

Pilate Washes His Hands

(Pilate se lave les mains)

James Tissot - 1836-1902

Brooklyn Museum

LENT FOUR

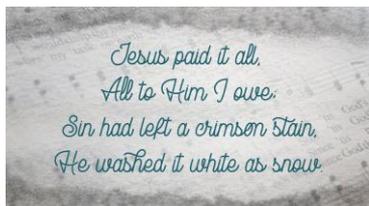
Living Hope Lutheran March 15, 2026

LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

3100 East Calumet Street • Appleton, Wisconsin

appletonlutheran.com



Divine Worship. . . . 2pm

Bible Study . . . 3pm

Andrew A. Schaller, Vacancy Pastor

Cell: (605) 880-7886

LENT THREE

March 8, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 31 (LSB);

PRAYERS: Before Worship (Inside Cover, LSB);

After Worship (Insider Cover, LSB).

HYMNS: LSB 449:1-3 LSB 435 LSB 422 LSB 449:4

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN:

LSB 449:1-3 - "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT (Setting 2, WS Pg. 12)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Congregation: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

- C: ♪ Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, have mercy on us.
 Lord, have mercy on us.
- C: ♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
 We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.
- ♪ Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
 Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.
- ♪ Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
 At God's right hand in majesty most high:
 Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
 With all the heav'n-ly host we glorify.

Pastor: Let us pray...through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." **C: Amen.**

OT LESSON:

ISAIAH 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

EPISTLE:

2 CORINTHIANS 7:4-10

⁴I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

⁵For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. ⁶But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you,

as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸ For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. *

GOSPEL:

JOHN 6:47-57

⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. *

THE ALLELUIA:

Pastor: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Congregation:

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

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.

HYMN: LSB 435 - *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”*

THE SERMON:

MATTHEW 27:24-26

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it.*” ²⁵ And all the people answered and said, “His blood *be* on us and on our children.”

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.**

WHO HAD A HAND IN THE CRUCIFIXION?

Part Four: Pontius Pilate

THE OFFERTORY

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, the offerings are gathered at this time.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(WS 788)

♪ Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant us, then,
the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our life and all
our living We may consecrate to You.

♪ We are yours – Your mercy sought us, Found us in death's
dreadful way, To the fold in safety brought us, Nevermore from You
to stray. Your own life was freely given As an off-ring on the cross
For each sinner, now forgiven From eternal shame and loss.

♪ Blessed by You with gifts and graces, May we heed Your Spirit's
call, Gladly in all times and places Give to You who gives us all. You
have bought us; now no longer Can we claim to be our own; Ever
free and ever stronger We shall serve You, Lord, a-lone.

PRAYER(S)

THE 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.

HYMN: LSB 422 - *"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"*

THE BENEDICTION: (Pastor) **CONGREGATION:** "Amen."

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 449:4 - *"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"*

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in Jesus' name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us and hope that you will return again. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 15, 2026

THIS MORNING AFTER WORSHIP:

Sunday School/Bible Study (Practical Bible Study)

THIS WEEK

Wednesday: Midweek Lenten Worship (LM) – Preacher T. Kesterson

Thursday: LH Confirmation Class 4pm

Sunday: Worship 2pm; Bible Study/Sunday School 3pm

HOLY COMMUNION

Living Hope's Council determined that Holy Communion would be offered on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of each month during the vacancy. If any member should desire private communion, they need only speak with Pastor Schaller who would be happy to provide it.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our next Confirmation Class will be held (God-willing) this Thursday March 19th at 4pm.

LENTEN WORSHIP

The Lenten Series chosen this year is entitled: "Return to the Lord your God." We will focus on God's call to His people to repent and remove the things that could get in the way of our returning to God. The themes are: A Call to Return, Return to Prayer, Return from Betrayal, Return from False Witness, Return from Denial, Return to the Kingdom of God, Return to the Table (Maundy Thursday), Return to Truth (Good Friday).

Our Lenten Theme includes a pulpit rotation with our sister congregations: Ascension Lutheran in Batavia IL (Chicago), Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners (Milwaukee), and Peace Through Christ in Middleton (Madison).

VIRTUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

*The women of the congregation are invited to join us for a virtual retreat themed "Press Pause: The Future Is the Lord's" on **Sunday April 12th** at noon. We plan to watch the pre-recorded presentations with some time after for discussion and visiting. Feel free to bring a dish to pass or snack or drinks. Invite any other women in your life that you feel could benefit from a pause in life's busy schedule to get encouragement from God's Word.*

CLC WORLD MISSIONS PRAYER LIST – MARCH 2026

Bangladesh (South Asia) - The February 12th elections were mostly peaceful, and pre-election violence has subsided. Christians are praying that the newly elected Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) majority government and upcoming constitutional reforms will provide protection for minorities, including Christians. Construction on the **multipurpose building** is almost finished. The Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) has already begun using the building as construction continues. Plans are underway to conduct a pastor and church leader training seminar there in April, and the building will be dedicated to our Savior's service later this year. Pray that the Lord provides good government that will be a blessing to the citizens of Bangladesh. Thank the Lord for His provision and blessings on the new BLCM building and for the preaching and teaching of God's saving Word that will take place there.

Pakistan (Asia) - Pastor Tim Daub has been conducting online training and Bible studies with a group in Faisalabad for the past few years. A congregation has been established and now meets weekly for worship. Pastor Daub and Missionary Ohlmann made their first **face-to-face visit in January**, and the visit went very well. A recommendation to begin the more in-depth colloquy process was made to President Wilke, who will now assign a CLC representative to oversee the colloquy. A second visit is planned for early 2027. Thank the Lord for safe travel and a positive, productive visit. Ask the Lord for His continued blessings on the preaching and teaching of His saving Word in this predominantly Muslim nation.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Mr. Joel Krafft, CLC Board of Missions chairman, and Missionary Ohlmann visited the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP). They conducted a two-day seminar and Sunday worship service at one LAMP congregation in Delles and visited two preaching stations. Follow-up outreach seminars are planned for both preaching stations at the end of March and again in April. Pray that the Lord blesses these outreach efforts so that more people may join us in repenting of our sins and rejoicing in the forgiveness we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for recent growth and ask for His blessings on these new members. Pray also that the Lord provides everything necessary to complete the new worship and training facility.

Nepal (South Asia) – Following the Gen-Z protests last fall that led to the resignation of the prime minister and dissolution of the government, peaceful elections were held on March 5. **The newly elected government**, which ran on a secular, anti-corruption platform, won an overwhelming majority over the Hindu nationalist party. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are cautiously optimistic as they pray and trust in God's protection and blessings.

Due to security concerns leading up to the elections, the Himalayan Bible Institute (HBI) delayed the start of classes until April. A new cohort of 15 students is planned. Ask the Lord to bless the new HBI students and teachers and pray that He provides a stable and good government that will be a blessing to the citizens of Nepal and to the Gospel ministry of the HCLCN.

India (South Asia) – Classes continue at the BELC Bible Institute with twenty-seven students and the CLCI seminary with fifty-one students. The CLCI will graduate seventeen seminary students in May or June. Please pray that the Lord will protect, provide, strengthen, and give hope to His children in India through the Gospel ministry of the BELC and CLCI.

Liberia (West Africa) – A regular schedule of Bible training seminars continues for pastors and church leaders across several regions of Liberia. Missionary Ohlmann **visited for two weeks in November**. Together with Pastor Kwiwalazu, he conducted a pastor training seminar in Bopolu with 18 pastors and church leaders. Thank the Lord for the ongoing Biblical training and outreach and ask for His continued blessings on the work in Liberia.

Nigeria (West Africa) – **The NCLC** is planning its 50th-anniversary celebration in April. CLC President Mike Wilke and his wife Gloria, along with CLC Board of Missions Chairman Mr. Joel Krafft and Missionary Ohlmann are scheduled to travel to Nigeria May 20–28 to celebrate with them. During the visit, the **new academic building** will also be dedicated. Ask the Lord to bless the new building, the travel plans, and the upcoming conference, and thank Him for 50 years of cooperation in training faithful workers for His Nigerian harvest.

Togo (West Africa) – Pastor Kossi Blewu, Missionary Evensen, and **recent seminary graduates** continue outreach efforts aimed at starting new congregations. Pastor Blewu conducts a weekly Gospel radio program in Assahoun, a town about 30 minutes from the seminary. Following the broadcasts, people have been calling to attend services. One graduate will be called to begin a congregation there.

Myanmar (South Asia) – **The civil war continues** with no end in sight. Nearly 90,000 people have been killed in the conflict. Pastor Kham reports that the military junta continues nightly raids on homes and public spaces to forcibly conscript young men, and now older men as well. Ransoms are no longer accepted due to the junta's urgent need for soldiers. The orphan boys cared for by Pastor Kham and his wife remain in hiding, as military checkpoints are widespread, even near schools. Pray for peace, justice, and relief for all affected by this conflict.

Tanzania (East Africa) — The **Tanzania Church of the Lutheran Confession** is seeking renewal of its government registration. Officials have requested a name change to distinguish it from other Lutheran churches in Tanzania. The chosen name is Augsburg Evangelical Church in Tanzania (AECT). Pray for success in this process so the church may exercise public fellowship without hindrance. Like so many other places around the world, several congregations are in need of permanent places of worship. Twelve students are enrolled in the seminary this year. Ask the Lord to bless their studies as they grow in grace and knowledge of Scripture. Pray for the Lord's provision in providing places to worship.

Kenya (East Africa) — Several pastors and congregations have expressed interest in fellowship with the Kenya-CLC. Nearly 300 students at St. David's, Etago, and Emmaus in Moi's Bridge receive Bible and Catechism instruction. Pray for continued growth, unity, and faithful Gospel proclamation as new congregations are established.

Uganda (East Africa) — Missionary Naumann recently visited pastors and church leaders of the Confessional Church of the Reformation in Uganda (CCCRU). Ask the Lord to grant the five pastors, their families, and those they serve good health, daily bread, and zeal for spreading His true Word.

DR Congo-CCLC (Central Africa) — Seminary students have completed their vicarages. Final exams, graduation, and ordination are scheduled for April during a visit by Missionaries Evensen and Ohlmann. Thank the Lord for faithful teaching over the past several years, and pray for His blessings on these students as they prepare to serve in the public ministry.

DR Congo-ECLSAFA (Central Africa) — Pastor Jacques Pondi Lumiangu has scheduled several outreach seminars in early 2026. The congregation faces challenges securing a rental worship space and fully supporting their pastor. Pray that God abundantly provides for the needs of ECLSAFA Congo and blesses their outreach efforts.

CLC Mission Helper Trip — Nine volunteers and three team leaders are making plans to travel to Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia to help our brothers and sisters in Christ spread the Gospel. They will divide into three teams and conduct child-evangelism and outreach seminars. Pray that all goes smoothly as airfare is arranged, lessons are prepared, and in-country preparations begin. Thank the Lord for this opportunity and for those who volunteer their time and resources for this important work!

Please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving Word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sends it.

....to be continued.

CLC CALL NEWS

Pastor Tom Naumann has returned the call of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Phoenix, AZ. • Seminarian Sam Radermacher, in conjunction with his vicarship under Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has received the summer vacancy call to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. • Pastor Tom Naumann of Mount Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights (Detroit) MI has accepted the call of Grace Lutheran Church in Fridley MN. • Living Hope Lutheran of Appleton, WI has called Pastor Jonah Albrecht who currently serves Tacoma and Lynnwood, WA. • Teacher Noah Olmann of Grace Ev. Lutheran School, Valentine NE, has been called to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, EC. WI. • Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran in Morris, MN, has returned the call of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI.

Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2025-26

The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established by the Voters of Living Hope to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Amount Pledged 2025	Received as of 3/1/26	Amount Remaining	Approximate per Sunday (19)
\$5,500.00	\$3943.50	\$1,556.50	\$82.00

Living Hope General Budget 2026

The Voters of Luther Memorial established the General Fund Budget at the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026. All Budgetary offerings are applied to this budget. This fiscal year runs from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

General Budget	Received as of 3/1/26	Amount Remaining	Remaining Amount (44 Sundays)
\$101,679.00	\$10,218.25*	\$91,460.75	\$2,079.00
<i>*This includes \$225.00 to Student Aid and \$20.00 to ILC Building.</i>			

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READINGS FOR DEVOTIONS MARCH 16-21, 2026

Monday – John 6:1-15 Jesus provides ample food for more than five thousand people. But bread alone does not bring spiritual life, and He withdraws again when they want to force Him to be their earthly king (v15).

Tuesday – Galatians 4:21-31 Paul urges the Galatians to remain children of the promise (saved by grace), and not to return to slavery to the law for their hope of life. He illustrates with Sarah's and Hagar's offspring.

Wednesday – Isaiah 49:8-13 The LORD promises to help and guard His servant and to make Him a covenant for the people. Thus, the LORD comforts His people and shows mercy to His afflicted ones (v13).

Thursday – Psalm 139:1-12 The all-knowing LORD has placed His hand on us (v.5) and is with us always, no matter where we may go (v8-9). He always sees clearly, for darkness and light are the same to Him (v12).

Friday – Psalm 139:13-24 Not only do God's knowledge and presence comfort us, but also His great power, shown in our creation. He has the power over all those who hate Him, and He leads us in the way everlasting.

Saturday – Psalm 46 God's power is so high above both nations and creation in turmoil that we need never fear, though all are trembling around us. He makes wars cease and says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (v10).



These devotions are produced by Pastor/Professor Emeritus Paul Schaller and sent out on a weekly basis.

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