



**AND THE SOLDIERS
TWISTED TOGETHER
A CROWN OF THORNS
AND PUT IT ON HIS
HEAD AND ARRAYED
HIM IN A PURPLE ROBE.**

JOHN 19:2, ESV

LENT FIVE

Living Hope Lutheran March 22, 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 FIVE

March 22, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 32 (LSB);

PRAYERS: Before Worship (Inside Cover, LSB);

After Worship (Insider Cover, LSB).

HYMNS: LSB 425 LSB 451 LSB 436 LSB 422

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN:

LSB 425 - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

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:

NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. *

EPISTLE LESSON:

1 PETER 1:17-25

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you. *

GOSPEL LESSON:

JOHN 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

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 451 - *“Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted”*

THE SERMON:

MATTHEW 27:27-31; 35-36

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. ²⁸ And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

³⁵ Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” ³⁶ Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. **

WHO HAD A HAND IN THE CRUCIFIXION?

Part Five: The Roman Soldiers

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 436 - *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”*

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

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 422 - *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”*

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 22, 2026

THIS MORNING AFTER WORSHIP:

Sunday School/Bible Study (Mission Bible Study)

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: LM Elders 6pm

Wednesday: Midweek Lenten Worship (LM) – Pastor Schaller

Thursday: LH Confirmation Class 4pm; Lenten Worship 6:30pm

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) next Thursday March 26th at 4pm.

LENTEN WORSHIP

The Lenten Series 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 that remain are: Return to the Kingdom of God, Return to the Table (Maundy Thursday). Our Lenten Theme has included 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 sometime 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 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 Olhmann 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. • Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran, Hales Corners, has been called by Redeemer Lutheran School in Cheyenne, WY. • Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix AZ has called Pastor Rob Sauers who currently serves Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL. • Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Madison Heights (Detroit) has called Pastor David Pfeiffer, who currently serves Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC. • Dr. Daniel Sullivan has accepted the call to serve as ILC Professor replacing Professor David Schaller. • Faith Lutheran School in Markesan, WI has called Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Lutheran School in Mankato MN.

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 23-28, 2026

Monday – John 8:46-59 Accused of having a demon, Jesus responds, “On the contrary, I honor my Father” (v49). And when He said, “Before Abraham was born, I AM” (v58), they were ready to stone Him.

Tuesday - Hebrews 9:11-15 The high priests of old were mere illustrations of Christ, the high priest who is the mediator of a new covenant, and who sacrificed Himself to cleanse us from sin and give us eternal life.

Wednesday – Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD calls Abram out from his country and his father’s family to a land new to him. He promises great blessings to Abram and great blessings to all families of the earth through him.

Thursday – Psalm 27:1-6 Because the LORD is our safe stronghold, we need not fear evildoers advancing against us. If we can see the beauty of the LORD (v4), we will be lifted up above the enemies around us (v6).

Friday – Psalm 27:7-14 With David (and Christ) we call upon the LORD in the day of trouble. Guided by the light of His Word we are taught His ways (v11). Confident of His goodness, we wait for the LORD! (V14)

Saturday - Psalm 54 When David was betrayed to Saul, who was hunting him down, he looked to God his Savior. Indeed, his Helper (v4) was the One who had power over every enemy, and could lift him up (v7).



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

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