paid the price of our sin once for all and restored us to You. Grant to us the gift and blessing of unity that we may confess without doubt the truth of Your Word, the testament of Christ crucified, and His resurrection from the dead. What we here confess in words, let us also receive faithfully in the communion of His body and blood, according to His own promise.  
People: **Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** “Joy in the Morning”

**Everything happens for a reason But you don't know what you don't know  
And you'll never have peace If you don't let go of tomorrow  
'Cause it ain't even faith Till your plans fall apart  
But you still choose to follow If it doesn't make sense right now  
It will when it's over**

**There will be joy in the morning There will be joy in the morning**

**Giving in to your feelings Is like drowning in the shallows  
Oh you got to keep believing Even in the middle of the unknown  
'Cause grace will be there When you come to the end of your rope  
And you let go It may feel like you're going down now  
But the story isn't over**

**There will be joy in the morning There will be joy in the morning  
If it's not good then He's not done No He's not done with it yet  
There will be joy in the morning *Repeat***

**If it's not good then He's not done No He's not done with it yet  
If it's not good then He's not done No He's not done with it yet *Repeat***

**There will be joy in the morning There will be joy in the morning  
If it's not good then He's not done No He's not done with it yet  
There will be joy in the morning There will be joy in the morning  
There will be joy in the morning**

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave,  
From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high! *Repeat***

**Lord, I lift you name on high! Lord, I lift your name on high  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave,  
From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high!  
I lift you name on high! Lord, I lift you name  
Oh Lord, I lift you name on high! Lord, I lift you name on high!**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING *Psalm 118:1*

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
People: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

“There Is a Redeemer”

**There is a Redeemer Jesus, God’s own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.**

*Refrain:* **Thank you, O my Father, For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done.**

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face;  
There I’ll serve my King forever In that holy place.** *Refrain 2x*

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.  
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## January 26, 2025

### 🌀 WEEKLY CALENDAR 🌀

<u>WED</u>	8:30am 7:30pm	Northwest Chapel Dartball	<u>THURS</u>	10:00am	Bible Study
			<u>FRI</u>	7:30pm	AA Meeting

### 🌀 NEW THIS WEEK 🌀

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers have been given to the glory of God by Pastor Steve and Sherry Voigt in celebration of the birthday of Sherry’s mom, Sue Mowbray.

#### GOD’S BLESSINGS

God’s blessings to Marion Braatz who will celebrate her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Thursday, January 30.

#### BAPTIZED TODAY – MACKENZIE LYNN WEISS

Mackenzie Lynn Weiss, the daughter of Michael and Abigail Weiss, will be baptized during the worship service today. Mackenzie’s sponsors are Mary and Alex Robson. We welcome Mackenzie into our family of faith at Covenant.

#### END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

End-of-year financial statements are in the church mailboxes. Please take a look at your statement and check for accuracy. If you have any questions, please call the church office Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thanks for supporting the mission of Covenant!

#### ALTAR FLOWERS - 2025

The Altar Flower Chart for 2025 is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you would like to purchase altar flowers, please sign-up on the flower chart today and indicate if you are giving the flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion. Cost is \$27 and should be paid prior to the selected date by check or by scanning the online QR code below. ***There are still openings on the Altar Flower Chart for February and March.***

#### HOLY COMMUNION

We want all who commune with us to share our understanding of this sacrament; that Jesus offers His true body and blood for our forgiveness and salvation. (See 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.) If you are a visitor and wish to receive communion today, please speak with the pastor prior to the service. Gluten free wafers are available. We also offer alcohol-free wine for communion.

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## MEETINGS & EVENTS

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### LEMONADE DAY FUNDRAISER – JANUARY 27 & 28

Northwest is hosting a Lemonade Day fundraiser on Monday, January 27, and Tuesday, January 28, to support Childhood Cancer and Children’s Hospital. They will be selling lemonade, frozen lemonade, and walking nachos. Covenant members are invited to stop by between 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM on both days to enjoy these treats while supporting a great cause. We hope to see you there!

### LWML MITE BOX SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 2

Sunday, February 2, will be LWML Mite Box Sunday. Please bring your Mite Box contributions and place them into the Mite Box on the table in the narthex. The total collected for January was \$169.24. Thank you for supporting LWML!

### COMMUNION SERVICE – FEBRUARY 5

The monthly communion service will be Wednesday, February 5, at 1:30 p.m. This service is designed for those who can’t get to church on Sunday morning, but all are welcome! Please join us for worship and fellowship and refreshments after.

### A PLACE OF REFUGE ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 16

The annual meeting for *A Place of Refuge Ministries*, our Milwaukee area LCMS ministry to pregnant women in need, is scheduled for **Sunday, February 16, 2025, 4:00pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 53227 W Washington Blvd., Milwaukee.** Presiding Minister – Rev. Michael Schlieder, Preacher – Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director, Lutherans of Life, Lector – Rev. Donald Hougard, Crucifer – Rev. Brandon Koble, and Kantor – Rev. Stephen Rosebrook.

Area LCMS Churches may be represented by one pastor and one lay delegate. Other guests especially APOR volunteers and supporters, are also invited to join for this blessed celebration of sanctity of life. All friends of *A Place of Refuge* are invited. Registration via email: [apor.ministries.swd.apor@gmail.com](mailto:apor.ministries.swd.apor@gmail.com) or call 414-760-2483.

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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### DISASTER RELIEF – CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

LCMS Disaster Response is on the ground in the Los Angeles area, assessing the damage and providing assistance. If you would like to make a donation to help those affected, please donate at [www.lcms.org/givenow/wildfires](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/wildfires). Thank You!

### BOILER FUND

Seider Heating will install a new two-boiler system as soon as possible with an approximate cost of \$77,000. We still need another \$5,000 to fully fund this project. If you are able to give an extra gift to help cover the cost of the new boiler system, please use the “Boiler Fund” envelopes found in the narthex. Boiler Fund has also been added to the online giving. Thank you!

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## BIBLE STUDIES

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God provides power and strength for our daily lives through His Word. All members and friends are invited to join a Bible study group.

“Book of Exodus”	led by Bob Zeman	8:30am
“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”	led by Tom Buck and Jess Hardel	8:30am
“The Scriptures for the Day”	led by Pastor Voigt	10:45am
“Jr. Conf.” (5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> gr.)	led by Karen Winefeld	10:45am
“Galatians”	led by Pastor Voigt	Thursday 10:00am

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## PRAYER

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### PRAYER TEAM

The Prayer Team lifts up prayers to God every week. This is a huge blessing as there are so many needs in our world, our nation, our communities, our congregation, and among our families and friends. The Prayer Team is looking for more members to join the group. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Voigt or Jane Buck.

### JOIN THE COVENANT PRAYER CHAIN!

Are you interested in joining Covenant's Prayer Chain? What must you do? Pray for the people on the prayer list! It's very easy! When you get the phone call to say a prayer, you simply call the next person on the list and pass on the prayer request. Or, if you have an email address, you will receive the prayer request through email. No phone call needed. If you are interested in joining Covenant’s Prayer Warriors, please contact Nancy Keck at 414-461-3671.

### JUDY WILL PRAY WITH YOU

If you need to pray with someone, Judy Omet would be honored to pray with you. Please call her anytime at 262-255-0725. Leave a message and she’ll call you back. All information is confidential.

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**PREACHER:** Rev. Steve Voigt

**A/V COORDINATOR:** Alyssa Gottsacker

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** Peter Buck & Jerry Anson

**READER:** Lean Meyer

**GREETERS:** Len & Mary Ernst

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**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday, January 19 - 54

**COUNTERS:** Team 2

**OFFERINGS:** Current - \$7,790.00; Special - \$693.00; Needed Weekly - \$9,910.81  
Boiler Fund Total: \$3,550.00



# SERMON OUTLINE

## “Delight in the Lord”

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

**Introduction:** During the time of the Babylonian Captivity, Nehemiah received permission to lead a group of Jewish exiles back to their homeland to repair the walls of Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Our text takes us to the time when Ezra gathered the people together and read for them the books of Moses.

### I. The Word of God brings a response of joy and thanksgiving.

- The Israelites who heard the Word of God responded by shouting “Amen!” and worshiping the Lord.
- What is our response to the Word of God? The message of Scripture should be as captivating and exciting for us as it was for Ezra’s audience.

### II. God made the world and everything in it.

- The other cultures around Moses – Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia – viewed the sun, moon, and stars and a host of other things as gods who controlled the events on earth.
- Moses declares that there is one God who created the universe.
- Human beings are not the product of chance or evolution. Adam and Eve are the crown of God’s creation, created in His image.

### III. We are part of God’s salvation story.

- God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. He brought the exiles back from captivity in Babylon. God will also deliver us from our problems and troubles and lead us home.
- God fulfilled His promise to send a Savior. By faith we know Jesus as the Son of God who died and rose again to save us from sin and death. The message of God’s Word is so wonderful, we share it with all people!

# WEEKLY PRAYER SHEET

## January 26, 2025

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“Pray continually in all circumstances, for this is God’s will in Christ Jesus.” *(1 Thess. 5:17-18)*

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I will pray for:

1. Fred Tolzmann – Aurora West Allis Hospital; Audrey Wilde who is at Ascension Franciscan for rehab after a fall at home.
2. Those recovering from illness, injury or surgery including Kenneth Kosche, Pee Wee Schmidt, and Pastor Ron Meyer.
3. Those receiving treatment for cancer – Don Centgraf, son of Loretta, Dawn, the daughter of Diana Gutknecht, Joel Smith, Gail Tatro, Bonnie Gellert, and Ron Schroeder.
4. Those with long-term care needs – Jadee Krueger, Jana McDonnell, Marcia Hottinger, Mario Carini, Eric Winn, Dennis Eiff, Betty Rasmussen, Carol Munz, Henrietta Cloyd, Marion Braatz, Tyler Yang, Odessa Flagg, Dylan Wangard, Herb Onasch, Beth Sellars, and Jonathan Tock, grandson of Mario and Karen Carini.
5. The President and other elected and appointed leaders of our nation, state, and communities, those who serve in the Armed Forces of our nation including Covenant member Jonathan Buck and Andrew Tock, grandson of Mario and Karen Carini; fire fighters and police officers who serve and protect our local communities.
6. The mission of the Church; missionaries Pastor David and Valerie Federwitz who are serving with Lutheran Bible Translators; Pastor Matt and Kali Wood who are back in Indonesia to continue their mission work there.
7. Those affected by natural disasters like hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, floods, and the California wildfires, political unrest, victims of injustice, violence, and abuse; the poor and homeless, those affected by war in Ukraine and war in the Middle East.
8. Those celebrating birthdays this week: Ken Rasch and Marion Braatz.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

*We pray that as we take advantage of God’s invitation, we will truly be a congregation that is Powerful in Prayer*